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# ENERGYWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**ENERGYWIRE — Mon., January 6, 2020**

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## 1. WHITE HOUSE:

### **NEPA climate overhaul could unleash energy projects**

The White House is poised to exclude climate considerations from its rewrite of rules surrounding the nation's core environmental law, according to a draft memo obtained by E&E News. If finalized, the proposed changes could clear the way for energy projects like the Keystone XL pipeline that federal judges have blocked.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. SECURITY:

#### **Iran could launch cyberattacks after U.S. strike — experts**

### 3. DOE:

#### **Rick Perry joins board of Dakota Access developer**

### 4. ELECTRICITY:

#### **N.Y. set to close last coal plant**

## FEDERAL AGENCIES

### 5. DOE:

#### **Will Trump release oil to blunt Iran?**

### 6. INTERIOR:

#### **Polar bear study sets road map for ANWR seismic testing**

## OIL AND GAS

### 7. PIPELINES:

#### **Energy Transfer to pay record fine over Pa. explosion, fire**

### 8. NATURAL GAS:

#### **N.M. researchers get funds for methane leak detection**

### 9. PERMIAN BASIN:

#### **Wave of pipeline projects is late to the oil boom**

## ELECTRICITY

### 10. NEW MEXICO:

## Group wants court review of shutdown costs at coal plant

### 11. TRANSMISSION:

## Navajo maintains electric line that carried coal-fired power

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### ABOUT ENERGYWIRE – THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ENERGY SECTOR

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# The Daily 202

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## Key dates to put on your calendar for 2020



President Trump returns to the White House on Sunday night after spending two weeks at Mar-a-Lago for the holidays. (Oliver Contreras/Pool/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: January will be dominated by three I's: Iran, impeachment and Iowa.**

We don't know when or how Iran will [retaliate](#) for the strike that killed Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani. Nor do we know for sure when Speaker Nancy Pelosi will transmit the articles of impeachment so Senate Republicans can begin their trial, and presumed acquittal, of President Trump. With the Iowa caucuses a month away, the latest polling shows a three-way tie for first place.

**If the first week of the year is any indication, 2020 will be tumultuous, unpredictable and enormously consequential.** With that in mind, here are some key dates for the coming trip around the sun that should be on your radar:

**Jan. 11: Taiwan's elections offer a referendum on relations with China.** President Tsai Ing-wen, a hardliner who has supported U.S. efforts to check Beijing's power, is up for reelection this weekend. She faces a challenge from the mayor of Kaohsiung, the island's second-largest city, who favors closer ties with the mainland.

**Jan. 14: The Democrats have their final debate before Iowa votes.** Only five candidates have qualified so far to appear onstage at Drake University in Des Moines next Tuesday because of higher eligibility criteria set by the Democratic National Committee. Trump has scheduled a rally in Milwaukee for that night to counterprogram the Democratic debate. There's speculation among the Democratic campaigns that their debate, scheduled to air on CNN, might get pushed back if it conflicts with the impeachment trial, potentially to the evening of Jan. 20, a federal holiday for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**Jan. 21-24: Trump plans to return to the World Economic Forum in Davos.** His administration will send a sizable delegation to the annual gathering of the global elite.

**Jan. 28: Michael Flynn is scheduled to finally be sentenced.** A federal judge last month [rejected](#) the former Trump national security adviser's attacks against the FBI and his request to find prosecutors in contempt. U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan of Washington ruled there was no basis for the retired three-star Army general's allegations

that federal law enforcement officials entrapped him into accepting a plea deal from special counsel Bob Mueller for making false statements to the FBI about his Russian contacts.

**Jan. 31: Brexit finally happens.** The U.K. officially leaves the European Union after Prime Minister Boris Johnson's big win in last month's elections.



Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) knocks on doors on Sunday to speak to undecided caucus goers in Maquoketa, Iowa. (Andrew Harnik/AP)

**Feb. 3: Democrats caucus in Iowa.** The night after the Super Bowl takes place in Miami, up to 300,000 Iowans will gather across the state for hours of deliberation on a winter night. Starting with Jimmy Carter's win in the 1976 caucuses, which put him on a glidepath to the presidency, the top individual vote-getter in the Iowa caucuses has gone on to win the Democratic nomination [seven](#) out of nine times.

**Feb. 4: Trump delivers his State of the Union.** That same day is the crowded Democratic primary in the special election to succeed the late Elijah Cummings in his Baltimore district. His widow is among the candidates.

**Feb. 7: The eighth Democratic debate will take place in New Hampshire.** ABC will air the Friday night debate from St. Anselm College outside Manchester.

**Feb. 11: The New Hampshire primary is the following Tuesday.** The results will significantly winnow the field.

**Feb. 19: The ninth Democratic debate will be in Las Vegas and air on NBC,** three days before the caucuses in Nevada.

**Feb. 20: Roger Stone's sentencing.** The president's longtime political confidant was convicted in November of seven felony counts of lying to investigators, obstructing a congressional probe and witness tampering. His crimes carry a combined maximum sentence of 50 years in prison. Stone's lawyers secured a two-week extension from the judge last month to allow them to compile financial records.

**Feb. 21: Iran holds its once-every-four-years parliamentary elections.** The conflict with the United States will shadow these highly restricted contests. Recent protests against the regime appear to have given way, at least for now, to rallying around the flag after the strike on Soleimani.

**Feb. 22: The Nevada caucuses offer Democrats their first racially diverse contest.** Latinos could make the difference.

**Feb. 25: The 10th Democratic debate will take place in**

**Charleston, S.C.** CBS will air the debate, co-sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus Institute. Will there any be any candidates of color left in the race? The DNC tentatively plans to sanction one debate in April and another in May, assuming the race continues, but the dates and sponsors have not been announced.

**Feb. 29: The South Carolina Democratic primary is the final early-state contest.** Joe Biden is counting on strong African American support as a firewall, but it could erode if he underperforms in the first three states.







Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu chairs his weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on Sunday. (Ronen Zvulun/Pool via AP)

**March 2: Israel has its third national election in 11**

**months.** Neither Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nor challenger Benny Gantz could assemble a majority coalition in the Knesset, their parliament, after the previous two elections. Talks broke down. So there will be an unprecedented third election in an effort to break the impasse.

**March 3: About 40 percent of Democratic delegates will be**

**awarded on Super Tuesday.** Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont and Virginia go to the polls. California and Texas are the two biggest delegate prizes of the whole contest. The Golden State has been terrible about tabulating results in recent years so, be warned, that it could be a few days

before we know for sure who got the most delegates.

**An undercard to watch that night: Former attorney general Jeff Sessions is running in Alabama to win back his old Senate seat in a crowded GOP primary.** The winner will be considered the favorite in the fall against Democratic incumbent Doug Jones, who beat Roy Moore in the 2017 special election. Trump has remained angry at Sessions for recusing himself from the Russia probe, but Sessions is still trying to link himself closely with the president. The big question is how involved Trump gets in the race and, more specifically, whether he endorses one of Sessions's opponents.

**March 4: The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a challenge to the constitutionality of a Louisiana abortion law that requires doctors who perform abortions to have the right to admit patients at a nearby hospital.** This is the first time that these nine justices will consider abortion restrictions, and it could lead to the rollback of *Roe v. Wade*.

**March 5: OPEC meets in Vienna, Austria.** What the cartel chooses to do with the global oil supply could become super significant for domestic gas prices if a hot war breaks out between the United States and Iran. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is scheduled to gather again on June 9-10. Oil prices rose above \$70 a barrel today for the first time in more than three months because of this Iran donnybrook. (March 5 also happens to be the 250th anniversary of the Boston Massacre.)

**March 10: This is being called Super Tuesday II.** Michigan will be the biggest prize of the night. Bernie Sanders won a big upset over

Hillary Clinton in the 2016 primary, which foretold her weakness in the Wolverine state during the general election. Democrats also vote in Idaho, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota and the state of Washington.



House candidate Marie Newman, challenging Rep. Dan Lipinski in the Democratic primary, campaigns in LaGrange, Ill. (Sara Burnett/AP)

**March 17: Democrats have primaries in Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Ohio.** If one candidate sweeps all four states, there will be pressure on everyone else to drop out and anoint that winner the presumptive nominee.

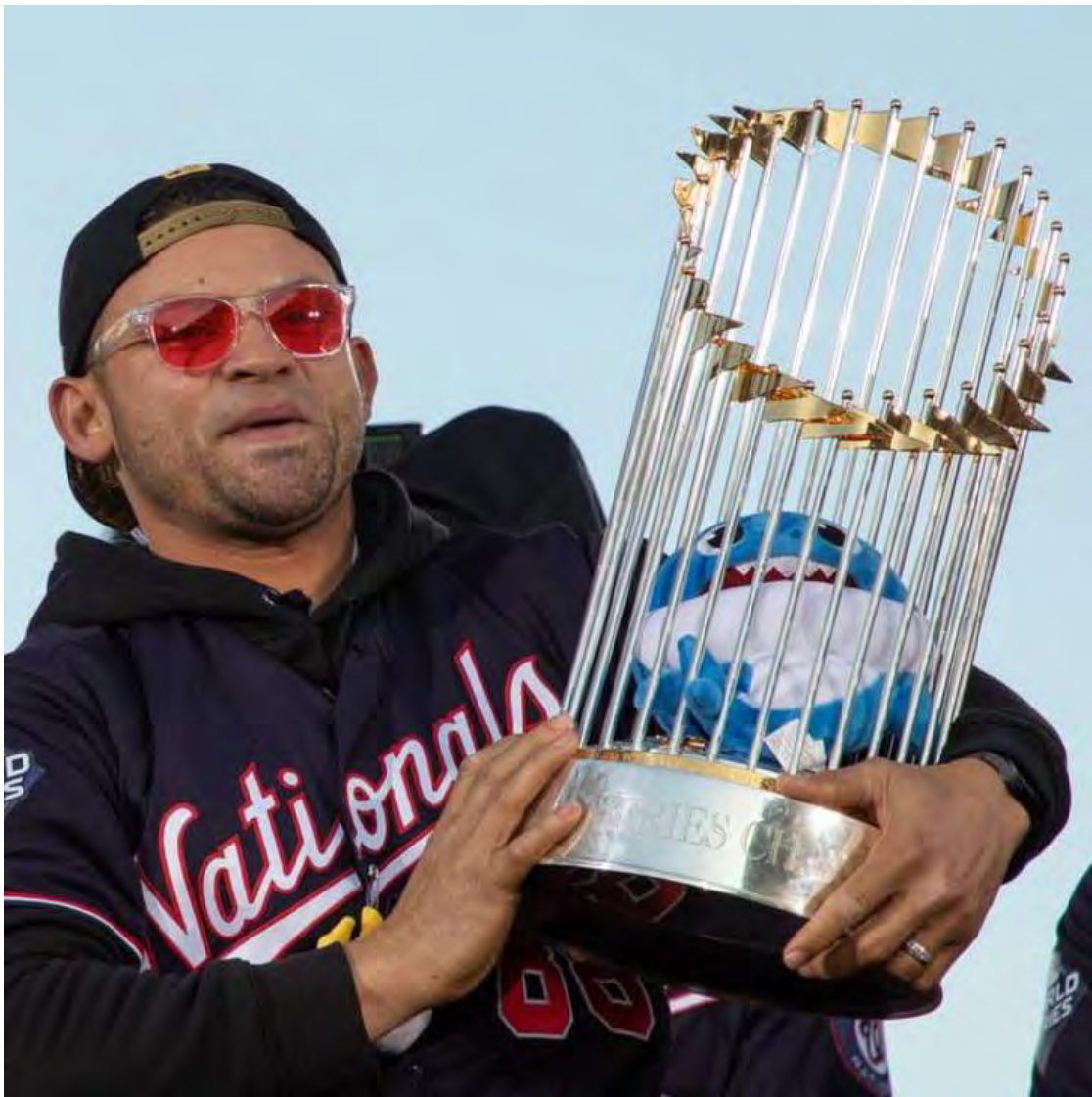
**The big undercard on this night is the left-wing primary challenge to Rep. Dan Lipinski, an anti-abortion moderate in Chicago.** He narrowly survived an expensive primary fight two years ago and faces

a rematch against Marie Newman. Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot tweeted over the weekend that Lipinski deserves to lose. Outside money has poured in from both sides of the abortion wars.

**March 24: Georgia has the day to itself for a symbolically significant primary.** Will Stacey Abrams, who lost the 2018 governor's race but whose name still appears on list of potential vice-presidential nominees, endorse one of the Democrats?

**March 29: Puerto Rico has a Democratic primary.** Several of the candidates have campaigned in San Juan, with an emphasis on hurricane relief, over the past year.

**April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide.** By this day, every household in America will have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. People are asked to say how many people live in their home as of April 1. In May, census takers will begin knocking on the doors of people who didn't respond. The outcome of this count will have major impacts on redistricting for the next decade.



Gerardo Parra holds the World Series trophy, with a Baby Shark stuffed animal inside, during a November parade in Washington. He will not return next season. (Evelyn Hockstein/The Washington Post)



**April 2: The Nationals play their home opener.** The defending World Series champions, without a few of the guys who got us there, start the new season in New York on March 26 against the Mets and then go to Miami before coming home for their first game at Nationals Park. Opening Day has been an unofficial holiday in the District since baseball came back in 2005. This year it will be doubly so, thanks to all the fans who jumped on the bandwagon during last October's magical run. Ticket prices on StubHub already reflect this.

For those of us who cannot wait until April for baseball, pitchers and catchers report for spring training the week of Feb. 10. And the Nats will play the Astros – in a Grapefruit League rematch of the World Series – at the stadium the two teams share in West Palm Beach on Feb. 22.

**April 4: On this Saturday, Democrats will caucus in Alaska, Hawaii and Wyoming and vote in a Louisiana primary.** All four states may be ruby red, but a not insignificant chunk of delegates will be up for grabs.

**April 7: Wisconsin holds its Democratic primary.** Sanders beat

Clinton there by 13 points four years ago, another warning sign of her weakness across the industrial Midwest. Much will be made of what the Badger State does in the primary.

**April 15: All 300 seats in South Korea's National Assembly are on the ballot.** This could turn into a referendum on Seoul's approach toward Pyongyang, and Trump's demands that the South contribute more toward its defense could become an issue. It's also Tax Day here in the United States, which will be a peg for lots of stories about how much the debt has ballooned since Trump took office.

**April 22: Earth Day turns 50.** Big events are planned.

**April 28: Six Northeastern states hold Democratic primaries.** New York and Pennsylvania are the biggest prizes. Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland and Rhode Island also have primaries.

**May 2: Kansas has its primary on a Saturday.**

**May 5: Indiana holds its primary the following Tuesday.**



Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Trump confer on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan, last June. (Kevin Lamarque/Reuters)

**May 9: Russian President Vladimir Putin has invited Trump to come to Moscow for a parade to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Germany's surrender in World War II.** Trump has said he's considering [the invite](#). "I appreciate the invitation," Trump [told reporters](#) in November. "It is right in the middle of political season, so I'll see if I can do it. But I would love to go if I could."

**May 12: A special House election in California to replace Katie Hill (D) could become competitive.** She ousted GOP incumbent Steve Knight in 2018 in the 25th District, which includes parts of Ventura and Los Angeles counties, but she resigned this fall amid an ethics investigation into allegations that she was romantically involved with her legislative director. The former congresswoman, who identifies as bisexual, denied that. But she admitted to engaging in a



consensual three-person relationship with her now-estranged husband and a woman on her campaign staff.

One of the Republicans [running](#) for the open seat is George Papadopoulos, the former Trump foreign policy adviser who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his Russia-related contacts and served 12 days in federal prison in 2018. His remark to an Australian diplomat in 2016 that the Russians had “dirt” on Clinton over drinks at a bar in London, which was passed along to U.S. officials, helped ignite the FBI investigation of Trump’s campaign.

Nebraska and West Virginia have presidential primaries on May 12, as well.

**May 19: Kentucky and Oregon hold primaries.**

**May 22: This is the first important deadline of the year on Capitol Hill for a “must-pass” bill.** The expiration of funding for community health centers is being talked about by lawmakers in both parties as the only real shot at forcing a prescription drug price deal and some other changes to the health laws.

**June 2: Democratic will vote in presidential primaries in D.C., Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico and South Dakota.** If the delegate hunt remains close, you might have candidates going to the Virgin Islands before the Democratic caucuses there on June 6. (Count me in to cover that.)



Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell silences his phone before a Senate Banking Committee hearing. (Yuri Gripas/Reuters)

**June 10: The Federal Reserve's board meets eight times a year to decide interest rates, and Fed Chairman Jay Powell holds a news conference, including on this day.** But most experts agree that how the economy is doing about six months before the election has the biggest influence on the outcome. That's why this gathering is probably a key time for how the Fed describes the health of the economy and whether the board votes to add any more stimulus. Similar logic is why the June 5 jobs report will get a lot of coverage. But also keep an eye on the numbers in May and July.

**June 10-12: Trump hosts the G-7 at Camp David.** He initially announced that the summit of world leaders would take place at a golf resort he owns in Doral, Fla., but backed off under criticism and amid legal concerns that this could violate the Constitution's emoluments

clause. One flashpoint to watch will be whether Trump follows through with his announcement from last summer's meeting that he intends to invite Putin. The Russian strongman, who has now called the shots in his country for 20 years, was kicked out of what used to be the G-8 after he invaded Ukraine and seized Crimea in 2014. Trump, however, has [expressed](#) public sympathy for Putin over his pariah status, despite credible warnings that Russia is actively trying to interfere again in the U.S. presidential election on his behalf.

**June 14: Trump turns 74.** He will be the oldest world leader at the G-7. Three of the leading Democratic candidates vying to challenge the president in the general are also septuagenarians. Elizabeth Warren turns 71 on June 22. Sanders turns 79 on Sept. 8. And Biden turns 78 on Nov. 20. In contrast, Pete Buttigieg – who would be the youngest American president ever if he wins – turns 38 on Jan. 19.

**Mid-June: The Supreme Court's term ends.** The justices are considering [several cases](#) that could lead to decisions with major political implications, including whether federal law protects LGBTQ workers from discrimination or being fired and whether the Trump administration's efforts to end the Obama-era program that protects immigrants brought to this country as children are lawful. The court could also hand down a major Second Amendment decision and decide whether a state may withhold aid to private religious schools if it offers funding to secular ones.

**July 13-16: The Democratic National Convention is in Milwaukee.** You'll probably read a lot of stories in the next few months about a contested convention, but Democrats haven't had one since 1968.



The new National Stadium will be the main site for the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. (Tomohiro Ohsumi/Getty Images)

**July 24-Aug. 9: The Summer Olympics in Tokyo will overshadow politics for a few weeks.** One wrinkle is that Aug. 6 is the 75th anniversary of the Enola Gay dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Aug. 9, the day of the closing ceremonies, is the anniversary of the U.S. bombing Nagasaki. V-J Day came Aug. 14.

**July 31-Sept. 18: Congress is scheduled to take a 38-day summer recess.** Lawmakers are scheduled to leave town again on Oct. 2 to campaign for the month before the election.

**Aug. 24-27: The Republican National Convention is in Charlotte during the week before Labor Day.** This will likely be every bit as much a coronation as the 2012 Democratic convention was for Barack Obama in the same city.

**Sept. 18: Early voting begins in the presidential**

**election.** Minnesota is the first state that will begin voting – 46 days before the general election. Several [other states](#) will begin allowing early voting the next day. Expect a record number of voters to cast their ballots in the weeks before Election Day, continuing a trend that's accelerated as more states have made it easier to vote by mail or get an absentee ballot. In 2016, 57.2 million Americans [voted early](#), absentee or by mail – up from 24.9 million in 2004. In the last presidential race, more than half the votes were cast early in 16 states.

**Sept. 29: The first presidential debate of the general election is at Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.** That's Buttigieg's hometown, where he just wrapped up eight years as mayor. One wildcard is that Trump has hinted he might refuse to debate.

**Sept. 30: The government needs to be funded by this date, or there could be another shutdown.** It seems most likely that both sides will want to avoid a showdown so close to the election, but Trump could use this deadline to demand appropriations for his border wall if he thinks picking a fight with Pelosi could be advantageous in the home stretch.



Donald Trump prepares for an appearance in 2005 on "Days of Our Lives" with actress Arianne Zucker. He is accompanied to the set by "Access Hollywood" host Billy Bush. The video emerged in October 2016. (Obtained by The Washington Post)

**October Surprise: There always is something we don't expect.** In 2016, it was the FBI reopening the Clinton email investigation and the "Access Hollywood" tape that showed Trump boasting on a hot microphone about grabbing women by the genitals and kissing them without their consent.

**Oct. 5-10: The Convention on Biological Diversity meets in Kunming, China.** Delegates from around the world will vote on [whether to pledge](#) to protect a third of the land and a third of the sea on Earth. The UN will convene a separate round of climate talks at some point late in the year, during which countries will declare their pledges for cutting greenhouse gas emissions over the next five years.

**Oct. 7: The only vice-presidential debate is at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.** Which Democrat will Mike Pence face?

**Oct. 15: The second presidential debate is at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich.**

**Oct. 22: The third and final presidential debate is scheduled for Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn.** This is also the day that presidential campaign committees must file their final pre-election fundraising report, which will give a last window into their financial strength for the final 12 days.

**Oct. 29: The government will unveil its advance estimate of gross domestic product growth for the third quarter.** This is the final read of how healthy the economy is before the election. Also, watch the stock market from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31. One of the most reliable predictors of the presidential election is whether stocks rise or fall in the three-month period. Stocks actually fell slightly during that stretch in 2016, implying a change in party control and a Trump victory.

**Nov. 3: Election Day.** A federal law in 1845 scheduled presidential elections for the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November so that voters in what was then an agrarian society wouldn't need to travel on Sundays and could respect the Sabbath. While all Americans will go to the polls, voters in about half a dozen battleground states will determine whether Trump secures a second term. Could he again win the electoral college while losing the popular vote? The Senate and the House are also in play.



Smoke billows as a woman wears a mask while walking in a neighborhood next to a coal-fired power plant in Shanxi, China. (Kevin Frayer/Getty Images)

**Nov. 4: The United States is set to complete its withdrawal from the Paris climate accord.** The Trump administration [gave](#) a required one-year notice in November. All the Democratic presidential candidates promise to rejoin if they win.

**Nov. 9: The Mayflower arrived 400 years ago on this date.** The Puritans would soon have what would be remembered as the first Thanksgiving in 1620, and the New World would never be the same. Expect the commemorations to be more sensitive to the impact on the indigenous peoples than past milestone anniversaries.

**Nov. 21-22: The Saudis host the G-20 summit in Riyadh.** Will Trump be a lame duck?

**Dec. 31: This is the *real* Brexit deadline.** The official exit date is at



the end of this month, but there will be a transition period in which little changes as London and Brussels negotiate the future of the relationship. There's a fine chance they go for a major break, which will lead to British businesses getting slapped with big new taxes in their biggest market, the European Union, and an uncertain future for the millions of Brits living in Europe and Europeans living in Britain. But Johnson, the prime minister, says Britain will be fully split from the E.U. by the end of this year come hell or high water.

*Heather Long, Juliet Eilperin, Robert Barnes, Michael Birnbaum, David Weigel, Paul Kane, Mike DeBonis, and Tom Hamburger contributed ideas for dates.*



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Tens of thousands gather in Iran for Soleimani's funeral

## THE WORLD IS A TINDERBOX:

-- **“Trump served a bellicose brew of threats, rebukes and contempt on Sunday as he escalated tensions in the Middle East and awaited Iran's possible retaliation for the U.S. killing of one of its top generals,”** [Seung Min Kim and Philip Rucker report.](#)

“Trump projected a wartime posture as he wrapped up his holiday vacation, reiterating that if Iran took military action against the United States, he may order attacks on Iranian cultural sites, which could constitute a war crime under international law ... Trump threatened Iraq as well. He countered the Iraqi parliament's move Sunday to try to expel foreign troops, including U.S. forces, by telling reporters that he would respond by imposing ‘very big sanctions’ on the nation and demanding that Iraq reimburse the United States for the billions of dollars it had invested in a major air base there. Trump also flouted protocols at home, making a mockery of his necessity to advise

Congress of military action by writing on Twitter that his tweets would serve as official notification of strikes. ...

**“The president's vow to target Iranian sites of historic and cultural significance prompted particular concern.** On Twitter late Saturday, Trump said that the United States was targeting 52 Iranian sites, representing the 52 American hostages taken by Iran four decades ago, and that some of those are ‘a very high level & important to Iran & the Iranian culture.’ The 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property bans the targeting of cultural sites with military action; there is a provision that allows for a waiver due to ‘military necessity.’ Iran has 24 locations on the U.N. list of cultural world heritage sites. ... **Trump’s tough talk is emblematic of a president who has flouted the tenets of international and U.S. law on war crimes.** He has insisted that enhanced interrogation tactics such as waterboarding work, suggested killing terrorists’ families to fight the Islamic State and two months ago cleared three members of the U.S. armed services accused or convicted of war crimes over objections from senior military officials.”

**-- Nancy Pelosi announced overnight the House will vote on a war powers resolution this week to limit Trump’s military actions against Iran.** The speaker told fellow House Democrats in a letter that the strike on Soleimani was a “provocative and disproportionate military airstrike targeting high-level Iranian military officials” that endangered members of the U.S. military, diplomats and others. Pelosi said lawmakers were concerned the Trump administration acted without consulting Congress. Pelosi said the resolution would mandate that “if no further Congressional action is taken, the

Administration’s military hostilities with regard to Iran cease within 30 days.”

“She said the House will introduce and vote on a resolution similar to one that Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) introduced in the Senate last week,” [Donna Cassata reports](#). **“Freshman Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.), a former CIA and Pentagon analyst specializing in Shiite militias, will spearhead the resolution in the House.** The measure is likely to pass in the Democratic-controlled House and put Republicans on record on the issue, but won’t go far in the GOP-led Senate.”



Pompeo goes on media blitz to defend Soleimani killing

-- **Soleimani’s killing follows a long push from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for aggressive action against Iran.** [John Hudson](#), [Josh Dawsey](#), [Shane Harris](#) and [Dan Lamothe report](#): “Pompeo had lost a similar high-stakes deliberation last summer when Trump declined to retaliate militarily against Iran after it downed a U.S. surveillance drone, an outcome that left Pompeo ‘morose,’ according

to one U.S. official. But recent changes to Trump's national security team and the whims of a president anxious about being viewed as hesitant in the face of Iranian aggression created an opening for Pompeo to press for the kind of action he had been advocating. The greenlighting of the airstrike near Baghdad airport represents a bureaucratic victory for Pompeo, but it also carries multiple serious risks: another protracted regional war in the Middle East; retaliatory assassinations of U.S. personnel stationed around the world; an interruption in the battle against the Islamic State; the closure of diplomatic pathways to containing Iran's nuclear program; and a major backlash in Iraq ... **'Taking out Soleimani would not have happened under [former secretary of defense Jim] Mattis,' said a senior administration official** who argued that the Mattis Pentagon was risk-averse. ... Mattis declined to comment. ...

**"Trump chose Pompeo to appear on all of the Sunday news shows** ... But critics inside and outside the administration have questioned Pompeo's justification for the strike based on his claims that 'dozens if not hundreds' of American lives were at risk. Lawmakers left classified briefings with U.S. intelligence officials on Friday saying they heard nothing to suggest that the threat posed by the proxy forces guided by Soleimani had changed substantially in recent months. When repeatedly pressed on Sunday about the imminent nature of the threats, whether it was days or weeks away, or whether they had been foiled by the U.S. airstrike, Pompeo dismissed the questions. Some defense officials said Pompeo's claims of an imminent and direct threat were overstated, and they would prefer that he make the case based on the killing of the American contractor and previous Iranian provocations. Critics have also questioned how an

imminent attack would be foiled by killing Soleimani, who would not have carried out the strike himself. ...

**“Following the strike, Pompeo has held back-to-back phone calls with his counterparts around the globe but has received a chilly reception from European allies,** many of whom fear that the attack puts their embassies in Iran and Iraq in jeopardy and has now eliminated the chance to keep a lid on Iran’s nuclear program. ‘We have woken up to a more dangerous world,’ said France’s Europe minister, Amelie de Montchalin. ...

**“A critical moment for Pompeo is nearing as he faces growing questions about a potential Senate run, though some GOP insiders say that decision seems to have stalled.** Pompeo has kept in touch with Ward Baker, a political consultant who would probably lead the operation, and others in [Mitch] McConnell’s orbit, about a bid. But Pompeo hasn’t committed one way or the other, people familiar with the conversations said. Some people close to the secretary say he has mixed feelings about becoming a relatively junior senator from Kansas after leading the State Department and CIA, but there is little doubt in Pompeo’s home state that he could win.”



How the backlash to Soleimani's killing is unfolding

**-- Iran said Sunday that it is suspending its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal and will abandon the accord's "final restrictions" on uranium enrichment and other activities unless U.S. sanctions are lifted. [Erin Cunningham reports](#): "The government announced the move in a statement carried by state news agencies. ... It added that Iran will continue to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog. ...**

**"Iraq's caretaker prime minister urged parliament on Sunday to take 'urgent measures' to force the withdrawal of foreign forces following the strike. In an address to the legislature, Adel Abdul Mahdi recommended that the government establish a timetable for the departure of foreign troops, including the members of the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State militant group, 'for the sake of our national sovereignty.' ... **Lawmakers responded by passing a****

**nonbinding resolution calling on the government to end the foreign troop presence in Iraq. But Abdul Mahdi, who resigned in November and has been serving in a caretaker role, is not legally authorized to sign the bill into law.** As a result, the vote Sunday did not immediately imperil the U.S. presence in Iraq, but it highlights the head winds the Trump administration faces after the strike.

**-- Despite Trump's threats last night, experts believe ending America's military presence in Iraq may not be that hard.** [Louisa Loveluck reports](#): "Unlike most deployments stretching back to the aftermath the 9/11 attacks, American troops in Iraq are not operating under a conventional Status of Forces agreement approved by the Iraqi parliament ... Instead, the current military presence is based on an arrangement dating from 2014 that's less formal, and ultimately, based on the consent of an executive which yesterday told the troops to get out. So, with the stroke of a pen, the 5,000-strong force could technically be asked to leave."

**-- Some of the 52 American hostages who were detained by Iran in 1979, who Trump cited when threatening to destroy the 52 Iranian sites, said they would rather not be mentioned by the president.** [From the Los Angeles Times](#): "Even though four decades have passed since Iranian protesters stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and took the Americans hostage, resulting in a 444-day ordeal, those wounds continue to haunt Americans. ... William J. Daugherty, a 72-year-old former CIA case officer who lives in Georgia, said he didn't believe Iran's proxy war capability had taken a hit because of Suleimani's death. 'Suleimani has already been replaced,' Daugherty said. 'I'm not sure killing him will have any positive result.'"



**-- A government website was “defaced” with pro-Iran messages and an image of a bloodied Trump.** Hackers have claimed responsibility. ([Allyson Chiu](#))

**-- A former head of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard threatened to turn Israeli cities “to dust” if the U.S. attacks 52 targets in Iran.** “If America takes any measures after our military response, we will turn Tel Aviv and Haifa to dust,” tweeted Mohsen Rezai, who currently heads the Expediency Council, a top state body. ([Yahoo](#))

**-- The Arab states in the Gulf, faced with the possibility of becoming Iran’s targets for retaliation against the U.S., are trying to keep tensions between Tehran and Washington from spiraling out of control** [From Bloomberg News](#): “Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has instructed his younger brother, Deputy Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman, to travel to Washington and London in the next few days to urge restraint, the Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper reported ... The U.A.E.’s minister of state for foreign affairs, Anwar Gargash, called for ‘rational engagement’ .... In Tehran, Qatar’s foreign minister, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, met with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to discuss ‘measures to maintain the security and stability of the region,’ state-run Qatar News Agency reported.”

**-- The Department of Homeland Security stopped dozens of Iranian Americans and Iranians as they attempted to cross Washington state’s border with Canada.** [From the Times](#): “More than 60 of the travelers, many returning from work trips or vacations, were trying to come home to the United States on Saturday when agents at the Peace Arch Border Crossing in Blaine, Wash., held

them for additional questioning about their political views and allegiances, according to advocacy groups and accounts from travelers. Most of the travelers were released after the extra scrutiny, according to administration officials, although advocates said some were denied entry into the United States. Masih Fouladi, an executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, said some were held in a waiting room and questioned for up to 10 hours. ... **When one family asked agents why they were being questioned, an officer told them, 'This is a bad time to be an Iranian,'** according to Mr. Fouladi, whose group has spoken to the travelers. ... Matt Leas, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, disputed the accounts and reports from advocacy groups that [DHS] had issued a directive to detain those with Iranian heritage entering the country, despite their citizenship status."

**-- A woman in Portland, Ore., allegedly tried to choke a Muslim student with her own hijab.** [Katie Shepherd reports](#): "Jasmine Renee Campbell allegedly tried to choke the student, who is Muslim, with her hijab before the victim shoved the attacker away. Prosecutors said in a statement Campbell then ripped the woman's hijab from her head. ... The affidavit also alleges Campbell mocked the victim's religion and made fun of her hijab. The frightening encounter ended in an arrest after witnesses called the police, but left the Portland State University exchange student, who isn't being named by law enforcement officials, afraid to wear her religious garb in public. On Friday, prosecutors obtained an arrest warrant after 23-year-old Campbell failed to appear in court for her arraignment on five misdemeanor charges."



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Devin Boyer salutes the flag during an August ceremony signifying the change from tactical to enduring operations at Camp Simba in Kenya. The al-Shabab extremist group attacked Camp Simba on Sunday. (Staff Sgt. Lexie West/U.S. Air Force/AP)

**-- Al-Shabab militants launched a predawn attack Sunday on an airstrip used by the U.S. and Kenyan militaries, on Kenya's coast near the border with Somalia, killing one U.S. service member and two American private contractors.** Two other American contractors were wounded and were being evacuated in stable condition, according to a U.S. military statement. [Max Bearak reports from Nairobi:](#)

**“The attack marked a rare successful incursion by al-Shabab into a foreign military compound,** let alone one outside its usual operating grounds in Somalia and one used by U.S. Special Forces and other defense personnel. Residents and tourists in the Lamu

region reported seeing a plume of smoke and hearing gunfire at 3:30 a.m. that continued until midmorning. It was unclear exactly how the attack unfolded, but pictures of the aftermath indicated that **al-Shabab was able to detonate explosives where U.S. military equipment such as helicopters and other aircraft would have been stationed.** The U.S. military statement said reports indicated damage to six 'contractor-operated civilian aircraft.' U.S. forces train Kenyan soldiers at a base attached to the airstrip known as Camp Simba, and they use the airstrip for aerial missions against al-Shabab in Somalia. ... Kenyan Defence Forces spokesman Lt. Col. Paul Njuguna said the bodies of five attackers were found. ...

**"Al-Shabab, which is affiliated with al-Qaeda, has mounted a string of attacks in Kenya recently,** including multiple ambushes on passenger buses traveling in the region close to the Somali border. Last Saturday, the group bombed a busy intersection in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, killing at least 80 people."



Dramatic scuffles erupt as security forces block Guaidó

**-- Venezuela's last democratic institution fell after President Nicolás Maduro attempted a de facto takeover of the National Assembly in a move orchestrated to rob international credibility from Juan Guaidó, who had led the legislative body and nearly a year ago staked a rival claim as head of state.** [Rachelle Krygier and Anthony Faiola report](#): "The dramatic events marked a sharp escalation in Maduro's gambit to end Guaidó's quest to unseat him and sparked immediate condemnation by Washington, which has strongly backed the 36-year-old opposition leader. Opposition officials declared the move an effective 'parliamentary coup' meant to consolidate Maduro's near-dictatorial powers. ... Later Sunday, Guaidó sought to counter the move by gathering opposition lawmakers at the headquarters of El Nacional, a local newspaper, to cast an official vote. In a 100-to-0 tally — enough to put him over the top in a full session of the 167-seat chamber — those present reelected Guaidó as head of the legislature. Twenty-eight of the 100 were votes from stand-ins of exiled lawmakers. But Maduro, in an address to the nation, hailed what he called the National Assembly's 'new leadership.' ...

**"Opposition officials have warned since last month that Maduro's government was handing out suitcases of cash to woo lawmakers.** But they thought they had successfully countered the operation, and on Sunday, Guaidó began the day anticipating his reelection as head of the National Assembly, viewed internationally as the last democratic institution in the authoritarian South American state."

**-- Masked assailants injured more than 30 students and professors at the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi.** [Joanna Slater and Niha Masih report](#): “The incident comes at a moment of high political tension in India, where hundreds of thousands of people — including many students — have participated in protests against a controversial citizenship law passed last month. The law creates an expedited path to citizenship for non-Muslim migrants from three countries, a move that critics say is discriminatory and unconstitutional. The violence at the university was not directly connected to the citizenship law but was rooted in a separate dispute roiling the campus over fees that also pitted student supporters of the government against its opponents.”

**-- Rains have brought relief to Australia amid devastating fires, but the huge blazes are expected to continue.** [From the BBC](#): “Sooty rain fell down the east coast, from Sydney to Melbourne, with ‘torrential’ rain reported in some parts of New South Wales (NSW). But on Sunday night officials warned temperatures would rise by Thursday. They also said huge fires in Victoria and New South Wales could meet to create a larger ‘mega blaze.’ ‘There is no room for complacency,’ NSW state Premier Gladys Berejiklian warned on Monday morning. ‘This morning it is all about recovery, making sure people who have been displaced have somewhere safe.’ ... The weekend saw some of the worst days of the crisis so far, with hundreds more properties destroyed. Rural towns and major cities saw red skies, falling ash and smoke that clogged the air. But by Monday, there were no emergency warnings in fire-ravaged states, following the weather change.”

- A climate change study from 12 years ago warned of Australia's horrific bushfire season. ([SBS News](#))
- South Australia's iconic Kangaroo Island could see rare species – including koalas, bees and marsupials – wiped out after the devastating fires. ([ABC.net.au](#))

**-- Russia announced a plan to “use the advantages” of climate change.** [From the Guardian](#): “The document, published on the government’s website on Saturday, outlines a plan of action and acknowledges changes to the climate are having a ‘prominent and increasing effect’ on socioeconomic development, people’s lives, health and industry. ... It lists preventive measures such as dam building or switching to more drought-resistant crops, as well as crisis preparations including emergency vaccinations or evacuations in case of a disaster. The plan says climate change poses risks to public health, endangers permafrost, and increases the likelihood of infections and natural disasters. It also can lead to species being pushed out of their usual habitats.”

**-- Trump’s trade war is making lobbyists rich – sometimes by undercutting small-business owners.** [From ProPublica](#): “Overall, Trump’s tariffs have not had the effect that the self-described ‘Tariff Man’ promised. Companies have moved manufacturing out of China — and it has mostly gone to Vietnam, Taiwan and Mexico. Tariffs are chiefly behind a months-long decline in domestic manufacturing, Federal Reserve researchers have found. The total loss of jobs across the economy may be as high as 300,000. But constantly up-in-the-air trade agreements and the byzantine, opaque exclusion process has been a blessing for one set of players: Washington’s influence

industry, including the firms of former Trump officials and allies like inauguration committee chief Brian Ballard, former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus and Trump fundraiser Marc Lampkin."

**-- U.S. tensions with China will outlast the trade war**, the New Yorker's Evan Osnos writes in [a new piece on America's future with China](#): "Eight American Presidents, from Richard Nixon to Barack Obama, employed a strategy known as 'engagement,' based on the conviction that embracing China politically and economically would eventually make it more profitable and liberal. Despite China's flagrant abuses of intellectual property and human rights, the strategy enabled the largest trading relationship between any two countries in the world, with an estimated seventy thousand American companies doing business in China today. ... Trump wants none of that. He has always despised trade deficits. ... Trump's idea of 'uncoupling'—pushing factories to leave China, reducing the flow of students and technology— was a fringe position, found mostly in hawkish books such as 'Death by China,' by Peter Navarro, a fiery economics professor who joined Trump's campaign as an adviser. But, once Trump was in office, his confrontational approach attracted surprising bipartisan support."





Bernie Sanders speaks during a campaign event held this past weekend in Mason City, Iowa. (Patrick Semansky/AP)

## **2020 WATCH:**

**-- Former San Antonio mayor Julián Castro announced he's endorsing Warren, just days after ending his own candidacy.**

[Chelsea Janes reports](#): "In the video he released Monday, Castro, who had been the only Latino candidate in the presidential field, said he was endorsing Warren because she was 'one candidate I see who's unafraid to fight like hell to make sure America's promise will be there for everyone.' Castro, who also served as secretary of housing and urban development under [Obama], will join Warren at a town hall in Brooklyn on Tuesday."

**-- The killing of Soleimani has sparked a new debate within the Democratic presidential field about how to characterize the death**

**of the Iranian military leader. [Kim and Rucker report](#):** “Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and [Warren] have termed the killing an ‘assassination’ — a word that others in the race have avoided or even criticized more-liberal candidates for using. Speaking Sunday on CNN, former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg said he was ‘not interested in the terminology, I’m interested in the consequences’ when asked about the use of the word. But in North Carolina on Friday, former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg called the phrase ‘outrageous’ as it related to Soleimani, noting that the Iranian leader was someone ‘who had an awful lot of blood on his hands.’”

**-- Joe Biden said Iran is now “in the driver’s seat” in the Middle East following Soleimani’s death and the Iraqi Parliament vote to remove U.S. forces from the country. ([Des Moines Register](#))**

**-- Iowa voters aren’t pummeling the Democratic candidates with questions about Iran, [David Weigel reports from Iowa](#):** “Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota spoke to Iowans for 21 minutes before she mentioned [Soleimani]. [Sanders] kicked off the day with a speech opposing ‘this dangerous path to war with Iran,’ but by the end of the day, only one voter had asked him about it. ... During [Warren’s] first visit to Iowa in the new year, no voters asked about Iran at all. It was up to Warren, in a back-and-forth with reporters, to clarify her position: She would not have ordered the killing, which she called an ‘assassination,’ and would never have quit the Iran nuclear deal in the first place. ... At Warren’s next stop, in Dubuque, no voter asked about Iran ... The story from Iran and Iraq was moving fast, all weekend — faster than candidates could respond to, and far too fast for voters to quickly process. Further escalation could reshape the

Democratic race, orienting it around the role of American power for the first time. If that were to happen, polling has consistently found that the party's voters trust [Biden] on foreign policy writ large.

Sanders and Warren have overlapping anti-interventionist stances that have rarely been debated in this primary. Until Friday, national security issues were so absent from the race that pollsters with CBS/YouGov, the first to conduct a survey of the caucuses since November, did not even ask about them.”

-- That **CBS poll** showed **Sanders tied or at the top of the polls in both Iowa and New Hampshire**: “He's in a first-place tie with [Biden] and Pete Buttigieg in Iowa. All three are at 23%, and each would get a similar number of delegates out of the caucuses if they were to take place today ... Sanders also now has a narrow edge in New Hampshire, with a two-point lead over Biden. [Warren] has slipped in New Hampshire since November, as liberal voters have moved toward Sanders instead. ... Apart from recent gains in New Hampshire, Sanders' support is still best characterized by its steadiness and strength compared to other candidates who have seen more volatility. Nearly half (47%) of his New Hampshire voters say they've definitely made up their minds. By comparison, just 15% of Biden's backers in the state describe their choice that way. In New Hampshire, 65% of Sanders' backers call themselves 'enthusiastic' about supporting him ahead of all other candidates. Sanders also leads the field on these two measures in Iowa. Forty-three percent have definitely made up their minds, and 67% feel enthusiastic in a state where enthusiasm can be an important motivator for voters to go out and caucus.”

**-- If elected president, Biden would give the country a "long-overdue interval of national healing rather than a season of dramatic transformation,"** [writes the New Republic's Walter Shapiro](#): "Even if his restorationist campaign proves successful, Biden would be destined to be a transitional president. Sometimes, more than anything, a democracy needs a chance to exhale. There is no shame in competence, knowing how to govern, and a faith that compromise in a post-Trump world is possible."

**-- Biden secured the backing of several swing-state House Democrats, including Reps. Conor Lamb and Chrissy Houlahan (Pa.) and Elaine Luria of Virginia.** ([Politico](#))

**-- Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) seems likely to miss the next debate. His Iowa supporters say it doesn't matter.** [Holly Bailey reports](#): "The New Jersey lawmaker is trudging along as several other candidates, including Sen. Kamala D. Harris (D-Calif.) and Julián Castro, have bowed out. It's not because he's seen a spike in the polls or a sudden influx of money. Rather, Booker's campaign seems buoyed by the unusually large crowd of undecided voters, along with some die-hard supporters unconcerned about electability. . . . 'I don't think it matters,' said Scott Carpenter, an Iowa City mental health advocate who decided to formally endorse Booker last month with his wife, Leslie, after it appeared he would not make the December debate. 'What matters in Iowa is relationships, your organization, your endorsements. . . . Those are the people who influence other people to go out and stand for you on a cold February night.'"

**-- Here's something that's missing so far from the Democratic commercials: attacks on their rivals.** [From the Times](#): "Almost

universally, the Democratic ads seek to address and quell a source of national anxiety — be it about [Trump], prescription drug costs, corruption, foreign policy or a changing economy. And they're doing it politely. ... **In total, Democrats spent nearly \$30 million on the airwaves in Iowa and New Hampshire in 2019**, according to Advertising Analytics, an ad tracking firm. **Not a single candidate has run a negative ad on television targeting other Democrats.** The relatively placid ads of the 2020 Democratic campaign reflect the risk-averse primary contest, in which candidates have been loath to unleash any negativity on an opponent."

-- **Judge Judy recorded an ad for Mike Bloomberg.** [From People:](#)

"The judge-turned-daytime-TV-judge, whose real name is Judy Sheindlin, first announced her endorsement for Bloomberg, 77, back in October with an op-ed in USA Today, which raised some eyebrows because he hadn't yet announced he was running for president. ... Sheindlin, 77, made her endorsement doubly real on Monday morning in a new ad for Bloomberg. ... 'America is fractured,' she [said]. 'People are angry with each other because of their politics and it doesn't feel like a family anymore.' Bloomberg's time running the country's largest city and his years as a businessman were key selling points, as were some of his opinions on free speech."

-- **Massachusetts Rep. Joe Kennedy III outpaced incumbent Sen. Ed Markey, who he is challenging in the Democratic primary, in fundraising during the final months of 2019.** ([Boston Globe](#))

-- **Former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee is taking steps to make a second run for president, this time in a bid for the Libertarian Party nomination.** Chafee filed paperwork with the FEC

over the weekend, creating a Lincoln Chafee for President campaign committee based in Wyoming. ([WPRI](#))



Graham urges impeachment rule change as Schiff says McConnell is 'in cahoots' with Trump

## THE DOMESTIC AGENDA:

-- Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) suggested changing the Senate rules to begin Trump's impeachment trial within days if Pelosi continues to withhold the charges against Trump. [Rachael Bade reports](#): "Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) was unequivocal in a Senate floor speech on Friday that 'we can't hold a trial without the articles; the Senate's own rules don't provide for that.' But Graham (R-S.C.), a close ally of Trump, floated the idea of a unilateral GOP move, saying he would work with McConnell to allow the Senate to proceed without the two charges against Trump for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. The suggestion, while unlikely due to the high threshold of

votes required for changing Senate impeachment rules, underscores the pressure some Trump allies feel as the president stewes over the impeachment delay. ‘Well, we’re not going to let Nancy Pelosi use the rules of the Senate to her advantage,’ Graham said on Fox ... ‘If we don’t get the articles this week, then we need to take matters [into] our own hands.’ ... **Senate rules suggest such a move would be difficult, if not impossible.** It would take 60 votes to pass a resolution on impeachment outside a trial and 67 votes to change the impeachment rules. That threshold would require Democratic support, since McConnell has only 53 Republicans — and Democrats would be loath to undercut Pelosi. **The idea could be moot in a matter of days. Multiple Democratic officials expect Pelosi to transmit the articles of impeachment to the Senate as soon as this week** — though Pelosi’s office said Friday that no decision has been made and declined to detail her plans.”

-- **The daughter of a deceased Republican strategist made public files that the GOP wanted sealed.** [From NPR](#): “More than a year after his death, a cache of computer files saved on the hard drives of Thomas Hofeller, a prominent Republican redistricting strategist, is becoming public. Republican state lawmakers in North Carolina fought in court to keep copies of these maps, spreadsheets and other documents from entering the public record. But some files have already come to light in recent months through court filings and news reports. They have been cited as evidence of gerrymandering that got political maps thrown out in North Carolina, and they have raised questions about Hofeller's role in the Trump administration's failed push for a census citizenship question. **Now more of the files are available online through a website called The Hofeller**

**Files, where Hofeller's daughter, Stephanie Hofeller,** published a link to her copy of the files on Sunday after first announcing her plans in [a tweet last month](#). ... Her decision to put the files online herself is just the latest twist in a series of one astonishing event after another. It had been more than four years since Stephanie had spoken to her father after a family dispute involving the custody of her children landed in court. But on the last day of September in 2018, she 'had a hunch that maybe something was wrong,' according to her testimony for a lawsuit deposition. Sitting in her car parked outside a convenience store in Kentucky, she used her phone to search online for her father's name and found an obituary for Thomas Hofeller, confirming that he had died at the age of 75 more than a month earlier in August. Stephanie then reconnected with her mother, Kathleen, and visited her parents' apartment in North Carolina, where she found four external hard drives and a clear plastic bag containing 18 USB thumb drives in her father's room. Stephanie says her mother encouraged her to take the devices.”

**-- U.S. regulators are mulling ordering extra simulator training for Boeing 737 Max pilots.** [From the Journal](#): “The Federal Aviation Administration months ago rejected the idea—which would entail extra costs and delays for airlines—as unnecessary. But in recent weeks, these officials said, requiring such training before returning the grounded U.S. MAX fleet to the air has gained momentum among agency and industry safety experts. ... The FAA’s formal decision isn’t expected until February or later, and the situation remains fluid. An agency spokeswoman declined to comment on specifics, saying more analysis and testing is required. ... Boeing has long maintained 737 MAX pilots don’t need supplemental simulator training beyond what



pilots receive to fly other 737 models, a stance that many FAA officials now regard with increasing skepticism, according to the officials.”

**-- The problems with the Max 737 may go beyond its software issues.** [From the Times](#): “As part of the work to return the Max to service, the company and regulators have scrutinized every aspect of the jet, uncovering new potential design flaws. ... Among the most pressing issues discovered were previously unreported concerns with the wiring that helps control the tail of the Max. The company is looking at whether two bundles of critical wiring are too close together and could cause a short circuit. A short in that area could lead to a crash if pilots did not respond correctly, the people said. Boeing is still trying to determine whether that scenario could actually occur on a flight and, if so, whether it would need to separate the wire bundles in the roughly 800 Max jets that have already been built. The company says that the fix, if needed, is relatively simple.”

**-- An Army officer said his mother’s deportation is “completely inhumane.”** [From the Times](#): “It has been an emotional start to the new year for Rocio Rebollar Gomez and her family. On Thursday, after 31 years in the United States, a country where she had built a life and raised three children, including a son now in the United States Army, Ms. Gomez was deported to Tijuana, Mexico, where she had little family left. That son, Second Lt. Gibram Cruz, 30, who has been in the Army for five years and rushed to be with her the day after Christmas, said he was ‘shocked’ at the way his mother was treated ... Ms. Gomez, 51, was previously scheduled to self deport and that plan was known to ICE, the family’s lawyer, Tessa Cabrera, said on Friday. Instead, as the family went to an ICE office to discuss her

case, Ms. Gomez was taken across the border to Tijuana without a chance to say goodbye, Ms. Cabrera said.”

**-- Gun rights advocates and militia members from around the country are urging thousands of armed protesters to descend on Richmond later this month to stop Democrats from passing gun-control bills.** [Gregory S. Schneider and Laura Vozzella report](#): “What began as a handful of rural Virginia counties declaring themselves ‘Second Amendment sanctuaries’ has jumped the state’s borders and become an Internet phenomenon. Far-right websites and commenters are declaring that Virginia is the place to take a stand against what they see as a national trend of weakening gun rights. ... A Nevada-based group called the Oath Keepers said it’s sending training teams to help form posses and militia in Virginia. The leader of a Georgia militia called Three Percent Security Force has posted videos and calls to arms on Facebook, urging ‘patriots’ to converge on Richmond. The right-wing YouTuber ‘American Joe Show’ warned without evidence that Virginia will cut the power grid to stop the army of protesters — one of a host of false and exaggerated rumors spreading online. Law enforcement and public safety officials say they are monitoring the situation, including several instances of threats toward Gov. Ralph Northam (D). Even some gun enthusiasts expressed concern about the potential for violence at a rally planned for the state Capitol on Jan. 20. State police briefed Northam for two hours last week, according to one state official, and the governor plans to lead an all-staff meeting this week to go over increased security procedures.”

**-- Thousands rallied in New York City in a march against anti-**

**Semitism following a series of attacks in the region.** [From the Times](#): “The violence has shaken the Jewish community in the New York area and underscored the startling rise of these types of hate crimes across the country: Anti-Semitic hate crimes in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago — the nation’s three largest cities — are poised to hit an 18-year peak, according to an upcoming report from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino. ... Speaking to the crowd on Sunday, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said that New York will increase funding for security at religious institutions and will also increase the presence of the state police force and hate crimes task force in vulnerable communities. Mr. Cuomo said he also plans to propose a new state law labeling hate crimes as domestic terrorism. ... At the rally, Senator Chuck Schumer of New York announced a proposal to increase federal funding to protect houses of worship and increase the capacity for local police groups to fight hate crimes.”

**-- Disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein’s sex assault trial starts today.** The case against Weinstein, who has been publicly accused by more than 80 women of sexual assault and harassment, has been boiled down to five felony charges based on claims by two women. ([CNN](#))

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Democrats on the House Foreign Affairs Committee responded to Trump's Twitter "announcement":



**House Foreign Affairs Committee** ✓

@HouseForeign



This Media Post will serve as a reminder that war powers reside in the Congress under the United States Constitution. And that you should read the War Powers Act. And that you're not a dictator.

[twitter.com/realdonaldtrum...](https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrum...)

**Donald J. Trump** ✓ @realDonaldTrump

These Media Posts will serve as notification to the United States Congress that should Iran strike any U.S. person or target, the United States will quickly & fully strike back, & perhaps in a disproportionate manner. Such legal notice is not required, but is given nevertheless!

♥ 114K 10:41 PM - Jan 5, 2020



💬 43.4K people are talking about this



Trump's hawkish former national security adviser, who has been critical of the president lately, praised his Iran escalation:



**John Bolton** ✓

@AmbJohnBolton



Another good day. Iran rips the mask off the idea it ever fully complied with the nuclear deal, or that it made a strategic decision to forswear nuclear weapons. Now, it's on to the real job: effectively preventing the ayatollahs from getting such a capability.

♥ 22.2K 8:03 PM - Jan 5, 2020



💬 14.2K people are talking about this



From a former Republican congressman:



This appears to be Trump's modus operandi:



Here are some of the Iranian cultural sites that Trump could be threatening:



Cultural institutions have done a fantastic job in protecting it.

1/12



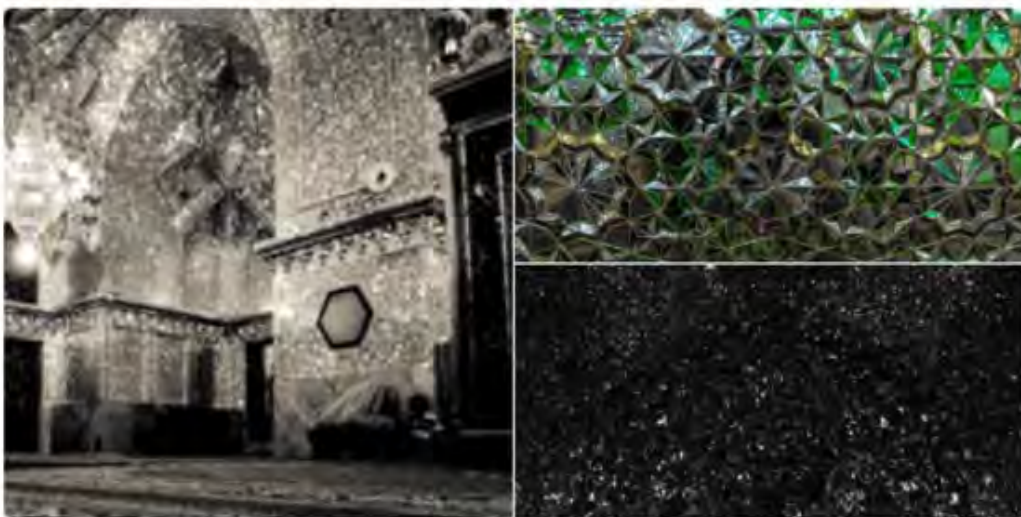
**Sergio Beltrán-García**

@ssbeltran

Several shrines are completely covered in extremely intricate geometrical cut mirrors. Going inside any of them makes you feel like Iranians have found a way to capture all of the galaxy's stars in a single building.

[#IranianCulturalSites](#)

2/12



♡ 1,815 12:47 PM - Jan 5, 2020



💬 503 people are talking about this



And Joe Biden's campaign has fully embraced the former vice president's iconic look:



**Molly Nagle**   
@MollyNagle3



We're here at [@JoeBiden](#)'s event in Grinnell, IA and the aviator aesthetic here is strong. Each pair features Biden's signature in the corner.



♡ 51 7:09 PM - Jan 5, 2020



 [See Molly Nagle's other Tweets](#)



**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** “I don’t think it’s too much of a stretch to say the root of much of this is Obama envy,” said Ned Price, a former CIA officer who served as an NSC spokesman under Obama, about Trump's decision to kill Soleimani. ([David Nakamura](#))

## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Comedian Ricky Gervais hosted this year’s Golden Globes, and he called out celebrities for pretending to be “woke,” telling them they’re in no position to lecture the general public “about anything”:



**THR** The Hollywood Reporter   
@THR 

“If you win, come up, accept your little award, thank your agent and your God and f— off.” Host [@rickygervais](#) calls for no politics at the [#GoldenGlobes](#)  
[thr.cm/c3mvmy](https://thr.cm/c3mvmy)



 7,011  1:39 AM - Jan 6, 2020 

 1,821 people are talking about this 



Read other scathing jokes from Gervais's monologue [here](#).

Actor Sacha Baron Cohen also used his time on the microphone to call out another powerful figure – Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg:



And "The Daily Show" looked back at some of the biggest "scandals" of Barack Obama's presidency:



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# The Daily 202

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## Key dates to put on your calendar for 2020



President Trump returns to the White House on Sunday night after spending two weeks at Mar-a-Lago for the holidays. (Oliver Contreras/Pool/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: January will be dominated by three I's: Iran, impeachment and Iowa.**

We don't know when or how Iran will [retaliate](#) for the strike that killed Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani. Nor do we know for sure when Speaker Nancy Pelosi will transmit the articles of impeachment so Senate Republicans can begin their trial, and presumed acquittal, of President Trump. With the Iowa caucuses a month away, the latest polling shows a three-way tie for first place.

**If the first week of the year is any indication, 2020 will be tumultuous, unpredictable and enormously consequential.** With that in mind, here are some key dates for the coming trip around the sun that should be on your radar:

**Jan. 11: Taiwan's elections offer a referendum on relations with China.** President Tsai Ing-wen, a hardliner who has supported U.S. efforts to check Beijing's power, is up for reelection this weekend. She faces a challenge from the mayor of Kaohsiung, the island's second-largest city, who favors closer ties with the mainland.

**Jan. 14: The Democrats have their final debate before Iowa votes.** Only five candidates have qualified so far to appear onstage at Drake University in Des Moines next Tuesday because of higher eligibility criteria set by the Democratic National Committee. Trump has scheduled a rally in Milwaukee for that night to counterprogram the Democratic debate. There's speculation among the Democratic campaigns that their debate, scheduled to air on CNN, might get pushed back if it conflicts with the impeachment trial, potentially to the evening of Jan. 20, a federal holiday for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**Jan. 21-24: Trump plans to return to the World Economic Forum in Davos.** His administration will send a sizable delegation to the annual gathering of the global elite.

**Jan. 28: Michael Flynn is scheduled to finally be sentenced.** A federal judge last month [rejected](#) the former Trump national security adviser's attacks against the FBI and his request to find prosecutors in contempt. U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan of Washington ruled there was no basis for the retired three-star Army general's allegations

that federal law enforcement officials entrapped him into accepting a plea deal from special counsel Bob Mueller for making false statements to the FBI about his Russian contacts.

**Jan. 31: Brexit finally happens.** The U.K. officially leaves the European Union after Prime Minister Boris Johnson's big win in last month's elections.



Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) knocks on doors on Sunday to speak to undecided caucus goers in Maquoketa, Iowa. (Andrew Harnik/AP)

**Feb. 3: Democrats caucus in Iowa.** The night after the Super Bowl takes place in Miami, up to 300,000 Iowans will gather across the state for hours of deliberation on a winter night. Starting with Jimmy Carter's win in the 1976 caucuses, which put him on a glidepath to the presidency, the top individual vote-getter in the Iowa caucuses has gone on to win the Democratic nomination [seven](#) out of nine times.

**Feb. 4: Trump delivers his State of the Union.** That same day is the crowded Democratic primary in the special election to succeed the late Elijah Cummings in his Baltimore district. His widow is among the candidates.

**Feb. 7: The eighth Democratic debate will take place in New Hampshire.** ABC will air the Friday night debate from St. Anselm College outside Manchester.

**Feb. 11: The New Hampshire primary is the following Tuesday.** The results will significantly winnow the field.

**Feb. 19: The ninth Democratic debate will be in Las Vegas and air on NBC,** three days before the caucuses in Nevada.

**Feb. 20: Roger Stone's sentencing.** The president's longtime political confidant was convicted in November of seven felony counts of lying to investigators, obstructing a congressional probe and witness tampering. His crimes carry a combined maximum sentence of 50 years in prison. Stone's lawyers secured a two-week extension from the judge last month to allow them to compile financial records.

**Feb. 21: Iran holds its once-every-four-years parliamentary elections.** The conflict with the United States will shadow these highly restricted contests. Recent protests against the regime appear to have given way, at least for now, to rallying around the flag after the strike on Soleimani.

**Feb. 22: The Nevada caucuses offer Democrats their first racially diverse contest.** Latinos could make the difference.

**Feb. 25: The 10th Democratic debate will take place in**

**Charleston, S.C.** CBS will air the debate, co-sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus Institute. Will there any be any candidates of color left in the race? The DNC tentatively plans to sanction one debate in April and another in May, assuming the race continues, but the dates and sponsors have not been announced.

**Feb. 29: The South Carolina Democratic primary is the final early-state contest.** Joe Biden is counting on strong African American support as a firewall, but it could erode if he underperforms in the first three states.







Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu chairs his weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on Sunday. (Ronen Zvulun/Pool via AP)

**March 2: Israel has its third national election in 11**

**months.** Neither Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nor challenger Benny Gantz could assemble a majority coalition in the Knesset, their parliament, after the previous two elections. Talks broke down. So there will be an unprecedented third election in an effort to break the impasse.

**March 3: About 40 percent of Democratic delegates will be**

**awarded on Super Tuesday.** Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont and Virginia go to the polls. California and Texas are the two biggest delegate prizes of the whole contest. The Golden State has been terrible about tabulating results in recent years so, be warned, that it could be a few days

before we know for sure who got the most delegates.

**An undercard to watch that night: Former attorney general Jeff Sessions is running in Alabama to win back his old Senate seat in a crowded GOP primary.** The winner will be considered the favorite in the fall against Democratic incumbent Doug Jones, who beat Roy Moore in the 2017 special election. Trump has remained angry at Sessions for recusing himself from the Russia probe, but Sessions is still trying to link himself closely with the president. The big question is how involved Trump gets in the race and, more specifically, whether he endorses one of Sessions's opponents.

**March 4: The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a challenge to the constitutionality of a Louisiana abortion law that requires doctors who perform abortions to have the right to admit patients at a nearby hospital.** This is the first time that these nine justices will consider abortion restrictions, and it could lead to the rollback of *Roe v. Wade*.

**March 5: OPEC meets in Vienna, Austria.** What the cartel chooses to do with the global oil supply could become super significant for domestic gas prices if a hot war breaks out between the United States and Iran. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is scheduled to gather again on June 9-10. Oil prices rose above \$70 a barrel today for the first time in more than three months because of this Iran donnybrook. (March 5 also happens to be the 250th anniversary of the Boston Massacre.)

**March 10: This is being called Super Tuesday II.** Michigan will be the biggest prize of the night. Bernie Sanders won a big upset over

Hillary Clinton in the 2016 primary, which foretold her weakness in the Wolverine state during the general election. Democrats also vote in Idaho, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota and the state of Washington.



House candidate Marie Newman, challenging Rep. Dan Lipinski in the Democratic primary, campaigns in LaGrange, Ill. (Sara Burnett/AP)

**March 17: Democrats have primaries in Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Ohio.** If one candidate sweeps all four states, there will be pressure on everyone else to drop out and anoint that winner the presumptive nominee.

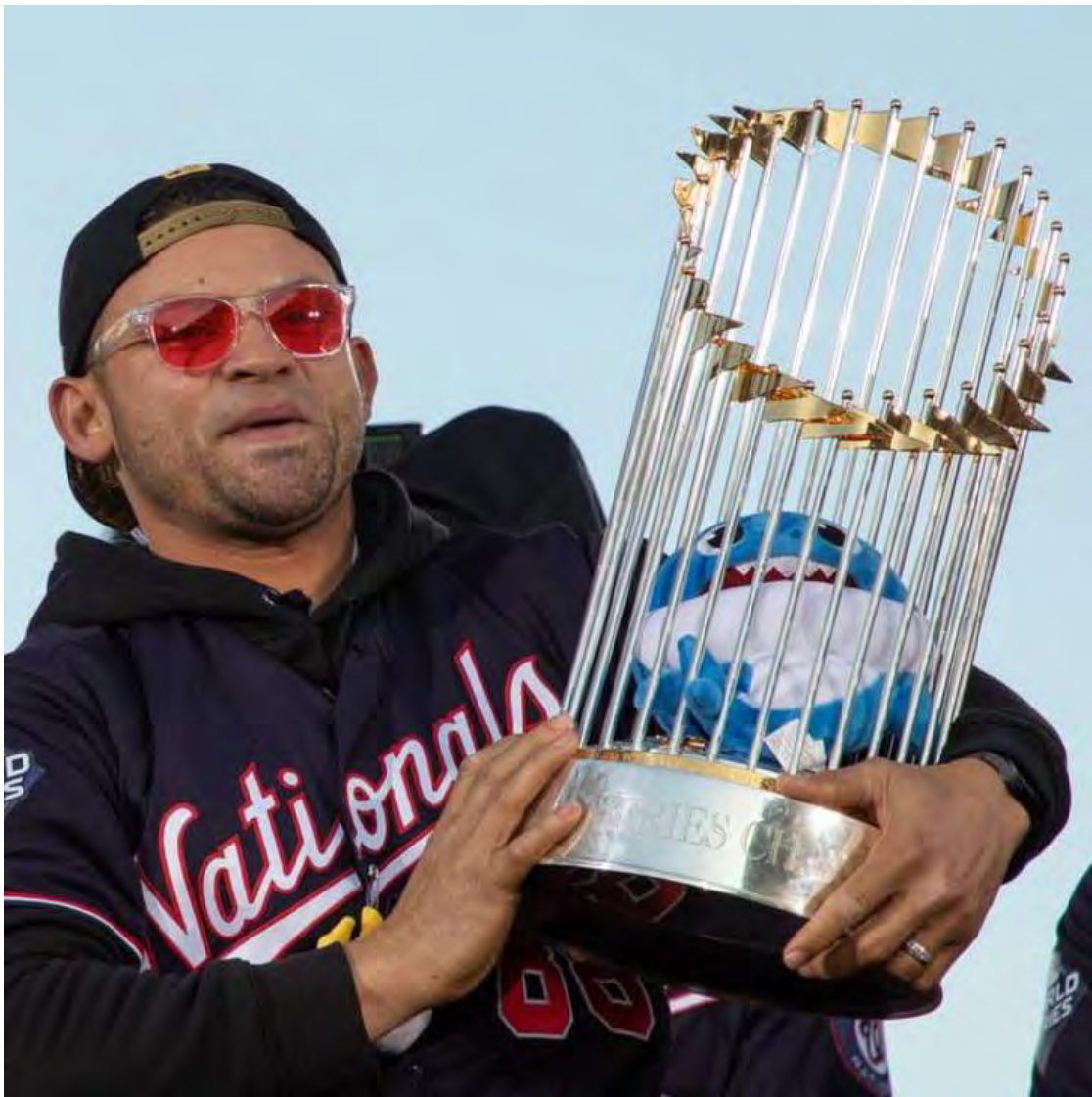
**The big undercard on this night is the left-wing primary challenge to Rep. Dan Lipinski, an anti-abortion moderate in Chicago.** He narrowly survived an expensive primary fight two years ago and faces

a rematch against Marie Newman. Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot tweeted over the weekend that Lipinski deserves to lose. Outside money has poured in from both sides of the abortion wars.

**March 24: Georgia has the day to itself for a symbolically significant primary.** Will Stacey Abrams, who lost the 2018 governor's race but whose name still appears on list of potential vice-presidential nominees, endorse one of the Democrats?

**March 29: Puerto Rico has a Democratic primary.** Several of the candidates have campaigned in San Juan, with an emphasis on hurricane relief, over the past year.

**April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide.** By this day, every household in America will have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. People are asked to say how many people live in their home as of April 1. In May, census takers will begin knocking on the doors of people who didn't respond. The outcome of this count will have major impacts on redistricting for the next decade.



Gerardo Parra holds the World Series trophy, with a Baby Shark stuffed animal inside, during a November parade in Washington. He will not return next season. (Evelyn Hockstein/The Washington Post)



**April 2: The Nationals play their home opener.** The defending World Series champions, without a few of the guys who got us there, start the new season in New York on March 26 against the Mets and then go to Miami before coming home for their first game at Nationals Park. Opening Day has been an unofficial holiday in the District since baseball came back in 2005. This year it will be doubly so, thanks to all the fans who jumped on the bandwagon during last October's magical run. Ticket prices on StubHub already reflect this.

For those of us who cannot wait until April for baseball, pitchers and catchers report for spring training the week of Feb. 10. And the Nats will play the Astros – in a Grapefruit League rematch of the World Series – at the stadium the two teams share in West Palm Beach on Feb. 22.

**April 4: On this Saturday, Democrats will caucus in Alaska, Hawaii and Wyoming and vote in a Louisiana primary.** All four states may be ruby red, but a not insignificant chunk of delegates will be up for grabs.

**April 7: Wisconsin holds its Democratic primary.** Sanders beat

Clinton there by 13 points four years ago, another warning sign of her weakness across the industrial Midwest. Much will be made of what the Badger State does in the primary.

**April 15: All 300 seats in South Korea's National Assembly are on the ballot.** This could turn into a referendum on Seoul's approach toward Pyongyang, and Trump's demands that the South contribute more toward its defense could become an issue. It's also Tax Day here in the United States, which will be a peg for lots of stories about how much the debt has ballooned since Trump took office.

**April 22: Earth Day turns 50.** Big events are planned.

**April 28: Six Northeastern states hold Democratic primaries.** New York and Pennsylvania are the biggest prizes. Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland and Rhode Island also have primaries.

**May 2: Kansas has its primary on a Saturday.**

**May 5: Indiana holds its primary the following Tuesday.**



Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Trump confer on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan, last June. (Kevin Lamarque/Reuters)

**May 9: Russian President Vladimir Putin has invited Trump to come to Moscow for a parade to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Germany's surrender in World War II.** Trump has said he's considering [the invite](#). "I appreciate the invitation," Trump [told reporters](#) in November. "It is right in the middle of political season, so I'll see if I can do it. But I would love to go if I could."

**May 12: A special House election in California to replace Katie Hill (D) could become competitive.** She ousted GOP incumbent Steve Knight in 2018 in the 25th District, which includes parts of Ventura and Los Angeles counties, but she resigned this fall amid an ethics investigation into allegations that she was romantically involved with her legislative director. The former congresswoman, who identifies as bisexual, denied that. But she admitted to engaging in a



consensual three-person relationship with her now-estranged husband and a woman on her campaign staff.

One of the Republicans [running](#) for the open seat is George Papadopoulos, the former Trump foreign policy adviser who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his Russia-related contacts and served 12 days in federal prison in 2018. His remark to an Australian diplomat in 2016 that the Russians had “dirt” on Clinton over drinks at a bar in London, which was passed along to U.S. officials, helped ignite the FBI investigation of Trump’s campaign.

Nebraska and West Virginia have presidential primaries on May 12, as well.

**May 19: Kentucky and Oregon hold primaries.**

**May 22: This is the first important deadline of the year on Capitol Hill for a “must-pass” bill.** The expiration of funding for community health centers is being talked about by lawmakers in both parties as the only real shot at forcing a prescription drug price deal and some other changes to the health laws.

**June 2: Democratic will vote in presidential primaries in D.C., Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico and South Dakota.** If the delegate hunt remains close, you might have candidates going to the Virgin Islands before the Democratic caucuses there on June 6. (Count me in to cover that.)



Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell silences his phone before a Senate Banking Committee hearing. (Yuri Gripas/Reuters)

**June 10: The Federal Reserve's board meets eight times a year to decide interest rates, and Fed Chairman Jay Powell holds a news conference, including on this day.** But most experts agree that how the economy is doing about six months before the election has the biggest influence on the outcome. That's why this gathering is probably a key time for how the Fed describes the health of the economy and whether the board votes to add any more stimulus. Similar logic is why the June 5 jobs report will get a lot of coverage. But also keep an eye on the numbers in May and July.

**June 10-12: Trump hosts the G-7 at Camp David.** He initially announced that the summit of world leaders would take place at a golf resort he owns in Doral, Fla., but backed off under criticism and amid legal concerns that this could violate the Constitution's emoluments

clause. One flashpoint to watch will be whether Trump follows through with his announcement from last summer's meeting that he intends to invite Putin. The Russian strongman, who has now called the shots in his country for 20 years, was kicked out of what used to be the G-8 after he invaded Ukraine and seized Crimea in 2014. Trump, however, has [expressed](#) public sympathy for Putin over his pariah status, despite credible warnings that Russia is actively trying to interfere again in the U.S. presidential election on his behalf.

**June 14: Trump turns 74.** He will be the oldest world leader at the G-7. Three of the leading Democratic candidates vying to challenge the president in the general are also septuagenarians. Elizabeth Warren turns 71 on June 22. Sanders turns 79 on Sept. 8. And Biden turns 78 on Nov. 20. In contrast, Pete Buttigieg – who would be the youngest American president ever if he wins – turns 38 on Jan. 19.

**Mid-June: The Supreme Court's term ends.** The justices are considering [several cases](#) that could lead to decisions with major political implications, including whether federal law protects LGBTQ workers from discrimination or being fired and whether the Trump administration's efforts to end the Obama-era program that protects immigrants brought to this country as children are lawful. The court could also hand down a major Second Amendment decision and decide whether a state may withhold aid to private religious schools if it offers funding to secular ones.

**July 13-16: The Democratic National Convention is in Milwaukee.** You'll probably read a lot of stories in the next few months about a contested convention, but Democrats haven't had one since 1968.



The new National Stadium will be the main site for the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. (Tomohiro Ohsumi/Getty Images)

**July 24-Aug. 9: The Summer Olympics in Tokyo will overshadow politics for a few weeks.** One wrinkle is that Aug. 6 is the 75th anniversary of the Enola Gay dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Aug. 9, the day of the closing ceremonies, is the anniversary of the U.S. bombing Nagasaki. V-J Day came Aug. 14.

**July 31-Sept. 18: Congress is scheduled to take a 38-day summer recess.** Lawmakers are scheduled to leave town again on Oct. 2 to campaign for the month before the election.

**Aug. 24-27: The Republican National Convention is in Charlotte during the week before Labor Day.** This will likely be every bit as much a coronation as the 2012 Democratic convention was for Barack Obama in the same city.

**Sept. 18: Early voting begins in the presidential**

**election.** Minnesota is the first state that will begin voting – 46 days before the general election. Several [other states](#) will begin allowing early voting the next day. Expect a record number of voters to cast their ballots in the weeks before Election Day, continuing a trend that's accelerated as more states have made it easier to vote by mail or get an absentee ballot. In 2016, 57.2 million Americans [voted early](#), absentee or by mail – up from 24.9 million in 2004. In the last presidential race, more than half the votes were cast early in 16 states.

**Sept. 29: The first presidential debate of the general election is at Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.** That's Buttigieg's hometown, where he just wrapped up eight years as mayor. One wildcard is that Trump has hinted he might refuse to debate.

**Sept. 30: The government needs to be funded by this date, or there could be another shutdown.** It seems most likely that both sides will want to avoid a showdown so close to the election, but Trump could use this deadline to demand appropriations for his border wall if he thinks picking a fight with Pelosi could be advantageous in the home stretch.



Donald Trump prepares for an appearance in 2005 on "Days of Our Lives" with actress Arianne Zucker. He is accompanied to the set by "Access Hollywood" host Billy Bush. The video emerged in October 2016. (Obtained by The Washington Post)

**October Surprise: There always is something we don't expect.** In 2016, it was the FBI reopening the Clinton email investigation and the "Access Hollywood" tape that showed Trump boasting on a hot microphone about grabbing women by the genitals and kissing them without their consent.

**Oct. 5-10: The Convention on Biological Diversity meets in Kunming, China.** Delegates from around the world will vote on [whether to pledge](#) to protect a third of the land and a third of the sea on Earth. The UN will convene a separate round of climate talks at some point late in the year, during which countries will declare their pledges for cutting greenhouse gas emissions over the next five years.

**Oct. 7: The only vice-presidential debate is at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.** Which Democrat will Mike Pence face?

**Oct. 15: The second presidential debate is at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich.**

**Oct. 22: The third and final presidential debate is scheduled for Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn.** This is also the day that presidential campaign committees must file their final pre-election fundraising report, which will give a last window into their financial strength for the final 12 days.

**Oct. 29: The government will unveil its advance estimate of gross domestic product growth for the third quarter.** This is the final read of how healthy the economy is before the election. Also, watch the stock market from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31. One of the most reliable predictors of the presidential election is whether stocks rise or fall in the three-month period. Stocks actually fell slightly during that stretch in 2016, implying a change in party control and a Trump victory.

**Nov. 3: Election Day.** A federal law in 1845 scheduled presidential elections for the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November so that voters in what was then an agrarian society wouldn't need to travel on Sundays and could respect the Sabbath. While all Americans will go to the polls, voters in about half a dozen battleground states will determine whether Trump secures a second term. Could he again win the electoral college while losing the popular vote? The Senate and the House are also in play.



Smoke billows as a woman wears a mask while walking in a neighborhood next to a coal-fired power plant in Shanxi, China. (Kevin Frayer/Getty Images)

**Nov. 4: The United States is set to complete its withdrawal from the Paris climate accord.** The Trump administration [gave](#) a required one-year notice in November. All the Democratic presidential candidates promise to rejoin if they win.

**Nov. 9: The Mayflower arrived 400 years ago on this date.** The Puritans would soon have what would be remembered as the first Thanksgiving in 1620, and the New World would never be the same. Expect the commemorations to be more sensitive to the impact on the indigenous peoples than past milestone anniversaries.

**Nov. 21-22: The Saudis host the G-20 summit in Riyadh.** Will Trump be a lame duck?

**Dec. 31: This is the *real* Brexit deadline.** The official exit date is at



the end of this month, but there will be a transition period in which little changes as London and Brussels negotiate the future of the relationship. There's a fine chance they go for a major break, which will lead to British businesses getting slapped with big new taxes in their biggest market, the European Union, and an uncertain future for the millions of Brits living in Europe and Europeans living in Britain. But Johnson, the prime minister, says Britain will be fully split from the E.U. by the end of this year come hell or high water.

*Heather Long, Juliet Eilperin, Robert Barnes, Michael Birnbaum, David Weigel, Paul Kane, Mike DeBonis, and Tom Hamburger contributed ideas for dates.*



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Tens of thousands gather in Iran for Soleimani's funeral

## THE WORLD IS A TINDERBOX:

-- **“Trump served a bellicose brew of threats, rebukes and contempt on Sunday as he escalated tensions in the Middle East and awaited Iran's possible retaliation for the U.S. killing of one of its top generals,”** [Seung Min Kim and Philip Rucker report.](#)

“Trump projected a wartime posture as he wrapped up his holiday vacation, reiterating that if Iran took military action against the United States, he may order attacks on Iranian cultural sites, which could constitute a war crime under international law ... Trump threatened Iraq as well. He countered the Iraqi parliament's move Sunday to try to expel foreign troops, including U.S. forces, by telling reporters that he would respond by imposing ‘very big sanctions’ on the nation and demanding that Iraq reimburse the United States for the billions of dollars it had invested in a major air base there. Trump also flouted protocols at home, making a mockery of his necessity to advise

Congress of military action by writing on Twitter that his tweets would serve as official notification of strikes. ...

**“The president's vow to target Iranian sites of historic and cultural significance prompted particular concern.** On Twitter late Saturday, Trump said that the United States was targeting 52 Iranian sites, representing the 52 American hostages taken by Iran four decades ago, and that some of those are ‘a very high level & important to Iran & the Iranian culture.’ The 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property bans the targeting of cultural sites with military action; there is a provision that allows for a waiver due to ‘military necessity.’ Iran has 24 locations on the U.N. list of cultural world heritage sites. ... **Trump’s tough talk is emblematic of a president who has flouted the tenets of international and U.S. law on war crimes.** He has insisted that enhanced interrogation tactics such as waterboarding work, suggested killing terrorists’ families to fight the Islamic State and two months ago cleared three members of the U.S. armed services accused or convicted of war crimes over objections from senior military officials.”

**-- Nancy Pelosi announced overnight the House will vote on a war powers resolution this week to limit Trump’s military actions against Iran.** The speaker told fellow House Democrats in a letter that the strike on Soleimani was a “provocative and disproportionate military airstrike targeting high-level Iranian military officials” that endangered members of the U.S. military, diplomats and others. Pelosi said lawmakers were concerned the Trump administration acted without consulting Congress. Pelosi said the resolution would mandate that “if no further Congressional action is taken, the

Administration's military hostilities with regard to Iran cease within 30 days."

"She said the House will introduce and vote on a resolution similar to one that Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) introduced in the Senate last week," [Donna Cassata reports](#). **Freshman Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.), a former CIA and Pentagon analyst specializing in Shiite militias, will spearhead the resolution in the House.** The measure is likely to pass in the Democratic-controlled House and put Republicans on record on the issue, but won't go far in the GOP-led Senate."



Pompeo goes on media blitz to defend Soleimani killing

-- **Soleimani's killing follows a long push from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for aggressive action against Iran.** [John Hudson](#), [Josh Dawsey](#), [Shane Harris](#) and [Dan Lamothe](#) report: "Pompeo had lost a similar high-stakes deliberation last summer when Trump declined to retaliate militarily against Iran after it downed a U.S. surveillance drone, an outcome that left Pompeo 'morose,' according

to one U.S. official. But recent changes to Trump's national security team and the whims of a president anxious about being viewed as hesitant in the face of Iranian aggression created an opening for Pompeo to press for the kind of action he had been advocating. The greenlighting of the airstrike near Baghdad airport represents a bureaucratic victory for Pompeo, but it also carries multiple serious risks: another protracted regional war in the Middle East; retaliatory assassinations of U.S. personnel stationed around the world; an interruption in the battle against the Islamic State; the closure of diplomatic pathways to containing Iran's nuclear program; and a major backlash in Iraq ... **'Taking out Soleimani would not have happened under [former secretary of defense Jim] Mattis,' said a senior administration official** who argued that the Mattis Pentagon was risk-averse. ... Mattis declined to comment. ...

**"Trump chose Pompeo to appear on all of the Sunday news shows** ... But critics inside and outside the administration have questioned Pompeo's justification for the strike based on his claims that 'dozens if not hundreds' of American lives were at risk. Lawmakers left classified briefings with U.S. intelligence officials on Friday saying they heard nothing to suggest that the threat posed by the proxy forces guided by Soleimani had changed substantially in recent months. When repeatedly pressed on Sunday about the imminent nature of the threats, whether it was days or weeks away, or whether they had been foiled by the U.S. airstrike, Pompeo dismissed the questions. Some defense officials said Pompeo's claims of an imminent and direct threat were overstated, and they would prefer that he make the case based on the killing of the American contractor and previous Iranian provocations. Critics have also questioned how an

imminent attack would be foiled by killing Soleimani, who would not have carried out the strike himself. ...

**“Following the strike, Pompeo has held back-to-back phone calls with his counterparts around the globe but has received a chilly reception from European allies,** many of whom fear that the attack puts their embassies in Iran and Iraq in jeopardy and has now eliminated the chance to keep a lid on Iran’s nuclear program. ‘We have woken up to a more dangerous world,’ said France’s Europe minister, Amelie de Montchalin. ...

**“A critical moment for Pompeo is nearing as he faces growing questions about a potential Senate run, though some GOP insiders say that decision seems to have stalled.** Pompeo has kept in touch with Ward Baker, a political consultant who would probably lead the operation, and others in [Mitch] McConnell’s orbit, about a bid. But Pompeo hasn’t committed one way or the other, people familiar with the conversations said. Some people close to the secretary say he has mixed feelings about becoming a relatively junior senator from Kansas after leading the State Department and CIA, but there is little doubt in Pompeo’s home state that he could win.”



How the backlash to Soleimani's killing is unfolding

**-- Iran said Sunday that it is suspending its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal and will abandon the accord's "final restrictions" on uranium enrichment and other activities unless U.S. sanctions are lifted.** [Erin Cunningham reports](#): "The government announced the move in a statement carried by state news agencies. ... It added that Iran will continue to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog. ...

**"Iraq's caretaker prime minister urged parliament on Sunday to take 'urgent measures' to force the withdrawal of foreign forces following the strike.** In an address to the legislature, Adel Abdul Mahdi recommended that the government establish a timetable for the departure of foreign troops, including the members of the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State militant group, 'for the sake of our national sovereignty.' ... **Lawmakers responded by passing a**

**nonbinding resolution calling on the government to end the foreign troop presence in Iraq. But Abdul Mahdi, who resigned in November and has been serving in a caretaker role, is not legally authorized to sign the bill into law.** As a result, the vote Sunday did not immediately imperil the U.S. presence in Iraq, but it highlights the head winds the Trump administration faces after the strike.

**-- Despite Trump's threats last night, experts believe ending America's military presence in Iraq may not be that hard.** [Louisa Loveluck reports](#): "Unlike most deployments stretching back to the aftermath the 9/11 attacks, American troops in Iraq are not operating under a conventional Status of Forces agreement approved by the Iraqi parliament ... Instead, the current military presence is based on an arrangement dating from 2014 that's less formal, and ultimately, based on the consent of an executive which yesterday told the troops to get out. So, with the stroke of a pen, the 5,000-strong force could technically be asked to leave."

**-- Some of the 52 American hostages who were detained by Iran in 1979, who Trump cited when threatening to destroy the 52 Iranian sites, said they would rather not be mentioned by the president.** [From the Los Angeles Times](#): "Even though four decades have passed since Iranian protesters stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and took the Americans hostage, resulting in a 444-day ordeal, those wounds continue to haunt Americans. ... William J. Daugherty, a 72-year-old former CIA case officer who lives in Georgia, said he didn't believe Iran's proxy war capability had taken a hit because of Suleimani's death. 'Suleimani has already been replaced,' Daugherty said. 'I'm not sure killing him will have any positive result.'"



**-- A government website was “defaced” with pro-Iran messages and an image of a bloodied Trump.** Hackers have claimed responsibility. ([Allyson Chiu](#))

**-- A former head of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard threatened to turn Israeli cities “to dust” if the U.S. attacks 52 targets in Iran.** “If America takes any measures after our military response, we will turn Tel Aviv and Haifa to dust,” tweeted Mohsen Rezai, who currently heads the Expediency Council, a top state body. ([Yahoo](#))

**-- The Arab states in the Gulf, faced with the possibility of becoming Iran’s targets for retaliation against the U.S., are trying to keep tensions between Tehran and Washington from spiraling out of control** [From Bloomberg News](#): “Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has instructed his younger brother, Deputy Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman, to travel to Washington and London in the next few days to urge restraint, the Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper reported ... The U.A.E.’s minister of state for foreign affairs, Anwar Gargash, called for ‘rational engagement’ .... In Tehran, Qatar’s foreign minister, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, met with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to discuss ‘measures to maintain the security and stability of the region,’ state-run Qatar News Agency reported.”

**-- The Department of Homeland Security stopped dozens of Iranian Americans and Iranians as they attempted to cross Washington state’s border with Canada.** [From the Times](#): “More than 60 of the travelers, many returning from work trips or vacations, were trying to come home to the United States on Saturday when agents at the Peace Arch Border Crossing in Blaine, Wash., held

them for additional questioning about their political views and allegiances, according to advocacy groups and accounts from travelers. Most of the travelers were released after the extra scrutiny, according to administration officials, although advocates said some were denied entry into the United States. Masih Fouladi, an executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, said some were held in a waiting room and questioned for up to 10 hours. ... **When one family asked agents why they were being questioned, an officer told them, 'This is a bad time to be an Iranian,'** according to Mr. Fouladi, whose group has spoken to the travelers. ... Matt Leas, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, disputed the accounts and reports from advocacy groups that [DHS] had issued a directive to detain those with Iranian heritage entering the country, despite their citizenship status.”

**-- A woman in Portland, Ore., allegedly tried to choke a Muslim student with her own hijab.** [Katie Shepherd reports](#): “Jasmine Renee Campbell allegedly tried to choke the student, who is Muslim, with her hijab before the victim shoved the attacker away. Prosecutors said in a statement Campbell then ripped the woman’s hijab from her head. ... The affidavit also alleges Campbell mocked the victim’s religion and made fun of her hijab. The frightening encounter ended in an arrest after witnesses called the police, but left the Portland State University exchange student, who isn’t being named by law enforcement officials, afraid to wear her religious garb in public. On Friday, prosecutors obtained an arrest warrant after 23-year-old Campbell failed to appear in court for her arraignment on five misdemeanor charges.”



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Devin Boyer salutes the flag during an August ceremony signifying the change from tactical to enduring operations at Camp Simba in Kenya. The al-Shabab extremist group attacked Camp Simba on Sunday. (Staff Sgt. Lexie West/U.S. Air Force/AP)

**-- Al-Shabab militants launched a predawn attack Sunday on an airstrip used by the U.S. and Kenyan militaries, on Kenya's coast near the border with Somalia, killing one U.S. service member and two American private contractors.** Two other American contractors were wounded and were being evacuated in stable condition, according to a U.S. military statement. [Max Bearak reports from Nairobi:](#)

**“The attack marked a rare successful incursion by al-Shabab into a foreign military compound,** let alone one outside its usual operating grounds in Somalia and one used by U.S. Special Forces and other defense personnel. Residents and tourists in the Lamu

region reported seeing a plume of smoke and hearing gunfire at 3:30 a.m. that continued until midmorning. It was unclear exactly how the attack unfolded, but pictures of the aftermath indicated that **al-Shabab was able to detonate explosives where U.S. military equipment such as helicopters and other aircraft would have been stationed.** The U.S. military statement said reports indicated damage to six 'contractor-operated civilian aircraft.' U.S. forces train Kenyan soldiers at a base attached to the airstrip known as Camp Simba, and they use the airstrip for aerial missions against al-Shabab in Somalia. ... Kenyan Defence Forces spokesman Lt. Col. Paul Njuguna said the bodies of five attackers were found. ...

**"Al-Shabab, which is affiliated with al-Qaeda, has mounted a string of attacks in Kenya recently,** including multiple ambushes on passenger buses traveling in the region close to the Somali border. Last Saturday, the group bombed a busy intersection in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, killing at least 80 people."



Dramatic scuffles erupt as security forces block Guaidó

**-- Venezuela's last democratic institution fell after President Nicolás Maduro attempted a de facto takeover of the National Assembly in a move orchestrated to rob international credibility from Juan Guaidó, who had led the legislative body and nearly a year ago staked a rival claim as head of state.** [Rachelle Krygier and Anthony Faiola report](#): "The dramatic events marked a sharp escalation in Maduro's gambit to end Guaidó's quest to unseat him and sparked immediate condemnation by Washington, which has strongly backed the 36-year-old opposition leader. Opposition officials declared the move an effective 'parliamentary coup' meant to consolidate Maduro's near-dictatorial powers. ... Later Sunday, Guaidó sought to counter the move by gathering opposition lawmakers at the headquarters of El Nacional, a local newspaper, to cast an official vote. In a 100-to-0 tally — enough to put him over the top in a full session of the 167-seat chamber — those present reelected Guaidó as head of the legislature. Twenty-eight of the 100 were votes from stand-ins of exiled lawmakers. But Maduro, in an address to the nation, hailed what he called the National Assembly's 'new leadership.' ...

**"Opposition officials have warned since last month that Maduro's government was handing out suitcases of cash to woo lawmakers.** But they thought they had successfully countered the operation, and on Sunday, Guaidó began the day anticipating his reelection as head of the National Assembly, viewed internationally as the last democratic institution in the authoritarian South American state."

**-- Masked assailants injured more than 30 students and professors at the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi.** [Joanna Slater and Niha Masih report](#): “The incident comes at a moment of high political tension in India, where hundreds of thousands of people — including many students — have participated in protests against a controversial citizenship law passed last month. The law creates an expedited path to citizenship for non-Muslim migrants from three countries, a move that critics say is discriminatory and unconstitutional. The violence at the university was not directly connected to the citizenship law but was rooted in a separate dispute roiling the campus over fees that also pitted student supporters of the government against its opponents.”

**-- Rains have brought relief to Australia amid devastating fires, but the huge blazes are expected to continue.** [From the BBC](#): “Sooty rain fell down the east coast, from Sydney to Melbourne, with ‘torrential’ rain reported in some parts of New South Wales (NSW). But on Sunday night officials warned temperatures would rise by Thursday. They also said huge fires in Victoria and New South Wales could meet to create a larger ‘mega blaze.’ ‘There is no room for complacency,’ NSW state Premier Gladys Berejiklian warned on Monday morning. ‘This morning it is all about recovery, making sure people who have been displaced have somewhere safe.’ ... The weekend saw some of the worst days of the crisis so far, with hundreds more properties destroyed. Rural towns and major cities saw red skies, falling ash and smoke that clogged the air. But by Monday, there were no emergency warnings in fire-ravaged states, following the weather change.”

- A climate change study from 12 years ago warned of Australia's horrific bushfire season. ([SBS News](#))
- South Australia's iconic Kangaroo Island could see rare species – including koalas, bees and marsupials – wiped out after the devastating fires. ([ABC.net.au](#))

**-- Russia announced a plan to “use the advantages” of climate change.** [From the Guardian](#): “The document, published on the government’s website on Saturday, outlines a plan of action and acknowledges changes to the climate are having a ‘prominent and increasing effect’ on socioeconomic development, people’s lives, health and industry. ... It lists preventive measures such as dam building or switching to more drought-resistant crops, as well as crisis preparations including emergency vaccinations or evacuations in case of a disaster. The plan says climate change poses risks to public health, endangers permafrost, and increases the likelihood of infections and natural disasters. It also can lead to species being pushed out of their usual habitats.”

**-- Trump’s trade war is making lobbyists rich – sometimes by undercutting small-business owners.** [From ProPublica](#): “Overall, Trump’s tariffs have not had the effect that the self-described ‘Tariff Man’ promised. Companies have moved manufacturing out of China — and it has mostly gone to Vietnam, Taiwan and Mexico. Tariffs are chiefly behind a months-long decline in domestic manufacturing, Federal Reserve researchers have found. The total loss of jobs across the economy may be as high as 300,000. But constantly up-in-the-air trade agreements and the byzantine, opaque exclusion process has been a blessing for one set of players: Washington’s influence

industry, including the firms of former Trump officials and allies like inauguration committee chief Brian Ballard, former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus and Trump fundraiser Marc Lampkin."

**-- U.S. tensions with China will outlast the trade war**, the New Yorker's Evan Osnos writes in [a new piece on America's future with China](#): "Eight American Presidents, from Richard Nixon to Barack Obama, employed a strategy known as 'engagement,' based on the conviction that embracing China politically and economically would eventually make it more profitable and liberal. Despite China's flagrant abuses of intellectual property and human rights, the strategy enabled the largest trading relationship between any two countries in the world, with an estimated seventy thousand American companies doing business in China today. ... Trump wants none of that. He has always despised trade deficits. ... Trump's idea of 'uncoupling'—pushing factories to leave China, reducing the flow of students and technology— was a fringe position, found mostly in hawkish books such as 'Death by China,' by Peter Navarro, a fiery economics professor who joined Trump's campaign as an adviser. But, once Trump was in office, his confrontational approach attracted surprising bipartisan support."





Bernie Sanders speaks during a campaign event held this past weekend in Mason City, Iowa. (Patrick Semansky/AP)

## **2020 WATCH:**

**-- Former San Antonio mayor Julián Castro announced he's endorsing Warren, just days after ending his own candidacy.**

[Chelsea Janes reports](#): "In the video he released Monday, Castro, who had been the only Latino candidate in the presidential field, said he was endorsing Warren because she was 'one candidate I see who's unafraid to fight like hell to make sure America's promise will be there for everyone.' Castro, who also served as secretary of housing and urban development under [Obama], will join Warren at a town hall in Brooklyn on Tuesday."

**-- The killing of Soleimani has sparked a new debate within the Democratic presidential field about how to characterize the death**

**of the Iranian military leader. [Kim and Rucker report](#):** “Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and [Warren] have termed the killing an ‘assassination’ — a word that others in the race have avoided or even criticized more-liberal candidates for using. Speaking Sunday on CNN, former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg said he was ‘not interested in the terminology, I’m interested in the consequences’ when asked about the use of the word. But in North Carolina on Friday, former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg called the phrase ‘outrageous’ as it related to Soleimani, noting that the Iranian leader was someone ‘who had an awful lot of blood on his hands.’”

**-- Joe Biden said Iran is now “in the driver’s seat” in the Middle East following Soleimani’s death and the Iraqi Parliament vote to remove U.S. forces from the country. ([Des Moines Register](#))**

**-- Iowa voters aren’t pummeling the Democratic candidates with questions about Iran, [David Weigel reports from Iowa](#):** “Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota spoke to Iowans for 21 minutes before she mentioned [Soleimani]. [Sanders] kicked off the day with a speech opposing ‘this dangerous path to war with Iran,’ but by the end of the day, only one voter had asked him about it. ... During [Warren’s] first visit to Iowa in the new year, no voters asked about Iran at all. It was up to Warren, in a back-and-forth with reporters, to clarify her position: She would not have ordered the killing, which she called an ‘assassination,’ and would never have quit the Iran nuclear deal in the first place. ... At Warren’s next stop, in Dubuque, no voter asked about Iran ... The story from Iran and Iraq was moving fast, all weekend — faster than candidates could respond to, and far too fast for voters to quickly process. Further escalation could reshape the

Democratic race, orienting it around the role of American power for the first time. If that were to happen, polling has consistently found that the party's voters trust [Biden] on foreign policy writ large. Sanders and Warren have overlapping anti-interventionist stances that have rarely been debated in this primary. Until Friday, national security issues were so absent from the race that pollsters with CBS/YouGov, the first to conduct a survey of the caucuses since November, did not even ask about them.”

-- That **CBS poll** showed **Sanders tied or at the top of the polls in both Iowa and New Hampshire**: “He's in a first-place tie with [Biden] and Pete Buttigieg in Iowa. All three are at 23%, and each would get a similar number of delegates out of the caucuses if they were to take place today ... Sanders also now has a narrow edge in New Hampshire, with a two-point lead over Biden. [Warren] has slipped in New Hampshire since November, as liberal voters have moved toward Sanders instead. ... Apart from recent gains in New Hampshire, Sanders' support is still best characterized by its steadiness and strength compared to other candidates who have seen more volatility. Nearly half (47%) of his New Hampshire voters say they've definitely made up their minds. By comparison, just 15% of Biden's backers in the state describe their choice that way. In New Hampshire, 65% of Sanders' backers call themselves 'enthusiastic' about supporting him ahead of all other candidates. Sanders also leads the field on these two measures in Iowa. Forty-three percent have definitely made up their minds, and 67% feel enthusiastic in a state where enthusiasm can be an important motivator for voters to go out and caucus.”

**-- If elected president, Biden would give the country a "long-overdue interval of national healing rather than a season of dramatic transformation," writes the New Republic's Walter Shapiro:** "Even if his restorationist campaign proves successful, Biden would be destined to be a transitional president. Sometimes, more than anything, a democracy needs a chance to exhale. There is no shame in competence, knowing how to govern, and a faith that compromise in a post-Trump world is possible."

**-- Biden secured the backing of several swing-state House Democrats, including Reps. Conor Lamb and Chrissy Houlahan (Pa.) and Elaine Luria of Virginia. (Politico)**

**-- Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) seems likely to miss the next debate. His Iowa supporters say it doesn't matter. Holly Bailey reports:** "The New Jersey lawmaker is trudging along as several other candidates, including Sen. Kamala D. Harris (D-Calif.) and Julián Castro, have bowed out. It's not because he's seen a spike in the polls or a sudden influx of money. Rather, Booker's campaign seems buoyed by the unusually large crowd of undecided voters, along with some die-hard supporters unconcerned about electability. . . . 'I don't think it matters,' said Scott Carpenter, an Iowa City mental health advocate who decided to formally endorse Booker last month with his wife, Leslie, after it appeared he would not make the December debate. 'What matters in Iowa is relationships, your organization, your endorsements. . . . Those are the people who influence other people to go out and stand for you on a cold February night.'"

**-- Here's something that's missing so far from the Democratic commercials: attacks on their rivals. From the Times:** "Almost

universally, the Democratic ads seek to address and quell a source of national anxiety — be it about [Trump], prescription drug costs, corruption, foreign policy or a changing economy. And they're doing it politely. ... **In total, Democrats spent nearly \$30 million on the airwaves in Iowa and New Hampshire in 2019**, according to Advertising Analytics, an ad tracking firm. **Not a single candidate has run a negative ad on television targeting other Democrats.** The relatively placid ads of the 2020 Democratic campaign reflect the risk-averse primary contest, in which candidates have been loath to unleash any negativity on an opponent."

-- **Judge Judy recorded an ad for Mike Bloomberg.** [From People:](#)

"The judge-turned-daytime-TV-judge, whose real name is Judy Sheindlin, first announced her endorsement for Bloomberg, 77, back in October with an op-ed in USA Today, which raised some eyebrows because he hadn't yet announced he was running for president. ... Sheindlin, 77, made her endorsement doubly real on Monday morning in a new ad for Bloomberg. ... 'America is fractured,' she [said]. 'People are angry with each other because of their politics and it doesn't feel like a family anymore.' Bloomberg's time running the country's largest city and his years as a businessman were key selling points, as were some of his opinions on free speech."

-- **Massachusetts Rep. Joe Kennedy III outpaced incumbent Sen. Ed Markey, who he is challenging in the Democratic primary, in fundraising during the final months of 2019.** ([Boston Globe](#))

-- **Former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee is taking steps to make a second run for president, this time in a bid for the Libertarian Party nomination.** Chafee filed paperwork with the FEC

over the weekend, creating a Lincoln Chafee for President campaign committee based in Wyoming. ([WPRI](#))



Graham urges impeachment rule change as Schiff says McConnell is 'in cahoots' with Trump

## THE DOMESTIC AGENDA:

-- Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) suggested changing the Senate rules to begin Trump's impeachment trial within days if Pelosi continues to withhold the charges against Trump. [Rachael Bade reports](#): "Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) was unequivocal in a Senate floor speech on Friday that 'we can't hold a trial without the articles; the Senate's own rules don't provide for that.' But Graham (R-S.C.), a close ally of Trump, floated the idea of a unilateral GOP move, saying he would work with McConnell to allow the Senate to proceed without the two charges against Trump for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. The suggestion, while unlikely due to the high threshold of

votes required for changing Senate impeachment rules, underscores the pressure some Trump allies feel as the president stewes over the impeachment delay. ‘Well, we’re not going to let Nancy Pelosi use the rules of the Senate to her advantage,’ Graham said on Fox ... ‘If we don’t get the articles this week, then we need to take matters [into] our own hands.’ ... **Senate rules suggest such a move would be difficult, if not impossible.** It would take 60 votes to pass a resolution on impeachment outside a trial and 67 votes to change the impeachment rules. That threshold would require Democratic support, since McConnell has only 53 Republicans — and Democrats would be loath to undercut Pelosi. **The idea could be moot in a matter of days. Multiple Democratic officials expect Pelosi to transmit the articles of impeachment to the Senate as soon as this week** — though Pelosi’s office said Friday that no decision has been made and declined to detail her plans.”

**-- The daughter of a deceased Republican strategist made public files that the GOP wanted sealed.** [From NPR](#): “More than a year after his death, a cache of computer files saved on the hard drives of Thomas Hofeller, a prominent Republican redistricting strategist, is becoming public. Republican state lawmakers in North Carolina fought in court to keep copies of these maps, spreadsheets and other documents from entering the public record. But some files have already come to light in recent months through court filings and news reports. They have been cited as evidence of gerrymandering that got political maps thrown out in North Carolina, and they have raised questions about Hofeller's role in the Trump administration's failed push for a census citizenship question. **Now more of the files are available online through a website called The Hofeller**

**Files, where Hofeller's daughter, Stephanie Hofeller,** published a link to her copy of the files on Sunday after first announcing her plans in [a tweet last month](#). ... Her decision to put the files online herself is just the latest twist in a series of one astonishing event after another. It had been more than four years since Stephanie had spoken to her father after a family dispute involving the custody of her children landed in court. But on the last day of September in 2018, she 'had a hunch that maybe something was wrong,' according to her testimony for a lawsuit deposition. Sitting in her car parked outside a convenience store in Kentucky, she used her phone to search online for her father's name and found an obituary for Thomas Hofeller, confirming that he had died at the age of 75 more than a month earlier in August. Stephanie then reconnected with her mother, Kathleen, and visited her parents' apartment in North Carolina, where she found four external hard drives and a clear plastic bag containing 18 USB thumb drives in her father's room. Stephanie says her mother encouraged her to take the devices.”

**-- U.S. regulators are mulling ordering extra simulator training for Boeing 737 Max pilots.** [From the Journal](#): “The Federal Aviation Administration months ago rejected the idea—which would entail extra costs and delays for airlines—as unnecessary. But in recent weeks, these officials said, requiring such training before returning the grounded U.S. MAX fleet to the air has gained momentum among agency and industry safety experts. ... The FAA’s formal decision isn’t expected until February or later, and the situation remains fluid. An agency spokeswoman declined to comment on specifics, saying more analysis and testing is required. ... Boeing has long maintained 737 MAX pilots don’t need supplemental simulator training beyond what



pilots receive to fly other 737 models, a stance that many FAA officials now regard with increasing skepticism, according to the officials.”

**-- The problems with the Max 737 may go beyond its software issues.** [From the Times](#): “As part of the work to return the Max to service, the company and regulators have scrutinized every aspect of the jet, uncovering new potential design flaws. ... Among the most pressing issues discovered were previously unreported concerns with the wiring that helps control the tail of the Max. The company is looking at whether two bundles of critical wiring are too close together and could cause a short circuit. A short in that area could lead to a crash if pilots did not respond correctly, the people said. Boeing is still trying to determine whether that scenario could actually occur on a flight and, if so, whether it would need to separate the wire bundles in the roughly 800 Max jets that have already been built. The company says that the fix, if needed, is relatively simple.”

**-- An Army officer said his mother’s deportation is “completely inhumane.”** [From the Times](#): “It has been an emotional start to the new year for Rocio Rebollar Gomez and her family. On Thursday, after 31 years in the United States, a country where she had built a life and raised three children, including a son now in the United States Army, Ms. Gomez was deported to Tijuana, Mexico, where she had little family left. That son, Second Lt. Gibram Cruz, 30, who has been in the Army for five years and rushed to be with her the day after Christmas, said he was ‘shocked’ at the way his mother was treated ... Ms. Gomez, 51, was previously scheduled to self deport and that plan was known to ICE, the family’s lawyer, Tessa Cabrera, said on Friday. Instead, as the family went to an ICE office to discuss her

case, Ms. Gomez was taken across the border to Tijuana without a chance to say goodbye, Ms. Cabrera said.”

**-- Gun rights advocates and militia members from around the country are urging thousands of armed protesters to descend on Richmond later this month to stop Democrats from passing gun-control bills.** [Gregory S. Schneider and Laura Vozzella report](#): “What began as a handful of rural Virginia counties declaring themselves ‘Second Amendment sanctuaries’ has jumped the state’s borders and become an Internet phenomenon. Far-right websites and commenters are declaring that Virginia is the place to take a stand against what they see as a national trend of weakening gun rights. ... A Nevada-based group called the Oath Keepers said it’s sending training teams to help form posses and militia in Virginia. The leader of a Georgia militia called Three Percent Security Force has posted videos and calls to arms on Facebook, urging ‘patriots’ to converge on Richmond. The right-wing YouTuber ‘American Joe Show’ warned without evidence that Virginia will cut the power grid to stop the army of protesters — one of a host of false and exaggerated rumors spreading online. Law enforcement and public safety officials say they are monitoring the situation, including several instances of threats toward Gov. Ralph Northam (D). Even some gun enthusiasts expressed concern about the potential for violence at a rally planned for the state Capitol on Jan. 20. State police briefed Northam for two hours last week, according to one state official, and the governor plans to lead an all-staff meeting this week to go over increased security procedures.”

**-- Thousands rallied in New York City in a march against anti-**

**Semitism following a series of attacks in the region.** [From the Times](#): “The violence has shaken the Jewish community in the New York area and underscored the startling rise of these types of hate crimes across the country: Anti-Semitic hate crimes in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago — the nation’s three largest cities — are poised to hit an 18-year peak, according to an upcoming report from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino. ... Speaking to the crowd on Sunday, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said that New York will increase funding for security at religious institutions and will also increase the presence of the state police force and hate crimes task force in vulnerable communities. Mr. Cuomo said he also plans to propose a new state law labeling hate crimes as domestic terrorism. ... At the rally, Senator Chuck Schumer of New York announced a proposal to increase federal funding to protect houses of worship and increase the capacity for local police groups to fight hate crimes.”

**-- Disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein’s sex assault trial starts today.** The case against Weinstein, who has been publicly accused by more than 80 women of sexual assault and harassment, has been boiled down to five felony charges based on claims by two women. ([CNN](#))

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Democrats on the House Foreign Affairs Committee responded to Trump's Twitter "announcement":



**House Foreign Affairs Committee** ✓

@HouseForeign



This Media Post will serve as a reminder that war powers reside in the Congress under the United States Constitution. And that you should read the War Powers Act. And that you're not a dictator.

[twitter.com/realdonaldtrum...](https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrum...)

**Donald J. Trump** ✓ @realDonaldTrump

These Media Posts will serve as notification to the United States Congress that should Iran strike any U.S. person or target, the United States will quickly & fully strike back, & perhaps in a disproportionate manner. Such legal notice is not required, but is given nevertheless!

♥ 114K 10:41 PM - Jan 5, 2020



💬 43.4K people are talking about this



**John Bolton** ✓

@AmbJohnBolton



Another good day. Iran rips the mask off the idea it ever fully complied with the nuclear deal, or that it made a strategic decision to forswear nuclear weapons. Now, it's on to the real job: effectively preventing the ayatollahs from getting such a capability.

♥ 22.2K 8:03 PM - Jan 5, 2020



💬 14.2K people are talking about this



Trump's hawkish former national security adviser, who has been critical of the president lately, praised his Iran escalation:

From a former Republican congressman:



This appears to be Trump's modus operandi:



Here are some of the Iranian cultural sites that Trump could be threatening:



Cultural institutions have done a fantastic job in protecting it.

1/12



**Sergio Beltrán-García**

@ssbeltran

Several shrines are completely covered in extremely intricate geometrical cut mirrors. Going inside any of them makes you feel like Iranians have found a way to capture all of the galaxy's stars in a single building.

[#IranianCulturalSites](#)

2/12



♡ 1,815 12:47 PM - Jan 5, 2020



💬 503 people are talking about this



And Joe Biden's campaign has fully embraced the former vice president's iconic look:



**Molly Nagle**   
@MollyNagle3



We're here at [@JoeBiden](#)'s event in Grinnell, IA and the aviator aesthetic here is strong. Each pair features Biden's signature in the corner.



♡ 51 7:09 PM - Jan 5, 2020



 [See Molly Nagle's other Tweets](#)



**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** “I don’t think it’s too much of a stretch to say the root of much of this is Obama envy,” said Ned Price, a former CIA officer who served as an NSC spokesman under Obama, about Trump's decision to kill Soleimani. ([David Nakamura](#))

## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Comedian Ricky Gervais hosted this year’s Golden Globes, and he called out celebrities for pretending to be “woke,” telling them they’re in no position to lecture the general public “about anything”:



**THR** The Hollywood Reporter   
@THR 

“If you win, come up, accept your little award, thank your agent and your God and f— off.” Host [@rickygervais](#) calls for no politics at the [#GoldenGlobes](#)  
[thr.cm/c3mvmy](https://thr.cm/c3mvmy)



 7,011  1:39 AM - Jan 6, 2020 

 1,821 people are talking about this 



Read other scathing jokes from Gervais's monologue [here](#).

Actor Sacha Baron Cohen also used his time on the microphone to call out another powerful figure – Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg:



And "The Daily Show" looked back at some of the biggest "scandals" of Barack Obama's presidency:



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Esper's split with Trump over targeting Iranian cultural sites is a nod to 'the laws of armed conflict'  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 9:32:14 AM

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# The Daily 202

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**Esper's split with Trump over targeting Iranian cultural sites is a nod to 'the laws of armed conflict'**



Defense Secretary Mark Esper, right, confers with Gen. Mark Milley, left, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, during a signing ceremony with President Trump on Dec. 20 at Joint Base Andrews. Leah Esper, the secretary's wife, is between them. (Erik S Lesser/EPA-EFE/Rex)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: Secretary of War Henry Stimson and President Harry Truman agreed in 1945 that the United States should not drop an atomic bomb on Kyoto.** Stimson had seen the historical and cultural significance of Japan's ancient imperial capital when he visited during his honeymoon in 1893, so he [overruled](#) a committee that sought to target the city and explained his rationale directly to the president.

Stimson wrote in [his diary](#) after the conversation that Truman "was

particularly emphatic in agreeing with my suggestion” that “the bitterness which would be caused by such a wanton act might make it impossible during the long post-war period to reconcile the Japanese to us in that area rather than to the Russians.”

Truman reflected on that same meeting in [his own diary](#). “Even if the [Japanese] are savages, ruthless, merciless and fanatic,” he wrote, “we as the leader of the world for the common welfare cannot drop that terrible bomb on the old capital or the new.”

**Fast forward 75 years: Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, who holds the job Stimson once did, put himself at odds with President Trump on Monday night by [definitively telling reporters that the U.S. military will not target cultural sites inside Iran on his watch](#), even if hostilities continue to escalate in the wake of the U.S. drone strike that killed Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani at the Baghdad airport last week. “We will follow the laws of armed conflict,” Esper told reporters at the Pentagon. Asked if that means the U.S. military will not target cultural sites, he answered: “That’s the laws of armed conflict.”**

Trump [tweeted](#) on Saturday that the United States has targeted 52 sites for possible retaliation, including “some at a very high level & important to Iran & the Iranian culture.” Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One on Sunday night, the president [doubled down](#) in asserting his willingness to attack cultural sites: “They’re allowed to kill our people. They’re allowed to torture and maim our people. They’re allowed to use roadside bombs and blow up our people. And we’re not allowed to touch their cultural sites? It doesn’t work that way!”



Trump stands by threat on Iran's cultural sites

**In fact, international law does work that way.** [The 1954 Hague Convention](#) for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, which the United States helped facilitate in the aftermath of World War II, requires that warring parties “take all possible steps to protect cultural property,” which includes “monuments of architecture, art or history, whether religious or secular.”

A 1977 amendment to [the Geneva Conventions](#) went [further](#). It bans “any acts of hostility directed against the historic monuments, works of art or places of worship which constitute the cultural or spiritual heritage of peoples,” and it requires that signatories neither “use such objects in support of the military effort” nor “make such objects the object of reprisals.”

**To be sure, Stimson did not have a perfect record:** He supported Japanese internment and the restrictive immigration quotas that

limited how many Jewish refugees the United States accepted from Europe. More than 100,000 civilians also died from the atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

**But even during America's last war for national survival – after the sneak attack at Pearl Harbor and relentless kamikaze suicide missions against U.S. vessels – the secretary of war understood something fundamental about the power and possibility of moral leadership in what we now remember as the American Century.**

Stimson recognized not just the aesthetic and historical value of protecting irreplaceable cultural sites but the derivative national security advantages that would flow, in what became the Cold War, from Americans holding themselves to a higher standard than their enemies.

**Trump has repeatedly repudiated the very concept of American Exceptionalism and espoused a variety of moral false equivalency that is deeply at odds with the republic's long bipartisan tradition.** The bellicose threat to target cultural sites is just the latest example of Trump squandering the moral high ground that generations of his predecessors worked to claim, even if they fell short at key moments. In November, Trump overruled military leaders and cleared three members of the military who were either credibly accused or convicted of war crimes. He's claimed that "torture" works. He suggested during the 2016 campaign that he supported killing noncombatant family members of terrorists.



How Trump's administration defended his threat to strike Iranian cultural sites

**Brett McGurk, the former U.S. envoy to the international coalition fighting the Islamic State from 2015 to 2018, characterized Trump's latest threats as "unAmerican."**

"American military forces adhere to international law," he [tweeted](#).

"They don't attack cultural sites. And they're not mercenaries.

Reckless and unprecedented words from a Commander-in-Chief."



**Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), a former military lawyer in the Air Force Reserve, said he urged Trump to stop threatening cultural sites during a Monday phone call.** “We’re not at war with the culture of the Iranian people,” Graham told [the New York Times](#). “We’re in a conflict with the theology, the ayatollah and his way of doing business. I think the president saying ‘we will hit you hard’ is the right message. Cultural sites is not hitting them hard; it’s creating more problems.”

“Targeting civilians and cultural sites is what terrorists do,” [added](#) Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), a member of the Foreign Relations Committee. “It’s a war crime.”

**U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson also publicly broke with Trump on Monday, with his spokesman declaring that he will not abide Trump’s threat to target Iranian cultural sites.** “Johnson is trying to perform a balancing act,” [William Booth and Karla Adam report from London](#). “He is under pressure to support Trump and the United States, Britain’s closest ally. He very much wants a free-trade deal with Washington, to show his country that his Brexit crusade was worth the price. But Johnson is also a student of history — and remembers well how British Prime Minister Tony Blair was seen as the gullible, junior partner to President George W. Bush and his headlong rush to war in Iraq.”

• **UNESCO cultural heritage site**



-- Iran is home to 22 cultural UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the ancient ruins of Persepolis. (The UNESCO web site has [the full list](#), with pictures and descriptions of each site.)

-- Trump's saber-rattling is particularly noteworthy because America has historically led the international community in codifying restrictions on the targeting of cultural heritage. "In March 2017 — only weeks after Trump's inauguration — the U.N. Security Council, with the United States as a permanent member, [unanimously adopted a resolution](#) condemning the 'unlawful destruction of cultural heritage, inter alia destruction of religious sites and artefacts' in armed conflicts," Rick Noack reports. He looks back on [the disturbing recent history](#) that prodded the UN to act:

"Starting in 1991, Yugoslav People's Army forces besieged the historic city of Dubrovnik in Croatia, leading to the destruction of parts

of its center. In the city of Sarajevo, in Bosnia, the Vijećnica city hall was set on fire in 1992, destroying its sizable library. In the aftermath, former prosecutors and researchers with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia assessed more broadly that during conflicts, ‘it is increasingly evident that cultural property is not simply at risk from incidental harm, but is being intentionally attacked as part of cultural cleansing campaigns.’ ...

“In 2016, North African militant Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi was convicted by the International Criminal Court of ‘intentionally directing attacks against historic monuments and/or buildings dedicated to religion’ in the ICC’s first such trial, focusing on the destruction or damaging of cultural property. Mahdi was sentenced to nine years in prison for his role in attacking nine mausoleums and one mosque in Timbuktu, Mali, in 2012.”



Taliban destroys Bamiyan Buddha statues in 2001



-- The Post's art and architecture critic **Philip Kennicott** laments: "If we are to be a barbarian nation, what are our new limits? Do we have any?"

"In March 2001, the Taliban regime in Afghanistan began to dynamite the 6th-century statues of Buddha in Bamian," Kennicott writes. "The decision was both impetuous and brutal, in part an exercise in fundamentalist iconoclasm, in part an act of defiance and rage against the world at large. It was a galvanizing moment in the recent history of cultural heritage ... Fourteen years later, the Islamic State's destruction at Palmyra did much the same work of branding, defining the cruel so-called caliphate as an organization beyond all bounds. Our leadership has been imperfect and sometimes hypocritical. But when a lack of U.S. leadership led to the looting of Baghdad's antiquities museum during the 2003 Gulf War, the U.S. response wasn't to claim a basic right to destroy culture. We argued the 'fog of war.' It was defensive, muddled and wrong, but not amoral. ...

"In 2018, as part of the military budget, Congress created the position

of coordinator for cultural heritage protection. A statement Sunday decrying Trump's words, signed by cultural heritage experts in anthropology, archaeology and the museum world, details recent progress during the Trump administration, including the Smithsonian Institution's plans to assist the Army in training a new corps of 'monuments men,' experts who can help the military avoid cultural destruction. ... The new line, the one we crossed this weekend, isn't between one set of cultural values vs. another; it isn't between people who speak our language and those who speak all others. It is between culture and the void, between the many and variegated ways in which different people try to live together peacefully and productively, and the pure nihilism of autocracy. The threat wasn't to Iranian cultural sites. It was to culture."

-- **"The Department of Defense's Law of War manual mentions cultural property 625 times, repeatedly citing the Hague Convention,"** [NPR notes](#). "Accordingly, the U.S. military educates its soldiers about their responsibilities not to target or destroy cultural property, and to help in its preservation, says Nancy Wilkie, president of the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield. The organization is dedicated to the prevention of destruction and theft of cultural heritage. The Pentagon has even distributed playing cards with photos of cultural sites in Afghanistan and elsewhere to remind troops to safeguard heritage sites and artifacts. ... As World War II was underway in 1943, then-Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower issued an order to his commanders demanding the protection of historical monuments."



**Hannah Bloch** ✓

@HannahBloch



Sparing cultural sites in war is so important that the Pentagon even went to the trouble of designing/distributing decks of cards to boost awareness among troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The president's comments prompted me to find the deck I was given some years back:



♥ 2,048 1:30 AM - Jan 6, 2020



💬 1,074 people are talking about this



-- Trump's threat has become a propaganda coup for the regime in Tehran. For example, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif sub-tweeted Trump on Sunday:



-- The Trump administration has barred Zarif from entering the United States this week to address the United Nations Security Council about the Soleimani strike, [Foreign Policy reports](#), “violating the terms of a 1947 headquarters agreement requiring Washington to permit foreign officials into the country to conduct U.N. business.”

“The Iranian government was awaiting word on the visa Monday when a Trump administration official phoned U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres to inform him that the United States would not allow Zarif into the country,” Colum Lynch and Robbie Gramer report. “But even before the current crisis, [Pompeo] in recent months had sought to restrict the ability of Zarif—a skilled debater who has studied in the United States and has extensive contacts with American journalists—to make his case to the American public during previous visits to the United States. In July, the United States restricted his movement to a

few blocks in Manhattan and Queens, preventing Zarif from making his regular visits to TV studios, universities, and think tanks. Pompeo defended the decision, noting that American diplomats lack freedom to travel in Iran.”

**-- Iranian leaders have long memories, dating back to American support for the shah.** Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Monday also invoked Iran Air Flight 655, a commercial jet shot down by the U.S. Navy by mistake on July 3, 1988, killing all 290 civilians and crew on board, including 66 children. “Although the incident is nearly forgotten in the United States, it is etched deeply in memory in Iran,” [Gillian Brockell explains](#). “In 1988, the long war between Iraq and Iran was close to ending. At the time, the United States supported Iraq and its leader Saddam Hussein in its fight against Iran. ... To this day, many hard-liners in the Iranian government believe the incident was intentional.”



Soleimani's daughter warns of 'dark days' for the United States



## **MORE TEAM COVERAGE:**

**-- The burial of Soleimani has been postponed after a stampede killed at least 50 people and injured more than 200 others during massive mourning marches through his hometown of Kerman, according to Iranian state television. [Erin Cunningham is anchoring our liveblog](#): “Iranian leaders have stepped up calls for revenge against the United States for its airstrike that killed Soleimani, with one intelligence official saying concrete retaliation plans are already being discussed. ... Security council head Ali Shamkhani said 13 scenarios for retaliation are being considered, and specifically mentioned that U.S. bases in the region were under surveillance. Iran’s Revolutionary Guard commander, Maj. Gen. Hossein Salami, hinted that Israel could be a target.”**

**-- The Pentagon rushed to play down reports that U.S. troops in Iraq were being repositioned in preparation for a possible withdrawal, one day after Iraqi lawmakers passed a nonbinding resolution calling for all foreign troops to leave the country. [Karen DeYoung, Missy Ryan and Paul Sonne report](#): “‘This is a mistake,’ the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mark A. Milley, told reporters at the Pentagon after a letter indicating a withdrawal was released to Iraqi officials by the U.S. military command in Baghdad. The letter, he said, was an unsigned planning draft discussing new deployments and ‘should not have been released.’**

**“A policy afterthought for the past three years, while it served as a hub for military efforts against the Islamic State and a place from which to keep a close eye on Iran, Iraq has suddenly become a problem for the United States. After bringing the Islamic**

State to heel and claiming to be well on his way to stopping the 'endless wars' in the Middle East, Trump finds himself in the middle of an entirely new crisis on the same battlefield that bedeviled his two immediate predecessors. There is widespread agreement among U.S. lawmakers and close allies that [Soleimani] was responsible for years of terrorist activities ... But many worry that the administration has no strategy to deal with the likely escalation of U.S.-Iranian conflict that will follow. That concern is most acute in Iraq, where the two powers have long vied for influence. 'This administration doesn't have a policy on Iraq,' said a former senior Iraqi official ... Iraq, he said, has been a subsidiary of policies toward Israel and Iran, seen as 'baggage from the last administration.' ...

**“Already, the United States has suspended counter-Islamic State operations in Iraq and Syria while the 5,000 U.S. troops in Iraq turn their attention to force protection in expectation of an Iranian response. NATO and U.S. training of Iraqi troops has also been suspended, and the U.S. government has told American civilians in Iraq to leave the country. Current and former officials said a prolonged pause in counterterrorism operations, let alone a U.S. departure, would hurt American security interests in the region. ... U.S. officials said it would be difficult if not impossible to continue the mission targeting the Islamic State in Syria, where there are 1,000 U.S. troops, without a presence in Iraq.”**

**-- Senior administration officials have begun drafting sanctions against Iraq after Trump publicly threatened the country with economic penalties if it proceeded to expel U.S. troops, according to three people briefed on the planning. [Jeff Stein and](#)**

**Josh Dawsey scoop:** “The Treasury Department and White House will probably take a lead role if the sanctions are implemented ... Such a step would represent a highly unusual move against a foreign ally that the United States has spent almost two decades and hundreds of billions of dollars supporting. ... One of the officials said the plan was to wait “at least a little while” on the sanctions decision to see whether Iraqi officials followed through on their threat to push U.S. troops out of the country.”



Sen. Tim Kaine: 'We're at the brink of war'

-- **"Trump, who rarely makes major moves without first calculating the ramifications for his popularity and self-image, has confided to advisers that he sees a political upside in his hard-line approach to Iran at the dawn of this year's campaign, according to two White House officials and several senior Republicans," [Bob Costa and Phil Rucker report](#). "Trump believes he has an opportunity to expand his support among voters as a wartime**

commander in chief and is trying to cast his Democratic critics as soft on terrorism, they said. They added that he sees his party as more united behind him than ever, even as his impeachment trial looms in the Senate, with some Republicans now arguing that it would be irresponsible and dangerous to remove a president amid a national security crisis.

**“Trump struck a harshly partisan tone Monday that foreshadowed the political battles to come.** Calling into Rush Limbaugh’s nationally syndicated radio show, the president maligned Democrats for ‘trying to make’ [Soleimani] ‘sound like he was this wonderful human being’ and argued that ‘elements of that party [are] openly supporting Iran, an enemy of the United States.’ ... **At his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida over the past week, Trump privately told advisers he was surprised at how many Democrats criticized him for taking action** — and he has spoken encouragingly about how his decision is being received by many Americans on social media and in news coverage, according to two White House officials ... **As last week’s strike was unfolding, Trump casually discussed whether ‘Bernie or Biden’ would be easier to beat, according to conservative talk-show host Howie Carr, who [published an essay](#) about his time Thursday night at Mar-a-Lago.”**

**-- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a central figure in the Iran and impeachment stories, told Mitch McConnell that he will not run for the open Senate seat in Kansas this year. [Josh Dawsey and John Hudson report](#):** “McConnell had recruited Pompeo to run for Senate to guarantee the seat would stay in the hands of the Republican Party after the retirement of Sen. Pat Roberts. Pompeo

had regularly visited Kansas and was consulting with Ward Baker, a prominent GOP strategist close to McConnell. He had fueled speculation of a bid in recent weeks by creating personal social media accounts that regularly featured him with his family dog, cheering on sporting events and even drinking beer in his kitchen. ... Aides said [Trump] wanted Pompeo to stay on as secretary of state, particularly after the strike..."

**-- Attempts on Capitol Hill to limit Trump from acting militarily against Iran are shaping up to be largely partisan votes.** "House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) plans to have the House vote this week to invoke its war powers and order Trump to remove U.S. troops from hostilities against Iran, while Democrats in the Senate are preparing to force a vote as early as next week on a measure from Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) that would do the same," [Karoun Demirjian reports](#).

**"Democrats seem unlikely to win the support of several key Republican figures who have backed previous efforts to check Trump's power as commander in chief but now vocally defend his decision to kill Soleimani.** 'I would be very shocked if any Republican votes for this resolution,' said Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.), a close Trump ally who nonetheless voted last year to curtail U.S. military operations in Yemen and block the president from waging war against Iran without Congress's express authorization. ... Sen. Mike Lee (Utah), another Republican who voted last year to require congressional authorization for Iran hostilities — and who led Senate efforts with Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) to invoke the War Powers Resolution to end U.S. military support for the Saudi-led

campaign in Yemen — similarly took issue with the assertion in Kaine’s measure that the Soleimani strike constitutes ‘either hostilities or a situation where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances into which United States Armed Forces have been introduced.’”



Iran's supreme leader weeps during prayers for Soleimani

-- **“How a ‘quantum change’ in missiles has made Iran a far more dangerous foe,”** by [Joby Warrick](#): “When a swarm of drones and cruise missiles attacked Saudi Arabia’s biggest oil facility on Sept. 14, an outraged Trump administration quickly blamed Iran for what it called an ‘unprecedented attack’ on global energy supplies. But the real surprise was the strike’s accuracy: Of 19 weapons used, all but two scored direct hits. When the smoke cleared, Saudi officials counted 14 holes where incoming projectiles had sliced through petroleum storage tanks. Three other critical parts of the oil-processing facility had been hit and disabled, shutting down the facility

and temporarily cutting Saudi oil production in half. In subsequent reports, U.S. analysts would describe the attack as a kind of wake-up call: evidence of a vastly improved arsenal of high-precision missiles that Iran has quietly developed and shared with allies over the past decade.

**“In the event of a wider war with the United States, Iran would probably deploy such weapons to inflict substantial damage on any number of targets,** from U.S. military bases to oil facilities to sites in Israel, analysts say. ... U.S. and Middle Eastern officials say the upgraded missiles — some with ranges of more than 1,200 miles — are but one of several potential avenues for carrying out Iran’s promise to exact revenge ... Less impactful globally, but psychologically disruptive, would be a series of assassinations or kidnappings, conducted in such a way as to shield Iran from blame.”

**-- Trump’s order to take out a top Iranian general may do what his withdrawal from the nuclear agreement did not: Kill the deal.**

[Anne Gearan explains](#): “Iran announced Sunday that it would no longer be bound by some of the deal’s most important safeguards. Iran’s announcement alone does not render the agreement moot, and at least one important element of it — U.N. inspection power — remains in force. But Iran has less incentive now to abide by the agreement, and Trump appears to have less leverage to hash out the better deal with Tehran that he says President Barack Obama failed to get. That leaves Trump in the position of owning how to deal with any attempt by Iran to build a nuclear weapon, with no clear answers about how he would do so after scrapping and deriding what world leaders believed was their best chance to keep the theocratic regime’s

nuclear ambitions at bay. ...

**“With its announcement, Iran could now return to stockpiling enriched uranium, the raw material for a bomb. Depending on the pace of that effort, Iran could amass nearly enough material for a bomb within a matter of several months.** Pushing back the tipping point when Iran could ‘break out’ and make a quick drive for a viable weapon was the central goal of the 2015 deal. If Iran reconstitutes its abilities to roughly the status quo in place before negotiations, there is little left to save, analysts said.”



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets on Tuesday with Syrian President Bashar Assad in Damascus. (Syrian Presidency via AP)

-- **“Russia stands to benefit as Middle East tensions spike after Soleimani killing,”** [Robyn Dixon reports from Moscow](#): “If the United States withdraws from Iraq as backlash over the killing widens, Russia could strengthen its foothold in the country — much as it did in Syria



after Trump ordered a troop pullout there last fall, a step that was later partly reversed. ... German Chancellor Angela Merkel will meet Putin in Moscow Saturday at his invitation, to discuss the crisis. ... A hasty U.S. departure would give Iran what it has sought for years, analysts said. But they noted that it could also create a void for Russia to exploit, although it is more likely to do so through diplomatic overtures, trade deals and arms sales than by taking up any military slack. ...

**“In Syria, President Bashar al-Assad asked Putin to intervene as the Islamic State and anti-government rebels threatened his power. ... The man who argued Assad’s case to Russian defense and security officials — and convinced them the war was still winnable — was Soleimani**, who traveled to Moscow in July 2015, unfurled a map of Syria on the table and explained what could be done to prevent Assad’s regime from falling ... The following April ... Soleimani met with Putin and Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu in Moscow to discuss deliveries of Russian missiles to Syria. According to media reports from 2015 to 2017, he traveled numerous times to Moscow in breach of a U.N. travel ban. ... Soleimani’s mission paid off for Russia, saving its strategic naval base in Tartus on Syria’s Mediterranean coast. Russia also expanded its military foothold on Europe’s doorstep, gaining use of the nearby Hmeimim air base and establishing what some in NATO see as an air defense zone in the region.”

-- **“Why North Korea’s state media has barely mentioned U.S. killing of Iran’s Soleimani,”** [by Simon Denyer in Tokyo](#): “Between coverage of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un’s major policy speech last week, and his visit to a fertilizer factory this week, a small report by

the Korean Central News Agency on Monday noted that China and Russia condemned a U.S. strike in Baghdad. The last paragraph noted that the raid had led to the deaths of Iran's Quds Force commander and an Iraqi militia figure, without naming them or offering any real sense of Soleimani's importance. ... Experts say Pyongyang's caution stems from its fear of U.S. military action and its reluctance to acknowledge that important leaders might be eliminated — lest anyone at home start getting ideas. Its state media has a record of withholding information about the fates of former dictators targeted by the United States who ended up being killed, including Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and Libya's Moammar Gaddafi.

**"The idea that North Korea would trust a U.S. administration that had walked away from the nuclear deal with Iran, much less a nation with a history of fomenting regime change abroad, was always fanciful, experts say,** but Kim made it clear that the experience of dealing with the United States over the past two years had only reinforced his convictions. ... Trump's decision to kill Soleimani may convince him to push ahead even faster in developing his country's nuclear arsenal, but it also demonstrates that the U.S. president is not all bluster when he talks of 'fire and fury.'"

**-- The Soleimani fallout gives Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu a chance to shift focus from his legal woes – but not for too long.** [Steve Hendrix and Ruth Eglash report from Jerusalem:](#) "Three days after the U.S. drone strike, Netanyahu's efforts to shield himself from prosecution had returned to Israel's front pages. ... For Netanyahu, a hawk, any shift of focus from his legal woes to regional security is considered an advantage. The election campaign has been

overshadowed by the corruption allegations against Netanyahu, who was indicted in November on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust. He has refused to resign or drop out of the race, and last week he formally requested parliamentary immunity from prosecution.”



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McConnell reiterates call for mid-trial witnesses following Bolton statement

▶ 2:43

McConnell reiterates call for mid-trial witnesses following Bolton statement

## **IMPEACHMENT LATEST:**

**-- John Bolton scrambled the Senate GOP impeachment strategy by declaring his willingness to testify and upping the pressure on McConnell and his party to summon the former national security adviser as a witness in Trump's trial. [Rachael Bade](#), [Mike DeBonis](#), [Tom Hamburger](#) and [Robert Costa](#) report:** "Bolton last fall rebuffed House impeachment investigators' entreaties to testify about his concerns about Trump's demands that Ukraine investigate his political rivals as the administration delayed military aid. Bolton's surprise announcement complicated the political calculus for McConnell's no-witness strategy and appeared to increase the likelihood of additional testimony that could embarrass the president. ... At least one Senate Republican, Mitt Romney (Utah), agreed Monday that it was imperative that Bolton testify, while Democrats insisted that Republicans' refusal to allow him to tell his story would be tantamount to a 'coverup.' Bolton has firsthand knowledge of internal White House deliberations, and according to testimony in the House probe, he reacted angrily to Trump's pressure on Ukraine to investigate former vice president Joe Biden ...

**"Two moderate Senate Republicans — Susan Collins (Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) — have said they're open to hearing from witnesses. ... Still, the same centrist Republican senators signaled that they were willing to start the trial without a deal for Bolton's testimony, keeping McConnell in firm control** for now as he works to delay any decision on additional witnesses until after House Democrats present their case and the president's defense

team rebuts it. ... The major question for McConnell is whether he can hold the line ... A subpoena requires a simple majority of 51 votes, and Democrats would need just four Republicans to break ranks. ... In recent months, Bolton has confided to friends that he was deeply troubled by his time at the White House and the president's behavior, but he has declined to offer many details ...

**“Still, other Bolton associates have privately said that he wants a future in Republican politics and does not want to be seen as a turncoat on Trump or someone who is trying to ingratiate himself with the president's critics.** They noted, for instance, that his statement Monday came from his political action committee's office as an example of how he's trying to build out his operation even as he deals with legal issues. Additionally, people close to him note that Bolton also has an expansive view of presidential power. As a result, it is unclear whether he would testify that he believes Trump overstepped his constitutional authority in his dealings with Ukraine. ... **Senate Republicans appeared divided on the possibility of hearing from Bolton.** Sen. John Cornyn (Tex.), who is close to McConnell, told Guy Benson, political editor for conservative Townhall.com, that Bolton's testimony could be 'helpful to the president' and that he'd like to know more about what he'd say. Other Republicans, including Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.), suggested that the Senate should consider only the evidence gathered in the House, thereby precluding Bolton.”

**-- Commentary from the opinion page:**

- [Ruth Marcus](#): “Will he or won't he? John Bolton is

playing a very cagey game.”

- [Jennifer Rubin](#): “Pelosi’s strategy pays off: Now bring in Bolton.”
- [Dana Milbank](#): “Trump wags the hippopotamus.”



Los Angeles prosecutors charge Harvey Weinstein with two counts of sexual assault

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERSHADOWED:**

-- **Disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein was charged with multiple sex crimes in Los Angeles on the same day his trial began in New York.** [Shayna Jacobs reports](#): “Weinstein — who is 67 but has visibly aged since his May 2018 arrest in New York — was in court with his five attorneys for a final conference before jury selection begins in his trial on rape and sexual assault allegations involving three women. He faces the possibility of life in prison in the New York case and has pleaded not guilty. The charges filed in Los Angeles

should not affect plans to proceed with jury pre-screening in New York Supreme Court in Manhattan, scheduled for Tuesday morning, and a spokesperson for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office said that Weinstein is not expected to appear in court there until his trial in New York concludes. ... **Weinstein remains under investigation by authorities in Dublin and London.** ... The charges in Los Angeles involve alleged encounters with two women, a day or two apart, in February 2013, authorities said. In all, eight people have come forward there to report crimes involving Weinstein, officials said. In three cases, the statute of limitations had expired, so charges were not filed. The other three remain under investigation. ... Prosecutors in Los Angeles are recommending a \$5 million bail in a case for which Weinstein faces up to 28 years in prison."

-- **Weinstein's publicists are sending reporters a 57-page PowerPoint presentation titled "The Proper Narrative for Addressing the Harvey Weinstein Case."** [From The Cut](#): "The document presents oppo research about Weinstein's accusers, including text messages and photographs, with the goal of vindicating him in the press. ... The document frequently shifts in tone, voice, font size, and color, and seems to include some draft notes ('[ask HW: did they actually meet? Seems possible]') and strike-throughs. It argues that some women's allegations of sexual abuse were the result of 'strong and repeated suggestions from others,' including press reports and activists. 'Given the pressures that many women today feel from the various laudatory movements against workplace imbalances, the notion that consensual relations are being reinterpreted cannot be overlooked,' it says on page 10. The document claims there is 'no objective support' for any of the women's claims because there were

no witnesses and ‘no physical injuries — even scratches’; current rape law requires nothing of the sort and hasn’t for at least a half century.”

**-- The Environmental Protection Agency announced that it will pursue a new industry-supported rule to cut pollution from heavy-duty trucks.** [Brady Dennis reports](#): “Heavy-duty vehicles are the largest mobile source of nitrogen oxide, a pollutant linked to heart and lung disease. They also tend to remain in service far longer than other vehicles. Still, some environmental advocates said they feared that **the EPA’s proposal could preempt even more stringent rules being considered in California.** At an announcement in rural Virginia, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said the agency would soon move forward with its ‘Cleaner Trucks Initiative,’ aimed at further curbing highway emissions of nitrogen oxide and other pollutants from heavy-duty engines. ... Monday’s announcement received instant praise from the trucking industry, members of which stood alongside Wheeler at his announcement.”

**-- The Internal Revenue Service’s personal income tax audits dropped to their lowest level in decades.** [From the WSJ](#): “The IRS audited 0.45% of personal income-tax returns in fiscal 2019, down from 0.59% in 2018 and marking the eighth straight year of decline, according to a report released on Monday. In 2010, the IRS audited 1.1% of tax returns. The report doesn’t break down audits by income category or provide details about how much revenue they generate. **The steady erosion of tax enforcement has been driven by years of cuts in the agency’s budget** along with a heavier workload. The result, according to tax experts, is that the **Treasury is letting billions of dollars annually go uncollected, even as budget**



deficits rise.”

-- **A bipartisan group of campaign finance lawyers urged the Trump administration and the Senate to restore a quorum at the Federal Election Commission.** [Michelle Ye Hee Lee reports](#): “The agency tasked with regulating federal campaign finance laws has long faced ideological divisions and polarization. But it lost its ability to do its official job after the August 2019 resignation of a commissioner left it to operate for the first time in 11 years without its necessary four-person quorum. While routine administrative work continues, **the agency cannot enforce the law, vote on investigations, provide guidance or conduct audits — activities that are especially crucial and timely for a presidential election**, which is projected to be the most expensive one to date. In a joint letter Monday, 31 attorneys across the political spectrum and whose clients are regulated by federal campaign finance law asked [Trump] and congressional leaders for ‘swift attention to this situation, which has languished for far too long.’”

-- **Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) will likely still receive his taxpayer-funded congressional pension despite pleading guilty to felony conspiracy for misusing campaign funds to finance multiple extramarital affairs, including with a female lobbyist, as well as other personal expenses.** [From the San Diego Union-Tribune](#): “The amount of money in Hunter’s congressional pension is not publicly known, and the Congressional Research Service and the Office of Personnel Management both declined to provide The San Diego Union-Tribune with information regarding the the congressman’s benefits. **Hunter remains in Congress**, although he

said he would step down ‘shortly after the holidays.’ He is to be sentenced March 17. Based on formulas outlined in a paper released by the research service earlier this year, **it is estimated that Hunter, 43, would receive an annual payment of at least \$32,538** due to his congressional pension, which he can begin accessing when he turns 62.”



Punta Ventana, a popular tourist destination in Puerto Rico, was destroyed by a 5.8-magnitude earthquake on Monday. (Ricardo Arduengo/AFP/Getty Images)

**-- A 6.5 magnitude earthquake hit Puerto Rico overnight after a 5.8 magnitude earthquake shook the island yesterday. From CNN:** “Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority reported widespread outages across the island after its power plants activated an auto protective mechanism following the earthquake. Puerto Rico Gov. Wanda Vázquez Garced urged citizens to remain calm as the government responds to the most recent quake. ... No tsunami is expected

following Tuesday's earthquakes, the US National Tsunami Warning Center said. ... All the earthquakes appear to have been foreshocks to Tuesday morning's largest quake, CNN meteorologist Pedram Javaheri said."

**-- Yesterday's earthquake damaged more than a dozen homes and destroyed a natural wonder. [Arelis R. Hernández](#) reports:** "An ancient Puerto Rico rock formation that adorned the background of countless vacation photos, Instagram posts and selfies tumbled into the ocean off the U.S. territory's southwestern coast."

**-- American Airlines and Boeing reached a settlement for financial losses related to the worldwide grounding of the 737 Max jet. [Lori Aratani](#) reports:** "While the terms are confidential, Doug Parker, American's CEO, said a portion — \$30 million — will be shared with employees through the company's profit-sharing plan. American is the second U.S. carrier to reach a settlement with the company; Southwest Airlines announced it had reached a settlement with Boeing in December. ... American has removed the jet from its schedule through April 6. ... American has 24 737 Max jets in its fleet. The money is expected to be paid out to employees in March."

**-- YouTube will roll out new protections for children viewing videos on the site in an effort to satisfy federal regulators who fined the company over alleged privacy violations. [Greg Bensinger](#) and [Tony Romm](#) report:** "The changes, which include limitations on data collection and advertising, are a step toward addressing concerns from advocacy groups who have complained the Google-owned company has run afoul of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, or COPPA, which forbids tracking and targeting users

12 and under. As part of those changes, YouTube said it will seek to better distinguish which content is intended primarily for children, relying on a combination of self-identification from creators and software. That content cannot run with personalized advertisements, under the new rules that YouTube said it is instituting globally starting Monday. YouTube said it will assume any viewer of child-friendly content is underage, treating that data as subject to COPPA rules. It has been limiting other features too, such as comments on children's videos and live chats. But some privacy experts said the changes may not offer children enough protections from a company that has accrued reams of data on its users and is incentivized to compel viewers to stay on the site for as long as possible."

**-- Facebook said it will ban deepfakes – computer-generated, highly manipulated videos – but the new policy may not cover a deceptively edited video altered to make Nancy Pelosi sound as if she's slurring her words. [Tony Romm, Drew Harwell and Isaac Stanley-Becker report](#):** "While these videos are still rare on the internet, they present a significant challenge for our industry and society as their use increases,' Monika Bickert, the company's vice president for global policy management, wrote in a blog post. **The changes come as Bickert prepares to testify at a congressional hearing later this week** on 'manipulation and deception in the digital age.' The inquiry marks the latest effort by House lawmakers to probe Facebook's digital defenses four years after Russian agents weaponized the site to stoke social unrest during the 2016 race. Going forward, Facebook intends to ban videos that are 'edited or synthesized' by technologies like artificial intelligence in a way that average users would not easily spot, the company said, including

attempts to make the subject of a video say words that they never did.”

**-- Russian trolls are targeting American veterans, and the Trump administration has ignored the issue, a group claims.** [Alex Horton reports](#): “American veterans and service members enjoy a high degree of social respect, and ongoing manipulation campaigns aimed at them could be weaponized to sow social discord in their communities, Vietnam Veterans of America warned officials at the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments in March 2018, among other agencies. But those agencies have brushed off VVA since they were presented with evidence that eventually became a detailed report and congressional testimony, said Kristopher Goldsmith, the veteran service organization’s chief investigator. And their plea to President Trump for help has similarly been ignored, Goldsmith said — suggesting the problem may be perceived as too complex or politically fraught for U.S. officials concerned to cross Trump, who has downplayed Russia’s role in election interference.”

**-- Chelsea Clinton has made more than \$9 million from sitting on a corporate board.** [From Barrons](#): “Clinton, who has been an [InterActiveCorp] director since 2011, receives an annual \$50,000 retainer and \$250,000 in restricted IAC stock units ... As of Dec. 31, she owned the equivalent of 35,242 IAC shares, consisting of 29,843 shares and 5,399 share units under a deferred-compensation plan, according to a form she filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Share units convert to stock when an IAC director leaves the board.”

**-- Illinois shops ran out of marijuana just six days after the start**

**of legalization.** [Katie Shepherd reports](#): “Standing in line for hours in frigid temperatures, tens of thousands have flocked to the nine dispensaries selling recreational cannabis in Chicago after Illinois’s newly legalized cannabis sales began on New Year’s Day. The numbers have been staggering: 55 dispensaries in the state sold more than \$3 million in THC-imbued products on day one, matching Oregon’s record-setting opening for recreational sales in 2015. By Sunday, Illinois’s cannabis customers had bought nearly \$11 million worth of recreational marijuana in the first five days, making more than 271,000 purchases. But the crush of eager buyers strained the state’s marijuana supply, leading many dispensaries in Chicago to turn away customers before the first week of sales even ended. Meanwhile, given the state’s restrictive licensing rules, some large cultivators are now rushing to expand their marijuana grows to keep up with recreational demand in a market previously designed to serve a much smaller number of medical cannabis patients.”



Friends and parents of 43 missing students from the Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' College march in Mexico City in November, before the fifth anniversary of their disappearance. (Jose Mendez/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

## **THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

**-- More than 61,000 people have disappeared in Mexico amid the drug war, authorities said, sharply raising their estimate of those who have vanished in more than a decade of extreme violence by and among organized-crime groups. [Mary Beth Sheridan reports:](#)**

“The government of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador released the new figure after an exhaustive analysis of data from state prosecutors. The previous official estimate, released in April 2018, put the number at 40,000. While hundreds of cases date to the 1960s, over 97 percent have been reported since 2006, when Mexico launched an all-out offensive targeting drug trafficking and criminal organizations. Karla Quintana, head of Mexico’s National Search Commission, which coordinates the effort to find the missing, said that at least 61,637 people had been reported disappeared and not been found. ‘These are data of horror, and behind them are stories and narratives of great pain for families,’ she said at a news conference. ... The Monday announcement highlights the toll of more than a decade of extraordinary violence in Mexico that shows no sign of abating. Last year, homicides through November topped 31,000, a record. In some regions, organized-crime groups openly battle police and soldiers. Quintana said 3,631 clandestine graves have been discovered since 2006.”

**-- A 13-year-old American boy was killed in Mexico near the U.S. border while traveling with his family. [From CNN:](#) “Oscar Lopez**

was shot in both legs and died in an attack Saturday night in Tamaulipas state, near the US border, said the teen's father, also named Oscar Lopez. The father said three other relatives were injured in the ambush attack: his wife, 41-year-old Juanita Lopez; their other son, 11-year-old Abio Lopez; and his brother-in-law, 48-year-old Raphael Castillo. The elder Oscar Lopez said the group was visiting relatives in the Monterrey area for the holidays, though he stayed back in the US. On Saturday night, family members in two vehicles -- both with Oklahoma license plates -- were driving on the Reynosa-Nuevo Laredo Mexican highway in Ciudad Mier, according to a statement from Tamaulipas state authorities. The family was confronted by unknown assailants. Tamaulipas officials said the family's van did not stop, so the assailants crashed into the van to force it to a halt.”

**-- Mexican asylum seekers could now be deported to Guatemala as part of a deal that the Department of Homeland Security struck with the Central American nation.** [From the Times](#): “The agreement with Guatemala, which was signed in July, was described by Kevin K. McAleenan, the acting secretary of homeland security at the time, as a way to encourage families to apply for protections closer to home. The deal made migrants such as Hondurans and Salvadorans ineligible for asylum in the United States if they had traveled by land through Guatemala and did not first apply for asylum there, homeland security officials said at the time. But two homeland security officials said on Monday that asylum officers were told over the weekend that Mexican migrants were now ‘amenable’ to being sent to Guatemala under the agreement. **In theory, an asylum seeker from Juárez, Mexico, could be deported from the El Paso,**



**Texas, border crossing a mile from his home to the Guatemalan border nearly 2,000 miles away.** A homeland security spokesman later confirmed that certain Mexicans could be sent to Guatemala under the agreement — a pivot from the original plan for the deal.”

**-- Mexico rejected the proposal, saying it's working with American authorities to offer “better options.”** ([Reuters](#))

**-- The Trump administration will seek the death penalty against an MS-13 gang member, who immigrated here from El Salvador, accused in the kidnappings and killings of two Virginia teenagers in 2016.** [Rachel Weiner reports](#): “Elmer Martinez, 27, is alleged to be the leader of the Fairfax County clique that authorities say killed a 17-year-old suspected of belonging to a rival gang and a 14-year-old who revealed that crime to the victim’s family. ... Defense attorney Robert Jenkins said he was informed by the Justice Department of its decision, a step he said he believed was taken to support the president’s stance on illegal immigration. ... Jenkins said Martinez ... did not have a violent criminal history and is not alleged to have inflicted blows in either slaying. In their filing, prosecutors said Martinez has a history of uncharged violent conduct, including assaults, stabbings and another attempt at kidnapping and homicide. While in jail awaiting trial, they say, he was twice found with a shank.”

**-- The U.S. government has launched a pilot program to collect DNA from people detained at the border, which will then be turned over to the FBI.** [From the AP](#): “The information would go into a massive criminal database run by the FBI, where it would be held indefinitely. A memo outlining the program published Monday by the Department of Homeland Security said U.S. citizens and permanent

residents holding a 'green card' who are detained could be subject to DNA testing, as well as asylum seekers and people entering the country without authorization. Refusing to submit DNA could lead to a misdemeanor criminal charge, the document said. ... The DHS memo acknowledged that the DNA its agents collect may not be immediately useful. Agents plan to take saliva swabs of detained people, then mail them to the FBI. By the time the results are processed, the memo said, the people in question may have already been released, deported or transferred to another federal agency.”

**-- A senior employee at a for-profit immigrant detention center in Nevada was active on the neo-Nazi website Iron March and wanted to start a white nationalist chapter in his area. [From Vice News](#):**

“Travis Frey, 31, is currently employed as a captain at the Nevada Southern Detention Center, which is run by private prison behemoth CoreCivic and contracted with ICE. Frey joined Iron March in 2013, and posted at least a dozen times between 2016 and 2017 while he was working as head of security at a CoreCivic jail in Indianapolis, which was also authorized to house detainees on behalf of ICE. ... On Iron March, Frey used the screen name ‘In Hoc Signo Vincas,’ a Latin phrase that’s used by military outfits around the world, and by universities, and was the title of the American Nazi Party’s manifesto. Vice News was able to identify Frey, who served in the Marines between 2006 and 2008, through some of the personal information he provided on Iron March ... The Nevada Southern Detention Center, where Frey has worked since at least 2018, according to a now-deleted LinkedIn page, is located in Pahrump, 62 miles west of Las Vegas, and is contracted with ICE and U.S. Marshals ... In June 2017, Frey started putting out feelers about

joining the ranks of the Traditionalist Workers Party (TWP), which was run by Heimbach before its demise and was a key player in the violent Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville in 2017.”



National Assembly President Juan Guaidó, Venezuela's opposition leader, is blocked by police from entering the Assembly. (Andrea Hernandez Briceño/AP)

**-- Venezuelan opposition lawmakers led by Juan Guaidó vowed to retake the National Assembly after being barred from the chamber this weekend, setting up a showdown over President Nicolás Maduro’s attempt to seize control of the last democratic institution left in the nation. [Rachelle Krygier and Anthony Faiola report](#): “The move appeared to be an attempt by Maduro to sideline Guaidó — the U.S.-backed opposition leader who has unsuccessfully sought to unseat Maduro for the past year — by preventing his reelection on Sunday as head of the assembly. That title has served as the basis of his claim to be the nation’s true interim leader, one that**

has been recognized by nearly 60 nations including the United States. 'The dictatorship will decide tomorrow if it will continue its farce, which no one recognizes,' Guaidó told reporters in Caracas. He suggested that if his entry was blocked, he would attempt to lead a session of the loyalist lawmakers elsewhere in the capital. 'We will take this risk because Venezuela deserves it,' he said. 'The dictatorship is now unmasked.'"

**-- During a 10-minute call, Vice President Mike Pence told Guaidó that he is the "only legitimate president" of Venezuela. [From the WSJ](#): "Mr. Pence has played a central role in the administration's campaign to elevate Mr. Guaidó. Early last year, on the night before Mr. Guaidó declared himself the country's interim president, Mr. Pence called the Venezuelan opposition leader and pledged that the U.S. would support him, setting in motion a monthslong campaign to wrest power from Mr. Maduro."**

**-- After nearly a year without a government, Spain ended its deadlock Tuesday with a parliamentary vote that approved a left-wing coalition led by current caretaker Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. [Pamela Rolfe and Chico Harlan report](#): "The vote, passing by the narrowest of margins, opens the way for a government composed of the country's traditional left-wing party, the Socialists, and its erstwhile foe, far-left Unidas Podemos. It vaults the left fully back into power in Spain at a time when other mainstream pro-European parties across the continent have struggled to combat populism or overcome disenchantment with the political status quo. But while the parliamentary vote restores a measure of clarity to Europe's fifth-largest economy, the new government will probably be**

fragile. It will control a minority of seats in parliament and depend on support from a constellation of smaller parties while dealing with budget issues and the Catalonia region's divisive bid for independence."

**-- Australia's catastrophic fires threaten to upend the way people live.** [From the WSJ](#): "The death toll is lower than the 173 killed in the Black Saturday fires in Victoria state in 2009, but in other respects these blazes—which could persist until March—are being viewed by experts as unprecedented. The scorched area is vast, with more than 23,000 square miles burned nationwide since early November. Almost every state has been affected—thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes, and tourists visiting summer holiday spots have been trapped by advancing fires. Australia's insurance council says more than \$260 million of claims have been lodged since Nov. 8, when it declared a catastrophe, but that represents a trickle of what is to come. An additional \$39 million in claims were lodged before Nov. 8 for fires in September and October. ... It is still too dangerous for property owners to return to some areas, and many communities in the two worst affected regions—southern New South Wales state and eastern Victoria—have no power or telecommunications. ... The environmental toll has also been severe. A researcher from the University of Sydney has estimated that as many as 480 million animals have been killed by wildfires in New South Wales alone since September. Footage of distressed koalas—the iconic Australian bearlike marsupial—approaching people and drinking water has been widely viewed."

**-- The world's oldest person broke her own record by turning**

**117. Lateshia Beachum reports:** “Kane Tanaka is proving a person is never too old to achieve life goals. Tanaka celebrated her 117th birthday Thursday — stretching out her record as the world’s oldest woman. She has been holding on to her title as the oldest living person for nearly two years. The supercentenarian was gussied up in a gold kimono with red trimmings as she was ushered into her birthday celebration at a nursing home in Fukuoka, Japan. ... She clapped her way into her big day and stopped to kiss the hands of well wishers before singing a birthday song. ... The seventh of eight children cried tears of joy when she was handed two plaques last year for being the world’s oldest living person and the world’s oldest living woman.”

**-- Japan issued an arrest warrant for Carlos Ghosn’s wife on suspicion of perjury, even as Nissan said it would continue to take legal action to hold its former boss accountable for “serious misconduct.”** (Simon Denyer)

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

A Republican congressman, Rep. Paul Gosar of Arizona, tweeted a fake image of Barack Obama with Iran's president. [The two men never even met:](#)





**Paul Gosar**  @DrPaulGosar

The world is a better place without these guys in power.



 15.2K  8:24 PM - Jan 6, 2020 

 6,763 people are talking about this 

Donald Trump Jr. has a new weapon that includes questionable icons:



**Akil N Awan** ✓

@Akil\_N\_Awan



Don Jr posted photos of himself brandishing a modified assault rifle with CRUSADER etched on it, lower receiver modelled after a medieval Crusader helmet & mag printed with Hillary's face.

Crusader imagery on weapons & propaganda has been used by Far-Right terrorists since Breivik



♥ 6,059 12:06 PM - Jan 6, 2020



💬 4,317 people are talking about this



History repeats itself. Fox News putting Judy Miller on the air caused flashbacks for many to her problematic reporting that gave cover for George W. Bush to invade Iraq in the first place:





**Justin Baragona** ✓

@justinbaragona



We're really doing this, huh?



3,360 3:11 PM - Jan 6, 2020



882 people are talking about this



Another flashback:



**Peter Baker** ✓

@peterbakernyt



Two decades ago, the House impeached the president even as he was bombing Iraq. His opponents accused him of wagging the dog to distract attention. His supporters accused the other party of undermining a commander in chief at a time of national security crisis. Sound familiar?

1,590 1:36 PM - Jan 6, 2020



514 people are talking about this



A former secretary of defense offered a chilling warning amid the letter mishap:



The social media conversation was dominated by questions and jokes like these:



From a former Pentagon and CIA spokesman:



DHS issued a guide on how to prepare for a potential cyberattack from Iran:



With increased tension with Iran and its proxies, facility and network defenders should consider and assess the possible impacts and threats to their organization. Today's new CISA Insights has information and precautionary measures for your organization. [cisa.gov/insights](https://cisa.gov/insights)

**CISA INSIGHTS**  
Increased Geopolitical Tensions and Threats

**The Threat and How to Think About It**

Increased geopolitical tensions and tensions of aggression may result in cyber and physical attacks against the United States and its interests. These attacks may be directed against U.S. interests and interests abroad. Increasing tensions and aggression among nations may be a sign of increased risk of aggression against the United States. This report provides information on how to think about the threat and how to think about it.

**Reduce Threat Profile and Activity**

Reduce threat profile and activity by assessing for weaknesses, gaps, and vulnerabilities. This report provides information on how to think about the threat and how to think about it.

**Things to do Today**

- Review your organization for risk reduction by adopting a state of heightened awareness. This report...

207 12:57 AM - Jan 7, 2020

228 people are talking about this

Quotes like these, via a Times reporter, don't exactly give cause for comfort. YOLO is an acronym for "you only live once":



The White House has set a new record for days without a press briefing:



CNBC mistook Tulsi Gabbard and Andrew Yang for other people, and the other Yang took note:



**Geoff Yang**  
@geoff\_yang



Ummm. This is @geoff\_yang and I am NOT running for President. [twitter.com/dailycaller/st...](https://twitter.com/dailycaller/status/1214111111)

**Daily Caller**  @DailyCaller  
Uhhh.....What's going on here? @CNBC



48.7K 5:55 PM - Jan 6, 2020



9,350 people are talking about this



The acting deputy secretary of Homeland Security just read a headline:



**Acting Deputy Secretary Ken Cuccinelli** ✓  
@HomelandKen



The headline is true. I didn't read the rest of it...[buzzfeednews.com/article/hameda...](https://buzzfeednews.com/article/hameda...)



**The Trump Administration Will Begin Deporting Asy...**

It's an expansion of a controversial plan to stop the flow of refugees and immigrants to the US southern border.

[buzzfeednews.com](https://buzzfeednews.com)

♥ 564 11:48 PM - Jan 6, 2020



💬 443 people are talking about this



And a New York House Democrat got a pup:



**Elaine Godfrey** ✓  
@elainejgodfrey



WELL @AOC got a dog, and he's good



♥ 144 1:22 AM - Jan 7, 2020 · Washington, DC



💬 31 people are talking about this



**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** “In any other country, Joe Biden and I would not be in the same party, but in America, we are,” Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) told [New York Magazine](#).

**VIDEOS OF THE DAY:**



The president made 179 factual claims at his longest rally to date. Our Fact Checker team found that 67 percent were false or unsupported by evidence:



Anatomy of a Trump rally: 67 percent of claims are false or lacking evidence

Stephen Colbert was a bit on edge during his first monologue of the year:



Seth Meyers joked that it didn't take that long for 2020 to become the worst year:



Trevor Noah noted that Trump backed out of his new year's resolution very quickly:



"The Daily Show" joked that Trump may be clairvoyant:



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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Esper's split with Trump over targeting Iranian cultural sites is a nod to 'the laws of armed conflict'  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 9:32:43 AM

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

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**Esper's split with Trump over targeting Iranian cultural sites is a nod to 'the laws of armed conflict'**



Defense Secretary Mark Esper, right, confers with Gen. Mark Milley, left, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, during a signing ceremony with President Trump on Dec. 20 at Joint Base Andrews. Leah Esper, the secretary's wife, is between them. (Erik S Lesser/EPA-EFE/Rex)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: Secretary of War Henry Stimson and President Harry Truman agreed in 1945 that the United States should not drop an atomic bomb on Kyoto.** Stimson had seen the historical and cultural significance of Japan's ancient imperial capital when he visited during his honeymoon in 1893, so he [overruled](#) a committee that sought to target the city and explained his rationale directly to the president.

Stimson wrote in [his diary](#) after the conversation that Truman "was

particularly emphatic in agreeing with my suggestion” that “the bitterness which would be caused by such a wanton act might make it impossible during the long post-war period to reconcile the Japanese to us in that area rather than to the Russians.”

Truman reflected on that same meeting in [his own diary](#). “Even if the [Japanese] are savages, ruthless, merciless and fanatic,” he wrote, “we as the leader of the world for the common welfare cannot drop that terrible bomb on the old capital or the new.”

**Fast forward 75 years: Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, who holds the job Stimson once did, put himself at odds with President Trump on Monday night by [definitively telling reporters that the U.S. military will not target cultural sites inside Iran on his watch](#), even if hostilities continue to escalate in the wake of the U.S. drone strike that killed Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani at the Baghdad airport last week. “We will follow the laws of armed conflict,” Esper told reporters at the Pentagon. Asked if that means the U.S. military will not target cultural sites, he answered: “That’s the laws of armed conflict.”**

Trump [tweeted](#) on Saturday that the United States has targeted 52 sites for possible retaliation, including “some at a very high level & important to Iran & the Iranian culture.” Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One on Sunday night, the president [doubled down](#) in asserting his willingness to attack cultural sites: “They’re allowed to kill our people. They’re allowed to torture and maim our people. They’re allowed to use roadside bombs and blow up our people. And we’re not allowed to touch their cultural sites? It doesn’t work that way!”



Trump stands by threat on Iran's cultural sites

**In fact, international law does work that way.** [The 1954 Hague Convention](#) for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, which the United States helped facilitate in the aftermath of World War II, requires that warring parties “take all possible steps to protect cultural property,” which includes “monuments of architecture, art or history, whether religious or secular.”

A 1977 amendment to [the Geneva Conventions](#) went **further**. It bans “any acts of hostility directed against the historic monuments, works of art or places of worship which constitute the cultural or spiritual heritage of peoples,” and it requires that signatories neither “use such objects in support of the military effort” nor “make such objects the object of reprisals.”

**To be sure, Stimson did not have a perfect record:** He supported Japanese internment and the restrictive immigration quotas that

limited how many Jewish refugees the United States accepted from Europe. More than 100,000 civilians also died from the atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

**But even during America's last war for national survival – after the sneak attack at Pearl Harbor and relentless kamikaze suicide missions against U.S. vessels – the secretary of war understood something fundamental about the power and possibility of moral leadership in what we now remember as the American Century.**

Stimson recognized not just the aesthetic and historical value of protecting irreplaceable cultural sites but the derivative national security advantages that would flow, in what became the Cold War, from Americans holding themselves to a higher standard than their enemies.

**Trump has repeatedly repudiated the very concept of American Exceptionalism and espoused a variety of moral false equivalency that is deeply at odds with the republic's long bipartisan tradition.** The bellicose threat to target cultural sites is just the latest example of Trump squandering the moral high ground that generations of his predecessors worked to claim, even if they fell short at key moments. In November, Trump overruled military leaders and cleared three members of the military who were either credibly accused or convicted of war crimes. He's claimed that "torture" works. He suggested during the 2016 campaign that he supported killing noncombatant family members of terrorists.





How Trump's administration defended his threat to strike Iranian cultural sites

**Brett McGurk, the former U.S. envoy to the international coalition fighting the Islamic State from 2015 to 2018, characterized Trump's latest threats as "unAmerican."**

"American military forces adhere to international law," he [tweeted](#).

"They don't attack cultural sites. And they're not mercenaries.

Reckless and unprecedented words from a Commander-in-Chief."

**Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), a former military lawyer in the Air Force Reserve, said he urged Trump to stop threatening cultural sites during a Monday phone call.** “We’re not at war with the culture of the Iranian people,” Graham told [the New York Times](#). “We’re in a conflict with the theology, the ayatollah and his way of doing business. I think the president saying ‘we will hit you hard’ is the right message. Cultural sites is not hitting them hard; it’s creating more problems.”

“Targeting civilians and cultural sites is what terrorists do,” [added](#) Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), a member of the Foreign Relations Committee. “It’s a war crime.”

**U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson also publicly broke with Trump on Monday, with his spokesman declaring that he will not abide Trump’s threat to target Iranian cultural sites.** “Johnson is trying to perform a balancing act,” [William Booth and Karla Adam report from London](#). “He is under pressure to support Trump and the United States, Britain’s closest ally. He very much wants a free-trade deal with Washington, to show his country that his Brexit crusade was worth the price. But Johnson is also a student of history — and remembers well how British Prime Minister Tony Blair was seen as the gullible, junior partner to President George W. Bush and his headlong rush to war in Iraq.”

• **UNESCO cultural heritage site**



-- Iran is home to 22 cultural UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the ancient ruins of Persepolis. (The UNESCO web site has [the full list](#), with pictures and descriptions of each site.)

-- Trump's saber-rattling is particularly noteworthy because America has historically led the international community in codifying restrictions on the targeting of cultural heritage. "In March 2017 — only weeks after Trump's inauguration — the U.N. Security Council, with the United States as a permanent member, [unanimously adopted a resolution](#) condemning the 'unlawful destruction of cultural heritage, inter alia destruction of religious sites and artefacts' in armed conflicts," Rick Noack reports. He looks back on [the disturbing recent history](#) that prodded the UN to act:

"Starting in 1991, Yugoslav People's Army forces besieged the historic city of Dubrovnik in Croatia, leading to the destruction of parts

of its center. In the city of Sarajevo, in Bosnia, the Vijećnica city hall was set on fire in 1992, destroying its sizable library. In the aftermath, former prosecutors and researchers with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia assessed more broadly that during conflicts, ‘it is increasingly evident that cultural property is not simply at risk from incidental harm, but is being intentionally attacked as part of cultural cleansing campaigns.’ ...

“In 2016, North African militant Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi was convicted by the International Criminal Court of ‘intentionally directing attacks against historic monuments and/or buildings dedicated to religion’ in the ICC’s first such trial, focusing on the destruction or damaging of cultural property. Mahdi was sentenced to nine years in prison for his role in attacking nine mausoleums and one mosque in Timbuktu, Mali, in 2012.”



Taliban destroys Bamiyan Buddha statues in 2001



-- The Post's art and architecture critic **Philip Kennicott** laments: "If we are to be a barbarian nation, what are our new limits? Do we have any?"

"In March 2001, the Taliban regime in Afghanistan began to dynamite the 6th-century statues of Buddha in Bamian," Kennicott writes. "The decision was both impetuous and brutal, in part an exercise in fundamentalist iconoclasm, in part an act of defiance and rage against the world at large. It was a galvanizing moment in the recent history of cultural heritage ... Fourteen years later, the Islamic State's destruction at Palmyra did much the same work of branding, defining the cruel so-called caliphate as an organization beyond all bounds. Our leadership has been imperfect and sometimes hypocritical. But when a lack of U.S. leadership led to the looting of Baghdad's antiquities museum during the 2003 Gulf War, the U.S. response wasn't to claim a basic right to destroy culture. We argued the 'fog of war.' It was defensive, muddled and wrong, but not amoral. ...

"In 2018, as part of the military budget, Congress created the position

of coordinator for cultural heritage protection. A statement Sunday decrying Trump's words, signed by cultural heritage experts in anthropology, archaeology and the museum world, details recent progress during the Trump administration, including the Smithsonian Institution's plans to assist the Army in training a new corps of 'monuments men,' experts who can help the military avoid cultural destruction. ... The new line, the one we crossed this weekend, isn't between one set of cultural values vs. another; it isn't between people who speak our language and those who speak all others. It is between culture and the void, between the many and variegated ways in which different people try to live together peacefully and productively, and the pure nihilism of autocracy. The threat wasn't to Iranian cultural sites. It was to culture."

-- **"The Department of Defense's Law of War manual mentions cultural property 625 times, repeatedly citing the Hague Convention,"** [NPR notes](#). "Accordingly, the U.S. military educates its soldiers about their responsibilities not to target or destroy cultural property, and to help in its preservation, says Nancy Wilkie, president of the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield. The organization is dedicated to the prevention of destruction and theft of cultural heritage. The Pentagon has even distributed playing cards with photos of cultural sites in Afghanistan and elsewhere to remind troops to safeguard heritage sites and artifacts. ... As World War II was underway in 1943, then-Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower issued an order to his commanders demanding the protection of historical monuments."



**Hannah Bloch** ✓  
@HannahBloch



Sparing cultural sites in war is so important that the Pentagon even went to the trouble of designing/distributing decks of cards to boost awareness among troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The president's comments prompted me to find the deck I was given some years back:



♥ 2,048 1:30 AM - Jan 6, 2020



💬 1,074 people are talking about this



-- Trump's threat has become a propaganda coup for the regime in Tehran. For example, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif sub-tweeted Trump on Sunday:



-- The Trump administration has barred Zarif from entering the United States this week to address the United Nations Security Council about the Soleimani strike, [Foreign Policy reports](#), “violating the terms of a 1947 headquarters agreement requiring Washington to permit foreign officials into the country to conduct U.N. business.”

“The Iranian government was awaiting word on the visa Monday when a Trump administration official phoned U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres to inform him that the United States would not allow Zarif into the country,” Colum Lynch and Robbie Gramer report. “But even before the current crisis, [Pompeo] in recent months had sought to restrict the ability of Zarif—a skilled debater who has studied in the United States and has extensive contacts with American journalists—to make his case to the American public during previous visits to the United States. In July, the United States restricted his movement to a



few blocks in Manhattan and Queens, preventing Zarif from making his regular visits to TV studios, universities, and think tanks. Pompeo defended the decision, noting that American diplomats lack freedom to travel in Iran.”

**-- Iranian leaders have long memories, dating back to American support for the shah.** Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Monday also invoked Iran Air Flight 655, a commercial jet shot down by the U.S. Navy by mistake on July 3, 1988, killing all 290 civilians and crew on board, including 66 children. “Although the incident is nearly forgotten in the United States, it is etched deeply in memory in Iran,” [Gillian Brockell explains](#). “In 1988, the long war between Iraq and Iran was close to ending. At the time, the United States supported Iraq and its leader Saddam Hussein in its fight against Iran. ... To this day, many hard-liners in the Iranian government believe the incident was intentional.”



Soleimani's daughter warns of 'dark days' for the United States

## **MORE TEAM COVERAGE:**

**-- The burial of Soleimani has been postponed after a stampede killed at least 50 people and injured more than 200 others during massive mourning marches through his hometown of Kerman, according to Iranian state television. [Erin Cunningham is anchoring our liveblog](#): “Iranian leaders have stepped up calls for revenge against the United States for its airstrike that killed Soleimani, with one intelligence official saying concrete retaliation plans are already being discussed. ... Security council head Ali Shamkhani said 13 scenarios for retaliation are being considered, and specifically mentioned that U.S. bases in the region were under surveillance. Iran’s Revolutionary Guard commander, Maj. Gen. Hossein Salami, hinted that Israel could be a target.”**

**-- The Pentagon rushed to play down reports that U.S. troops in Iraq were being repositioned in preparation for a possible withdrawal, one day after Iraqi lawmakers passed a nonbinding resolution calling for all foreign troops to leave the country. [Karen DeYoung, Missy Ryan and Paul Sonne report](#): “‘This is a mistake,’ the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mark A. Milley, told reporters at the Pentagon after a letter indicating a withdrawal was released to Iraqi officials by the U.S. military command in Baghdad. The letter, he said, was an unsigned planning draft discussing new deployments and ‘should not have been released.’**

**“A policy afterthought for the past three years, while it served as a hub for military efforts against the Islamic State and a place from which to keep a close eye on Iran, Iraq has suddenly become a problem for the United States. After bringing the Islamic**

State to heel and claiming to be well on his way to stopping the 'endless wars' in the Middle East, Trump finds himself in the middle of an entirely new crisis on the same battlefield that bedeviled his two immediate predecessors. There is widespread agreement among U.S. lawmakers and close allies that [Soleimani] was responsible for years of terrorist activities ... But many worry that the administration has no strategy to deal with the likely escalation of U.S.-Iranian conflict that will follow. That concern is most acute in Iraq, where the two powers have long vied for influence. 'This administration doesn't have a policy on Iraq,' said a former senior Iraqi official ... Iraq, he said, has been a subsidiary of policies toward Israel and Iran, seen as 'baggage from the last administration.' ...

**“Already, the United States has suspended counter-Islamic State operations in Iraq and Syria while the 5,000 U.S. troops in Iraq turn their attention to force protection in expectation of an Iranian response. NATO and U.S. training of Iraqi troops has also been suspended, and the U.S. government has told American civilians in Iraq to leave the country. Current and former officials said a prolonged pause in counterterrorism operations, let alone a U.S. departure, would hurt American security interests in the region. ... U.S. officials said it would be difficult if not impossible to continue the mission targeting the Islamic State in Syria, where there are 1,000 U.S. troops, without a presence in Iraq.”**

**-- Senior administration officials have begun drafting sanctions against Iraq after Trump publicly threatened the country with economic penalties if it proceeded to expel U.S. troops, according to three people briefed on the planning. [Jeff Stein and](#)**

[Josh Dawsey scoop](#): “The Treasury Department and White House will probably take a lead role if the sanctions are implemented ... Such a step would represent a highly unusual move against a foreign ally that the United States has spent almost two decades and hundreds of billions of dollars supporting. ... One of the officials said the plan was to wait “at least a little while” on the sanctions decision to see whether Iraqi officials followed through on their threat to push U.S. troops out of the country.”



Sen. Tim Kaine: 'We're at the brink of war'

-- **"Trump, who rarely makes major moves without first calculating the ramifications for his popularity and self-image, has confided to advisers that he sees a political upside in his hard-line approach to Iran at the dawn of this year's campaign, according to two White House officials and several senior Republicans," [Bob Costa and Phil Rucker report](#).** "Trump believes he has an opportunity to expand his support among voters as a wartime

commander in chief and is trying to cast his Democratic critics as soft on terrorism, they said. They added that he sees his party as more united behind him than ever, even as his impeachment trial looms in the Senate, with some Republicans now arguing that it would be irresponsible and dangerous to remove a president amid a national security crisis.

**“Trump struck a harshly partisan tone Monday that foreshadowed the political battles to come.** Calling into Rush Limbaugh’s nationally syndicated radio show, the president maligned Democrats for ‘trying to make’ [Soleimani] ‘sound like he was this wonderful human being’ and argued that ‘elements of that party [are] openly supporting Iran, an enemy of the United States.’ ... **At his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida over the past week, Trump privately told advisers he was surprised at how many Democrats criticized him for taking action** — and he has spoken encouragingly about how his decision is being received by many Americans on social media and in news coverage, according to two White House officials ... **As last week’s strike was unfolding, Trump casually discussed whether ‘Bernie or Biden’ would be easier to beat, according to conservative talk-show host Howie Carr, who [published an essay](#) about his time Thursday night at Mar-a-Lago.”**

**-- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a central figure in the Iran and impeachment stories, told Mitch McConnell that he will not run for the open Senate seat in Kansas this year. [Josh Dawsey and John Hudson report](#):** “McConnell had recruited Pompeo to run for Senate to guarantee the seat would stay in the hands of the Republican Party after the retirement of Sen. Pat Roberts. Pompeo

had regularly visited Kansas and was consulting with Ward Baker, a prominent GOP strategist close to McConnell. He had fueled speculation of a bid in recent weeks by creating personal social media accounts that regularly featured him with his family dog, cheering on sporting events and even drinking beer in his kitchen. ... Aides said [Trump] wanted Pompeo to stay on as secretary of state, particularly after the strike..."

**-- Attempts on Capitol Hill to limit Trump from acting militarily against Iran are shaping up to be largely partisan votes.** "House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) plans to have the House vote this week to invoke its war powers and order Trump to remove U.S. troops from hostilities against Iran, while Democrats in the Senate are preparing to force a vote as early as next week on a measure from Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) that would do the same," [Karoun Demirjian reports](#).

**"Democrats seem unlikely to win the support of several key Republican figures who have backed previous efforts to check Trump's power as commander in chief but now vocally defend his decision to kill Soleimani.** 'I would be very shocked if any Republican votes for this resolution,' said Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.), a close Trump ally who nonetheless voted last year to curtail U.S. military operations in Yemen and block the president from waging war against Iran without Congress's express authorization. ... Sen. Mike Lee (Utah), another Republican who voted last year to require congressional authorization for Iran hostilities — and who led Senate efforts with Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) to invoke the War Powers Resolution to end U.S. military support for the Saudi-led

campaign in Yemen — similarly took issue with the assertion in Kaine’s measure that the Soleimani strike constitutes ‘either hostilities or a situation where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances into which United States Armed Forces have been introduced.’”



Iran's supreme leader weeps during prayers for Soleimani

-- **“How a ‘quantum change’ in missiles has made Iran a far more dangerous foe,”** by [Joby Warrick](#): “When a swarm of drones and cruise missiles attacked Saudi Arabia’s biggest oil facility on Sept. 14, an outraged Trump administration quickly blamed Iran for what it called an ‘unprecedented attack’ on global energy supplies. But the real surprise was the strike’s accuracy: Of 19 weapons used, all but two scored direct hits. When the smoke cleared, Saudi officials counted 14 holes where incoming projectiles had sliced through petroleum storage tanks. Three other critical parts of the oil-processing facility had been hit and disabled, shutting down the facility

and temporarily cutting Saudi oil production in half. In subsequent reports, U.S. analysts would describe the attack as a kind of wake-up call: evidence of a vastly improved arsenal of high-precision missiles that Iran has quietly developed and shared with allies over the past decade.

**“In the event of a wider war with the United States, Iran would probably deploy such weapons to inflict substantial damage on any number of targets,** from U.S. military bases to oil facilities to sites in Israel, analysts say. ... U.S. and Middle Eastern officials say the upgraded missiles — some with ranges of more than 1,200 miles — are but one of several potential avenues for carrying out Iran’s promise to exact revenge ... Less impactful globally, but psychologically disruptive, would be a series of assassinations or kidnappings, conducted in such a way as to shield Iran from blame.”

**-- Trump’s order to take out a top Iranian general may do what his withdrawal from the nuclear agreement did not: Kill the deal.**

[Anne Gearan explains](#): “Iran announced Sunday that it would no longer be bound by some of the deal’s most important safeguards. Iran’s announcement alone does not render the agreement moot, and at least one important element of it — U.N. inspection power — remains in force. But Iran has less incentive now to abide by the agreement, and Trump appears to have less leverage to hash out the better deal with Tehran that he says President Barack Obama failed to get. That leaves Trump in the position of owning how to deal with any attempt by Iran to build a nuclear weapon, with no clear answers about how he would do so after scrapping and deriding what world leaders believed was their best chance to keep the theocratic regime’s



nuclear ambitions at bay. ...

**“With its announcement, Iran could now return to stockpiling enriched uranium, the raw material for a bomb. Depending on the pace of that effort, Iran could amass nearly enough material for a bomb within a matter of several months.** Pushing back the tipping point when Iran could ‘break out’ and make a quick drive for a viable weapon was the central goal of the 2015 deal. If Iran reconstitutes its abilities to roughly the status quo in place before negotiations, there is little left to save, analysts said.”



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets on Tuesday with Syrian President Bashar Assad in Damascus. (Syrian Presidency via AP)

-- **“Russia stands to benefit as Middle East tensions spike after Soleimani killing,”** [Robyn Dixon reports from Moscow](#): “If the United States withdraws from Iraq as backlash over the killing widens, Russia could strengthen its foothold in the country — much as it did in Syria

after Trump ordered a troop pullout there last fall, a step that was later partly reversed. ... German Chancellor Angela Merkel will meet Putin in Moscow Saturday at his invitation, to discuss the crisis. ... A hasty U.S. departure would give Iran what it has sought for years, analysts said. But they noted that it could also create a void for Russia to exploit, although it is more likely to do so through diplomatic overtures, trade deals and arms sales than by taking up any military slack. ...

**“In Syria, President Bashar al-Assad asked Putin to intervene as the Islamic State and anti-government rebels threatened his power. ... The man who argued Assad’s case to Russian defense and security officials — and convinced them the war was still winnable — was Soleimani**, who traveled to Moscow in July 2015, unfurled a map of Syria on the table and explained what could be done to prevent Assad’s regime from falling ... The following April ... Soleimani met with Putin and Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu in Moscow to discuss deliveries of Russian missiles to Syria. According to media reports from 2015 to 2017, he traveled numerous times to Moscow in breach of a U.N. travel ban. ... Soleimani’s mission paid off for Russia, saving its strategic naval base in Tartus on Syria’s Mediterranean coast. Russia also expanded its military foothold on Europe’s doorstep, gaining use of the nearby Hmeimim air base and establishing what some in NATO see as an air defense zone in the region.”

-- **“Why North Korea’s state media has barely mentioned U.S. killing of Iran’s Soleimani,”** [by Simon Denyer in Tokyo](#): “Between coverage of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un’s major policy speech last week, and his visit to a fertilizer factory this week, a small report by

the Korean Central News Agency on Monday noted that China and Russia condemned a U.S. strike in Baghdad. The last paragraph noted that the raid had led to the deaths of Iran's Quds Force commander and an Iraqi militia figure, without naming them or offering any real sense of Soleimani's importance. ... Experts say Pyongyang's caution stems from its fear of U.S. military action and its reluctance to acknowledge that important leaders might be eliminated — lest anyone at home start getting ideas. Its state media has a record of withholding information about the fates of former dictators targeted by the United States who ended up being killed, including Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and Libya's Moammar Gaddafi.

**"The idea that North Korea would trust a U.S. administration that had walked away from the nuclear deal with Iran, much less a nation with a history of fomenting regime change abroad, was always fanciful, experts say,** but Kim made it clear that the experience of dealing with the United States over the past two years had only reinforced his convictions. ... Trump's decision to kill Soleimani may convince him to push ahead even faster in developing his country's nuclear arsenal, but it also demonstrates that the U.S. president is not all bluster when he talks of 'fire and fury.'"

**-- The Soleimani fallout gives Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu a chance to shift focus from his legal woes – but not for too long.** [Steve Hendrix and Ruth Eglash report from Jerusalem:](#) "Three days after the U.S. drone strike, Netanyahu's efforts to shield himself from prosecution had returned to Israel's front pages. ... For Netanyahu, a hawk, any shift of focus from his legal woes to regional security is considered an advantage. The election campaign has been

overshadowed by the corruption allegations against Netanyahu, who was indicted in November on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust. He has refused to resign or drop out of the race, and last week he formally requested parliamentary immunity from prosecution.”



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McConnell reiterates call for mid-trial witnesses following Bolton statement

▶ 2:43

McConnell reiterates call for mid-trial witnesses following Bolton statement

## **IMPEACHMENT LATEST:**

**-- John Bolton scrambled the Senate GOP impeachment strategy by declaring his willingness to testify and upping the pressure on McConnell and his party to summon the former national security adviser as a witness in Trump's trial. [Rachael Bade](#), [Mike DeBonis](#), [Tom Hamburger](#) and [Robert Costa](#) report:** "Bolton last fall rebuffed House impeachment investigators' entreaties to testify about his concerns about Trump's demands that Ukraine investigate his political rivals as the administration delayed military aid. Bolton's surprise announcement complicated the political calculus for McConnell's no-witness strategy and appeared to increase the likelihood of additional testimony that could embarrass the president. ... At least one Senate Republican, Mitt Romney (Utah), agreed Monday that it was imperative that Bolton testify, while Democrats insisted that Republicans' refusal to allow him to tell his story would be tantamount to a 'coverup.' Bolton has firsthand knowledge of internal White House deliberations, and according to testimony in the House probe, he reacted angrily to Trump's pressure on Ukraine to investigate former vice president Joe Biden ...

**"Two moderate Senate Republicans — Susan Collins (Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) — have said they're open to hearing from witnesses. ... Still, the same centrist Republican senators signaled that they were willing to start the trial without a deal for Bolton's testimony, keeping McConnell in firm control** for now as he works to delay any decision on additional witnesses until after House Democrats present their case and the president's defense

team rebuts it. ... The major question for McConnell is whether he can hold the line ... A subpoena requires a simple majority of 51 votes, and Democrats would need just four Republicans to break ranks. ... In recent months, Bolton has confided to friends that he was deeply troubled by his time at the White House and the president's behavior, but he has declined to offer many details ...

**“Still, other Bolton associates have privately said that he wants a future in Republican politics and does not want to be seen as a turncoat on Trump or someone who is trying to ingratiate himself with the president's critics.** They noted, for instance, that his statement Monday came from his political action committee's office as an example of how he's trying to build out his operation even as he deals with legal issues. Additionally, people close to him note that Bolton also has an expansive view of presidential power. As a result, it is unclear whether he would testify that he believes Trump overstepped his constitutional authority in his dealings with Ukraine. ... **Senate Republicans appeared divided on the possibility of hearing from Bolton.** Sen. John Cornyn (Tex.), who is close to McConnell, told Guy Benson, political editor for conservative Townhall.com, that Bolton's testimony could be 'helpful to the president' and that he'd like to know more about what he'd say. Other Republicans, including Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.), suggested that the Senate should consider only the evidence gathered in the House, thereby precluding Bolton.”

**-- Commentary from the opinion page:**

- [Ruth Marcus](#): “Will he or won't he? John Bolton is

playing a very cagey game.”

- [Jennifer Rubin](#): “Pelosi’s strategy pays off: Now bring in Bolton.”
- [Dana Milbank](#): “Trump wags the hippopotamus.”



Los Angeles prosecutors charge Harvey Weinstein with two counts of sexual assault

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERSHADOWED:**

-- **Disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein was charged with multiple sex crimes in Los Angeles on the same day his trial began in New York.** [Shayna Jacobs reports](#): “Weinstein — who is 67 but has visibly aged since his May 2018 arrest in New York — was in court with his five attorneys for a final conference before jury selection begins in his trial on rape and sexual assault allegations involving three women. He faces the possibility of life in prison in the New York case and has pleaded not guilty. The charges filed in Los Angeles

should not affect plans to proceed with jury pre-screening in New York Supreme Court in Manhattan, scheduled for Tuesday morning, and a spokesperson for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office said that Weinstein is not expected to appear in court there until his trial in New York concludes. ... **Weinstein remains under investigation by authorities in Dublin and London.** ... The charges in Los Angeles involve alleged encounters with two women, a day or two apart, in February 2013, authorities said. In all, eight people have come forward there to report crimes involving Weinstein, officials said. In three cases, the statute of limitations had expired, so charges were not filed. The other three remain under investigation. ... Prosecutors in Los Angeles are recommending a \$5 million bail in a case for which Weinstein faces up to 28 years in prison."

-- **Weinstein's publicists are sending reporters a 57-page PowerPoint presentation titled "The Proper Narrative for Addressing the Harvey Weinstein Case."** [From The Cut](#): "The document presents oppo research about Weinstein's accusers, including text messages and photographs, with the goal of vindicating him in the press. ... The document frequently shifts in tone, voice, font size, and color, and seems to include some draft notes ('[ask HW: did they actually meet? Seems possible]') and strike-throughs. It argues that some women's allegations of sexual abuse were the result of 'strong and repeated suggestions from others,' including press reports and activists. 'Given the pressures that many women today feel from the various laudatory movements against workplace imbalances, the notion that consensual relations are being reinterpreted cannot be overlooked,' it says on page 10. The document claims there is 'no objective support' for any of the women's claims because there were



no witnesses and ‘no physical injuries — even scratches’; current rape law requires nothing of the sort and hasn’t for at least a half century.”

**-- The Environmental Protection Agency announced that it will pursue a new industry-supported rule to cut pollution from heavy-duty trucks.** [Brady Dennis reports](#): “Heavy-duty vehicles are the largest mobile source of nitrogen oxide, a pollutant linked to heart and lung disease. They also tend to remain in service far longer than other vehicles. Still, some environmental advocates said they feared that **the EPA’s proposal could preempt even more stringent rules being considered in California.** At an announcement in rural Virginia, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said the agency would soon move forward with its ‘Cleaner Trucks Initiative,’ aimed at further curbing highway emissions of nitrogen oxide and other pollutants from heavy-duty engines. ... Monday’s announcement received instant praise from the trucking industry, members of which stood alongside Wheeler at his announcement.”

**-- The Internal Revenue Service’s personal income tax audits dropped to their lowest level in decades.** [From the WSJ](#): “The IRS audited 0.45% of personal income-tax returns in fiscal 2019, down from 0.59% in 2018 and marking the eighth straight year of decline, according to a report released on Monday. In 2010, the IRS audited 1.1% of tax returns. The report doesn’t break down audits by income category or provide details about how much revenue they generate. **The steady erosion of tax enforcement has been driven by years of cuts in the agency’s budget** along with a heavier workload. The result, according to tax experts, is that the **Treasury is letting billions of dollars annually go uncollected, even as budget**

deficits rise.”

-- **A bipartisan group of campaign finance lawyers urged the Trump administration and the Senate to restore a quorum at the Federal Election Commission.** [Michelle Ye Hee Lee reports](#): “The agency tasked with regulating federal campaign finance laws has long faced ideological divisions and polarization. But it lost its ability to do its official job after the August 2019 resignation of a commissioner left it to operate for the first time in 11 years without its necessary four-person quorum. While routine administrative work continues, **the agency cannot enforce the law, vote on investigations, provide guidance or conduct audits — activities that are especially crucial and timely for a presidential election**, which is projected to be the most expensive one to date. In a joint letter Monday, 31 attorneys across the political spectrum and whose clients are regulated by federal campaign finance law asked [Trump] and congressional leaders for ‘swift attention to this situation, which has languished for far too long.’”

-- **Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) will likely still receive his taxpayer-funded congressional pension despite pleading guilty to felony conspiracy for misusing campaign funds to finance multiple extramarital affairs, including with a female lobbyist, as well as other personal expenses.** [From the San Diego Union-Tribune](#): “The amount of money in Hunter’s congressional pension is not publicly known, and the Congressional Research Service and the Office of Personnel Management both declined to provide The San Diego Union-Tribune with information regarding the the congressman’s benefits. **Hunter remains in Congress**, although he

said he would step down ‘shortly after the holidays.’ He is to be sentenced March 17. Based on formulas outlined in a paper released by the research service earlier this year, **it is estimated that Hunter, 43, would receive an annual payment of at least \$32,538** due to his congressional pension, which he can begin accessing when he turns 62.”



Punta Ventana, a popular tourist destination in Puerto Rico, was destroyed by a 5.8-magnitude earthquake on Monday. (Ricardo Arduengo/AFP/Getty Images)

**-- A 6.5 magnitude earthquake hit Puerto Rico overnight after a 5.8 magnitude earthquake shook the island yesterday. From CNN:** “Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority reported widespread outages across the island after its power plants activated an auto protective mechanism following the earthquake. Puerto Rico Gov. Wanda Vázquez Garced urged citizens to remain calm as the government responds to the most recent quake. ... No tsunami is expected

following Tuesday's earthquakes, the US National Tsunami Warning Center said. ... All the earthquakes appear to have been foreshocks to Tuesday morning's largest quake, CNN meteorologist Pedram Javaheri said."

**-- Yesterday's earthquake damaged more than a dozen homes and destroyed a natural wonder. [Arelis R. Hernández reports](#):** "An ancient Puerto Rico rock formation that adorned the background of countless vacation photos, Instagram posts and selfies tumbled into the ocean off the U.S. territory's southwestern coast."

**-- American Airlines and Boeing reached a settlement for financial losses related to the worldwide grounding of the 737 Max jet. [Lori Aratani reports](#):** "While the terms are confidential, Doug Parker, American's CEO, said a portion — \$30 million — will be shared with employees through the company's profit-sharing plan. American is the second U.S. carrier to reach a settlement with the company; Southwest Airlines announced it had reached a settlement with Boeing in December. ... American has removed the jet from its schedule through April 6. ... American has 24 737 Max jets in its fleet. The money is expected to be paid out to employees in March."

**-- YouTube will roll out new protections for children viewing videos on the site in an effort to satisfy federal regulators who fined the company over alleged privacy violations. [Greg Bensinger and Tony Romm report](#):** "The changes, which include limitations on data collection and advertising, are a step toward addressing concerns from advocacy groups who have complained the Google-owned company has run afoul of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, or COPPA, which forbids tracking and targeting users

12 and under. As part of those changes, YouTube said it will seek to better distinguish which content is intended primarily for children, relying on a combination of self-identification from creators and software. That content cannot run with personalized advertisements, under the new rules that YouTube said it is instituting globally starting Monday. YouTube said it will assume any viewer of child-friendly content is underage, treating that data as subject to COPPA rules. It has been limiting other features too, such as comments on children's videos and live chats. But some privacy experts said the changes may not offer children enough protections from a company that has accrued reams of data on its users and is incentivized to compel viewers to stay on the site for as long as possible.”

**-- Facebook said it will ban deepfakes – computer-generated, highly manipulated videos – but the new policy may not cover a deceptively edited video altered to make Nancy Pelosi sound as if she's slurring her words. [Tony Romm, Drew Harwell and Isaac Stanley-Becker report](#):** “While these videos are still rare on the internet, they present a significant challenge for our industry and society as their use increases,’ Monika Bickert, the company's vice president for global policy management, wrote in a blog post. **The changes come as Bickert prepares to testify at a congressional hearing later this week** on ‘manipulation and deception in the digital age.’ The inquiry marks the latest effort by House lawmakers to probe Facebook's digital defenses four years after Russian agents weaponized the site to stoke social unrest during the 2016 race. Going forward, Facebook intends to ban videos that are ‘edited or synthesized’ by technologies like artificial intelligence in a way that average users would not easily spot, the company said, including

attempts to make the subject of a video say words that they never did.”

**-- Russian trolls are targeting American veterans, and the Trump administration has ignored the issue, a group claims.** [Alex Horton reports](#): “American veterans and service members enjoy a high degree of social respect, and ongoing manipulation campaigns aimed at them could be weaponized to sow social discord in their communities, Vietnam Veterans of America warned officials at the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments in March 2018, among other agencies. But those agencies have brushed off VVA since they were presented with evidence that eventually became a detailed report and congressional testimony, said Kristopher Goldsmith, the veteran service organization’s chief investigator. And their plea to President Trump for help has similarly been ignored, Goldsmith said — suggesting the problem may be perceived as too complex or politically fraught for U.S. officials concerned to cross Trump, who has downplayed Russia’s role in election interference.”

**-- Chelsea Clinton has made more than \$9 million from sitting on a corporate board.** [From Barrons](#): “Clinton, who has been an [InterActiveCorp] director since 2011, receives an annual \$50,000 retainer and \$250,000 in restricted IAC stock units ... As of Dec. 31, she owned the equivalent of 35,242 IAC shares, consisting of 29,843 shares and 5,399 share units under a deferred-compensation plan, according to a form she filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Share units convert to stock when an IAC director leaves the board.”

**-- Illinois shops ran out of marijuana just six days after the start**

**of legalization.** [Katie Shepherd reports](#): “Standing in line for hours in frigid temperatures, tens of thousands have flocked to the nine dispensaries selling recreational cannabis in Chicago after Illinois’s newly legalized cannabis sales began on New Year’s Day. The numbers have been staggering: 55 dispensaries in the state sold more than \$3 million in THC-imbued products on day one, matching Oregon’s record-setting opening for recreational sales in 2015. By Sunday, Illinois’s cannabis customers had bought nearly \$11 million worth of recreational marijuana in the first five days, making more than 271,000 purchases. But the crush of eager buyers strained the state’s marijuana supply, leading many dispensaries in Chicago to turn away customers before the first week of sales even ended. Meanwhile, given the state’s restrictive licensing rules, some large cultivators are now rushing to expand their marijuana grows to keep up with recreational demand in a market previously designed to serve a much smaller number of medical cannabis patients.”



Friends and parents of 43 missing students from the Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' College march in Mexico City in November, before the fifth anniversary of their disappearance. (Jose Mendez/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

## **THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

**-- More than 61,000 people have disappeared in Mexico amid the drug war, authorities said, sharply raising their estimate of those who have vanished in more than a decade of extreme violence by and among organized-crime groups. [Mary Beth Sheridan reports:](#)**

“The government of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador released the new figure after an exhaustive analysis of data from state prosecutors. The previous official estimate, released in April 2018, put the number at 40,000. While hundreds of cases date to the 1960s, over 97 percent have been reported since 2006, when Mexico launched an all-out offensive targeting drug trafficking and criminal organizations. Karla Quintana, head of Mexico’s National Search Commission, which coordinates the effort to find the missing, said that at least 61,637 people had been reported disappeared and not been found. ‘These are data of horror, and behind them are stories and narratives of great pain for families,’ she said at a news conference. ... The Monday announcement highlights the toll of more than a decade of extraordinary violence in Mexico that shows no sign of abating. Last year, homicides through November topped 31,000, a record. In some regions, organized-crime groups openly battle police and soldiers. Quintana said 3,631 clandestine graves have been discovered since 2006.”

**-- A 13-year-old American boy was killed in Mexico near the U.S. border while traveling with his family. [From CNN:](#) “Oscar Lopez**



was shot in both legs and died in an attack Saturday night in Tamaulipas state, near the US border, said the teen's father, also named Oscar Lopez. The father said three other relatives were injured in the ambush attack: his wife, 41-year-old Juanita Lopez; their other son, 11-year-old Abio Lopez; and his brother-in-law, 48-year-old Raphael Castillo. The elder Oscar Lopez said the group was visiting relatives in the Monterrey area for the holidays, though he stayed back in the US. On Saturday night, family members in two vehicles -- both with Oklahoma license plates -- were driving on the Reynosa-Nuevo Laredo Mexican highway in Ciudad Mier, according to a statement from Tamaulipas state authorities. The family was confronted by unknown assailants. Tamaulipas officials said the family's van did not stop, so the assailants crashed into the van to force it to a halt.”

**-- Mexican asylum seekers could now be deported to Guatemala as part of a deal that the Department of Homeland Security struck with the Central American nation.** [From the Times](#): “The agreement with Guatemala, which was signed in July, was described by Kevin K. McAleenan, the acting secretary of homeland security at the time, as a way to encourage families to apply for protections closer to home. The deal made migrants such as Hondurans and Salvadorans ineligible for asylum in the United States if they had traveled by land through Guatemala and did not first apply for asylum there, homeland security officials said at the time. But two homeland security officials said on Monday that asylum officers were told over the weekend that Mexican migrants were now ‘amenable’ to being sent to Guatemala under the agreement. **In theory, an asylum seeker from Juárez, Mexico, could be deported from the El Paso,**

**Texas, border crossing a mile from his home to the Guatemalan border nearly 2,000 miles away.** A homeland security spokesman later confirmed that certain Mexicans could be sent to Guatemala under the agreement — a pivot from the original plan for the deal.”

**-- Mexico rejected the proposal, saying it's working with American authorities to offer “better options.”** ([Reuters](#))

**-- The Trump administration will seek the death penalty against an MS-13 gang member, who immigrated here from El Salvador, accused in the kidnappings and killings of two Virginia teenagers in 2016.** [Rachel Weiner reports](#): “Elmer Martinez, 27, is alleged to be the leader of the Fairfax County clique that authorities say killed a 17-year-old suspected of belonging to a rival gang and a 14-year-old who revealed that crime to the victim’s family. ... Defense attorney Robert Jenkins said he was informed by the Justice Department of its decision, a step he said he believed was taken to support the president’s stance on illegal immigration. ... Jenkins said Martinez ... did not have a violent criminal history and is not alleged to have inflicted blows in either slaying. In their filing, prosecutors said Martinez has a history of uncharged violent conduct, including assaults, stabbings and another attempt at kidnapping and homicide. While in jail awaiting trial, they say, he was twice found with a shank.”

**-- The U.S. government has launched a pilot program to collect DNA from people detained at the border, which will then be turned over to the FBI.** [From the AP](#): “The information would go into a massive criminal database run by the FBI, where it would be held indefinitely. A memo outlining the program published Monday by the Department of Homeland Security said U.S. citizens and permanent

residents holding a 'green card' who are detained could be subject to DNA testing, as well as asylum seekers and people entering the country without authorization. Refusing to submit DNA could lead to a misdemeanor criminal charge, the document said. ... The DHS memo acknowledged that the DNA its agents collect may not be immediately useful. Agents plan to take saliva swabs of detained people, then mail them to the FBI. By the time the results are processed, the memo said, the people in question may have already been released, deported or transferred to another federal agency.”

**-- A senior employee at a for-profit immigrant detention center in Nevada was active on the neo-Nazi website Iron March and wanted to start a white nationalist chapter in his area. [From Vice News](#):**

“Travis Frey, 31, is currently employed as a captain at the Nevada Southern Detention Center, which is run by private prison behemoth CoreCivic and contracted with ICE. Frey joined Iron March in 2013, and posted at least a dozen times between 2016 and 2017 while he was working as head of security at a CoreCivic jail in Indianapolis, which was also authorized to house detainees on behalf of ICE. ... On Iron March, Frey used the screen name ‘In Hoc Signo Vincas,’ a Latin phrase that’s used by military outfits around the world, and by universities, and was the title of the American Nazi Party’s manifesto. Vice News was able to identify Frey, who served in the Marines between 2006 and 2008, through some of the personal information he provided on Iron March ... The Nevada Southern Detention Center, where Frey has worked since at least 2018, according to a now-deleted LinkedIn page, is located in Pahrump, 62 miles west of Las Vegas, and is contracted with ICE and U.S. Marshals ... In June 2017, Frey started putting out feelers about

joining the ranks of the Traditionalist Workers Party (TWP), which was run by Heimbach before its demise and was a key player in the violent Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville in 2017.”



National Assembly President Juan Guaidó, Venezuela's opposition leader, is blocked by police from entering the Assembly. (Andrea Hernandez Briceño/AP)

**-- Venezuelan opposition lawmakers led by Juan Guaidó vowed to retake the National Assembly after being barred from the chamber this weekend, setting up a showdown over President Nicolás Maduro’s attempt to seize control of the last democratic institution left in the nation. [Rachelle Krygier and Anthony Faiola report](#): “The move appeared to be an attempt by Maduro to sideline Guaidó — the U.S.-backed opposition leader who has unsuccessfully sought to unseat Maduro for the past year — by preventing his reelection on Sunday as head of the assembly. That title has served as the basis of his claim to be the nation’s true interim leader, one that**

has been recognized by nearly 60 nations including the United States. 'The dictatorship will decide tomorrow if it will continue its farce, which no one recognizes,' Guaidó told reporters in Caracas. He suggested that if his entry was blocked, he would attempt to lead a session of the loyalist lawmakers elsewhere in the capital. 'We will take this risk because Venezuela deserves it,' he said. 'The dictatorship is now unmasked.'"

**-- During a 10-minute call, Vice President Mike Pence told Guaidó that he is the "only legitimate president" of Venezuela.** [From the WSJ](#): "Mr. Pence has played a central role in the administration's campaign to elevate Mr. Guaidó. Early last year, on the night before Mr. Guaidó declared himself the country's interim president, Mr. Pence called the Venezuelan opposition leader and pledged that the U.S. would support him, setting in motion a monthslong campaign to wrest power from Mr. Maduro."

**-- After nearly a year without a government, Spain ended its deadlock Tuesday with a parliamentary vote that approved a left-wing coalition led by current caretaker Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez.** [Pamela Rolfe and Chico Harlan report](#): "The vote, passing by the narrowest of margins, opens the way for a government composed of the country's traditional left-wing party, the Socialists, and its erstwhile foe, far-left Unidas Podemos. It vaults the left fully back into power in Spain at a time when other mainstream pro-European parties across the continent have struggled to combat populism or overcome disenchantment with the political status quo. But while the parliamentary vote restores a measure of clarity to Europe's fifth-largest economy, the new government will probably be

fragile. It will control a minority of seats in parliament and depend on support from a constellation of smaller parties while dealing with budget issues and the Catalonia region's divisive bid for independence."

**-- Australia's catastrophic fires threaten to upend the way people live. From the WSJ:** "The death toll is lower than the 173 killed in the Black Saturday fires in Victoria state in 2009, but in other respects these blazes—which could persist until March—are being viewed by experts as unprecedented. The scorched area is vast, with more than 23,000 square miles burned nationwide since early November. Almost every state has been affected—thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes, and tourists visiting summer holiday spots have been trapped by advancing fires. Australia's insurance council says more than \$260 million of claims have been lodged since Nov. 8, when it declared a catastrophe, but that represents a trickle of what is to come. An additional \$39 million in claims were lodged before Nov. 8 for fires in September and October. ... It is still too dangerous for property owners to return to some areas, and many communities in the two worst affected regions—southern New South Wales state and eastern Victoria—have no power or telecommunications. ... The environmental toll has also been severe. A researcher from the University of Sydney has estimated that as many as 480 million animals have been killed by wildfires in New South Wales alone since September. Footage of distressed koalas—the iconic Australian bearlike marsupial—approaching people and drinking water has been widely viewed."

**-- The world's oldest person broke her own record by turning**

**117. Lateshia Beachum reports:** “Kane Tanaka is proving a person is never too old to achieve life goals. Tanaka celebrated her 117th birthday Thursday — stretching out her record as the world’s oldest woman. She has been holding on to her title as the oldest living person for nearly two years. The supercentenarian was gussied up in a gold kimono with red trimmings as she was ushered into her birthday celebration at a nursing home in Fukuoka, Japan. ... She clapped her way into her big day and stopped to kiss the hands of well wishers before singing a birthday song. ... The seventh of eight children cried tears of joy when she was handed two plaques last year for being the world’s oldest living person and the world’s oldest living woman.”

**-- Japan issued an arrest warrant for Carlos Ghosn’s wife on suspicion of perjury, even as Nissan said it would continue to take legal action to hold its former boss accountable for “serious misconduct.”** (Simon Denyer)

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

A Republican congressman, Rep. Paul Gosar of Arizona, tweeted a fake image of Barack Obama with Iran's president. [The two men never even met:](#)





**Paul Gosar**  @DrPaulGosar

The world is a better place without these guys in power.



 15.2K  8:24 PM - Jan 6, 2020 

 6,763 people are talking about this 

Donald Trump Jr. has a new weapon that includes questionable icons:





**Akil N Awan** ✓

@Akil\_N\_Awan



Don Jr posted photos of himself brandishing a modified assault rifle with CRUSADER etched on it, lower receiver modelled after a medieval Crusader helmet & mag printed with Hillary's face.

Crusader imagery on weapons & propaganda has been used by Far-Right terrorists since Breivik



♥ 6,059 12:06 PM - Jan 6, 2020



💬 4,317 people are talking about this



History repeats itself. Fox News putting Judy Miller on the air caused flashbacks for many to her problematic reporting that gave cover for George W. Bush to invade Iraq in the first place:



**Justin Baragona** ✓

@justinbaragona



We're really doing this, huh?



3,360 3:11 PM - Jan 6, 2020



882 people are talking about this



Another flashback:



**Peter Baker** ✓

@peterbakernyt



Two decades ago, the House impeached the president even as he was bombing Iraq. His opponents accused him of wagging the dog to distract attention. His supporters accused the other party of undermining a commander in chief at a time of national security crisis. Sound familiar?

1,590 1:36 PM - Jan 6, 2020



514 people are talking about this



A former secretary of defense offered a chilling warning amid the letter mishap:



The social media conversation was dominated by questions and jokes like these:



From a former Pentagon and CIA spokesman:



DHS issued a guide on how to prepare for a potential cyberattack from Iran:



With increased tension with Iran and its proxies, facility and network defenders should consider and assess the possible impacts and threats to their organization. Today's new CISA Insights has information and precautionary measures for your organization. [cisa.gov/insights](https://cisa.gov/insights)

**CISA INSIGHTS**  
Increased Geopolitical Tensions and Threats

**The Threat and How to Think About It**

Increased geopolitical tensions and tensions of aggression may result in cyber and physical attacks against the United States and its interests. Iran and its proxies are actively engaged in cyber and physical attacks against the United States and its interests. Iran and its proxies are actively engaged in cyber and physical attacks against the United States and its interests.

**Checklist of Actions for Cyber Protection**

1. **Establish your incident response plan** - Ensure your personnel will receive clear instructions on how to respond to a cyber incident. Do you have a plan? Do you have a plan? Do you have a plan?
2. **Conduct a risk assessment** - Assess your risk to critical systems. If information is lost, what are the consequences?
3. **Review your physical security** - Are you protecting your physical assets? Are you protecting your physical assets?
4. **Review your network security** - Are you protecting your network assets? Are you protecting your network assets?
5. **Review your data security** - Are you protecting your data assets? Are you protecting your data assets?
6. **Review your supply chain security** - Are you protecting your supply chain assets? Are you protecting your supply chain assets?
7. **Review your vendor security** - Are you protecting your vendor assets? Are you protecting your vendor assets?
8. **Review your employee security** - Are you protecting your employee assets? Are you protecting your employee assets?
9. **Review your contractor security** - Are you protecting your contractor assets? Are you protecting your contractor assets?
10. **Review your subcontractor security** - Are you protecting your subcontractor assets? Are you protecting your subcontractor assets?

**Checklist of Actions for Physical Protection**

1. **Identify critical systems** - What are the critical systems? What are the critical systems?
2. **Identify critical assets** - What are the critical assets? What are the critical assets?
3. **Identify critical personnel** - Who are the critical personnel? Who are the critical personnel?
4. **Identify critical locations** - Where are the critical locations? Where are the critical locations?
5. **Identify critical infrastructure** - What are the critical infrastructure assets? What are the critical infrastructure assets?
6. **Identify critical services** - What are the critical services? What are the critical services?
7. **Identify critical dependencies** - What are the critical dependencies? What are the critical dependencies?
8. **Identify critical vulnerabilities** - What are the critical vulnerabilities? What are the critical vulnerabilities?
9. **Identify critical threats** - What are the critical threats? What are the critical threats?
10. **Identify critical risks** - What are the critical risks? What are the critical risks?

207 12:57 AM - Jan 7, 2020

228 people are talking about this

Quotes like these, via a Times reporter, don't exactly give cause for comfort. YOLO is an acronym for "you only live once":



The White House has set a new record for days without a press briefing:



CNBC mistook Tulsi Gabbard and Andrew Yang for other people, and the other Yang took note:



**Geoff Yang**  
@geoff\_yang



Ummm. This is @geoff\_yang and I am NOT running for President. [twitter.com/dailycaller/st...](https://twitter.com/dailycaller/status/1214111111)

**Daily Caller**  @DailyCaller  
Uhhh.....What's going on here? @CNBC



48.7K 5:55 PM - Jan 6, 2020



9,350 people are talking about this



The acting deputy secretary of Homeland Security just read a headline:



**Acting Deputy Secretary Ken Cuccinelli** ✓  
@HomelandKen



The headline is true. I didn't read the rest of it...[buzzfeednews.com/article/hameda...](https://buzzfeednews.com/article/hameda...)



**The Trump Administration Will Begin Deporting Asy...**

It's an expansion of a controversial plan to stop the flow of refugees and immigrants to the US southern border.

[buzzfeednews.com](https://buzzfeednews.com)

♥ 564 11:48 PM - Jan 6, 2020



💬 443 people are talking about this



And a New York House Democrat got a pup:





**Elaine Godfrey** ✓  
@elainejgodfrey



WELL @AOC got a dog, and he's good



144 1:22 AM - Jan 7, 2020 · Washington, DC



31 people are talking about this



**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** “In any other country, Joe Biden and I would not be in the same party, but in America, we are,” Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) told [New York Magazine](#).

**VIDEOS OF THE DAY:**

The president made 179 factual claims at his longest rally to date. Our Fact Checker team found that 67 percent were false or unsupported by evidence:



Anatomy of a Trump rally: 67 percent of claims are false or lacking evidence

Stephen Colbert was a bit on edge during his first monologue of the year:



Seth Meyers joked that it didn't take that long for 2020 to become the worst year:



Trevor Noah noted that Trump backed out of his new year's resolution very quickly:



"The Daily Show" joked that Trump may be clairvoyant:



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# GREENWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**GREENWIRE — Tue., January 7, 2020**

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### **Environmental justice concerns halt major pipeline permit**

Federal judges have vacated a permit for constructing an Atlantic Coast pipeline compressor station, dealing another setback to the embattled natural gas project and an environmental justice win for local opponents of the project.

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#### **Region 5 chief stepping down**

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### 4. INTERIOR:

#### **Grijalva, Bernhardt spat intensifies over BLM HQ move**

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### 6. EPA:

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### 7. FEDERAL WORKFORCE:

#### **Government announces early closure**

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**Fishermen ask for shipping highways through wind farms**

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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Mike Bloomberg wants more engagement with Iran, North Korea and China  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 9:45:03 AM

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

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## Mike Bloomberg wants more engagement with Iran, North Korea and China



Mike Bloomberg visits a coffee shop in Richmond on Tuesday. (Steve Helber/AP)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: Mike Bloomberg thinks that maybe “an emergency phone” line should be installed so that Iranian and American officials can easily get in touch, like the red teletype hotline that connected the Pentagon with the Kremlin after the Cuban missile crisis. This, he hopes, could avoid misunderstandings that might lead to full-scale war.**

The billionaire former mayor of New York, running for the Democratic presidential nomination, believes broadly in the value of engaging with American adversaries. “We should talk to the North Koreans. I think [President] Trump is right on that,” Bloomberg said during a half-hour

interview last night. “We need China,” he added.

Bloomberg called to discuss [the economic plan](#) that he will roll out today at a community college in the South Side of Chicago, on a soybean farm in rural Minnesota and at a converted tire factory in Akron, Ohio.

But he grew most animated when discussing World War I. When I asked how he’d handle the current Iran crisis if he were in the Oval Office, Bloomberg mused at length about the “emotion” and “miscalculations” a century ago in Europe that spiraled into a four-year conflict, bringing down monarchies and forever changing the nature of combat. He said the best book he’s read in a while is “[Catastrophe 1914: Europe Goes to War](#),” by the British journalist Max Hastings.

Bloomberg noted that most wars start over something relatively minor before spiraling out of control. “You read history, which I gather he has not done,” said the 77-year-old, referring to the president. “All of a sudden the small thing blows up.”

He recalled the Winston Churchill quote that “meeting jaw to jaw is better than war.”

“That’s why we should talk to the North Koreans,” he said. “Yes, [Trump] hasn’t gotten them to stop developing weapons or anything, but I’d still rather have contact – and the same thing with China and the same thing with all of these countries.”

Bloomberg is running an [outside-the-box campaign](#). He is not campaigning in the first four early states, but he’s building an unmatched field operation in the states that vote on Super Tuesday in



March and beyond, hoping that he can emerge from a crowded field as an electable alternative to more liberal candidates who might emerge from the Iowa caucuses.

Just six weeks after joining the race, Bloomberg is fifth in the national [polling average](#), garnering about 6 percent among Democrats. He's hired more than [800 staffers](#), with 500 of them spread across field offices in more than 30 states. The effort has already spent [approximately](#) \$150 million on television and radio commercials – and [another](#) \$20 million or so on Facebook and Google ads.



Iraqi Kurdish security forces visit site of Iran missile strike

**We spoke around the time Iran [launched](#) ballistic missiles toward two bases in Iraq that house U.S. troops but before the Pentagon confirmed the strikes and gave word that there were no casualties.** “I don't know if this goes any further,” Bloomberg said. “I don't know what comes out of this. I can't read the tea leaves to know about tomorrow. But I do know that if you're making irresponsible

decisions, the likelihood of bad and even calamitous results grows.”

Referring to the drone strike that killed Quds Force Commander Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani in Baghdad, which prompted Iran’s retaliation, Bloomberg added: “Nobody should feel sorry for the guy that was killed. He was a bad guy who killed a lot of Americans. Two presidents before President Trump looked at the opportunity to kill the guy and decided not to. ... We don't know what the intelligence is or was, and that will come out eventually. ... The problem, to me, is that we have a president who tends to make decisions irrationally and impulsively and recklessly. I don't know that he isn't doing that this time.”

Bloomberg criticized Trump for marginalizing experts and [debasing the value of expertise](#), which has caused attrition among career professionals in the foreign service. “I know that staffs get annoying, but you do need them,” he said. “And any good businessperson, which Donald is not, ... would tell you that you don't make decisions alone. The board would throw you the hell out if that's what you said you did.”

When I noted that Bloomberg lacks the kind of traditional foreign policy experience of someone like Joe Biden, who spent 35 years in the Senate and then eight years as vice president, he emphasized not just that [he was mayor](#) of “the most international city in the world” – as home to the United Nations – but highlighted his overseas business interests.

“My company does business in almost every country in the world,” he said. “We don’t do business with Iran or North Korea or Yemen, I think, but fundamentally we do business in virtually every country. In

terms of experience, internationally, I think I know what I'm doing.”

Bloomberg said the State Department’s job is “building relationships and having backdoor conversations so that we don't make a mistake and misjudge what the other side is doing.” He likened the benefits from open channels of diplomacy to the plusses of open-office floor plans, which he said foster more collaboration and cut down on leaking when he was mayor. “I’m a big believer in things like seating plans and open plans and how you treat people,” he said. “That has enormous impact on how they behave.”

Forbes magazine pegs Bloomberg as the world’s ninth-richest person, with an [estimated](#) net worth of \$55.5 billion, and he’s set no cap for how much he’s willing to spend in the 2020 race. For example, he will spend [\\$10 million](#), pocket change for him, to air a 60-second spot during the Super Bowl. After Bloomberg’s campaign announced this yesterday, the Trump campaign let it be known that it too will spend that amount to run a commercial early in the game, the most-watched television event of the year.





Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney joined Bloomberg for his Tuesday campaign stop at a coffee shop in Virginia's capital. (Steve Helber/AP)

**Bloomberg emphasized that 95 percent of the delegates to the Democratic convention this summer will come from places other than the four early states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina that vote in February.**

“The other candidates, because of the system we have, think that winning one of those first early states will propel them into a world where they can then raise money and then go to the big states,” he said. “They don't have any choice, I suppose. They don't have the money. They have to show they are viable to get the money to be viable.”

**He's traveling aggressively to states that vote in March.** He landed in Virginia at 4 a.m. on Tuesday after a redevye on his private

jet from Los Angeles, where he had a late dinner after attending an opening for one of his 10 field offices in California. After visiting Richmond, he flew to New York in the afternoon. He dropped by his foundation's office to pick up mail, stopped by his house to drop off "a jacket that a button had come off" so it could be sewn back on, went to his corporate office to "sign a couple of papers" and then headed to his campaign headquarters, where he called me. He planned to leave home around 6 a.m. today for the flight to Illinois.

Bloomberg has met the polling threshold to appear in next week's Democratic debate in Des Moines, but the Democratic National Committee also requires that candidates raise money from at least 225,000 unique donors, including a minimum of 1,000 in at least 20 states. Bloomberg, however, is not accepting any donations.

**"My policy of not taking a dime from anybody shows a non-corruptibility that a lot of voters should want," he said.**

"Somebody said to me the other day, 'You're spending a lot of money.' And I said, 'Yes, I'm spending an enormous amount of money trying to get rid of Donald Trump. Now, do you want me to spend more or less?' And he laughed and said, 'Oh, I had just not thought about it that way. Go spend more!'"

Rivals like Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders routinely castigate Bloomberg by name, presenting him as an avatar for the outsize influence of the billionaire class in politics. **"It's an easy, cheap shot if you don't have any money to criticize people who do have money," he answered.** "But I'm spending my money to try to educate the voters and make this country better and to give me the opportunity to devote what would probably be the rest of my life to

helping the country that my children and grandchildren are going to live in long after I'm gone.”

Bloomberg, who unlike Trump is a self-made man, built his business empire, which employs about 20,000 people, around terminals that provide immense financial data. He also takes credit for creating half a million jobs in New York City during 12 years as mayor. While he may be freely spending his own money for this campaign, Bloomberg emphasized that he's trying to identify policies that won't drown the country deeper in red ink.

“What I want to do is to lay out concrete things that we can do – without a lot of money – that will make a difference, rather than just give a speech saying I think we should do something for the job market,” he said. “That's what the others are going to do, but they don't have any real experience in creating jobs.”



Mike Bloomberg gets a slice of Supino pizza as he opens a campaign office in Detroit on Dec. 21. (Jeff Kowalsky/AFP/Getty Images)

**During his Midwestern swing today, Bloomberg will [pledge to create millions of higher-paying jobs in places that he says have been “left behind” by Trump.](#) His proposals include raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour, funding more public-private partnerships so that 1 million students can earn apprenticeship degrees by 2030, expanding national collective bargaining rights, piloting programs to provide more portable benefits for independent workers in the gig economy and expanding rural broadband access.**

Bloomberg has been outspoken in his criticism of Trump’s tariffs on Chinese exports, which led to retaliatory tariffs against American imports. China is the biggest market for American soybeans, and farmers like those hosting Bloomberg today in Wells, Minn., have suffered because of the trade war.

But Bloomberg’s company also has [significant financial interests](#) in China. He was criticized for saying during a September television interview, amid the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong and China’s ongoing repression of Muslim minorities, that President Xi Jinping “is not a dictator.” Xi, he explained, “has to satisfy his constituents or he’s not going to survive.”

**When I asked about his relationship with Beijing last night, Bloomberg said that “every U.S. businessperson and every big company has no choice but to deal with them.”**

“China is a big market for American products like soybeans,” he said. “I would recommend that you read [a story in today's New York Times.](#)”

I know it's a competitor, but you should read the story about who's actually paying the tariffs. It's virtually 100 percent the American consumer, not the Chinese.”

Bloomberg added that there are “complex” issues at play. “I have tried to urge the Chinese to adopt more democratic, with a small ‘d,’ policies,” he said. “On human rights, I think some of the things that they do are a disgrace. But we need China, if for no other reason, than to save this planet because of climate change. You cannot solve the problem without China. ... For us to walk away from China and have a battle with them when we need them to do something that's going to be in not just our interest, but our salvation, that doesn't make a lot of sense to me.”

**At the end of our interview, Bloomberg reiterated his suggestion to read “Catastrophe 1914,” [the book about World War I](#).** “I know who won, but I won't spoil it for you,” he joked.

Lamenting the punitiveness of the Treaty of Versailles that ended the war, as well as the influenza pandemic after the armistice, Bloomberg said he's thought through various counterfactuals. “If we'd had Harry Truman with the Marshall Plan, we probably wouldn't have had a second war,” he said.

He also recalled walking around the trenches at the Somme battlefield during a trip to France. “Remember, the allies never set foot on German soil,” he said. “I've always thought that was one of the reasons the German military didn't care so much about stopping Hitler. Deep down inside, they thought they got sold out. Now, history would probably say when the Americans were coming in,



[surrendering] was the right thing to do. You would have gotten massacred.”



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Trump on Soleimani: 'His past was horrible'

## THE LATEST ON IRAN:

-- The more than a dozen ballistic missiles that Iran launched last night targeted two Iraqi bases housing American military personnel. [Karen DeYoung](#), [Paul Sonne](#) and [Dan Lamothe](#) report: "The president, meeting late Tuesday night with his senior national security advisers at the White House, issued his initial response on Twitter and struck a less bellicose tone. He suggested but stopped short of saying that there were no initial reports of U.S. casualties. 'All is well! Missiles launched from Iran at two military bases located in Iraq. Assessment of casualties & damages taking place now. So far, so good!' Trump wrote. 'We have the most powerful and well equipped military anywhere in the world, by far! I will be making a statement tomorrow morning.' ...

"House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), among several congressional leaders notified of the Iranian action in telephone calls

from Vice President Pence, said on Twitter, 'We must ensure the safety of our servicemembers, including ending needless provocations from the Administration and demanding that Iran cease its violence. America & world cannot afford war.' ... **The strikes, which took place near dawn in Iraq, were initially announced by Iranian media, which called them 'the first step . . . in revenge' for the killing of Soleimani. ...**

**“An IRGC statement broadcast on state television warned that any further American action would bring ‘a painful response’ ...** It also threatened other countries housing U.S. bases, saying that they, too, would be hit with ‘revenge’ operations if any U.S. strikes were launched from them. ... In using ballistic missiles, Iran relied on what the Defense Department considers one of its core capabilities. In a briefing held in November, a senior analyst focused on Iran told reporters at the Pentagon that the missiles constituted a primary component of Tehran’s strategic deterrent.”

**-- One of the two bases attacked, Irbil, is a major hub for U.S. and coalition military activity in Iraq. [Erin Cunningham, Adam Taylor and Michael Brice-Saddler report](#): “Many U.S. forces pass through Irbil on their way in and out of a network of much smaller bases in Syria. During the peak of the campaign against the Islamic State in Iraq, military officials also oversaw a major battle in the nearby city of Mosul from Irbil. The city, like most of Iraqi Kurdistan, has been considered safer for U.S. personnel than other parts of Iraq.”**

**-- A Ukrainian passenger jet with more than 170 people on board crashed in Iran shortly after takeoff from the Tehran airport, killing all aboard. [Isabelle Khurshudyan, Erin Cunningham and](#)**

[Sarah Dadouch report](#): “In the aftermath of the crash, Ukraine has banned all flights from Iranian air space, a move also taken by several other countries in light of the rising tensions between Iran and U.S. forces in the region. The Boeing 737 likely crashed due to technical difficulties, Iranian state media quoted Ali Kahshani, a senior public relations official at the airport, as saying. Ukraine’s embassy in Iran at first concurred, issuing a statement ruling out terrorism, but then took it down without explanation. A later statement from the embassy said that a commission is investigating the causes of the crash, and that ‘any statements about the causes of the accident before the decision of the Commission are not official.’ ...

**“The aircraft involved in Wednesday’s incident, a Boeing 737-800, was three years old and purchased from the manufacturer as new by Ukraine International Airlines, the carrier said in a statement.** It had its last routine technical maintenance on Monday. A flight-data recorder from the plane has been recovered. ... Though the Boeing 737-800 has not been flagged for issues, the newer 737 Max was grounded worldwide last year after the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines flight on March 10.”

**-- The Trump administration insisted the U.S. military would remain in Iraq, setting up a conflict with senior Iraqi officials, who want an immediate withdrawal.** [Dan Lamothe, Mustafa Salim and Liz Sly report](#): “Trump, speaking at the White House, said that withdrawing the estimated 5,000 U.S. troops would be the ‘worst thing to happen to Iraq.’ ‘At some point, we want to get out,’ Trump said. ‘But this isn’t the right point.’ ... The chaos has been highlighted by the reaction in Baghdad to a letter sent by a senior U.S. commander

to Iraqi officials Monday. The document suggested that the United States may be preparing to withdraw its troops. ... Iraqi officials said Tuesday that they are interpreting the letter as notification that U.S. troops will leave. Acting prime minister Adel Abdul Mahdi said the document 'was clear' and expressed exasperation with conflicting U.S. signals. ... Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper, speaking at the Pentagon, dismissed the letter as 'a draft' that 'has no value,' and he insinuated that its release to the public in Iraq may have had ulterior motives."

-- **Some NATO troops are beginning to leave Iraq.** [From the New York Times](#): "NATO is removing some of the trainers who have been working with Iraqi soldiers battling the Islamic State. ... The NATO secretary general, Jens Stoltenberg, announced on Monday that the training had been temporarily suspended."

## Iranian ballistic missile ranges

Iran's arsenal of ballistic missiles can reach up to 2,000 kilometers (more than 1,200 miles). According to the Defense Intelligence Agency, the country has a substantial amount of close- and medium-range missiles at their disposal.



Source: Defense Intelligence Agency

THE WASHINGTON POST

-- The White House stumbled in its initial public response to

**Soleimani's killing.** [David Nakamura](#) and [Josh Dawsey](#) report:

“Trump and his top advisers have refused to provide details of what prompted the decision to strike and offered conflicting accounts over whether Soleimani was coordinating imminent attacks on U.S.

facilities in the Middle East. The lack of clear information continued

late Tuesday in Washington, after Iran said it retaliated for Soleimani's

death with missile attacks on military bases in Iraq. The White House announced Trump would make no public remarks in response Tuesday night, nor would any other senior administration officials. Hours later, Trump tweeted that he would address the nation Wednesday morning. ... Previously, Trump had caused an international uproar after threatening to attack dozens of Iranian cultural sites — only to retreat Tuesday following statements from his defense secretary and other officials dismissing such actions as illegal.

**"Vice President Pence is preparing a speech slated for next week on Iran policy, one official said, in an attempt to provide a more cohesive explanation of the president's strategy.** The flurry of events has led to a sense of confusion in the White House and a lack of clarity around a highly sensitive operation that the administrations of his two predecessors, Barack Obama and George W. Bush, had chosen not to take due to risks that it could spark a regional war."

**-- All quiet on White House front Tuesday night? "At the White House, where the president assembled his relatively skeletal war Cabinet after nightfall, there was a vacuum of information.**

Officials were tight-lipped and bleary-eyed. The press secretary did not answer questions, only briefly ducking out of her office a bit before 9 p.m. to head home for the evening. A presidential address was considered but not delivered. Trump's Twitter feed, often a pulsating applause meter during live events, at first stayed frozen in time," [report](#) Phil Rucker, Ashley Parker and Josh Dawsey. **"For a few hours, at least, with the United States at the dangerous precipice of a hot war with Iran, there was an outward appearance of calm**

**at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. — or at least quiet."**

**-- Which is it? Some senior administration officials argue Soleimani was killed as retaliation for increasing Iranian aggression, while others insist without evidence the aim was to avert an "imminent" threat.** [Karoun Demirjian, Karen DeYoung and Shane Harris report](#): "At one end of the spectrum, national security adviser Robert O'Brien argued on 'Fox & Friends' that [Trump] authorized eliminating Soleimani because the Iranian general and his allies 'were looking to kill American diplomats and soldiers in significant numbers in the coming days.' But in comments before reporters at the State Department, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pointed to Iran's past behavior as justification, arguing that 'the days that led up to the strike' were what made the response urgent — and that the 'continuing efforts on behalf of this terrorist to build out a network of campaign activities that were going to lead potentially to the death of many more Americans' were an additional concern. Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper split the difference, noting that there was 'exquisite intelligence' — a term of significance in spy circles — indicating that Soleimani was 'conducting preparing, planning military operations' akin to the 'terrorist activities' he had been pursuing against the United States for more than two decades.

**"While some nuance is common when interpreting intelligence, the mixed messaging among Trump's top advisers ... is potentially problematic for senior officials as they begin to brief lawmakers who remain divided over the operation. ... According to Esper, only the Gang of Eight will receive the 'exquisite intelligence that ... was one of the factors that led to the decision**



**to strike at Soleimani.'** Gang of Eight lawmakers who attended the Tuesday briefing with intelligence leaders refused to comment on what they heard. But in the intelligence community, the term 'exquisite' is often applied to satellites or other highly classified reconnaissance systems that provide detailed information, including the words an individual spoke or the person's precise movements. Esper's choice of words suggested the U.S. could have intercepted communications or other intelligence that he believes revealed Soleimani's intentions."

**-- House Democrats may not vote this week, after all, on a war powers resolution after Iran's attack on U.S. assets.** [Politico reports](#) that the prospect of intensifying conflict in the region, and the unwillingness of Republicans to break with the president, complicates the timing: "House Democrats say they are likely to pause, if not abandon, their plans for a war powers resolution. ... In a private meeting, some Democrats pushed to add a measure from Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.) that would defund any U.S. military action against Iran without first receiving congressional approval ... Moderate Democrats had their own reservations about the whole exercise, and are unwilling to draft a resolution that would hamstring the military in its response to future attacks. ... Some progressives, meanwhile, were looking to go even further. Two lawmakers, [Rep. Barbara] Lee [D-Calif.] and Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), had been pushing their own version of a war powers resolution over the weekend."

**-- Trump has cited the death of an American defense contractor as a reason for the missile strikes against Iraqi militias he ordered last month. The man has been identified as an**

**interpreter who was born in Iraq and lived in Sacramento.** [Aaron C. Davis reports](#): “Nawres Hamid, 33, became a naturalized citizen in 2017, according to his widow. He was the father of two boys, ages 2 and 8, she said. In recent years, as an Arabic interpreter for U.S. forces in Iraq, Hamid was known to decorate his living space with pictures of the children, according to a co-worker. Hamid was killed on Dec. 27 when U.S. authorities say an Iranian-backed militia fired rockets at a military base near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk. The attack, which injured several coalition troops, prompted Trump to order missile strikes against Iraqi militias. ... Hamid’s death has been a rallying cry for Trump.”

**-- Trump's reelection campaign is already running ads on Facebook touting Suleimani’s death.** [From the Times](#): “Thanks to the swift actions of our commander in chief, Iranian General Qassem Soleimani is no longer a threat to the United States, or to the world,” several of the Trump ads read, using an alternate spelling of the Iranian general’s name. Some featured pictures of a beaming Mr. Trump from one of his campaign rallies; others showed a stoic, finger-waving president, also in front of supporters. The ads asked voters to take the ‘Official Trump Military Survey,’ directing users to Mr. Trump’s re-election campaign website. All told, the Trump campaign has run nearly 800 distinct Facebook ads about the killing of General Suleimani, according to Acronym, a progressive digital strategy group.”

**-- Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) canceled a campaign fundraiser in D.C. in light of the Iran developments.** Klobuchar said she was “closely monitoring what is happening in Iraq” and backed out of the

event that was to be held at the home of a former Yale classmate.  
([Washington Examiner](#))

**-- Rudy Giuliani — and his old Iranian clients — are cheering Soleimani’s death.** [From the Daily Beast](#): “The former New York City mayor has had a long-standing interest in Iranian affairs. He was once paid by organizations linked to an Iranian dissident group formally designated by the U.S. government as a terrorist organization—until Giuliani helped get the outfit off the terror list. As recently as the summer of 2018, Giuliani appeared on stage at an event for the People's Mojahedin of Iran, known by its Farsi acronym, MEK. He’s stayed in touch with the group’s U.S. lobbyists, meeting with representatives of its political arm as recently as last fall. And when Trump authorized the strike that killed [Soleimani], Giuliani jubilantly referred to the MEK in the first person. Soleimani was ‘directly responsible for killing some of my MEK people,’ he (said) in an interview on Monday afternoon. ‘We don’t like him very much.’”

**-- Mike Pompeo ordered U.S. diplomats to limit any contact with Iranian opposition groups, including MEK, which has paid thousands of dollars in speaking fees to former national security adviser John Bolton in addition to retaining Giuliani.** [From Bloomberg News](#): “The directive about Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, its offshoot, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, and five other groups was delivered in a cable sent to all U.S. diplomatic outposts on Tuesday. ... It says meetings with the groups could jeopardize U.S. diplomacy with Iran. ... But it provoked displeasure from some Iran hawks, who argued the U.S. should be encouraging contacts with such groups, not discouraging them.”

**-- Saudi authorities are warning of a powerful and destructive cyberattack launched on Dec. 29 that experts have tied to Iran.**

**From Yahoo News:** “Officials in Riyadh, who nicknamed the malware ‘Dustman,’ did not directly attribute the malicious attack to Iran, according to a Saudi technical report. ... However, according to experts who reviewed the technical report and analyzed possible motivation and similarities to past attacks, Tehran is the most likely culprit. The ‘wiper’ attack, which was identified by the Saudi National Cybersecurity Authority, used malware to erase digital data belonging to unidentified targets in the Middle East.”

**-- Joe Biden, facing scrutiny of his foreign policy record, sharpened his criticism of Trump’s “incompetence” on Iran. Matt**

**Viser reports:** “Biden, blasting [Trump] as ‘dangerously incompetent’ for his handling of the crisis with Iran, said Trump’s ‘impulsive decision’ to order the killing of a top military official from that country put the United States at risk of greater international conflict. ... Biden’s comments were striking for someone who has spent much of his political career with a reputation as a foreign policy expert who has often embraced American use of power in the world. As a senator, he voted in 2002 to authorize the use of force in Iraq — a vote that has become a point of contention in the Democratic race as Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) presents himself as the true antiwar candidate in tune with rising public skepticism of drawn-out military intervention. ... Biden’s toughened rhetoric on Trump and Iran on Tuesday seemed designed to present Biden with a more nuanced position — more sharply critical of Trump’s decision than his previous comments but not as black-and-white as Sanders’s stance.”

-- **Fox News's Tucker Carlson has become one of Trump's most vocal critics on Iran.** [Kayla Epstein reports](#): "Carlson has used his namesake show to criticize Trump, his military leaders and high-ranking foreign policy officials for their decision to strike. On Friday, the conservative pundit criticized 'chest-beaters' for 'making the usual warlike noises.' On Monday, he questioned why conservatives who were long suspicious of the military and intelligence community were suddenly trusting them on Iran. Carlson is not the only critic of Trump's decision, but he is one of the loudest voices on the right. ... When Carlson broke with Trump on the issue of Iran, viewers, critics and Twitter observers took notice. 'These anti-war segments from Tucker Carlson don't mean he's good now,' former Barack Obama spokesman and 'Pod Save America' host Tommy Vietor tweeted."

-- **Commentary from the opinion page:**

- [Leon Panetta](#), former defense secretary and CIA director: "Trump is facing the greatest test of his presidency."
- [Dana Milbank](#): "Trump to America: Impeachment and war are none of your business."
- [Molly Roberts](#): "The terrible honesty of World War III memes."
- [Helaine Olen](#): "Money for war, but not for the poor."
- [Marc A. Thiessen](#): "Reagan would have been proud of Trump's Iran strike."
- [Sen. James M. Inhofe \(R-Okla.\)](#), chairman of the Armed Services Committee: "Iran cannot afford an all-out war."

- [Alexandra Petri](#): “This is a draft version of this column that was circulated by mistake.”



McConnell says he has votes to begin impeachment trial

## THE INVESTIGATIONS:

-- After Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) announced that he had enough votes to proceed with Trump’s impeachment trial without reaching an agreement on witnesses with Democrats, Nancy Pelosi said the impeachment articles still won’t go to the Senate until she learns more about how the trial would be conducted. [Felicia Sonmez](#), [Colby Itkowitz](#), [John Wagner](#) and [Seung Min Kim](#) report: “In a letter to Democratic lawmakers Tuesday night, Pelosi hinted that she would not submit the articles nor tap House impeachment managers — who will effectively serve as the prosecution in the Senate — until McConnell publicly releases the legislation that would detail the parameters and procedures for the trial. ‘Sadly, Leader McConnell has made clear that his loyalty is to the

President and not the Constitution,' Pelosi wrote in the letter to colleagues. 'Leader McConnell has insisted that the approach under consideration is identical to those of the Clinton trial and that 'fair is fair.' This is simply not true. This process is not only unfair but designed to deprive Senators and the American people of crucial documents and testimony. Under the Clinton trial, witnesses were deposed.'"

**-- In his announcement, McConnell said he has the votes to begin the trial in the format that he and most of his members have long envisioned: opening arguments for both the House impeachment managers and Trump's defense team, as well as time for senators to submit questions in writing.** [Seung Min Kim, Mike DeBonis and Rachael Bade report](#): "Under the majority leader's plan, a decision on whether to call witnesses would be made once that first phase of the trial is over — a move announced Tuesday to put the pressure back on Pelosi amid simmering frustration from GOP senators over the speaker's delay in sending the articles. That echoes the format of President [Bill] Clinton's trial 21 years ago, and McConnell has been able to persuade his members that Trump should be treated in the same fashion as Clinton.

**"Asked if he could guarantee witnesses will be called, McConnell said that matter would be discussed after the Senate votes to proceed — not before.** 'The way it works, at the risk of being redundant, is that 51 senators determine what we do, and there will be, I'm sure, an intense discussion . . . about the whole witness issue,' McConnell said. 'The people calling the witnesses won't necessarily be us; it will be the prosecution or the defense.' ... Pelosi's refusal to

transmit the articles ... has also spurred a number of Republican senators to craft legislation and strategize about how they could begin the trial without the House's blessing. But **McConnell, speaking privately to his members, made clear that he would not make any moves on a trial until the articles had been formally transmitted.**"

-- **Federal prosecutors said former national security adviser Michael Flynn deserves to serve up to six months in prison, reversing their earlier recommendation that he should get probation after his attacks on the FBI and the Justice Department.** [Spencer S. Hsu and Rachel Weiner report](#): "The government revoked its request for leniency weeks after Flynn's sentencing judge categorically rejected Flynn's claims of prosecutorial misconduct and that he had been duped into pleading guilty to lying to FBI agents about his Russian contacts after the 2016 U.S. election. ... Flynn faces sentencing Jan. 28 before U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan in Washington. Flynn defense attorney Sidney Powell is scheduled to file his sentencing request Jan. 22. ... Flynn, 61, pleaded guilty Dec. 1, 2017, to lying about his communications with then-Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak during the presidential transition, becoming the highest-ranking Trump official charged and one of the first to cooperate with Mueller's office."

-- **A panel of judges ruled that a defamation lawsuit, alleging Trump sexually assaulted a former "Apprentice" contestant more than a decade ago, can be heard by New York's highest state court.** [Joshua Partlow reports](#): "The decision by an appellate division of the New York Supreme Court granted Trump's legal team's request



to have the case heard by the New York Court of Appeals. Trump's team has argued that he should not be subject to actions in state courts while he is in the White House. **Trump had been scheduled to give a deposition by Jan. 31, but that is now on hold.** A statement from the firm of Trump's lawyer, Marc Kasowitz, said, 'we are pleased' about the decision. The defamation lawsuit was brought by Summer Zervos. ... Her case has been moving slowly through the New York courts and could potentially be decided before the 2020 election."

**-- A major donor to Trump's inaugural committee intends to plead guilty to obstruction of justice after federal prosecutors filed a new charge alleging that the investor backdated a check and deleted emails to hinder an investigation into where he got money he ultimately gave to the committee.** [Matt Zapotosky reports](#): "Imaad Zuberi — a venture capitalist who gave significant money to Democrats and Republicans over the years — was accused by federal prosecutors in New York of trying to hide from investigators that a \$900,000 donation he made to Trump's inaugural committee was actually funded by others, court records show. Zuberi already had pleaded guilty last year in federal court in Los Angeles to an array of charges stemming from a lobbying scheme in which he arranged illegal campaign contributions, hid his work from the government and cheated on his taxes. David Kelley, Zuberi's attorney, said he had reached an agreement with federal prosecutors in New York to transfer the new matter to Los Angeles, where Zuberi intends to plead guilty. Provided the arrangement is approved by the court, he would presumably be sentenced on the West Coast in connection with both matters."

-- Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) will resign from Congress effective Jan. 13, more than a month after he pleaded guilty in federal court to misusing campaign funds. [Felicia Sonmez and Mike DeBonis report](#): “The six-term congressman is scheduled to be sentenced in March. He faces a maximum of five years in prison, although he is expected to serve less than one year. Hunter and his wife, Margaret, were charged in August 2018 with using more than \$250,000 in campaign funds to pay for personal expenses including family vacations, theater tickets and school tuition. ... Days after his guilty plea last month, the California Republican announced that he would resign from Congress ‘shortly after the holidays.’ **The move meant he would collect one last full government paycheck**, as House members get paid on the last business day of each month.”



Strong earthquake leaves widespread blackout, damage in Puerto Rico

**DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

**-- Powerful earthquakes in Puerto Rico have left the already fragile territory in a blackout with reports of injuries and at least one death.** [Cristina Corujo, Arelis R. Hernández and Samantha Schmidt report](#): “Powerful earthquakes this week, including a major 6.4-magnitude temblor early Tuesday morning, triggered widespread power outages and damage, leaving an already fragile Puerto Rico reeling once again. Schools, homes and churches along the southern coastline crumbled. Hospitals evacuated patients. A signature tourist attraction collapsed into the sea. At least one person died, crushed by a wall that toppled in his home. Tuesday's earthquake followed a 5.8-magnitude quake on Monday and was among numerous seismic events along an underwater fault line in recent days. All of them sent shock waves across the U.S. territory amid fears that further tremors could knock out key infrastructure. ... Gov. Wanda Vázquez Garced declared a state of emergency Tuesday and said authorities were evaluating the damage and inspecting Puerto Rico's power generation plants — all of which are located along the southern coast near the origin of the seismic activity. She also told government employees to stay home, as more aftershocks are expected. ...

**“U.S. Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), who chairs the committee that oversees U.S. territories including Puerto Rico, urged the Trump administration to release remaining federal disaster recovery funds from Hurricane Maria and deliver new aid quickly.** ‘The Trump administration’s indifference and incompetence have already cost residents of Puerto Rico their lives and their livelihoods, and continuing that pattern now is completely unacceptable,’ Grijalva said in a statement. ‘I urge this administration to remember that lives are at stake and the public is watching.’”

**-- Mexicans seeking refuge in the United States to escape violence in their homeland fear even worse dangers if they are sent to Guatemala under a new Trump administration plan to crack down on asylum seekers.** [From Reuters](#): “It was unclear when the United States would begin sending Mexicans to Guatemala. The Mexican government estimated that 900 Mexican asylum seekers could be affected from February, without giving a timeframe or explaining how it reached that number. Mexicans who say their homes are unsafe due to drug gang extortion said the policy leaves them few options. ‘I can’t go home, they’ve already kidnapped my brother and son,’ said Carlos, a Mexican seeking to reach the United States via the border city of Tijuana. He said he had fled criminal gangs in the southwestern state of Guerrero. ‘They’re after me. If I go back they’re sure to kill me. If I’m not safe in Mexico, I’ll be even less safe in Guatemala,’ he said, requesting his last name be withheld for security reasons. ... Sitting in a chilly camp in Ciudad Juarez, one woman from the state of Zacatecas, who declined to give her name, said she was trying to reach the United States because she had family there, and would be safe. **‘I’m not going because of the American dream, I’m going and taking my kids because we need security, we need safety,’** she said in tears, describing how she had fled a job as a scientist in a laboratory after she starting being followed and receiving phone threats. She described the new policy as pressure aimed at making people like her give up her asylum claim.”

**-- The Los Angeles Police Department suspended more than a dozen officers after a boy was wrongly labeled a gang member.** [From the New York Times](#): “The Los Angeles Police

Department opened an investigation early last year, when a mother in the San Fernando Valley approached a local police station to tell officers about a letter she had received saying that her son, a minor, had been identified as a gang member. She told a supervisor that he had been mislabeled, the Police Department said in a statement on Tuesday. ... When the supervisor reviewed body camera footage and car recordings, they did not match the documentation completed by an officer, according to the department. Over the following months, the investigation grew to encompass more than a dozen officers in the elite metro division who were suspected of misrepresenting information in field interview cards, the Police Department said. ... But the issues with incorrectly labeling people gang members extend far beyond falsifying field notes, according to Sean Garcia-Leys, a lawyer at the Urban Peace Institute. He said he had had dozens of clients over the past two years who had been wrongly added to CalGang.”

**-- The cancer death rate in the United States fell 2.2 percent in 2017 – the biggest one-year drop ever – propelled by gains against lung cancer, the American Cancer Society said. Laurie McGinley reports:** “Declines in the mortality rate for lung cancer have accelerated in recent years in response to new treatments and falling smoking rates, said Rebecca Siegel, lead author of Cancer Statistics 2020. ... Because lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths, accounting for 1 in 4, any change in the mortality rate has a large effect on the overall cancer death rate, Siegel noted. She described the gains against lung cancer, and against another often deadly cancer, melanoma, as ‘exciting.’ But, she added, ‘the news this year is mixed’ because of slower progress against colorectal, breast and prostate cancers.”

-- In an internal post, Facebook executive Andrew Bosworth said the company was responsible for Trump's 2016 victory and that it may help him win again this year. But he argued executives must resist the temptation to make changes that could alter the course of legitimate political debate. [Craig Timberg and Nitasha Tiku report](#): "The post ... reflected the combination of anguish, defensiveness and brash self-confidence that many of the company's employees have more privately expressed in the difficult aftermath of Trump's unexpected victory. Bosworth's post also shed light on the thinking within the company's highest levels as it heads into a new election year amid controversies over its reluctance to police lies by politicians or limit their ability to narrowly target small groups of voters. Critics have said that addressing both issues is key to helping stanch the flood of disinformation on the platform. ...

**"Bosworth dismissed the idea that Russian efforts to manipulate U.S. voters over Facebook, a subject of extensive government investigation and journalistic scrutiny, were crucial to Trump's victory.** Bosworth, who shared his post publicly after the New York Times published it, also played down the importance of the use of Facebook data by the political consultancy Cambridge Analytica, which worked for the Trump campaign and boasted of its ability to target ads using psychological profiles of voters derived from their social media posts. **Rather, said Bosworth, who ran advertising at Facebook for several years, Trump 'got elected because he ran the single best digital ad campaign I've ever seen from any advertiser. Period.'** Bosworth, a self-proclaimed liberal who donated heavily to 2016 Democratic Party nominee Hillary Clinton, particularly

praised Trump's leading digital-advertising adviser in 2016, Brad Parscale, who is now managing Trump's reelection campaign. ...

**"Citing J.R.R.'s Tolkien 'Lord of the Rings' epic, Bosworth also expressed serious concern about the possible corrupting influence of Facebook's power, comparing it to the ring carried by the hobbit Frodo Baggins. 'I find myself thinking of the Lord of the Rings at this moment. Specifically when Frodo offers the ring to Galadrial and she imagines using the power righteously, at first, but knows it will eventually corrupt her. As tempting as it is to use the tools available to us to change the outcome, I am confident we must never do that or we will become that which we fear,' [he wrote]."**

**-- Ivanka Trump's keynote address at CES — one of the world's largest technology conferences — sparked backlash. [Cat Zakrzewski reports](#):** "The first daughter's keynote speech at CES made a pitch for programs that would help blue-collar workers keep pace with a rapidly evolving economy and addressed strategies to re-skill workers, develop apprenticeships and invest in science and technology education programs. Trump has focused on workforce development in her work as adviser to the president, and she serves with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross as the co-chair of the National Council for the American Worker. ... Inside the room, her comments drew applause. But the inclusion of Trump in the speaker lineup sparked some backlash in the tech industry, as critics said there are women with more technical experience who are better qualified to speak there. Hundreds of people have tweeted #boycottCES since the conference organizers announced Trump would speak at the show late last month, including on Tuesday. Some were particularly critical

because the conference drew widespread criticism in both 2017 and 2018 for failing to bring in female keynote speakers, part of a longer track record.”

**-- The Supreme Court ordered the Trump administration and states challenging Obamacare to respond by Friday to an appeal filed by defenders of the health-care law.** [From NBC News](#): “Such a highly abbreviated timeline — the rules normally allow a month for filing a response — gives the court the option to take up the case during its current term, which would mean a ruling on a contentious issue this spring, just as the presidential campaign heats up. Nineteen blue states, led by California, asked the Supreme Court last week for a quick decision on whether to take the case. They’re appealing last month’s ruling by a federal appeals court that said Obamacare’s individual mandate is unconstitutional and that the rest of the law cannot survive without it.”

**-- Harvey Weinstein was threatened with jail for repeatedly using his cellphone while in court during the second day of his New York trial on sexual assault charges.** [From CNN](#): “At the beginning of court proceedings in New York, Judge James Burke raised his voice and reprimanded Weinstein and his defense team, specifically Arthur Aidala, for Weinstein’s use of his cell phones. ‘He was calling and texting a minute ago,’ Burke said to the defense team. Weinstein said, ‘I’m sorry’ and hung his head at one point. Donna Rotunno, another defense attorney, said she was not aware. ‘He was aware,’ the judge replied. Burke said this was an ‘ongoing issue’ and referenced warnings at previous hearings. He said he warned Aidala explicitly in ‘somewhat unrefined terms’ about Weinstein’s cell phone.



Finally, he said that if Weinstein uses his cell phone in court one more time he will be taken into custody. 'Mr. Aidala, this is on you if he blows it,' Burke said."

**-- The Secret Service is investigating yet another incident at Trump's Mar-a-Lago club.** [From the Miami Herald](#): "Palm Beach police say they are conducting an 'open and active criminal investigation' at the club. ...The Secret Service is leading the investigation and no arrest has been made, according to the Palm Beach Police Department. 'During an encounter with local law enforcement, an individual made non-threatening statements about a person under Secret Service protection,' a law enforcement official with knowledge of the incident told the Miami Herald. 'As part of standard practice, Palm Beach police contacted the local Secret Service office.'"

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

As the situation with Iran escalates, it is worth remembering that many key positions in the administration remain unfilled:



**Garrett M. Graff**   
@vermontgmg



Reminder that as this crisis escalates, we have no Director of National Intelligence, no Dep Dir, no Homeland Security Secretary, no Dep Sec, no head of CBP or ICE, no State Dept Under Sec of Arms Control, no Asst Sec for Europe, and no Navy Sec.

 61K 12:15 AM - Jan 8, 2020



 39.5K people are talking about this



Trump met with representatives of the Saudi government:



**Josh Dawsey** ✓

@jdawsey1



white house did not announce or readout this meeting.  
[twitter.com/kbsalsaud/stat...](https://twitter.com/kbsalsaud/stat...)

**Khalid bin Salman خالد بن سلمان** ✓ @kbsalsaud

Upon directives from HRH the Crown Prince, I had the pleasure of meeting with @realDonaldTrump yesterday to deliver a message from the Crown Prince, and review aspects of our bilateral cooperation, including efforts to confront regional and international challenges.



♥ 8,864 3:31 PM - Jan 7, 2020



💬 5,095 people are talking about this



Flashback:



**southpaw**

@nycsouthpaw




“Khalid [bin Salman] told [Jamal] Khashoggi, a contributing columnist to The Washington Post, that he should go to the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul to retrieve the documents and gave him assurances that it would be

the documents and gave him assurances that it would be safe to do so." [washingtonpost.com/world/national...](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/cia-concludes-saudi-crown-prince-ordered-jamal-khashoggi-killing-2018-12-17/)  
[twitter.com/kbsalsaud/stat...](https://twitter.com/kbsalsaud/status/1234567890)



**CIA concludes Saudi crown prince ordered Jamal Kh...**

Audio recordings, intercepted phone calls and other intelligence link Mohammed bin Salman to killing that  
[washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com)

**Khalid bin Salman خالد بن سلمان**  @kbsalsaud

Upon directives from HRH the Crown Prince, I had the pleasure of meeting with @realDonaldTrump yesterday to deliver a message from the Crown Prince, and review aspects of our bilateral cooperation, including efforts to confront regional and international challenges.



♡ 1,296 4:19 PM - Jan 7, 2020



894 people are talking about this



When Trump eventually tweeted about the meeting, he made no mention of Jamal Khashoggi:

**David Corn**   @DavidCornDC 

So nothing was said about Jamal Khashoggi--and his brutal murder by the Saudi government? Not a shocker. [twitter.com/realDonaldTrump...](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump...)

**Donald J. Trump**  @realDonaldTrump

Had a very good meeting with @kbsalsaud of Saudi Arabia. We discussed Trade, Military, Oil Prices, Security, and Stability in the Middle East!

 1,885  7:07 PM - Jan 7, 2020 

559 people are talking about this 

The U.N.'s agency for culture appeared to subtweet Trump:



UNESCO  
@UNESCO



This is what is left of the Great Mosque of Aleppo, Syria.  
It was one of the oldest in the world.

Nothing, we repeat, NOTHING, can justify the destruction  
of cultural heritage.

We must ALWAYS #ProtectHeritage.

[on.unesco.org/2n7T3lk](https://on.unesco.org/2n7T3lk)



♡ 362 5:00 AM - Jan 8, 2020



💬 188 people are talking about this



An Iranian official tweeted his nation's flag just after the strikes,  
mirroring Trump, who tweeted the U.S. flag after Soleimani was killed:



Geraldo Rivera said he was going to speak out against Iran escalation on Sean Hannity's show, but then he got bumped:



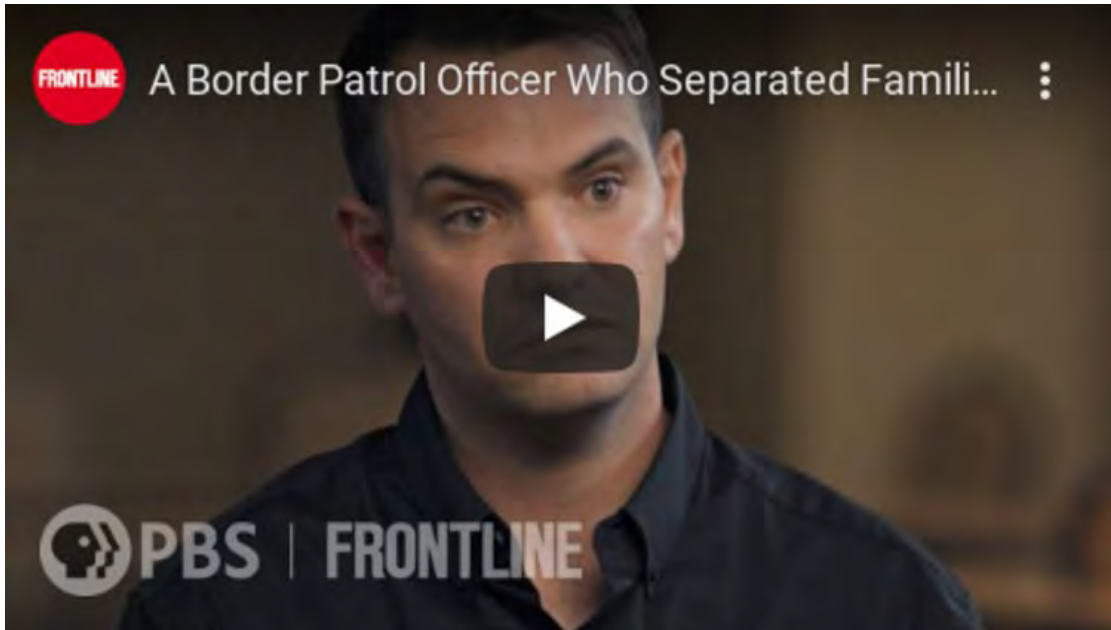
### QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Nazis didn't fall out of the sky in January '33. That movement is rooted in German history, and you can trace those roots back into the 19th century, and you can see a lot of strands coming together. That's true of the moment we live in. It didn't just happen yesterday or last year," Holocaust Museum director Sara Bloomfield said on the warning signs of fascism. ([Rachel Manteuffel](#))

### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

A Border Patrol officer described what it was like to separate migrant children from their parents in a Frontline documentary:





This is what 2020 candidates have said about the escalating tensions with Iran:



2020 candidates speak out against escalating tensions with Iran

Trump once said he likes to obey the law, but Stephen Colbert said he isn't so sure about that:



Seth Meyers moderated a “debate” between some 2020 Democratic candidates:



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**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Mike Bloomberg wants more engagement with Iran, North Korea and China  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 9:46:12 AM

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## Mike Bloomberg wants more engagement with Iran, North Korea and China



Mike Bloomberg visits a coffee shop in Richmond on Tuesday. (Steve Helber/AP)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: Mike Bloomberg thinks that maybe “an emergency phone” line should be installed so that Iranian and American officials can easily get in touch, like the red teletype hotline that connected the Pentagon with the Kremlin after the Cuban missile crisis. This, he hopes, could avoid misunderstandings that might lead to full-scale war.**

The billionaire former mayor of New York, running for the Democratic presidential nomination, believes broadly in the value of engaging with American adversaries. “We should talk to the North Koreans. I think [President] Trump is right on that,” Bloomberg said during a half-hour

interview last night. “We need China,” he added.

Bloomberg called to discuss [the economic plan](#) that he will roll out today at a community college in the South Side of Chicago, on a soybean farm in rural Minnesota and at a converted tire factory in Akron, Ohio.

But he grew most animated when discussing World War I. When I asked how he’d handle the current Iran crisis if he were in the Oval Office, Bloomberg mused at length about the “emotion” and “miscalculations” a century ago in Europe that spiraled into a four-year conflict, bringing down monarchies and forever changing the nature of combat. He said the best book he’s read in a while is “[Catastrophe 1914: Europe Goes to War](#),” by the British journalist Max Hastings.

Bloomberg noted that most wars start over something relatively minor before spiraling out of control. “You read history, which I gather he has not done,” said the 77-year-old, referring to the president. “All of a sudden the small thing blows up.”

He recalled the Winston Churchill quote that “meeting jaw to jaw is better than war.”

“That’s why we should talk to the North Koreans,” he said. “Yes, [Trump] hasn’t gotten them to stop developing weapons or anything, but I’d still rather have contact – and the same thing with China and the same thing with all of these countries.”

Bloomberg is running an [outside-the-box campaign](#). He is not campaigning in the first four early states, but he’s building an unmatched field operation in the states that vote on Super Tuesday in

March and beyond, hoping that he can emerge from a crowded field as an electable alternative to more liberal candidates who might emerge from the Iowa caucuses.

Just six weeks after joining the race, Bloomberg is fifth in the national [polling average](#), garnering about 6 percent among Democrats. He's hired more than [800 staffers](#), with 500 of them spread across field offices in more than 30 states. The effort has already spent [approximately](#) \$150 million on television and radio commercials – and [another](#) \$20 million or so on Facebook and Google ads.



Iraqi Kurdish security forces visit site of Iran missile strike

**We spoke around the time Iran [launched](#) ballistic missiles toward two bases in Iraq that house U.S. troops but before the Pentagon confirmed the strikes and gave word that there were no casualties.** “I don't know if this goes any further,” Bloomberg said. “I don't know what comes out of this. I can't read the tea leaves to know about tomorrow. But I do know that if you're making irresponsible

decisions, the likelihood of bad and even calamitous results grows.”

Referring to the drone strike that killed Quds Force Commander Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani in Baghdad, which prompted Iran’s retaliation, Bloomberg added: “Nobody should feel sorry for the guy that was killed. He was a bad guy who killed a lot of Americans. Two presidents before President Trump looked at the opportunity to kill the guy and decided not to. ... We don't know what the intelligence is or was, and that will come out eventually. ... The problem, to me, is that we have a president who tends to make decisions irrationally and impulsively and recklessly. I don't know that he isn't doing that this time.”

Bloomberg criticized Trump for marginalizing experts and [debasing the value of expertise](#), which has caused attrition among career professionals in the foreign service. “I know that staffs get annoying, but you do need them,” he said. “And any good businessperson, which Donald is not, ... would tell you that you don't make decisions alone. The board would throw you the hell out if that's what you said you did.”

When I noted that Bloomberg lacks the kind of traditional foreign policy experience of someone like Joe Biden, who spent 35 years in the Senate and then eight years as vice president, he emphasized not just that [he was mayor](#) of “the most international city in the world” – as home to the United Nations – but highlighted his overseas business interests.

“My company does business in almost every country in the world,” he said. “We don’t do business with Iran or North Korea or Yemen, I think, but fundamentally we do business in virtually every country. In



terms of experience, internationally, I think I know what I'm doing.”

Bloomberg said the State Department’s job is “building relationships and having backdoor conversations so that we don't make a mistake and misjudge what the other side is doing.” He likened the benefits from open channels of diplomacy to the plusses of open-office floor plans, which he said foster more collaboration and cut down on leaking when he was mayor. “I’m a big believer in things like seating plans and open plans and how you treat people,” he said. “That has enormous impact on how they behave.”

Forbes magazine pegs Bloomberg as the world’s ninth-richest person, with an [estimated](#) net worth of \$55.5 billion, and he’s set no cap for how much he’s willing to spend in the 2020 race. For example, he will spend [\\$10 million](#), pocket change for him, to air a 60-second spot during the Super Bowl. After Bloomberg’s campaign announced this yesterday, the Trump campaign let it be known that it too will spend that amount to run a commercial early in the game, the most-watched television event of the year.





Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney joined Bloomberg for his Tuesday campaign stop at a coffee shop in Virginia's capital. (Steve Helber/AP)

**Bloomberg emphasized that 95 percent of the delegates to the Democratic convention this summer will come from places other than the four early states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina that vote in February.**

“The other candidates, because of the system we have, think that winning one of those first early states will propel them into a world where they can then raise money and then go to the big states,” he said. “They don't have any choice, I suppose. They don't have the money. They have to show they are viable to get the money to be viable.”

**He's traveling aggressively to states that vote in March.** He landed in Virginia at 4 a.m. on Tuesday after a redevye on his private

jet from Los Angeles, where he had a late dinner after attending an opening for one of his 10 field offices in California. After visiting Richmond, he flew to New York in the afternoon. He dropped by his foundation's office to pick up mail, stopped by his house to drop off "a jacket that a button had come off" so it could be sewn back on, went to his corporate office to "sign a couple of papers" and then headed to his campaign headquarters, where he called me. He planned to leave home around 6 a.m. today for the flight to Illinois.

Bloomberg has met the polling threshold to appear in next week's Democratic debate in Des Moines, but the Democratic National Committee also requires that candidates raise money from at least 225,000 unique donors, including a minimum of 1,000 in at least 20 states. Bloomberg, however, is not accepting any donations.

**"My policy of not taking a dime from anybody shows a non-corruptibility that a lot of voters should want," he said.**

"Somebody said to me the other day, 'You're spending a lot of money.' And I said, 'Yes, I'm spending an enormous amount of money trying to get rid of Donald Trump. Now, do you want me to spend more or less?' And he laughed and said, 'Oh, I had just not thought about it that way. Go spend more!'"

Rivals like Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders routinely castigate Bloomberg by name, presenting him as an avatar for the outsize influence of the billionaire class in politics. **"It's an easy, cheap shot if you don't have any money to criticize people who do have money," he answered.** "But I'm spending my money to try to educate the voters and make this country better and to give me the opportunity to devote what would probably be the rest of my life to

helping the country that my children and grandchildren are going to live in long after I'm gone.”

Bloomberg, who unlike Trump is a self-made man, built his business empire, which employs about 20,000 people, around terminals that provide immense financial data. He also takes credit for creating half a million jobs in New York City during 12 years as mayor. While he may be freely spending his own money for this campaign, Bloomberg emphasized that he's trying to identify policies that won't drown the country deeper in red ink.

“What I want to do is to lay out concrete things that we can do – without a lot of money – that will make a difference, rather than just give a speech saying I think we should do something for the job market,” he said. “That's what the others are going to do, but they don't have any real experience in creating jobs.”



Mike Bloomberg gets a slice of Supino pizza as he opens a campaign office in Detroit on Dec. 21. (Jeff Kowalsky/AFP/Getty Images)

**During his Midwestern swing today, Bloomberg will [pledge to create millions of higher-paying jobs in places that he says have been “left behind” by Trump.](#) His proposals include raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour, funding more public-private partnerships so that 1 million students can earn apprenticeship degrees by 2030, expanding national collective bargaining rights, piloting programs to provide more portable benefits for independent workers in the gig economy and expanding rural broadband access.**

Bloomberg has been outspoken in his criticism of Trump’s tariffs on Chinese exports, which led to retaliatory tariffs against American imports. China is the biggest market for American soybeans, and farmers like those hosting Bloomberg today in Wells, Minn., have suffered because of the trade war.

But Bloomberg’s company also has [significant financial interests](#) in China. He was criticized for saying during a September television interview, amid the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong and China’s ongoing repression of Muslim minorities, that President Xi Jinping “is not a dictator.” Xi, he explained, “has to satisfy his constituents or he’s not going to survive.”

**When I asked about his relationship with Beijing last night, Bloomberg said that “every U.S. businessperson and every big company has no choice but to deal with them.”**

“China is a big market for American products like soybeans,” he said. “I would recommend that you read [a story in today's New York Times.](#)”

I know it's a competitor, but you should read the story about who's actually paying the tariffs. It's virtually 100 percent the American consumer, not the Chinese.”

Bloomberg added that there are “complex” issues at play. “I have tried to urge the Chinese to adopt more democratic, with a small ‘d,’ policies,” he said. “On human rights, I think some of the things that they do are a disgrace. But we need China, if for no other reason, than to save this planet because of climate change. You cannot solve the problem without China. ... For us to walk away from China and have a battle with them when we need them to do something that's going to be in not just our interest, but our salvation, that doesn't make a lot of sense to me.”

**At the end of our interview, Bloomberg reiterated his suggestion to read “Catastrophe 1914,” [the book about World War I](#).** “I know who won, but I won't spoil it for you,” he joked.

Lamenting the punitiveness of the Treaty of Versailles that ended the war, as well as the influenza pandemic after the armistice, Bloomberg said he's thought through various counterfactuals. “If we'd had Harry Truman with the Marshall Plan, we probably wouldn't have had a second war,” he said.

He also recalled walking around the trenches at the Somme battlefield during a trip to France. “Remember, the allies never set foot on German soil,” he said. “I've always thought that was one of the reasons the German military didn't care so much about stopping Hitler. Deep down inside, they thought they got sold out. Now, history would probably say when the Americans were coming in,

[surrendering] was the right thing to do. You would have gotten massacred.”



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Trump on Soleimani: 'His past was horrible'

## THE LATEST ON IRAN:

-- The more than a dozen ballistic missiles that Iran launched last night targeted two Iraqi bases housing American military personnel. [Karen DeYoung](#), [Paul Sonne](#) and [Dan Lamothe](#) report: "The president, meeting late Tuesday night with his senior national security advisers at the White House, issued his initial response on Twitter and struck a less bellicose tone. He suggested but stopped short of saying that there were no initial reports of U.S. casualties. 'All is well! Missiles launched from Iran at two military bases located in Iraq. Assessment of casualties & damages taking place now. So far, so good!' Trump wrote. 'We have the most powerful and well equipped military anywhere in the world, by far! I will be making a statement tomorrow morning.' ...

"House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), among several congressional leaders notified of the Iranian action in telephone calls



from Vice President Pence, said on Twitter, 'We must ensure the safety of our servicemembers, including ending needless provocations from the Administration and demanding that Iran cease its violence. America & world cannot afford war.' ... **The strikes, which took place near dawn in Iraq, were initially announced by Iranian media, which called them 'the first step . . . in revenge' for the killing of Soleimani. ...**

**“An IRGC statement broadcast on state television warned that any further American action would bring ‘a painful response’ ...** It also threatened other countries housing U.S. bases, saying that they, too, would be hit with ‘revenge’ operations if any U.S. strikes were launched from them. ... In using ballistic missiles, Iran relied on what the Defense Department considers one of its core capabilities. In a briefing held in November, a senior analyst focused on Iran told reporters at the Pentagon that the missiles constituted a primary component of Tehran’s strategic deterrent.”

**-- One of the two bases attacked, Irbil, is a major hub for U.S. and coalition military activity in Iraq.** [Erin Cunningham, Adam Taylor and Michael Brice-Saddler report](#): “Many U.S. forces pass through Irbil on their way in and out of a network of much smaller bases in Syria. During the peak of the campaign against the Islamic State in Iraq, military officials also oversaw a major battle in the nearby city of Mosul from Irbil. The city, like most of Iraqi Kurdistan, has been considered safer for U.S. personnel than other parts of Iraq.”

**-- A Ukrainian passenger jet with more than 170 people on board crashed in Iran shortly after takeoff from the Tehran airport, killing all aboard.** [Isabelle Khurshudyan, Erin Cunningham and](#)

[Sarah Dadouch report](#): “In the aftermath of the crash, Ukraine has banned all flights from Iranian air space, a move also taken by several other countries in light of the rising tensions between Iran and U.S. forces in the region. The Boeing 737 likely crashed due to technical difficulties, Iranian state media quoted Ali Kahshani, a senior public relations official at the airport, as saying. Ukraine’s embassy in Iran at first concurred, issuing a statement ruling out terrorism, but then took it down without explanation. A later statement from the embassy said that a commission is investigating the causes of the crash, and that ‘any statements about the causes of the accident before the decision of the Commission are not official.’ ...

**“The aircraft involved in Wednesday’s incident, a Boeing 737-800, was three years old and purchased from the manufacturer as new by Ukraine International Airlines, the carrier said in a statement.** It had its last routine technical maintenance on Monday. A flight-data recorder from the plane has been recovered. ... Though the Boeing 737-800 has not been flagged for issues, the newer 737 Max was grounded worldwide last year after the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines flight on March 10.”

**-- The Trump administration insisted the U.S. military would remain in Iraq, setting up a conflict with senior Iraqi officials, who want an immediate withdrawal.** [Dan Lamothe, Mustafa Salim and Liz Sly report](#): “Trump, speaking at the White House, said that withdrawing the estimated 5,000 U.S. troops would be the ‘worst thing to happen to Iraq.’ ‘At some point, we want to get out,’ Trump said. ‘But this isn’t the right point.’ ... The chaos has been highlighted by the reaction in Baghdad to a letter sent by a senior U.S. commander

to Iraqi officials Monday. The document suggested that the United States may be preparing to withdraw its troops. ... Iraqi officials said Tuesday that they are interpreting the letter as notification that U.S. troops will leave. Acting prime minister Adel Abdul Mahdi said the document 'was clear' and expressed exasperation with conflicting U.S. signals. ... Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper, speaking at the Pentagon, dismissed the letter as 'a draft' that 'has no value,' and he insinuated that its release to the public in Iraq may have had ulterior motives."

-- **Some NATO troops are beginning to leave Iraq.** [From the New York Times](#): "NATO is removing some of the trainers who have been working with Iraqi soldiers battling the Islamic State. ... The NATO secretary general, Jens Stoltenberg, announced on Monday that the training had been temporarily suspended."

## Iranian ballistic missile ranges

Iran's arsenal of ballistic missiles can reach up to 2,000 kilometers (more than 1,200 miles). According to the Defense Intelligence Agency, the country has a substantial amount of close- and medium-range missiles at their disposal.



Source: Defense Intelligence Agency

THE WASHINGTON POST

-- The White House stumbled in its initial public response to

**Soleimani's killing.** [David Nakamura](#) and [Josh Dawsey](#) report:

“Trump and his top advisers have refused to provide details of what prompted the decision to strike and offered conflicting accounts over whether Soleimani was coordinating imminent attacks on U.S.

facilities in the Middle East. The lack of clear information continued

late Tuesday in Washington, after Iran said it retaliated for Soleimani's

death with missile attacks on military bases in Iraq. The White House announced Trump would make no public remarks in response Tuesday night, nor would any other senior administration officials. Hours later, Trump tweeted that he would address the nation Wednesday morning. ... Previously, Trump had caused an international uproar after threatening to attack dozens of Iranian cultural sites — only to retreat Tuesday following statements from his defense secretary and other officials dismissing such actions as illegal.

**"Vice President Pence is preparing a speech slated for next week on Iran policy, one official said, in an attempt to provide a more cohesive explanation of the president's strategy.** The flurry of events has led to a sense of confusion in the White House and a lack of clarity around a highly sensitive operation that the administrations of his two predecessors, Barack Obama and George W. Bush, had chosen not to take due to risks that it could spark a regional war."

**-- All quiet on White House front Tuesday night? "At the White House, where the president assembled his relatively skeletal war Cabinet after nightfall, there was a vacuum of information.**

Officials were tight-lipped and bleary-eyed. The press secretary did not answer questions, only briefly ducking out of her office a bit before 9 p.m. to head home for the evening. A presidential address was considered but not delivered. Trump's Twitter feed, often a pulsating applause meter during live events, at first stayed frozen in time," [report](#) Phil Rucker, Ashley Parker and Josh Dawsey. **"For a few hours, at least, with the United States at the dangerous precipice of a hot war with Iran, there was an outward appearance of calm**

**at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. — or at least quiet."**

**-- Which is it? Some senior administration officials argue Soleimani was killed as retaliation for increasing Iranian aggression, while others insist without evidence the aim was to avert an "imminent" threat.** [Karoun Demirjian, Karen DeYoung and Shane Harris report](#): "At one end of the spectrum, national security adviser Robert O'Brien argued on 'Fox & Friends' that [Trump] authorized eliminating Soleimani because the Iranian general and his allies 'were looking to kill American diplomats and soldiers in significant numbers in the coming days.' But in comments before reporters at the State Department, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pointed to Iran's past behavior as justification, arguing that 'the days that led up to the strike' were what made the response urgent — and that the 'continuing efforts on behalf of this terrorist to build out a network of campaign activities that were going to lead potentially to the death of many more Americans' were an additional concern. Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper split the difference, noting that there was 'exquisite intelligence' — a term of significance in spy circles — indicating that Soleimani was 'conducting preparing, planning military operations' akin to the 'terrorist activities' he had been pursuing against the United States for more than two decades.

**"While some nuance is common when interpreting intelligence, the mixed messaging among Trump's top advisers ... is potentially problematic for senior officials as they begin to brief lawmakers who remain divided over the operation. ... According to Esper, only the Gang of Eight will receive the 'exquisite intelligence that ... was one of the factors that led to the decision**

**to strike at Soleimani.'** Gang of Eight lawmakers who attended the Tuesday briefing with intelligence leaders refused to comment on what they heard. But in the intelligence community, the term 'exquisite' is often applied to satellites or other highly classified reconnaissance systems that provide detailed information, including the words an individual spoke or the person's precise movements. Esper's choice of words suggested the U.S. could have intercepted communications or other intelligence that he believes revealed Soleimani's intentions."

**-- House Democrats may not vote this week, after all, on a war powers resolution after Iran's attack on U.S. assets.** [Politico reports](#) that the prospect of intensifying conflict in the region, and the unwillingness of Republicans to break with the president, complicates the timing: "House Democrats say they are likely to pause, if not abandon, their plans for a war powers resolution. ... In a private meeting, some Democrats pushed to add a measure from Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.) that would defund any U.S. military action against Iran without first receiving congressional approval ... Moderate Democrats had their own reservations about the whole exercise, and are unwilling to draft a resolution that would hamstring the military in its response to future attacks. ... Some progressives, meanwhile, were looking to go even further. Two lawmakers, [Rep. Barbara] Lee [D-Calif.] and Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), had been pushing their own version of a war powers resolution over the weekend."

**-- Trump has cited the death of an American defense contractor as a reason for the missile strikes against Iraqi militias he ordered last month. The man has been identified as an**

**interpreter who was born in Iraq and lived in Sacramento.** [Aaron C. Davis reports](#): “Nawres Hamid, 33, became a naturalized citizen in 2017, according to his widow. He was the father of two boys, ages 2 and 8, she said. In recent years, as an Arabic interpreter for U.S. forces in Iraq, Hamid was known to decorate his living space with pictures of the children, according to a co-worker. Hamid was killed on Dec. 27 when U.S. authorities say an Iranian-backed militia fired rockets at a military base near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk. The attack, which injured several coalition troops, prompted Trump to order missile strikes against Iraqi militias. ... Hamid’s death has been a rallying cry for Trump.”

**-- Trump's reelection campaign is already running ads on Facebook touting Suleimani’s death.** [From the Times](#): “Thanks to the swift actions of our commander in chief, Iranian General Qassem Soleimani is no longer a threat to the United States, or to the world,” several of the Trump ads read, using an alternate spelling of the Iranian general’s name. Some featured pictures of a beaming Mr. Trump from one of his campaign rallies; others showed a stoic, finger-waving president, also in front of supporters. The ads asked voters to take the ‘Official Trump Military Survey,’ directing users to Mr. Trump’s re-election campaign website. All told, the Trump campaign has run nearly 800 distinct Facebook ads about the killing of General Suleimani, according to Acronym, a progressive digital strategy group.”

**-- Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) canceled a campaign fundraiser in D.C. in light of the Iran developments.** Klobuchar said she was “closely monitoring what is happening in Iraq” and backed out of the



event that was to be held at the home of a former Yale classmate.  
([Washington Examiner](#))

**-- Rudy Giuliani — and his old Iranian clients — are cheering Soleimani’s death.** [From the Daily Beast](#): “The former New York City mayor has had a long-standing interest in Iranian affairs. He was once paid by organizations linked to an Iranian dissident group formally designated by the U.S. government as a terrorist organization—until Giuliani helped get the outfit off the terror list. As recently as the summer of 2018, Giuliani appeared on stage at an event for the People's Mojahedin of Iran, known by its Farsi acronym, MEK. He’s stayed in touch with the group’s U.S. lobbyists, meeting with representatives of its political arm as recently as last fall. And when Trump authorized the strike that killed [Soleimani], Giuliani jubilantly referred to the MEK in the first person. Soleimani was ‘directly responsible for killing some of my MEK people,’ he (said) in an interview on Monday afternoon. ‘We don’t like him very much.’”

**-- Mike Pompeo ordered U.S. diplomats to limit any contact with Iranian opposition groups, including MEK, which has paid thousands of dollars in speaking fees to former national security adviser John Bolton in addition to retaining Giuliani.** [From Bloomberg News](#): “The directive about Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, its offshoot, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, and five other groups was delivered in a cable sent to all U.S. diplomatic outposts on Tuesday. ... It says meetings with the groups could jeopardize U.S. diplomacy with Iran. ... But it provoked displeasure from some Iran hawks, who argued the U.S. should be encouraging contacts with such groups, not discouraging them.”

**-- Saudi authorities are warning of a powerful and destructive cyberattack launched on Dec. 29 that experts have tied to Iran.**

**From Yahoo News:** “Officials in Riyadh, who nicknamed the malware ‘Dustman,’ did not directly attribute the malicious attack to Iran, according to a Saudi technical report. ... However, according to experts who reviewed the technical report and analyzed possible motivation and similarities to past attacks, Tehran is the most likely culprit. The ‘wiper’ attack, which was identified by the Saudi National Cybersecurity Authority, used malware to erase digital data belonging to unidentified targets in the Middle East.”

**-- Joe Biden, facing scrutiny of his foreign policy record, sharpened his criticism of Trump’s “incompetence” on Iran. Matt**

**Viser reports:** “Biden, blasting [Trump] as ‘dangerously incompetent’ for his handling of the crisis with Iran, said Trump’s ‘impulsive decision’ to order the killing of a top military official from that country put the United States at risk of greater international conflict. ... Biden’s comments were striking for someone who has spent much of his political career with a reputation as a foreign policy expert who has often embraced American use of power in the world. As a senator, he voted in 2002 to authorize the use of force in Iraq — a vote that has become a point of contention in the Democratic race as Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) presents himself as the true antiwar candidate in tune with rising public skepticism of drawn-out military intervention. ... Biden’s toughened rhetoric on Trump and Iran on Tuesday seemed designed to present Biden with a more nuanced position — more sharply critical of Trump’s decision than his previous comments but not as black-and-white as Sanders’s stance.”

-- **Fox News's Tucker Carlson has become one of Trump's most vocal critics on Iran.** [Kayla Epstein reports](#): "Carlson has used his namesake show to criticize Trump, his military leaders and high-ranking foreign policy officials for their decision to strike. On Friday, the conservative pundit criticized 'chest-beaters' for 'making the usual warlike noises.' On Monday, he questioned why conservatives who were long suspicious of the military and intelligence community were suddenly trusting them on Iran. Carlson is not the only critic of Trump's decision, but he is one of the loudest voices on the right. ... When Carlson broke with Trump on the issue of Iran, viewers, critics and Twitter observers took notice. 'These anti-war segments from Tucker Carlson don't mean he's good now,' former Barack Obama spokesman and 'Pod Save America' host Tommy Vietor tweeted."

-- **Commentary from the opinion page:**

- [Leon Panetta](#), former defense secretary and CIA director: "Trump is facing the greatest test of his presidency."
- [Dana Milbank](#): "Trump to America: Impeachment and war are none of your business."
- [Molly Roberts](#): "The terrible honesty of World War III memes."
- [Helaine Olen](#): "Money for war, but not for the poor."
- [Marc A. Thiessen](#): "Reagan would have been proud of Trump's Iran strike."
- [Sen. James M. Inhofe \(R-Okla.\)](#), chairman of the Armed Services Committee: "Iran cannot afford an all-out war."

- [Alexandra Petri](#): “This is a draft version of this column that was circulated by mistake.”



McConnell says he has votes to begin impeachment trial

## THE INVESTIGATIONS:

-- After Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) announced that he had enough votes to proceed with Trump’s impeachment trial without reaching an agreement on witnesses with Democrats, Nancy Pelosi said the impeachment articles still won’t go to the Senate until she learns more about how the trial would be conducted. [Felicia Sonmez](#), [Colby Itkowitz](#), [John Wagner](#) and [Seung Min Kim](#) report: “In a letter to Democratic lawmakers Tuesday night, Pelosi hinted that she would not submit the articles nor tap House impeachment managers — who will effectively serve as the prosecution in the Senate — until McConnell publicly releases the legislation that would detail the parameters and procedures for the trial. ‘Sadly, Leader McConnell has made clear that his loyalty is to the

President and not the Constitution,' Pelosi wrote in the letter to colleagues. 'Leader McConnell has insisted that the approach under consideration is identical to those of the Clinton trial and that 'fair is fair.' This is simply not true. This process is not only unfair but designed to deprive Senators and the American people of crucial documents and testimony. Under the Clinton trial, witnesses were deposed.'"

**-- In his announcement, McConnell said he has the votes to begin the trial in the format that he and most of his members have long envisioned: opening arguments for both the House impeachment managers and Trump's defense team, as well as time for senators to submit questions in writing.** [Seung Min Kim, Mike DeBonis and Rachael Bade report](#): "Under the majority leader's plan, a decision on whether to call witnesses would be made once that first phase of the trial is over — a move announced Tuesday to put the pressure back on Pelosi amid simmering frustration from GOP senators over the speaker's delay in sending the articles. That echoes the format of President [Bill] Clinton's trial 21 years ago, and McConnell has been able to persuade his members that Trump should be treated in the same fashion as Clinton.

**"Asked if he could guarantee witnesses will be called, McConnell said that matter would be discussed after the Senate votes to proceed — not before.** 'The way it works, at the risk of being redundant, is that 51 senators determine what we do, and there will be, I'm sure, an intense discussion . . . about the whole witness issue,' McConnell said. 'The people calling the witnesses won't necessarily be us; it will be the prosecution or the defense.' ... Pelosi's refusal to

transmit the articles ... has also spurred a number of Republican senators to craft legislation and strategize about how they could begin the trial without the House's blessing. But **McConnell, speaking privately to his members, made clear that he would not make any moves on a trial until the articles had been formally transmitted.**"

-- **Federal prosecutors said former national security adviser Michael Flynn deserves to serve up to six months in prison, reversing their earlier recommendation that he should get probation after his attacks on the FBI and the Justice Department.** [Spencer S. Hsu and Rachel Weiner report](#): "The government revoked its request for leniency weeks after Flynn's sentencing judge categorically rejected Flynn's claims of prosecutorial misconduct and that he had been duped into pleading guilty to lying to FBI agents about his Russian contacts after the 2016 U.S. election. ... Flynn faces sentencing Jan. 28 before U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan in Washington. Flynn defense attorney Sidney Powell is scheduled to file his sentencing request Jan. 22. ... Flynn, 61, pleaded guilty Dec. 1, 2017, to lying about his communications with then-Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak during the presidential transition, becoming the highest-ranking Trump official charged and one of the first to cooperate with Mueller's office."

-- **A panel of judges ruled that a defamation lawsuit, alleging Trump sexually assaulted a former "Apprentice" contestant more than a decade ago, can be heard by New York's highest state court.** [Joshua Partlow reports](#): "The decision by an appellate division of the New York Supreme Court granted Trump's legal team's request

to have the case heard by the New York Court of Appeals. Trump's team has argued that he should not be subject to actions in state courts while he is in the White House. **Trump had been scheduled to give a deposition by Jan. 31, but that is now on hold.** A statement from the firm of Trump's lawyer, Marc Kasowitz, said, 'we are pleased' about the decision. The defamation lawsuit was brought by Summer Zervos. ... Her case has been moving slowly through the New York courts and could potentially be decided before the 2020 election."

**-- A major donor to Trump's inaugural committee intends to plead guilty to obstruction of justice after federal prosecutors filed a new charge alleging that the investor backdated a check and deleted emails to hinder an investigation into where he got money he ultimately gave to the committee.** [Matt Zapotosky reports](#): "Imaad Zuberi — a venture capitalist who gave significant money to Democrats and Republicans over the years — was accused by federal prosecutors in New York of trying to hide from investigators that a \$900,000 donation he made to Trump's inaugural committee was actually funded by others, court records show. Zuberi already had pleaded guilty last year in federal court in Los Angeles to an array of charges stemming from a lobbying scheme in which he arranged illegal campaign contributions, hid his work from the government and cheated on his taxes. David Kelley, Zuberi's attorney, said he had reached an agreement with federal prosecutors in New York to transfer the new matter to Los Angeles, where Zuberi intends to plead guilty. Provided the arrangement is approved by the court, he would presumably be sentenced on the West Coast in connection with both matters."

-- Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) will resign from Congress effective Jan. 13, more than a month after he pleaded guilty in federal court to misusing campaign funds. [Felicia Sonmez and Mike DeBonis report](#): “The six-term congressman is scheduled to be sentenced in March. He faces a maximum of five years in prison, although he is expected to serve less than one year. Hunter and his wife, Margaret, were charged in August 2018 with using more than \$250,000 in campaign funds to pay for personal expenses including family vacations, theater tickets and school tuition. ... Days after his guilty plea last month, the California Republican announced that he would resign from Congress ‘shortly after the holidays.’ **The move meant he would collect one last full government paycheck**, as House members get paid on the last business day of each month.”



Strong earthquake leaves widespread blackout, damage in Puerto Rico

**DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**



**-- Powerful earthquakes in Puerto Rico have left the already fragile territory in a blackout with reports of injuries and at least one death.** [Cristina Corujo, Arelis R. Hernández and Samantha Schmidt report](#): “Powerful earthquakes this week, including a major 6.4-magnitude temblor early Tuesday morning, triggered widespread power outages and damage, leaving an already fragile Puerto Rico reeling once again. Schools, homes and churches along the southern coastline crumbled. Hospitals evacuated patients. A signature tourist attraction collapsed into the sea. At least one person died, crushed by a wall that toppled in his home. Tuesday's earthquake followed a 5.8-magnitude quake on Monday and was among numerous seismic events along an underwater fault line in recent days. All of them sent shock waves across the U.S. territory amid fears that further tremors could knock out key infrastructure. ... Gov. Wanda Vázquez Garced declared a state of emergency Tuesday and said authorities were evaluating the damage and inspecting Puerto Rico's power generation plants — all of which are located along the southern coast near the origin of the seismic activity. She also told government employees to stay home, as more aftershocks are expected. ...

**“U.S. Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), who chairs the committee that oversees U.S. territories including Puerto Rico, urged the Trump administration to release remaining federal disaster recovery funds from Hurricane Maria and deliver new aid quickly.** ‘The Trump administration’s indifference and incompetence have already cost residents of Puerto Rico their lives and their livelihoods, and continuing that pattern now is completely unacceptable,’ Grijalva said in a statement. ‘I urge this administration to remember that lives are at stake and the public is watching.’”

**-- Mexicans seeking refuge in the United States to escape violence in their homeland fear even worse dangers if they are sent to Guatemala under a new Trump administration plan to crack down on asylum seekers.** [From Reuters](#): “It was unclear when the United States would begin sending Mexicans to Guatemala. The Mexican government estimated that 900 Mexican asylum seekers could be affected from February, without giving a timeframe or explaining how it reached that number. Mexicans who say their homes are unsafe due to drug gang extortion said the policy leaves them few options. ‘I can’t go home, they’ve already kidnapped my brother and son,’ said Carlos, a Mexican seeking to reach the United States via the border city of Tijuana. He said he had fled criminal gangs in the southwestern state of Guerrero. ‘They’re after me. If I go back they’re sure to kill me. If I’m not safe in Mexico, I’ll be even less safe in Guatemala,’ he said, requesting his last name be withheld for security reasons. ... Sitting in a chilly camp in Ciudad Juarez, one woman from the state of Zacatecas, who declined to give her name, said she was trying to reach the United States because she had family there, and would be safe. **‘I’m not going because of the American dream, I’m going and taking my kids because we need security, we need safety,’ she said in tears, describing how she had fled a job as a scientist in a laboratory after she starting being followed and receiving phone threats.** She described the new policy as pressure aimed at making people like her give up her asylum claim.”

**-- The Los Angeles Police Department suspended more than a dozen officers after a boy was wrongly labeled a gang member.** [From the New York Times](#): “The Los Angeles Police

Department opened an investigation early last year, when a mother in the San Fernando Valley approached a local police station to tell officers about a letter she had received saying that her son, a minor, had been identified as a gang member. She told a supervisor that he had been mislabeled, the Police Department said in a statement on Tuesday. ... When the supervisor reviewed body camera footage and car recordings, they did not match the documentation completed by an officer, according to the department. Over the following months, the investigation grew to encompass more than a dozen officers in the elite metro division who were suspected of misrepresenting information in field interview cards, the Police Department said. ... But the issues with incorrectly labeling people gang members extend far beyond falsifying field notes, according to Sean Garcia-Leys, a lawyer at the Urban Peace Institute. He said he had had dozens of clients over the past two years who had been wrongly added to CalGang.”

**-- The cancer death rate in the United States fell 2.2 percent in 2017 – the biggest one-year drop ever – propelled by gains against lung cancer, the American Cancer Society said. [Laurie McGinley reports](#):** “Declines in the mortality rate for lung cancer have accelerated in recent years in response to new treatments and falling smoking rates, said Rebecca Siegel, lead author of Cancer Statistics 2020. ... Because lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths, accounting for 1 in 4, any change in the mortality rate has a large effect on the overall cancer death rate, Siegel noted. She described the gains against lung cancer, and against another often deadly cancer, melanoma, as ‘exciting.’ But, she added, ‘the news this year is mixed’ because of slower progress against colorectal, breast and prostate cancers.”

-- In an internal post, Facebook executive Andrew Bosworth said the company was responsible for Trump's 2016 victory and that it may help him win again this year. But he argued executives must resist the temptation to make changes that could alter the course of legitimate political debate. [Craig Timberg and Nitasha Tiku report](#): "The post ... reflected the combination of anguish, defensiveness and brash self-confidence that many of the company's employees have more privately expressed in the difficult aftermath of Trump's unexpected victory. Bosworth's post also shed light on the thinking within the company's highest levels as it heads into a new election year amid controversies over its reluctance to police lies by politicians or limit their ability to narrowly target small groups of voters. Critics have said that addressing both issues is key to helping stanch the flood of disinformation on the platform. ...

**"Bosworth dismissed the idea that Russian efforts to manipulate U.S. voters over Facebook, a subject of extensive government investigation and journalistic scrutiny, were crucial to Trump's victory.** Bosworth, who shared his post publicly after the New York Times published it, also played down the importance of the use of Facebook data by the political consultancy Cambridge Analytica, which worked for the Trump campaign and boasted of its ability to target ads using psychological profiles of voters derived from their social media posts. **Rather, said Bosworth, who ran advertising at Facebook for several years, Trump 'got elected because he ran the single best digital ad campaign I've ever seen from any advertiser. Period.'** Bosworth, a self-proclaimed liberal who donated heavily to 2016 Democratic Party nominee Hillary Clinton, particularly

praised Trump's leading digital-advertising adviser in 2016, Brad Parscale, who is now managing Trump's reelection campaign. ...

**"Citing J.R.R.'s Tolkien 'Lord of the Rings' epic, Bosworth also expressed serious concern about the possible corrupting influence of Facebook's power, comparing it to the ring carried by the hobbit Frodo Baggins. 'I find myself thinking of the Lord of the Rings at this moment. Specifically when Frodo offers the ring to Galadrial and she imagines using the power righteously, at first, but knows it will eventually corrupt her. As tempting as it is to use the tools available to us to change the outcome, I am confident we must never do that or we will become that which we fear,' [he wrote]."**

**-- Ivanka Trump's keynote address at CES — one of the world's largest technology conferences — sparked backlash. [Cat Zakrzewski reports](#): "The first daughter's keynote speech at CES made a pitch for programs that would help blue-collar workers keep pace with a rapidly evolving economy and addressed strategies to re-skill workers, develop apprenticeships and invest in science and technology education programs. Trump has focused on workforce development in her work as adviser to the president, and she serves with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross as the co-chair of the National Council for the American Worker. ... Inside the room, her comments drew applause. But the inclusion of Trump in the speaker lineup sparked some backlash in the tech industry, as critics said there are women with more technical experience who are better qualified to speak there. Hundreds of people have tweeted #boycottCES since the conference organizers announced Trump would speak at the show late last month, including on Tuesday. Some were particularly critical**

because the conference drew widespread criticism in both 2017 and 2018 for failing to bring in female keynote speakers, part of a longer track record.”

**-- The Supreme Court ordered the Trump administration and states challenging Obamacare to respond by Friday to an appeal filed by defenders of the health-care law.** [From NBC News](#): “Such a highly abbreviated timeline — the rules normally allow a month for filing a response — gives the court the option to take up the case during its current term, which would mean a ruling on a contentious issue this spring, just as the presidential campaign heats up. Nineteen blue states, led by California, asked the Supreme Court last week for a quick decision on whether to take the case. They’re appealing last month’s ruling by a federal appeals court that said Obamacare’s individual mandate is unconstitutional and that the rest of the law cannot survive without it.”

**-- Harvey Weinstein was threatened with jail for repeatedly using his cellphone while in court during the second day of his New York trial on sexual assault charges.** [From CNN](#): “At the beginning of court proceedings in New York, Judge James Burke raised his voice and reprimanded Weinstein and his defense team, specifically Arthur Aidala, for Weinstein’s use of his cell phones. ‘He was calling and texting a minute ago,’ Burke said to the defense team. Weinstein said, ‘I’m sorry’ and hung his head at one point. Donna Rotunno, another defense attorney, said she was not aware. ‘He was aware,’ the judge replied. Burke said this was an ‘ongoing issue’ and referenced warnings at previous hearings. He said he warned Aidala explicitly in ‘somewhat unrefined terms’ about Weinstein’s cell phone.

Finally, he said that if Weinstein uses his cell phone in court one more time he will be taken into custody. 'Mr. Aidala, this is on you if he blows it,' Burke said."

**-- The Secret Service is investigating yet another incident at Trump's Mar-a-Lago club.** [From the Miami Herald](#): "Palm Beach police say they are conducting an 'open and active criminal investigation' at the club. ...The Secret Service is leading the investigation and no arrest has been made, according to the Palm Beach Police Department. 'During an encounter with local law enforcement, an individual made non-threatening statements about a person under Secret Service protection,' a law enforcement official with knowledge of the incident told the Miami Herald. 'As part of standard practice, Palm Beach police contacted the local Secret Service office.'"

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

As the situation with Iran escalates, it is worth remembering that many key positions in the administration remain unfilled:



**Garrett M. Graff**   
@vermontgmg



Reminder that as this crisis escalates, we have no Director of National Intelligence, no Dep Dir, no Homeland Security Secretary, no Dep Sec, no head of CBP or ICE, no State Dept Under Sec of Arms Control, no Asst Sec for Europe, and no Navy Sec.

 61K 12:15 AM - Jan 8, 2020



 39.5K people are talking about this



Trump met with representatives of the Saudi government:





**Josh Dawsey** ✓

@jdawsey1



white house did not announce or readout this meeting.  
[twitter.com/kbsalsaud/stat...](https://twitter.com/kbsalsaud/stat...)

**Khalid bin Salman خالد بن سلمان** ✓ @kbsalsaud

Upon directives from HRH the Crown Prince, I had the pleasure of meeting with @realDonaldTrump yesterday to deliver a message from the Crown Prince, and review aspects of our bilateral cooperation, including efforts to confront regional and international challenges.



♥ 8,864 3:31 PM - Jan 7, 2020



💬 5,095 people are talking about this



Flashback:



**southpaw**

@nycsouthpaw




"Khalid [bin Salman] told [Jamal] Khashoggi, a contributing columnist to The Washington Post, that he should go to the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul to retrieve the documents and gave him assurances that it would be

the documents and gave him assurances that it would be safe to do so." [washingtonpost.com/world/national...](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/cia-concludes-saudi-crown-prince-ordered-jamal-khashoggi-killing-2018-12-17/)  
[twitter.com/kbsalsaud/stat...](https://twitter.com/kbsalsaud/status/1300000000000000000)



**CIA concludes Saudi crown prince ordered Jamal Kh...**

Audio recordings, intercepted phone calls and other intelligence link Mohammed bin Salman to killing that  
[washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com)

**Khalid bin Salman خالد بن سلمان**  @kbsalsaud

Upon directives from HRH the Crown Prince, I had the pleasure of meeting with @realDonaldTrump yesterday to deliver a message from the Crown Prince, and review aspects of our bilateral cooperation, including efforts to confront regional and international challenges.



♡ 1,296 4:19 PM - Jan 7, 2020



894 people are talking about this



When Trump eventually tweeted about the meeting, he made no mention of Jamal Khashoggi:

**David Corn**    
@DavidCornDC 

So nothing was said about Jamal Khashoggi--and his brutal murder by the Saudi government? Not a shocker.  
[twitter.com/realDonaldTrump...](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump...)

**Donald J. Trump**  @realDonaldTrump  
Had a very good meeting with @kbsalsaud of Saudi Arabia. We discussed Trade, Military, Oil Prices, Security, and Stability in the Middle East!

 1,885  7:07 PM - Jan 7, 2020 

559 people are talking about this 

The U.N.'s agency for culture appeared to subtweet Trump:



UNESCO  
@UNESCO



This is what is left of the Great Mosque of Aleppo, Syria.  
It was one of the oldest in the world.

Nothing, we repeat, NOTHING, can justify the destruction  
of cultural heritage.

We must ALWAYS #ProtectHeritage.

[on.unesco.org/2n7T3lk](https://on.unesco.org/2n7T3lk)



♡ 362 5:00 AM - Jan 8, 2020



💬 188 people are talking about this



An Iranian official tweeted his nation's flag just after the strikes,  
mirroring Trump, who tweeted the U.S. flag after Soleimani was killed:



Geraldo Rivera said he was going to speak out against Iran escalation on Sean Hannity's show, but then he got bumped:

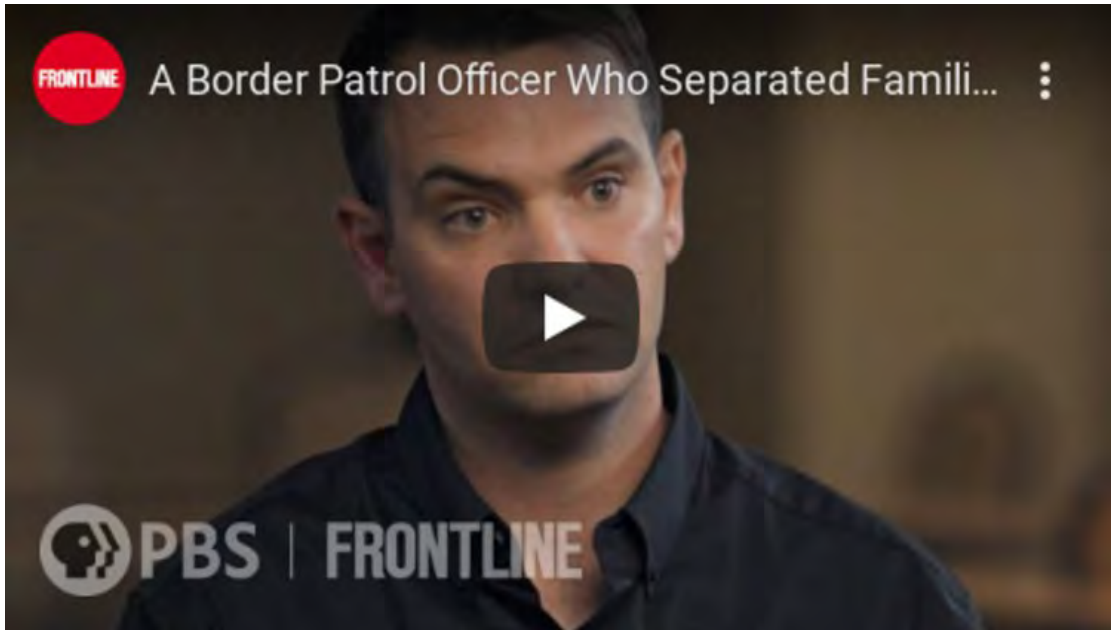


### QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Nazis didn't fall out of the sky in January '33. That movement is rooted in German history, and you can trace those roots back into the 19th century, and you can see a lot of strands coming together. That's true of the moment we live in. It didn't just happen yesterday or last year," Holocaust Museum director Sara Bloomfield said on the warning signs of fascism. ([Rachel Manteuffel](#))

### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

A Border Patrol officer described what it was like to separate migrant children from their parents in a Frontline documentary:



This is what 2020 candidates have said about the escalating tensions with Iran:



2020 candidates speak out against escalating tensions with Iran

Trump once said he likes to obey the law, but Stephen Colbert said he isn't so sure about that:



Seth Meyers moderated a “debate” between some 2020 Democratic candidates:



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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

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**The ghosts of 1979 still haunt U.S. policy toward Iran and shadow Trump's response to missile strikes**



Trump's full address to the nation on the Iran missile strikes



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: President Trump didn't just [dubiously](#) blame Barack Obama's nuclear deal for Iran's retaliatory missile strikes against U.S. targets in Iraq. In his televised address on Wednesday, he also implicitly criticized six of his predecessors for being too soft on Tehran.**

"For far too long, all the way back to 1979, to be exact, nations have tolerated Iran's destructive and destabilizing behavior in the Middle East and beyond," Trump said. "Those days are over."

This section of [Trump's speech](#) was overshadowed by his declaration that "Iran appears to be standing down." Because the scripted remarks were less bellicose than what the president had said in preceding days, and he is clearly looking for an offramp, pundits

emphasized the [conciliatory tone](#). Much of the cable commentary focused more on [the olive branch](#) – his stated desire to seek peace and de-escalation – than the stick, which was his announcement that the United States will impose stiffer sanctions until the regime changes its behavior.

**The past few weeks have brought a flood of references to 1979.** The Islamic revolution in Iran led to 52 Americans being taken hostage for 444 days at the U.S. embassy, torpedoing Jimmy Carter's reelection hopes the next year after that botched rescue operation. Many Americans of a certain age [experienced fears](#) of a redux when the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad was [surrounded](#) last week by Iran-backed militias, who pelted the fortress with rocks and flaming gasoline bombs before retreating.

**But the year 1979 turned out to be a critical juncture in geopolitical history for a host of other reasons.** The Soviets invaded Afghanistan, resulting in the quagmire that accelerated their consignment to the ash heap of history. Deng Xiaoping put China on a path to become a dominant world power. Margaret Thatcher's election as prime minister reoriented the United Kingdom. So much of the world as we know it today flows from events big and small that transpired 41 years ago.

**Unresolved loose ends stemming from the fall of the American-backed shah in 1979 fill the air like dark clouds over the relationship with Iran.** He was elevated after the United States helped orchestrate the 1953 coup to overthrow the democratically elected prime minister of Iran. The Persians remember this.

“The U.S. enmity toward Iran is not temporary. It’s inherent,” Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in his own televised address on Wednesday, telling his countrymen that they had delivered a slap in the face to the Americans. He added that there won’t be peace until the Americans withdraw from the Middle East. “It is a gross mistake to think if we took a step back and compromised, the United States would stop,” said Khamenei.



Iranian foreign minister: 'We did not start this process of escalation'

**-- The experiences of 1979 also indelibly shaped the worldviews of multiple generations of American leaders. Consider the case of Jim Mattis.** Mattis, who would become a famous general during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, was first deployed to the Middle East that year when he was a 28-year-old Marine. “Much of the security challenge we deal with today grew out of 1979,” Mattis wrote in [“Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead,”](#) his 2019 memoir. “When crises arose, American naval task forces were placed on alert and

sailed to the region of unrest. With the intelligence officers providing in-depth briefings, I had a ringside seat from which to observe how quickly flashpoints spread across the increasingly violent arena."

Mattis remembers sitting on an amphibious ship as Saudi Arabia eradicated a radical Sunni splinter group that had seized the Grand Mosque in Mecca that year and closely monitoring the developments in Afghanistan and Iran. "The United States was supporting Saudi Arabia's involvement in forming a counterweight to Soviet influence," he wrote. "The reverberations of these cataclysmic events were swiftly felt: within a year, Iraq President Saddam Hussein had launched an inconclusive eight-year war against Iran that would claim nearly a million lives."

**During his nearly two years as Trump's first secretary of defense, Mattis – a hawk himself – quietly checked Trump's most confrontational instincts.** He saw the 2015 nuclear agreement as a bad deal in many respects, but he tried unsuccessfully to convince Trump that it was better to stay in the deal than to tear it up. Mattis was clear-eyed about the threat posed by the Iranians, but he understood the risks of escalation.

In May 2017, Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen fired a ballistic missile at Riyadh as Trump was preparing to leave for Saudi Arabia on his first overseas trip as president. "The president pressed for options from the Pentagon, including striking Iranian missile factories or hitting Iranian speedboats that routinely harassed U.S. naval vessels, and a plan to kill [Qasem] Soleimani," Karen DeYoung reports [in today's newspaper](#). "When the Pentagon, under the leadership of [Mattis], demurred, the options were not pursued. ... Events leading to the

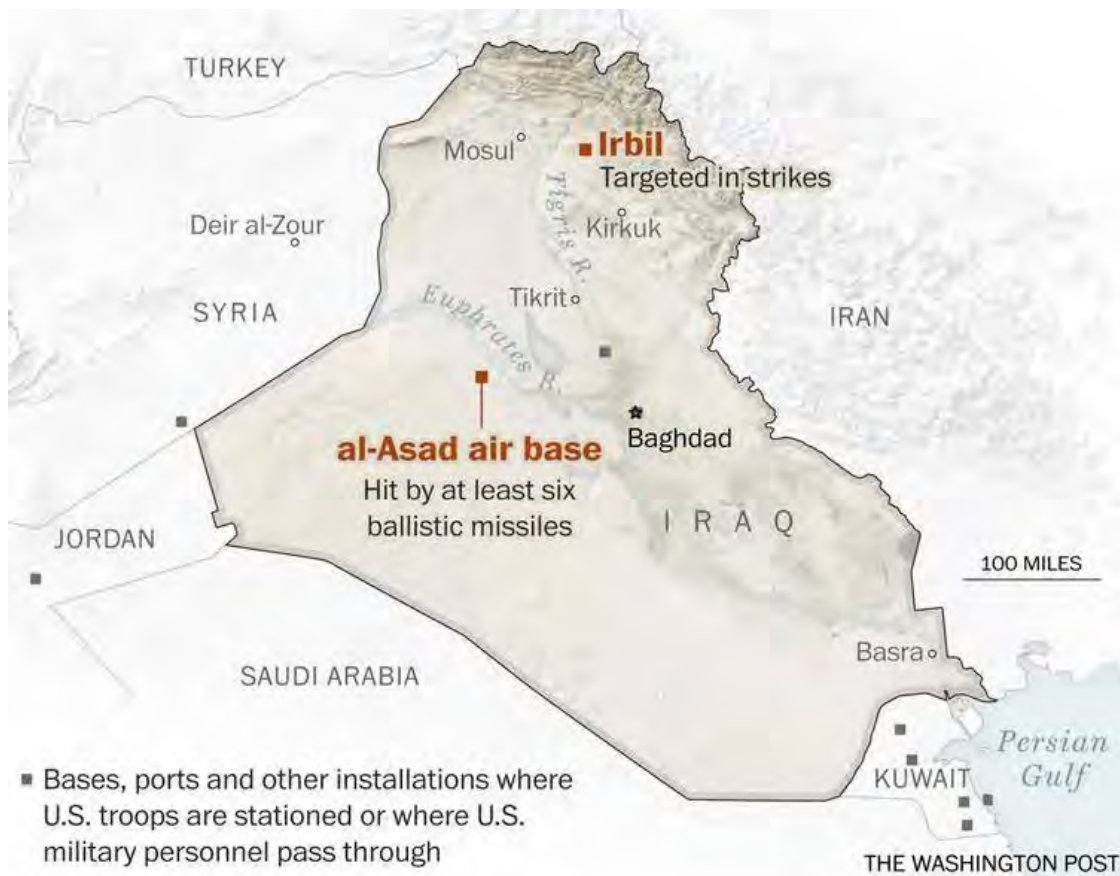
current crisis were not set in motion until May 2018, when Trump finally took action to withdraw the United States from the Iran nuclear deal.”

**One reason the Pentagon relented post-Mattis in its hesitation to take out Soleimani – and risk the fallout – is Mark Esper.** The new defense secretary is a longtime friend of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who was a classmate at West Point and has pushed for months to kill the Quds Force commander. Esper is 14 years younger than Mattis and joined the Army in 1986.

“Taking out Soleimani would not have happened under Mattis,” a senior administration official told [one of my colleagues](#) over the weekend, arguing that he was risk averse. “Mattis was opposed to all of this. It’s not a hit on Mattis. It’s just his predisposition.” Mattis declined to comment when asked if he agreed.

Referring to 1979, Mattis wrote in his book: “The reverberations of that tumultuous year continue to be felt today. As a young infantry officer sailing back to Pearl Harbor from the North Arabian Sea, I didn’t know then that these tectonic shifts would define my next 40 years.”





## THE TICK TOCK:

-- "The Iranian missile strike on American facilities in Iraq was a calibrated event intended to cause minimal casualties, give the Iranians a face-saving measure and provide an opportunity for both sides to step back from the brink of war, according to senior U.S. officials in Washington and the Middle East," per [Shane Harris, Josh Dawsey, Dan Lamothe and Missy Ryan](#). "U.S. officials said they knew by Tuesday afternoon that the Iranians intended to strike at American targets in Iraq, although it was not immediately clear exactly which they would choose. The early warning came from intelligence sources as well as from communications from Iraq that conveyed Iran's intentions to launch the strike ...

"The advance warning gave military commanders time to get U.S.



**troops into safe, fortified positions at the bases.** ... One official said at least some left al-Asad air base in western Iraq before the attack. ... Commanders on the ground ... also moved some service members off small bases in the region and scattered equipment and people on installations to make them harder to hit. ...

**“Matt Pottinger, the deputy national security adviser, told aides in a Roosevelt Room meeting Tuesday afternoon that it would take at least two months to understand whether the U.S. strategy was working.** ‘Our initial reaction has been, this was a domestic effort from the Iranians to save face, not to go to war, so we have proceeded in that vein,’ said another senior administration official with knowledge of the analysis. ... Trump had told senior military officials Tuesday evening that he wanted a path to ease tensions ... A way out appeared when Trump’s military advisers told him there was reason to believe the missile strikes were not designed to kill Americans.”

-- **“Trump’s vow Wednesday to slap new sanctions on Iran probably would target a broader range of Iranian commercial institutions and government officials,”** [David Lynch reports](#). “But with the economy already convulsed by earlier U.S. enforcement actions, any new financial punishments are likely to be largely symbolic.”



Mike Lee hammers Iran briefing from Trump administration

### **HAPPENING TODAY:**

**-- The House will vote this afternoon on a war powers resolution.**

It is expected to pass on a close to party-line vote but not have the force of law.

**-- Two Republican senators criticized the Trump administration's handling of the drone strike that killed Soleimani after top national security officials refused to say when, if ever, they would notify Congress about future military strikes during a contentious classified briefing.**

"They struggled to identify anything," said Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah), calling this "un-American" and "unconstitutional" during an appearance with Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.).

"As a result of the briefing, Lee pledged, along with Paul, to join Democrats in backing a war powers resolution from Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) ordering the removal of forces engaged in hostilities against Iran, which could come up for a vote early next week," [Karoun](#)

Demirjian and Mike DeBonis report.

-- Stat du jour: Nearly a quarter of Americans have never experienced the U.S. in a time of peace. (Philip Bump)



Fact-checking Trump's address on the Iran missile attacks



THE LATEST ON THE DONNYBROOK:

-- From our team coverage:

- [Glenn Kessler and Salvador Rizzo](#): “Fact-checking Trump’s address on the Iran missile attacks.”
- [David Nakamura](#): “Trump attempts to pin some blame for missile attacks on Obama, outraging Democrats.”
- [Ashley Parker and Phil Rucker](#): “Trump seeks to celebrate a victory, even in the wake of a foreign attack.”
- [Louisa Loveluck and Mustafa Salim](#): “Iraqi leaders plead for calm after Iranian missile strikes on U.S. military.”
- [Lauren Tierney, Adam Taylor, Chris Alcantara and Tim Meko](#): “A timeline of the escalation in the Middle East.”
- [Rachel Siegel and Thomas Heath](#): “Stocks rebound after Trump addresses nation on tensions with Iran.”
- [Adam Taylor](#): “The U.S.-Iran shadow war is not over.”
- [Kim Bellware and Kayla Epstein](#): “Did you get ‘drafted’ by the U.S. Army via text message? It’s a hoax.”

**-- Commentary from The Post's opinion pages:**

- [The Post’s Editorial Board](#): “Proclaiming Trump victorious in Iran is shortsighted and premature.”
- [Max Boot](#): “Trump’s Iran strategy is still a failure.”
- [Jennifer Rubin](#): “Trump’s war-mongering with Iran won’t be a political winner.”
- [Michael Makovsky and Jonathan Ruhe](#) of the Jewish

Institute for National Security of America: “The right strategy for Iran isn’t regime change. It’s regime collapse.”

- [Layla M. Hashemi](#), managing editor of the Journal of Civil Society, and [Steven L. Wilson](#), assistant professor of political science at the University of Nevada at Reno: “If any Iranians supported Soleimani’s killing, it would’ve been dissidents on Twitter. The opposite happened.”
- [Kelly J. Shannon](#), associate professor of history at Florida Atlantic University: “War with Iran is not inevitable — but the U.S. must change course.”
- [Moojan Momen and Jason Pack](#): “Why President Trump is courting disaster by not understanding Iranian culture.”

**-- How it’s playing domestically:**

- [MSNBC](#): Andrea Mitchell, the veteran NBC foreign affairs correspondent, said Trump has “the worst national security team I’ve ever seen.”
- [BuzzFeed News](#): “Fox News hosts were against a ground war with Iran. Trump listened.”
- [Wired](#): “Did Twitter help stop war with Iran?”
- [Fox News’s Andrew McCarthy](#): “War Powers Resolution vote against Trump is pointless. He was right to strike bad guys.”
- [NPR](#): “Satellite photos reveal extent of damage from Iranian strike on air base in Iraq.”

- [NYT](#): “Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren jointly urge against war with Iran.”
- [The Atlantic](#): “Americans aren't rallying to Trump.”
- [Daily Beast](#): “U.S. officials raise concerns Shiite militia threat might be worse without Soleimani.”

-- How it's playing overseas:

- [Jerusalem Post](#): “Did Trump just reignite Iran v. ISIS war?”
- [Haaretz](#): “Iran Still Wants Revenge for Soleimani's Killing. But Does It Have the Cash for It?”
- [Agence France Presse](#): “Soleimani successor: continuity figure in uncertain times.”
- [Tehran Times](#): “Soleimani was a ‘culture’ and a culture cannot be assassinated.”
- [Der Spiegel](#): “The adjourned war.”
- [The Guardian](#): “The threat of conflict in Iran is still real, and Britain must not get dragged in.”



Ukrainian airline involved in Iran crash says plane was 'one of its best'

## **MORE PROBLEMS FOR IRAN:**

**-- A probe into the crash of a Ukrainian passenger jet that killed 176 shortly after takeoff from the Tehran airport is underway, with Iran pointing to a possible aircraft malfunction and Ukraine leaving open other paths of inquiry. [Isabelle Khurshudyan](#), [Erin Cunningham](#) and [Sarah Dadouch](#) report:** "At least one U.S.-based aviation expert said it appeared the plane was 'not intact' before it hit the ground. And **a former Federal Aviation Administration accident investigation chief, Jeff Guzzetti, said the crash carried 'all the earmarks of an intentional act.'** ... Iranian authorities said 'technical' problems were probably behind the crash of the Ukrainian Boeing 737-800. Ukraine's embassy in Tehran initially concurred, issuing a statement ruling out terrorism and suggesting likely engine failure. It later took down the statement without explanation, raising questions about whether different scenarios — including an external cause such

as a missile — were being explored as potential reasons for the crash. ... Gen. Abolfazl Shekarchi, an Iranian armed forces spokesman, said ‘rumors’ that a missile brought down the plane were ‘completely false.’ The Ukrainian Embassy said that a commission was investigating the crash and that ‘any statements about the causes of the accident before the decision of the commission are not official.’ ...

**“Todd Curtis, an aviation safety analyst for the website AirSafe.com and a former Boeing safety engineer who assisted in accident investigations, said it appeared — based only on video and photos from the crash site — that the plane was coming apart before it hit the ground. ‘The wreckage pattern was very consistent with a plane that was not intact when it hit the ground,’ he said. .... This means the crash could have been caused by an in-flight breakup, in-flight explosion, midair collision, structural failure, external strike or major system malfunction with the aircraft, Curtis said. The head of Iran’s Civil Aviation Organization, Ali Abedzadeh, said that Iran would not send the recorders to the United States and that the investigation would be led by Iran, Mehr News Agency reported.”**

**-- A list of names and birth dates of the flight’s victims has been shared by the airline, capturing the human scale of the loss. [Amanda Coletta](#), [Jennifer Hassan](#) and [Miriam Berger](#) report:** “Some of the victims had barely begun their lives: Thirteen were younger than 10. Two were born in 2014, another in 2016 and one in 2018. Many victims shared the same last name, a sign they were probably traveling with family. **Almost half of the passengers were born in 1990 or after. ... At least two couples were newlyweds. ...**



The Ukrainian flight was popular among Iranians traveling to Canada because there haven't been direct flights between the two countries since 2012, when Canada broke off diplomatic relations. The route was also popular with Iranian nationals studying in Canada because they cannot catch connecting flights in the United States as a result of U.S. immigration policies, said Payman Parseyan, a member of the Iranian Canadian community in Edmonton."

-- **The Boeing 737-800, unlike the 737 Max, has a relatively solid safety record.** [Taylor Telford and Douglas MacMillan report](#): "The Iran crash was the 10th fatal accident of a Boeing 737 NG plane in its commercial life ... **The plane has had about 0.06 fatal events per million flights, the lowest rate among modern aircraft that have flown for several years** ... The plane has faced recent regulatory scrutiny. In early October, the Federal Aviation Administration told airlines to inspect more than 1,900 Boeing jets after cracks were found in some of the aircraft's wings. Dozens of them were later grounded after cracks were found in a part of the plane that connects the wings to the fuselage."

-- **Two earthquakes struck Iran near the Bushehr nuclear power plant.** [Brittany Shammass reports](#): "A 4.9-magnitude quake occurred around 9 a.m., local time, followed by a 4.5-magnitude aftershock 30 minutes later. Iranian state media reported there were no casualties and rescue teams were at the scene in the southern part of the country. The first earthquake hit at a depth of about 6 miles, according to the United States Geological Survey. People who felt the earthquake around the site reported light shaking. The nuclear plant was designed to withstand quakes up to magnitude-9. Iran is on major

seismic faults and frequently experiences earthquakes. Its hard, mountainous landscape can prevent damage from mild to moderate earthquakes.”

-- **And at least 19 Iranians were killed after a bus plunged into a ravine about 80 miles east of Tehran.** A pregnant woman and four children under the age of 6 were among the victims, [the BBC reports](#).



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Mitch McConnell leaves a classified briefing at the Capitol on Wednesday about Iran's missile strikes. (Jacquelyn Martin/AP)

## THE INVESTIGATIONS:

**-- A turf war is raging behind the scenes between House and Senate Republicans over who will defend Trump during the impeachment trial.** [Rachael Bade, Carol D. Leonnig and Josh Dawsey report](#): “House GOP leaders in recent weeks have advocated for Trump’s most aggressive defenders — Republican Reps. Jim Jordan (Ohio), John Ratcliffe (Tex.) and Douglas A. Collins (Ga.) — to ... help White House counsel Pat A. Cipollone rebut the two charges that the president abused his power and obstructed Congress. Trump, partial to bare-knuckles tactics and top-rated TV performances, loves the idea, according to four administration and congressional officials. ... But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and his fellow GOP senators have expressed concerns to Trump that a House-led

defense could offend moderates, including Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska). Trump, they argue, has already won the backing of the GOP base, so he and his team need to focus on ensuring Republican unity on an acquittal.

**“McConnell, who discussed the trial with the president at the White House on Wednesday, has been advising Trump and his legal team not to think of the trial as a ‘made-for-TV-type House setting.’** ... Others in the GOP have publicly suggested House Republicans may lack the right temperament to be persuasive for a Senate constituency that expects a no-nonsense trial. ‘One thing I’m not eager to do is re-create the circuslike atmosphere of the House — that’s not what we’re going to do here, if we can avoid it,’ said Sen. John Cornyn (R-Tex.), a McConnell ally. ‘So I think it seems obvious to me that if the president picks a team that does not include House members, that we’d be more likely to have the dignified process that the Constitution calls for.’ ...

**“Senior administration and House GOP officials indicated Wednesday that no final decision had been made.** ... ‘There are a lot of rabbits running around claiming to be the very best bunny, but the president hasn’t yet decided which set of fuzzy tails he’ll use,’ said one official. ...”

**-- A growing chorus of Senate Democrats is souring on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's strategy and demanding she transmit the articles of impeachment to the Senate.** [Felicia Sonmez, John Wagner and Colby Itkowitz report](#): “Pelosi said Wednesday evening she would not be sending the articles of impeachment to the Senate [that night] and refused to engage on when she might do so. ‘Do you

listen when I speak?’ she asked when a reporter in the Capitol asked her whether she planned to send them ‘anytime soon.’ ‘I said when we saw what the arena is that we would be sending members in, then we would send over the articles,’ Pelosi said. ... ‘We haven’t seen that, so I don’t know how many more times I have to say that and how many times you want to ask it.’ ... [Cornyn] put out a news release Wednesday afternoon that highlighted a half-dozen Democratic senators who have said publicly in recent days that a trial should begin soon. The most recent among them was Sen. Dianne Feinstein (Calif.), who, according to a Bloomberg News reporter, said, ‘If we’re going to do it, she should send them over. I don’t see what good delay does.’”

**House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) said Democrats are holding open the option of calling in former national security adviser John Bolton to testify in the House but are waiting to see whether he will be summoned as a witness in the Senate:** “Hoyer also defended Pelosi’s delay in sending the articles of impeachment to the Senate. ... He also said that the timing of the process wouldn’t be dictated by the early presidential nominating contests. Several senators could be stuck in Washington serving as jurors as their Democratic rivals campaign in the weeks ahead of caucuses and primaries.”

**-- Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) makes the case for a Senate trial that includes witnesses in [an op-ed for USA Today](#):** “We are not asking for critics of the president to serve as witnesses in a trial. We are asking that *the president’s men* — his top advisers — tell their story, and for the Senate to have access to the

documents that will shed light on the truth."

**-- The State Department released additional Ukraine documents in response to a FOIA lawsuit, per [American Oversight](#):** "The production includes several heavily redacted emails from senior State Department officials. Among the documents are a letter sent to former Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch instructing her not to testify. ... Wednesday's release is also notable for what is missing — specifically, any written record of communications between top State Department officials and Trump personal attorney Rudy Giuliani."

**-- Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is working behind the scenes to delay a Democratic effort requiring the Secret Service to disclose how much it spends protecting Trump and his family when they travel until after the 2020 election. These disclosures would highlight the millions in taxpayer dollars that have been paid out directly to Trump's private businesses, which the president still owns. [Carol D. Leonnig and David A. Fahrenthold report](#):** "The issue has emerged as a sticking point in recent weeks as Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and key senators have been negotiating draft legislation to move the Secret Service back to his department, its historic home. ... Mnuchin has agreed to Democrats' push for a requirement that the Secret Service report its travel expenses but wants such disclosures to begin after the election. ...

**"During the 2016 campaign, Trump promised to 'rarely leave the White House' and cut back on what he called wasteful travel by [Obama].** Since taking office, however, Trump has made more than 50 visits to his properties outside the Washington area. ... The government spent about \$96 million on travel by Obama over eight

years. ... A report by the Government Accountability Office ... estimated that Trump's travel cost \$13.6 million in just one month in early 2017. ... If spending continued at that pace, Trump would have exceeded Obama's total expenses before the end of his first year in office.

**“The extensive international business travel and vacations of his grown children, with Secret Service agents in tow, as well as the expense the Secret Service incurs to secure numerous Trump properties, have added to the agency’s financial strain,** according to its budget requests. Since their father was elected, Trump’s sons Eric and Donald Jr. have made business trips to overseas locales including Ireland, Scotland, Dubai, Uruguay and India. In 2017, Eric Trump’s visit to a Trump building under construction in Uruguay cost taxpayers \$97,000.”

**-- Companies interested in currying favor with Trump by buying the lease rights to his Washington hotel have until Jan. 23 to submit initial bids.** [Jonathan O’Connell reports:](#) The president’s “company hired to market the hotel, JLL, emailed potential bidders with a ‘call for offers’ asking that they submit a proposed purchase price, the name of the hotel chain that would operate the hotel, names of investors and how long it would take to close a deal ... Interested buyers are also encouraged to schedule tours of the building before the deadline, according to the materials.”



People listen during a Burleigh County Commission meeting in December in Bismarck, N.D. The commission was considering whether to accept more international refugees to the county. (Will Kincaid/AP)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERSHADOWED:**

**-- A North Dakota county accepted refugees, but the debate over the decision is far from over. [Maria Sacchetti and Ann E. Marimow report](#): “Jim Peluso, now in his 14th year as a Burleigh County commissioner, knows which roads need fresh gravel, how to collect taxes and when to approve permits for Bingo games. He does not know much about refugees. ... **They were hardly a topic of conversation here until September, when [Trump] issued an executive order saying that state and local officials must agree in writing to welcome refugees or the U.S. government would not send them.** ... Deciding whether to be among the first places in the**



United States to deny additional refugees under Trump's new rule narrowly divided this county on the banks of the Missouri River ... Amid the uncertainty of the new rule, resettlement agencies have been scrambling to secure permission from localities, including some, like Burleigh, that have welcomed refugees for decades. The agencies must obtain approval letters by Jan. 21 if refugees are to start arriving in June. ... North Dakota's governor is among several Republicans who agreed to take refugees. But in Burleigh, home to the state capital of Bismarck, the decision degenerated into jeering, insults and heated online posts. ... The debate raged for days. Longtime residents say the county is friendly, tightknit, sometimes suspicious of newcomers and resistant to change."

**-- A Mexican asylum-seeker slit his own throat on a bridge across the Rio Grande after being denied entry into the United States.** [From Reuters](#): "The man, who has not been identified, tried to enter the United States at the Pharr–Reynosa International Bridge between the Mexican border city of Reynosa and Pharr, Texas. ... Around 5 p.m. local time, the man drew a knife and cut his throat when denied access to the United States. Both officials said the man was seeking asylum. ... The attorney general's office for the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, where Reynosa lies, said it was investigating the man's death."

**-- The White House wants to change environmental rules in order to speed up highway projects, pipelines and more.** [Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis report](#): "The proposed changes would narrow the scope of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires federal agencies to assess the impact of a major project

before a spade of dirt is turned and to include the public in the process. Environmental groups, tribal activists and others have used the law to delay or block a slew of infrastructure, mining, logging and drilling projects since it was signed by President Richard Nixon in 1970. Industry has long complained about the process, however, prompting [Trump] to note in a statement on NEPA's 50th anniversary on Jan. 1 that it 'can increase costs, derail important projects, and threaten jobs for American workers and labor union members.' The White House proposal will almost certainly face legal challenges."

**-- Puerto Ricans, fearing more earthquakes, are fleeing damaged structures as hundreds of families find themselves homeless because of the latest natural disaster to roil the U.S.**

**territory.** [Arelis R. Hernández and Cristina Corujo report](#): "The help has arrived, but the uncertainty again has set in. PREPA restored electricity to about 600,000 customers — less than a third of the island's population — on Wednesday. But the progress was offset by news that damage to the island's primary generation station, Costa Sur, was worse than expected. It could be a year before it returns to full power capacity, and authorities said they were working on solutions. But as long as the earth keeps moving, problems will persist. ... The displaced townspeople are up before dawn, heading to gas stations or any open shop hoping to buy bread or something else to eat. By midmorning, people return to their homes to find more clothes, salvage belongings or reflect on what they already have lost. They pack their cars with blankets and pillows and head back to the camp by sundown for another restless night. Not every home in Guánica and Guayanilla's barrios is compromised, but until authorities can evaluate each structure and the tremors stop, few families are

risking it.”

-- **Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg declared that she is “cancer free,” beating the disease for the fourth time after undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer.** CNN reported that she sounded "energized" and spoke "animatedly." ([Colby Itkowitz](#))

-- **Deaths of despair: Major drugstore chains are suing doctors, claiming they are the real culprits in the opioid epidemic that continues to ravage working-class families.** [Lenny Bernstein reports](#): “CVS, Walgreen Co., Walmart, Rite Aid and other major pharmacy chains said opioid prescribers bear responsibility for the prescription narcotic crisis, but unlike the drugstores, have not been sued by Cuyahoga and Summit counties [in Ohio]. In legal papers filed Monday, they contended that doctors and other prescribers should have to pay some of the penalty if the drugstore chains are found liable at trial. ... Drug manufacturers and distributors agreed or were ordered to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements and one court verdict reached in state and federal courts last year. But the big pharmacy chains have not been held liable so far.”

-- **Alcohol-related deaths in this country have more than doubled over the past 20 years, according to a new government study.** [From Fox News](#): “‘Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research’ found alcohol-related deaths per year shot up from 35,914 in 1999 to 72,558 in 2017. **Given reports that death certificates often fail to indicate alcohol as a cause of death, the actual number is likely higher.** Researchers at the National Center for Health Statistics looked at death certificates from 1999 to 2017 and found the rate of alcohol-related death increased 50.9 percent, from

16.9 to 25.5 per 100,000. This equates to nearly 1 million lives lost over the 18-year span. In 2017 alone, 2.6 percent of deaths in the United States were alcohol-related. Nearly half of the alcohol-related deaths were the result of liver disease or overdoses.”

**-- Facebook won't limit political ad targeting or stop false claims under its new advertising rules. [Tony Romm, Isaac Stanley-Becker and Craig Timberg report](#):** “Facebook said it would address those concerns by giving users a choice to see fewer ads about political candidates and social issues, a policy it plans to roll out in the summer. Users can also choose to stop seeing ads from campaigns and other entities, including businesses, that target them using custom lists of data, such as their email addresses. ... Going forward, Facebook said users will be able to limit organizations — many of which they may not know by name — that help businesses and political campaigns target them with ads using the custom audiences tool. Conversely, people can choose to opt into seeing ads that were not targeted to them, Facebook said, if users think they were wrongly excluded.”

**-- Teen Vogue published a bizarrely positive story about Facebook's “fight” against misinformation ahead of the 2020 presidential election. Then it removed it without explanation. [Reis Thebault reports](#):** “The ‘article,’ published online Wednesday by Teen Vogue, appeared without a byline and read more like a 2,000-word news release than a piece of journalism, prompting some to ask whether Facebook had paid to place it. In the ensuing hours, a befuddling back-and-forth followed, featuring a mysterious retraction, an apology and a pair of statements parceled out by company

spokespeople. None of it clarified the article's origins, but it did begin a conversation about an online news environment where advertising and editorial content sometimes swirl together, and powerful corporations pay big to bolster their brands."

-- In a fun read, [Jada Yuan speaks with several spouses of Democratic presidential candidates about playing the role, from Andrew Yang's homemaker wife to Amy Klobuchar's law professor husband](#): "While the candidates are competitors, the spouses are often spending long hours waiting in the wings together... It's a little like the long Oscars season, or maybe even high school, in that unlikely friendships form from frequency of exposure and the shared experience of being a plus one. ... **According to Bernie Sanders's wife Jane, the vibe is far more collegial than in 2016.** But, calling other spouses 'friends' is a bit of a stretch, she says. 'It's more of good acquaintances,' and there's 'often a big hug,' she says."

-- **"Inside Elizabeth Warren's effort to court her vanquished rivals — and why it's worth her time,"** by [Annie Linskey and Amy B Wang](#): "Warren had just finished hiking in Washington's North Cascades mountains in August when she dropped in for lunch with the state's Democratic governor, Jay Inslee, who had recently left the presidential race and whose endorsement she was seeking. After Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York dropped out in late August, Warren talked to her about family leave issues over tea. When Sen. Kamala D. Harris of California ended her White House bid in December, Warren was one of the first to call. And Warren became so close with Julián Castro that they chatted over the holidays about a possible endorsement even before he officially bowed out of the race. Warren's courtship of

her onetime rivals is more than just flattery. It's a quiet part of a strategy that's becoming more urgent: to craft an image as a consensus candidate. ...

**“After speaking with Harris in December, Warren adopted part of her signature plan on abortion. ...** Warren amended her campaign website to praise Gillibrand, calling her a ‘a tireless advocate’ on family leave. ... In the days and weeks after Inslee dropped out, Warren was among several candidates exploring a potential endorsement from him. ... Some of the candidates had perfunctory conversations with Inslee, while others reiterated broad areas of agreement without getting into details. ... [Warren] stood out by focusing on the nuances of Inslee’s plan to eliminate carbon emissions from buildings, power plants and vehicles over the course of a decade. She hired one of Inslee’s staffers who focused on climate issues, and she credited the governor when she unveiled her own policy in September. ... Inslee has not endorsed a candidate in the Democratic primary, but he does regularly praise Warren.”

**-- Pete Buttigieg, who has struggled to attract support from African Americans, won his first endorsement from a black member of Congress: Rep. Anthony G. Brown of Maryland. ([Chelsea Janes](#))**

**-- Six million Democratic donors gave \$1 billion last year through the fundraising platform ActBlue. ([Michelle Ye Hee Lee](#))**



Prince Harry and Meghan to 'step back' from royal roles

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- In a shock announcement, Britain's Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, said they will "step back" from their roles as senior members of the royal family to become "financially independent" and split their time between Britain and North America. [William Booth and Karla Adam report](#): "Such a move abroad, away from the strictures of Buckingham Palace and its many duties, would be bold and remarkable, signaling that two of the younger, more popular royals may be fed up with an anachronistic, cosseted life of endless ribbon-cutting and fusty, scripted engagements — and the scrutiny that comes with all of that. ... The globally famous couple ... have complained bitterly of being pursued by the British tabloids. ... In a post on their Instagram account, the couple said they made the decision to distance themselves from palace life 'after many months of reflection and internal discussions.'

... A statement from Buckingham Palace prompted speculation that the queen may not have been fully informed of the decision before the announcement.” [Literally, it's palace intrigue.]

-- **How it's playing across the pond**, via [the Guardian](#) of London:

“The Sun gives us the Twitter hashtag headline for the day with ‘Megxit,’ and says the Queen is upset but princes Charles and William are ‘incandescent with rage.’ ... The Daily Mail’s poster-style front page speaks of the ‘Queen’s fury’ at the revelation in its royal bombshell special issue. ... The Mirror says simply: ‘They didn’t even tell the Queen.’ It quotes a source saying: ‘They are showing complete disregard for the institution.’ ... The Telegraph says: ‘Harry and Meghan quit the Firm.’”

-- **Europe and Britain are preparing to launch a fresh round of Brexit talks.** [William Booth and Michael Birnbaum report](#): “The new president of the European Commission [warned] British Prime Minister Boris Johnson that it would probably be ‘impossible’ for the two sides to complete a comprehensive divorce deal by his ‘very tight’ deadline at the end of 2020. ... Speaking before her first face-to-face meeting with the prime minister at No. 10 Downing Street in London on Wednesday, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that if Johnson’s new government wanted the most favorable terms for divorce, with deep access to the largest, richest single market on the planet, then Britain should seek to align itself with E.U. rules and regulations. ... Von der Leyen, a former German defense minister, lamented that the U.K.-E.U. marriage is over. She fondly remembered her year at the London School of Economics, where she gave her speech, and recalled, too, her pleasure in exploring a



multicultural London, with frequent trips to Camden Town record stores and Soho pubs. ... Von der Leyen said she hopes the two sides will be able to reach a trade deal with 'zero tariffs, zero dumping, zero quotas.'"

**-- Australia's fires are putting the nation's coal-loving Prime Minister Scott Morrison to the test. [Kate Shuttleworth and Joel Achenbach report](#):** "His reputation as a coal advocate has not helped as he has struggled to project empathy for victims of the fires ... The disaster has re-energized a long-running national debate over climate change and the country's heavy investment in coal mining. Australia is one of the world's biggest exporters of coal. Global activists have accused Morrison's government of helping to scuttle progress on international climate talks late last year. Morrison skipped the climate meeting convened by the United Nations in September. Protesters plan to take to the streets in a string of Australian cities Friday in demonstrations organized by Uni Students for Climate Justice. Morrison has mocked environmentalists as 'apocalyptic' and has threatened to outlaw protests. ... Morrison and his center-right coalition government have been the focus of widespread condemnation over accusations that they failed to heed warnings from experts that this would be a devastating bush-fire season. ... In recent days, Morrison has said his government accepts the scientific consensus on climate change and the role of fossil fuels. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to meeting or exceeding goals for reducing carbon emissions. But he also emphasizes the need to protect jobs."

**-- A U.S. commission led by a bipartisan group of lawmakers**

**urged the Trump administration to enact sanctions against Chinese officials and companies for human rights abuses.** [Gerry Shih reports](#): “The Congressional-Executive Commission on China argued for tougher and more cohesive U.S. action against Beijing in a new annual report that detailed the Chinese government's crackdown against religious minorities and labor activists, its expansion of digital surveillance and censorship, and its political influence activities around the world. ... While the commission's previous reports focused on China's domestic situation, Wednesday's document contained stark new warnings about the threat of what it called China's ‘intensified use of disinformation, propaganda, economic intimidation and political influence operations.’ Congress should require U.S. universities, think tanks and nongovernmental organizations to disclose major gifts from foreign sources and expand scrutiny of Chinese government influence in American classrooms via student groups and on-campus organizations such as China's state-funded Confucius Institutes, the commission said. It warned, however, that the U.S. government's statements and policies should ‘clearly differentiate between the Chinese people and culture and the Chinese government and Communist Party’ to prevent the targeting of Chinese Americans or the Chinese diaspora.”

**-- The specter of a possible new virus is emerging from central China, raising alarms across Asia.** [Gerry Shih and Lena H. Sun report](#): “Officials in Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines said in recent days that they will begin setting up quarantine zones or scanning passengers from China for signs of fever or other pneumonialike symptoms that may indicate a new disease possibly linked to a wild animal market in Wuhan. The health

commission in Wuhan, a transit and business hub, says there is no clear evidence that the unidentified disease can be transmitted between humans, and no health-care workers have been infected. Cases of fever have been reported in Hong Kong and Taiwan by travelers who recently visited Wuhan, although there is no confirmation that the illnesses are linked. Since mid-December, 59 people have been diagnosed with viral pneumonia of 'unknown cause' — including seven who are critically ill, according to Wuhan's health commission. The officials said an additional 163 people who have come into close contact with the infected have been placed under close observation. No deaths have been reported."

**-- China will send its chief trade negotiator to the United States next week sign a phase-one deal meant to defuse tensions. [From the WSJ](#): "The Chinese delegation, to be led by Vice Premier Liu He, will visit Washington from Monday to Wednesday."**

**-- Former auto executive Carlos Ghosn proclaimed his innocence and complained of a "corrupt" and "inhumane" justice system in Japan during his first public appearance since he escaped to Lebanon. [Simon Denyer, Liz Sly and Asser Khattab report](#): "Ghosn complained of a 'systematic campaign by a handful of malevolent actors to destroy my reputation and impugn my character' because of his plans to deepen the alliance between Nissan and Renault. He also denounced his detention under a 'corrupt and hostile system that presumed my guilt from Day One.' But Japanese Justice Minister Masako Mori said Ghosn was propagating false information about Japan's justice system and warned that his decision to run away from a criminal trial could be a crime in itself. Ghosn says that after his**

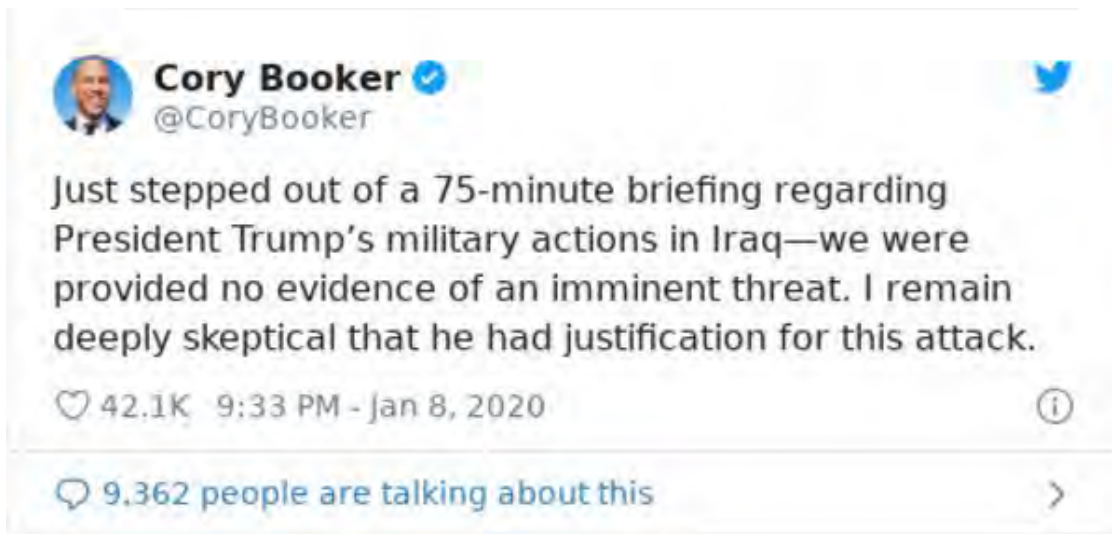
arrest in November 2018, he was kept in solitary confinement in a tiny cell for 130 days, while being allowed outside for only half an hour a day and only on weekdays. He says he was 'interrogated day and night,' sometimes for up to eight hours at a time, without a lawyer present, while lights were left on round-the-clock. The system was 'anachronistic and inhumane,' he said. 'It's not very difficult to come to the conclusion that you're going to die in Japan or you have to get out.' Experts say Japan's legal system allows prosecutors to detain people without charge and subject them to relentless interrogation without the presence of defense counsel until they confess or incriminate themselves. ... Many legal experts share Ghosn's concerns about Japan's justice system, while many foreign business executives say it is unthinkable that powerful, well-connected Japanese businesspeople would have faced similar treatment by the country's legal system."

**-- Russia and Turkey made a joint call for a cease-fire in Libya in an attempt to resolve a conflict that Western powers and the U.N. have struggled to end. [From the Times](#):** "Analysts say the Russians and Turks are seeking to exploit a diplomatic void left by Europe's failure to end the fighting in Libya. A German-led effort to hold an international conference on Libya has come to nothing, and the United Nations Security Council has not called for a cease-fire. The Russian and Turkish foreign ministers issued a joint statement calling for the cease-fire on Wednesday after President Vladimir V. Putin and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met and presided over the inauguration of the TurkStream gas pipeline in Istanbul. It is not clear how much Russia and Turkey can influence events on the ground, but Mr. Putin and Mr. Erdogan have met regularly to discuss military

deployments in Syria, and have declared Libya a priority.”

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

It was almost as if Democrats and Republicans attended a separate briefing on Iran. For the most part, lawmakers from both parties painted starkly different pictures:



Florida's Republican senator had this to say about the same briefing:



 **Marco Rubio**   
@marcorubio 

Natl Security officials gave a compelling briefing to Senators just now. They answered every important question.

Anyone who walks out & says they aren't convinced action against [#Soleimani](#) was justified is either never going to be convinced or just oppose everything Trump does.

 9,896  9:06 PM - Jan 8, 2020 

---

 [10.2K people are talking about this](#) 

A Democratic senator from Connecticut:



 **Chris Murphy**   
@ChrisMurphyCT 

Just left the briefing.

The bottom line is this: I did not hear evidence of a specific imminent threat that would allow an attack without congressional authorization.

With consequences as serious as these, that is unacceptable.

Congress needs to act.

 39.8K  9:33 PM - Jan 8, 2020 

---

 [11.1K people are talking about this](#) 

This is Georgia's newly appointed Republican senator:

**KELLY** **Kelly Loeffler**    
@kloeffler

Today, I backed Sen. [@tedcruz](#) 's resolution that applauds [@realDonaldTrump](#) for eradicating Qassem Soleimani. The world can sleep better knowing this evil terrorist is dead. [#gapol](#) [twitter.com/WhiteHouse/sta...](#)

**The White House**  @WhiteHouse  
Soleimani was a monster.  
"And he's no longer a monster. He's dead."



 1,200 9:09 PM - Jan 7, 2020 

 313 people are talking about this 

Not all Republicans fell in line. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), a libertarian, did a round of interviews after the briefing:



**Aaron Rugar** ✓

@atrupar



Here's Rand Paul telling Wolf Blitzer that the intel the Trump admin cited to justify the Soleimani killing during today's briefing didn't go beyond "generalities" and "stuff you'd read in the newspaper"



♥ 5,875 11:53 PM - Jan 8, 2020



💬 2,228 people are talking about this



The vice president shared a Situation Room pic:





**Mike Pence** ✓  
@Mike\_Pence



Joined President [@realDonaldTrump](#) in the Situation Room last night upon reports the Islamic Republic of Iran had launched missiles on U.S. military facilities in Iraq. America is safer and stronger because of President Trump's decisive action. 🇺🇸



♥ 11.5K 11:31 PM - Jan 8, 2020



💬 3,049 people are talking about this



The chief strategist on Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign reacted to a Frontline interview with a Border Patrol officer who followed Trump's orders to tear families apart at the border:




**stuart stevens**  
@stuartpstevens



My dad was FBI agent when ordered to help round-up Japanese Americans for internment camps. He resigned, joined Navy, spent 3 years fighting in South Pacific, 28 island landings. Never regretted it. His lesson: "You can always say no." [twitter.com/sifill\\_ldf/sta...](https://twitter.com/sifill_ldf/sta...)

**Sherrilyn Ifill**  @Sifill\_LDF

"The Most Horrible Thing I've Ever Done": A Border Patrol Officer Who Separated Families Speaks Out | Targeting El Paso | FRONTLINE | PBS | Official Site  
[pbs.org/wgbh/frontline...](https://pbs.org/wgbh/frontline...)

 7,541 3:47 PM - Jan 8, 2020



 2,199 people are talking about this



Jokes flowed after Meghan and Harry made their announcement:



**Eric Nelson**  
@literaryeric



First time I've ever seen someone quit their family, saying it's to spend more time with their jobs.

[twitter.com/nbcnews/status...](https://twitter.com/nbcnews/status...)

**NBC News**  @NBCNews

JUST IN: Harry and Meghan say they plan to step back as senior members of the British Royal family, and "carve out a progressive new role within this institution" while working "to become financially independent."

 32.6K 6:49 PM - Jan 8, 2020




 4,970 people are talking about this



**Delia Cai**   
@delia\_cai



a sitcom where Meghan teaches Harry how to do workforce things such as using TurboTax & meal prepping & filling out a W-1, please

 1,269 6:57 PM - Jan 8, 2020



 187 people are talking about this



The Chicago Tribune found the local angle:

 **Chicago Tribune** ✓  
@chicagotribune



Northwestern graduate moving closer to home after spending time abroad [trib.al/KJCbIIZ](https://trib.al/KJCbIIZ)



**Prince Harry, Meghan Markle 'to step back' as senio...**

Britain's Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, said they will "work to become financially independent."

[chicagotribune.com](https://chicagotribune.com)

♥ 56.8K 7:10 PM - Jan 8, 2020



💬 11.9K people are talking about this



And one of Canada's most loved brands jumped in with a hard-to-beat offer:



### QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"It's going to be a very long book," biographer Robert Caro told the [Times](#) of the unfinished final volume of his Lyndon Johnson biography.

### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert is really glad it's not World War III:



Seth Meyers can't believe some of Trump's defenders are blaming

Obama for the current crisis:



And Trevor Noah did a dramatic reading of Trump's "All is well!" tweet:



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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Book Club: The most looked-up words of the decade and the authors banding together for Australia  
**Date:** Friday, January 10, 2020 7:38:26 AM



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The Washington Post

# Book Club

Reviews and recommendations from critic Ron Charles.



By **Ron Charles**

 [Email](#)



Novelist Stephen King (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan); Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham (Photo by Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post); novelist Don Winslow (Photo by Michael Lionstar/Courtesy of Knopf)

**Would you be willing to do your normal job for one hour to raise a small fortune to help sick children?** Bestselling authors Stephen King and Don Winslow have pledged to give \$200,000 to



charity if Donald Trump's press secretary, Stephanie Grisham, holds a press conference this week. Winslow initially offered \$75,000 on [Twitter](#), and then King joined in with his own \$75,000 [tweet](#). Yesterday, they both raised the kitty to \$200,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. Grisham, who replaced Court Fabulist Sarah Huckabee Sanders last July, has never held a press conference with the White House press corps. "Donald Trump walking to his helicopter and screaming out a few answers to the press is not a press briefing," Winslow tells me. "The American public has the right to have journalists ask questions on a wide range of subjects and to have the White House answer those questions truthfully." If given the chance, Winslow said he would ask the press secretary about the "[children being held in cages in Trump's border prisons](#)." He would also ask about the president's relationship with [Deutsche bank](#), the continuing nuclear program in [North Korea](#), the cost to U.S. taxpayers for the [president's tariffs](#) and The Washington Post's list of Trump's "[15,413 false or misleading claims](#)." CNN's Jake Tapper [reports](#) that Grisham has rejected the novelists' offer. She told Tapper, "Donations to charity should never come with strings attached." But there are worse things than strings attached when it comes to charity. In November, [the president agreed to pay \\$2 million](#) in damages for misusing money from the Donald J. Trump Foundation to buy portraits of himself, pay his legal bills and support his 2016 campaign ([full story](#)). The president's charity — now closed — was initially funded with proceeds from his first book, "The Art of the Deal."

Meanwhile, while King was prodding the press secretary to do her job, he was named winner of a lifetime achievement award from the Audio Publishers Association — only the second such winner in the Audie Awards' 25-year history. The ceremony will take place on March 2 in New York. In a statement released this week, the APA notes that King has been an enthusiastic supporter of audiobooks — he's even narrated some himself — and many of his bestsellers have won or been nominated for Audies. "The most successful audiobooks," he tells me,

“are the ones where you drive three extra miles to hear another 20 minutes of a good story.” He particularly loves a 1980s-era recording of Larry McMurtry’s “[Lonesome Dove](#)” narrated by the late Wolfram Kandinsky.



A firefighter manages a controlled burn near Tomerong, Australia, in an effort to contain a larger fire nearby, Jan. 8, 2020. (AP Photo/Rick Rycroft)

**The deadly fires raging across Australia are terrifying, but don't forget how quickly compassion can spread, too.** On Saturday, young adult novelists Emily Gale and Nova Weetman proposed that writers raise money for Victoria's rural fire service by auctioning off signed copies of their books, writing advice and other publishing services. They set up a loosely organized campaign on Twitter using the hashtag [#AuthorsForFireys](#). (“Fireys” is an Australian colloquialism for “firefighters.”) Their campaign quickly attracted donations from hundreds of writers around the world, including Cheryl Strayed, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Jeff VanderMeer and Liane Moriarty. Gale tells me that she and Weetman “could not have anticipated this level of participation.” But these demonstrations of generosity have been matched by expressions of outrage. Richard Flanagan, who has donated a signed copy of his Booker-winning novel, “The Narrow Road to the Deep North,” tells me, “This is a historic crime for which successive

conservative governments must share guilt as they have for almost a quarter of a century done everything to subvert and set back the cause of climate action nationally and globally.” Joanne Harris, author of “Chocolat” and other delicious novels, echoes that sentiment. “A lot of us in the UK are horrified by the appalling bushfires in Australia, and ashamed by the lack of response from our government.” She has donated a manuscript critique and an hour’s feedback over Skype. “If we know anything,” Harris tells me, “it’s that stories work better than statistics in the fight to raise awareness.” ([#AuthorsForFireys](#) is set to close today at 7 p.m. EST. [More details here.](#))

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Actor Ben Miles and novelist Hilary Mantel in the sound studio. (Courtesy of Macmillan Audio)

**Hilary Mantel will release “The Mirror & the Light,” the third volume of her Booker-winning Wolf Hall trilogy, on March 10.** It’s sure to be one of the biggest literary novels of the year — and possibly one of the biggest audiobooks, too. Ben Miles, who played

Thomas Cromwell in the West End and Broadway productions of “Wolf Hall,” will be the narrator. In a statement, Mantel said, “Ben understands the main character from the inside. His insights from the rehearsal room helped shape the story. His voice is as close as can be to the voice that’s in my head as I write.” In a bit of Cromwellian intrigue, Miles has usurped the narrators of the previous two volumes of Wolf Hall. Simon Slater, who originally recorded the first volume, and Simon Vance, who originally recorded the second, both won Audie Awards for their Wolf Hall performances. But on March 10, Macmillan Audio will release all three books narrated by Miles. Industry insiders say the change was made to create a single narrative voice across the trilogy. Vance is taking the replacement in stride. “Many ‘jobbing’ narrators — those of us who make our livings committed to the audiobook — are finding our places on high-profile titles taken by actors who are household names,” he tells me. “I’m hoping to rectify my lack of visibility outside the audiobook world in a year or two by winning an Oscar, or similar, and so restoring my place in the pantheon of favored narrators. That’s not going so well to date, though I remain hopeful. I think Ben Miles will be a wonderful narrator (he is a favorite actor of mine, dammit) and I wish him well. (See: not... bitter... at all.)”



(Courtesy of Citymeals on Wheels)

**Food and poetry have a delicious connection.** Remember when William Carlos Williams apologized for eating those sweet, cold plums, which you were probably saving for breakfast? But too often we snobbily imagine that literary sustenance is a luxury not a necessity. The Poetry Society of America couldn't disagree more. Since the fall of 2018, the society has supplied poems that can be distributed with food by Meals on Wheels chapters. "We're not blind to the fact that people have material needs," says Matt Brogan, Executive Director of the Poetry Society of America. "But that is not the end-all and be-all of what folks need. The poems don't replace actual nourishment, but they provide a different kind — this emotional, intellectual element that I think people crave." He notes that the poems, printed on small cards, are intended "to break a sense of isolation between the recipients and the outside world." The society is now working with three Meals on Wheels chapters in New York and California — and is actively looking for more. Beth Shapiro, executive director of [Citymeals on Wheels](#) in New York, tells me she immediately loved the idea. "What we deliver is more than a meal," she says. "It's a check-in and it's a visit." These poems — by Walt Whitman, Sara Teasdale and contemporary poets as well — are "a great way to take the written word and bring it to people who might be hungry for it." Although she's received calls and letters of thanks, she says, "The best is to go into a meal recipient's home and see the poems on their refrigerator. It's just wonderful and warming." Give me a minute; I seem to have something in my eye.

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**Submissions are now open to the U.S. Selfies.** Not your iPhone portraits in front of the Washington Monument — *this* Selfie is a new award for the best self-published novel in America. The contest, launched by Publishers Weekly and its indie authors website, BookLife, offers a \$1,000 prize and a \$5,000 advertising package. ([Details here.](#)) I've been deeply skeptical of self-publishing: It's really big, and it's mostly bad. For years, the industry preyed on naive writers who couldn't get real agents or publishers to accept their amateurish manuscripts. That's improving, largely because the cost of self-publishing has fallen dramatically. Also, there's now more legitimate advice available for authors who want to go their own way. But problems remain. This week, Carl Pritzkat, president of BookLife, cordially listened to my skepticism and successfully whittled some of it away. "The percentage of great self-published books is going up," he said, "because as people learn more about what it means to self-publish a book, they're also understanding that 'self-published' is a misnomer. You actually need a team of professional, quality people to help you to 'self-publish' a book. It means you have to run that team." At a minimum, you should hire an editor and a designer — *not your cousin who is a big reader*, but reputable professionals who are willing to tell you what you don't want to hear. I would feel better about the Selfies if it didn't require a \$50 entrance fee and better still if this contest weren't co-sponsored by IngramSpark and Combined Book Exhibit — two companies that sell services to self-published authors. But maybe I'm being too old school. The inaugural Selfies Award winner will be presented at the American Library Association's conference on June 27. I hereby promise to review it.

# Words of the decade

The editors of the Merriam-Webster dictionary released a wonderfully succinct, if head-spinning, **survey of the last decade's most looked-up words**. Below is a list of the top word (and runner-up) for each of the past ten years. Can you remember what sparked interest in these words at the time?:

- 2010: Austerity (Shellacking)
- 2011: Pragmatic (Vitriol)
- 2012: Socialism + Capitalism (Malarkey)
- 2013: Science (Cognitive)
- 2014: Culture (Insidious)
- 2015: -ism (Marriage)
- 2016: Surreal (Bigly)
- 2017: Feminism (Hurricane)
- 2018: Justice (Laurel)
- 2019: They (Impeach)



A monarch butterfly (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster); Harper

**Novelists don't just respond to climate change; they anticipate**

**it.** Kevin Sieff, The Washington Post’s Latin America correspondent, [reports](#) this week that as temperatures in the Midwest grow warmer each summer, the population of monarch butterflies could soon be decimated. I sent that story to Barbara Kingsolver because it reminded me of “Flight Behavior,” a thoughtful novel she published back in 2012 ([review](#)). “It’s beyond heartbreaking to see the wonders of the world quietly dying, while we remain completely absorbed in the rivalries of our own species,” Kingsolver responded. “I used a fictional crisis of monarch butterflies as a plot device. Now the fictional crisis is real, and the human truths in that novel are weirder but truer than ever: We stick to our routines and argue our righteousness while the house burns around us. People are some strange animal, aren’t we?”



(Knopf; One World; Penguin Press)

**If you’re looking for a great new short story collection, consider the finalists for the \$20,000 [Story Prize](#), which were announced yesterday:**

- “Everything Inside,” by Edwidge Danticat. Danticat, the author of “Claire of the Sea Light,” “Brother, I’m Dying” and other books, won the inaugural Story Prize for “The Dew Breaker” in 2005.
- “Sabrina & Corina,” by Kali Fajardo-Anstine. This collection, Fajardo-Anstine’s first book, was also a finalist for the National Book Award in fiction.
- “Grand Union,” by Zadie Smith ([review](#)). This is the first story collection



from the author of “White Teeth” and other novels.

Last year, I served as a judge for the Story Prize, which was unusually enjoyable not only because of the fine collections I read but because of the contest’s merciful structure. Rather than bury my house in submissions, the prize founder and the prize director chose the three finalists. Then two other judges and I came in and picked the winner (“Florida,” by Lauren Groff). This year’s judges are writers Kristen Arnett and Tiphonie Yanique and publisher Andy Hunter. All three finalists will read from and discuss their work before the winner is announced at the awards ceremony on Feb. 26 at the New School in New York. For tickets (\$14), [click here](#).



The Washington Post in Washington, D.C. (Ron Charles/The Washington Post)

**The Washington Post is looking for a full-time editorial aide to join Book World.** The duties of this detail-oriented position include sorting mountains of book mail, sending books and payments to freelancers, keeping our book closet organized (See "Fibber McGee") and writing blurbs for the weekly bestsellers lists. Among many other things, you’ll have to deal with infuriating questions from me like, “Remember that galley with the blue spine? It might have had a tree on the cover — *or maybe it was a fox?* Can you get me another copy of that today?” If you’re interested, send a resume and cover letter to Book

World Editor Stephanie Merry at [stephanie.merry@washpost.com](mailto:stephanie.merry@washpost.com) by  
Jan. 21.



The Si-o-Se Pol bridge over the Zayandeh Rud River in Isfahan, Iran. (Photo by Atta Kenare/AFP via Getty Images)

**This week's poem is by Kaveh Akbar, who was born in Tehran.** He now teaches at Purdue University, Randolph College and Warren Wilson. In 2014, he founded the poetry interview site [Divedapper](#).

### **Do You Speak Persian?**

Some days we can see Venus in midafternoon. Then at night, stars  
separated by billions of miles, light travelling years

to die in the back of an eye.

Is there a vocabulary for this—one to make dailiness amplify  
and not diminish wonder?

I have been so careless with the words I already have.

I don't remember how to say *home*  
in my first language, or *lonely*, or *light*.

I remember only  
*delam barat tang shodeh*, I miss you,

and *shab bekheir*, goodnight.

How is school going, Kaveh-joon?

*Delam barat tang shodeh.*

Are you still drinking?

*Shab bekheir.*

For so long every step I've taken  
has been from one tongue to another.

To order the world:

I need, you need, he/she/it needs.

The rest, left to a hungry jackal  
in the back of my brain.

Right now our moon looks like a pale cabbage rose.

*Delam barat tang shodeh.*

We are forever folding into the night.

*Shab bekheir.*

*From "Calling a Wolf a Wolf," by Kaveh Akbar, Alice James Books,  
2017. Used by permission of the publisher.*

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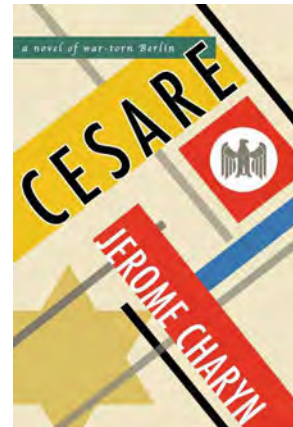
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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: It's personal for the lead sponsors of the Iran war powers resolutions  
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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

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**It's personal for the lead sponsors of the Iran war powers resolutions**



Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.) gives an interview at the Capitol. (Susan Walsh/AP)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA:** Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.) is a former CIA analyst who served three tours in Iraq as one of the American government's foremost experts on Iranian-backed Shiite militias before being appointed as an assistant secretary of defense with a focus on the Middle East. But that's not the only experience that motivated Slotkin to draft the resolution limiting President Trump's ability to take additional military action against Iran without congressional approval, which [passed](#) the House last night on a mostly party-line vote.

**The freshman congresswoman's son-in-law is an active-duty**

**Army officer stationed at the al-Asad air base in western Iraq,** which the Iranians hit with 11 ballistic missiles this week in retaliation for the drone strike that killed Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani. Slotkin's husband also served 30 years in the Army, retiring as a colonel, and her stepdaughter followed in his footsteps. She was not long ago commissioned as an active-duty Army officer.

**“For me, this is not a theoretical exercise,” Slotkin explained on Thursday evening.** “If our loved ones are going to be sent to fight in any protracted war, the president owes the American public a conversation. ... Congress has long abdicated its responsibility as laid out in the Constitution to make the hard decisions we owe our troops.”

**Such deeply personal investment in the war effort blunts hyperbolic attacks from Republican lawmakers** – especially those who have never served in uniform and don't have relatives on the battlefield – that opposing the escalation of conflict in the Middle East or supporting Congress asserting its constitutional role is somehow unpatriotic.

**The debate now moves to the Senate, which could vote as early as next week, where it faces a more uncertain future.** At least four Republicans need to vote for the resolution to ensure passage when it comes up, as early as next week. Whatever the Senate passes, if anything, would then need to be approved by the House before going to Trump, who has promised a veto that there would not be the votes to override.

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.), the lead sponsor of the accompanying resolution in that chamber, isn't just a member of the Armed Services



and Foreign Relations committees. **Kaine's oldest son, Nat, is an active-duty Marine infantry officer who has been deployed overseas multiple times.**



McCarthy continues to accuse Pelosi of 'defending Soleimani'

**-- The Republican messaging machine has gone into overdrive this week**, with what has felt at times like a competition among party leaders to see who could offer up the most incendiary quote questioning the motives of Democratic lawmakers concerned about the possibility of a full-scale war against Iran without congressional approval.

"This is a meaningless vote that only sends the wrong message that the House Democrats would rather stand with the socialist base than stand against Iran," House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) said at his weekly news conference on Thursday.

"Whether you mean to or not, you're empowering the enemy," said

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, referring to lawmakers who vote for the resolution.

“They are in love with terrorists,” said Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.), the top Republican on the House Judiciary Committee. “We see that they mourn Soleimani more than they mourn our Gold Star families,” Collins told Lou Dobbs on [Fox Business](#).

**-- Democrats have decided not to just brush aside comments like this.** “I left literal parts of my body in Iraq, where I was fighting terrorists,” said Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), who has used a wheelchair since her Black Hawk helicopter was shot down over Iraq in 2004. “Donald Trump spent months attacking an ACTUAL Gold Star Family,” she added on Twitter. “[Collins] should be ashamed of himself for perpetuating this offensive lie.”

Duckworth is referring to when Trump, who received a deferment for “bone spurs” to avoid being drafted during the Vietnam War, mocked Khizr and Ghazala Khan. Their son Humayun was killed in action as an Army captain in Iraq. The Khans spoke out against Trump at the Democratic convention in 2016, expressing concern about his proposed ban on Muslims entering the United States.

**-- Collins apologized this morning.** “Let me be clear: I do not believe Democrats are in love with terrorists,” he [tweeted](#). “As someone who served in Iraq in 2008, I witnessed firsthand the brutal death of countless soldiers who were torn to shreds by this vicious terrorist. Soleimani was nothing less than an evil mastermind who viciously killed and wounded thousands of Americans. These images will live with me for the rest of my life, but that does not excuse my

response on Wednesday evening.”

**-- During the Thursday evening debate on the House floor, several Democrats emphasized their credentials as they made the case for the war powers resolution.** Polls suggest that Democrats have tightened their [traditional gap](#) on which party is more trusted to handle national security. They won control of the House in the 2018 midterm elections thanks, in part, to a large cohort of young military veterans in swing districts. There are 96 veterans in [this Congress](#), including 30 Democrats and 66 Republicans.

**One of those freshmen who delivered the majority is Rep. Jason Crow (D-Colo.).** He defeated a GOP incumbent in the Denver suburbs by touting his Army combat experience. “I have often heard folks say that now is not the time to discuss the use of force or the decision to send our men and women to fight,” said Crow. “I heard that in 2003 when I was carrying a rifle in Baghdad. I heard it again in 2004 and 2005 when I was leading my unit through the mountains of Afghanistan. And I am hearing it again today in the halls of Congress. In the last 19 years, more than 7,000 Americans have given their lives in these conflicts, 53,000 have been wounded and we have spent over \$4 trillion dollars of taxpayer money.

**“Do not believe the fearmongering,” Crow concluded.** “I may have laid down my rifle, but my oath to this country endures. I will fight to ensure that we are having a discussion about when to send our men and women, our sons and daughters, our sisters and brothers, into harm’s way.”



Pelosi on Iran: 'We must avoid war'

-- Slotkin left her Pentagon job to move home to Michigan after Trump took office. Then she toppled a longtime GOP incumbent the next year in the midterms. She faces a tough reelection battle this fall in a district Trump carried comfortably in 2016. The National Republican Congressional Committee has taken to calling her "pro-Iran Slotkin" in news releases. "Sit down, Elissa," [one missive](#) from the House GOP campaign arm said this week.

**Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.), the former vice president's daughter, called into a news talk radio station in Slotkin's district on Thursday morning to attack her for the "appalling" resolution, which she said "will send a message to the Iranians that the country is not united behind the president."** Cheney told [WILS in Lansing, Mich.](#), that Slotkin's resolution showed "there's a big difference between what she's saying at home and what she does when she gets here to Washington."

**In a speech on the House floor before the vote on resolution, Slotkin pushed back forcefully on these criticisms.** "Soleimani was the lead architect of much of Iran's destabilizing activities in the Middle East and throughout the world," she said. "To that end, with Iran, or with any other adversary, the United States always has the inherent right and obligation to self-defense against imminent armed attacks. Always!"

**Slotkin lamented that the country has been at war for nearly two decades, but Congress has only voted twice in that time to authorize the use of military force: in 2001 and 2002.** Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) was the lone member of Congress to vote against the authorization for the use of military force immediately after the 9/11 attacks, which is still being cited more than 18 years later as a legal rationale for U.S. activities in the Middle East. Only 1 in 4 House members today were in Congress [back then](#).

**That 2001 authorization has been cited dozens of times, by three different presidents now, to justify deploying American troops to a list of countries that includes Libya, Turkey, Georgia, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia,**

**Kenya, the Philippines and Cuba.** The language of Slotkin’s nonbinding resolution instructs Trump “to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces to engage in hostilities in or against Iran or any part of its government or military” unless Congress either formally declares war or there is “an imminent armed attack upon the United States.”

**“When it comes to the matter of longer-term war, we have a constitutional responsibility to authorize the use of military force,” Slotkin reasoned.** “The framers of our Constitution rightly believed that the power to declare war belongs in the Congress because this would ensure that the American people, through the legislators they elected, would weigh the most significant decision a government can make.”



Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) walks in the Capitol after casting his vote on the House floor. (Matt Rourke/AP)

-- **Slotkin's resolution passed 224 to 194, with the support of three Republicans plus independent Justin Amash of Michigan and the opposition of eight Democrats. The most notable vote for the resolution came from Rep. Matt Gaetz, one of Trump's most outspoken allies on Capitol Hill.** "I take a back seat to no member of this body when it comes to defending the president," he said in a floor speech shortly before the vote. "This resolution offers no criticism of the president. It doesn't criticize the president's attacks on Soleimani. As a matter of fact, this resolution doesn't even say Soleimani's name in it."

Gaetz's district includes the naval air station in Pensacola, Fla. "I represent more troops than any other member of this body," he said. "I buried one of them earlier today at Arlington, and that sergeant died a patriot and a hero. If the members of our armed services have the courage to go fight and die in these wars, as Congress we ought to have the courage to vote for them or against them. It's ludicrous to suggest that we are impairing the troops from doing their job by not doing our job articulated in the Constitution."

The other Republicans who voted for Slotkin's resolution were Rep. Francis Rooney (Fla.), who is retiring, and Rep. Tom Massie (Ky.), a libertarian-minded iconoclast.

**Two of the eight Democrats who voted against it are freshmen who served in the armed forces:** Reps. Elaine Luria (Va.) and Max Rose (N.Y.). And Rep. Stephanie Murphy (Fla.) was formerly a national security specialist at the Defense Department. The others who voted no are moderates from difficult-to-win districts, including

Ben McAdams (Utah), Anthony Brindisi (N.Y.), Joe Cunningham (S.C.), Kendra Horn (Okla.) and Josh Gottheimer (N.J.).



Trump trashes Adam Schiff during Ohio rally



-- Trump ripped the Slotkin resolution during a rally last night in Toledo, Ohio, insisting he doesn't need to get permission from Congress to protect America. "[Soleimani] was a bloodthirsty terrorist ... and he's no longer a terrorist. He's dead, and yet now I see ... the radical-left Democrats have expressed outrage over the



termination of this horrible terrorist,” the president said. “Instead, they should be outraged by Soleimani's savage crimes and the fact that his countless victims were denied justice for so long.”

**Trump singled out Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), who as the leader of the House Intelligence Committee, is a member of the Gang of Eight that's entitled to briefings on the nation's biggest secrets.**

Schiff spearheaded the investigation that led to Trump's impeachment for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, and the congressman has clearly gotten under the president's skin. “You little pencil neck,” Trump said, referring to Schiff. Trump claimed, with no evidence whatsoever, that Schiff would have called CNN ahead of the drone strike on Soleimani to tip them off and that this would have allowed the Quds Force commander to get away. “They want us to tell them so that they can leak it to their friends in the corrupt media,” he said, referring to House Democrats.

**Slotkin's resolution explicitly makes an exception for defending against “an imminent armed attack,” but Trump ignored this as he complained about Democrats trying to stop him from taking action if there's an imminent threat.** “He was looking very seriously at our embassies and not just the embassy in Baghdad, but we stopped him very quickly and we stopped him cold,” the president told a crowd of nearly 8,000 supporters, referring to Soleimani. “We didn't have time to call up Nancy [Pelosi], who is not operating with a full deck.”

#### **QUOTE OF THE DAY:**

“It's not about how *bad* they are. It's about how *good* we

are,” Pelosi said at her weekly news conference, referring to Iran and Soleimani. ([Felicia Sonmez](#))



Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) heads to the Senate floor for a vote. (Shawn Thew/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

**-- In the Senate, two Republicans have committed to support Kaine’s resolution: Sens. Mike Lee (Utah) and Rand Paul (Ky.). Kaine is trying to woo at least two more GOP colleagues by offering to make amendments that could get them on board.** He’s actively discussing draft text with Sens. Susan Collins (Maine) and Todd Young (Ind.). Kaine has already agreed to remove any references to Trump by name to make it more palatable for Republican colleagues, and he’s willing to make more edits. “It doesn’t mean everyone I talk to will get on board, but me sitting down with them and talking them through why I’ve done it this way, it gives them some level of comfort,” Kaine [told Jenna Portnoy](#).

Kaine vocally pushed to get Congress to authorize the use of military force in the Middle East even when his good friend Barack Obama was president. ([Read my piece about it from 2015 here](#)). In fact, Kaine refused to modulate his position even when Hillary Clinton chose him as her running mate. His longtime emphasis on this issue undermines the GOP argument that his resolution is politically motivated.

**Keep an eye on Young**, who happens to be chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee. I wrote [a Big Idea in May](#) about how Young's military service prompted him to focus on this issue when it looked like the United States might get drawn into a war with Venezuela.

"I understand — as a former Marine Corps intelligence officer — the real-world limitations to and the sensitivities associated with sharing certain information, even with members of Congress," Young [told Seung Min Kim](#), referring to the closed-door briefing on Wednesday that left Lee and Paul seething. "But I left there feeling as though it would've been a lot more helpful had I gotten a little peek into some of the intel that informed the operational decisions."



U.S. believes Ukraine airliner shot down by Iran

### **THE LATEST ON THE IRAN CRISIS:**

-- In a phone call with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi asked the United States to send a delegation to Iraq to set up a mechanism for the “safe withdrawal of forces from Iraq.” [Sarah Dadouch reports](#): “The Iraqi prime minister has repeatedly insisted that U.S. troop withdrawal was the only path toward de-escalation. ... According to a statement, Abdul Mahdi also shared his objections regarding U.S. forces entering Iraq and American aircraft flying in Iraqi airspace without the consent of the Iraqi government.”

-- The Trump administration hit Iran with more sanctions Friday in the first concrete response to the attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq this week. ([Carol Morello](#))

-- Western officials believe an Iranian missile hit the Ukrainian

**plane that crashed near Tehran earlier this week in a possible unintentional firing. Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky is now asking Western leaders to share with him the intelligence that suggests this.** [Isabelle Khurshudyan and Erin Cunningham report](#): “Iran, meanwhile, denied the assertions that the Boeing 737, carrying 176 people from Tehran to Kyiv, was shot down early Wednesday shortly after departing from Tehran. ... Ukraine has taken an active role in investigating the crash of the jet, which was carrying 11 Ukrainians, including the crew. A team of 45 experts and search-and-rescue personnel from Ukraine, including specialists who helped investigate the July 2014 downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over Ukrainian territory, arrived in Tehran early Thursday to participate in the probe. ... Zelensky had phone conversations Thursday with heads of government from Canada, Britain, Sweden and Iran — countries that each had citizens among the passengers. **While Ukraine's readouts of those calls said Zelensky intended to keep the leaders abreast of Ukraine's findings and encouraged their countries to participate in the investigation, he has now had to publicly ask to be briefed in return.** ... The Ukrainian leader is expected to speak with [Pompeo] on Friday. ...

**“In Washington, U.S. officials expressed ‘high confidence’ that the Boeing 737-800 was targeted by an SA-15 surface-to-air missile,** part of a Russian-made air defense system also known as a Tor system, as Iranian forces were on high alert. President Trump said the downing of the aircraft was probably a ‘mistake.’ Then in Ottawa, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said intelligence analyses indicated that a surface-to-air missile hit the plane in what could have been an ‘unintentional’ act. ... A Ukrainian official ... said

that **Zelensky made the public request for evidence about the crash because the United States had not yet shared with Ukraine its intelligence about the missile Thursday. ...**

**"The Washington Post obtained a video that allegedly shows the moment the airliner was struck in midair. The video, first published by the New York Times, purportedly shows a missile intercepting the aircraft near the city of Parand, followed by a loud boom. ...** Earlier Friday, the Iranian government said in a statement that it was inviting Boeing to send a representative to help examine the 'black box' containing the flight data and cockpit voice recorders. Iranian state television aired a video of an investigator opening and showing the contents of the box."

**-- The tragedy mirrors the 1988 Iran Air incident, in which a passenger plane that had originated in the Iranian capital was shot down, leaving 290 dead. [Adam Taylor reports](#):** "On July 3, 1988, Iran Air Flight 655 was shot down by the U.S. military. The flight ... was flying over the Strait of Hormuz toward its destination, Dubai, when it was hit by two surface-to-air missiles. Though Pentagon officials at first denied any knowledge of the incident, it soon emerged that the plane had been targeted by the USS Vincennes, a cruiser that had been involved in a skirmish with Iranian boats in the Persian Gulf and had mistaken the passenger jet for an Iranian warplane. President Ronald Reagan expressed sympathy for the 'terrible human tragedy' but suggested that the plane had 'failed to heed repeated warnings.' However, an investigation by the International Civil Aviation Organization, a U.N. agency, found that U.S. military ships in the region did not have the equipment necessary to monitor civilian air-

traffic-control frequencies.”

-- **On Fox News last night, Pompeo reiterated that Soleimani planned** “a series of imminent attacks.” Asked for specifics, he added: “We don’t know precisely when and we don’t know precisely where. But it was real.”

-- **An Iranian military commander said the missiles fired at bases used by U.S. troops in Iraq were not intended to inflict casualties.** [Kareem Fahim and Sarah Dadouch report](#): “‘We did not intend to kill,’ said Brig. Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of the Revolutionary Guard’s Aerospace Force, according to Iranian state media. ‘We intended to hit the enemy’s military machinery.’ However, he repeated the government’s claim that ‘tens of people were killed or wounded.’ U.S. and Iraqi officials said the strikes caused no casualties. ... Iran tried to counter the United States on the diplomatic front Thursday after Trump called on Britain, Germany, France, Russia and China to ‘break away from the remnants’ of the 2015 nuclear deal Iran struck with world powers. ... British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, speaking with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Thursday, ‘underlined the UK’s continued commitment to’ the nuclear deal and ‘ongoing dialogue to avoid nuclear proliferation and reduce tensions,’ according to a British government statement. Rouhani also called European Council President Charles Michel asking for a response to U.S. sanctions, which Rouhani described as ‘economic terrorism,’ the Iranian Fars News agency reported. In a statement, Michel emphasized the need for de-escalation in the region.”

-- **The U.S. strike on Soleimani’s convoy last week also killed Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the deputy head of an Iraqi paramilitary**

**group, whose death could have far-reaching implications.** [From Middle East Eye](#): “Commanders of Iranian-backed armed factions in Iraq tell MEE that with the loss of the two leaders, they are now almost paralysed and would be unable to strike the Americans with real consequence. ... Muhandis, who since the 1980s has been one of America’s most wanted men over his involvement in the bombing of the US and French embassies in Kuwait, was seen by most Iraqis as Iran’s most influential man in the country. ... Although formally stripped of his financial and administrative powers, Muhandis continued to enjoy great influence over most of the Hashd al-Shaabi’s armed factions, with the government unable to regain control over the paramilitary umbrella group or force Muhandis to implement orders for fear of retaliation. ... While he frustrated the government, it was Muhandis’ strong personality, and his blatant challenge to it and the rest of his opponents, that so attracted the leaders and fighters of the armed factions and kept them revolving around him like moths to a flame, following wherever he went.”

**-- The speed at which the Iran crisis unfolded shows the influence Trump’s new team of national security advisers has.** [From the Journal](#): “The group, including new Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley and new national security adviser Robert O’Brien, along with [Pompeo], backed the president’s decision to kill the top Iranian military commander and moved swiftly to carry it out. The new team was cohesive and less inclined than its predecessors to push back against the president’s wishes, according to administration officials and others consulted by the White House. They also were less likely to consult in advance with other administration, Pentagon or State



Department officials, congressional leaders or foreign allies, some of these officials said.”

**-- Informants in Iraq and Syria helped the United States kill**

**Soleimani.** [From Reuters](#): “Soleimani arrived at the Damascus airport in a vehicle with dark-tinted glass. ... They parked near a staircase leading to a Cham Wings Airbus A320, destined for Baghdad. Neither Soleimani nor the soldiers were registered on the passenger manifesto. ... The passenger flight would be Soleimani’s last. ... Investigators have focused on how suspected informants inside the Damascus and Baghdad airports collaborated with the U.S. military to help track and pinpoint Soleimani’s position. ... The suspects include two security staffers at the Baghdad airport and two Cham Wings employees. ... The National Security agency’s investigators believe the four suspects, who have not been arrested, worked as part of a wider group of people feeding information to the U.S. military, the official said.”

**-- For Trump and Iran, Twitter trolling helped escalate tensions**

**on the battlefield.** [David Nakamura reports](#): “A day after [Trump] signaled he would not use military force to escalate a tense standoff with Iran, that nation’s supreme leader responded with a message of his own: a doctored photo of Trump’s face imprinted with red welts from a slap to the face. The creation on the official website of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei offered a trolling visual meme to echo his previous warning that Tehran’s missile attack on two Iraqi facilities housing U.S. troops was only the first salvo in a campaign to avenge the drone killing of [Soleimani.] ... Experts called the display an example of a new era in international diplomacy in which official

letters, telephone hotlines and secure video conference calls have been replaced, in some cases, by high-octane and instantaneous social media messaging.”

**-- Notable commentary from The Post's opinion page:**

- [Jim Webb](#), former Democratic senator from Virginia and secretary of the Navy under Reagan: “When did it become acceptable to kill a top leader of a country we aren’t even at war with?”
- [Andrew McCabe](#), former deputy director of the FBI: “If you think Iran is done retaliating, think again.”
- [Fareed Zakaria](#): “Trump does not have a foreign policy. He has a series of impulses.”
- [David Ignatius](#): “This is what a real Iran strategy would look like.”
- [Eugene Robinson](#): “The best Iran crisis explanation? Trump’s obsession with Obama.”
- [Josh Rogin](#): “Soleimani’s death offers a chance to fix U.S. policy on Syria.”
- [Max Boot](#): “By claiming Democrats support terrorism, Republicans hit a new low.”
- A hilarious satire by [Alexandra Petri](#): “Millions of Americans devastated to learn they were ardent fans of Soleimani this whole time.”

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Why Democrats say they're withholding the impeachment articles

**DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE  
OVERSHADOWED:**

-- Nancy Pelosi signaled this morning in a letter to colleagues

**that the House will transmit the articles of impeachment to the Senate as soon as next week.** “I have asked Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler to be prepared to bring to the Floor next week a resolution to appoint managers and transmit articles of impeachment to the Senate,” she wrote. ([Our live blog has more.](#))

**-- The Senate has conducted 15 impeachment trials in U.S. history. It has heard witnesses in every single one.** [Noah Bookbinder](#), executive director of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, reviews the history: “Only 19 other individuals besides Trump have been impeached by the House of Representatives. The Senate completed a trial in 15 of those cases, and in every single one of them, it heard testimony from witnesses. Those cases include the only two prior instances in which a president was impeached.”

**-- House Republicans are eyeing a push to condemn Pelosi for delaying the trial.** [From Politico](#): “GOP Rep. Bradley Byrne, who is running for an Alabama Senate seat, introduced a censure resolution on Thursday morning to rebuke Pelosi for hanging on to the articles of impeachment since December. Republicans have the option to force a floor vote on the measure though Democrats would surely move to table it, just as they did with a censure resolution against” Schiff.

**-- Meanwhile, Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) tweeted an impeachment-related fundraising appeal that included a doctored photo of Pelosi, drawing a retweet from Trump.** [Felicia Sonmez reports](#): “The tweet marks the second time this week that a House Republican has tweeted a photo that appears to have been manipulated. On Monday, Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) tweeted a fake

photo of Obama with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. ... The tweet shows a close-up, red-tinted photo of Pelosi, with the lines in the House speaker's face exaggerated due to the image's unnaturally high contrast."



Matt Golsteyn is pictured in his D.C. office with his wife Julie and their infant son Henry. (Sarah L. Voisin/The Washington Post)

**-- An Army general denied a request by an officer pardoned by Trump in an open murder case to have his Special Forces tab reinstated. [Dan Lamothe reports](#):** "The decoration for retired Army Maj. Mathew L. Golsteyn was denied Dec. 3 by Lt. Gen. Francis M. Beaudette, the commander of U.S. Army Special Operations Command, the Army disclosed Thursday. Beaudette's decision is not final, and the service said in a statement that it will next have an administrative panel consider whether it should reinstate the Special Forces tab and a Distinguished Service Cross — the U.S. military's

second-highest valor award — and expunge a letter of reprimand Golsteyn received in connection with his case. Golsteyn was awaiting trial this year in the alleged murder of a suspected Taliban bombmaker in Marja, Afghanistan, in February 2010. ... The general's denial of Golsteyn's reinstatement request follows Trump's decision in November to pardon Golsteyn along with former 1st Lt. Clint Lorance, an Army officer who had been convicted of murder in Afghanistan. ... Golsteyn, reached for comment Thursday evening, said he had not heard about the decision until it was first reported by The Washington Post. A few minutes later, he and his lawyer, Phil Stackhouse, said they received notification from the Army in an emailed letter that had just arrived."

**-- The Justice Department is winding down the Hillary Clinton-related inquiry once championed by Trump. It found nothing of consequence.** [Devlin Barrett and Matt Zapotosky report](#): "John Huber, the U.S. attorney in Utah, was tapped in November 2017 by then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions to look into concerns raised by Trump and his allies in Congress that the FBI had not fully pursued cases of possible corruption at the Clinton Foundation and during Clinton's time as secretary of state, when the U.S. government decided not to block the sale of a company called Uranium One. As a part of his review, Huber examined documents and conferred with federal law enforcement officials in Little Rock who were handling a meandering probe into the Clinton Foundation. ... Current and former officials said that Huber has largely finished and found nothing worth pursuing — though the assignment has not formally ended and no official notice has been sent to the Justice Department or to lawmakers."

**-- Internal Boeing documents show employees discussing efforts to manipulate U.S. and international safety regulators. [Ian](#)**

**[Duncan, Lori Aratani and Michael Laris report:](#)** ““Yes, I still haven’t been forgiven by god for the covering up I did last year,” said a 2018 message. Another exchange between Boeing employees, from August 2015, closes out with this: ‘I know but this is what these regulators get when they try and get in the way. they impede progress. ...’ **In 2017, a Boeing employee wrote: ‘this airplane is designed by clowns, who in turn are supervised by monkeys.’**

The documents were released by Boeing to congressional investigators probing how the company’s 737 Max jets were certified by the Federal Aviation Administration as safe before two crashes that killed 346 people. ...

**“At issue in some of the messages was whether simulator training should be required for pilots flying the Max. Boeing went to great lengths to prevent such a requirement, in part because it would be costly** for its customers, company documents show. ... In one November 2015 message, the 737 chief technical pilot, whose name is redacted in the documents, said failing to get computer-based training for one system ‘is a planet-killer for the MAX.’ ... In another email chain, from June 2017, the chief technical pilot forwarded to Boeing colleagues messages in which he persuaded an airline, which is not identified in the documents, not to require simulator training on the Max. ‘Looks like my jedi mind trick worked again!’ the pilot wrote. ‘These are not the droids you’re looking for.’ ... In a shift Tuesday, the company said that it is recommending that pilots undergo simulator training before they resume flying the 737 Max. The FAA, which will

have the final say, said it will consider Boeing's recommendation."

([Read the Boeing documents for yourself here.](#))

**-- The United States economy added 145,000 jobs in December as the unemployment rate remained at 3.5 percent.** ([Rachel Siegel](#))

**-- Video from Jeffrey Epstein's first apparent suicide attempt was lost due to "technical errors," according to prosecutors.** [Reis Thebault reports](#): "Federal prosecutors said in December they were unable to locate the video, which would have showed guards finding Epstein after his first apparent suicide attempt in July. Then, just a day later, they wrote in a court filing that they had found the footage and were 'in the process of obtaining a copy' from the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City, where Epstein was held. But on Thursday, prosecutors reversed themselves again, saying the video 'no longer exists' because of 'technical errors.' Jail officials initially thought they had saved footage from outside Epstein's cell, when in fact the footage they preserved was from a different part of the facility, explained Assistant U.S. Attorneys Maurene Comey and Jason Swergold in the latest filing."

**-- Border crossings are starting to plateau as U.S. officials report a continued decline in immigration apprehensions.** [Abigail Hauslohner reports](#): "The number of people apprehended or deemed 'inadmissible' by U.S. border authorities along the southern border fell to 40,620 last month, down 72 percent from May, when the Trump administration declared it was at the height of a border crisis. December marked the seventh straight month of decline in border crossings, but the month-to-month differences have shrunk



significantly since September. Border enforcement actions last month were roughly on par with December 2017.”

**-- Counties, cities and states are stepping up on their climate goals as the Trump administration steps back. [Rebecca Tan reports](#):** “Maryland’s most populous jurisdiction is promising an ambitious package of new climate initiatives in 2020, joining other liberal counties, cities and states stepping up to address what they see as the Trump administration’s resistance to protecting the planet. ... In February, Montgomery will hold a town hall on hundreds of recommendations from climate workgroups convened last year by County Executive Marc Elrich (D). And by early 2021, officials hope to unveil a comprehensive plan detailing how the county will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2027 and 100 percent by 2035.”



American sprinters Tommie Smith (center) and John Carlos (right) raise their gloved fists in a civil rights protest at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City. (AP)

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- **Gag rule alert:** The International Olympic Committee warned athletes they would face sanctions, which could include the loss of medals, for participating in political protests during the Olympics in Tokyo this summer, including kneeling, political hand gestures and wearing or holding signs or armbands. [Jacob Bogage reports:](#) “The committee published a [three-page document of guidelines](#). ... ‘We needed clarity, and they wanted clarity on the

rules,' [said] Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe, chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission, which helped create the new document. ... The guidelines outlaw demonstrations such as those staged by Tommie Smith and John Carlos, American sprinters who raised their gloved fists on the medal stand at the 1968 Games in Mexico City, and former NFL player Colin Kaepernick, who in 2016 began kneeling during the national anthem. Both demonstrations sought to draw attention to racial injustice and have been repeated by other athletes in recent years. ...

**“Ethiopian runner Feyisa Lilesa crossed his wrists at the finish line of the men’s marathon at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro to show support for civil rights protesters in his home country.**

Americans Race Imboden, a fencer, and hammer-thrower Gwen Berry were placed on probation by the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee in August after demonstrating on the medal stand at the Pan American Games. Imboden knelt during the national anthem, while Berry raised a fist. Athletes who protest will face discipline ‘on a case-by-case basis as necessary,’ according to the guidelines.”

**-- A billion animals have been caught in Australia’s fires. Some may go extinct. [Karin Brulliard and Darryl Fears report](#):** “The mouse-size dunnart is not as iconic as the koalas or platypuses that draw tourists, but it is arguably the most special mammal on Australia’s Kangaroo Island. Now the Kangaroo Island dunnart’s days may be numbered. Before bush fires struck, it was already endangered, so rare that even researchers who studied them had never seen one. Now they fear they never will. One-third of the 1,700-square-mile island has burned, including the entire area where these dunnarts are

known to live. ... More than 1 billion mammals, birds and reptiles nationwide — some of them found nowhere else on Earth — may have been affected or killed by the fires sweeping across Australia, according to a University of Sydney estimate. The potential toll is far greater when other types of animals are included. ... Individual animals might survive, but when their habitat is gone, ‘it doesn’t matter,’ Saunders said. ‘They’ll die anyway.’”

**-- Disgusting: Hoaxers are using the fires to spread misinformation and profit, [Brittany Shammass reports](#).**

**-- The fire crisis is fueling protests calling for bolder action on climate change. [Kate Shuttleworth reports](#):** “At rallies nationwide on Friday, thousands called for Prime Minister Scott Morrison to resign over what they say is his administration’s passivity on an issue that has hit home to millions of Australians as a clear and present danger. The conservative leader has defended his disaster response after facing criticism from victims and firefighters for its perceived inadequacy. In Melbourne, close to 10,000 people took to the streets, spurning calls from police and the state’s center-left leader, Daniel Andrews, not to risk diverting emergency resources. ... An organizer of a similar rally in Sydney, Gavin Stanbrook, said the events of recent weeks revealed a nation polarized over how to tackle the challenge. ‘We are divided between coal interests and politicians on the one side and then firefighters and volunteers on the other and the rest of us who are either impacted or our friends and family are on the front line, or in cities surrounded by smoke,’ Stanbrook said. ‘We need to come together and say that we will not accept it anymore.’”

**-- Suspected Islamist militants killed 25 soldiers in Niger. [Danielle](#)**

**Paquette reports:** “The clash unfolded in the western village of Chinegodar near the border with Mali, according to Nigerien defense officials, as fighters with ties to the Islamic State and al-Qaeda look to seize new swaths of territory. The bloodshed came about a month after gunmen ambushed a Nigerien army post in another border town, killing 71 soldiers in the deadliest strike on the nation’s forces in recent memory. The Islamic State West Africa Province asserted responsibility for that massacre two days later.”

**-- In Israel, deadly floods have kept residents confined to their homes and offices even as they braced for potential spinoff attacks from rising tensions between the United States and Iran.** **Steve Hendrix reports:** “Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday beseeched citizens to take flood warnings as seriously as they do the sirens warning of imminent rocket fire that are a feature of life in many Israeli communities. ... Netanyahu also warned the adventurous not to venture out to the desert to witness the dramatic — and potentially dangerous — spectacle of dry stream beds reanimated with roaring water. ‘Watch them on television,’ he advised. ... Officials said rescue resources had been redeployed nationwide in response to the flooding, which stretched from the coastal plains along the Mediterranean to the occupied West Bank down to the Dead Sea.”

**-- China identified a new strain of coronavirus as the source of its pneumonia outbreak.** **Gerry Shih and Lena H. Sun report:** “A group of Chinese experts this week isolated and obtained the genome sequence of the new virus, which is believed to be responsible for sickening dozens of people who visited a wild-animal market last

month in Wuhan, in central China, state media reported Thursday. The outbreak ahead of the Lunar New Year travel season in China has prompted health authorities across East Asia to increase screening of travelers for signs of fever, underscoring fears about its potential spread.”

**-- Understatement of the year? Pope Francis said 2020 is off to a rough start, saying it “does not seem to be marked by encouraging signs.”** [Chico Harlan reports](#): “While saying that maintaining hope is essential, the pope spent the next 45 minutes talking about wars and could-be wars, exploitation, sexual abuse, Internet hate speech, international indifference to humanitarian crises, and the depressing state of the world’s fight against climate change. He called heightened tensions between the United States and Iran ‘particularly troubling,’ but his remarks amounted to a laundry list of flash points, both major and obscure, from Burkina Faso to Venezuela to Australia. ‘Certainly, hope has to be realistic,’ Francis said. ‘It demands acknowledging the many troubling issues confronting our world and the challenges lurking on the horizon. It requires that problems be called by their name and the courage be found to resolve them.’”

**-- Lebanon has banned ex-Nissan chief Carlos Ghosn from traveling.** [Sarah Dadouch reports](#): “Ghosn appeared at a hearing in Lebanon on Thursday, two days after Lebanon’s caretaker justice minister, Albert Serhan, said the country’s public prosecutor had received the Interpol red notice about Ghosn and would be taking the necessary steps. He was placed under house arrest. A few days after his arrival in Lebanon’s capital, Ghosn found himself in more legal

trouble: A group of lawyers last Thursday lodged a legal complaint against him for visiting Israel as chairman of Renault and later Nissan. Lebanon and Israel have been in a state of war for the past six decades, and Lebanese law considers interacting with the country's southern neighbor and sworn enemy a crime. Ali Abbas, one of the two lawyers who filed the Israel-related complaint against Ghosn, said the travel ban was a formality that usually comes after receiving Interpol notices, especially red notices, which alert police about internationally wanted fugitives but do not compel any country to arrest the fugitive."

**-- Trump wished North Korean leader Kim Jung Un a happy birthday through South Korea. (AP)**

**-- A statue mocking Trump in Melania Trump's home country was burned down. Lateshia Beachum reports:** "Firefighters in Moravce, a city in central Slovenia, tried to extinguish the bonfire, but their efforts left charred planks on the ground. The arsonists responsible for the Christmas nutcracker-like statue's ashes are reportedly still at large. The nearly 26-foot tall wooden structure that had a mechanism to open Trump's red painted mouth full of pointy teeth was constructed last year in a nation divided over the U.S. president. The statue of Trump, with the president's signature blue suit and red tie, had been under torch threats since local residents threatened to set it ablaze on Halloween ... It was relocated because of the risk."

**-- London's Madame Tussauds removed its wax figures of Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, from its display of Britain's royal family less than 24 hours after the couple announced they would be "stepping back" from their roles as**

**senior royals.** [Jennifer Hassan reports](#): “The figures will no longer stand alongside the rest of the royal family. They have been moved by the wax museum’s staff. The likenesses of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, William and Catherine, remain on display alongside figures of Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip. ‘As two of our most popular and well-loved figures, they will of course remain an important feature at Madame Tussauds London as we watch to see what the next chapter holds for them,’ said [Steve Davies, general manager of Madame Tussauds London].”



Vice President Pence, along with White House senior adviser Jared Kushner and his wife, Ivanka Trump, and their children, Arabella, Joseph and Theodore Kushner, attend a Hanukkah reception in the East Room of the White House last month. (Manuel Balce Ceneta/AP)

## **2020 WATCH:**

**-- Jared Kushner’s global role is shrinking as his role in the**



**president's reelection campaign grows.** [From Annie Karni and Maggie Haberman in the Times](#): “When senior administration officials gathered in the Situation Room on Tuesday for a meeting to discuss the repercussions of the killing of [Soleimani], the White House aide whose portfolio is the Middle East was notably absent from the meeting. ... [He] was sitting for a photo shoot for a planned Time magazine cover story. ... [Kushner] is positioning himself to be the overseer of something of even greater personal interest to his father-in-law: Mr. Trump’s 2020 re-election campaign. ... [Kushner] sees no reason to involve himself as extensively in international issues now that the State Department is run by [Mike] Pompeo, whom he sees as far more competent than his predecessor, Rex W. Tillerson.”

**-- Mike Bloomberg won't release the women who sued him from their nondisclosure agreements.** [From ABC News](#): “‘You can't just walk away from it,’ Bloomberg said. ‘They're legal agreements, and for all I know the other side wouldn't want to get out of it.’ Last month, ABC News reported on several lawsuits in which **Bloomberg was accused of making crude remarks in the 1990s and of allegedly fostering an uncomfortable environment for women to work** — allegations Bloomberg has denied. Three cases against the company remain active. ABC News has spoken with several women who expressed interest in telling their stories who were subject to confidentiality agreements, but said they feared the prospect of facing retribution from the company for speaking out.”

**-- Tom Steyer appears to have qualified for the seventh Democratic debate, scheduled for next Tuesday night in Iowa, on the strength of Fox News polls that found him with double-digit**

**support in Nevada and South Carolina.** [David Weigel reports:](#)

“Steyer, who has spent more than \$115 million on his campaign so far, hit 12 percent in the network’s poll of Nevada ... and 15 percent in South Carolina. ... It came after Steyer poured more than \$20 million into commercials and other advertising in these states as of this week, with \$11.2 million worth of expenditures in South Carolina and \$10.3 million in Nevada. He has also spent heavily to attract hundreds of thousands of small-dollar donations, which the DNC requires for debate access.”

-- **The Fox News Nevada poll also shows Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders vying for the lead in the state:** “Biden tops Sanders by 23-17 percent among Democratic caucusgoers, with both down one percentage point since November. [Elizabeth] Warren comes in at 12 percent, down from 18 percent — and ties with [Steyer] for third.”

-- **A new Monmouth Poll shows a four-way fight in the New Hampshire Democratic primary:** “Among registered New Hampshire Democrats and unaffiliated voters who are likely to participate in the February 2020 Democratic primary, 20% currently support [Pete] Buttigieg, 19% back Biden, 18% back Sanders, and 15% back Warren. ... Compared to Monmouth’s last New Hampshire poll in September, Buttigieg’s support has grown by 10 points (from 10%) and Sanders’ support has increased by 6 points (from 12%). Warren’s support has dropped by 12 points (from 27%) and Biden’s has decreased by 6 points (from 25%).”

-- **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti endorsed Biden.** [From the Los Angeles Times:](#) “Garcetti will be one of Biden’s highest-profile supporters in California’s March 3 primary, but the endorsement is

unlikely to have any practical effect on the highly competitive race. Dianne Feinstein, the state's senior U.S. senator, is also supporting Biden. And Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, who had endorsed California Sen. Kamala Harris before she dropped out of the presidential race, also announced his support for Biden on Thursday."

**-- Fun read: Philadelphians looking for love on Tinder may have come across "Daddy Bernie," a profile set up for Sanders by a local man who just wants to inform people on the dating app about his favorite candidate.** [From the Philadelphia Inquirer](#): "Alex Scheinberg, 26, is not a senator from Vermont. Or any other state. He actually doesn't have a job. And he lives in his childhood home. But, Scheinberg said, that gives him more time to mix politics and pleasure in order to promote his favorite candidate in a forum that's increasingly becoming a venue for political endorsement and engagement. ... Scheinberg has his Tinder profile set to see all genders and sexual orientations, though he is straight. This way, he said, he can maximize the number of people seeing Sanders' campaign message. That's the same reason he swipes right on almost everyone, to reach as many people as possible. (For those who don't have to experience the horror show that is modern online dating, swiping right on a profile means you're interested. Swiping left, not so much.)"

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

One of Vice President Pence's children got married at the Naval Academy over the holidays:



**Kate Bennett** ✓  
@KateBennett\_DC



. @SecondLady and @VP's daughter @charlipence was married to Henry Bond at the @NavalAcademy on December 28th. She posted this photo on her Instagram account today 🎉



**charlotterosepence**  
United States Naval Academy



♡ 68 7:01 PM - Jan 9, 2020



💬 22 people are talking about this



A former senior adviser to Obama made this observation about the passenger plane shot down in Iran:




A Republican senator from South Carolina had a flip response when confronted by a protester:



An alarming number of registered voters in our country cannot even place Iran on a map:

 **Karl Bode** ✓ @KarlBode

I'm still stuck on this. Can't stop staring at it.



Respondents were asked to identify Iran on the map

Each orange dot represents a respondent's guess. Each green dot represents a correct identification.

MORNING CONSULT

13.5K 5:44 PM - Jan 9, 2020

4,157 people are talking about this

The White House press secretary turned down an offer to support a charity in exchange for giving a news conference. In other news, irony is dead:

 **Jake Tapper** ✓ @jaketapper · 15h

I asked @PressSec about this offer to give \$175k to @StJude if she holds a press briefing.

Her response: "If you have \$200,000 to play with, why not just help children because it's a good thing to do? Donations to charity should never come with strings

attached." [twitter.com/donwinslow/sta...](https://twitter.com/donwinslow/status/1234567890)

**Don Winslow**  @donwinslow

To @PressSec Stephanie Grisham

I'm upping my offer to \$100,000. @StephenKing has agreed to put in \$75,000.


We will donate \$175,000 to @StJude in your name & help a lot of kids if you will take questions from the full White House press corps for 1 HOUR in the WH briefing room.



**Jake Tapper** 

@jaketapper

(And yes I have pointed out to Ms. Grisham that in 2012, Trump offered \$5 million to the charity of President Obama's choice if he released his college and passport records.) [youtu.be/l-IWv0cpCnM](https://youtu.be/l-IWv0cpCnM)

 **YouTube** @YouTube



 5,413 6:23 PM - Jan 9, 2020



 808 people are talking about this



A Republican senator met with a Democratic colleague to talk about climate change. Both have run unsuccessfully for president, but the Democrat's campaign is still active:





**Senator Mitt Romney** ✓  
@SenatorRomney



Climate change is a global problem that will require major breakthroughs in innovation and technology to reverse current trends. Sat down with [@SenatorBennet](#) this morning to continue dialogue with colleagues on potential bipartisan solutions to address climate change.



♡ 936 6:04 PM - Jan 9, 2020



💬 386 people are talking about this



Marianne Williamson, who is also still in the presidential race, called out the lack of diversity among Trump's top advisers:



**Marianne Williamson** ✓

@marwilliamson



This is what diversity does not look like. And the issue is not just external; it's a diversity of attitudes, of perspective, of mindset that's so lacking...and so dangerous. That is what needs to change.



♡ 657 7:33 PM - Jan 9, 2020



💬 218 people are talking about this



John Kerry joined Joe Biden in Iowa:



**John Kerry** ✓  
@JohnKerry



A privilege to spend time with you, @malcolmkenyatta and @SenAkbari - you learn a lot about people when you take long bus rides through Iowa! Great to be on this journey together. @JoeBiden is lucky to have you all on the team! #TeamJoe [twitter.com/ShevrinJones/s...](https://twitter.com/ShevrinJones/s...)

**Shevrin Jones** ✓ @ShevrinJones

I spent 24 hours with who I believe is one of the brightest minds, Secretary @JohnKerry. From his thoughts of what's happening in Iran to his stories working in the @BarackObama administration, he's living history, and I am grateful that our paths crossed.



♥ 373 4:53 PM - Jan 9, 2020



💬 134 people are talking about this



Billionaires are making themselves heard in the presidential race:



**David Wright**   
@DavidWright\_CNN



Total TV ad spend by 2020 candidates, through this week:

Bloomberg: \$153.1 million

Steyer: \$116.5 million

Sanders: \$11.7 million

Buttigieg: \$11.4 million

Yang: \$7.3 million

Warren: \$3.7 million

Biden: \$3 million

Klobuchar: \$2.9 million

Bennet: \$1.1 million

Gabbard: \$1.1 million

 4,111 3:35 PM - Jan 9, 2020



 2,260 people are talking about this



And the House majority whip, Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.), shared a touching story about his wife, who recently passed away:



**James E. Clyburn** ✓  
@WhipClyburn



I met my wife in jail after being arrested during a civil rights march.

She brought me food and shared a hamburger with me.

Turns out, she knew who I was and had been plotting to meet me for some time.

We were married for 58 years.

[twitter.com/adribbleofink/...](https://twitter.com/adribbleofink/)

**Aidan Moher** @adribbleofink

Tell me a story about yourself the sounds like a lie but is absolutely true.

♡ 62.3K 9:40 PM - Jan 9, 2020



💬 8,326 people are talking about this



## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert joked that he was ruining Republican Sen. Mike Lee's political career by agreeing with him on his criticisms of the White House's Iran briefing:



Seth Meyers also went through Republican senators' comments of the Iran briefing:



Trevor Noah gave an explainer on the Australian fires:

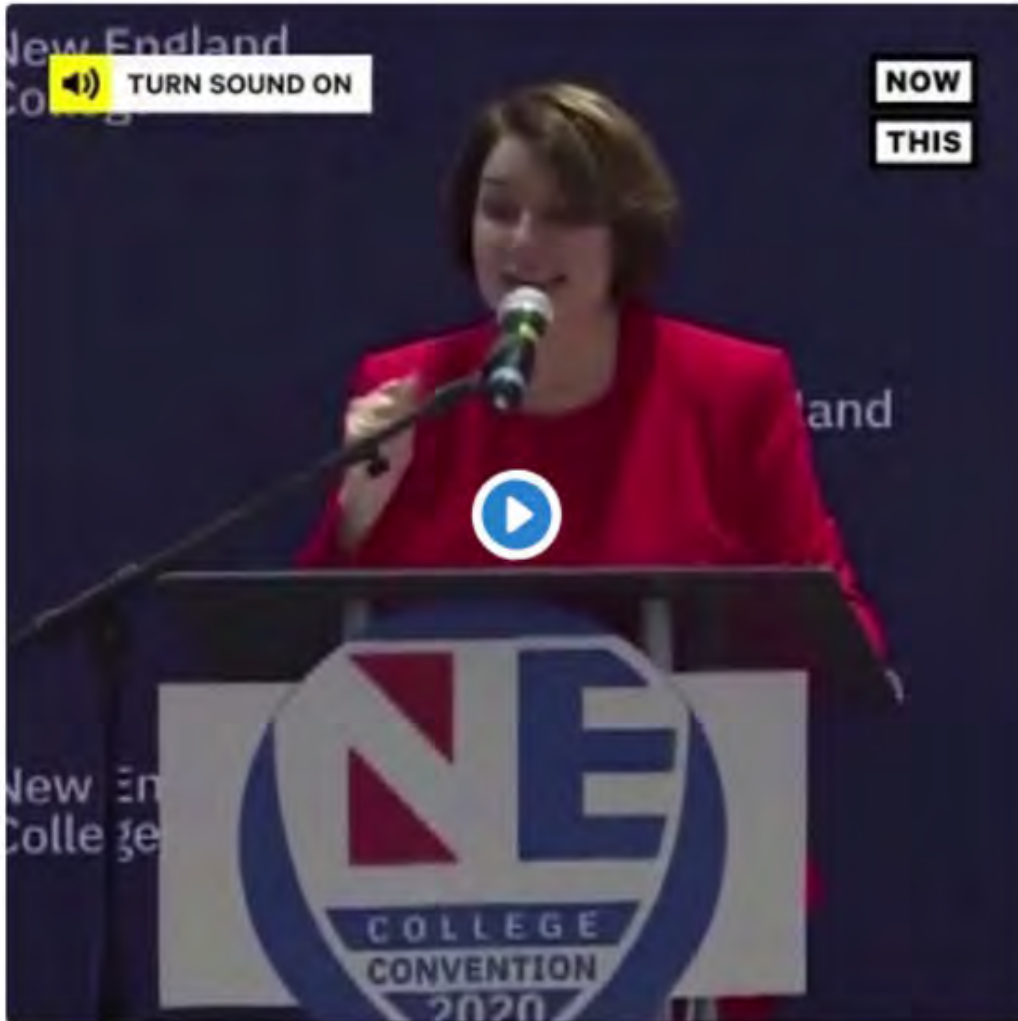


And Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) has an impressive party trick that the other 2020 candidates probably don't:

 **NowThis**   
@nowthisnews



Watch [@AmyKlobuchar](#) rapidly name all 50 states in 30 impressive seconds



♡ 242 9:13 PM - Jan 9, 2020



💬 89 people are talking about this



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: It's personal for the lead sponsors of the Iran war powers resolutions  
**Date:** Friday, January 10, 2020 10:30:36 AM

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

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**It's personal for the lead sponsors of the Iran war powers resolutions**



Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.) gives an interview at the Capitol. (Susan Walsh/AP)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA:** Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.) is a former CIA analyst who served three tours in Iraq as one of the American government's foremost experts on Iranian-backed Shiite militias before being appointed as an assistant secretary of defense with a focus on the Middle East. But that's not the only experience that motivated Slotkin to draft the resolution limiting President Trump's ability to take additional military action against Iran without congressional approval, which [passed](#) the House last night on a mostly party-line vote.

**The freshman congresswoman's son-in-law is an active-duty**

**Army officer stationed at the al-Asad air base in western Iraq,** which the Iranians hit with 11 ballistic missiles this week in retaliation for the drone strike that killed Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani. Slotkin's husband also served 30 years in the Army, retiring as a colonel, and her stepdaughter followed in his footsteps. She was not long ago commissioned as an active-duty Army officer.

**“For me, this is not a theoretical exercise,” Slotkin explained on Thursday evening.** “If our loved ones are going to be sent to fight in any protracted war, the president owes the American public a conversation. ... Congress has long abdicated its responsibility as laid out in the Constitution to make the hard decisions we owe our troops.”

**Such deeply personal investment in the war effort blunts hyperbolic attacks from Republican lawmakers** – especially those who have never served in uniform and don't have relatives on the battlefield – that opposing the escalation of conflict in the Middle East or supporting Congress asserting its constitutional role is somehow unpatriotic.

**The debate now moves to the Senate, which could vote as early as next week, where it faces a more uncertain future.** At least four Republicans need to vote for the resolution to ensure passage when it comes up, as early as next week. Whatever the Senate passes, if anything, would then need to be approved by the House before going to Trump, who has promised a veto that there would not be the votes to override.

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.), the lead sponsor of the accompanying resolution in that chamber, isn't just a member of the Armed Services

and Foreign Relations committees. **Kaine's oldest son, Nat, is an active-duty Marine infantry officer who has been deployed overseas multiple times.**



McCarthy continues to accuse Pelosi of 'defending Soleimani'

**-- The Republican messaging machine has gone into overdrive this week**, with what has felt at times like a competition among party leaders to see who could offer up the most incendiary quote questioning the motives of Democratic lawmakers concerned about the possibility of a full-scale war against Iran without congressional approval.

"This is a meaningless vote that only sends the wrong message that the House Democrats would rather stand with the socialist base than stand against Iran," House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) said at his weekly news conference on Thursday.

"Whether you mean to or not, you're empowering the enemy," said

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, referring to lawmakers who vote for the resolution.

“They are in love with terrorists,” said Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.), the top Republican on the House Judiciary Committee. “We see that they mourn Soleimani more than they mourn our Gold Star families,” Collins told Lou Dobbs on [Fox Business](#).

**-- Democrats have decided not to just brush aside comments like this.** “I left literal parts of my body in Iraq, where I was fighting terrorists,” said Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), who has used a wheelchair since her Black Hawk helicopter was shot down over Iraq in 2004. “Donald Trump spent months attacking an ACTUAL Gold Star Family,” she added on Twitter. “[Collins] should be ashamed of himself for perpetuating this offensive lie.”

Duckworth is referring to when Trump, who received a deferment for “bone spurs” to avoid being drafted during the Vietnam War, mocked Khizr and Ghazala Khan. Their son Humayun was killed in action as an Army captain in Iraq. The Khans spoke out against Trump at the Democratic convention in 2016, expressing concern about his proposed ban on Muslims entering the United States.

**-- Collins apologized this morning.** “Let me be clear: I do not believe Democrats are in love with terrorists,” he [tweeted](#). “As someone who served in Iraq in 2008, I witnessed firsthand the brutal death of countless soldiers who were torn to shreds by this vicious terrorist. Soleimani was nothing less than an evil mastermind who viciously killed and wounded thousands of Americans. These images will live with me for the rest of my life, but that does not excuse my

response on Wednesday evening.”

**-- During the Thursday evening debate on the House floor, several Democrats emphasized their credentials as they made the case for the war powers resolution.** Polls suggest that Democrats have tightened their [traditional gap](#) on which party is more trusted to handle national security. They won control of the House in the 2018 midterm elections thanks, in part, to a large cohort of young military veterans in swing districts. There are 96 veterans in [this Congress](#), including 30 Democrats and 66 Republicans.

**One of those freshmen who delivered the majority is Rep. Jason Crow (D-Colo.).** He defeated a GOP incumbent in the Denver suburbs by touting his Army combat experience. “I have often heard folks say that now is not the time to discuss the use of force or the decision to send our men and women to fight,” said Crow. “I heard that in 2003 when I was carrying a rifle in Baghdad. I heard it again in 2004 and 2005 when I was leading my unit through the mountains of Afghanistan. And I am hearing it again today in the halls of Congress. In the last 19 years, more than 7,000 Americans have given their lives in these conflicts, 53,000 have been wounded and we have spent over \$4 trillion dollars of taxpayer money.

**“Do not believe the fearmongering,” Crow concluded.** “I may have laid down my rifle, but my oath to this country endures. I will fight to ensure that we are having a discussion about when to send our men and women, our sons and daughters, our sisters and brothers, into harm’s way.”



Pelosi on Iran: 'We must avoid war'

-- Slotkin left her Pentagon job to move home to Michigan after Trump took office. Then she toppled a longtime GOP incumbent the next year in the midterms. She faces a tough reelection battle this fall in a district Trump carried comfortably in 2016. The National Republican Congressional Committee has taken to calling her “pro-Iran Slotkin” in news releases. “Sit down, Elissa,” [one missive](#) from the House GOP campaign arm said this week.



**Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.), the former vice president's daughter, called into a news talk radio station in Slotkin's district on Thursday morning to attack her for the "appalling" resolution, which she said "will send a message to the Iranians that the country is not united behind the president."** Cheney told [WILS in Lansing, Mich.](#), that Slotkin's resolution showed "there's a big difference between what she's saying at home and what she does when she gets here to Washington."

**In a speech on the House floor before the vote on resolution, Slotkin pushed back forcefully on these criticisms.** "Soleimani was the lead architect of much of Iran's destabilizing activities in the Middle East and throughout the world," she said. "To that end, with Iran, or with any other adversary, the United States always has the inherent right and obligation to self-defense against imminent armed attacks. Always!"

**Slotkin lamented that the country has been at war for nearly two decades, but Congress has only voted twice in that time to authorize the use of military force: in 2001 and 2002.** Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) was the lone member of Congress to vote against the authorization for the use of military force immediately after the 9/11 attacks, which is still being cited more than 18 years later as a legal rationale for U.S. activities in the Middle East. Only 1 in 4 House members today were in Congress [back then](#).

**That 2001 authorization has been cited dozens of times, by three different presidents now, to justify deploying American troops to a list of countries that includes Libya, Turkey, Georgia, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia,**

**Kenya, the Philippines and Cuba.** The language of Slotkin’s nonbinding resolution instructs Trump “to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces to engage in hostilities in or against Iran or any part of its government or military” unless Congress either formally declares war or there is “an imminent armed attack upon the United States.”

**“When it comes to the matter of longer-term war, we have a constitutional responsibility to authorize the use of military force,” Slotkin reasoned.** “The framers of our Constitution rightly believed that the power to declare war belongs in the Congress because this would ensure that the American people, through the legislators they elected, would weigh the most significant decision a government can make.”



Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) walks in the Capitol after casting his vote on the House floor. (Matt Rourke/AP)

-- **Slotkin's resolution passed 224 to 194, with the support of three Republicans plus independent Justin Amash of Michigan and the opposition of eight Democrats. The most notable vote for the resolution came from Rep. Matt Gaetz, one of Trump's most outspoken allies on Capitol Hill.** "I take a back seat to no member of this body when it comes to defending the president," he said in a floor speech shortly before the vote. "This resolution offers no criticism of the president. It doesn't criticize the president's attacks on Soleimani. As a matter of fact, this resolution doesn't even say Soleimani's name in it."

Gaetz's district includes the naval air station in Pensacola, Fla. "I represent more troops than any other member of this body," he said. "I buried one of them earlier today at Arlington, and that sergeant died a patriot and a hero. If the members of our armed services have the courage to go fight and die in these wars, as Congress we ought to have the courage to vote for them or against them. It's ludicrous to suggest that we are impairing the troops from doing their job by not doing our job articulated in the Constitution."

The other Republicans who voted for Slotkin's resolution were Rep. Francis Rooney (Fla.), who is retiring, and Rep. Tom Massie (Ky.), a libertarian-minded iconoclast.

**Two of the eight Democrats who voted against it are freshmen who served in the armed forces:** Reps. Elaine Luria (Va.) and Max Rose (N.Y.). And Rep. Stephanie Murphy (Fla.) was formerly a national security specialist at the Defense Department. The others who voted no are moderates from difficult-to-win districts, including

Ben McAdams (Utah), Anthony Brindisi (N.Y.), Joe Cunningham (S.C.), Kendra Horn (Okla.) and Josh Gottheimer (N.J.).



Trump trashes Adam Schiff during Ohio rally



-- Trump ripped the Slotkin resolution during a rally last night in Toledo, Ohio, insisting he doesn't need to get permission from Congress to protect America. "[Soleimani] was a bloodthirsty terrorist ... and he's no longer a terrorist. He's dead, and yet now I see ... the radical-left Democrats have expressed outrage over the

termination of this horrible terrorist,” the president said. “Instead, they should be outraged by Soleimani's savage crimes and the fact that his countless victims were denied justice for so long.”

**Trump singled out Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), who as the leader of the House Intelligence Committee, is a member of the Gang of Eight that's entitled to briefings on the nation's biggest secrets.**

Schiff spearheaded the investigation that led to Trump's impeachment for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, and the congressman has clearly gotten under the president's skin. “You little pencil neck,” Trump said, referring to Schiff. Trump claimed, with no evidence whatsoever, that Schiff would have called CNN ahead of the drone strike on Soleimani to tip them off and that this would have allowed the Quds Force commander to get away. “They want us to tell them so that they can leak it to their friends in the corrupt media,” he said, referring to House Democrats.

**Slotkin's resolution explicitly makes an exception for defending against “an imminent armed attack,” but Trump ignored this as he complained about Democrats trying to stop him from taking action if there's an imminent threat.** “He was looking very seriously at our embassies and not just the embassy in Baghdad, but we stopped him very quickly and we stopped him cold,” the president told a crowd of nearly 8,000 supporters, referring to Soleimani. “We didn't have time to call up Nancy [Pelosi], who is not operating with a full deck.”

#### **QUOTE OF THE DAY:**

“It's not about how *bad* they are. It's about how *good* we

are,” Pelosi said at her weekly news conference, referring to Iran and Soleimani. ([Felicia Sonmez](#))



Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) heads to the Senate floor for a vote. (Shawn Thew/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

**-- In the Senate, two Republicans have committed to support Kaine’s resolution: Sens. Mike Lee (Utah) and Rand Paul (Ky.). Kaine is trying to woo at least two more GOP colleagues by offering to make amendments that could get them on board. He’s actively discussing draft text with Sens. Susan Collins (Maine) and Todd Young (Ind.). Kaine has already agreed to remove any references to Trump by name to make it more palatable for Republican colleagues, and he’s willing to make more edits. “It doesn’t mean everyone I talk to will get on board, but me sitting down with them and talking them through why I’ve done it this way, it gives them some level of comfort,” Kaine [told Jenna Portnoy](#).**

Kaine vocally pushed to get Congress to authorize the use of military force in the Middle East even when his good friend Barack Obama was president. ([Read my piece about it from 2015 here](#)). In fact, Kaine refused to modulate his position even when Hillary Clinton chose him as her running mate. His longtime emphasis on this issue undermines the GOP argument that his resolution is politically motivated.

**Keep an eye on Young**, who happens to be chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee. I wrote [a Big Idea in May](#) about how Young's military service prompted him to focus on this issue when it looked like the United States might get drawn into a war with Venezuela.

"I understand — as a former Marine Corps intelligence officer — the real-world limitations to and the sensitivities associated with sharing certain information, even with members of Congress," Young [told Seung Min Kim](#), referring to the closed-door briefing on Wednesday that left Lee and Paul seething. "But I left there feeling as though it would've been a lot more helpful had I gotten a little peek into some of the intel that informed the operational decisions."



U.S. believes Ukraine airliner shot down by Iran

### **THE LATEST ON THE IRAN CRISIS:**

-- In a phone call with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi asked the United States to send a delegation to Iraq to set up a mechanism for the “safe withdrawal of forces from Iraq.” [Sarah Dadouch reports](#): “The Iraqi prime minister has repeatedly insisted that U.S. troop withdrawal was the only path toward de-escalation. ... According to a statement, Abdul Mahdi also shared his objections regarding U.S. forces entering Iraq and American aircraft flying in Iraqi airspace without the consent of the Iraqi government.”

-- The Trump administration hit Iran with more sanctions Friday in the first concrete response to the attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq this week. ([Carol Morello](#))

-- Western officials believe an Iranian missile hit the Ukrainian



**plane that crashed near Tehran earlier this week in a possible unintentional firing. Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky is now asking Western leaders to share with him the intelligence that suggests this.** [Isabelle Khurshudyan and Erin Cunningham report](#): “Iran, meanwhile, denied the assertions that the Boeing 737, carrying 176 people from Tehran to Kyiv, was shot down early Wednesday shortly after departing from Tehran. ... Ukraine has taken an active role in investigating the crash of the jet, which was carrying 11 Ukrainians, including the crew. A team of 45 experts and search-and-rescue personnel from Ukraine, including specialists who helped investigate the July 2014 downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over Ukrainian territory, arrived in Tehran early Thursday to participate in the probe. ... Zelensky had phone conversations Thursday with heads of government from Canada, Britain, Sweden and Iran — countries that each had citizens among the passengers. **While Ukraine's readouts of those calls said Zelensky intended to keep the leaders abreast of Ukraine's findings and encouraged their countries to participate in the investigation, he has now had to publicly ask to be briefed in return.** ... The Ukrainian leader is expected to speak with [Pompeo] on Friday. ...

**“In Washington, U.S. officials expressed ‘high confidence’ that the Boeing 737-800 was targeted by an SA-15 surface-to-air missile,** part of a Russian-made air defense system also known as a Tor system, as Iranian forces were on high alert. President Trump said the downing of the aircraft was probably a ‘mistake.’ Then in Ottawa, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said intelligence analyses indicated that a surface-to-air missile hit the plane in what could have been an ‘unintentional’ act. ... A Ukrainian official ... said

that **Zelensky made the public request for evidence about the crash because the United States had not yet shared with Ukraine its intelligence about the missile Thursday. ...**

**"The Washington Post obtained a video that allegedly shows the moment the airliner was struck in midair. The video, first published by the New York Times, purportedly shows a missile intercepting the aircraft near the city of Parand, followed by a loud boom. ...** Earlier Friday, the Iranian government said in a statement that it was inviting Boeing to send a representative to help examine the 'black box' containing the flight data and cockpit voice recorders. Iranian state television aired a video of an investigator opening and showing the contents of the box."

**-- The tragedy mirrors the 1988 Iran Air incident, in which a passenger plane that had originated in the Iranian capital was shot down, leaving 290 dead.** [Adam Taylor reports](#): "On July 3, 1988, Iran Air Flight 655 was shot down by the U.S. military. The flight ... was flying over the Strait of Hormuz toward its destination, Dubai, when it was hit by two surface-to-air missiles. Though Pentagon officials at first denied any knowledge of the incident, it soon emerged that the plane had been targeted by the USS Vincennes, a cruiser that had been involved in a skirmish with Iranian boats in the Persian Gulf and had mistaken the passenger jet for an Iranian warplane. President Ronald Reagan expressed sympathy for the 'terrible human tragedy' but suggested that the plane had 'failed to heed repeated warnings.' However, an investigation by the International Civil Aviation Organization, a U.N. agency, found that U.S. military ships in the region did not have the equipment necessary to monitor civilian air-

traffic-control frequencies.”

-- **On Fox News last night, Pompeo reiterated that Soleimani planned** “a series of imminent attacks.” Asked for specifics, he added: “We don’t know precisely when and we don’t know precisely where. But it was real.”

-- **An Iranian military commander said the missiles fired at bases used by U.S. troops in Iraq were not intended to inflict casualties.** [Kareem Fahim and Sarah Dadouch report](#): “‘We did not intend to kill,’ said Brig. Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of the Revolutionary Guard’s Aerospace Force, according to Iranian state media. ‘We intended to hit the enemy’s military machinery.’ However, he repeated the government’s claim that ‘tens of people were killed or wounded.’ U.S. and Iraqi officials said the strikes caused no casualties. ... Iran tried to counter the United States on the diplomatic front Thursday after Trump called on Britain, Germany, France, Russia and China to ‘break away from the remnants’ of the 2015 nuclear deal Iran struck with world powers. ... British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, speaking with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Thursday, ‘underlined the UK’s continued commitment to’ the nuclear deal and ‘ongoing dialogue to avoid nuclear proliferation and reduce tensions,’ according to a British government statement. Rouhani also called European Council President Charles Michel asking for a response to U.S. sanctions, which Rouhani described as ‘economic terrorism,’ the Iranian Fars News agency reported. In a statement, Michel emphasized the need for de-escalation in the region.”

-- **The U.S. strike on Soleimani’s convoy last week also killed Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the deputy head of an Iraqi paramilitary**

**group, whose death could have far-reaching implications.** [From Middle East Eye](#): “Commanders of Iranian-backed armed factions in Iraq tell MEE that with the loss of the two leaders, they are now almost paralysed and would be unable to strike the Americans with real consequence. ... Muhandis, who since the 1980s has been one of America’s most wanted men over his involvement in the bombing of the US and French embassies in Kuwait, was seen by most Iraqis as Iran’s most influential man in the country. ... Although formally stripped of his financial and administrative powers, Muhandis continued to enjoy great influence over most of the Hashd al-Shaabi’s armed factions, with the government unable to regain control over the paramilitary umbrella group or force Muhandis to implement orders for fear of retaliation. ... While he frustrated the government, it was Muhandis’ strong personality, and his blatant challenge to it and the rest of his opponents, that so attracted the leaders and fighters of the armed factions and kept them revolving around him like moths to a flame, following wherever he went.”

**-- The speed at which the Iran crisis unfolded shows the influence Trump’s new team of national security advisers has.** [From the Journal](#): “The group, including new Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley and new national security adviser Robert O’Brien, along with [Pompeo], backed the president’s decision to kill the top Iranian military commander and moved swiftly to carry it out. The new team was cohesive and less inclined than its predecessors to push back against the president’s wishes, according to administration officials and others consulted by the White House. They also were less likely to consult in advance with other administration, Pentagon or State

Department officials, congressional leaders or foreign allies, some of these officials said.”

**-- Informants in Iraq and Syria helped the United States kill**

**Soleimani.** [From Reuters](#): “Soleimani arrived at the Damascus airport in a vehicle with dark-tinted glass. ... They parked near a staircase leading to a Cham Wings Airbus A320, destined for Baghdad. Neither Soleimani nor the soldiers were registered on the passenger manifesto. ... The passenger flight would be Soleimani’s last. ... Investigators have focused on how suspected informants inside the Damascus and Baghdad airports collaborated with the U.S. military to help track and pinpoint Soleimani’s position. ... The suspects include two security staffers at the Baghdad airport and two Cham Wings employees. ... The National Security agency’s investigators believe the four suspects, who have not been arrested, worked as part of a wider group of people feeding information to the U.S. military, the official said.”

**-- For Trump and Iran, Twitter trolling helped escalate tensions**

**on the battlefield.** [David Nakamura reports](#): “A day after [Trump] signaled he would not use military force to escalate a tense standoff with Iran, that nation’s supreme leader responded with a message of his own: a doctored photo of Trump’s face imprinted with red welts from a slap to the face. The creation on the official website of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei offered a trolling visual meme to echo his previous warning that Tehran’s missile attack on two Iraqi facilities housing U.S. troops was only the first salvo in a campaign to avenge the drone killing of [Soleimani.] ... Experts called the display an example of a new era in international diplomacy in which official

letters, telephone hotlines and secure video conference calls have been replaced, in some cases, by high-octane and instantaneous social media messaging.”

**-- Notable commentary from The Post's opinion page:**

- [Jim Webb](#), former Democratic senator from Virginia and secretary of the Navy under Reagan: “When did it become acceptable to kill a top leader of a country we aren’t even at war with?”
- [Andrew McCabe](#), former deputy director of the FBI: “If you think Iran is done retaliating, think again.”
- [Fareed Zakaria](#): “Trump does not have a foreign policy. He has a series of impulses.”
- [David Ignatius](#): “This is what a real Iran strategy would look like.”
- [Eugene Robinson](#): “The best Iran crisis explanation? Trump’s obsession with Obama.”
- [Josh Rogin](#): “Soleimani’s death offers a chance to fix U.S. policy on Syria.”
- [Max Boot](#): “By claiming Democrats support terrorism, Republicans hit a new low.”
- A hilarious satire by [Alexandra Petri](#): “Millions of Americans devastated to learn they were ardent fans of Soleimani this whole time.”

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Why Democrats say they're withholding the impeachment articles

**DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE  
OVERSHADOWED:**

-- Nancy Pelosi signaled this morning in a letter to colleagues

**that the House will transmit the articles of impeachment to the Senate as soon as next week.** “I have asked Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler to be prepared to bring to the Floor next week a resolution to appoint managers and transmit articles of impeachment to the Senate,” she wrote. ([Our live blog has more.](#))

**-- The Senate has conducted 15 impeachment trials in U.S. history. It has heard witnesses in every single one.** [Noah Bookbinder](#), executive director of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, reviews the history: “Only 19 other individuals besides Trump have been impeached by the House of Representatives. The Senate completed a trial in 15 of those cases, and in every single one of them, it heard testimony from witnesses. Those cases include the only two prior instances in which a president was impeached.”

**-- House Republicans are eyeing a push to condemn Pelosi for delaying the trial.** [From Politico](#): “GOP Rep. Bradley Byrne, who is running for an Alabama Senate seat, introduced a censure resolution on Thursday morning to rebuke Pelosi for hanging on to the articles of impeachment since December. Republicans have the option to force a floor vote on the measure though Democrats would surely move to table it, just as they did with a censure resolution against” Schiff.

**-- Meanwhile, Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) tweeted an impeachment-related fundraising appeal that included a doctored photo of Pelosi, drawing a retweet from Trump.** [Felicia Sonmez reports](#): “The tweet marks the second time this week that a House Republican has tweeted a photo that appears to have been manipulated. On Monday, Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) tweeted a fake



photo of Obama with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. ... The tweet shows a close-up, red-tinted photo of Pelosi, with the lines in the House speaker's face exaggerated due to the image's unnaturally high contrast."



Matt Golsteyn is pictured in his D.C. office with his wife Julie and their infant son Henry. (Sarah L. Voisin/The Washington Post)

**-- An Army general denied a request by an officer pardoned by Trump in an open murder case to have his Special Forces tab reinstated. [Dan Lamothe reports](#):** "The decoration for retired Army Maj. Mathew L. Golsteyn was denied Dec. 3 by Lt. Gen. Francis M. Beaudette, the commander of U.S. Army Special Operations Command, the Army disclosed Thursday. Beaudette's decision is not final, and the service said in a statement that it will next have an administrative panel consider whether it should reinstate the Special Forces tab and a Distinguished Service Cross — the U.S. military's

second-highest valor award — and expunge a letter of reprimand Golsteyn received in connection with his case. Golsteyn was awaiting trial this year in the alleged murder of a suspected Taliban bombmaker in Marja, Afghanistan, in February 2010. ... The general's denial of Golsteyn's reinstatement request follows Trump's decision in November to pardon Golsteyn along with former 1st Lt. Clint Lorance, an Army officer who had been convicted of murder in Afghanistan. ... Golsteyn, reached for comment Thursday evening, said he had not heard about the decision until it was first reported by The Washington Post. A few minutes later, he and his lawyer, Phil Stackhouse, said they received notification from the Army in an emailed letter that had just arrived."

**-- The Justice Department is winding down the Hillary Clinton-related inquiry once championed by Trump. It found nothing of consequence. [Devlin Barrett and Matt Zapposky report](#):** "John Huber, the U.S. attorney in Utah, was tapped in November 2017 by then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions to look into concerns raised by Trump and his allies in Congress that the FBI had not fully pursued cases of possible corruption at the Clinton Foundation and during Clinton's time as secretary of state, when the U.S. government decided not to block the sale of a company called Uranium One. As a part of his review, Huber examined documents and conferred with federal law enforcement officials in Little Rock who were handling a meandering probe into the Clinton Foundation. ... Current and former officials said that Huber has largely finished and found nothing worth pursuing — though the assignment has not formally ended and no official notice has been sent to the Justice Department or to lawmakers."

-- Internal **Boeing documents** show employees discussing efforts to manipulate U.S. and international safety regulators. [Ian](#)

[Duncan, Lori Aratani and Michael Laris](#) report: ““Yes, I still haven’t been forgiven by god for the covering up I did last year,” said a 2018 message. Another exchange between Boeing employees, from August 2015, closes out with this: ‘I know but this is what these regulators get when they try and get in the way. they impede progress. ...’ **In 2017, a Boeing employee wrote: ‘this airplane is designed by clowns, who in turn are supervised by monkeys.’**

The documents were released by Boeing to congressional investigators probing how the company’s 737 Max jets were certified by the Federal Aviation Administration as safe before two crashes that killed 346 people. ...

**“At issue in some of the messages was whether simulator training should be required for pilots flying the Max. Boeing went to great lengths to prevent such a requirement, in part because it would be costly** for its customers, company documents show. ... In one November 2015 message, the 737 chief technical pilot, whose name is redacted in the documents, said failing to get computer-based training for one system ‘is a planet-killer for the MAX.’ ... In another email chain, from June 2017, the chief technical pilot forwarded to Boeing colleagues messages in which he persuaded an airline, which is not identified in the documents, not to require simulator training on the Max. ‘Looks like my jedi mind trick worked again!’ the pilot wrote. ‘These are not the droids you’re looking for.’ ... In a shift Tuesday, the company said that it is recommending that pilots undergo simulator training before they resume flying the 737 Max. The FAA, which will

have the final say, said it will consider Boeing's recommendation."

([Read the Boeing documents for yourself here.](#))

**-- The United States economy added 145,000 jobs in December as the unemployment rate remained at 3.5 percent.** ([Rachel Siegel](#))

**-- Video from Jeffrey Epstein's first apparent suicide attempt was lost due to "technical errors," according to prosecutors.** [Reis Thebault reports](#): "Federal prosecutors said in December they were unable to locate the video, which would have showed guards finding Epstein after his first apparent suicide attempt in July. Then, just a day later, they wrote in a court filing that they had found the footage and were 'in the process of obtaining a copy' from the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City, where Epstein was held. But on Thursday, prosecutors reversed themselves again, saying the video 'no longer exists' because of 'technical errors.' Jail officials initially thought they had saved footage from outside Epstein's cell, when in fact the footage they preserved was from a different part of the facility, explained Assistant U.S. Attorneys Maurene Comey and Jason Swergold in the latest filing."

**-- Border crossings are starting to plateau as U.S. officials report a continued decline in immigration apprehensions.** [Abigail Hauslohner reports](#): "The number of people apprehended or deemed 'inadmissible' by U.S. border authorities along the southern border fell to 40,620 last month, down 72 percent from May, when the Trump administration declared it was at the height of a border crisis. December marked the seventh straight month of decline in border crossings, but the month-to-month differences have shrunk

significantly since September. Border enforcement actions last month were roughly on par with December 2017.”

**-- Counties, cities and states are stepping up on their climate goals as the Trump administration steps back. [Rebecca Tan reports](#):** “Maryland’s most populous jurisdiction is promising an ambitious package of new climate initiatives in 2020, joining other liberal counties, cities and states stepping up to address what they see as the Trump administration’s resistance to protecting the planet. ... In February, Montgomery will hold a town hall on hundreds of recommendations from climate workgroups convened last year by County Executive Marc Elrich (D). And by early 2021, officials hope to unveil a comprehensive plan detailing how the county will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2027 and 100 percent by 2035.”



American sprinters Tommie Smith (center) and John Carlos (right) raise their gloved fists in a civil rights protest at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City. (AP)

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- **Gag rule alert:** The International Olympic Committee warned athletes they would face sanctions, which could include the loss of medals, for participating in political protests during the Olympics in Tokyo this summer, including kneeling, political hand gestures and wearing or holding signs or armbands. [Jacob Bogage reports:](#) “The committee published a [three-page document of guidelines](#). ... ‘We needed clarity, and they wanted clarity on the

rules,' [said] Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe, chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission, which helped create the new document. ... The guidelines outlaw demonstrations such as those staged by Tommie Smith and John Carlos, American sprinters who raised their gloved fists on the medal stand at the 1968 Games in Mexico City, and former NFL player Colin Kaepernick, who in 2016 began kneeling during the national anthem. Both demonstrations sought to draw attention to racial injustice and have been repeated by other athletes in recent years. ...

**“Ethiopian runner Feyisa Lilesa crossed his wrists at the finish line of the men’s marathon at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro to show support for civil rights protesters in his home country.**

Americans Race Imboden, a fencer, and hammer-thrower Gwen Berry were placed on probation by the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee in August after demonstrating on the medal stand at the Pan American Games. Imboden knelt during the national anthem, while Berry raised a fist. Athletes who protest will face discipline ‘on a case-by-case basis as necessary,’ according to the guidelines.”

**-- A billion animals have been caught in Australia’s fires. Some may go extinct. [Karin Brulliard and Darryl Fears report](#):** “The mouse-size dunnart is not as iconic as the koalas or platypuses that draw tourists, but it is arguably the most special mammal on Australia’s Kangaroo Island. Now the Kangaroo Island dunnart’s days may be numbered. Before bush fires struck, it was already endangered, so rare that even researchers who studied them had never seen one. Now they fear they never will. One-third of the 1,700-square-mile island has burned, including the entire area where these dunnarts are

known to live. ... More than 1 billion mammals, birds and reptiles nationwide — some of them found nowhere else on Earth — may have been affected or killed by the fires sweeping across Australia, according to a University of Sydney estimate. The potential toll is far greater when other types of animals are included. ... Individual animals might survive, but when their habitat is gone, ‘it doesn’t matter,’ Saunders said. ‘They’ll die anyway.’”

**-- Disgusting: Hoaxers are using the fires to spread misinformation and profit, [Brittany Shammass reports](#).**

**-- The fire crisis is fueling protests calling for bolder action on climate change. [Kate Shuttleworth reports](#):** “At rallies nationwide on Friday, thousands called for Prime Minister Scott Morrison to resign over what they say is his administration’s passivity on an issue that has hit home to millions of Australians as a clear and present danger. The conservative leader has defended his disaster response after facing criticism from victims and firefighters for its perceived inadequacy. In Melbourne, close to 10,000 people took to the streets, spurning calls from police and the state’s center-left leader, Daniel Andrews, not to risk diverting emergency resources. ... An organizer of a similar rally in Sydney, Gavin Stanbrook, said the events of recent weeks revealed a nation polarized over how to tackle the challenge. ‘We are divided between coal interests and politicians on the one side and then firefighters and volunteers on the other and the rest of us who are either impacted or our friends and family are on the front line, or in cities surrounded by smoke,’ Stanbrook said. ‘We need to come together and say that we will not accept it anymore.’”

**-- Suspected Islamist militants killed 25 soldiers in Niger. [Danielle](#)**



**Paquette reports:** “The clash unfolded in the western village of Chinegodar near the border with Mali, according to Nigerien defense officials, as fighters with ties to the Islamic State and al-Qaeda look to seize new swaths of territory. The bloodshed came about a month after gunmen ambushed a Nigerien army post in another border town, killing 71 soldiers in the deadliest strike on the nation’s forces in recent memory. The Islamic State West Africa Province asserted responsibility for that massacre two days later.”

**-- In Israel, deadly floods have kept residents confined to their homes and offices even as they braced for potential spinoff attacks from rising tensions between the United States and Iran.** **Steve Hendrix reports:** “Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday beseeched citizens to take flood warnings as seriously as they do the sirens warning of imminent rocket fire that are a feature of life in many Israeli communities. ... Netanyahu also warned the adventurous not to venture out to the desert to witness the dramatic — and potentially dangerous — spectacle of dry stream beds reanimated with roaring water. ‘Watch them on television,’ he advised. ... Officials said rescue resources had been redeployed nationwide in response to the flooding, which stretched from the coastal plains along the Mediterranean to the occupied West Bank down to the Dead Sea.”

**-- China identified a new strain of coronavirus as the source of its pneumonia outbreak.** **Gerry Shih and Lena H. Sun report:** “A group of Chinese experts this week isolated and obtained the genome sequence of the new virus, which is believed to be responsible for sickening dozens of people who visited a wild-animal market last

month in Wuhan, in central China, state media reported Thursday. The outbreak ahead of the Lunar New Year travel season in China has prompted health authorities across East Asia to increase screening of travelers for signs of fever, underscoring fears about its potential spread.”

**-- Understatement of the year? Pope Francis said 2020 is off to a rough start, saying it “does not seem to be marked by encouraging signs.”** [Chico Harlan reports](#): “While saying that maintaining hope is essential, the pope spent the next 45 minutes talking about wars and could-be wars, exploitation, sexual abuse, Internet hate speech, international indifference to humanitarian crises, and the depressing state of the world’s fight against climate change. He called heightened tensions between the United States and Iran ‘particularly troubling,’ but his remarks amounted to a laundry list of flash points, both major and obscure, from Burkina Faso to Venezuela to Australia. ‘Certainly, hope has to be realistic,’ Francis said. ‘It demands acknowledging the many troubling issues confronting our world and the challenges lurking on the horizon. It requires that problems be called by their name and the courage be found to resolve them.’”

**-- Lebanon has banned ex-Nissan chief Carlos Ghosn from traveling.** [Sarah Dadouch reports](#): “Ghosn appeared at a hearing in Lebanon on Thursday, two days after Lebanon’s caretaker justice minister, Albert Serhan, said the country’s public prosecutor had received the Interpol red notice about Ghosn and would be taking the necessary steps. He was placed under house arrest. A few days after his arrival in Lebanon’s capital, Ghosn found himself in more legal

trouble: A group of lawyers last Thursday lodged a legal complaint against him for visiting Israel as chairman of Renault and later Nissan. Lebanon and Israel have been in a state of war for the past six decades, and Lebanese law considers interacting with the country's southern neighbor and sworn enemy a crime. Ali Abbas, one of the two lawyers who filed the Israel-related complaint against Ghosn, said the travel ban was a formality that usually comes after receiving Interpol notices, especially red notices, which alert police about internationally wanted fugitives but do not compel any country to arrest the fugitive."

**-- Trump wished North Korean leader Kim Jung Un a happy birthday through South Korea. (AP)**

**-- A statue mocking Trump in Melania Trump's home country was burned down. Lateshia Beachum reports:** "Firefighters in Moravce, a city in central Slovenia, tried to extinguish the bonfire, but their efforts left charred planks on the ground. The arsonists responsible for the Christmas nutcracker-like statue's ashes are reportedly still at large. The nearly 26-foot tall wooden structure that had a mechanism to open Trump's red painted mouth full of pointy teeth was constructed last year in a nation divided over the U.S. president. The statue of Trump, with the president's signature blue suit and red tie, had been under torch threats since local residents threatened to set it ablaze on Halloween ... It was relocated because of the risk."

**-- London's Madame Tussauds removed its wax figures of Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, from its display of Britain's royal family less than 24 hours after the couple announced they would be "stepping back" from their roles as**

**senior royals.** [Jennifer Hassan reports](#): “The figures will no longer stand alongside the rest of the royal family. They have been moved by the wax museum’s staff. The likenesses of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, William and Catherine, remain on display alongside figures of Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip. ‘As two of our most popular and well-loved figures, they will of course remain an important feature at Madame Tussauds London as we watch to see what the next chapter holds for them,’ said [Steve Davies, general manager of Madame Tussauds London].”



Vice President Pence, along with White House senior adviser Jared Kushner and his wife, Ivanka Trump, and their children, Arabella, Joseph and Theodore Kushner, attend a Hanukkah reception in the East Room of the White House last month. (Manuel Balce Ceneta/AP)

## **2020 WATCH:**

**-- Jared Kushner’s global role is shrinking as his role in the**

**president's reelection campaign grows.** [From Annie Karni and Maggie Haberman in the Times](#): “When senior administration officials gathered in the Situation Room on Tuesday for a meeting to discuss the repercussions of the killing of [Soleimani], the White House aide whose portfolio is the Middle East was notably absent from the meeting. ... [He] was sitting for a photo shoot for a planned Time magazine cover story. ... [Kushner] is positioning himself to be the overseer of something of even greater personal interest to his father-in-law: Mr. Trump's 2020 re-election campaign. ... [Kushner] sees no reason to involve himself as extensively in international issues now that the State Department is run by [Mike] Pompeo, whom he sees as far more competent than his predecessor, Rex W. Tillerson.”

**-- Mike Bloomberg won't release the women who sued him from their nondisclosure agreements.** [From ABC News](#): “‘You can't just walk away from it,’ Bloomberg said. ‘They're legal agreements, and for all I know the other side wouldn't want to get out of it.’ Last month, ABC News reported on several lawsuits in which **Bloomberg was accused of making crude remarks in the 1990s and of allegedly fostering an uncomfortable environment for women to work** — allegations Bloomberg has denied. Three cases against the company remain active. ABC News has spoken with several women who expressed interest in telling their stories who were subject to confidentiality agreements, but said they feared the prospect of facing retribution from the company for speaking out.”

**-- Tom Steyer appears to have qualified for the seventh Democratic debate, scheduled for next Tuesday night in Iowa, on the strength of Fox News polls that found him with double-digit**

**support in Nevada and South Carolina.** [David Weigel reports:](#)

“Steyer, who has spent more than \$115 million on his campaign so far, hit 12 percent in the network’s poll of Nevada ... and 15 percent in South Carolina. ... It came after Steyer poured more than \$20 million into commercials and other advertising in these states as of this week, with \$11.2 million worth of expenditures in South Carolina and \$10.3 million in Nevada. He has also spent heavily to attract hundreds of thousands of small-dollar donations, which the DNC requires for debate access.”

-- **The Fox News Nevada poll also shows Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders vying for the lead in the state:** “Biden tops Sanders by 23-17 percent among Democratic caucusgoers, with both down one percentage point since November. [Elizabeth] Warren comes in at 12 percent, down from 18 percent — and ties with [Steyer] for third.”

-- **A new Monmouth Poll shows a four-way fight in the New Hampshire Democratic primary:** “Among registered New Hampshire Democrats and unaffiliated voters who are likely to participate in the February 2020 Democratic primary, 20% currently support [Pete] Buttigieg, 19% back Biden, 18% back Sanders, and 15% back Warren. ... Compared to Monmouth’s last New Hampshire poll in September, Buttigieg’s support has grown by 10 points (from 10%) and Sanders’ support has increased by 6 points (from 12%). Warren’s support has dropped by 12 points (from 27%) and Biden’s has decreased by 6 points (from 25%).”

-- **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti endorsed Biden.** [From the Los Angeles Times:](#) “Garcetti will be one of Biden’s highest-profile supporters in California’s March 3 primary, but the endorsement is

unlikely to have any practical effect on the highly competitive race. Dianne Feinstein, the state's senior U.S. senator, is also supporting Biden. And Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, who had endorsed California Sen. Kamala Harris before she dropped out of the presidential race, also announced his support for Biden on Thursday."

**-- Fun read: Philadelphians looking for love on Tinder may have come across "Daddy Bernie," a profile set up for Sanders by a local man who just wants to inform people on the dating app about his favorite candidate. [From the Philadelphia Inquirer](#): "Alex Scheinberg, 26, is not a senator from Vermont. Or any other state. He actually doesn't have a job. And he lives in his childhood home. But, Scheinberg said, that gives him more time to mix politics and pleasure in order to promote his favorite candidate in a forum that's increasingly becoming a venue for political endorsement and engagement. ... Scheinberg has his Tinder profile set to see all genders and sexual orientations, though he is straight. This way, he said, he can maximize the number of people seeing Sanders' campaign message. That's the same reason he swipes right on almost everyone, to reach as many people as possible. (For those who don't have to experience the horror show that is modern online dating, swiping right on a profile means you're interested. Swiping left, not so much.)"**

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

One of Vice President Pence's children got married at the Naval Academy over the holidays:



**Kate Bennett** ✓  
@KateBennett\_DC



. @SecondLady and @VP's daughter @charlipence was married to Henry Bond at the @NavalAcademy on December 28th. She posted this photo on her Instagram account today 🎉



**charlotterosepence**  
United States Naval Academy



♡ 68 7:01 PM - Jan 9, 2020



💬 22 people are talking about this



A former senior adviser to Obama made this observation about the passenger plane shot down in Iran:







A Republican senator from South Carolina had a flip response when confronted by a protester:




An alarming number of registered voters in our country cannot even place Iran on a map:

 **Karl Bode**  [@KarlBode](#) 

I'm still stuck on this. Can't stop staring at it.




Respondents were asked to identify Iran on the map

Each  represents a respondent's guess. Each  represents a correct identification.

MORNING CONSULT

poll conducted Jan. 4-6, 2020 among 1,905 registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 3%

13.5K 5:44 PM - Jan 9, 2020 

4,157 people are talking about this 

The White House press secretary turned down an offer to support a charity in exchange for giving a news conference. In other news, irony is dead:

 **Jake Tapper**  [@jaketapper](#) · 15h 

I asked [@PressSec](#) about this offer to give \$175k to [@StJude](#) if she holds a press briefing.

Her response: "If you have \$200,000 to play with, why not just help children because it's a good thing to do? Donations to charity should never come with strings

attached." [twitter.com/donwinslow/sta...](https://twitter.com/donwinslow/status/1111111111)

**Don Winslow**  @donwinslow

To @PressSec Stephanie Grisham

I'm upping my offer to \$100,000. @StephenKing has agreed to put in \$75,000.


We will donate \$175,000 to @StJude in your name & help a lot of kids if you will take questions from the full White House press corps for 1 HOUR in the WH briefing room.

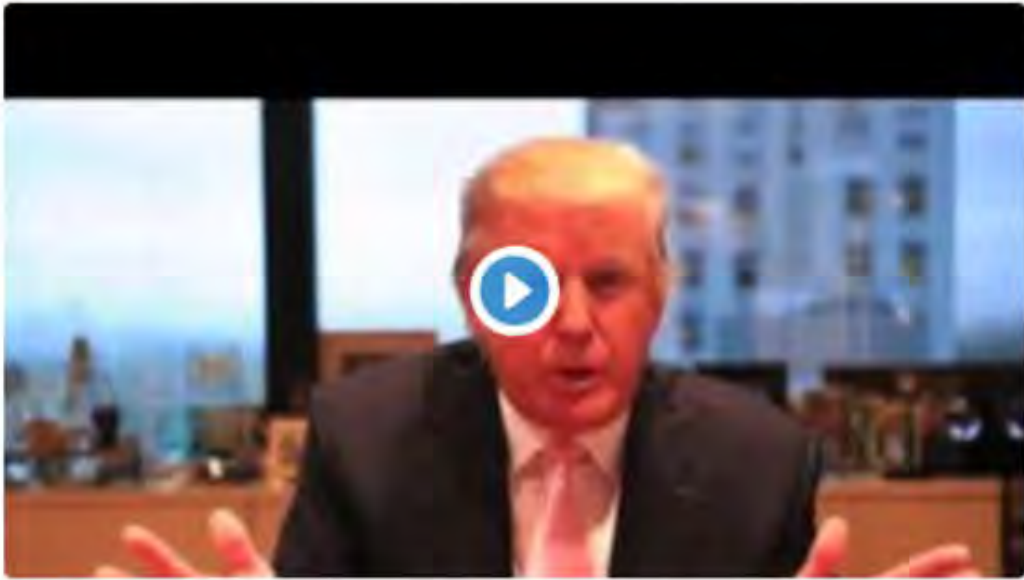


**Jake Tapper** 

@jaketapper

(And yes I have pointed out to Ms. Grisham that in 2012, Trump offered \$5 million to the charity of President Obama's choice if he released his college and passport records.)[youtu.be/l-IWv0cpCnM](https://youtu.be/l-IWv0cpCnM)

 **YouTube** @YouTube



 5,413 6:23 PM - Jan 9, 2020



 808 people are talking about this



A Republican senator met with a Democratic colleague to talk about climate change. Both have run unsuccessfully for president, but the Democrat's campaign is still active:



**Senator Mitt Romney** ✓  
@SenatorRomney



Climate change is a global problem that will require major breakthroughs in innovation and technology to reverse current trends. Sat down with [@SenatorBennet](#) this morning to continue dialogue with colleagues on potential bipartisan solutions to address climate change.



♡ 936 6:04 PM - Jan 9, 2020



💬 386 people are talking about this



Marianne Williamson, who is also still in the presidential race, called out the lack of diversity among Trump's top advisers:



**Marianne Williamson** ✓

@marwilliamson



This is what diversity does not look like. And the issue is not just external; it's a diversity of attitudes, of perspective, of mindset that's so lacking...and so dangerous. That is what needs to change.



♥ 657 7:33 PM - Jan 9, 2020



💬 218 people are talking about this



John Kerry joined Joe Biden in Iowa:



**John Kerry** ✓  
@JohnKerry



A privilege to spend time with you, @malcolmkenyatta and @SenAkbari - you learn a lot about people when you take long bus rides through Iowa! Great to be on this journey together. @JoeBiden is lucky to have you all on the team! #TeamJoe [twitter.com/ShevrinJones/s...](https://twitter.com/ShevrinJones/s...)

**Shevrin Jones** ✓ @ShevrinJones

I spent 24 hours with who I believe is one of the brightest minds, Secretary @JohnKerry. From his thoughts of what's happening in Iran to his stories working in the @BarackObama administration, he's living history, and I am grateful that our paths crossed.



♥ 373 4:53 PM - Jan 9, 2020



💬 134 people are talking about this



Billionaires are making themselves heard in the presidential race:



**David Wright**   
@DavidWright\_CNN



Total TV ad spend by 2020 candidates, through this week:

Bloomberg: \$153.1 million

Steyer: \$116.5 million

Sanders: \$11.7 million

Buttigieg: \$11.4 million

Yang: \$7.3 million


Warren: \$3.7 million

Biden: \$3 million

Klobuchar: \$2.9 million

Bennet: \$1.1 million

Gabbard: \$1.1 million

 4,111 3:35 PM - Jan 9, 2020



 2,260 people are talking about this



And the House majority whip, Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.), shared a touching story about his wife, who recently passed away:





**James E. Clyburn** ✓  
@WhipClyburn



I met my wife in jail after being arrested during a civil rights march.

She brought me food and shared a hamburger with me.

Turns out, she knew who I was and had been plotting to meet me for some time.

We were married for 58 years.

[twitter.com/adribbleofink/...](https://twitter.com/adribbleofink/)

**Aidan Moher** @adribbleofink

Tell me a story about yourself the sounds like a lie but is absolutely true.

♡ 62.3K 9:40 PM - Jan 9, 2020



💬 8,326 people are talking about this



## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert joked that he was ruining Republican Sen. Mike Lee's political career by agreeing with him on his criticisms of the White House's Iran briefing:



Seth Meyers also went through Republican senators' comments of the Iran briefing:



Trevor Noah gave an explainer on the Australian fires:

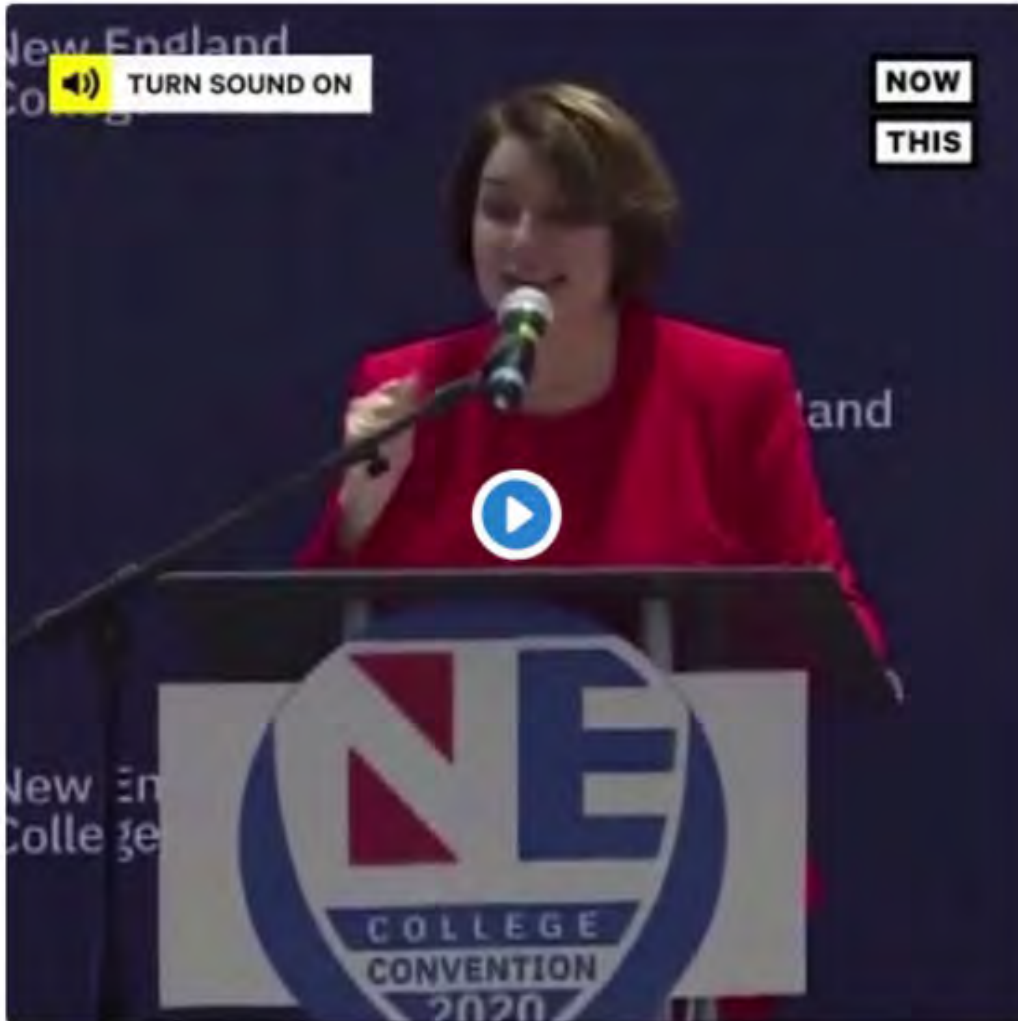


And Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) has an impressive party trick that the other 2020 candidates probably don't:

**NOW THIS** **NowThis**   
@nowthisnews



Watch [@AmyKlobuchar](#) rapidly name all 50 states in 30 impressive seconds



♡ 242 9:13 PM - Jan 9, 2020



💬 89 people are talking about this



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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: 10 questions after Pelosi announces a Wednesday vote on transmitting the articles of impeachment  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 9:54:25 AM

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If you're having trouble reading this, [click here](#).

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

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## 10 questions after Pelosi announces a Wednesday vote on transmitting the articles of impeachment



Speaker Nancy Pelosi arrives this morning for a closed-door meeting with the House Democratic Caucus. (Michael Reynolds/EPA-EFE/Rex)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: Speaker Nancy Pelosi's [announcement](#) this morning that the House will vote tomorrow on transmitting the two articles of impeachment to the Senate sets the stage for the trial of President Trump to begin this week.**

Even presuming Trump's acquittal, this process could still play out more unpredictably than you might think. After all, this is only the third time that the Senate has held such a presidential impeachment trial in the 232 years since the Constitution was ratified. In the Trump era, it also feels like a safe bet to always brace for chaos. The fact that Pelosi has refused until now to send over the articles that passed on

Dec. 18 is a reminder of the imperative to expect the unexpected.

**-- Two stories that broke overnight underscore the inherently unpredictable nature of a sprawling investigation that includes international intrigue and involves several state and non-state actors.**

A cybersecurity firm released a report alleging that **the GRU, Russia's military intelligence service, successfully hacked into Burisma, the Ukrainian gas company that put Hunter Biden on the board of directors when Joe Biden was vice president.**

Democrats impeached Trump for abusing his power by allegedly pressuring Ukraine's president to announce an investigation of that company in exchange for a meeting at the White House and the release of hundreds of million dollars in security assistance that Congress approved but the president froze in the hours after his July 25 call with Volodymyr Zelensky.

**And Lev Parnas, one of Rudy Giuliani's Soviet-born associates who says he was helping the president's personal lawyer with his work in Ukraine until getting arrested as he tried to leave the United States with a one-way plane ticket, turned over thousands of pages of documents and text messages to House investigators, some of which his lawyer says could be relevant to the impeachment trial.**

**-- Against this backdrop, here are 10 known unknowns as the Senate trial looms:**

**1) What did the Russians get from Burisma?**



Area 1 Security, a California cybersecurity company, said it discovered on New Year's Eve that the GRU had launched a successful cyber "phishing" campaign against Burisma Holdings, as well as several subsidiaries and partners, so that hackers could gain access to internal email accounts. "It was not known what material the GRU gained access to, and if any of it will be released," [Ellen Nakashima reports](#). "The GRU also targeted a media organization founded by Zelensky, the firm said." ([Read Area 1's eight-page report here.](#))

The GRU is the entity that hacked the servers of the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman John Podesta in 2016, releasing their emails that summer and fall at strategically inopportune times for the victims. If the Russian government releases hacked materials from Burisma, how will the media cover it and how would politicians react compared to four years ago? What if the Russians put out fabricated emails that look like they're authentic but are intended only to sow disinformation about the son of a leading Democratic presidential candidate?

## **2) What did the Democrats get from Parnas?**

Parnas's attorney Joseph Bondy tweeted that he traveled to Washington over the weekend to deliver the contents of an iPhone 11 to Democratic staffers on the House Intelligence Committee. Bondy also said that Parnas has provided investigators with materials from a Samsung phone, and he added that material from an iPad and another iPhone will be shared. "After our trip to DC, we worked through the night providing a trove of Lev Parnas' WhatsApp messages, text messages & images—not under protective order—to

[investigators], detailing interactions with a number of individuals relevant to the impeachment inquiry,” Bondy tweeted, adding the hashtags #LetLevSpeak and #LevRemembers.

Parnas's lawyer also posted this video with pictures of his client that featured the song “U Can’t Touch This,” by MC Hammer:



**Joseph A. Bondy**  
@josephabondy



Call the witnesses. @realDonaldTrump @RudyGiuliani  
@senatemajldr @SenSchumer #LetLevSpeak  
#LevRemembers



♡ 9,161 1:57 AM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 3,964 people are talking about this



The [Wall Street Journal](#) reports that the messages include exchanges not just between Parnas and Giuliani but also messages that he exchanged with former Texas congressman Pete Sessions, current Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) and former Hill columnist John

Solomon. Giuliani, Parnas, Sessions and Solomon were all involved in the efforts to recall Marie Yovanovitch as the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine to replace her with someone they thought would be more pliable.

Bondy said he expects at least some of what he provided will become public and/or shared with the Senate. He told [Axios](#) that the materials “aren’t helpful” to the president and added that his client, who is currently under house arrest, wants to testify before Congress.





Journalists follow House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) on his way into this morning's House Democratic Caucus meeting at the Capitol. (Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

### **3) Who will Pelosi pick as her impeachment floor managers?**

The San Francisco Democrat did not name the floor managers during a closed-door meeting with her members this morning. These people will essentially perform the role of prosecutors during the Senate trial. It's widely expected that Pelosi will pick [House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff \(D-Calif.\)](#) and House Judiciary Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.), but there are other slots to be filled.

Some Democrats had been pushing for her to tap Rep. Justin Amash (Mich.), for example, the Republican-turned-independent who voted for impeachment. But while he'd add a nonpartisan veneer to the process, he could also be less predictable than a Pelosi loyalist like Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.), who sits on the Intelligence and

Judiciary committees.

Just how close is Pelosi holding her cards to the vest? House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, the No. 2 in Democratic leadership, told reporters last night that even he doesn't know whom she'll pick. "Do I have some ideas? Yes. But I'm not going to share them," the Marylander said. "Do I know all the names? No. By the end of the week, you're going to know."

#### **4) Will the Senate vote on a motion to dismiss the articles of impeachment?**

In a strategic shift, Trump called over the weekend for the charges against him to be promptly dismissed by the Senate as soon as they arrive instead of holding a trial. Top Senate Republicans rejected this idea yesterday, saying that they don't have the votes locked down to do so and expressing concern that it would hurt the president and vulnerable lawmakers up for reelection this fall if it looks like the GOP is short-circuiting the process.

"Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has said that he wants the trial ... to follow the format used 21 years ago in the trial of President Bill Clinton. In that case, the Senate approved a resolution that would have allowed the Senate to vote to dismiss the charges. But senior Republicans signaled Monday that they are not inclined to include such a provision in the resolution that will kick off Trump's trial," [Seung Min Kim, Mike DeBonis and Elise Viebeck report](#).

"Several closely watched Republican senators said Monday that they would reject immediate dismissal of the charges against Trump,

including Sens. Lamar Alexander (Tenn.), Mitt Romney (Utah) and Susan Collins (Maine). ... Chatter about dismissing the charges began to ramp up last week after Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) introduced a measure to alter Senate rules to allow for dismissing articles of impeachment, but only if the House had failed to transmit them to the Senate within 25 calendar days. ...

“A senior administration official ... said the White House wants the dismissal option ‘available to the president’ and not necessarily tucked into the organizing resolution. The official also noted that a motion to dismiss could come later in the trial, once the senators have had ample time to digest opening arguments and ask questions. Any senator can move to dismiss the charges, as long as it is done in writing.”



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell gets briefed by staff as he walks from the floor to his office this morning. (Sam Corum/EPA-EFE/Rex)

## **5) How many Republican senators will vote to call witnesses?**

“Senior White House officials ... increasingly believe that at least four Republicans, and likely more, will vote to call witnesses,” [CBS News reports](#). “In addition to Senators Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, [Collins], [Romney] and possibly Cory Gardner of Colorado, the White House also views Rand Paul of Kentucky as a ‘wild card’ and [Alexander] as an ‘institutionalist’ who might vote to call witnesses, as one official put it.”

Collins told reporters she’s trying to ensure the process hews as closely as possible to what the Senate did for Clinton. Murkowski said she wants to make sure there’s an ability to get additional information, including witnesses, if the opening arguments don’t answer all her questions.

## **6) Does John Bolton testify?**

The former national security adviser said last week that he would be willing to testify if he receives a Senate subpoena. At least four Republicans would need to join all the Democrats to vote for witnesses for this to happen.

Romney said yesterday that he plans to vote against early motions by Democrats to get witnesses before opening arguments, but he said he could vote to hear from witnesses later. “I presume I’ll be voting in favor of hearing from John Bolton, perhaps among others,” he told reporters yesterday. “That could change depending on what happens in the ensuing days and during those arguments, but I’m not going to be voting for witnesses prior to the opening arguments.”



[A new Quinnipiac University poll](#) finds that two-thirds of Americans want to see Bolton testify during the Senate trial. For context, the survey found that 51 percent of respondents approved of the House voting to impeach Trump.

### **7) How aggressively does Trump assert executive privilege?**

White House spokesman Hogan Gidley suggested on Fox News this morning that the president's lawyers would probably invoke executive privilege to limit testimony, especially from Bolton. "We're happy for anyone to come forward and testify," Gidley claimed. "There are obviously rules of executive privilege that past administrations have [claimed]. We will most likely do the same thing."

### **8) If Bolton appears, do Republicans vote to compel Hunter Biden too?**

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) told conservative radio host [Hugh Hewitt](#) this morning that he "can't imagine" a scenario where Bolton appears but Trump allies don't try to call their own witnesses whose testimony would help the president. "I can just assure you and all your listeners that it will not be a one-sided proceeding where only the Democrats have a chance to even attempt to call witnesses," Cotton told Hewitt.

Paul threatened last night to force a vote on calling the former vice president's son if Democrats succeed in getting Bolton:



**Senator Rand Paul** ✓

@RandPaul



My colleagues can't have it both ways. Calling for some, while blocking others. If we are going to give a platform to witnesses the Dems demand, I look forward to forcing votes to call Hunter Biden and many more!

[politico.com/news/2020/01/1...](https://www.politico.com/news/2020/01/14/gop-senators-impeachment-witnesses)



**Republicans face reckoning on impeachment witne...**

Some GOP senators are at odds over how to handle a key part of Trump's trial.

[politico.com](https://www.politico.com)

♥ 15.5K 1:55 AM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 5,640 people are talking about this





Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) also held open the possibility that more witnesses can still be called:



9) Does Giuliani get his wish to defend Trump on the Senate floor?

The former New York mayor told reporters as he prepared to celebrate with the Trumps at Mar-a-Lago on New Year's Eve that he'd love to try the case.

“Giuliani, whose dealings with Ukraine are a key facet of the impeachment case, has been lobbying the President to join his legal team on the Senate floor during his upcoming trial,” [CNN reported yesterday](#). “Giuliani has pressed Trump to make him part of the team of lawyers who will argue the case, [according to] a White House official and two sources close to the President. Giuliani has argued that he knows the case against the President inside-out. The White House declined to comment. ... Sources said they did not expect Giuliani to ultimately join the team and said Trump has been advised against tapping Giuliani because of his involvement in the key facts at the heart of the impeachment case against Trump.”

HuffPost reported that Giuliani “[desperately](#)” wants to appear on Trump’s behalf but that it’s very unlikely.

Appearing Saturday night on Fox News, Giuliani claimed that he would ask the Supreme Court to dismiss the case against Trump. This is not something they have constitutional standing to do, but the president approvingly tweeted the clip:



## 10) Could the State of the Union be postponed?

Trump is scheduled to address a joint session of Congress on Feb. 4. There is a precedent for this happening during an impeachment trial: Clinton delivered his State of the Union on the night of Jan. 19, 1999, after his lawyers spent that day defending the president in the Senate.

And Trump relishes this kind of showmanship. For example, his 2020 reelection campaign just announced a rally in Iowa on the Thursday night before the caucuses. It will take place at Drake University, which is also hosting tonight's Democratic debate.

But some congressional Republicans are starting to suggest that

maybe Trump should hold off until after his expected acquittal so that he could take a victory lap. Rep. Jim Banks (R-Ind.) accused Pelosi this morning of delaying the articles until now so that the “impeachment cloud hangs over the president during his State of the Union address.” The congressman said the president should “tell her he'll deliver the State of the Union only after our country clears the divisive impeachment hurdle.”

“It’s not just America watching the State of the Union each year,” Banks wrote [on Twitter](#). “Tehran is watching. Hong Kong is watching. Taipei is watching. Each have made clear in the last year they want their cities & nations to look more like USA. Trump must deliver message of peace, strength & unity to freedom-loving peoples around the globe! Getting impeachment out of the way makes that message and State of the Union address stronger!”

**-- Notable commentary from The Post’s opinion page:**

- [Dana Milbank](#): “Suddenly Trump has lost enthusiasm for his trial.”
- [Michael McFaul](#): “Be prepared to fight a dangerous new wave of disinformation during the Senate trial.”
- [Henry Olsen](#): “Nancy Pelosi gamed the impeachment trial brilliantly.”
- [Jonathan Turley](#): “Is an attempt to abuse power as impeachable as actually doing it?”
- [Eugene Robinson](#): “To lie or not to lie? The answer is easy for the GOP.”

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## WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:



LSU quarterback Joe Burrow holds the trophy after leading his team to the college

football national championship on Monday in New Orleans. (Sue Ogrocki/AP)

-- **“The National Security Agency recently discovered a major flaw in Microsoft’s Windows operating system — one that could potentially expose computer users to significant breaches or surveillance — and alerted the firm of the problem rather than turn it into a hacking weapon,”** [Ellen Nakashima reports](#). “The disclosure represents a major shift in the NSA’s approach, choosing to put computer security ahead of building up its arsenal of hacking tools that allow the agency to spy on adversaries’ networks ... Microsoft plans to issue a patch for the flaw on Tuesday.”

-- **Louisiana State University won an exhilarating national championship game over Clemson.** [Chuck Culpepper and Des Bieler report](#): “In becoming the second 15-0 team ever from college football’s top tier, following Clemson last year, LSU left even Clemson (14-1), that five-time College Football Playoff participant, four-time finalist and two-time champion with a 29-game win streak and a quarterback, Trevor Lawrence, who had never lost a college game, deluged in numbers. ... LSU tore through Clemson as if it had not read Clemson’s astounding recent-years CV. It went 75 yards in five plays, 87 yards in six and 95 in 11 as its halftime lead reached 28-17. It beautified the field with a stream of breathtaking football plays, mainly [Joe] Burrow passes that traveled downfield and tucked themselves precisely into the right arms and guts.”

-- **In other huge sports news: The Houston Astros fired manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow an hour after the MLB suspended them for a year for their roles in an extensive sign-stealing scheme.** [Dave Sheinin reports](#): “An investigation by



MLB found the Astros used cameras and video monitors to steal the signs of opposing catchers at Houston's Minute Maid Park, then signaled those signs to their hitters before pitches throughout the 2017 regular season and playoffs and at least part of the 2018 season. ... Commissioner Rob Manfred fined the team \$5 million and took away its top two draft picks in both 2020 and 2021.”



Sanders denies reports claiming that he told Warren women couldn't win 2020 election

## 2020 WATCH:

-- Elizabeth Warren accused Bernie Sanders of telling her during a private dinner at her Washington condo last year that **a woman couldn't beat Trump**. "I thought a woman could win; he disagreed," Warren said in a [statement](#) last night, confirming a [CNN report](#) that landed with maximum impact on the eve of the final debate before the Iowa caucuses. "I have no interest in discussing this private meeting any further because Bernie and I have far more in common than our

differences on punditry.”

**Sanders said it’s ludicrous to suggest that he’d tell his colleague from Massachusetts that a woman couldn’t win at a dinner where she told him she planned to run.** “What I did say that night was that Donald Trump is a sexist, a racist and a liar who would weaponize whatever he could,” the Vermont senator said in a statement. “Do I believe a woman can win in 2020? Of course! After all Hillary Clinton beat Donald Trump by 3 million votes in 2016.”

**“Two people with knowledge of the conversation at the 2018 dinner at Warren’s home told The Washington Post that Warren brought up the issue by asking Sanders whether he believed a woman could win,”** [Annie Linskey and Sean Sullivan report](#). “One of the people with knowledge of the conversation said **Sanders did not say a woman couldn’t win but rather that Trump would use nefarious tactics against the Democratic nominee.** ... A September Washington Post poll found 23 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents said a man would be more likely than a woman to defeat Trump.” Joe Biden said during a recent event that Clinton faced “unfair” sexism during her campaign, but then he added: “That’s not going to happen with me.”

**-- Pete Buttigieg is trying to stay out of the Warren vs. Sanders food fight. He's not holding gaggles so he doesn't have to weigh in. Instead, the former mayor is wooing moderates – and some Republicans – in his push to close the deal in Iowa.** [Chelsea Janes and Holly Bailey report](#): “The message he has delivered in Iowa lately makes clear overtures to disgruntled Republicans — or what he calls ‘future former Republicans’ — whom he argues he can attract.

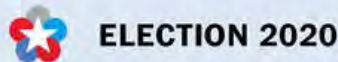
He suggests he will be able to build bipartisan consensus. And he, more than any candidate in the field, suggests that Republicans have co-opted faith, arguing that religious Americans can find a like-minded leader in him. ... The campaign is also doubling down on its robust organizing operation in the final weeks before the vote. Though Buttigieg started far behind his Democratic rivals in building a ground game — waiting until around Labor Day to begin opening field offices — he has now assembled one of the largest operations in the state. ... But that may not be enough. In recent weeks, some county chairs have sensed shifting feelings about Buttigieg.”

**-- Sanders said he's willing to release a shortlist of his potential Supreme Court picks if he becomes the Democratic nominee.** He told [the New York Times Editorial Board](#) that he would only appoint judges who “100 percent” support *Roe v. Wade*. ([Kayla Epstein](#))

**-- Trump and his campaign have also launched their most sustained attacks yet on Sanders.** [Toluse Olorunnipa reports](#): “Trump and his allies have trained their sights on Sanders, seeking to tarnish his foreign policy credentials and commander in chief appeal. ... Trump’s allies say the president drives the campaign’s political strategy, acknowledging that he is an avid consumer of the public polling and the cable-TV punditry that has documented Sanders’s growing strength ... Trump mentioned Sanders by name 10 times during his rally last week in Ohio — more than any other candidate. He continued the attacks on Twitter over the weekend and on Monday ... Trump’s campaign has released three statements in the last week specifically attacking Sanders on foreign policy.”

# Stage Order

for Jan. 14 Democratic debate



-- **Tonight's Democratic debate** will begin at 9 p.m. Eastern at **Drake University in Des Moines. It will air on CNN and stream on the Des Moines Register's website.** Andrew Yang, who was onstage in December, did not qualify. Mike Bloomberg can't qualify because he doesn't accept donations. Also not qualifying but still in the race: Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (Hawaii), Sen. Michael Bennet (Colo.), former congressman John Delaney of Maryland and former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick.

-- The latest **Monmouth University Poll** shows how fluid the race in the Hawkeye State remains: **Biden, Buttigieg, Sanders and Warren are all grouped near the top of the leaderboard.** Most significant, though, is that 4 in 10 voters likely caucus-goers said there's at least a "moderate" chance that they will support a different candidate on caucus night. That's good news for Amy Klobuchar.

-- **What's top of mind for voters in Iowa?** [From the Register:](#)

“Caucusgoers in the first-in-the-nation presidential voting state have been thinking about candidates' stances on three key issues: health care, climate change and education, according to extensive Des Moines Register reporting and data from Iowa Polls of likely Democratic caucusgoers. ... Still, other news may dominate Tuesday's debate stage conversation. Although Iowans generally haven't been asking about the nuances of foreign policy at campaign events, the killing of Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani is expected to be a major topic of conversation, with candidates touting their foreign policy credentials. ... The issue of impeachment is also expected to loom large.” The latest episode in the Register’s podcast series, “Three Tickets,” touches on what it’s like to live in the state during a caucus year: “It’s a strange and wonderful kind of chaos.” ([Listen here.](#))

-- **“It’s make-or-break time for anyone not named ‘Biden’ or ‘Sanders,’”** columnist E.J. Dionne Jr. writes in [his curtain-raiser on the debate.](#)

-- **The Post has asked all the remaining Democratic candidates where they stand on more than 85 policy questions.** We've created a [20-question quiz](#) that measures which of the candidates agrees with you the most on some of the biggest flashpoints of the cycle.

-- **And if you think that's cool, The Post's Opinions team has also created a simulation that lets you design your own Iowa caucus.**



Sen. Cory Booker announces end of 2020 presidential bid

-- **Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) dropped out of the race after failing to qualify for the debate.** [Amy B Wang and David Weigel report:](#) “Booker, who recently announced he had surpassed his fourth-quarter fundraising goal, said his operation would not have the money ‘to scale up and continue building a campaign that can win,’ particularly with a Senate impeachment trial looming and because he would be absent from Tuesday’s debate. ... **Booker plans to run for reelection to the Senate**, his campaign said. ... Booker is the latest candidate of color to leave a Democratic field that had started out as historically diverse, exiting about two weeks after former HUD secretary and San Antonio mayor Julián Castro said he was suspending his campaign.”

- [Karen Tumulty:](#) “Booker was a candidate of grace in an ugly political climate. On the campaign trail, voters were skeptical that leading with love is the answer in

2020.”

- [Eugene Scott](#): “There was never much ‘love’ for Cory Booker’s campaign.”

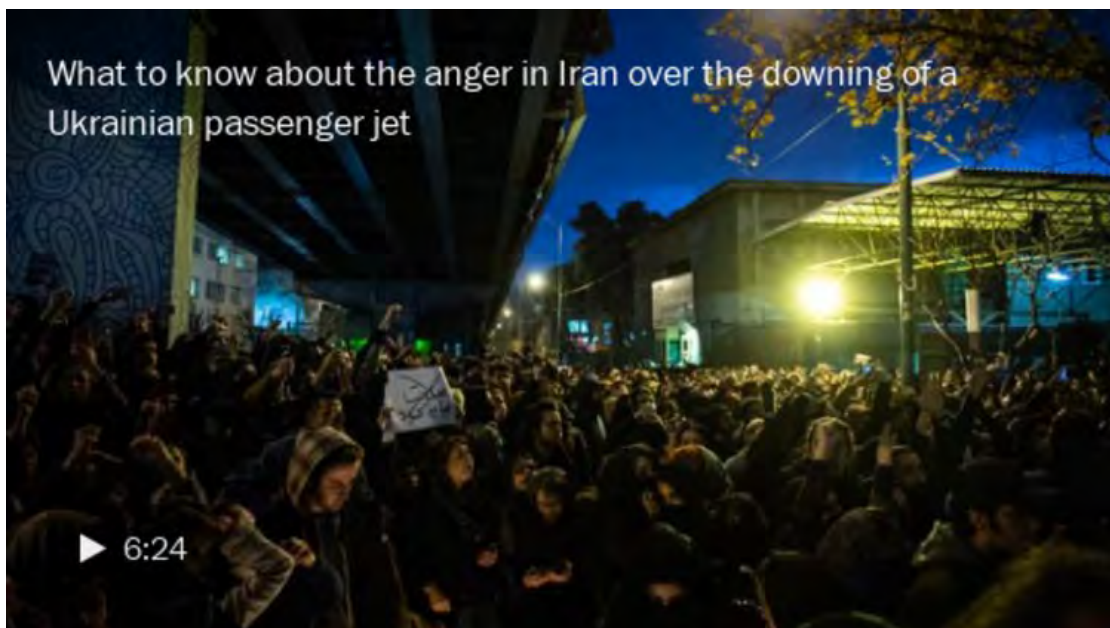
-- **Booker gave an exit interview last night to Rachel Maddow on MSNBC.** Asked if he’ll endorse, the senator replied: “I don’t know. I’m taking a break for a little bit.”

-- **If winning the White House doesn’t work out, Mike Bloomberg says he has a fallback plan: helping defeat Trump and remaking the Democratic Party.** [Michael Scherer reports](#): “Bloomberg is running aggressively to win the Democratic nomination, but he is simultaneously building out a general election machine to defeat [Trump], with a new structure — data, field organizing, advertising and policy — that aims to elect Democrats up and down the ballot even if the party’s voters reject the former New York mayor this spring. ... **The president has been monitoring Bloomberg’s campaign, impressed by his extraordinary spending and fearful of his potential rise,** according to Trump confidants with whom the president has discussed Bloomberg. ... Bloomberg’s aides, in turn, have delighted in trying to find ways to get Trump’s attention and increase his anxiety.”

-- **Updates from the 2020 battle for control of the House:**

- Prosecutors recommend that former congressman **Chris Collins** (R-N.Y.), one of the first lawmakers to endorse Trump in 2016, receive nearly five years in prison for his insider trading conviction. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Friday. ([Renae Merle](#))

- The Democratic operative who was set to manage the reelection campaign of Rep. **Jeff Van Drew** in New Jersey until he switched parties will now run the campaign of his Democratic challenger **Amy Kennedy**. ([NJ.com](#))
- Former Trump State Department official **Matt Mowers** announced that he'll challenge freshman Rep. **Chris Pappas** (D) in New Hampshire. ([WMUR](#))
- The **Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee** filed an ethics complaint against its GOP counterpart for using “trackers” in House office buildings. ([Felicia Sonmez](#))



What to know about the anger in Iran over the downing of a Ukrainian passenger jet

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- France, Britain and Germany launched a process to hold Iran accountable for violating the nuclear deal. [Loveday Morris reports:](#)



“Iran said it would not comply with any restrictions on enriching uranium after Washington’s targeted killing of [Soleimani] ... It had gradually reduced its commitments under the deal since the United States withdrew from the deal and reimposed sanctions in 2018. In a joint statement Tuesday, Britain, France and Germany ... said that they had ‘sought to persuade Iran to change course’ and ‘worked hard’ to address its concerns. However, the European countries said they now have ‘been left with no choice, given Iran’s actions, but to register today our concerns that Iran is not meeting its commitments.’ ”

**The three countries said in their statement they still want to preserve the deal and are not immediately joining the Trump administration’s “maximum pressure” campaign.**

**-- Iran announced today that an unspecified number of arrests have been made in the Ukrainian passenger plane crash that Tehran admits was mistakenly shot down, and President Hassan Rouhani called for a special court to investigate the crash.**

[Kareem Fahim reports](#): “The world is going to watch this trial,” Rouhani said, in comments carried by the state news agency. “We should assure people it will not happen again.”

**-- The announcement followed a third day of significant street protests against the regime.** [Erin Cunningham, Kareem Fahim and Adam Taylor report](#): “Videos posted on social media showed hundreds of students gathered Monday in a courtyard at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, a wellspring of anger at the cleric-led government. The university said 13 of its students and alumni were killed when the plane was shot down. ... There were signs that the government, forced onto the defensive, was pursuing a harsher

crackdown on the demonstrations. Videos from Sunday night showed demonstrators fleeing from tear gas and in one case a woman bleeding from her leg — a wound that protesters said was caused by live ammunition. In other videos posted on social media that could not immediately be verified, sounds of gunfire could be heard at protests in Azadi Square in the capital, as well as in the city of Shiraz. ... Tehran's police chief denied that police shot at protesters, saying they are under orders to show restraint.”

**-- And while Trump remains muted on Hong Kong's pro-democracy demonstrations, he's showering support on the Iranian protesters. [David Nakamura compares the reactions](#):** “Trump issued a series of tweets aimed at pressuring Tehran, demanding that human rights groups be allowed in to ‘monitor and report’ on the unrest. ... Several hours later in Hong Kong, Kenneth Roth, the executive director of U.S.-based Human Rights Watch, was denied entry after landing at the airport. A Chinese government spokesman in Beijing said the ban was the nation's ‘sovereign right’ given such groups’ support of mass pro-democracy protests since last summer. Trump was silent on Roth’s plight.”

**-- U.S. commanders at the Iraqi military base targeted by Iranian missiles say they believe the attack was intended to kill American personnel. [Louisa Loveluck reports](#):** “The missile barrage last week against the sprawling Ain al-Asad air base in western Iraq left deep craters and the crumpled wreckage of living quarters and a helicopter launch site. At least two soldiers were thrown through the window of a meters-high tower, and several dozen U.S. troops were later treated for concussion as a result of the missile strikes, military

officials on the base said."



The Trump administration's shifting lines on Qasem Soleimani's 'imminent threat'

-- **Trump's claim that Tehran was plotting to bomb four U.S. embassies is at best an unfounded theory and at worse a falsehood.** [Philip Rucker, John Hudson, Shane Harris and Josh Dawsey report](#): "At each turn in the commander in chief's rapidly evolving narrative of why he authorized the Jan. 3 drone strike that killed [Qasem Soleimani], the machinery of government scrambled to adapt and respond. [The result is a credibility crisis](#) ... Inside the Pentagon and elsewhere in the government, there was skepticism about the president's claim, as well as about Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's statement that the threat from Soleimani was 'imminent' and that hundreds of American lives were at risk. One senior administration official said the remarks from both men were unnecessary distractions from what many officials believed was a defensible policy decision. ..."

**“Despite Trump’s claim that the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad was one of four facilities under threat of attack, some embassy officials there said they did not receive an alert commensurate to the threat Trump described ...** Pompeo pushed back Monday against the charge that a notification was not sent, but he did not specify when or how it was transmitted. ... But there is no indication that embassy employees were warned of a credible threat, and the State Department did not respond to questions about whether the embassy in Baghdad took other measures that are typical when a specific threat is uncovered. **With the question of imminence dogging the administration’s public defense of the Soleimani strike, other senior administration officials have shifted to vouching for the quality of the intelligence, rather than what it said about timing or particular targets.** None of them has backed up Trump’s claim that four embassies were being targeted. Even if evidence of Trump’s claim exists, there was no interagency process or decision made to release such information or for the president to say what he said, according to a senior administration official.”

**-- In a tweet, Trump claimed it “doesn’t really matter” after all whether Soleimani posed an imminent threat because of his “horrible past.”** [Karen DeYoung reports](#): “In a separate tweet, Trump emphasized Soleimani’s past actions rather than the threat of future attacks. ‘The Democrats and Fake News are trying to make terrorist Soleimani into a wonderful guy, only because I did what should have been done for 20 years,’ he wrote.”

**-- Trump also retweeted a volley of incendiary tweets about Pelosi, falsely accusing the House speaker of downplaying**

**protests in Iran and supporting the regime.** [Brittany Shammas reports](#): “One of them, a fake photo of Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) wearing photoshopped Islamic head coverings and standing in front of the Iranian flag, drew swift condemnation. ‘DEMOCRATS 2020’ read the text below the image, which was originally tweeted by an anonymous user with the caption, ‘The corrupted Dems trying their best to come to the Ayatollah’s rescue.’ ... Schumer soon weighed in. ‘President Trump: How low can you go?’ he tweeted. ... Asked about the criticism during a Fox News appearance, White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham backed Trump’s decision to amplify the tweet. She said he did so to make a point.”

**-- Pompeo has refused an invitation to discuss the Iran situation with the House Foreign Affairs Committee.** “Rep. Eliot L. Engel (D-N.Y.) said that ‘each passing day raises new questions’ about the Jan. 3 drone strike,” [John Wagner reports](#).

**-- Now that Pompeo announced his decision not to run for Senate, Democrats see an opportunity to capture Kansas’s open seat.** [Annie Gowen reports](#): “Since Pompeo bowed out of the race, the leading Democratic contender, state Sen. Barbara Bollier, has announced that she raised more than \$1 million in her first quarter in the contest, unprecedented for a Democratic Senate hopeful in Kansas. ... Pompeo [was courted by \[McConnell\]](#) for months and would have entered the race as a hands-down favorite for the seat. **Now Republicans face a bruising primary battle between Kris Kobach, a former secretary of state and ally of [Trump] who lost the governor’s race a year ago, and a host of ho-hum**

**establishment candidates** who have not inspired confidence in the Republican leadership.”



Attorney General William Barr speaks to reporters to announce results of an investigation of the shootings at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida. (J. Scott Applewhite/AP)

**-- Attorney General Bill Barr declared that the December shooting that killed three U.S. sailors on a Florida naval base was an act of terrorism, and he publicly called on Apple to help unlock phones for the government.** [Devlin Barrett and Matt Zapotosky report](#): “Barr said investigators had found evidence that Ahmed Mohammed al-Shamrani, a Royal Saudi Air Force member training at the base, was motivated by ‘jihadist ideology’ and had posted anti-American messages on social media about two hours before his attack. FBI Deputy Director David Bowdich said that during the attack, Shamrani fired shots at pictures of [Trump] and a past U.S. president, and

witnesses at the scene said he made statements critical of American military actions overseas. Bowdich said that while Shamrani did not seem to be inspired by one specific terrorist group, he harbored anti-American and anti-Israeli views and felt ‘violence was necessary.’ Bowdich said the gunman’s social media comments echoed those of Anwar al-Awlaki, a radical Yemeni American cleric tied to the terrorist group al-Qaeda who was killed in a drone strike in 2011. ...

**“Investigators have been stymied in trying to access two key pieces of evidence — the gunman’s iPhones.** Standing before giant photographs of two severely damaged devices, the attorney general publicly urged Apple to act. **‘So far, Apple has not given us any substantive assistance,’ Barr said, though aides later clarified that Apple had, in fact, given investigators access to cloud data linked to the gunman.** ... Barr did not say whether the Justice Department would seek a court order to force Apple’s compliance. The department filed legal papers on a similar case in 2016, but the issue was never resolved by a higher court. ... **In a lengthy statement, Apple disputed the attorney general’s description of its role,** saying the company began responding within hours of the first FBI request on Dec. 6, and has turned over ‘many gigabytes’ of data in the case. ... Even without the phone data, investigators were able to review Shamrani’s social media postings, which were critical to the officials’ determination. ... Justice Department officials ... said that while officials were confident Shamrani had no U.S.-based co-conspirator, they were still interested in potential interactions he might have had with those in Saudi Arabia. **Barr said investigators had found evidence that 17 Saudis had through social media shared jihadist or anti-American material**

**and 15 — including some of those who had shared anti-American material — were found to have had contact with or possessed child pornography.”**

**-- George Nader, a key witness in special counsel Bob Mueller’s probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election, admitted to bringing a 14-year-old boy to the United States for sex and to possessing child pornography. [Rachel Weiner reports](#):** “A wealthy Lebanese American businessman with long-standing political influence in Washington and the Middle East, Nader faces at least a decade in federal prison after his guilty plea in federal court in Alexandria, Va. While the charges carry a maximum penalty of 30 years, prosecutors in the Eastern District of Virginia agreed to recommend the mandatory minimum of 10 years. ... He already has a conviction in the same court for transporting child pornography in 1991, for which he served six months in prison. ...

**“Nader still faces charges in Washington federal court of conspiring to funnel illegal campaign contributions to both Democrats and Republicans. As an adviser to the leadership of the United Arab Emirates, Nader met several times with officials and associates of [Trump] during the early days of the administration. He helped set up a January 2017 meeting between Trump associate Erik Prince and a Russian official close to Russian President Vladimir Putin that was closely scrutinized”** by Mueller.

**-- France’s Emmanuel Macron will deploy more soldiers to West Africa, where terrorist groups are growing. [Danielle Paquette reports](#):** “The leaders of Mali, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso and Mauritania met their French counterpart in southwestern France,



where they agreed to build a shared command structure with the European power that once colonized much of West Africa. ... France, which has roughly 4,500 troops in the region — the most of any outside nation by far — plans to deploy another 220 soldiers, Macron said alongside the West African presidents. In a joint statement, the leaders said they would keep working together to protect civilians and ‘prevent an extension of the terrorist threat.’”

**-- A U.S. citizen died in an Egyptian jail after a lengthy hunger strike.** [Carol Morello and Kareem Fahim report](#): “Mustafa Kassem, who was 54, died of heart failure following his hunger strike, according to Pretrial Rights International, a nonprofit organization that represented Kassem. David Schenker, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, confirmed Kassem’s death and expressed the U.S. belief that the terrorism charges against him were meritless. Schenker told reporters he was saddened at Kassem’s death in custody, calling it ‘needless, tragic and avoidable.’ He vowed to continue raising U.S. concerns about human rights abuses in Egypt and Americans detained in the country.”

**-- The Syrian army is urging civilians to leave the last rebel enclave while the Russian Defense Ministry is offering them three ways out.** [Sarah Dadouch reports](#): “The warning was issued on the day that a cease-fire brokered by Turkey and Russia took effect, as Russia and its allies promised to halt airstrikes. Russia has been Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s main ally, alongside Iran, during the war, which started in 2011 as a revolt against the government. ... The cease-fire follows a series of broken truces, and few expect the respite to last. Artillery fire continued Monday, the head of the Idlib

branch of Syrian Civil Defense — a volunteer organization more commonly known as the White Helmets — told The Washington Post.”

**-- The Treasury Department dropped China’s designation as a “currency manipulator,” greasing the wheels for the scheduled signing of a U.S.-China trade deal tomorrow. [David J. Lynch](#)**

**reports:** “In a semiannual report, department officials said no countries met the standards set by Congress for the ‘manipulator’ label. But the political context for the decision was hard to miss. ... The move reversed the department’s decision in August to add China to the list.”

**-- Talks are underway for Trump to visit India as early as next month, possibly during the impeachment trial. [Joanna Slater](#)**

**reports:** “If finalized, the visit would be Trump’s first to India as president. The United States has sought to cultivate India as a partner and potential counterweight to China, and Trump has spoken of his ‘great admiration’ for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. ... The ‘two sides are in touch’ and ‘trying to work out a mutually convenient date,’ said one Indian official. Another said the visit could take place in February or March.”

**-- Queen Elizabeth II agreed to a “period of transition” in which Harry and Meghan get to spend time in Britain and Canada. [Karla Adam and William Booth](#)**

**report:** “In a statement, the queen wrote: ‘Although we would have preferred them to remain full-time working Members of the Royal Family, we respect and understand their wish to live a more independent life as a family while remaining a valued part of my family.’ The queen acknowledged that Harry and Meghan — she omitted their royal titles — ‘made clear that they do not want to

be reliant on public funds in their new lives,' but she did not describe their new duties or ventures.”

**-- Oceans are warming at the same rate as if five Hiroshima-sized atomic bombs were dropped in every second, a new study shows.** [From CNN](#): “An international team of 14 scientists examined data going back to the 1950s, looking at temperatures from the ocean surface to 2,000 meters deep. The study, which was published in the journal [Advances in Atmospheric Sciences](#), also showed that the oceans are warming at an increasing speed. While the past decade has been the warmest on record for global ocean temperatures, the hottest five years ever recorded all came in the last five. ... The study shows that while the oceans warmed steadily between 1955 and 1986, warming has accelerated rapidly in the last few decades. Between 1987-2019, ocean warming was 450% greater than during the earlier time period.”

**-- Australia is seeing sci-fi weather.** [Andrew Freedman and Sarah Kaplan report](#): “Climate change has pushed natural phenomena, such as wildfires, to mutate into more disastrous and deadly versions of themselves. Temperatures are soaring to heights scientists did not expect to see for decades. Landscapes that are usually resistant to fire — including rainforests home to rare, vulnerable species — are going up in flames. The blazes are so big they generate their own hellish weather. **Fire tornadoes, formed when spinning winds generate a massive rotating column of fire, ash, vapor and debris, are impossible to control.** A volunteer firefighter in New South Wales was killed on Dec. 30 when one of these twisters overturned his truck.”

-- Microscopic grains of dead stars are the oldest known material on the planet – older than the moon, Earth and the solar system itself. [Ben Guarino reports](#): “By examining chemical clues in a meteorite’s mineral dust, researchers have determined the most ancient grains are 7 billion years old — about half as old as the universe. Rocks don’t get much more classic than this.”



Government contractors erect a section of Pentagon-funded border wall along the Colorado River in Yuma, Ariz., in September. (Matt York/AP)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULD NOT BE OVERSHADOWED:**

-- The Trump administration is planning on diverting an additional \$7.2 billion in Pentagon funds for the border wall, five times what Congress authorized the president to spend on the project in the 2020 budget. [Nick Miroff reports](#): “The Pentagon funds

would be extracted, for the second year in a row, from military construction projects and counternarcotics funding. According to the plans, the funding would give the government enough money to complete about 885 miles of new fencing by spring 2022, far more than the 509 miles the administration has slated for the U.S. border with Mexico. ... The move would bring the total amount of federal funds allocated to border fencing to \$18.4 billion under Trump ... The Trump administration has completed 101 miles of new barriers so far, according to the latest figures, far less than the 450 miles the president has promised to erect by the end of the year.”

**-- The U.S. is putting asylum seekers on planes to Guatemala – often without telling them where they’re going. [Kevin Sieff reports:](#)**

“When the migrants land in Guatemala City, they receive little information about what it means to apply for asylum in one of the hemisphere’s poorest countries. Those who don’t immediately apply are told to leave the country in 72 hours. The form is labeled ‘Voluntary Return.’ ‘In the U.S., the agents told us our cases would be transferred, but they didn’t say where. Then they lined us up to get on the plane,’ said Marta, 43, from Honduras. She sat in a migrant shelter here with her 17-year-old son, who nursed a gunshot wound in his left cheek — the work, mother and son say, of a Honduran faction of the MS-13 gang. ‘When we looked out the window, we were here,’ she said. ‘We thought, ‘Where are we? What are we supposed to do now?’”

**-- Texas became the first state to take up Trump’s offer to let governors close their borders to new refugees. [Columnist Catherine Rampell](#) shares the story of an Iraqi refugee who’s**

**resettled in a state that now wants to shut out people like her:** Marwa Sabah “is one of nearly 57,000 refugees who have resettled in Texas over the past decade, of whom about 12,000 are from Iraq. Like most refugees, she didn’t want to leave behind nearly everyone and everything she knew. But facing death threats, she and her husband had no choice. They requested refuge in the United States and specifically asked to be resettled in Fort Worth. ... [On Friday], Republican Gov. Greg Abbott declared that Texas was full. ... He suggested that Texas lacks the resources to absorb additional refugees, playing into stereotypes of refugees as dangerous, destitute and typically on the dole. Perhaps if he got to know refugees such as Sabah, he’d think differently.”

**-- The Trump administration’s restrictions on fetal tissue research have unsettled scientists and disrupted key studies in ways that could undermine public health. [Amy Goldstein reports:](#)** “The controversial federal funding rules, announced seven months ago, are reshaping scientists’ research paths and the grants they seek from the National Institutes of Health. Graduate students cannot get training grants if their research involves fetal tissue. Senior researchers are cautioning emerging scientists to avoid this type of research. And a university program that produces and sells mice containing human fetal tissue is forgoing the federal funding it has relied on for nearly three decades, imperiling the work of scores of biomedical researchers who depend on these lab animals. The disruption is occurring, in part, because the administration has imposed an extra requirement for NIH grant applications that is not yet possible to meet. Under the rewritten rules that took effect early in the fall, a new ethics advisory board must assess all grant requests

involving fetal tissue — but the board has not yet been established, and it may not be convened for many months.”

**-- Trump falsely claimed, nearly 70 times through Dec. 10, that he has sought to protect patients with preexisting conditions through his various efforts to eliminate the Affordable Care Act.** Fact Checker Glenn Kessler says the president’s tweets about the subject on Monday were something more — [“a virtual traffic jam of false claims.”](#)

**-- Product recalls under the Trump administration have fallen to their lowest level in 16 years, but there are signs that the new head of the Consumer Product Safety Commission plans a more aggressive approach to companies selling potentially unsafe products.** [Todd C. Frankel reports:](#) “The 2019 total was down 7 percent from 2018, which itself was 8 percent lower than in 2017. That’s the year that Republican Ann Marie Buerkle took over as the commission’s acting chairwoman ... Now, with a new acting chairman running the CPSC, Democrat Robert Adler, the agency is trying a different tactic to force the hand of reluctant companies. The CPSC last Wednesday issued a rare product safety alert — and made it clear the agency wanted the product taken off the market. The warning said a four-drawer dresser made by Hodedah was a tip-over risk and that the CPSC ‘intends to continue pressing the case for a recall with Hodedah.’ The notice was unusual because it acknowledged that the agency and company disagreed about the need for a recall. Negotiations over recalls normally are not revealed to the public, giving companies considerable leverage.”

**-- Four gun-control bills advanced in Virginia’s newly gun-free**

**Capitol.** In a show of opposition to the bills, gun rights activists swarmed the Capitol, but the state Senate's Judiciary Committee advanced most of the gun legislation proposed by Democrats. ([Laura Vozzella and Gregory S. Schneider](#))

**-- Lawyers allege that the California scuba boat fire that killed 34 last year was a result of safety violations and a charging station that was not up to code.** ([Miranda Green](#))

**-- St. Louis's first black chief prosecutor, claiming a racist conspiracy, is suing the city under a law created to fight the Ku Klux Klan.** St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Garden alleges that her agenda to "redress the scourge of historical inequality and rebuild trust in the criminal justice system among communities of color" has been thwarted by a campaign of "collusive conduct" aimed at removing her from office. ([Antonia Noori Farzan](#))

**-- The Supreme Court will not review the conviction of Michelle Carter, the woman who went to jail for encouraging her boyfriend to kill himself.** ([Ann E. Marimow](#))

**-- An off-duty Secret Service agent shot and killed a dog on a leash in Brooklyn.** The female Belgian shepherd was being walked by her owners when she startled the agent, officials said. ([New York Daily News](#))

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) weighed in on behalf of Sanders over Warren:





Mandy Moore, a star in NBC's "This is Us," showed up in Iowa last night to support Pete Buttigieg:



**Mandy Moore** ✓  
@TheMandyMoore



About to go onstage with this guy! @PeteButtigieg



♡ 9,379 12:57 AM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 813 people are talking about this



Cory Booker joked about a headline on his departure from the presidential race:



The president's claims about Saudi Arabia on Fox News are specious:



This is how the White House press secretary [defended](#) Trump retweeting a doctored image of Democratic leaders in Islamic garb:



**Aaron Rugar** ✓  
@atrupar



Stephanie Grisham on Trump retweeting an image mocking how Muslims dress: "I think the president is making clear that Democrats are parroting Iranian talking points and almost taking the side of terrorists and those who were out to kill Americans." 🤔



♥ 2,192 6:19 PM - Jan 13, 2020



💬 1,661 people are talking about this



Views of the Confederate flag vary widely across the South:



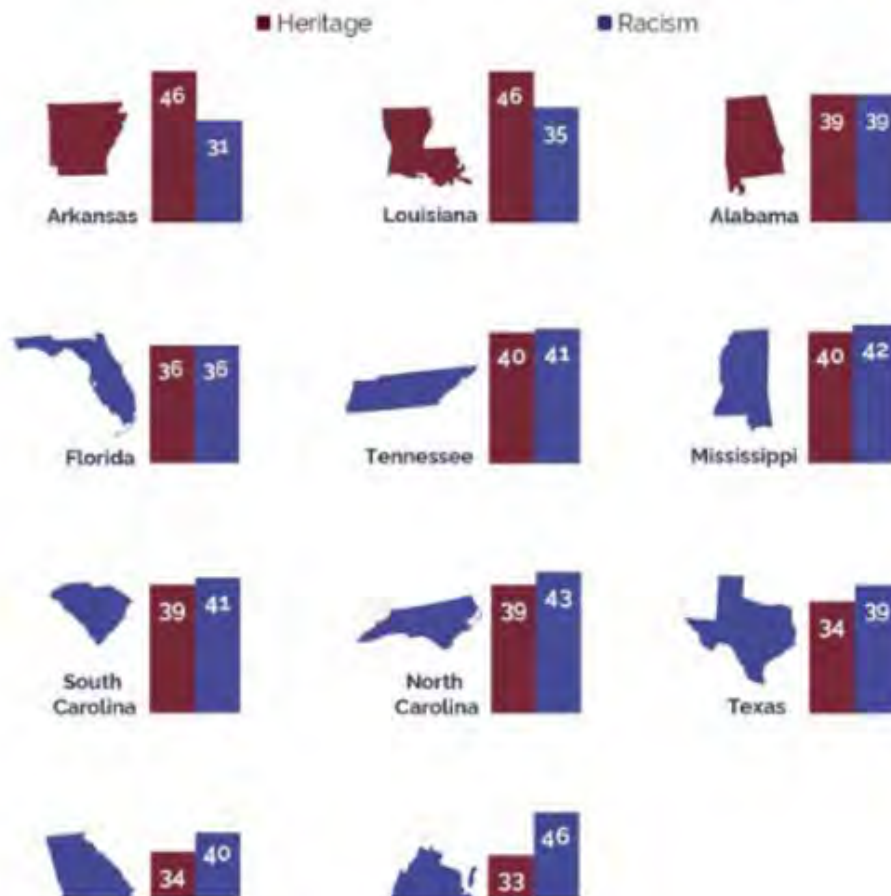
**Catherine Rampell** ✓

@crampell



Survey of people in the former Confederate states, on whether the Confederate flag stands for "heritage" or "racism" [today.yougov.com/topics/politic...](https://today.yougov.com/topics/politic...)

Former Confederate states on whether the Confederate flag most represents **heritage** or **racism**



127 2:15 AM - Jan 14, 2020



98 people are talking about this



**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "Right now we are entering a historic time," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn). "We have to put country above party, put aside partisanship."

**VIDEOS OF THE DAY:**

A man whose remote cabin burned down was rescued by Alaska State Troopers after surviving subzero temperatures for 23 days:



Watch: Man stranded in Alaskan wilderness for 23 days rescued after writing 'SOS' in snow

Stephen Colbert took a look at the different explanations members of the Trump administration have given for Soleimani's killing:



Trump's team appears to be borrowing directly from George W. Bush's playbook, argued Seth Meyers:



Trevor Noah did an explainer on the scandal unraveling in England:

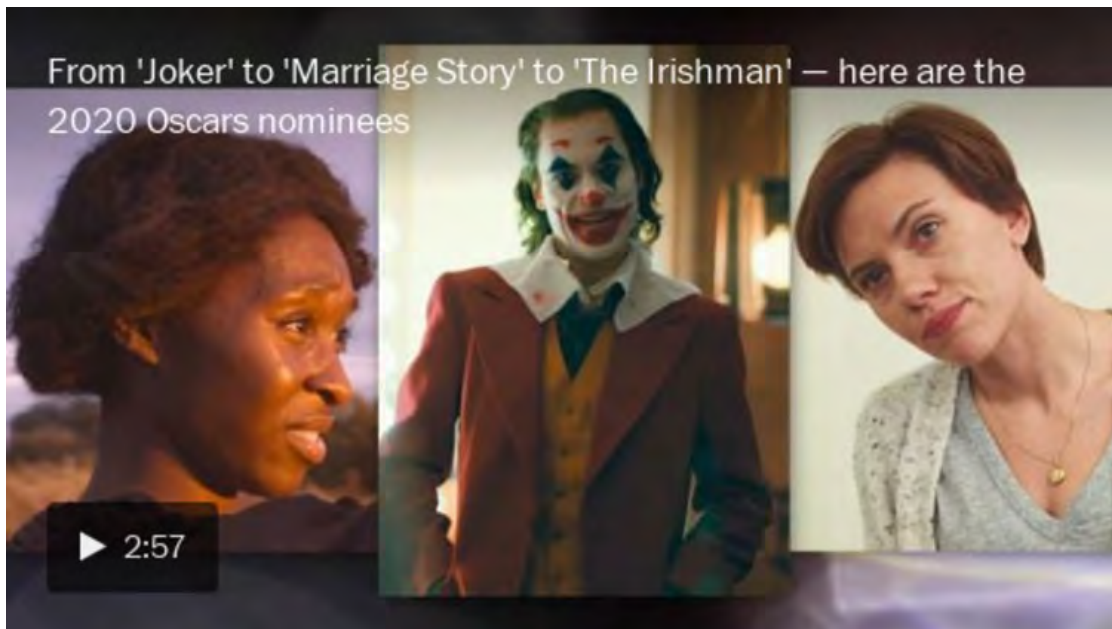


And Jimmy Kimmel pointed out that there are more minorities in Trump's Cabinet than among the Oscar nominees:



In case you missed it, here's [a complete list](#) of the Oscar nominees:





From 'Joker' to 'Marriage Story' to 'The Irishman' — here are the 2020 Oscars nominees

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# The Daily 202

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## 10 questions after Pelosi announces a Wednesday vote on transmitting the articles of impeachment



Speaker Nancy Pelosi arrives this morning for a closed-door meeting with the House Democratic Caucus. (Michael Reynolds/EPA-EFE/Rex)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: Speaker Nancy Pelosi's [announcement](#) this morning that the House will vote tomorrow on transmitting the two articles of impeachment to the Senate sets the stage for the trial of President Trump to begin this week.**

Even presuming Trump's acquittal, this process could still play out more unpredictably than you might think. After all, this is only the third time that the Senate has held such a presidential impeachment trial in the 232 years since the Constitution was ratified. In the Trump era, it also feels like a safe bet to always brace for chaos. The fact that Pelosi has refused until now to send over the articles that passed on

Dec. 18 is a reminder of the imperative to expect the unexpected.

**-- Two stories that broke overnight underscore the inherently unpredictable nature of a sprawling investigation that includes international intrigue and involves several state and non-state actors.**

A cybersecurity firm released a report alleging that **the GRU, Russia's military intelligence service, successfully hacked into Burisma, the Ukrainian gas company that put Hunter Biden on the board of directors when Joe Biden was vice president.**

Democrats impeached Trump for abusing his power by allegedly pressuring Ukraine's president to announce an investigation of that company in exchange for a meeting at the White House and the release of hundreds of million dollars in security assistance that Congress approved but the president froze in the hours after his July 25 call with Volodymyr Zelensky.

**And Lev Parnas, one of Rudy Giuliani's Soviet-born associates who says he was helping the president's personal lawyer with his work in Ukraine until getting arrested as he tried to leave the United States with a one-way plane ticket, turned over thousands of pages of documents and text messages to House investigators, some of which his lawyer says could be relevant to the impeachment trial.**

**-- Against this backdrop, here are 10 known unknowns as the Senate trial looms:**

**1) What did the Russians get from Burisma?**

Area 1 Security, a California cybersecurity company, said it discovered on New Year's Eve that the GRU had launched a successful cyber "phishing" campaign against Burisma Holdings, as well as several subsidiaries and partners, so that hackers could gain access to internal email accounts. "It was not known what material the GRU gained access to, and if any of it will be released," [Ellen Nakashima reports](#). "The GRU also targeted a media organization founded by Zelensky, the firm said." ([Read Area 1's eight-page report here.](#))

The GRU is the entity that hacked the servers of the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman John Podesta in 2016, releasing their emails that summer and fall at strategically inopportune times for the victims. If the Russian government releases hacked materials from Burisma, how will the media cover it and how would politicians react compared to four years ago? What if the Russians put out fabricated emails that look like they're authentic but are intended only to sow disinformation about the son of a leading Democratic presidential candidate?

## **2) What did the Democrats get from Parnas?**

Parnas's attorney Joseph Bondy tweeted that he traveled to Washington over the weekend to deliver the contents of an iPhone 11 to Democratic staffers on the House Intelligence Committee. Bondy also said that Parnas has provided investigators with materials from a Samsung phone, and he added that material from an iPad and another iPhone will be shared. "After our trip to DC, we worked through the night providing a trove of Lev Parnas' WhatsApp messages, text messages & images—not under protective order—to

[investigators], detailing interactions with a number of individuals relevant to the impeachment inquiry,” Bondy tweeted, adding the hashtags #LetLevSpeak and #LevRemembers.

Parnas's lawyer also posted this video with pictures of his client that featured the song “U Can’t Touch This,” by MC Hammer:



**Joseph A. Bondy**

@josephabondy



Call the witnesses. @realDonaldTrump @RudyGiuliani  
@senatemajldr @SenSchumer #LetLevSpeak  
#LevRemembers



9,161 1:57 AM - Jan 14, 2020



3,964 people are talking about this



The [Wall Street Journal](#) reports that the messages include exchanges not just between Parnas and Giuliani but also messages that he exchanged with former Texas congressman Pete Sessions, current Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) and former Hill columnist John

Solomon. Giuliani, Parnas, Sessions and Solomon were all involved in the efforts to recall Marie Yovanovitch as the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine to replace her with someone they thought would be more pliable.

Bondy said he expects at least some of what he provided will become public and/or shared with the Senate. He told [Axios](#) that the materials “aren’t helpful” to the president and added that his client, who is currently under house arrest, wants to testify before Congress.







Journalists follow House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) on his way into this morning's House Democratic Caucus meeting at the Capitol. (Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

### **3) Who will Pelosi pick as her impeachment floor managers?**

The San Francisco Democrat did not name the floor managers during a closed-door meeting with her members this morning. These people will essentially perform the role of prosecutors during the Senate trial. It's widely expected that Pelosi will pick [House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff \(D-Calif.\)](#) and House Judiciary Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.), but there are other slots to be filled.

Some Democrats had been pushing for her to tap Rep. Justin Amash (Mich.), for example, the Republican-turned-independent who voted for impeachment. But while he'd add a nonpartisan veneer to the process, he could also be less predictable than a Pelosi loyalist like Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.), who sits on the Intelligence and

Judiciary committees.

Just how close is Pelosi holding her cards to the vest? House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, the No. 2 in Democratic leadership, told reporters last night that even he doesn't know whom she'll pick. "Do I have some ideas? Yes. But I'm not going to share them," the Marylander said. "Do I know all the names? No. By the end of the week, you're going to know."

#### **4) Will the Senate vote on a motion to dismiss the articles of impeachment?**

In a strategic shift, Trump called over the weekend for the charges against him to be promptly dismissed by the Senate as soon as they arrive instead of holding a trial. Top Senate Republicans rejected this idea yesterday, saying that they don't have the votes locked down to do so and expressing concern that it would hurt the president and vulnerable lawmakers up for reelection this fall if it looks like the GOP is short-circuiting the process.

"Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has said that he wants the trial ... to follow the format used 21 years ago in the trial of President Bill Clinton. In that case, the Senate approved a resolution that would have allowed the Senate to vote to dismiss the charges. But senior Republicans signaled Monday that they are not inclined to include such a provision in the resolution that will kick off Trump's trial," [Seung Min Kim, Mike DeBonis and Elise Viebeck report](#).

"Several closely watched Republican senators said Monday that they would reject immediate dismissal of the charges against Trump,

including Sens. Lamar Alexander (Tenn.), Mitt Romney (Utah) and Susan Collins (Maine). ... Chatter about dismissing the charges began to ramp up last week after Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) introduced a measure to alter Senate rules to allow for dismissing articles of impeachment, but only if the House had failed to transmit them to the Senate within 25 calendar days. ...

“A senior administration official ... said the White House wants the dismissal option ‘available to the president’ and not necessarily tucked into the organizing resolution. The official also noted that a motion to dismiss could come later in the trial, once the senators have had ample time to digest opening arguments and ask questions. Any senator can move to dismiss the charges, as long as it is done in writing.”



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell gets briefed by staff as he walks from the floor to his office this morning. (Sam Corum/EPA-EFE/Rex)

## **5) How many Republican senators will vote to call witnesses?**

“Senior White House officials ... increasingly believe that at least four Republicans, and likely more, will vote to call witnesses,” [CBS News reports](#). “In addition to Senators Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, [Collins], [Romney] and possibly Cory Gardner of Colorado, the White House also views Rand Paul of Kentucky as a ‘wild card’ and [Alexander] as an ‘institutionalist’ who might vote to call witnesses, as one official put it.”

Collins told reporters she’s trying to ensure the process hews as closely as possible to what the Senate did for Clinton. Murkowski said she wants to make sure there’s an ability to get additional information, including witnesses, if the opening arguments don’t answer all her questions.

## **6) Does John Bolton testify?**

The former national security adviser said last week that he would be willing to testify if he receives a Senate subpoena. At least four Republicans would need to join all the Democrats to vote for witnesses for this to happen.

Romney said yesterday that he plans to vote against early motions by Democrats to get witnesses before opening arguments, but he said he could vote to hear from witnesses later. “I presume I’ll be voting in favor of hearing from John Bolton, perhaps among others,” he told reporters yesterday. “That could change depending on what happens in the ensuing days and during those arguments, but I’m not going to be voting for witnesses prior to the opening arguments.”

[A new Quinnipiac University poll](#) finds that two-thirds of Americans want to see Bolton testify during the Senate trial. For context, the survey found that 51 percent of respondents approved of the House voting to impeach Trump.

### **7) How aggressively does Trump assert executive privilege?**

White House spokesman Hogan Gidley suggested on Fox News this morning that the president's lawyers would probably invoke executive privilege to limit testimony, especially from Bolton. "We're happy for anyone to come forward and testify," Gidley claimed. "There are obviously rules of executive privilege that past administrations have [claimed]. We will most likely do the same thing."

### **8) If Bolton appears, do Republicans vote to compel Hunter Biden too?**

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) told conservative radio host [Hugh Hewitt](#) this morning that he "can't imagine" a scenario where Bolton appears but Trump allies don't try to call their own witnesses whose testimony would help the president. "I can just assure you and all your listeners that it will not be a one-sided proceeding where only the Democrats have a chance to even attempt to call witnesses," Cotton told Hewitt.

Paul threatened last night to force a vote on calling the former vice president's son if Democrats succeed in getting Bolton:



**Senator Rand Paul** ✓

@RandPaul



My colleagues can't have it both ways. Calling for some, while blocking others. If we are going to give a platform to witnesses the Dems demand, I look forward to forcing votes to call Hunter Biden and many more!

[politico.com/news/2020/01/1...](https://www.politico.com/news/2020/01/14/gop-senators-trump-trial)



**Republicans face reckoning on impeachment witne...**

Some GOP senators are at odds over how to handle a key part of Trump's trial.

[politico.com](https://www.politico.com)

♥ 15.5K 1:55 AM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 5,640 people are talking about this





Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) also held open the possibility that more witnesses can still be called:



9) Does Giuliani get his wish to defend Trump on the Senate floor?

The former New York mayor told reporters as he prepared to celebrate with the Trumps at Mar-a-Lago on New Year's Eve that he'd love to try the case.

“Giuliani, whose dealings with Ukraine are a key facet of the impeachment case, has been lobbying the President to join his legal team on the Senate floor during his upcoming trial,” [CNN reported yesterday](#). “Giuliani has pressed Trump to make him part of the team of lawyers who will argue the case, [according to] a White House official and two sources close to the President. Giuliani has argued that he knows the case against the President inside-out. The White House declined to comment. ... Sources said they did not expect Giuliani to ultimately join the team and said Trump has been advised against tapping Giuliani because of his involvement in the key facts at the heart of the impeachment case against Trump.”

HuffPost reported that Giuliani “[desperately](#)” wants to appear on Trump’s behalf but that it’s very unlikely.

Appearing Saturday night on Fox News, Giuliani claimed that he would ask the Supreme Court to dismiss the case against Trump. This is not something they have constitutional standing to do, but the president approvingly tweeted the clip:





## 10) Could the State of the Union be postponed?

Trump is scheduled to address a joint session of Congress on Feb. 4. There is a precedent for this happening during an impeachment trial: Clinton delivered his State of the Union on the night of Jan. 19, 1999, after his lawyers spent that day defending the president in the Senate.

And Trump relishes this kind of showmanship. For example, his 2020 reelection campaign just announced a rally in Iowa on the Thursday night before the caucuses. It will take place at Drake University, which is also hosting tonight's Democratic debate.

But some congressional Republicans are starting to suggest that

maybe Trump should hold off until after his expected acquittal so that he could take a victory lap. Rep. Jim Banks (R-Ind.) accused Pelosi this morning of delaying the articles until now so that the “impeachment cloud hangs over the president during his State of the Union address.” The congressman said the president should “tell her he'll deliver the State of the Union only after our country clears the divisive impeachment hurdle.”

“It’s not just America watching the State of the Union each year,” Banks wrote [on Twitter](#). “Tehran is watching. Hong Kong is watching. Taipei is watching. Each have made clear in the last year they want their cities & nations to look more like USA. Trump must deliver message of peace, strength & unity to freedom-loving peoples around the globe! Getting impeachment out of the way makes that message and State of the Union address stronger!”

**-- Notable commentary from The Post’s opinion page:**

- [Dana Milbank](#): “Suddenly Trump has lost enthusiasm for his trial.”
- [Michael McFaul](#): “Be prepared to fight a dangerous new wave of disinformation during the Senate trial.”
- [Henry Olsen](#): “Nancy Pelosi gamed the impeachment trial brilliantly.”
- [Jonathan Turley](#): “Is an attempt to abuse power as impeachable as actually doing it?”
- [Eugene Robinson](#): “To lie or not to lie? The answer is easy for the GOP.”

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## WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:



LSU quarterback Joe Burrow holds the trophy after leading his team to the college

football national championship on Monday in New Orleans. (Sue Ogrocki/AP)

-- **“The National Security Agency recently discovered a major flaw in Microsoft’s Windows operating system — one that could potentially expose computer users to significant breaches or surveillance — and alerted the firm of the problem rather than turn it into a hacking weapon,”** [Ellen Nakashima reports](#). “The disclosure represents a major shift in the NSA’s approach, choosing to put computer security ahead of building up its arsenal of hacking tools that allow the agency to spy on adversaries’ networks ... Microsoft plans to issue a patch for the flaw on Tuesday.”

-- **Louisiana State University won an exhilarating national championship game over Clemson.** [Chuck Culpepper and Des Bieler report](#): “In becoming the second 15-0 team ever from college football’s top tier, following Clemson last year, LSU left even Clemson (14-1), that five-time College Football Playoff participant, four-time finalist and two-time champion with a 29-game win streak and a quarterback, Trevor Lawrence, who had never lost a college game, deluged in numbers. ... LSU tore through Clemson as if it had not read Clemson’s astounding recent-years CV. It went 75 yards in five plays, 87 yards in six and 95 in 11 as its halftime lead reached 28-17. It beautified the field with a stream of breathtaking football plays, mainly [Joe] Burrow passes that traveled downfield and tucked themselves precisely into the right arms and guts.”

-- **In other huge sports news: The Houston Astros fired manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow an hour after the MLB suspended them for a year for their roles in an extensive sign-stealing scheme.** [Dave Sheinin reports](#): “An investigation by

MLB found the Astros used cameras and video monitors to steal the signs of opposing catchers at Houston's Minute Maid Park, then signaled those signs to their hitters before pitches throughout the 2017 regular season and playoffs and at least part of the 2018 season. ... Commissioner Rob Manfred fined the team \$5 million and took away its top two draft picks in both 2020 and 2021.”



Sanders denies reports claiming that he told Warren women couldn't win 2020 election

## 2020 WATCH:

-- Elizabeth Warren accused Bernie Sanders of telling her during a private dinner at her Washington condo last year that **a woman couldn't beat Trump**. "I thought a woman could win; he disagreed," Warren said in a [statement](#) last night, confirming a [CNN report](#) that landed with maximum impact on the eve of the final debate before the Iowa caucuses. "I have no interest in discussing this private meeting any further because Bernie and I have far more in common than our

differences on punditry.”

**Sanders said it’s ludicrous to suggest that he’d tell his colleague from Massachusetts that a woman couldn’t win at a dinner where she told him she planned to run.** “What I did say that night was that Donald Trump is a sexist, a racist and a liar who would weaponize whatever he could,” the Vermont senator said in a statement. “Do I believe a woman can win in 2020? Of course! After all Hillary Clinton beat Donald Trump by 3 million votes in 2016.”

**“Two people with knowledge of the conversation at the 2018 dinner at Warren’s home told The Washington Post that Warren brought up the issue by asking Sanders whether he believed a woman could win,”** [Annie Linskey and Sean Sullivan report](#). “One of the people with knowledge of the conversation said **Sanders did not say a woman couldn’t win but rather that Trump would use nefarious tactics against the Democratic nominee.** ... A September Washington Post poll found 23 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents said a man would be more likely than a woman to defeat Trump.” Joe Biden said during a recent event that Clinton faced “unfair” sexism during her campaign, but then he added: “That’s not going to happen with me.”

**-- Pete Buttigieg is trying to stay out of the Warren vs. Sanders food fight. He's not holding gaggles so he doesn't have to weigh in. Instead, the former mayor is wooing moderates – and some Republicans – in his push to close the deal in Iowa.** [Chelsea Janes and Holly Bailey report](#): “The message he has delivered in Iowa lately makes clear overtures to disgruntled Republicans — or what he calls ‘future former Republicans’ — whom he argues he can attract.

He suggests he will be able to build bipartisan consensus. And he, more than any candidate in the field, suggests that Republicans have co-opted faith, arguing that religious Americans can find a like-minded leader in him. ... The campaign is also doubling down on its robust organizing operation in the final weeks before the vote. Though Buttigieg started far behind his Democratic rivals in building a ground game — waiting until around Labor Day to begin opening field offices — he has now assembled one of the largest operations in the state. ... But that may not be enough. In recent weeks, some county chairs have sensed shifting feelings about Buttigieg.”

**-- Sanders said he's willing to release a shortlist of his potential Supreme Court picks if he becomes the Democratic nominee.** He told [the New York Times Editorial Board](#) that he would only appoint judges who “100 percent” support *Roe v. Wade*. ([Kayla Epstein](#))

**-- Trump and his campaign have also launched their most sustained attacks yet on Sanders.** [Toluse Olorunnipa reports](#): “Trump and his allies have trained their sights on Sanders, seeking to tarnish his foreign policy credentials and commander in chief appeal. ... Trump’s allies say the president drives the campaign’s political strategy, acknowledging that he is an avid consumer of the public polling and the cable-TV punditry that has documented Sanders’s growing strength ... Trump mentioned Sanders by name 10 times during his rally last week in Ohio — more than any other candidate. He continued the attacks on Twitter over the weekend and on Monday ... Trump’s campaign has released three statements in the last week specifically attacking Sanders on foreign policy.”

# Stage Order

for Jan. 14 Democratic debate



ELECTION 2020

-- **Tonight's Democratic debate** will begin at 9 p.m. Eastern at **Drake University in Des Moines. It will air on CNN and stream on the Des Moines Register's website.** Andrew Yang, who was onstage in December, did not qualify. Mike Bloomberg can't qualify because he doesn't accept donations. Also not qualifying but still in the race: Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (Hawaii), Sen. Michael Bennet (Colo.), former congressman John Delaney of Maryland and former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick.

-- The latest **Monmouth University Poll** shows how fluid the race in the Hawkeye State remains: **Biden, Buttigieg, Sanders and Warren are all grouped near the top of the leaderboard.** Most significant, though, is that 4 in 10 voters likely caucus-goers said there's at least a "moderate" chance that they will support a different candidate on caucus night. That's good news for Amy Klobuchar.



-- **What's top of mind for voters in Iowa?** [From the Register:](#)

“Caucusgoers in the first-in-the-nation presidential voting state have been thinking about candidates' stances on three key issues: health care, climate change and education, according to extensive Des Moines Register reporting and data from Iowa Polls of likely Democratic caucusgoers. ... Still, other news may dominate Tuesday's debate stage conversation. Although Iowans generally haven't been asking about the nuances of foreign policy at campaign events, the killing of Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani is expected to be a major topic of conversation, with candidates touting their foreign policy credentials. ... The issue of impeachment is also expected to loom large.” The latest episode in the Register’s podcast series, “Three Tickets,” touches on what it’s like to live in the state during a caucus year: “It’s a strange and wonderful kind of chaos.” ([Listen here.](#))

-- **“It’s make-or-break time for anyone not named ‘Biden’ or ‘Sanders,’”** columnist E.J. Dionne Jr. writes in [his curtain-raiser on the debate.](#)

-- **The Post has asked all the remaining Democratic candidates where they stand on more than 85 policy questions.** We've created a [20-question quiz](#) that measures which of the candidates agrees with you the most on some of the biggest flashpoints of the cycle.

-- **And if you think that's cool, The Post's Opinions team has also created a simulation that lets you design your own Iowa caucus.**



Sen. Cory Booker announces end of 2020 presidential bid

-- **Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) dropped out of the race after failing to qualify for the debate.** [Amy B Wang and David Weigel report:](#) “Booker, who recently announced he had surpassed his fourth-quarter fundraising goal, said his operation would not have the money ‘to scale up and continue building a campaign that can win,’ particularly with a Senate impeachment trial looming and because he would be absent from Tuesday’s debate. ... **Booker plans to run for reelection to the Senate**, his campaign said. ... Booker is the latest candidate of color to leave a Democratic field that had started out as historically diverse, exiting about two weeks after former HUD secretary and San Antonio mayor Julián Castro said he was suspending his campaign.”

- [Karen Tumulty:](#) “Booker was a candidate of grace in an ugly political climate. On the campaign trail, voters were skeptical that leading with love is the answer in

2020.”

- [Eugene Scott](#): “There was never much ‘love’ for Cory Booker’s campaign.”

-- **Booker gave an exit interview last night to Rachel Maddow on MSNBC.** Asked if he’ll endorse, the senator replied: “I don’t know. I’m taking a break for a little bit.”

-- **If winning the White House doesn’t work out, Mike Bloomberg says he has a fallback plan: helping defeat Trump and remaking the Democratic Party.** [Michael Scherer reports](#): “Bloomberg is running aggressively to win the Democratic nomination, but he is simultaneously building out a general election machine to defeat [Trump], with a new structure — data, field organizing, advertising and policy — that aims to elect Democrats up and down the ballot even if the party’s voters reject the former New York mayor this spring. ... **The president has been monitoring Bloomberg’s campaign, impressed by his extraordinary spending and fearful of his potential rise,** according to Trump confidants with whom the president has discussed Bloomberg. ... Bloomberg’s aides, in turn, have delighted in trying to find ways to get Trump’s attention and increase his anxiety.”

-- **Updates from the 2020 battle for control of the House:**

- Prosecutors recommend that former congressman **Chris Collins** (R-N.Y.), one of the first lawmakers to endorse Trump in 2016, receive nearly five years in prison for his insider trading conviction. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Friday. ([Renae Merle](#))

- The Democratic operative who was set to manage the reelection campaign of Rep. **Jeff Van Drew** in New Jersey until he switched parties will now run the campaign of his Democratic challenger **Amy Kennedy**. ([NJ.com](#))
- Former Trump State Department official **Matt Mowers** announced that he'll challenge freshman Rep. **Chris Pappas** (D) in New Hampshire. ([WMUR](#))
- The **Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee** filed an ethics complaint against its GOP counterpart for using “trackers” in House office buildings. ([Felicia Sonmez](#))



What to know about the anger in Iran over the downing of a Ukrainian passenger jet

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- France, Britain and Germany launched a process to hold Iran accountable for violating the nuclear deal. [Loveday Morris reports:](#)

“Iran said it would not comply with any restrictions on enriching uranium after Washington’s targeted killing of [Soleimani] ... It had gradually reduced its commitments under the deal since the United States withdrew from the deal and reimposed sanctions in 2018. In a joint statement Tuesday, Britain, France and Germany ... said that they had ‘sought to persuade Iran to change course’ and ‘worked hard’ to address its concerns. However, the European countries said they now have ‘been left with no choice, given Iran’s actions, but to register today our concerns that Iran is not meeting its commitments.’ ”

**The three countries said in their statement they still want to preserve the deal and are not immediately joining the Trump administration’s “maximum pressure” campaign.**

**-- Iran announced today that an unspecified number of arrests have been made in the Ukrainian passenger plane crash that Tehran admits was mistakenly shot down, and President Hassan Rouhani called for a special court to investigate the crash.**

[Kareem Fahim reports](#): “The world is going to watch this trial,” Rouhani said, in comments carried by the state news agency. “We should assure people it will not happen again.”

**-- The announcement followed a third day of significant street protests against the regime.** [Erin Cunningham, Kareem Fahim and Adam Taylor report](#): “Videos posted on social media showed hundreds of students gathered Monday in a courtyard at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, a wellspring of anger at the cleric-led government. The university said 13 of its students and alumni were killed when the plane was shot down. ... There were signs that the government, forced onto the defensive, was pursuing a harsher

crackdown on the demonstrations. Videos from Sunday night showed demonstrators fleeing from tear gas and in one case a woman bleeding from her leg — a wound that protesters said was caused by live ammunition. In other videos posted on social media that could not immediately be verified, sounds of gunfire could be heard at protests in Azadi Square in the capital, as well as in the city of Shiraz. ... Tehran's police chief denied that police shot at protesters, saying they are under orders to show restraint.”

**-- And while Trump remains muted on Hong Kong's pro-democracy demonstrations, he's showering support on the Iranian protesters. [David Nakamura compares the reactions](#):** “Trump issued a series of tweets aimed at pressuring Tehran, demanding that human rights groups be allowed in to ‘monitor and report’ on the unrest. ... Several hours later in Hong Kong, Kenneth Roth, the executive director of U.S.-based Human Rights Watch, was denied entry after landing at the airport. A Chinese government spokesman in Beijing said the ban was the nation’s ‘sovereign right’ given such groups’ support of mass pro-democracy protests since last summer. Trump was silent on Roth’s plight.”

**-- U.S. commanders at the Iraqi military base targeted by Iranian missiles say they believe the attack was intended to kill American personnel. [Louisa Loveluck reports](#):** “The missile barrage last week against the sprawling Ain al-Asad air base in western Iraq left deep craters and the crumpled wreckage of living quarters and a helicopter launch site. At least two soldiers were thrown through the window of a meters-high tower, and several dozen U.S. troops were later treated for concussion as a result of the missile strikes, military

officials on the base said."



The Trump administration's shifting lines on Qasem Soleimani's 'imminent threat'

-- **Trump's claim that Tehran was plotting to bomb four U.S. embassies is at best an unfounded theory and at worse a falsehood.** [Philip Rucker, John Hudson, Shane Harris and Josh Dawsey report](#): "At each turn in the commander in chief's rapidly evolving narrative of why he authorized the Jan. 3 drone strike that killed [Qasem Soleimani], the machinery of government scrambled to adapt and respond. [The result is a credibility crisis](#) ... Inside the Pentagon and elsewhere in the government, there was skepticism about the president's claim, as well as about Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's statement that the threat from Soleimani was 'imminent' and that hundreds of American lives were at risk. One senior administration official said the remarks from both men were unnecessary distractions from what many officials believed was a defensible policy decision. ..."

**“Despite Trump’s claim that the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad was one of four facilities under threat of attack, some embassy officials there said they did not receive an alert commensurate to the threat Trump described ...** Pompeo pushed back Monday against the charge that a notification was not sent, but he did not specify when or how it was transmitted. ... But there is no indication that embassy employees were warned of a credible threat, and the State Department did not respond to questions about whether the embassy in Baghdad took other measures that are typical when a specific threat is uncovered. **With the question of imminence dogging the administration’s public defense of the Soleimani strike, other senior administration officials have shifted to vouching for the quality of the intelligence, rather than what it said about timing or particular targets.** None of them has backed up Trump’s claim that four embassies were being targeted. Even if evidence of Trump’s claim exists, there was no interagency process or decision made to release such information or for the president to say what he said, according to a senior administration official.”

**-- In a tweet, Trump claimed it “doesn’t really matter” after all whether Soleimani posed an imminent threat because of his “horrible past.”** [Karen DeYoung reports](#): “In a separate tweet, Trump emphasized Soleimani’s past actions rather than the threat of future attacks. ‘The Democrats and Fake News are trying to make terrorist Soleimani into a wonderful guy, only because I did what should have been done for 20 years,’ he wrote.”

**-- Trump also retweeted a volley of incendiary tweets about Pelosi, falsely accusing the House speaker of downplaying**



**protests in Iran and supporting the regime.** [Brittany Shammas reports](#): “One of them, a fake photo of Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) wearing photoshopped Islamic head coverings and standing in front of the Iranian flag, drew swift condemnation. ‘DEMOCRATS 2020’ read the text below the image, which was originally tweeted by an anonymous user with the caption, ‘The corrupted Dems trying their best to come to the Ayatollah’s rescue.’ ... Schumer soon weighed in. ‘President Trump: How low can you go?’ he tweeted. ... Asked about the criticism during a Fox News appearance, White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham backed Trump’s decision to amplify the tweet. She said he did so to make a point.”

**-- Pompeo has refused an invitation to discuss the Iran situation with the House Foreign Affairs Committee.** “Rep. Eliot L. Engel (D-N.Y.) said that ‘each passing day raises new questions’ about the Jan. 3 drone strike,” [John Wagner reports](#).

**-- Now that Pompeo announced his decision not to run for Senate, Democrats see an opportunity to capture Kansas’s open seat.** [Annie Gowen reports](#): “Since Pompeo bowed out of the race, the leading Democratic contender, state Sen. Barbara Bollier, has announced that she raised more than \$1 million in her first quarter in the contest, unprecedented for a Democratic Senate hopeful in Kansas. ... Pompeo [was courted by \[McConnell\]](#) for months and would have entered the race as a hands-down favorite for the seat. **Now Republicans face a bruising primary battle between Kris Kobach, a former secretary of state and ally of [Trump] who lost the governor’s race a year ago, and a host of ho-hum**

**establishment candidates** who have not inspired confidence in the Republican leadership.”



Attorney General William Barr speaks to reporters to announce results of an investigation of the shootings at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida. (J. Scott Applewhite/AP)

**-- Attorney General Bill Barr declared that the December shooting that killed three U.S. sailors on a Florida naval base was an act of terrorism, and he publicly called on Apple to help unlock phones for the government.** [Devlin Barrett and Matt Zapotosky report](#): “Barr said investigators had found evidence that Ahmed Mohammed al-Shamrani, a Royal Saudi Air Force member training at the base, was motivated by ‘jihadist ideology’ and had posted anti-American messages on social media about two hours before his attack. FBI Deputy Director David Bowdich said that during the attack, Shamrani fired shots at pictures of [Trump] and a past U.S. president, and

witnesses at the scene said he made statements critical of American military actions overseas. Bowdich said that while Shamrani did not seem to be inspired by one specific terrorist group, he harbored anti-American and anti-Israeli views and felt ‘violence was necessary.’ Bowdich said the gunman’s social media comments echoed those of Anwar al-Awlaki, a radical Yemeni American cleric tied to the terrorist group al-Qaeda who was killed in a drone strike in 2011. ...

**“Investigators have been stymied in trying to access two key pieces of evidence — the gunman’s iPhones.** Standing before giant photographs of two severely damaged devices, the attorney general publicly urged Apple to act. **‘So far, Apple has not given us any substantive assistance,’ Barr said, though aides later clarified that Apple had, in fact, given investigators access to cloud data linked to the gunman.** ... Barr did not say whether the Justice Department would seek a court order to force Apple’s compliance. The department filed legal papers on a similar case in 2016, but the issue was never resolved by a higher court. ... **In a lengthy statement, Apple disputed the attorney general’s description of its role,** saying the company began responding within hours of the first FBI request on Dec. 6, and has turned over ‘many gigabytes’ of data in the case. ... Even without the phone data, investigators were able to review Shamrani’s social media postings, which were critical to the officials’ determination. ... Justice Department officials ... said that while officials were confident Shamrani had no U.S.-based co-conspirator, they were still interested in potential interactions he might have had with those in Saudi Arabia. **Barr said investigators had found evidence that 17 Saudis had through social media shared jihadist or anti-American material**

**and 15 — including some of those who had shared anti-American material — were found to have had contact with or possessed child pornography.”**

**-- George Nader, a key witness in special counsel Bob Mueller’s probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election, admitted to bringing a 14-year-old boy to the United States for sex and to possessing child pornography. [Rachel Weiner reports](#):** “A wealthy Lebanese American businessman with long-standing political influence in Washington and the Middle East, Nader faces at least a decade in federal prison after his guilty plea in federal court in Alexandria, Va. While the charges carry a maximum penalty of 30 years, prosecutors in the Eastern District of Virginia agreed to recommend the mandatory minimum of 10 years. ... He already has a conviction in the same court for transporting child pornography in 1991, for which he served six months in prison. ...

**“Nader still faces charges in Washington federal court of conspiring to funnel illegal campaign contributions to both Democrats and Republicans. As an adviser to the leadership of the United Arab Emirates, Nader met several times with officials and associates of [Trump] during the early days of the administration. He helped set up a January 2017 meeting between Trump associate Erik Prince and a Russian official close to Russian President Vladimir Putin that was closely scrutinized” by Mueller.**

**-- France’s Emmanuel Macron will deploy more soldiers to West Africa, where terrorist groups are growing. [Danielle Paquette reports](#):** “The leaders of Mali, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso and Mauritania met their French counterpart in southwestern France,

where they agreed to build a shared command structure with the European power that once colonized much of West Africa. ... France, which has roughly 4,500 troops in the region — the most of any outside nation by far — plans to deploy another 220 soldiers, Macron said alongside the West African presidents. In a joint statement, the leaders said they would keep working together to protect civilians and ‘prevent an extension of the terrorist threat.’”

**-- A U.S. citizen died in an Egyptian jail after a lengthy hunger strike.** [Carol Morello and Kareem Fahim report](#): “Mustafa Kassem, who was 54, died of heart failure following his hunger strike, according to Pretrial Rights International, a nonprofit organization that represented Kassem. David Schenker, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, confirmed Kassem’s death and expressed the U.S. belief that the terrorism charges against him were meritless. Schenker told reporters he was saddened at Kassem’s death in custody, calling it ‘needless, tragic and avoidable.’ He vowed to continue raising U.S. concerns about human rights abuses in Egypt and Americans detained in the country.”

**-- The Syrian army is urging civilians to leave the last rebel enclave while the Russian Defense Ministry is offering them three ways out.** [Sarah Dadouch reports](#): “The warning was issued on the day that a cease-fire brokered by Turkey and Russia took effect, as Russia and its allies promised to halt airstrikes. Russia has been Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s main ally, alongside Iran, during the war, which started in 2011 as a revolt against the government. ... The cease-fire follows a series of broken truces, and few expect the respite to last. Artillery fire continued Monday, the head of the Idlib

branch of Syrian Civil Defense — a volunteer organization more commonly known as the White Helmets — told The Washington Post.”

**-- The Treasury Department dropped China’s designation as a “currency manipulator,” greasing the wheels for the scheduled signing of a U.S.-China trade deal tomorrow. [David J. Lynch](#)**

**reports:** “In a semiannual report, department officials said no countries met the standards set by Congress for the ‘manipulator’ label. But the political context for the decision was hard to miss. ... The move reversed the department’s decision in August to add China to the list.”

**-- Talks are underway for Trump to visit India as early as next month, possibly during the impeachment trial. [Joanna Slater](#)**

**reports:** “If finalized, the visit would be Trump’s first to India as president. The United States has sought to cultivate India as a partner and potential counterweight to China, and Trump has spoken of his ‘great admiration’ for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. ... The ‘two sides are in touch’ and ‘trying to work out a mutually convenient date,’ said one Indian official. Another said the visit could take place in February or March.”

**-- Queen Elizabeth II agreed to a “period of transition” in which Harry and Meghan get to spend time in Britain and Canada. [Karla Adam and William Booth](#)**

**report:** “In a statement, the queen wrote: ‘Although we would have preferred them to remain full-time working Members of the Royal Family, we respect and understand their wish to live a more independent life as a family while remaining a valued part of my family.’ The queen acknowledged that Harry and Meghan — she omitted their royal titles — ‘made clear that they do not want to

be reliant on public funds in their new lives,' but she did not describe their new duties or ventures.”

**-- Oceans are warming at the same rate as if five Hiroshima-sized atomic bombs were dropped in every second, a new study shows.** [From CNN](#): “An international team of 14 scientists examined data going back to the 1950s, looking at temperatures from the ocean surface to 2,000 meters deep. The study, which was published in the journal [Advances in Atmospheric Sciences](#), also showed that the oceans are warming at an increasing speed. While the past decade has been the warmest on record for global ocean temperatures, the hottest five years ever recorded all came in the last five. ... The study shows that while the oceans warmed steadily between 1955 and 1986, warming has accelerated rapidly in the last few decades. Between 1987-2019, ocean warming was 450% greater than during the earlier time period.”

**-- Australia is seeing sci-fi weather.** [Andrew Freedman and Sarah Kaplan report](#): “Climate change has pushed natural phenomena, such as wildfires, to mutate into more disastrous and deadly versions of themselves. Temperatures are soaring to heights scientists did not expect to see for decades. Landscapes that are usually resistant to fire — including rainforests home to rare, vulnerable species — are going up in flames. The blazes are so big they generate their own hellish weather. **Fire tornadoes, formed when spinning winds generate a massive rotating column of fire, ash, vapor and debris, are impossible to control.** A volunteer firefighter in New South Wales was killed on Dec. 30 when one of these twisters overturned his truck.”

-- Microscopic grains of dead stars are the oldest known material on the planet – older than the moon, Earth and the solar system itself. [Ben Guarino reports](#): “By examining chemical clues in a meteorite’s mineral dust, researchers have determined the most ancient grains are 7 billion years old — about half as old as the universe. Rocks don’t get much more classic than this.”



Government contractors erect a section of Pentagon-funded border wall along the Colorado River in Yuma, Ariz., in September. (Matt York/AP)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULD NOT BE OVERSHADOWED:**

-- The Trump administration is planning on diverting an additional \$7.2 billion in Pentagon funds for the border wall, five times what Congress authorized the president to spend on the project in the 2020 budget. [Nick Miroff reports](#): “The Pentagon funds



would be extracted, for the second year in a row, from military construction projects and counternarcotics funding. According to the plans, the funding would give the government enough money to complete about 885 miles of new fencing by spring 2022, far more than the 509 miles the administration has slated for the U.S. border with Mexico. ... The move would bring the total amount of federal funds allocated to border fencing to \$18.4 billion under Trump ... The Trump administration has completed 101 miles of new barriers so far, according to the latest figures, far less than the 450 miles the president has promised to erect by the end of the year.”

**-- The U.S. is putting asylum seekers on planes to Guatemala – often without telling them where they’re going. [Kevin Sieff reports:](#)**

“When the migrants land in Guatemala City, they receive little information about what it means to apply for asylum in one of the hemisphere’s poorest countries. Those who don’t immediately apply are told to leave the country in 72 hours. The form is labeled ‘Voluntary Return.’ ‘In the U.S., the agents told us our cases would be transferred, but they didn’t say where. Then they lined us up to get on the plane,’ said Marta, 43, from Honduras. She sat in a migrant shelter here with her 17-year-old son, who nursed a gunshot wound in his left cheek — the work, mother and son say, of a Honduran faction of the MS-13 gang. ‘When we looked out the window, we were here,’ she said. ‘We thought, ‘Where are we? What are we supposed to do now?’”

**-- Texas became the first state to take up Trump’s offer to let governors close their borders to new refugees. [Columnist Catherine Rampell](#) shares the story of an Iraqi refugee who’s**

**resettled in a state that now wants to shut out people like her:** Marwa Sabah “is one of nearly 57,000 refugees who have resettled in Texas over the past decade, of whom about 12,000 are from Iraq. Like most refugees, she didn’t want to leave behind nearly everyone and everything she knew. But facing death threats, she and her husband had no choice. They requested refuge in the United States and specifically asked to be resettled in Fort Worth. ... [On Friday], Republican Gov. Greg Abbott declared that Texas was full. ... He suggested that Texas lacks the resources to absorb additional refugees, playing into stereotypes of refugees as dangerous, destitute and typically on the dole. Perhaps if he got to know refugees such as Sabah, he’d think differently.”

**-- The Trump administration’s restrictions on fetal tissue research have unsettled scientists and disrupted key studies in ways that could undermine public health. [Amy Goldstein reports:](#)** “The controversial federal funding rules, announced seven months ago, are reshaping scientists’ research paths and the grants they seek from the National Institutes of Health. Graduate students cannot get training grants if their research involves fetal tissue. Senior researchers are cautioning emerging scientists to avoid this type of research. And a university program that produces and sells mice containing human fetal tissue is forgoing the federal funding it has relied on for nearly three decades, imperiling the work of scores of biomedical researchers who depend on these lab animals. The disruption is occurring, in part, because the administration has imposed an extra requirement for NIH grant applications that is not yet possible to meet. Under the rewritten rules that took effect early in the fall, a new ethics advisory board must assess all grant requests

involving fetal tissue — but the board has not yet been established, and it may not be convened for many months.”

**-- Trump falsely claimed, nearly 70 times through Dec. 10, that he has sought to protect patients with preexisting conditions through his various efforts to eliminate the Affordable Care Act.** Fact Checker Glenn Kessler says the president’s tweets about the subject on Monday were something more — [“a virtual traffic jam of false claims.”](#)

**-- Product recalls under the Trump administration have fallen to their lowest level in 16 years, but there are signs that the new head of the Consumer Product Safety Commission plans a more aggressive approach to companies selling potentially unsafe products.** [Todd C. Frankel reports:](#) “The 2019 total was down 7 percent from 2018, which itself was 8 percent lower than in 2017. That’s the year that Republican Ann Marie Buerkle took over as the commission’s acting chairwoman ... Now, with a new acting chairman running the CPSC, Democrat Robert Adler, the agency is trying a different tactic to force the hand of reluctant companies. The CPSC last Wednesday issued a rare product safety alert — and made it clear the agency wanted the product taken off the market. The warning said a four-drawer dresser made by Hodedah was a tip-over risk and that the CPSC ‘intends to continue pressing the case for a recall with Hodedah.’ The notice was unusual because it acknowledged that the agency and company disagreed about the need for a recall. Negotiations over recalls normally are not revealed to the public, giving companies considerable leverage.”

**-- Four gun-control bills advanced in Virginia’s newly gun-free**

**Capitol.** In a show of opposition to the bills, gun rights activists swarmed the Capitol, but the state Senate's Judiciary Committee advanced most of the gun legislation proposed by Democrats. ([Laura Vozzella and Gregory S. Schneider](#))

-- **Lawyers allege that the California scuba boat fire that killed 34 last year was a result of safety violations and a charging station that was not up to code.** ([Miranda Green](#))

-- **St. Louis's first black chief prosecutor, claiming a racist conspiracy, is suing the city under a law created to fight the Ku Klux Klan.** St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Garden alleges that her agenda to "redress the scourge of historical inequality and rebuild trust in the criminal justice system among communities of color" has been thwarted by a campaign of "collusive conduct" aimed at removing her from office. ([Antonia Noori Farzan](#))

-- **The Supreme Court will not review the conviction of Michelle Carter, the woman who went to jail for encouraging her boyfriend to kill himself.** ([Ann E. Marimow](#))

-- **An off-duty Secret Service agent shot and killed a dog on a leash in Brooklyn.** The female Belgian shepherd was being walked by her owners when she startled the agent, officials said. ([New York Daily News](#))

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) weighed in on behalf of Sanders over Warren:



Mandy Moore, a star in NBC's "This is Us," showed up in Iowa last night to support Pete Buttigieg:



**Mandy Moore** ✓  
@TheMandyMoore



About to go onstage with this guy! @PeteButtigieg



♡ 9,379 12:57 AM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 813 people are talking about this



Cory Booker joked about a headline on his departure from the presidential race:



The president's claims about Saudi Arabia on Fox News are specious:



This is how the White House press secretary [defended](#) Trump retweeting a doctored image of Democratic leaders in Islamic garb:



**Aaron Rugar** ✓  
@atrupar



Stephanie Grisham on Trump retweeting an image mocking how Muslims dress: "I think the president is making clear that Democrats are parroting Iranian talking points and almost taking the side of terrorists and those who were out to kill Americans." 🤔



♥ 2,192 6:19 PM - Jan 13, 2020



💬 1,661 people are talking about this



Views of the Confederate flag vary widely across the South:





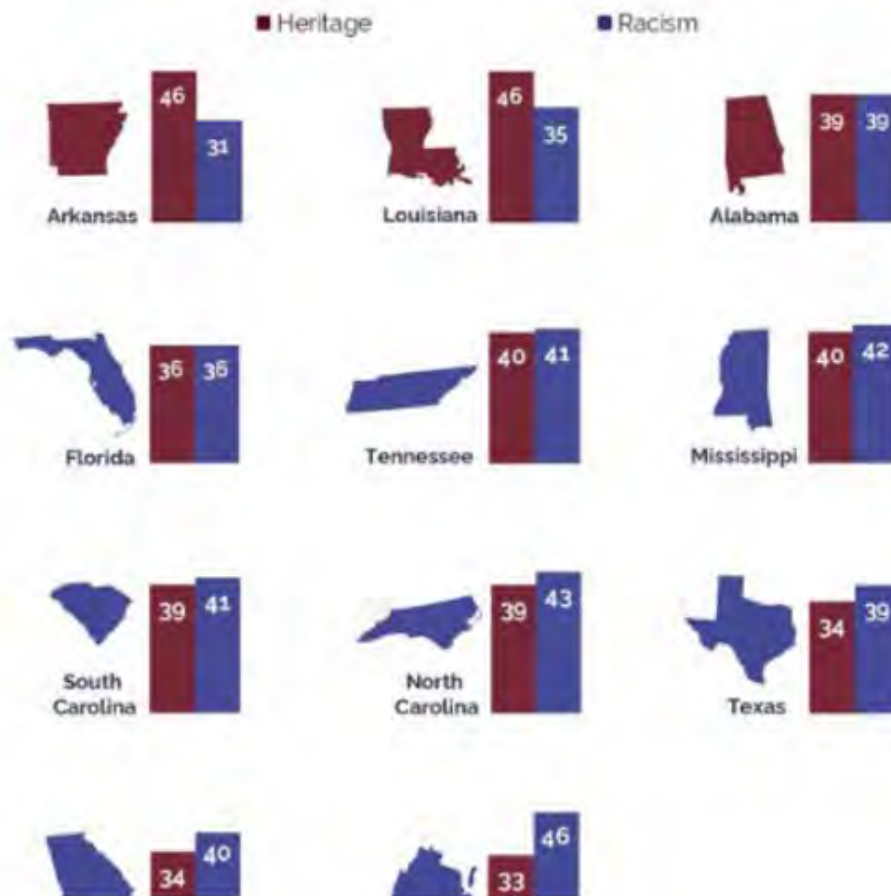
**Catherine Rampell** ✓

@crampell



Survey of people in the former Confederate states, on whether the Confederate flag stands for "heritage" or "racism" [today.yougov.com/topics/politic...](https://today.yougov.com/topics/politic...)

Former Confederate states on whether the Confederate flag most represents **heritage** or **racism**



♡ 127 2:15 AM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 98 people are talking about this



**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "Right now we are entering a historic time," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn). "We have to put country above party, put aside partisanship."

**VIDEOS OF THE DAY:**

A man whose remote cabin burned down was rescued by Alaska State Troopers after surviving subzero temperatures for 23 days:



Watch: Man stranded in Alaskan wilderness for 23 days rescued after writing 'SOS' in snow

Stephen Colbert took a look at the different explanations members of the Trump administration have given for Soleimani's killing:



Trump's team appears to be borrowing directly from George W. Bush's playbook, argued Seth Meyers:



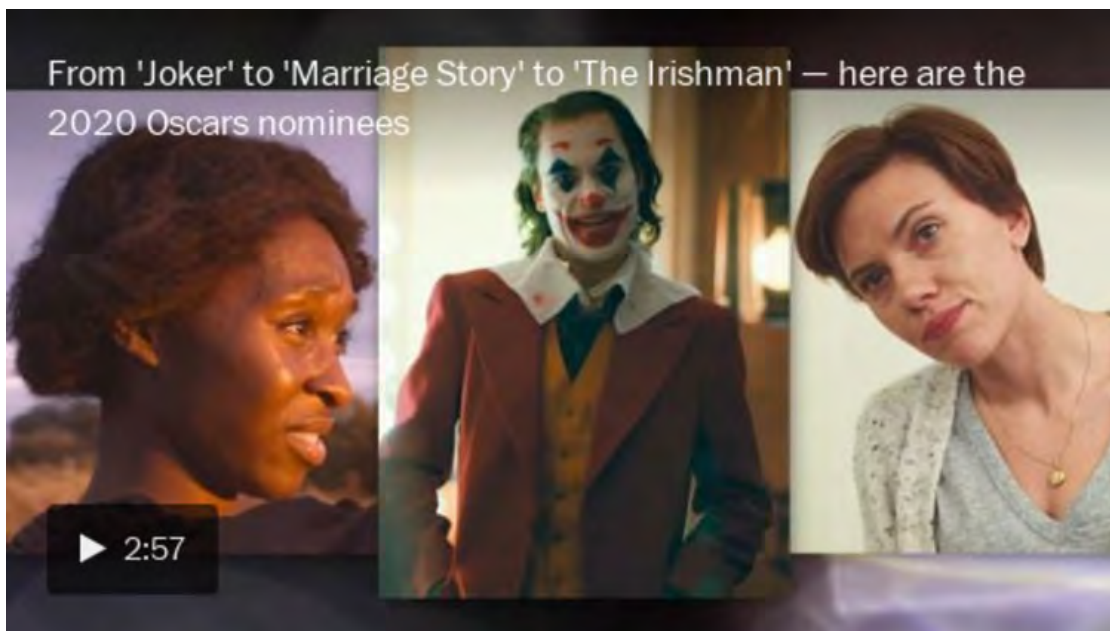
Trevor Noah did an explainer on the scandal unraveling in England:



And Jimmy Kimmel pointed out that there are more minorities in Trump's Cabinet than among the Oscar nominees:



In case you missed it, here's [a complete list](#) of the Oscar nominees:



From 'Joker' to 'Marriage Story' to 'The Irishman' — here are the 2020 Oscars nominees

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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Democratic debate pits Bidenism vs. Bernieism – with the others staking out spaces in between  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 15, 2020 9:14:08 AM

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

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**Democratic debate pits Bidenism vs. Bernieism – with the others staking out spaces in between**



Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders exchange words as Tom Steyer looks on after the debate. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA:** What people will remember from the final debate before the Iowa caucuses is Elizabeth Warren declining to shake Bernie Sanders's outstretched hand after their **brief onstage clash** over whether he really told her during a one-on-one dinner more than a year ago that a woman cannot get elected president. While that made for compelling television, it also distracted from a starker ideological choice that looms for Democratic voters in the weeks ahead.

The more substantive portions of the two-hour debate at Drake University in Des Moines put in stark relief the chasm between the

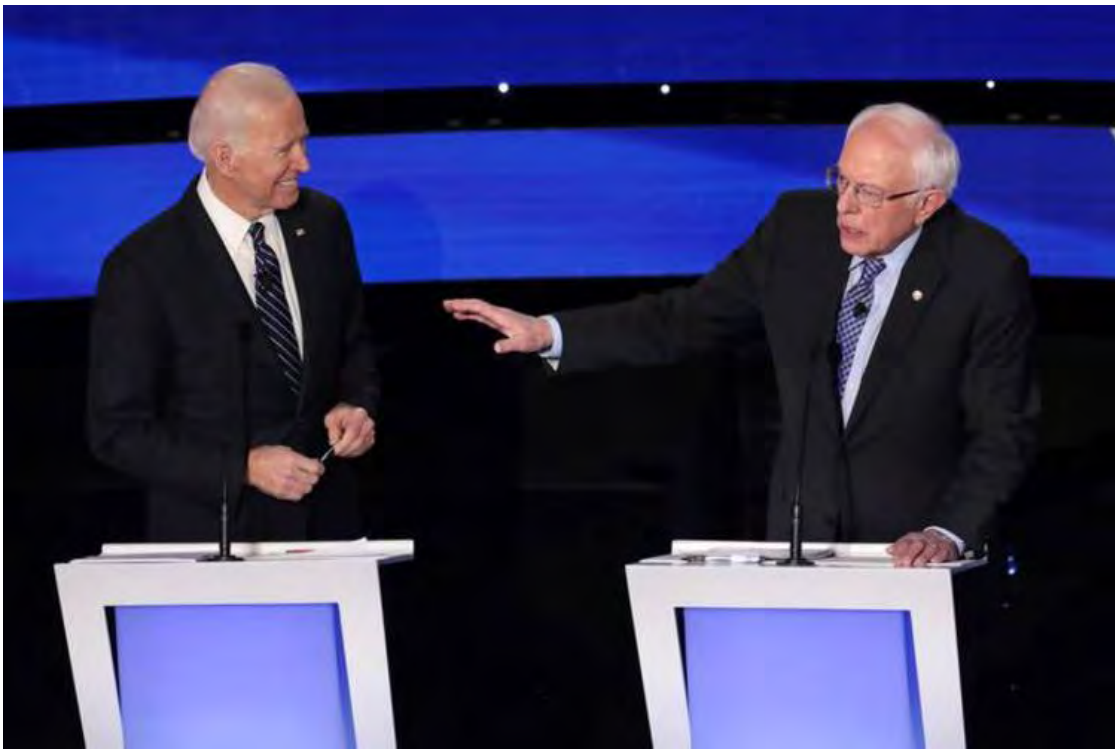
approaches of Sanders and Joe Biden – the two leaders in Iowa and national polling – on the biggest issues that face a president, including foreign policy, health care and trade.

It also highlighted continuing tensions between the two men over experience vs. judgment, incrementalism vs. radicalism and whether Democrats are more likely to win in November by igniting the base or appealing to disenchanted moderates who defected to Donald Trump in 2016.

Whomever is coronated at the convention in Milwaukee six months from now will chart the future of the party as its standard-bearer. In Sanders's case, he has spent decades [proudly resisting pressure](#) to register as a Democrat. He remains an independent who caucuses with the Democrats in the Senate.

Iowa looks like a jump ball, with the latest polls showing no overwhelming favorite and many voters either undecided or willing to change their minds. The next three weeks would be an unpredictable free-for-all in the Hawkeye State anyway. But the impeachment trial threatens to strand a handful of senators in Washington for days at a time with only Sundays away from the chamber.





Joe Biden cracks a smile as Bernie Sanders attacks him during the Democratic debate at Drake University in Des Moines on Tuesday night. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)

**-- It is conceivable that neither Biden nor Sanders ultimately wins the Feb. 3 caucuses. Nevertheless, the two septuagenarians represent the ideological goalposts and the outer bounds – Sanders on the left and the Biden on the right (which, to be clear, is still left-of-center) – of what party regulars will abide.**

“Joe and I have a fundamental disagreement here, in case you haven't noticed,” Sanders said last night during the round on trade, a salient issue in a farm state where children are taught in school that Iowa is a net exporter. The line, though, can be applied to most every other flashpoint in Democratic politics.

**Just as he opposed the North American Free Trade Agreement, which Biden voted for, Sanders now opposes its replacement,**

**the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal.** This iteration just passed the Democratic-controlled House and won the endorsement of the AFL-CIO. It's awaiting a vote in the Senate. "The answer is we could do much better than a Trump-led trade bill," Sanders said. "If this is passed, I think it will set us back a number of years."

**Biden, who supports the new deal, accused Sanders of knee-jerk opposition to everything.** "I don't know that there's any trade agreement that the senator would ever think made any sense, but the problem is that 95 percent of the customers are out there," Biden said, referring to the rest of the world. "So we better figure out how we begin to write the rules of the road, not China."

Sanders attacked Biden for voting to ratify multiple agreements over the years that he said have helped large multinational corporations at the expense of workers. Biden compared Sanders's approach to "poking our finger in the eye of all of our friends and allies" by not trying to negotiate trade agreements with the rest of the world, which he argued empowers China.





Candidates take on foreign policy, trade, electability at seventh Democratic debate

-- **The trade clash was particularly interesting to watch because Sanders proudly stood alone onstage among the top-tier candidates in opposing the USMCA deal. Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar and even Warren endorsed it.** Trying to show that she has a pragmatic streak, Warren called the deal imperfect but reasoned that “it will give some relief” to farmers and workers. “We get up the next day and fight for a better trade deal,” she said.

**It was a reminder of the extent to which the other candidates have all sought to position themselves somewhere between the poles of Sanders and Biden, and this played out repeatedly.** In theory, Biden and Sanders occupy separate “lanes,” to use the parlance of the operative class. But both men see the other as a direct threat. The Sanders team, in particular, has believed all election cycle that they’re competing for Biden voters just as much as Warren voters.

**Warren also tried to distinguish herself at one point by noting that she was the only candidate onstage who has defeated a Republican incumbent in the last 30 years.** She ousted Republican Scott Brown in 2012 to take back Ted Kennedy's Senate seat in Massachusetts. Sanders chimed in to say that he defeated a GOP incumbent in Vermont to win a House seat in 1990. An amused Warren, once a high school debate state champion in Oklahoma, noted that this was why she specified 30 years. Then Biden added that he won a major upset in 1972 – 48 years ago – over a Republican incumbent to win his Senate seat.

**-- Biden often sounds like he's promising a return to the pre-Trump status quo, when he was vice president.** "We can overcome four years of Donald Trump, but eight years of Donald Trump will be an absolute disaster and fundamentally change this nation," he said. "We have to restore America's soul, as I've said from the moment I announced."

**Sanders counters that "this is the moment when we have got to think big, not small":** "This is the moment when we have got to have the courage to take on the 1 percent, take on the greed and take on the corruption of the corporate elite," he said in his closing, "and create an economy and create a government that works for all of us, not just the 1 percent."

**CNN's Abby Phillip also noted that Sanders identifies as a democratic socialist and pointed to a poll that showed about two-thirds of Americans don't like the idea of voting for a socialist.** She wondered, "Doesn't that put your chances of beating Donald Trump at risk?" Sanders replied, "Nope, not at all." He pivoted to

attack Trump, displaying the moral certitude that his supporters love but Democratic establishmentarians loathe.



Iran takes center stage at Democratic debate

-- **The gulf between Sanders and Biden was apparent from the opening question of the debate.** The crisis in Iran has prompted the leading candidates to re-litigate the 2002 debate over whether to go to war with Iraq. “Joe and I listened to what Dick Cheney and George Bush and [Donald] Rumsfeld had to say,” Sanders said. “I thought they were lying. I didn’t believe them for a moment. I took to the floor. I did everything I could to prevent that war. Joe saw it differently.”

**Biden emphasized his work bringing troops home from Iraq as Barack Obama’s vice president.** “It was a mistake to trust that they weren’t going to go to war,” he said, referring to the Bush administration. “They said they were not going to go to war. ... It was a mistake, and I acknowledge that.”

-- The well-trod debate over health care was similar, as Biden and Sanders went at it again over the price tag for Medicare-for-all and the other candidates staked out ground in between them. Phillip, one of three moderators, asked Sanders about a study that said his policy proposals would double federal spending as a share of GDP to a level not seen since World War II. “No, my plan would not bankrupt the country,” he answered. “I think you should show how you’re going to pay for things, Bernie,” replied Klobuchar.

Warren sponsored Sanders’s Medicare-for-all bill, but she moved away from it in the face of questions about how she’d implement it without raising taxes on the middle class or kicking people off their private insurance. Warren ultimately proposed a three-year transition period to Medicare-for-all, but this only led to attacks from her left and right. Last night, Warren and Buttigieg bickered about who would get covered and how much it would cost.



Fact-Checking the January Democratic debate



-- Our Fact Checker team **calls out Biden and Sanders**, more than the other candidates, for making multiple misleading or false statements. For example, Biden did not provide an accurate description of what Bush said before the 2002 vote that allowed for war. Biden also boasted about getting troops out of Iraq under Obama without noting that this allowed for the emergence of the Islamic State, which required the Obama-Biden administration to send combat troops back into the country. The Fact Checker team faults Sanders for claiming that Medicare-for-all will cost less than the status quo, for significantly exaggerating the number of people who go bankrupt because of medical bills and for incorrectly claiming that the United States spends twice as much per person on health care as “any other country.” It’s only true compared to the developed world.

-- Warren, Buttigieg and Klobuchar are trying to varying degrees to position themselves as unity candidates between Sanders and Biden who can win support from both sides and therefore beat Trump.

“It is easy to draw lines in the sand and sketch out grand ideological

visions that will never see the light of day,” said Klobuchar. “What is hard is bringing people together and finding common ground instead of scorched earth. ... If you are tired of the extremes in our politics and the noise and the nonsense, you have a home with me.”

“We cannot take the risk with so much on the line of trying to confront this president with the same Washington mindset and political warfare that led us to this point,” said Buttigieg. “If you are watching this at home and you are exhausted by the spectacle of division and dysfunction, I’m asking you to join me to help turn the page on our politics.”



Sanders denies he told Warren a woman couldn't win the presidency

**-- Here's what you need to know about the Warren vs. Sanders kerfuffle: Sanders's campaign manager Faiz Shakir told The Post that Warren "came to raise a concern" with him after the debate. "And he said let's talk about that later," Shakir said, declining to provide further details about the conversation captured in a viral video.**

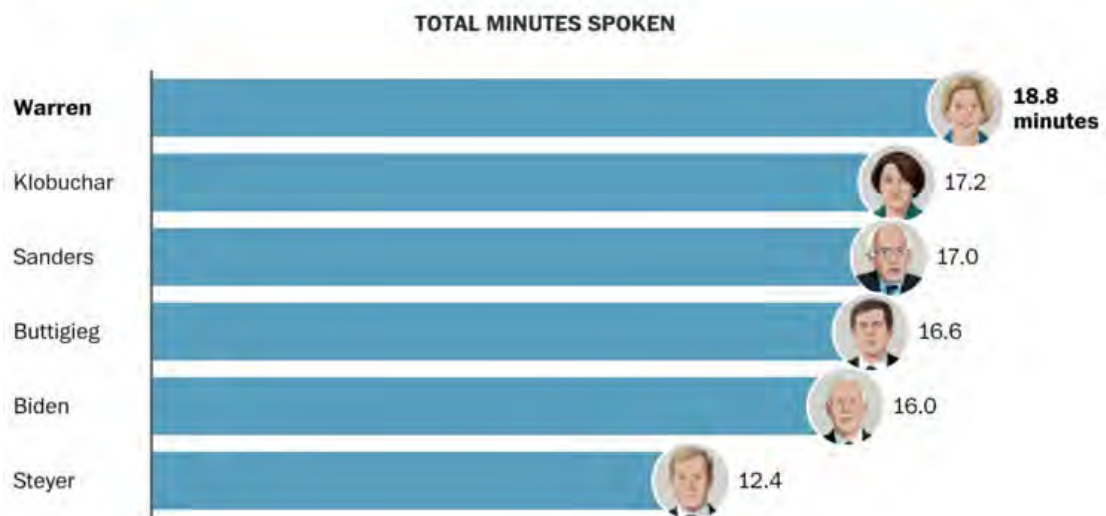


“Warren said Sanders disagreed with her view that a woman could win the presidential election. Sanders contends that he merely outlined what he said would be Trump's efforts to defeat another female candidate, and in the debate, he said, ‘Of course a woman can win,’” [Annie Linskey and Sean Sullivan report](#). “The video ... shows Sanders extending his hand as Warren approaches him onstage. Rather than shaking it, Warren clasps her hands together and speaks to Sanders. He responds, as Tom Steyer walks toward them. ... Warren and Sanders then separate. Steyer and Sanders shake hands on one side of the stage. Nearby, Warren shakes hands with [Buttigieg]. ... Representatives for the Warren campaign declined to comment. After the debate, Steyer told MSNBC’s Chris Matthews that he did not know what Warren and Sanders said to each other.”

**-- Dan Balz notes that the Warren-Sanders clash was inevitable, and they remain on a collision course after last night:** “For the past few months, Warren found herself looking at Buttigieg as a more immediate threat in Iowa. She took a lead in a September Iowa poll by the Des Moines Register and CNN, only to see Buttigieg overtake her in the November poll. She and the mayor seemed to be competing in Iowa for the support of more-affluent voters with college degrees. Sanders’s campaign saw that as an opening and seized it.”

**New Hampshire could be even more consequential because Warren and Sanders both come from neighboring states and have invested heavily.** “That gives both of them a potential edge, and whoever finishes behind the other will have suffered a significant setback,” Dan notes.

-- Warren spoke the most during the debate:



(Dan Keating and Kevin Schaul)

-- **The Post's opinion columnists largely focused on Warren vs. Sanders.** "Can a woman be elected president? Let's put that silly question behind us," wrote [Karen Tumulty](#). "Sanders vs. Warren shows the difference between identifying sexism and giving in to it," declared [Ruth Marcus](#). "There's a reason Bernie Sanders said Elizabeth Warren is lying," noted [David Von Drehle](#). "Democratic officials have reason to hope for a happy ending," said [Eugene Robinson](#). "The debate shows why."

-- **Pundits are all over the place in their lists of winners and losers, suggesting that the muddled debate will do little to alter the trajectory of the race.** [The Fix's Aaron Blake](#) considered Warren's sly attack on Sanders *and* Sanders's response winning moves. He said Buttigieg lost and Biden was "in the middle." [CNN's Chris Cillizza](#) thought Buttigieg, Warren and Klobuchar won, but

Biden, Sanders and Steyer lost. But [Politico's](#) campaign reporters agreed with one another that Biden had the best night. [Fox News's Bret Baier](#) said Biden's performance was lackluster and Klobuchar "actually had a really good night" while Sanders "took a lot of incoming." [Vox](#) put Sanders and Buttigieg on its winners list and named Steyer as the losing candidate. Biden was on neither. [Jennifer Rubin](#) said Klobuchar and Biden shined. "The rest, not so much," she wrote.



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Pelosi announces impeachment managers

## THE LATEST ON IMPEACHMENT:

**-- Speaker Nancy Pelosi named the seven House Democrats who will serve as impeachment managers during the Senate trial:**

Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff (Calif.), Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler (N.Y.), Hakeem Jeffries (N.Y.), Sylvia Garcia (Tex.), Val Demings (Fla.), Zoe Lofgren (Calif.) and Jason Crow (Colo.). Trump's defense team is expected to be led by White House counsel Pat Cipollone. Notably, Rep. Justin Amash, the Republican-turned-independent who voted for impeachment, is not one of the managers. Lofgren worked on Richard Nixon's impeachment as a House staffer and was on the House Judiciary Committee during Bill Clinton's impeachment. ([We'll update our liveblog with more news all day.](#))



Rudy Giuliani, the president's personal lawyer, brought Lev Parnas, left, as his guest to the state funeral service for former president George H.W. Bush at the Washington National Cathedral in December 2018. (Al Drago/Bloomberg News)

**-- New materials released last night by House Democrats appear to show Ukraine's top prosecutor offering one of Rudy Giuliani's associates damaging information related to Joe Biden if the Trump administration recalled the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. Paul Sonne, Rosalind S. Helderman and Tom Hamburger report:** "The text messages and documents provided to Congress by former Giuliani associate Lev Parnas also show that before the ambassador, Marie Yovanovitch, was removed from her post, a Parnas associate now running for Congress sent menacing text messages suggesting that he had Yovanovitch under surveillance in Ukraine. A lawyer for Yovanovitch said Tuesday that the episode should be investigated. ..."

**"Among the revelations in the documents released Tuesday: a message from Giuliani to Parnas saying he had involved a person he called "no 1" — possibly Trump himself — in an effort to lift a U.S. visa ban on a former Ukrainian prosecutor who was planning to come to the United States to make claims about Biden.** The materials also include a letter Giuliani wrote to Ukraine's then-president-elect, Volodymyr Zelensky, requesting a May 14 meeting with the new leader in Giuliani's "capacity as personal counsel to President Trump and with his knowledge and consent." Giuliani scrapped his planned trip, and the meeting never took place. Another document released by the House investigators appears to show Parnas directly involved with efforts to get Zelensky to announce investigations related to Biden. In handwritten notes on a piece of stationery from the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Vienna, Parnas wrote, 'get Zalenksy [sic] to Annouce [sic] that the Biden case will be Investigated.' ...

**"The materials show that Parnas, a Russian-speaker who helped coordinate Giuliani's outreach to Ukrainian sources, was directly communicating with an array of top Ukrainian officials.** Among them was Yuri Lutsenko, at the time Ukraine's top prosecutor and a close political ally of then-Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, who was running for reelection. Lutsenko wanted to get rid of Yovanovitch, the U.S. ambassador, in part because she had been critical of his office and supported a quasi-independent anti-corruption bureau he despised. The messages, written in Russian, show Lutsenko urging Parnas to force out Yovanovitch in exchange for cooperation regarding Biden. At one point, Lutsenko suggests he won't make any helpful public statements unless 'madam' is removed.

**“The new documents also introduced a new character in the drama over the ambassador’s ouster: a Republican congressional candidate from Connecticut who asserted to Parnas in messages that he had Yovanovitch under physical and electronic surveillance. ‘Wow. Can’t believe Trumo [sic] hasn’t fired this b----,’ Robert F. Hyde wrote in an encrypted message to Parnas on March 23. ‘I’ll get right [on] that.’ Hyde described having contact with a ‘private security’ team located near the embassy that was apparently monitoring the ambassador’s movements. ‘She’s talked to three people. Her phone is off. Computer is off,’ he wrote in one message. ‘They will let me know when she’s on the move,’ he said in another. Later, he alerted Parnas that he had been told Yovanovitch would not be moved to a ‘special security unit.’ ‘They are willing to help if we/you would like a price,’ he said in one note. ‘Guess you can do anything in the Ukraine with money . . . what I was told.’ Hyde did not explain how his team might ‘help’ Parnas, who responded only with ‘lol.’ When asked for comment by The Washington Post in a text message, Hyde replied: ‘Sorry I can’t talk right now.’ Hyde is one of three Republicans running to unseat an incumbent Democrat in the 5th Congressional District in Connecticut. He frequently tweets about his support for Trump and posted photos of himself with the president.”** ([Review the full cache of material for yourself here.](#))

**-- All the president's men, cont.: Former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn asked a federal judge for permission to withdraw his guilty plea of lying to the FBI about this Russian contacts during special counsel Bob Mueller’s probe.** [Spencer S. Hsu reports](#): “The stunning reversal — more than two years after

Flynn pleaded guilty Dec. 1, 2017, and two weeks before he faces sentencing — threatens to sidetrack, if not derail, the prosecution of the highest-ranking Trump official charged and one of the first to cooperate with Mueller’s office.”



Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev holds a Russian-made weapon during a visit to the Promtehnologiya firearms company in Moscow in 2013. Medvedev resigned today as part of a shake-up orchestrated by Vladimir Putin. (Dmitry Astakhov/Sputnik/AFP via Getty Images)

**-- Russia’s prime minister submitted his resignation today as part of a surprise government shake-up directed by President Vladimir Putin. [Isabelle Khurshudyan reports from Moscow](#): “Putin accepted the resignation of the prime minister, Dmitry Medvedev, and asked the members of Medvedev’s Cabinet to remain in place until a new government is formed ... The sweeping moves came shortly after**



Putin gave his annual address to Russia's lower house of parliament and proposed constitutional changes to boost the powers of prime ministers and Cabinet members. ... Earlier, Putin proposed sweeping changes to the constitution Wednesday, including strengthening parliament and revamping the country's state council, possibly hinting at his plans for after he leaves power in 2024. In his annual address to lawmakers, Putin again suggested limiting presidential term limits to two, indicating that 20 years after he first became president, he won't attempt to seek a third consecutive term. But **Putin's plan to give constitutional status to the state council, a top advisory body to the president he created in 2000, and transfer more power to parliament, including naming the country's prime minister, could be a path for him to maintain significant influence in a different capacity once this presidential term is finished.** As the Russian constitution stands now, the president has the sole power to appoint the prime minister."



'There is little or no sentiment' among GOP for dismissing Senate trial, McConnell says

**-- Mitch McConnell is trying to balance the feuding factions within the Senate Republican Conference over whether to vote on calling witnesses.** [Seung Min Kim, Elise Viebeck and Robert Costa report](#): “On one end, a group of influential swing GOP senators — Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Mitt Romney of Utah and Lamar Alexander of Tennessee — are pushing to hold a vote on whether to call witnesses later in the proceedings. Democrats have vowed to exert pressure on the group to break with their party on witnesses and other issues, such as obtaining documents. At the same time, the Senate’s right flank is increasingly making the case to [McConnell] and other GOP leaders for a more aggressive posture in defense of Trump. In a private meeting with McConnell on Tuesday, Sen. Ted Cruz (Tex.) argued that if Democrats press the case for potentially damaging witnesses — such as former national security adviser John Bolton — the GOP should insist on incendiary witnesses of their own, such as Hunter Biden ... McConnell appeared receptive to Cruz’s pitch ...

“Despite their role as potential swing GOP votes in a narrowly divided Senate, the group of moderates has yet to defect in any significant fashion from party leaders ... **In a nod to the moderates, there is expected to be a provision guaranteeing a vote on whether the Senate could consider subpoenaing witnesses**, according to two GOP officials familiar with the matter ... GOP leaders are confident that once voting begins to set the scope of the trial — called an organizing resolution — that no Republicans will defect, with the moderates placated by a guaranteed decision on witnesses later. That calculus could change once the Senate goes through the grind of

opening arguments and a litany of questions, and if key GOP senators become dissatisfied that they hadn't gotten enough information from the trial proceedings."

**-- Capitol Hill reporters are protesting unexpected restrictions on their access to the Senate during the impeachment trial. [Derek Hawkins, Felicia Sonmez and Fred Barbash report](#):**

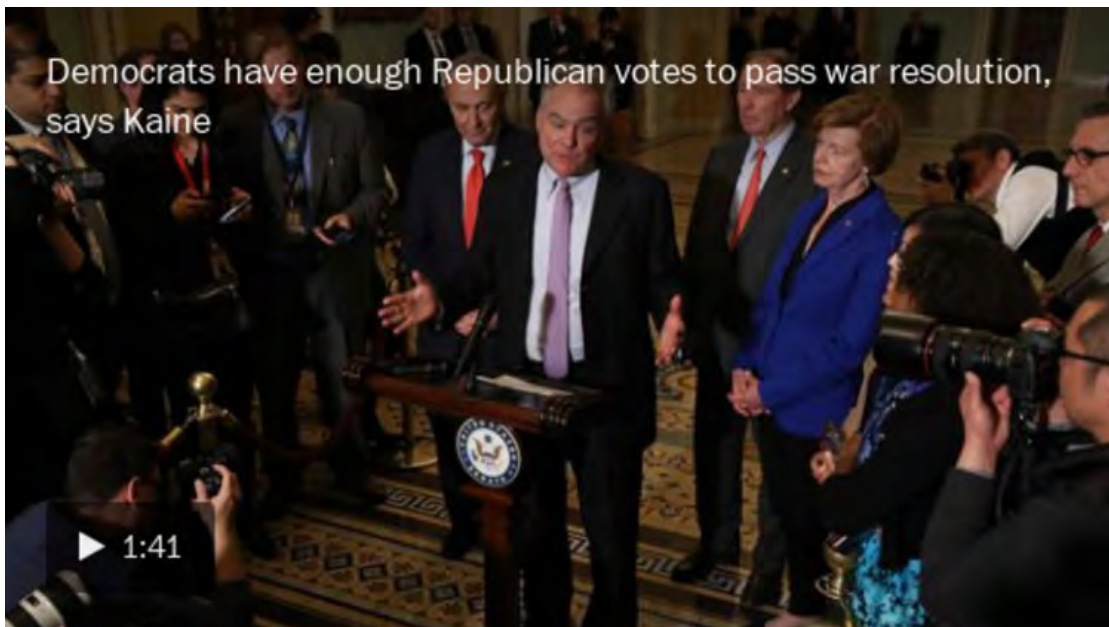
"The organization representing daily reporters on Capitol Hill is protesting restrictions expected to be imposed on the news media during the Senate impeachment trial, saying the security crackdown will severely limit access to lawmakers and stifle coverage of the proceedings. ...

Capitol security officials are [reportedly] considering measures that are all but certain to make it harder for journalists to report on the trial and question senators about their actions. A magnetometer in the Senate press gallery will require reporters to trickle into the chamber one at a time. Electronic devices will be banned, leaving reporters to scuttle in and out of the room to send tweets and emails. Reporters will be placed in pens, roping them off and restricting their ability to speak freely with senators as they enter and exit. ... Details about the nature and scope of the restrictions under consideration remained unclear, as neither the Senate sergeant at arms nor the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, which are responsible for them, has issued a formal document."

**-- Trump's impeachment trial is a perilous duty for Chief Justice John Roberts because any signs of partisanship could further erode the Supreme Court's legitimacy. [From the New York Times](#):**

"The chief justice's responsibilities at the trial are fluid and ill-defined, and they will probably turn out to be largely ceremonial. ... The

managers will march the articles over to the Senate chamber, touching off a series of steps that will initiate the trial. But before it can get underway Chief Justice **Roberts will be sworn in as the presiding officer and, in his first official act, administer an oath to senators in which they swear to do ‘impartial justice’ in the trial, with the real work not expected to begin until Tuesday.** ... Roberts has plenty on his plate already, much of it related to Mr. Trump. He is working on a Supreme Court docket crowded with divisive issues, including three cases on whether to allow release of Mr. Trump’s financial records and one on Mr. Trump’s efforts to withdraw protection from deportation for young immigrants. ... And Chief Justice Roberts has exchanged sharp remarks with Mr. Trump, laying bare a fundamental disagreement about the independence of federal judges.”



Democrats have enough Republican votes to pass war resolution, says Kaine

## **THE IRAN CRISIS:**

**-- The Senate is poised to pass a resolution limiting Trump's military authority on Iran, as four Republicans say they will vote with Democrats to assert Congress's war powers under the Constitution.** [Karoun Demirjian reports](#): "Congress cannot be sidelined on these important decisions," said [Collins] who on Tuesday declared her support for the measure. She joins Sens. Todd C. Young (R-Ind.), Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and all 47 Democrats. A vote could come as soon as next week. ... The resolution is 'privileged,' meaning Republicans opposed to the measure cannot block it from coming to a vote once it is 'ripe.' It also means that supporters must secure only a simple majority of the Senate, 51 votes, for it to pass. **But it is almost certain that Trump will veto the measure and that Congress will not have the votes to override a veto.** ... Trump's deputies and supporters said that such resolutions send a negative message to the troops and seemingly project support for the Iranian regime despite its sponsorship of terrorist activities that have led to the deaths of U.S. service members ... Supporters of the war powers measures have taken pains to say they believe [Iranian commander, Maj. Gen. Qasem] Soleimani was reprehensible as they argue that Trump cannot trample on Congress's right to declare war." (Kaine and Lee make the case for the resolution in [an op-ed in today's newspaper](#).)

**-- [New video](#) shows two Iranian missiles hit the downed Ukrainian plane last week.** The [Times reports](#): "The missiles were launched from an Iranian military site around eight miles from the plane. The new video fills a gap about why the plane's transponder stopped working, seconds before it was hit by a second missile. ... Neither strike downed the plane immediately. The new video shows

the airliner on fire, circling back toward Tehran's international airport. Minutes later it exploded and crashed down, narrowly missing the village of Khalaj Abad ... The Times has confirmed that the new video was filmed by a camera on the roof of a building near the village of Bidkaneh, four miles from an Iranian military site. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' airspace unit, said that missiles were launched from a base near there." ([Watch the video here.](#))

**-- The Iranian people, disturbed by the downing of the plane and the killing of Soleimani, have shown that it is possible to be angry at both their government and the United States at the same time. [Erin Cunningham explains:](#)** "On Tuesday, student protesters at the University of Tehran chanted anti-government slogans as officials scrambled to find a way to quell the growing unrest. ... The efforts by senior officials to calm the public are in stark contrast to the defiant tones struck by Tehran amid an outpouring of grief this month for Soleimani at his funeral procession ... Iran is often presented 'as a monolith ... a country where all of its citizens move as one,' said Reza Akbari, a researcher of Iranian politics at the Institute for War and Peace Reporting in Washington. 'But Iranians are capable of condemning U.S. attacks against their sovereignty while protesting the gross negligence of their government,' he said. For many Iranians, Soleimani's killing in a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad was a national affront and came amid widespread resentment over harsh economic sanctions imposed on Iran by the Trump administration ... At the same time, the protests over the downed airliner, Akbari said, align with longer-term demands from the Iranian population for transparency, justice and accountability."

**-- The repressive Iranian regime arrested someone for recording a video of the missile strike that brought down the plane.** [From the Times](#): “The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, a powerful arm of Iran’s military, said it had arrested a person it identified as having recorded a video ... which undercut the military’s initial denials that Iran was responsible. The arrest was announced by Iranian media outlets affiliated with the Guards. The contradictory messages from the president, who is elected, and the Guards, who answer to Iran’s clerical leaders, reflect the competing power centers in the Iranian government. ... In an apparent criticism of the military, [Hassan] Rouhani, a moderate, urged that an official inquiry be candid about its findings. But some hard-line lawmakers have lashed out at his administration, demanding resignations.”

**-- Officials at the State and Defense departments have discussed possible cuts of \$250 million in military aid to Iraq if U.S. troops are asked to leave,** [according to emails reviewed by the Wall Street Journal](#): “The emails indicate that the State Department’s Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs is working to cut all \$250 million in funds under the U.S. foreign military financing program for Iraq for the current fiscal year. The bureau also plans to ask the White House Office of Management and Budget whether it can eliminate the \$100 million request for fiscal year 2021, ‘due to current optics on the ground,’ according to the emails. ‘This does not preclude further congressional consideration of foreign assistance should the situation change in Iraq,’ one of the emails said. The emails assert that no final decision has been made, but top administration officials have ordered a review of what funds may be held or reallocated in the event Iraq requires the

U.S. troops be removed. One of the emails said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo directed that the 2020 foreign military financing funds be repurposed, or used elsewhere.”



Gun rights protesters hold signs at a meeting of the Virginia Senate Judiciary Committee in Richmond. (Steve Helber/AP)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERSHADOWED:**

-- Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D) will ban guns from the grounds of the state's capitol, at least temporarily. [Laura Vozzella and Gregory S. Schneider report](#): “The move comes just days after newly empowered Democrats banned guns from the Capitol building and an adjacent legislative office building. And **it comes just ahead of a gun rights rally planned for Monday, which organizers say will draw tens of thousands to Capitol Square. The rally has**



**drawn interest from militias and extremist groups across the country**, raising security concerns in Richmond. ... Security has been unusually tight during the General Assembly session that kicked off last week, as Democrats ... consider far-reaching gun-control legislation.”

**-- More than 100 billion doses of pain medication oxycodone and hydrocodone were shipped nationwide from 2006 through 2014, saturating the nation with 24 billion more doses than previously known to the public.** [Steven Rich, Scott Higham and Sari Horwitz report](#):

“The Washington Post and the company that owns the Charleston Gazette-Mail in West Virginia first obtained the data, collected by the Drug Enforcement Administration, from 2006 through 2012 after waging a year-long legal fight. In July, The Post reported that the data revealed that the nation’s drug companies had manufactured and distributed more than 76 billion pain pills. The two additional years of information — 2013 and 2014 — was recently posted by a data analytics company managed by lawyers for the plaintiffs in a massive lawsuit against the opioid industry. ... The newly released data, which traces the path of pills from manufacturers and distributors to pharmacies across the country, confirms again that six companies distributed the vast majority of the pain pills. **McKesson Corp., Cardinal Health, Walgreens, AmerisourceBergen, CVS and Walmart accounted for 76 percent of the oxycodone and hydrocodone pills that were shipped between 2006 and 2014** ... Three manufacturers still accounted for 85 percent of the pills: SpecGx, a subsidiary of Mallinckrodt; Actavis Pharma; and Par Pharmaceutical, a subsidiary of Endo Pharmaceuticals.”

**-- The White House's secret plan to divert \$7.2 billion in Pentagon funding for Trump's border wall drew bipartisan criticism. [Paul Sonne, Jeff Stein and Nick Miroff report](#):** "Senior Republicans grumbled about the plan but mostly put the blame on Democrats, who agreed to provide \$1.4 billion in border barrier funding this year — far less than the \$5 billion Trump requested. 'I wish they'd get the money somewhere else, instead of defense,' said Sen. Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.), chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. 'But I do support building the wall.' ... 'I think it's outrageous,' said Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.), the top Democrat on the armed services committee, who called it 'a slap to the military as well as a slap to Congress' ... Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper, asked Tuesday if he supports the continued diverting of Defense Department money to fund the border wall, said that one of the Pentagon's missions is supporting homeland defense. 'If that's what it takes, we are prepared to support' it, he said."

**-- An appeals court temporarily halted the purge of more than 200,000 people from Wisconsin's voter rolls. [Reis Thebault reports](#):** "The Tuesday order came one day after the state's elections commission and its three Democratic members were found in contempt of court for not complying with a judge's previous order to cancel the registrations of roughly 6 percent of its voters. The case is largely split along partisan lines. Republicans argue that thousands of people who have changed addresses have not updated their voter registration status and should therefore be struck from the rolls to ensure election integrity, while Democrats and voting rights advocates say the move will unjustly disenfranchise swaths of the electorate ... The six-person election commission had been split evenly along

partisan lines, the Republicans voting in favor of the purge and the Democrats voting against it. In a meeting on Tuesday, commissioners again disagreed — 3 to 3 — about how to respond. ... A Journal Sentinel analysis of the over 200,000 register voters targeted — all of whom were sent a letter in October seeking address confirmation — found that most lived in municipalities that supported Hillary Clinton in 2016.”

**-- The Trump administration’s push to restart federal executions after nearly two decades heads back to court today. [Mark Berman and Ann E. Marimow report](#):** “Justice Department lawyers are asking the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to reverse a judge’s order and allow the administration to move forward with four executions the administration had scheduled for December and January. U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan in November found that the government had probably exceeded its powers with the adoption of a new lethal-injection protocol to be used in those executions. The new protocol, she wrote, is inconsistent with a 1994 law that requires federal executions to be carried out ‘in the manner prescribed by the law of the State in which the sentence is imposed.’”

**-- The Supreme Court will hear arguments in the “Bridgegate” scandal that shook New Jersey politics. The case could heavily impact future public corruption prosecutions. [Matt Zaptosky reports](#):** “As former New Jersey governor Chris Christie (R) looked on, the Supreme Court heard arguments Tuesday on whether to overturn the convictions against two of his ex-political allies in the ‘Bridgegate’ case, and the decision could have broad implications for how federal prosecutors pursue allegations of public corruption. The two former

allies — Bridget Kelly and William E. Baroni Jr. — argue that the Justice Department reached too far in charging them with fraud for their roles in an alleged plot to back up traffic on the George Washington Bridge, the nation's busiest, as retaliation against a local mayor who declined to endorse Christie's reelection bid. ... The Justice Department counters that Kelly and Baroni are misstating what occurred and that the evidence was sufficient to support their convictions. The questioning Tuesday did not break down neatly along traditional ideological lines, and it was difficult to predict what the ultimate decision might be. Some justices who asked questions of the attorneys for Baroni and Kelly also seemed critical of some of the government's points. ... In filings to the Supreme Court, Kelly and Baroni argued that — even if they did exactly what prosecutors allege — it could not constitute a federal crime. They argued that they were essentially convicted of lying about their true political motive for a decision.”

**-- Michael Avenatti, the former attorney for adult-film actress Stormy Daniels, was arrested by IRS agents for allegedly violating his bail terms a week before his federal trial. [Timothy Bella reports](#):** “Avenatti, who is accused of extorting Nike for up to \$25 million and stealing millions of dollars from his clients for his own interests among other charges, was arrested while appearing before the State Bar Court in Los Angeles, in the middle of a disciplinary hearing alleging that he stole about \$840,000 from a former client.”

**-- Rep. Joe Kennedy III (D-Mass.) is rolling out 16 Democratic endorsements for his primary challenge against incumbent Sen. Ed Markey, including Reps. John Lewis (Ga.) and Joaquin Castro**

**(Tex.).** [From Boston Magazine](#): “Also on the list was co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Congressman Mark Pocan, and the Caucus’s chair emeriti, Congressman Raul Grijalva. ... Kennedy collected endorsements from several other key groups in the House, including the co-chairs of the LGBTQ Equality Caucus, ... members of the Congressional Black Caucus ... and several members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus ... Kennedy is also now outpacing Markey when it comes to raising campaign cash. ... Kennedy raised more than \$2.4 million over the last three months of 2019, while Markey’s campaign reports raising only \$1.4 million.”

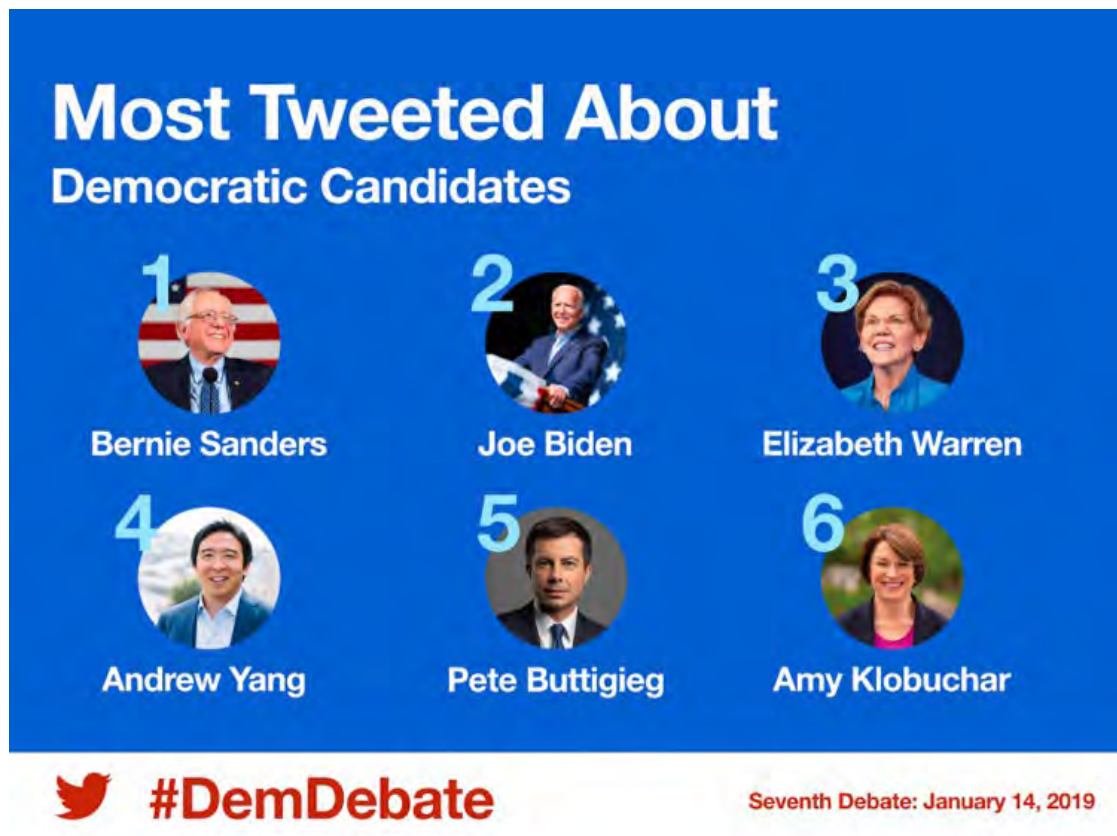
**-- Boeing’s new CEO pledged greater transparency in a message to employees still reeling from the two 737 Max jet crashes that killed hundreds in the last two years.** [Lori Aratani reports](#): “‘This is a crucial time for Boeing,’ [David Calhoun] wrote. ‘We have work to do to uphold our values and to build on our strengths. I see greatness in this company, but I also see opportunities to do better. Much better.’ Calhoun’s top priority will be convincing federal regulators that the 737 Max is safe to fly. The plane has been grounded worldwide since March. Boeing also is counting on Calhoun to rebuild relationships with customers, regulators and the public.”

**-- A Delta flight dumped jet fuel on a playground near Los Angeles, leaving dozens with minor injuries.** [Justin Wm. Moyer reports](#): “Los Angeles County Fire Department officials said they responded to an elementary school ... after the aircraft apparently dumped the fuel while on a final approach to the airport. Twenty children and 11 adults complained of minor injuries, officials said. No one was taken to a hospital, officials said, and no evacuations were

initiated. ... In a statement, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer said Delta Air Lines Flight 89 declared an emergency after departing from the airport, then returned to the airport and ‘landed without incident.’”

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

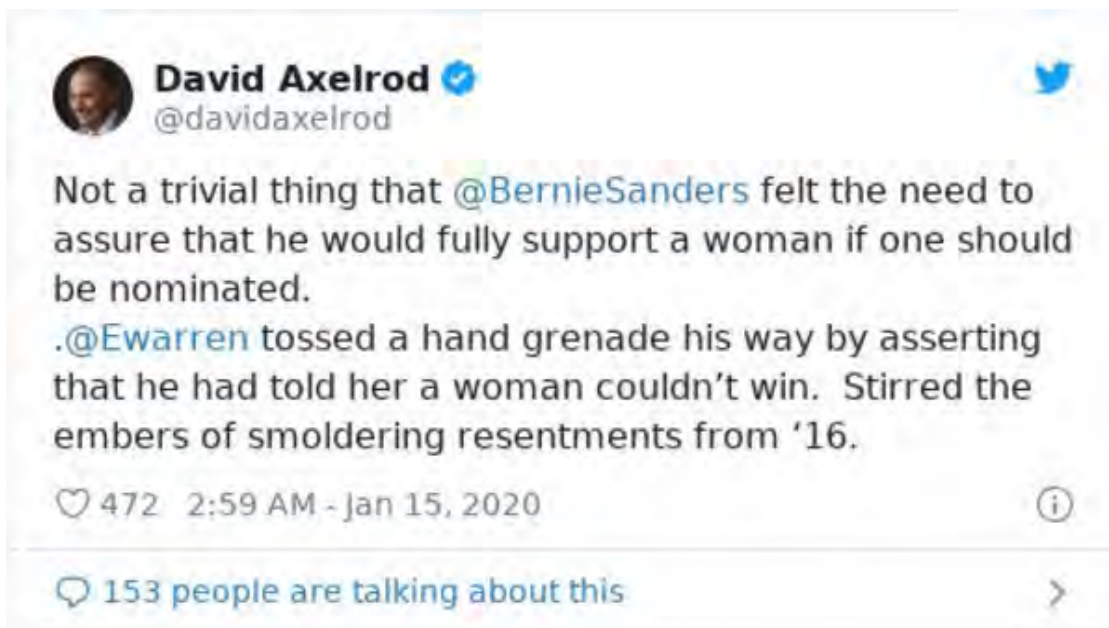
Here are the candidates most tweeted about during the debate:



Klobuchar struggled during the debate to remember the name of the Democratic governor of Kansas who defeated Kris Kobach in 2018. The governor gamely replied:



The former chief strategist for Obama noted that Sanders's 2016 clashes with Hillary Clinton created the backdrop to his back-and-forth with Warren over whether he said a woman cannot win. David Axelrod also makes the good point that Sanders is being much more explicit in saying he'll support the Democratic nominee than four years ago:



Biden raised eyebrows when he said during the debate that he had to get by as a single dad on a \$42,000 salary when he became a senator in 1973:



An organizational psychology professor at the Wharton School of Business suggested the Democratic candidates play a few board games instead of debating:



A Democratic congressman called out Mike Pompeo for talking to Fox



News instead of showing up to a House hearing on Iran:



**Tom Malinowski** ✓

@Malinowski



Pompeo talks Iran on Fox News at the very moment we're conducting a House hearing on Iran that he was too busy — or scared — to attend.

[twitter.com/statedept/stat...](https://twitter.com/statedept/stat...)

**Department of State** ✓ @StateDept

.@SecPompeo: We've engaged in an economic, a diplomatic, and now a military effort to convince the Iranian regime to behave like a normal nation. With respect to the protesters, you've seen President @realDonaldTrump speaking directly to them. We don't want any Iranian harmed.

**FOX NEWS**  
6:14 ET

**TRUMP DOCTRINE**  
POMPEO DEFENDS COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGY

**BREAKING TONIGHT**

**The Iranian Regime Must Behave Like a Normal Nation**

♡ 2,618 6:13 PM - Jan 14, 2020 ⓘ

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💬 1,411 people are talking about this >

A Daily Beast reporter shared an image of Lev Parnas with Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump:



**Betsy Woodruff Swan** ✓  
@woodruffbets



New: We obtained a photo of Lev Parnas with Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump, indicating he met them at least once. [thedailybeast.com/lev-parnas-ind...](https://thedailybeast.com/lev-parnas-ind...)



♡ 12.3K 3:30 PM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 6,111 people are talking about this



The documents Parnas turned in to Democratic investigators include this peculiar White House menu:



**southpaw**  
@nycsouthpaw



This menu brings to mind the WH feeding last year's national football champions fast food.



♡ 220 7:19 PM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 52 people are talking about this



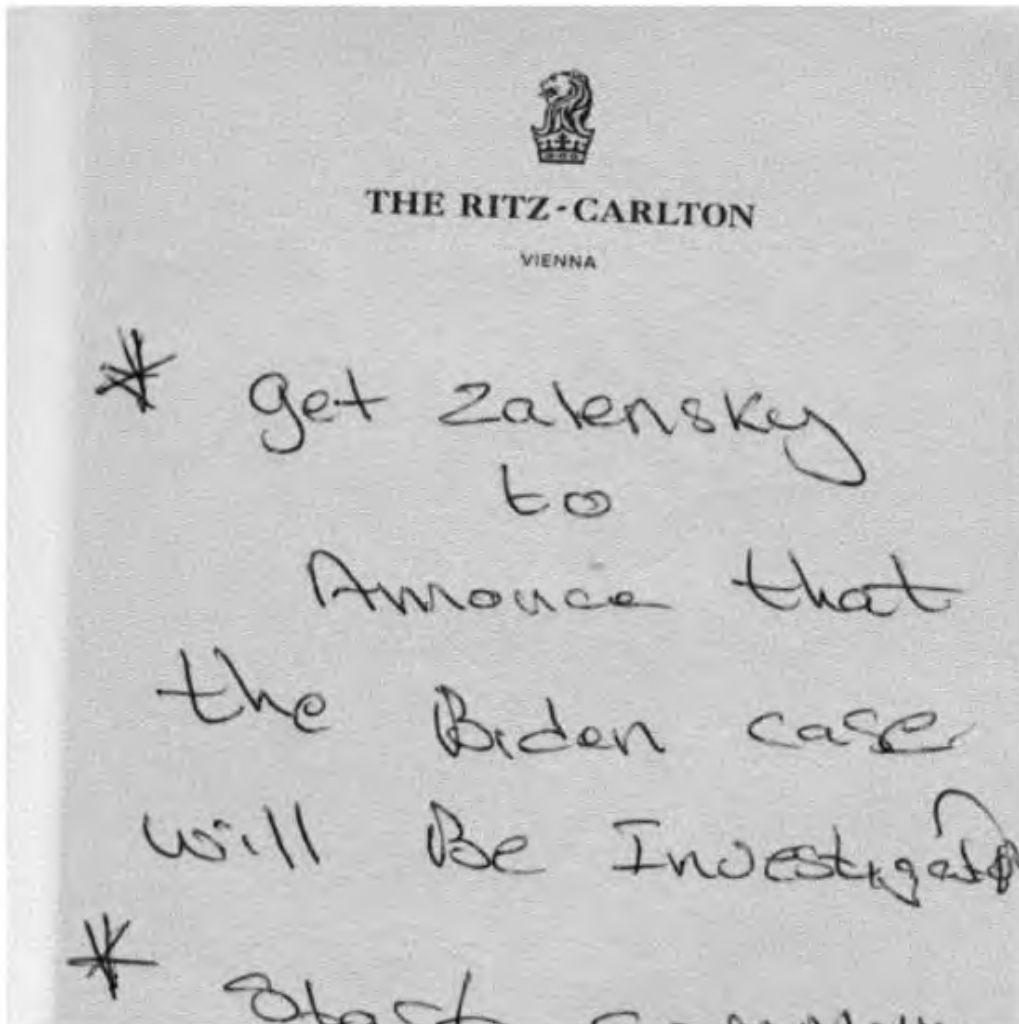
Other evidence in the hands of House Intelligence investigators includes this note:



**Nicholas Wu** ✓  
@nicholaswu12



Among the evidence just produced by the House Intelligence Committee - a note from Parnas saying "get Zelensky to Announce that the Biden case will be investigated"



♥ 5,640 10:27 PM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 3,170 people are talking about this



And this email:



**Katherine Faulders** ✓  
@KFaulders



Included in the evidence just produced by House Intel is an email from Trump's attorney Jay Sekulow to his former attorney John Dowd saying POTUS has agreed to Dowd representing Giuliani associates Parnas & Fruman (note - Dowd no longer represents the two men)



14 10:36 PM - Jan 14, 2020

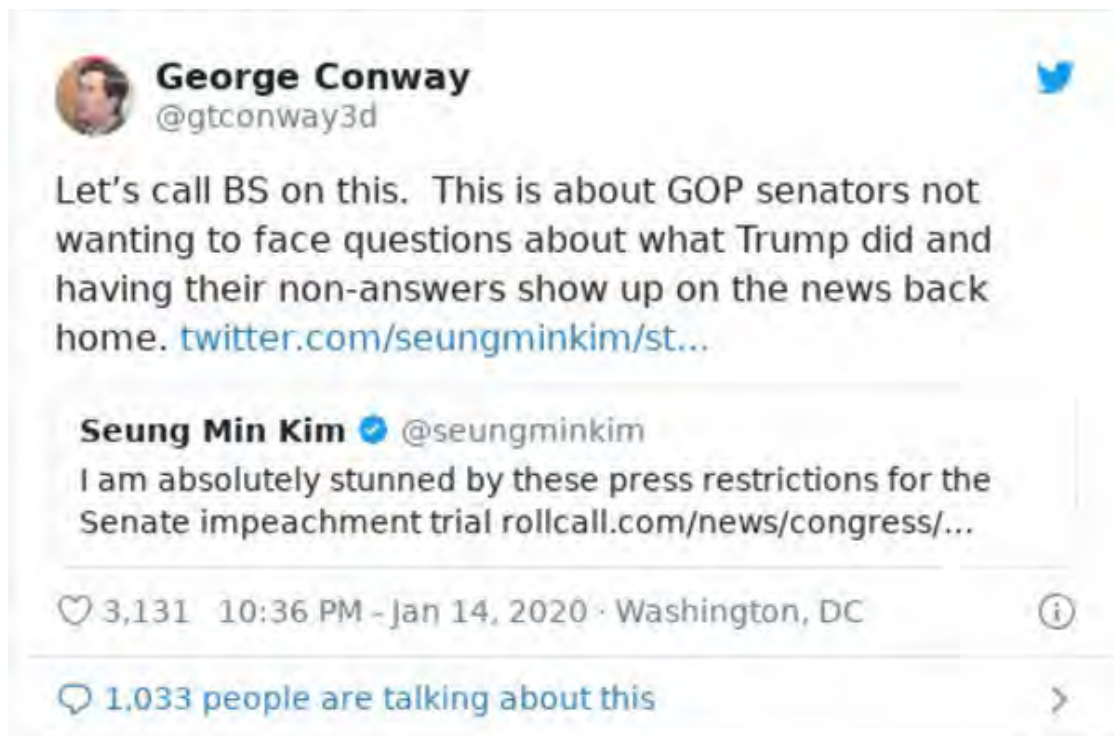


[See Katherine Faulders's other Tweets](#)



Conservative lawyer George Conway, husband of counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway, said Senate Republicans are restricting

press access to the impeachment trial because they're scared and have something to hide:



A Times photographer captured Trump wearing his reading glasses last night:

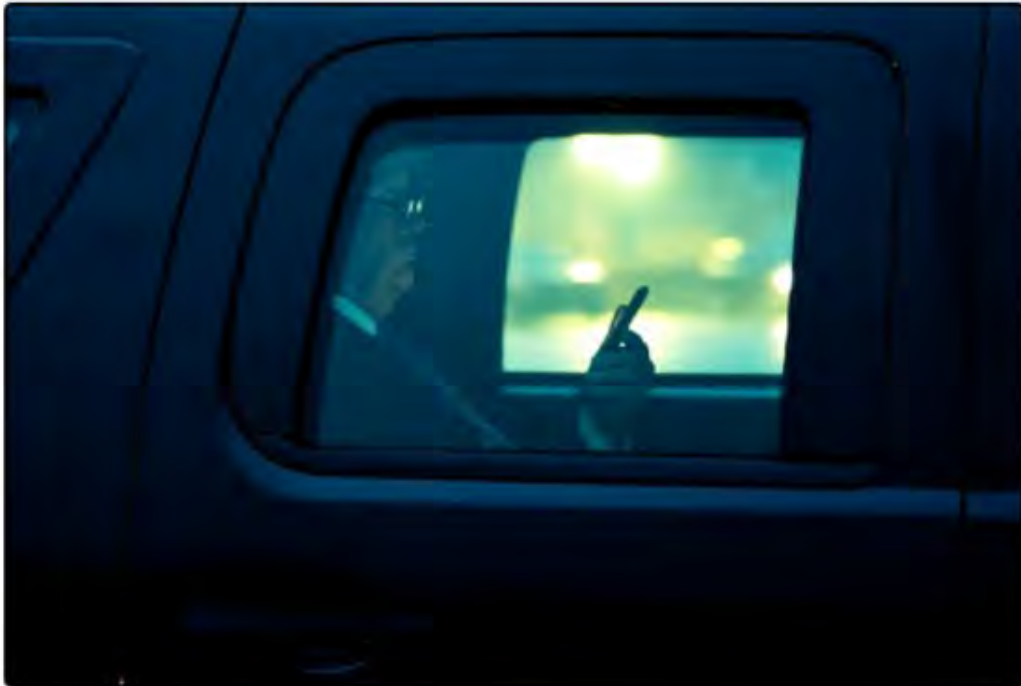


**Doug Mills** ✓  
@dougmillsnyt



.@realDonaldTrump

reads his phone as he arrives in his SUV to board Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews, Md. for a campaign trip to Milwaukee, WI.



♥ 545 10:22 PM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 348 people are talking about this



Warren's staff sent a pick-me-up to Cory Booker's team after the New Jersey senator dropped out of the presidential race:



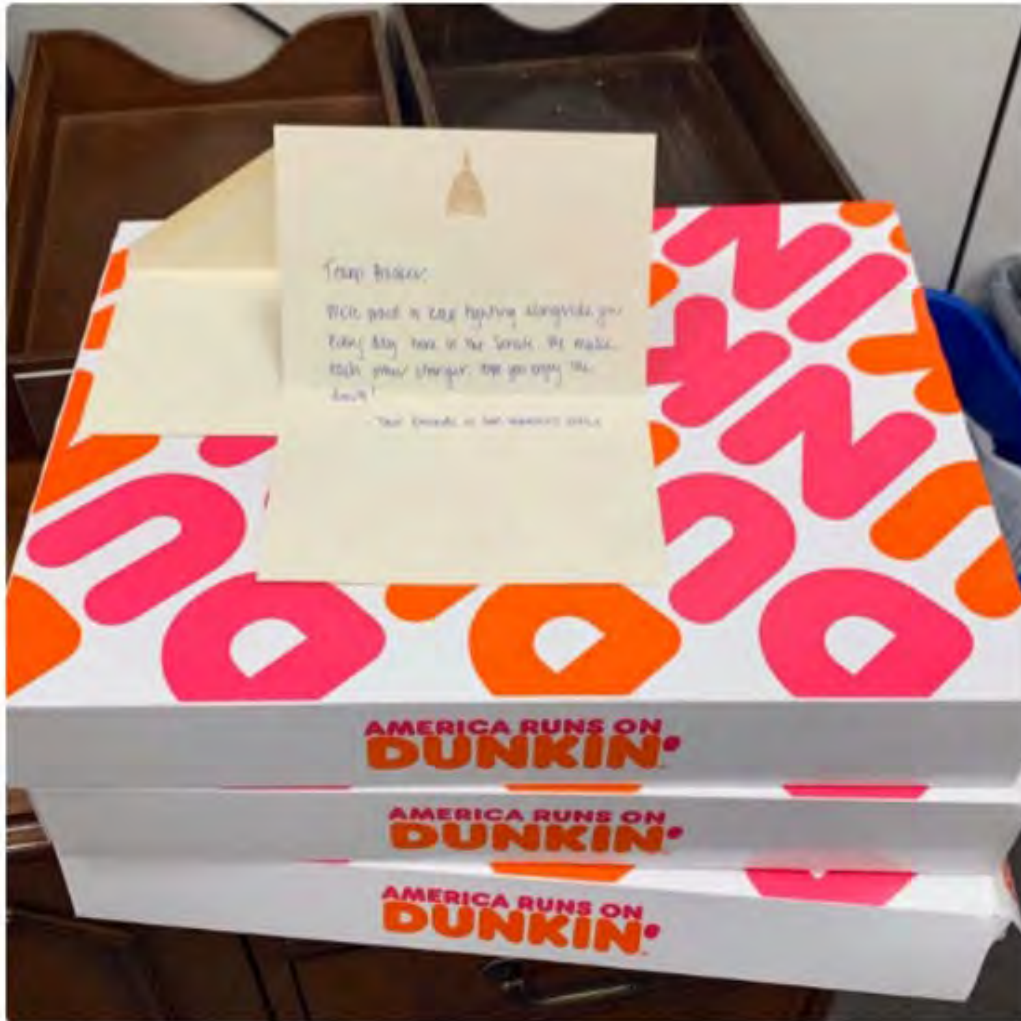


**Kristin Lynch**  
@Lyncherator



“We’re proud to continue fighting alongside you in the Senate.”

Thanks for the donuts and pick-me-up Team  
[@SenWarren!](#) 🙌🙌



🤍 142 5:12 PM - Jan 14, 2020 · Office of Senator Cory Booker



[See Kristin Lynch's other Tweets](#)



And it finally rained in Melbourne:



Heavy rain, flash floods and severe thunderstorms swept over the Australian city. The very-welcome storm is expected to hit fire-affected parts of New South Wales and Victoria later this week, [the Guardian reports](#).

#### **QUOTE OF THE DAY:**

"Lyndon Johnson was sort of a tough guy. Can you imagine his phone calls? He's probably looking down, or looking up," Trump said during his rally in Wisconsin last night, suggesting that LBJ may be in hell. ([HuffPost](#))

#### **VIDEOS OF THE DAY:**

Stephen Colbert did his show live last night so he could cover the Democratic debate:



And then he wondered why Trump would talk about dishwashers during his rally in Milwaukee:



Trevor Noah opened his post-debate monologue by pointing out the demographics of the group of Democratic candidates who remain in the race:



Seth Meyers took a break from politics to introduce us all to some teen slang:



U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson wants Brits to pitch in and raise half a million pounds so that Big Ben can bong for Brexit:



**BBC Politics**   
@BBCPolitics



“The bongos cost £500,000... but we’re working up a plan so that people can bung a bob for a Big Ben bong”

Boris Johnson says “we need to restore the clapper, in order to bong Big Ben on Brexit night, and that is expensive” [#BBCBreakfast](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-54111111) [bbc.in/3887aKb](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-54111111)



♥ 1,218 8:26 AM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 2,341 people are talking about this



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**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Democratic debate pits Bidenism vs. Bernieism – with the others staking out spaces in between  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 15, 2020 9:15:08 AM

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

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**Democratic debate pits Bidenism vs. Bernieism – with the others staking out spaces in between**



Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders exchange words as Tom Steyer looks on after the debate. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA:** What people will remember from the final debate before the Iowa caucuses is Elizabeth Warren declining to shake Bernie Sanders's outstretched hand after their **brief onstage clash** over whether he really told her during a one-on-one dinner more than a year ago that a woman cannot get elected president. While that made for compelling television, it also distracted from a starker ideological choice that looms for Democratic voters in the weeks ahead.

The more substantive portions of the two-hour debate at Drake University in Des Moines put in stark relief the chasm between the

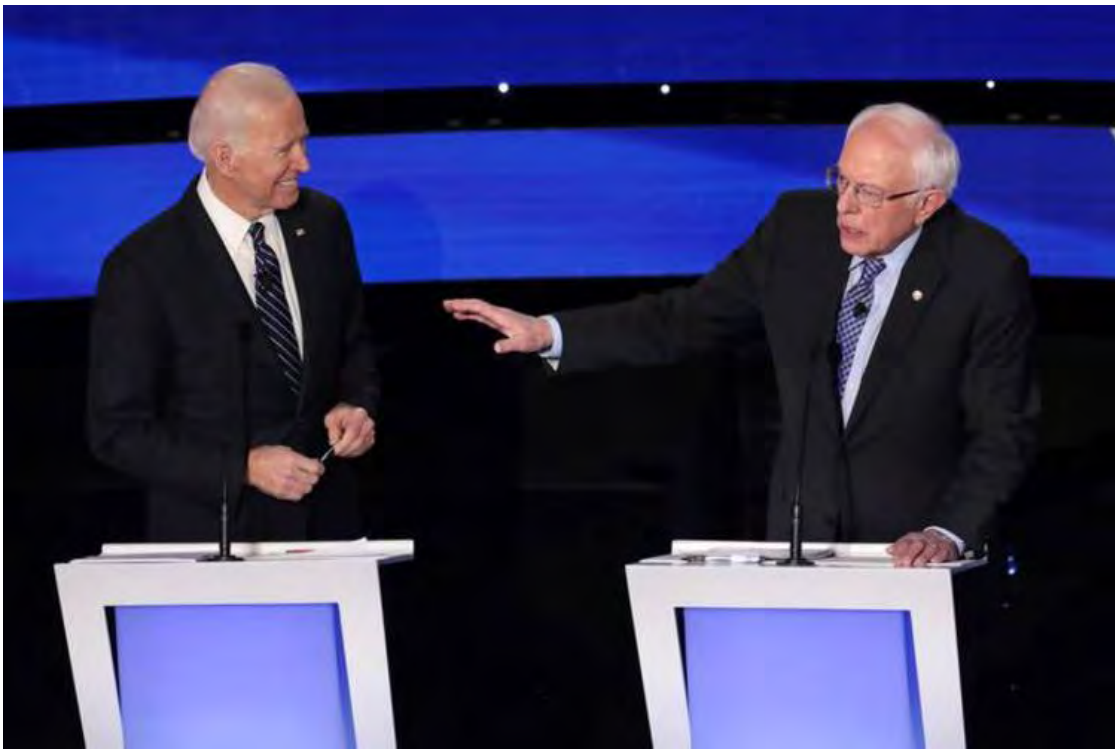
approaches of Sanders and Joe Biden – the two leaders in Iowa and national polling – on the biggest issues that face a president, including foreign policy, health care and trade.

It also highlighted continuing tensions between the two men over experience vs. judgment, incrementalism vs. radicalism and whether Democrats are more likely to win in November by igniting the base or appealing to disenchanted moderates who defected to Donald Trump in 2016.

Whomever is coronated at the convention in Milwaukee six months from now will chart the future of the party as its standard-bearer. In Sanders's case, he has spent decades [proudly resisting pressure](#) to register as a Democrat. He remains an independent who caucuses with the Democrats in the Senate.

Iowa looks like a jump ball, with the latest polls showing no overwhelming favorite and many voters either undecided or willing to change their minds. The next three weeks would be an unpredictable free-for-all in the Hawkeye State anyway. But the impeachment trial threatens to strand a handful of senators in Washington for days at a time with only Sundays away from the chamber.





Joe Biden cracks a smile as Bernie Sanders attacks him during the Democratic debate at Drake University in Des Moines on Tuesday night. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)

**-- It is conceivable that neither Biden nor Sanders ultimately wins the Feb. 3 caucuses. Nevertheless, the two septuagenarians represent the ideological goalposts and the outer bounds – Sanders on the left and the Biden on the right (which, to be clear, is still left-of-center) – of what party regulars will abide.**

“Joe and I have a fundamental disagreement here, in case you haven't noticed,” Sanders said last night during the round on trade, a salient issue in a farm state where children are taught in school that Iowa is a net exporter. The line, though, can be applied to most every other flashpoint in Democratic politics.

**Just as he opposed the North American Free Trade Agreement, which Biden voted for, Sanders now opposes its replacement,**

**the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal.** This iteration just passed the Democratic-controlled House and won the endorsement of the AFL-CIO. It's awaiting a vote in the Senate. "The answer is we could do much better than a Trump-led trade bill," Sanders said. "If this is passed, I think it will set us back a number of years."

**Biden, who supports the new deal, accused Sanders of knee-jerk opposition to everything.** "I don't know that there's any trade agreement that the senator would ever think made any sense, but the problem is that 95 percent of the customers are out there," Biden said, referring to the rest of the world. "So we better figure out how we begin to write the rules of the road, not China."

Sanders attacked Biden for voting to ratify multiple agreements over the years that he said have helped large multinational corporations at the expense of workers. Biden compared Sanders's approach to "poking our finger in the eye of all of our friends and allies" by not trying to negotiate trade agreements with the rest of the world, which he argued empowers China.





Candidates take on foreign policy, trade, electability at seventh Democratic debate

-- **The trade clash was particularly interesting to watch because Sanders proudly stood alone onstage among the top-tier candidates in opposing the USMCA deal. Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar and even Warren endorsed it.** Trying to show that she has a pragmatic streak, Warren called the deal imperfect but reasoned that “it will give some relief” to farmers and workers. “We get up the next day and fight for a better trade deal,” she said.

**It was a reminder of the extent to which the other candidates have all sought to position themselves somewhere between the poles of Sanders and Biden, and this played out repeatedly.** In theory, Biden and Sanders occupy separate “lanes,” to use the parlance of the operative class. But both men see the other as a direct threat. The Sanders team, in particular, has believed all election cycle that they’re competing for Biden voters just as much as Warren voters.

**Warren also tried to distinguish herself at one point by noting that she was the only candidate onstage who has defeated a Republican incumbent in the last 30 years.** She ousted Republican Scott Brown in 2012 to take back Ted Kennedy's Senate seat in Massachusetts. Sanders chimed in to say that he defeated a GOP incumbent in Vermont to win a House seat in 1990. An amused Warren, once a high school debate state champion in Oklahoma, noted that this was why she specified 30 years. Then Biden added that he won a major upset in 1972 – 48 years ago – over a Republican incumbent to win his Senate seat.

**-- Biden often sounds like he's promising a return to the pre-Trump status quo, when he was vice president.** "We can overcome four years of Donald Trump, but eight years of Donald Trump will be an absolute disaster and fundamentally change this nation," he said. "We have to restore America's soul, as I've said from the moment I announced."

**Sanders counters that "this is the moment when we have got to think big, not small":** "This is the moment when we have got to have the courage to take on the 1 percent, take on the greed and take on the corruption of the corporate elite," he said in his closing, "and create an economy and create a government that works for all of us, not just the 1 percent."

**CNN's Abby Phillip also noted that Sanders identifies as a democratic socialist and pointed to a poll that showed about two-thirds of Americans don't like the idea of voting for a socialist.** She wondered, "Doesn't that put your chances of beating Donald Trump at risk?" Sanders replied, "Nope, not at all." He pivoted to

attack Trump, displaying the moral certitude that his supporters love but Democratic establishmentarians loathe.



Iran takes center stage at Democratic debate

-- **The gulf between Sanders and Biden was apparent from the opening question of the debate.** The crisis in Iran has prompted the leading candidates to re-litigate the 2002 debate over whether to go to war with Iraq. “Joe and I listened to what Dick Cheney and George Bush and [Donald] Rumsfeld had to say,” Sanders said. “I thought they were lying. I didn’t believe them for a moment. I took to the floor. I did everything I could to prevent that war. Joe saw it differently.”

**Biden emphasized his work bringing troops home from Iraq as Barack Obama’s vice president.** “It was a mistake to trust that they weren’t going to go to war,” he said, referring to the Bush administration. “They said they were not going to go to war. ... It was a mistake, and I acknowledge that.”

-- The well-trod debate over health care was similar, as Biden and Sanders went at it again over the price tag for Medicare-for-all and the other candidates staked out ground in between them. Phillip, one of three moderators, asked Sanders about a study that said his policy proposals would double federal spending as a share of GDP to a level not seen since World War II. “No, my plan would not bankrupt the country,” he answered. “I think you should show how you’re going to pay for things, Bernie,” replied Klobuchar.

Warren sponsored Sanders’s Medicare-for-all bill, but she moved away from it in the face of questions about how she’d implement it without raising taxes on the middle class or kicking people off their private insurance. Warren ultimately proposed a three-year transition period to Medicare-for-all, but this only led to attacks from her left and right. Last night, Warren and Buttigieg bickered about who would get covered and how much it would cost.



Fact-Checking the January Democratic debate



-- Our Fact Checker team **calls out Biden and Sanders**, more than the other candidates, for making multiple misleading or false statements. For example, Biden did not provide an accurate description of what Bush said before the 2002 vote that allowed for war. Biden also boasted about getting troops out of Iraq under Obama without noting that this allowed for the emergence of the Islamic State, which required the Obama-Biden administration to send combat troops back into the country. The Fact Checker team faults Sanders for claiming that Medicare-for-all will cost less than the status quo, for significantly exaggerating the number of people who go bankrupt because of medical bills and for incorrectly claiming that the United States spends twice as much per person on health care as “any other country.” It’s only true compared to the developed world.

-- Warren, Buttigieg and Klobuchar are trying to varying degrees to position themselves as unity candidates between Sanders and Biden who can win support from both sides and therefore beat Trump.

“It is easy to draw lines in the sand and sketch out grand ideological

visions that will never see the light of day,” said Klobuchar. “What is hard is bringing people together and finding common ground instead of scorched earth. ... If you are tired of the extremes in our politics and the noise and the nonsense, you have a home with me.”

“We cannot take the risk with so much on the line of trying to confront this president with the same Washington mindset and political warfare that led us to this point,” said Buttigieg. “If you are watching this at home and you are exhausted by the spectacle of division and dysfunction, I’m asking you to join me to help turn the page on our politics.”



Sanders denies he told Warren a woman couldn't win the presidency

**-- Here's what you need to know about the Warren vs. Sanders kerfuffle: Sanders's campaign manager Faiz Shakir told The Post that Warren "came to raise a concern" with him after the debate. "And he said let's talk about that later," Shakir said, declining to provide further details about the conversation captured in a viral video.**

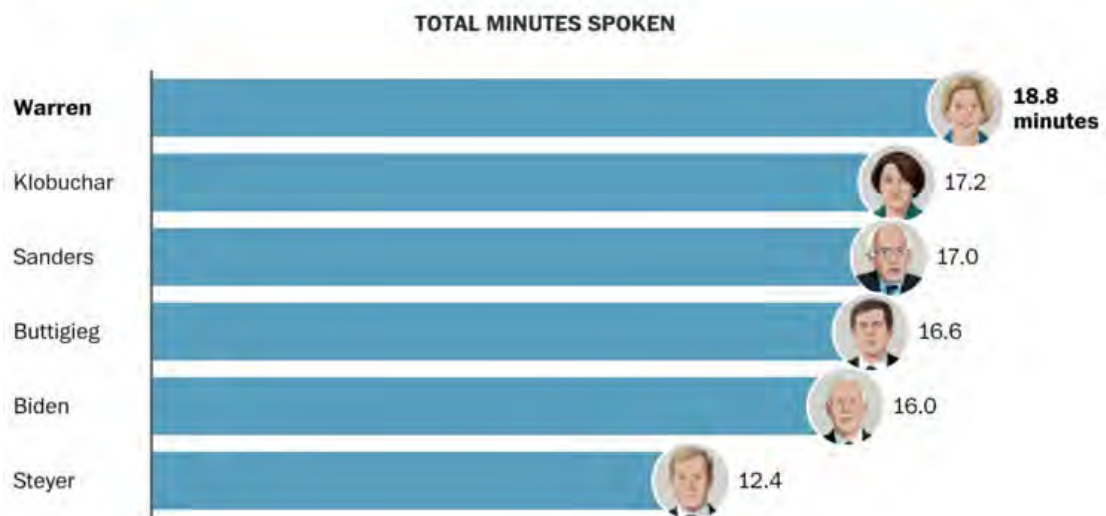


“Warren said Sanders disagreed with her view that a woman could win the presidential election. Sanders contends that he merely outlined what he said would be Trump's efforts to defeat another female candidate, and in the debate, he said, ‘Of course a woman can win,’” [Annie Linskey and Sean Sullivan report](#). “The video ... shows Sanders extending his hand as Warren approaches him onstage. Rather than shaking it, Warren clasps her hands together and speaks to Sanders. He responds, as Tom Steyer walks toward them. ... Warren and Sanders then separate. Steyer and Sanders shake hands on one side of the stage. Nearby, Warren shakes hands with [Buttigieg]. ... Representatives for the Warren campaign declined to comment. After the debate, Steyer told MSNBC’s Chris Matthews that he did not know what Warren and Sanders said to each other.”

**-- Dan Balz notes that the Warren-Sanders clash was inevitable, and they remain on a collision course after last night:** “For the past few months, Warren found herself looking at Buttigieg as a more immediate threat in Iowa. She took a lead in a September Iowa poll by the Des Moines Register and CNN, only to see Buttigieg overtake her in the November poll. She and the mayor seemed to be competing in Iowa for the support of more-affluent voters with college degrees. Sanders’s campaign saw that as an opening and seized it.”

**New Hampshire could be even more consequential because Warren and Sanders both come from neighboring states and have invested heavily.** “That gives both of them a potential edge, and whoever finishes behind the other will have suffered a significant setback,” Dan notes.

-- Warren spoke the most during the debate:



(Dan Keating and Kevin Schaul)

-- The Post's opinion columnists largely focused on Warren vs. Sanders. "Can a woman be elected president? Let's put that silly question behind us," wrote [Karen Tumulty](#). "Sanders vs. Warren shows the difference between identifying sexism and giving in to it," declared [Ruth Marcus](#). "There's a reason Bernie Sanders said Elizabeth Warren is lying," noted [David Von Drehle](#). "Democratic officials have reason to hope for a happy ending," said [Eugene Robinson](#). "The debate shows why."

-- Pundits are all over the place in their lists of winners and losers, suggesting that the muddled debate will do little to alter the trajectory of the race. [The Fix's Aaron Blake](#) considered Warren's sly attack on Sanders *and* Sanders's response winning moves. He said Buttigieg lost and Biden was "in the middle." [CNN's Chris Cillizza](#) thought Buttigieg, Warren and Klobuchar won, but

Biden, Sanders and Steyer lost. But [Politico's](#) campaign reporters agreed with one another that Biden had the best night. [Fox News's Bret Baier](#) said Biden's performance was lackluster and Klobuchar "actually had a really good night" while Sanders "took a lot of incoming." [Vox](#) put Sanders and Buttigieg on its winners list and named Steyer as the losing candidate. Biden was on neither. [Jennifer Rubin](#) said Klobuchar and Biden shined. "The rest, not so much," she wrote.



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Pelosi announces impeachment managers

## THE LATEST ON IMPEACHMENT:

**-- Speaker Nancy Pelosi named the seven House Democrats who will serve as impeachment managers during the Senate trial:**

Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff (Calif.), Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler (N.Y.), Hakeem Jeffries (N.Y.), Sylvia Garcia (Tex.), Val Demings (Fla.), Zoe Lofgren (Calif.) and Jason Crow (Colo.). Trump's defense team is expected to be led by White House counsel Pat Cipollone. Notably, Rep. Justin Amash, the Republican-turned-independent who voted for impeachment, is not one of the managers. Lofgren worked on Richard Nixon's impeachment as a House staffer and was on the House Judiciary Committee during Bill Clinton's impeachment. ([We'll update our liveblog with more news all day.](#))



Rudy Giuliani, the president's personal lawyer, brought Lev Parnas, left, as his guest to the state funeral service for former president George H.W. Bush at the Washington National Cathedral in December 2018. (Al Drago/Bloomberg News)

**-- New materials released last night by House Democrats appear to show Ukraine's top prosecutor offering one of Rudy Giuliani's associates damaging information related to Joe Biden if the Trump administration recalled the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. Paul Sonne, Rosalind S. Helderman and Tom Hamburger report:** "The text messages and documents provided to Congress by former Giuliani associate Lev Parnas also show that before the ambassador, Marie Yovanovitch, was removed from her post, **a Parnas associate now running for Congress sent menacing text messages suggesting that he had Yovanovitch under surveillance in Ukraine.** A lawyer for Yovanovitch said Tuesday that the episode should be investigated. ...

**"Among the revelations in the documents released Tuesday: a message from Giuliani to Parnas saying he had involved a person he called "no 1" — possibly Trump himself — in an effort to lift a U.S. visa ban on a former Ukrainian prosecutor who was planning to come to the United States to make claims about Biden.** The materials also include a letter Giuliani wrote to Ukraine's then-president-elect, Volodymyr Zelensky, requesting a May 14 meeting with the new leader in Giuliani's "capacity as personal counsel to President Trump and with his knowledge and consent." Giuliani scrapped his planned trip, and the meeting never took place. Another document released by the House investigators appears to show Parnas directly involved with efforts to get Zelensky to announce investigations related to Biden. In handwritten notes on a piece of stationery from the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Vienna, Parnas wrote, 'get Zalenksy [sic] to Annouce [sic] that the Biden case will be Investigated.' ...

**"The materials show that Parnas, a Russian-speaker who helped coordinate Giuliani's outreach to Ukrainian sources, was directly communicating with an array of top Ukrainian officials.** Among them was Yuri Lutsenko, at the time Ukraine's top prosecutor and a close political ally of then-Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, who was running for reelection. Lutsenko wanted to get rid of Yovanovitch, the U.S. ambassador, in part because she had been critical of his office and supported a quasi-independent anti-corruption bureau he despised. The messages, written in Russian, show Lutsenko urging Parnas to force out Yovanovitch in exchange for cooperation regarding Biden. At one point, Lutsenko suggests he won't make any helpful public statements unless 'madam' is removed.

**“The new documents also introduced a new character in the drama over the ambassador’s ouster: a Republican congressional candidate from Connecticut who asserted to Parnas in messages that he had Yovanovitch under physical and electronic surveillance. ‘Wow. Can’t believe Trumo [sic] hasn’t fired this b----,’ Robert F. Hyde wrote in an encrypted message to Parnas on March 23. ‘I’ll get right [on] that.’ Hyde described having contact with a ‘private security’ team located near the embassy that was apparently monitoring the ambassador’s movements. ‘She’s talked to three people. Her phone is off. Computer is off,’ he wrote in one message. ‘They will let me know when she’s on the move,’ he said in another. Later, he alerted Parnas that he had been told Yovanovitch would not be moved to a ‘special security unit.’ ‘They are willing to help if we/you would like a price,’ he said in one note. ‘Guess you can do anything in the Ukraine with money . . . what I was told.’ Hyde did not explain how his team might ‘help’ Parnas, who responded only with ‘lol.’ When asked for comment by The Washington Post in a text message, Hyde replied: ‘Sorry I can’t talk right now.’ Hyde is one of three Republicans running to unseat an incumbent Democrat in the 5th Congressional District in Connecticut. He frequently tweets about his support for Trump and posted photos of himself with the president.”** ([Review the full cache of material for yourself here.](#))

**-- All the president's men, cont.: Former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn asked a federal judge for permission to withdraw his guilty plea of lying to the FBI about this Russian contacts during special counsel Bob Mueller’s probe.** [Spencer S. Hsu reports](#): “The stunning reversal — more than two years after

Flynn pleaded guilty Dec. 1, 2017, and two weeks before he faces sentencing — threatens to sidetrack, if not derail, the prosecution of the highest-ranking Trump official charged and one of the first to cooperate with Mueller’s office.”



Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev holds a Russian-made weapon during a visit to the Promtehnologiya firearms company in Moscow in 2013. Medvedev resigned today as part of a shake-up orchestrated by Vladimir Putin. (Dmitry Astakhov/Sputnik/AFP via Getty Images)

**-- Russia’s prime minister submitted his resignation today as part of a surprise government shake-up directed by President Vladimir Putin. [Isabelle Khurshudyan reports from Moscow](#): “Putin accepted the resignation of the prime minister, Dmitry Medvedev, and asked the members of Medvedev’s Cabinet to remain in place until a new government is formed ... The sweeping moves came shortly after**



Putin gave his annual address to Russia's lower house of parliament and proposed constitutional changes to boost the powers of prime ministers and Cabinet members. ... Earlier, Putin proposed sweeping changes to the constitution Wednesday, including strengthening parliament and revamping the country's state council, possibly hinting at his plans for after he leaves power in 2024. In his annual address to lawmakers, Putin again suggested limiting presidential term limits to two, indicating that 20 years after he first became president, he won't attempt to seek a third consecutive term. But **Putin's plan to give constitutional status to the state council, a top advisory body to the president he created in 2000, and transfer more power to parliament, including naming the country's prime minister, could be a path for him to maintain significant influence in a different capacity once this presidential term is finished.** As the Russian constitution stands now, the president has the sole power to appoint the prime minister."



'There is little or no sentiment' among GOP for dismissing Senate trial, McConnell says

**-- Mitch McConnell is trying to balance the feuding factions within the Senate Republican Conference over whether to vote on calling witnesses.** [Seung Min Kim, Elise Viebeck and Robert Costa report](#): “On one end, a group of influential swing GOP senators — Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Mitt Romney of Utah and Lamar Alexander of Tennessee — are pushing to hold a vote on whether to call witnesses later in the proceedings. Democrats have vowed to exert pressure on the group to break with their party on witnesses and other issues, such as obtaining documents. At the same time, the Senate’s right flank is increasingly making the case to [McConnell] and other GOP leaders for a more aggressive posture in defense of Trump. In a private meeting with McConnell on Tuesday, Sen. Ted Cruz (Tex.) argued that if Democrats press the case for potentially damaging witnesses — such as former national security adviser John Bolton — the GOP should insist on incendiary witnesses of their own, such as Hunter Biden ... McConnell appeared receptive to Cruz’s pitch ...

“Despite their role as potential swing GOP votes in a narrowly divided Senate, the group of moderates has yet to defect in any significant fashion from party leaders ... **In a nod to the moderates, there is expected to be a provision guaranteeing a vote on whether the Senate could consider subpoenaing witnesses**, according to two GOP officials familiar with the matter ... GOP leaders are confident that once voting begins to set the scope of the trial — called an organizing resolution — that no Republicans will defect, with the moderates placated by a guaranteed decision on witnesses later. That calculus could change once the Senate goes through the grind of

opening arguments and a litany of questions, and if key GOP senators become dissatisfied that they hadn't gotten enough information from the trial proceedings."

**-- Capitol Hill reporters are protesting unexpected restrictions on their access to the Senate during the impeachment trial. [Derek Hawkins, Felicia Sonmez and Fred Barbash report](#):**

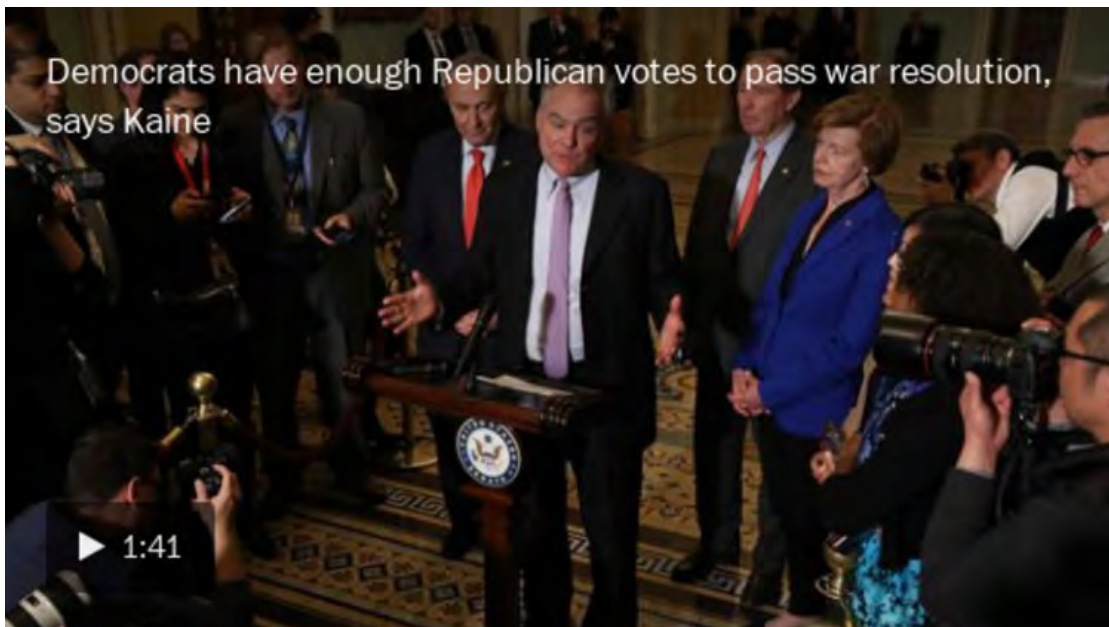
"The organization representing daily reporters on Capitol Hill is protesting restrictions expected to be imposed on the news media during the Senate impeachment trial, saying the security crackdown will severely limit access to lawmakers and stifle coverage of the proceedings. ...

Capitol security officials are [reportedly] considering measures that are all but certain to make it harder for journalists to report on the trial and question senators about their actions. A magnetometer in the Senate press gallery will require reporters to trickle into the chamber one at a time. Electronic devices will be banned, leaving reporters to scuttle in and out of the room to send tweets and emails. Reporters will be placed in pens, roping them off and restricting their ability to speak freely with senators as they enter and exit. ... Details about the nature and scope of the restrictions under consideration remained unclear, as neither the Senate sergeant at arms nor the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, which are responsible for them, has issued a formal document."

**-- Trump's impeachment trial is a perilous duty for Chief Justice John Roberts because any signs of partisanship could further erode the Supreme Court's legitimacy. [From the New York Times](#):**

"The chief justice's responsibilities at the trial are fluid and ill-defined, and they will probably turn out to be largely ceremonial. ... The

managers will march the articles over to the Senate chamber, touching off a series of steps that will initiate the trial. But before it can get underway Chief Justice **Roberts will be sworn in as the presiding officer and, in his first official act, administer an oath to senators in which they swear to do ‘impartial justice’ in the trial, with the real work not expected to begin until Tuesday.** ... Roberts has plenty on his plate already, much of it related to Mr. Trump. He is working on a Supreme Court docket crowded with divisive issues, including three cases on whether to allow release of Mr. Trump’s financial records and one on Mr. Trump’s efforts to withdraw protection from deportation for young immigrants. ... And Chief Justice Roberts has exchanged sharp remarks with Mr. Trump, laying bare a fundamental disagreement about the independence of federal judges.”



Democrats have enough Republican votes to pass war resolution, says Kaine

## **THE IRAN CRISIS:**

-- **The Senate is poised to pass a resolution limiting Trump's military authority on Iran, as four Republicans say they will vote with Democrats to assert Congress's war powers under the Constitution.** [Karoun Demirjian reports](#): "Congress cannot be sidelined on these important decisions," said [Collins] who on Tuesday declared her support for the measure. She joins Sens. Todd C. Young (R-Ind.), Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and all 47 Democrats. A vote could come as soon as next week. ... The resolution is 'privileged,' meaning Republicans opposed to the measure cannot block it from coming to a vote once it is 'ripe.' It also means that supporters must secure only a simple majority of the Senate, 51 votes, for it to pass. **But it is almost certain that Trump will veto the measure and that Congress will not have the votes to override a veto.** ... Trump's deputies and supporters said that such resolutions send a negative message to the troops and seemingly project support for the Iranian regime despite its sponsorship of terrorist activities that have led to the deaths of U.S. service members ... Supporters of the war powers measures have taken pains to say they believe [Iranian commander, Maj. Gen. Qasem] Soleimani was reprehensible as they argue that Trump cannot trample on Congress's right to declare war." (Kaine and Lee make the case for the resolution in [an op-ed in today's newspaper](#).)

-- **New video shows two Iranian missiles hit the downed Ukrainian plane last week.** The [Times reports](#): "The missiles were launched from an Iranian military site around eight miles from the plane. The new video fills a gap about why the plane's transponder stopped working, seconds before it was hit by a second missile. ... Neither strike downed the plane immediately. The new video shows

the airliner on fire, circling back toward Tehran's international airport. Minutes later it exploded and crashed down, narrowly missing the village of Khalaj Abad ... The Times has confirmed that the new video was filmed by a camera on the roof of a building near the village of Bidkaneh, four miles from an Iranian military site. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' airspace unit, said that missiles were launched from a base near there." ([Watch the video here.](#))

**-- The Iranian people, disturbed by the downing of the plane and the killing of Soleimani, have shown that it is possible to be angry at both their government and the United States at the same time. [Erin Cunningham explains:](#)** "On Tuesday, student protesters at the University of Tehran chanted anti-government slogans as officials scrambled to find a way to quell the growing unrest. ... The efforts by senior officials to calm the public are in stark contrast to the defiant tones struck by Tehran amid an outpouring of grief this month for Soleimani at his funeral procession ... Iran is often presented 'as a monolith . . . a country where all of its citizens move as one,' said Reza Akbari, a researcher of Iranian politics at the Institute for War and Peace Reporting in Washington. 'But Iranians are capable of condemning U.S. attacks against their sovereignty while protesting the gross negligence of their government,' he said. For many Iranians, Soleimani's killing in a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad was a national affront and came amid widespread resentment over harsh economic sanctions imposed on Iran by the Trump administration ... At the same time, the protests over the downed airliner, Akbari said, align with longer-term demands from the Iranian population for transparency, justice and accountability."

**-- The repressive Iranian regime arrested someone for recording a video of the missile strike that brought down the plane.** [From the Times](#): “The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, a powerful arm of Iran’s military, said it had arrested a person it identified as having recorded a video ... which undercut the military’s initial denials that Iran was responsible. The arrest was announced by Iranian media outlets affiliated with the Guards. The contradictory messages from the president, who is elected, and the Guards, who answer to Iran’s clerical leaders, reflect the competing power centers in the Iranian government. ... In an apparent criticism of the military, [Hassan] Rouhani, a moderate, urged that an official inquiry be candid about its findings. But some hard-line lawmakers have lashed out at his administration, demanding resignations.”

**-- Officials at the State and Defense departments have discussed possible cuts of \$250 million in military aid to Iraq if U.S. troops are asked to leave,** [according to emails reviewed by the Wall Street Journal](#): “The emails indicate that the State Department’s Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs is working to cut all \$250 million in funds under the U.S. foreign military financing program for Iraq for the current fiscal year. The bureau also plans to ask the White House Office of Management and Budget whether it can eliminate the \$100 million request for fiscal year 2021, ‘due to current optics on the ground,’ according to the emails. ‘This does not preclude further congressional consideration of foreign assistance should the situation change in Iraq,’ one of the emails said. The emails assert that no final decision has been made, but top administration officials have ordered a review of what funds may be held or reallocated in the event Iraq requires the

U.S. troops be removed. One of the emails said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo directed that the 2020 foreign military financing funds be repurposed, or used elsewhere.”



Gun rights protesters hold signs at a meeting of the Virginia Senate Judiciary Committee in Richmond. (Steve Helber/AP)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERSHADOWED:**

-- Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D) will ban guns from the grounds of the state's capitol, at least temporarily. [Laura Vozzella and Gregory S. Schneider report](#): “The move comes just days after newly empowered Democrats banned guns from the Capitol building and an adjacent legislative office building. And **it comes just ahead of a gun rights rally planned for Monday, which organizers say will draw tens of thousands to Capitol Square. The rally has**



**drawn interest from militias and extremist groups across the country**, raising security concerns in Richmond. ... Security has been unusually tight during the General Assembly session that kicked off last week, as Democrats ... consider far-reaching gun-control legislation.”

**-- More than 100 billion doses of pain medication oxycodone and hydrocodone were shipped nationwide from 2006 through 2014, saturating the nation with 24 billion more doses than previously known to the public.** [Steven Rich, Scott Higham and Sari Horwitz report](#):

“The Washington Post and the company that owns the Charleston Gazette-Mail in West Virginia first obtained the data, collected by the Drug Enforcement Administration, from 2006 through 2012 after waging a year-long legal fight. In July, The Post reported that the data revealed that the nation’s drug companies had manufactured and distributed more than 76 billion pain pills. The two additional years of information — 2013 and 2014 — was recently posted by a data analytics company managed by lawyers for the plaintiffs in a massive lawsuit against the opioid industry. ... The newly released data, which traces the path of pills from manufacturers and distributors to pharmacies across the country, confirms again that six companies distributed the vast majority of the pain pills. **McKesson Corp., Cardinal Health, Walgreens, AmerisourceBergen, CVS and Walmart accounted for 76 percent of the oxycodone and hydrocodone pills that were shipped between 2006 and 2014** ... Three manufacturers still accounted for 85 percent of the pills: SpecGx, a subsidiary of Mallinckrodt; Actavis Pharma; and Par Pharmaceutical, a subsidiary of Endo Pharmaceuticals.”

**-- The White House's secret plan to divert \$7.2 billion in Pentagon funding for Trump's border wall drew bipartisan criticism. [Paul Sonne, Jeff Stein and Nick Miroff report](#):** "Senior Republicans grumbled about the plan but mostly put the blame on Democrats, who agreed to provide \$1.4 billion in border barrier funding this year — far less than the \$5 billion Trump requested. 'I wish they'd get the money somewhere else, instead of defense,' said Sen. Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.), chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. 'But I do support building the wall.' ... 'I think it's outrageous,' said Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.), the top Democrat on the armed services committee, who called it 'a slap to the military as well as a slap to Congress' ... Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper, asked Tuesday if he supports the continued diverting of Defense Department money to fund the border wall, said that one of the Pentagon's missions is supporting homeland defense. 'If that's what it takes, we are prepared to support' it, he said."

**-- An appeals court temporarily halted the purge of more than 200,000 people from Wisconsin's voter rolls. [Reis Thebault reports](#):** "The Tuesday order came one day after the state's elections commission and its three Democratic members were found in contempt of court for not complying with a judge's previous order to cancel the registrations of roughly 6 percent of its voters. The case is largely split along partisan lines. Republicans argue that thousands of people who have changed addresses have not updated their voter registration status and should therefore be struck from the rolls to ensure election integrity, while Democrats and voting rights advocates say the move will unjustly disenfranchise swaths of the electorate ... The six-person election commission had been split evenly along

partisan lines, the Republicans voting in favor of the purge and the Democrats voting against it. In a meeting on Tuesday, commissioners again disagreed — 3 to 3 — about how to respond. ... A Journal Sentinel analysis of the over 200,000 register voters targeted — all of whom were sent a letter in October seeking address confirmation — found that most lived in municipalities that supported Hillary Clinton in 2016.”

**-- The Trump administration’s push to restart federal executions after nearly two decades heads back to court today.** [Mark Berman and Ann E. Marimow report](#): “Justice Department lawyers are asking the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to reverse a judge’s order and allow the administration to move forward with four executions the administration had scheduled for December and January. U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan in November found that the government had probably exceeded its powers with the adoption of a new lethal-injection protocol to be used in those executions. The new protocol, she wrote, is inconsistent with a 1994 law that requires federal executions to be carried out ‘in the manner prescribed by the law of the State in which the sentence is imposed.’”

**-- The Supreme Court will hear arguments in the “Bridgegate” scandal that shook New Jersey politics. The case could heavily impact future public corruption prosecutions.** [Matt Zapotosky reports](#): “As former New Jersey governor Chris Christie (R) looked on, the Supreme Court heard arguments Tuesday on whether to overturn the convictions against two of his ex-political allies in the ‘Bridgegate’ case, and the decision could have broad implications for how federal prosecutors pursue allegations of public corruption. The two former

allies — Bridget Kelly and William E. Baroni Jr. — argue that the Justice Department reached too far in charging them with fraud for their roles in an alleged plot to back up traffic on the George Washington Bridge, the nation's busiest, as retaliation against a local mayor who declined to endorse Christie's reelection bid. ... The Justice Department counters that Kelly and Baroni are misstating what occurred and that the evidence was sufficient to support their convictions. The questioning Tuesday did not break down neatly along traditional ideological lines, and it was difficult to predict what the ultimate decision might be. Some justices who asked questions of the attorneys for Baroni and Kelly also seemed critical of some of the government's points. ... In filings to the Supreme Court, Kelly and Baroni argued that — even if they did exactly what prosecutors allege — it could not constitute a federal crime. They argued that they were essentially convicted of lying about their true political motive for a decision.”

**-- Michael Avenatti, the former attorney for adult-film actress Stormy Daniels, was arrested by IRS agents for allegedly violating his bail terms a week before his federal trial. [Timothy Bella reports](#):** “Avenatti, who is accused of extorting Nike for up to \$25 million and stealing millions of dollars from his clients for his own interests among other charges, was arrested while appearing before the State Bar Court in Los Angeles, in the middle of a disciplinary hearing alleging that he stole about \$840,000 from a former client.”

**-- Rep. Joe Kennedy III (D-Mass.) is rolling out 16 Democratic endorsements for his primary challenge against incumbent Sen. Ed Markey, including Reps. John Lewis (Ga.) and Joaquin Castro**

**(Tex.).** [From Boston Magazine:](#) “Also on the list was co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Congressman Mark Pocan, and the Caucus’s chair emeriti, Congressman Raul Grijalva. ... Kennedy collected endorsements from several other key groups in the House, including the co-chairs of the LGBTQ Equality Caucus, ... members of the Congressional Black Caucus ... and several members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus ... Kennedy is also now outpacing Markey when it comes to raising campaign cash. ... Kennedy raised more than \$2.4 million over the last three months of 2019, while Markey’s campaign reports raising only \$1.4 million.”

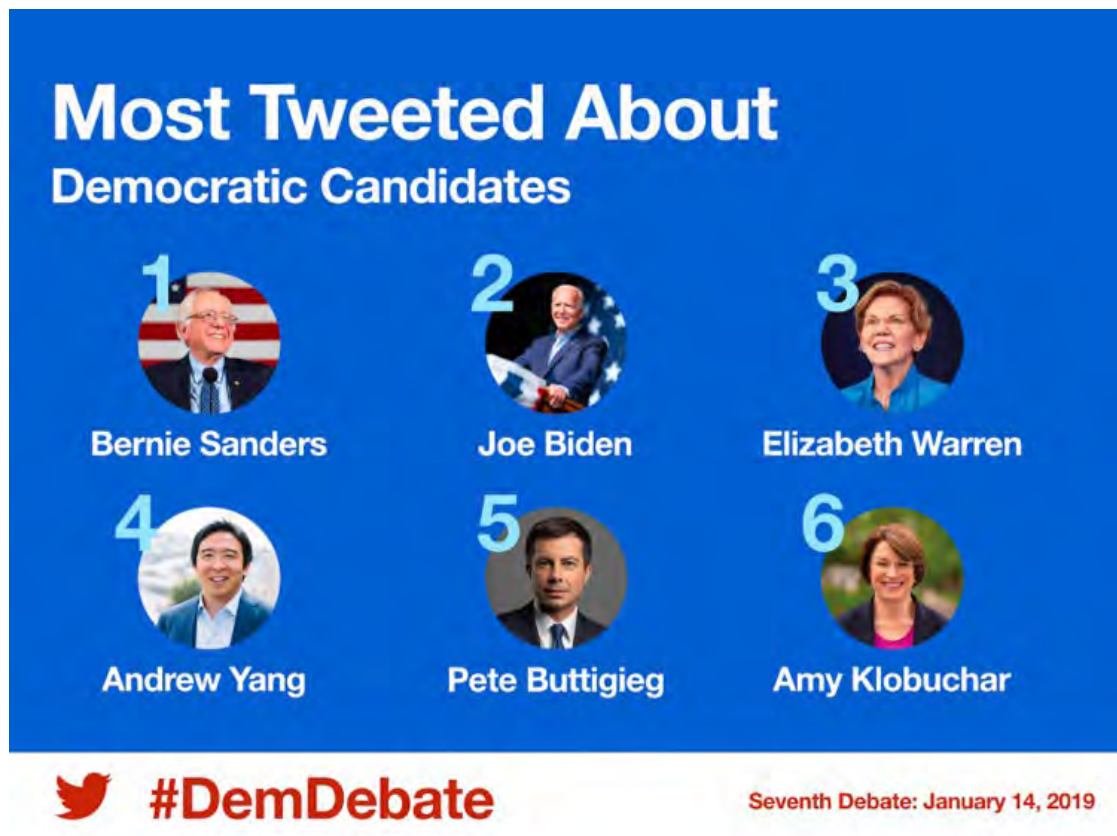
**-- Boeing’s new CEO pledged greater transparency in a message to employees still reeling from the two 737 Max jet crashes that killed hundreds in the last two years.** [Lori Aratani reports:](#) “This is a crucial time for Boeing,’ [David Calhoun] wrote. ‘We have work to do to uphold our values and to build on our strengths. I see greatness in this company, but I also see opportunities to do better. Much better.’ Calhoun’s top priority will be convincing federal regulators that the 737 Max is safe to fly. The plane has been grounded worldwide since March. Boeing also is counting on Calhoun to rebuild relationships with customers, regulators and the public.”

**-- A Delta flight dumped jet fuel on a playground near Los Angeles, leaving dozens with minor injuries.** [Justin Wm. Moyer reports:](#) “Los Angeles County Fire Department officials said they responded to an elementary school ... after the aircraft apparently dumped the fuel while on a final approach to the airport. Twenty children and 11 adults complained of minor injuries, officials said. No one was taken to a hospital, officials said, and no evacuations were

initiated. ... In a statement, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer said Delta Air Lines Flight 89 declared an emergency after departing from the airport, then returned to the airport and ‘landed without incident.’”

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

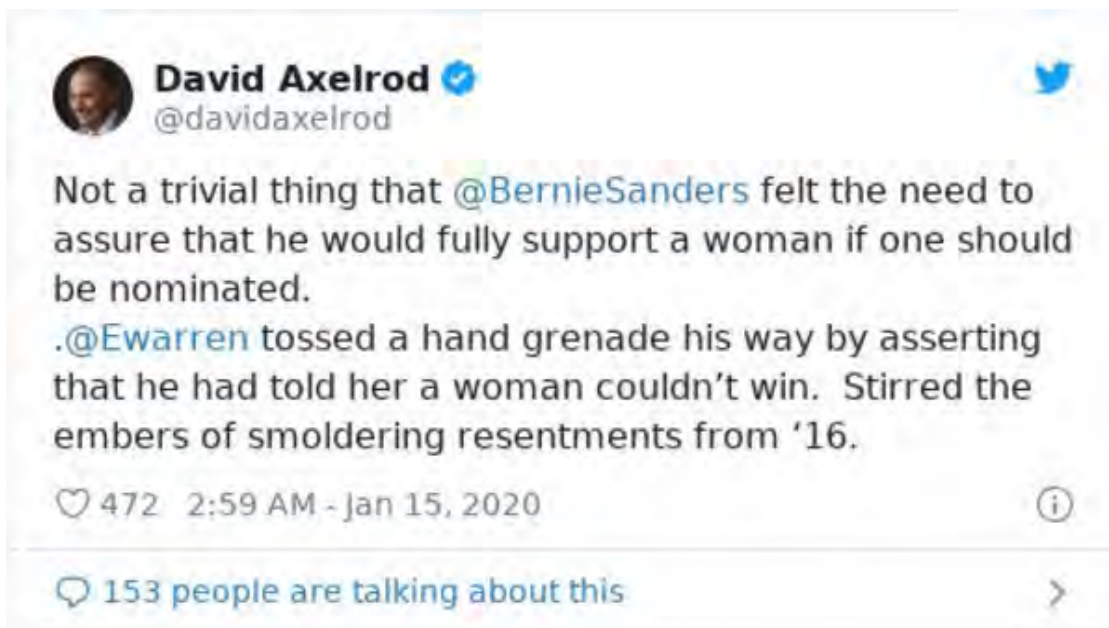
Here are the candidates most tweeted about during the debate:



Klobuchar struggled during the debate to remember the name of the Democratic governor of Kansas who defeated Kris Kobach in 2018. The governor gamely replied:



The former chief strategist for Obama noted that Sanders's 2016 clashes with Hillary Clinton created the backdrop to his back-and-forth with Warren over whether he said a woman cannot win. David Axelrod also makes the good point that Sanders is being much more explicit in saying he'll support the Democratic nominee than four years ago:



Biden raised eyebrows when he said during the debate that he had to get by as a single dad on a \$42,000 salary when he became a senator in 1973:



An organizational psychology professor at the Wharton School of Business suggested the Democratic candidates play a few board games instead of debating:



A Democratic congressman called out Mike Pompeo for talking to Fox



News instead of showing up to a House hearing on Iran:



**Tom Malinowski** ✓

@Malinowski



Pompeo talks Iran on Fox News at the very moment we're conducting a House hearing on Iran that he was too busy — or scared — to attend.

[twitter.com/statedept/stat...](https://twitter.com/statedept/stat...)

**Department of State** ✓ @StateDept

.@SecPompeo: We've engaged in an economic, a diplomatic, and now a military effort to convince the Iranian regime to behave like a normal nation. With respect to the protesters, you've seen President @realDonaldTrump speaking directly to them. We don't want any Iranian harmed.

**FOX NEWS**  
6:14 ET

**TRUMP DOCTRINE**  
POMPEO DEFENDS COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGY

**BREAKING TONIGHT**

The Iranian Regime Must Behave Like a Normal Nation

♡ 2,618 6:13 PM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 1,411 people are talking about this



A Daily Beast reporter shared an image of Lev Parnas with Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump:



**Betsy Woodruff Swan** ✓

@woodruffbets



New: We obtained a photo of Lev Parnas with Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump, indicating he met them at least once. [thedailybeast.com/lev-parnas-ind...](https://thedailybeast.com/lev-parnas-ind...)



♡ 12.3K 3:30 PM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 6,111 people are talking about this



The documents Parnas turned in to Democratic investigators include this peculiar White House menu:



**southpaw**  
@nycsouthpaw



This menu brings to mind the WH feeding last year's national football champions fast food.



♡ 220 7:19 PM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 52 people are talking about this



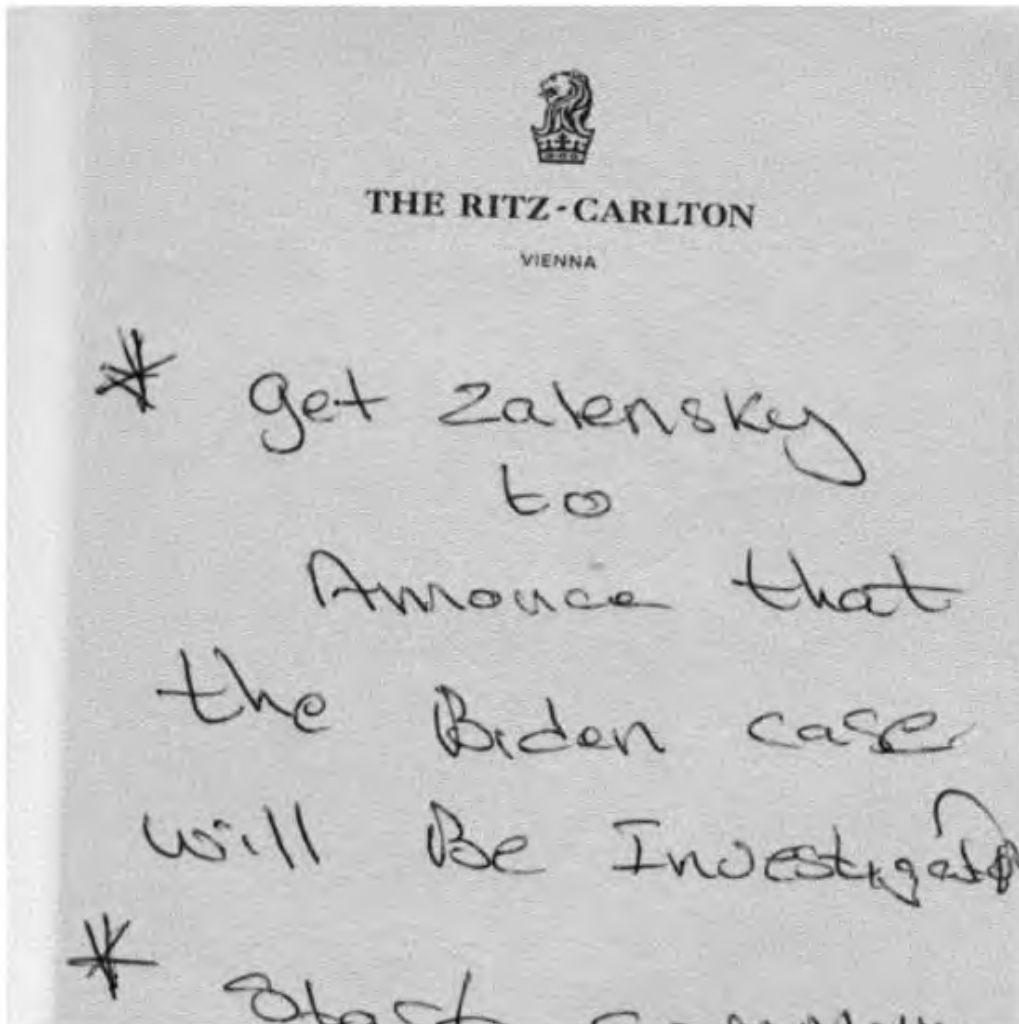
Other evidence in the hands of House Intelligence investigators includes this note:



**Nicholas Wu** ✓  
@nicholaswu12



Among the evidence just produced by the House Intelligence Committee - a note from Parnas saying "get Zelensky to Announce that the Biden case will be investigated"



♥ 5,640 10:27 PM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 3,170 people are talking about this



And this email:



**Katherine Faulders** ✓  
@KFaulders



Included in the evidence just produced by House Intel is an email from Trump's attorney Jay Sekulow to his former attorney John Dowd saying POTUS has agreed to Dowd representing Giuliani associates Parnas & Fruman (note - Dowd no longer represents the two men)



14 10:36 PM - Jan 14, 2020

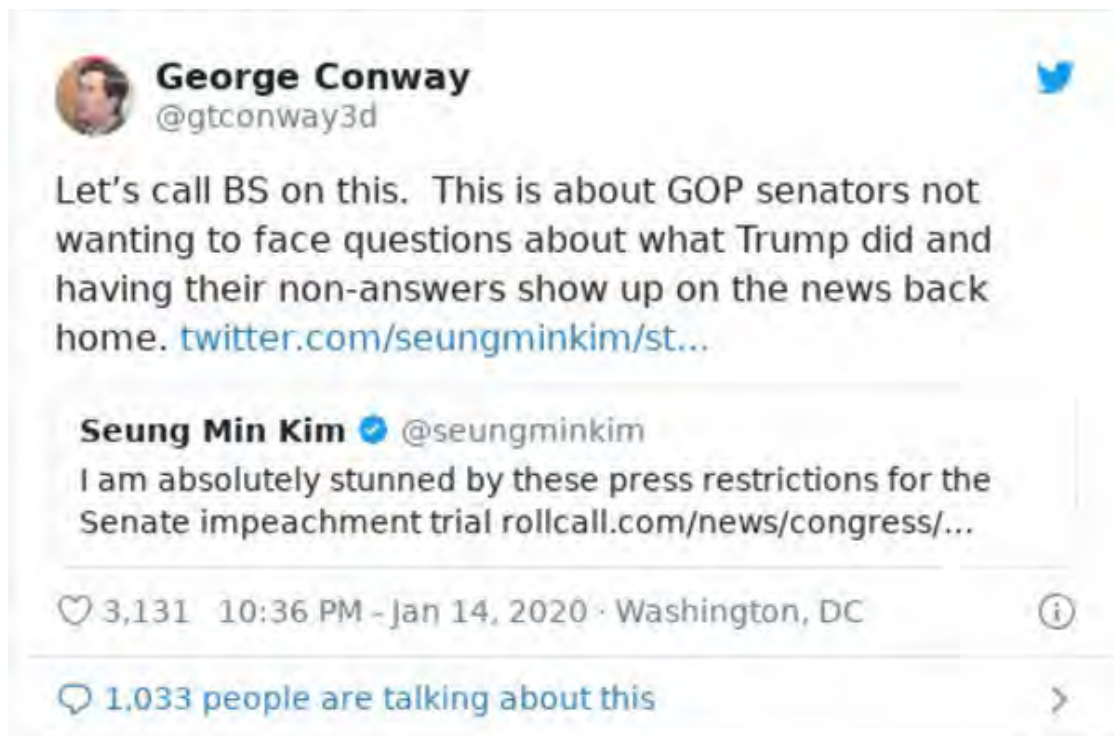


[See Katherine Faulders's other Tweets](#)



Conservative lawyer George Conway, husband of counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway, said Senate Republicans are restricting

press access to the impeachment trial because they're scared and have something to hide:



A Times photographer captured Trump wearing his reading glasses last night:

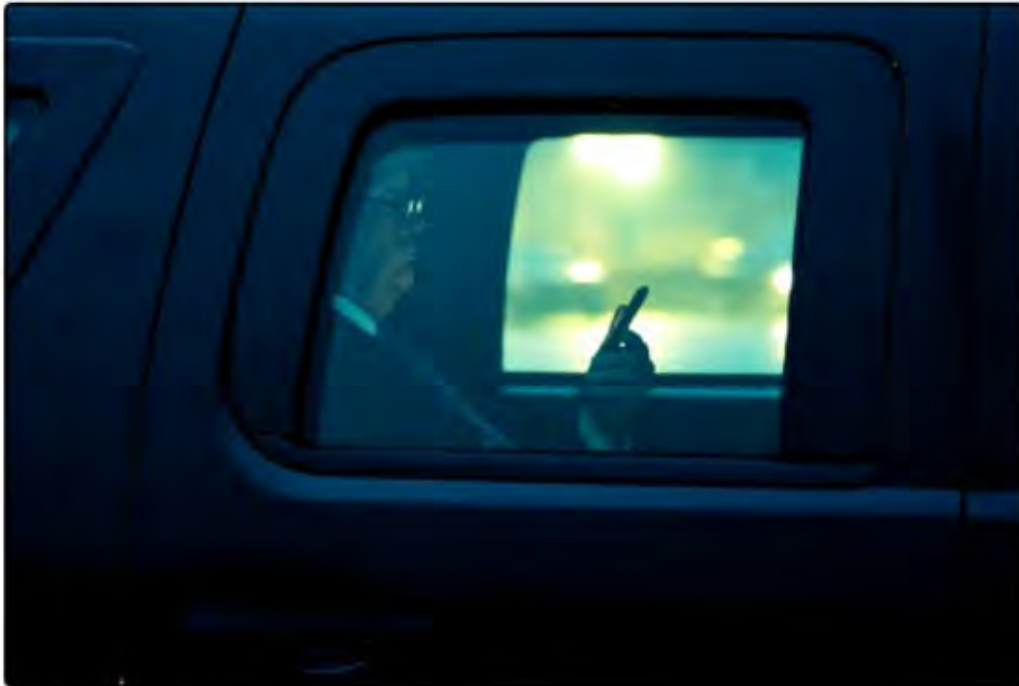


**Doug Mills** ✓  
@dougmillsnyt



[.@realDonaldTrump](#)

reads his phone as he arrives in his SUV to board Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews, Md. for a campaign trip to Milwaukee, WI.



♥ 545 10:22 PM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 348 people are talking about this



Warren's staff sent a pick-me-up to Cory Booker's team after the New Jersey senator dropped out of the presidential race:



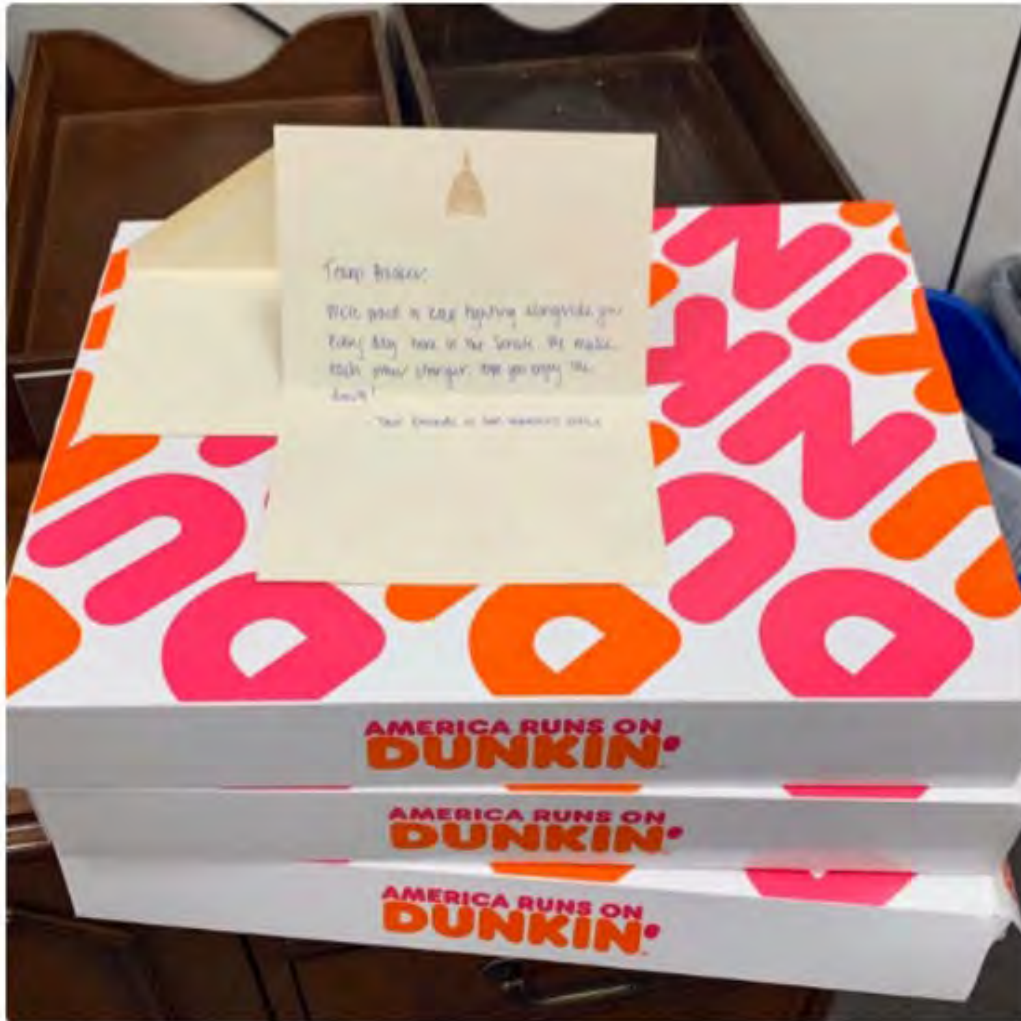


**Kristin Lynch**  
@Lyncherator



"We're proud to continue fighting alongside you in the Senate."

Thanks for the donuts and pick-me-up Team  
[@SenWarren!](#) 🙌🙌



🤍 142 5:12 PM - Jan 14, 2020 · Office of Senator Cory Booker



[See Kristin Lynch's other Tweets](#)



And it finally rained in Melbourne:



Heavy rain, flash floods and severe thunderstorms swept over the Australian city. The very-welcome storm is expected to hit fire-affected parts of New South Wales and Victoria later this week, [the Guardian reports](#).

#### **QUOTE OF THE DAY:**

"Lyndon Johnson was sort of a tough guy. Can you imagine his phone calls? He's probably looking down, or looking up," Trump said during his rally in Wisconsin last night, suggesting that LBJ may be in hell. ([HuffPost](#))

#### **VIDEOS OF THE DAY:**

Stephen Colbert did his show live last night so he could cover the Democratic debate:



And then he wondered why Trump would talk about dishwashers during his rally in Milwaukee:



Trevor Noah opened his post-debate monologue by pointing out the demographics of the group of Democratic candidates who remain in the race:



Seth Meyers took a break from politics to introduce us all to some teen slang:



U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson wants Brits to pitch in and raise half a million pounds so that Big Ben can bong for Brexit:



**BBC Politics**   
@BBCPolitics



“The bongos cost £500,000... but we’re working up a plan so that people can bung a bob for a Big Ben bong”

Boris Johnson says “we need to restore the clapper, in order to bong Big Ben on Brexit night, and that is expensive” [#BBCBreakfast](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53887488) [bbc.in/3887aKb](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53887488)



♡ 1,218 8:26 AM - Jan 14, 2020



💬 2,341 people are talking about this



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**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Lev Parnas's interviews, and documents, tie Trump more directly to the Ukraine pressure campaign  
**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 9:47:26 AM

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

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**Lev Parnas's interviews, and documents, tie Trump more directly to the Ukraine pressure campaign**



Lev Parnas's first TV interview on Ukraine, annotated



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA:** Documents and interviews provided by Rudy Giuliani's former associate Lev Parnas expand the available body of evidence to answer those famous questions posed by Howard Baker during Watergate: What did the president know, and when did he know it?

"President Trump knew exactly what was going on. He was aware of all my movements," Parnas told MSNBC's Rachel Maddow [in an interview](#) broadcast on Wednesday night. "I wouldn't do anything without the consent of Rudy Giuliani or the president."

Parnas faces felony campaign finance charges unrelated to President Trump's impeachment.

“I am betting my whole life that Trump knew exactly everything that was going on that Rudy Giuliani was doing in Ukraine,” Parnas told the New York Times in [a separate interview](#).

**The House Intelligence Committee released [an additional 390 pages](#) of material last night that was turned over by Parnas’s lawyer.** A calendar entry shows Parnas had a scheduled breakfast with Trump in New York on Sept. 26, even after the whistleblower complaint jumpstarted the process that led to the president’s impeachment. Other photos, texts and calendar entries show Parnas [exchanging messages](#) with a top official at the pro-Trump super PAC America First Action and someone else who is close to Donald Trump Jr. “I am officially part of team trump,” Parnas texted an associate at one point.

**Parnas, as a Russian speaker, helped coordinate Giuliani’s outreach to Ukrainian sources and directly communicated with an array of top Ukrainian officials.** One of them was Yuri Lutsenko, at the time Ukraine’s top prosecutor and an ally of then-Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, who would lose his bid for reelection to Volodymyr Zelensky. Ukrainian officials had “no reason to speak to me” other than the fact that they understood him to be an emissary of the American president, Parnas told Maddow: “Why would President Zelensky’s inner circle ... or President Poroshenko meet with me? Who am I? They were told to meet with me.”

**The first tranche of documents [released on Tuesday](#) night by House investigators included a message from Giuliani to Parnas saying that he had involved someone he only referred to as “no 1” in efforts to lift a U.S. visa ban on a former Ukrainian prosecutor**



who was planning to come to the United States to make negative claims about Joe Biden. **Parnas told Maddow that he understood “no 1” to be Trump himself.**

Giuliani also wrote this in a May letter to President-elect Zelensky: “In my capacity as personal counsel to President Trump and with his knowledge and consent, I request a meeting with you...”

**-- Evidence of the president’s hands-on role bolsters the Democratic case that Trump himself abused his power, not outside advisers who were pursuing personal interests in the president’s name.** Tying the president more closely to the efforts to coerce the Ukrainian government into announcing an investigation into Hunter Biden and Burisma could help Democratic impeachment managers make the case that there was **corrupt intent** behind Trump’s decision to stonewall Congress’s investigation by defying subpoenas for documents and blocking aides from testifying.



President Trump meets with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in September. (Saul Loeb/AFP via Getty Images)

**-- In his July 25 call with Zelensky, in which Trump requested “a favor” when his Ukrainian counterpart brought up his desire to buy Javelin antitank missiles to fend off the ongoing Russian invasion of his country, the president also asked Ukraine’s president to cooperate with Giuliani.** “Mr. Giuliani is a highly respected man,” Trump told Zelensky, according to [the rough transcript](#) released by the White House. “He was the mayor of New York City, a great mayor, and I would like him to call you. ... Rudy very much knows what’s happening and he is a very capable guy. If you could speak to him that would be great.”

**-- This is far from the only evidence directly linking Trump himself to the pressure campaign against Ukraine.** One example: “Clear direction from POTUS to continue to hold,” Mike Duffey, associate national security programs director at the Office of Management and Budget, emailed a Pentagon official on Aug. 30, [according to Just Security](#), using the acronym for President of the United States.

**-- Parnas said Giuliani told him after meeting with Trump at the White House that the message to deliver when he met with Ukrainians was that “it wasn’t just military aid, it was all aid” that would be frozen until “the announcement of the Biden investigation.”** Trump has strenuously denied that he ever authorized such a quid pro quo. “It was never about corruption,” Parnas told Maddow. “It was it strictly about Burisma, which included

Hunter Biden and Joe Biden.”

**-- Giuliani, who remains one of the president’s personal lawyers, declined to offer specific responses to Parnas’s claims.** “Who cares? Believe him at your peril,” he [texted](#) Josh Dawsey.

**-- Parnas explained how they approached people in Kyiv. When he would meet with a senior Ukrainian official, he told Maddow, he would put Giuliani on the phone.** “The first thing I did is to introduce myself and tell them, ‘I’m here on behalf of Rudy Giuliani and the president of the United States, and I’d like to put you on speakerphone,’” Parnas said. “We put Rudy on the phone. Rudy relayed to him basically that we were there on behalf of the president of the United States.”

**-- Parnas said he knew that Giuliani wasn’t freelancing because he heard Trump talking to him on the phone.** “I was with Rudy when he would speak to the president, plenty of times,” Parnas said, adding that he was “in constant contact” with Giuliani – four or five days some weeks – and that Trump phoned “a lot of times” when he and Giuliani were golfing. Parnas said Trump talks “very loudly” on the phone. That’s also what State Department Foreign Service officer David Holmes testified when he explained how he overheard part of U.S. Ambassador to the E.U. Gordon Sondland’s cellphone conversation with Trump as they ate lunch at [a restaurant in Kyiv](#).

**-- The president said after Parnas was initially indicted for unrelated campaign finance violations that he might have posed for a picture with him, but that he doesn’t know him.** Parnas said Trump “lied” about this. “I mean, we’re not friends,” he said. “Me and

him didn't watch football games together. We didn't eat hot dogs. But he knew exactly who we were. He knew exactly who I was, especially because I interacted with him at a lot of events."

**An [email](#) from October shows counsel to the president Jay Sekulow telling former Trump attorney John Dowd that he spoke with Trump about Parnas.** "The president consents to allowing your representation of Mr. Parnas and Mr. [Igor Fruman]," Sekulow wrote, referring to the other Giuliani associate who has also been indicted but has not spoken publicly. Dowd no longer represents Parnas.





Lev Parnas and Rudy Giuliani pose for a picture. (House Intelligence Committee)

-- **“Everyone was in the loop,” Sondland testified in November. Parnas recalled that quote when Maddow asked about whether Vice President Pence knew what Trump and Giuliani were doing. “He couldn’t have not known,” Parnas said of Pence, who has insisted he did not know.**

**Parnas also said “it’s impossible” that Attorney General Bill Barr didn’t know what he and Giuliani were up to in Ukraine. “Mr. Barr absolutely knew everything,” Parnas said. “Attorney General Barr was basically on the team.”** Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec called this “100% false” in a statement.

**And Parnas said he worked with House Intelligence Committee ranking member Devin Nunes (R-Calif.) and one of his top aides. “He knew very well that he knew what was going on,” Parnas said of**

Nunes. "He knew what's happening. He knows who I am." When call logs showed that Nunes and Parnas spoke, the congressman initially claimed he "didn't really recall" talking to Parnas. [On Fox News](#) last night, the congressman said he's refreshed his memory and downplayed their conversation. "I remember that call, which was very odd, random, talking about random things," said Nunes. "And I said, 'Great, just talk to my staff,' and boom boom boom."

**-- Stay tuned: Additional records that Parnas turned over to the House are still expected to be released.** Investigators are reviewing them. And Parnas wants to testify during the Senate impeachment trial. "I want to get the truth out," he said. "Things happened that need to get out, and I think the world needs to know."

**-- Two related stories that broke this morning:**

**1) The Government Accountability Office, a nonpartisan agency that reports to Congress, concluded that the White House violated federal law in its hold on security aid to Ukraine last year.** [Jeff Stein, Ellen Nakashima and Erica Werner report](#) that the GAO found that the Trump administration violated a law that governs how the White House disburses money approved by Congress. "Faithful execution of the law does not permit the President to substitute his own policy priorities for those that Congress has enacted into law," the decision states. "OMB withheld funds for a policy reason, which is not permitted under the Impoundment Control Act." An OMB spokeswoman said the White House disagrees with "the GAO's opinion." ([Read the eight-page legal opinion for yourself.](#))

**2) Ukrainian authorities announced a probe into the possible**

**surveillance of U.S. Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch before she was dismissed from her post by the Trump administration.** [David Stern and Isabelle Khurshudyan report](#): “The statement by Ukraine’s Interior Ministry followed the disclosure [from Parnas’s files of] ... messages with Robert F. Hyde, a Connecticut Republican who is running for Congress. In those exchanges, Parnas is informed about Yovanovitch’s physical location. ... In a separate probe, **Ukraine investigators said they were looking into a suspected Russian hack into computers at Ukrainian gas company Burisma**, which is at the center of the impeachment inquiries. ... **Interior Minister Arsen Avakov met Thursday with an FBI representative based in Ukraine** and officially requested U.S. assistance in the two cases.”

Parnas told Maddow he did not take Hyde’s claims seriously, and Hyde said in a televised interview with Eric Bolling that he was joking in his messages and did not monitor her. **“Hyde, who told Parnas he was with a ‘private security’ team in Kyiv, was involuntarily committed to a psychiatric hospital last year after police were called to Trump’s Doral resort outside Miami, [police and court records show](#).** Doral police said Hyde insisted his life was in danger and that he believed painters and landscape workers were trying to harm him. One week after the incident in Doral, a 34-year-old political consultant obtained a temporary protection order against Hyde because of ‘constant harassment and stalking,’ according to records in Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The consultant alleged that several incidents occurred at the Trump International Hotel in the District.”



The House sergeant at arms and clerk lead the seven impeachment managers through the Capitol Rotunda to deliver the articles of impeachment to the Senate. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

### **MORE ON IMPEACHMENT:**

-- With **pomp and circumstance**, the House delivered the two articles of impeachment to the Senate last night, laying the groundwork for Trump's impeachment trial. [Elise Viebeck](#), [Rachael Bade](#) and [Seung Min Kim](#) report: "The impeachment managers' brief ceremonial journey across the Capitol — a month after the House voted to impeach Trump — relinquished Democratic control over a process that is expected to end in the president's election-year acquittal by the Republican-led Senate. ... House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) declared that Trump was guilty of 'an assault on the Constitution of the United States' and rejected criticism that his impeachment was politically motivated. ... Senate Majority



Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) attacked the House's inquiry as 'unprecedented and dangerous' and accused Democrats of 'pure factionalism.' ... Privately, McConnell and other senior Republicans still hope a majority of senators will think they have heard enough ... to move to a vote to determine whether Trump should be removed from office. **Several closely-watched Republican senators declined to say whether they believed Hunter Biden was worthy of summoning** ... Democrats were unanimous in their view that Hunter Biden's testimony would be irrelevant. ...

**"The procedural formalities of the trial are expected to begin [this afternoon] with the reading of the articles; the swearing-in of Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., who will preside; and the swearing-in of the senators as jurors.** After that, the Senate is expected to recess for the weekend; the trial will begin in earnest Tuesday, according to McConnell. ... Asked whether Trump would go ahead with plans to deliver his State of the Union address on Feb. 4 even if the impeachment trial hasn't concluded by then, a senior administration official told reporters, 'I think it's extraordinarily unlikely that we'd be going beyond two weeks.'"

**-- Roberts will administer an oath this afternoon to every senator that's meaningfully different from the one they took when they joined Congress. Now, they are jurors in a trial, and they are pledging to "do impartial justice."** This oath is prescribed by [Senate rules](#): "I solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that in all things appertaining to the trial of the impeachment of [Donald John Trump], now pending, I will do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws: So help me God."

**-- Trump's legal team, eyeing a swift trial, is aiming to block witnesses and cast doubt on the two charges against the president.** [Toluse Olorunnipa and Josh Dawsey report](#): "The White House, which previously supported a more expansive trial in the GOP-led Senate, has now accepted the idea that senators should make quick work of acquitting Trump. ... White House aides are also gaming out how to manage Trump during the trial, which they expect him to watch and possibly tweet about while it is underway, as he did during the House impeachment hearings ... Trump allies plan to have several surrogates on television defending the president during the trial. **Republican House members, many of whom jockeyed for official roles on the defense team for the Senate trial, will instead fan out across television networks** to ensure that the president's message gets out and that Trump feels he is receiving a robust defense..."

**-- The diverse, seven-member team of impeachment managers picked by Pelosi is smaller than the 13-member squad of white men that made the case against Bill Clinton to the Senate in 1999, reflecting the speaker's more tightly controlled approach.** [Mike DeBonis reports](#): "All seven managers have professional backgrounds in the law. [Val] Demings, 62, is the only non-lawyer, but she is steeped in law enforcement, having served as the first female chief of the Orlando Police Department. ... Three of the seven are women. Demings and [Hakeem] Jeffries are African American; [Sylvia] Garcia is Latina. Garcia and [Jason] Crow — besides representing a historic freshman class — also bring geographic diversity to a group otherwise drawn from coastal states."

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#### 2020 WATCH:

-- Elizabeth Warren accused Bernie Sanders of calling her a “liar on national TV” in a tense confrontation after Tuesday’s Democratic debate. [Annie Linskey reports](#): “Their confrontation, visible to viewers, began when Warren walked toward Sanders and refused to shake his outstretched hand. ‘I think you called me a liar on national TV,’ Warren told Sanders. ‘What?’ asked Sanders. ‘I think you called me a liar on national TV,’ Warren said. ‘You know, let’s not do it right now. If you want to have that discussion, we’ll have that discussion,’ Sanders said. ‘Anytime,’ Warren said. ‘You called *me* a liar,’ Sanders said, adding: ‘You told me — all right, let’s not do it now.’ ... CNN [reported on Monday](#) that Sanders had told Warren a woman could not win the presidency. Sanders denied the account.”

-- Liberal leaders are panicking that the Warren-Sanders rift is

**going to cause their faction to lose the nomination.** [Annie Linskey, Sean Sullivan and Isaac Stanley-Becker report](#): "Social media users identifying themselves as Sanders supporters used snake icons to symbolize Warren's ostensible duplicity, played up her Republican roots and circulated a #NeverWarren hashtag. Warren's backers, while taking a less aggressive tone, nonetheless revived questions of whether many of Sanders's supporters are sexist and whether he contributed to the party's disastrous 2016 loss with a display of self-centered petulance. ... Increasingly alarmed liberal leaders scrambled to make peace. 'Many of the voices in the progressive community are warning we cannot have a knife fight in a phone booth, or a circular firing squad,' said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers. That message, she said, is being sent to the Sanders and Warren camps 'privately and publicly.'"

-- **Rep. Liz Cheney, the No. 3 in House GOP leadership, announced that she will not run for the open U.S. Senate seat in Wyoming, opting instead to stay in the House.** ([Felicia Sonmez and Mike DeBonis](#))

-- **The Post's Opinion desk invited the Democratic presidential candidates who didn't qualify for the debate – [Michael Bennet, Mike Bloomberg, John Delaney, Deval Patrick and Andrew Yang](#) – to answer a question they wish they would have been able to if they had been onstage.**

-- **"[There's still time to hear out Deval Patrick,](#)" inveighs the Editorial Board.**

-- **The two women still in the race are raising more money from**

women than their male opponents. ([Michelle Ye Hee Lee and Anu Narayanswamy](#))

-- **Pete Buttigieg's campaign cybersecurity chief resigned over differences with campaign leadership over how to manage information security.** Buttigieg's campaign was the only Democratic 2020 team with a full-time cyber staffer. ([WSJ](#))

-- **Individual donors are now able to give over half a million dollars directly to support Trump's reelection, making a mockery of the intent of contribution limits.** [Michelle Ye Hee Lee reports](#): "Under an agreement announced Wednesday by Trump Victory, a joint fundraising committee for the Trump campaign and the Republican National Committee, a single donor can give as much as \$580,600 this year to support Trump's reelection — higher than the committee's previous caps on contributions. **That means the Republican National Committee's biggest contributors could end up having shelled out as much as \$1.6 million to support Trump's 2020 reelection over the course of the four-year election cycle** ... Trump Victory, which had been raising money for Trump 2020 and the RNC, was able to raise the top giving level by signing up 22 state parties to raise money together, which allows the committee to raise its contribution cap. The number of state parties supported through Trump Victory could expand, raising the possibility that the maximum contribution could grow even larger."

-- **Justin Amash – the sole Independent in the House – hasn't committed to a presidential run. But he hasn't ruled one out, either.** [From the Dispatch](#): "With the incredible volatility in American politics over the past two decades, marked by the record-low faith in

Washington and the institutions of the federal government, taking such a leap seems less crazy today than it might have just a few years ago. As Amash himself put it last week: 'Is there any better time to have a president who might be not from either party?' ... He wants to be clear that he's not abandoning his re-election bid—yet. 'Just to be clear, I am running for office as an independent for, you know, my congressional seat. And I've filed for that, and you know, we're, we're doing what it takes to, to win that race.' One more time. He begins to speak more cautiously. 'At some point you'll be at, we'll be at the point where I have to rule out, you know, running for president. And I'm not at that point yet. But, you know, we're probably getting closer to that point now.'"

-- **"On ordinary legislative matters, most members of Congress don't think anymore,"** [Amash told Rolling Stone](#). "I think a lot of members of Congress are used to that lifestyle and they like it. They don't want responsibility. They want the job, not the responsibility."

-- **Jared Kushner, the president's senior adviser and son-in-law, is on the cover of Time magazine talking about his relationship with the president:** "The portrait that emerges from interviews with Kushner, current and former White House officials, lawmakers and people close to him is of an increasingly confident operator who is learning to pull the levers of power in the White House and throughout Washington in ways that may surprise critics. **Listening to Kushner describe his role makes it clear that he was never going to be the moderating force that Democrats hoped for and Trump loyalists feared.** He doesn't see his job as steering Trump to a decision. He sees himself as the enabler of the President's agenda."

-- **Kimberly Guilfoyle, the former Fox News personality and current girlfriend of Donald Trump Jr., will serve as a national finance chair of the Trump Victory Finance Committee.** ([The Hill](#))



President Trump and China's Vice Premier Liu sign the 'phase one' trade deal

## **THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

-- **A week before Germany, France and Britain formally accused Iran of breaching the 2015 nuclear deal, the Trump administration issued a private threat to the Europeans that shocked leaders in all three countries.** [John Hudson and Souad Mekhennet report](#): “If they refused to call out Tehran and initiate an arcane dispute mechanism in the deal, the United States would impose a 25 percent tariff on European automobiles ... Within days, the three countries would formally accuse Iran of violating the deal, triggering a recourse provision that could reimpose United Nations sanctions on Iran and unravel the last remaining vestiges of the Obama-era agreement. The U.S. effort to coerce European foreign policy through tariffs, a move



one European official equated to 'extortion,' represents a new level of hardball tactics with the United States' oldest allies, underscoring the extraordinary tumult in the transatlantic relationship.”

**-- Trump signed a partial trade deal with China.** [David J. Lynch reports](#): “The deal reflected the president’s distinctive reshaping of American trade policy, relying on government dictates rather than market forces and establishing a direct enforcement system outside the World Trade Organization. The 86-page agreement, which comes after a protracted standoff between the two nations, commits China to buy an extra \$200 billion in American products over the next two years. Under a novel enforcement mechanism, the two sides have agreed to resolve any disputes through a process of direct consultations that will be backstopped by the threat of new import tariffs. ... With Chinese Vice Premier Liu He and three other senior Chinese officials standing by his side, the president complained that China had taken advantage of the United States on trade for years. ‘It was pillage,’ Trump said. ... The deal faces widespread skepticism about China’s ability to meet ambitious targets for buying \$200 billion in American products over the next two years, as well as prospects for resolving compliance disputes. Robert E. Lighthizer, the president’s chief trade negotiator, said the deal contained important new Chinese commitments to protect American intellectual property, halt coercive technology transfers and refrain from using currency devaluation as a trade weapon.”

**-- A former senior White House adviser concluded that Trump was “at times dangerously uninformed” about foreign affairs and history.** [Ashley Parker writes up](#) some of juicy nuggets from “A Very

[Stable Genius](#),” a new book by our Post colleagues Phil Rucker and Carol Leonnig: **“Trump reveals himself as woefully uninformed about the basics of geography, incorrectly telling Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ‘It’s not like you’ve got China on your border.’** ... [T]he authors write that ‘Modi’s eyes bulged out in surprise.’ ... [O]ne Trump aide concludes Modi probably ‘left that meeting and said, ‘This is not a serious man. I cannot count on this man as a partner.’” After the meeting, the aide explains to them, “the Indians took a step back’ in their diplomatic relations with the United States.”

**After Trump met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Hamburg in 2017, Trump declared himself a Russian expert and dismissed the expertise of then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson,** who had negotiated with Putin for decades as an Exxon executive: “I have had a two-hour meeting with Putin,” Trump told Tillerson, according to the book. “That’s all I need to know. ... I’ve sized it all up. I’ve got it.”

Follow the money: “In spring 2017, **Trump also clashed with Tillerson when he told him he wanted his help getting rid of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, a 1977 law that prevents U.S. firms and individuals from bribing foreign officials for business deals.** ‘It’s just so unfair that American companies aren’t allowed to pay bribes to get business overseas,’ Trump says, according to the book. ‘We’re going to change that.’ ... The book, the duo writes in an author’s note, is based on hundreds of hours of interviews with more than 200 sources, corroborated, when possible, by calendars, diary entries, internal memos and even private video recordings.”

**-- The special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction**

**told Congress that U.S. officials have routinely lied to the public during the 18-year war. [Craig Whitlock reports](#):** “‘There’s an odor of mendacity throughout the Afghanistan issue . . . mendacity and hubris,’ John F. Sopko said in testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee. . . . ‘We have created an incentive to almost require people to lie.’ As an example, Sopko said U.S. officials have lied in the past about the number of Afghan children enrolled in schools — a key marker of progress touted by the Obama administration — even though they ‘knew the data was bad.’ He also said U.S. officials falsely claimed major gains in Afghan life expectancy that were statistically impossible to achieve. In addition, Sopko criticized the Trump administration for classifying information that shows the war is going badly, including data on Afghan troop casualties and assessments of the Taliban’s strength. . . . The House Foreign Affairs Committee summoned Sopko to testify in response to a series of articles published last month in [The Post] that revealed [how senior U.S. officials failed to tell the truth about the war.](#)”

**-- The Taliban is ready to reduce violence in exchange for a peace deal, Pakistan claims. [Susannah George reports](#):** “Shah Mahmood Qureshi said ‘a good development’ occurred Thursday and that the ‘Taliban have showed their readiness to accept the demand for reduction in violence.’ Speaking in a video statement released by the Foreign Ministry, Qureshi added, ‘I believe that this is a step forward towards the peace agreement.’ Separately, the Associated Press reported that Taliban officials said the group gave the U.S. envoy in the talks ‘a document outlining their offer for a temporary cease-fire in Afghanistan that would last between seven and 10 days.’”

-- The past decade was the hottest ever recorded on the planet, driven by an acceleration of temperature increases in the past five years. ([Brady Dennis](#), [Andrew Freedman](#) and [John Muyskens](#))

-- Major intrigue in the Kremlin: Three hours after Putin forced the resignation of Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, who once served as president, he offered the post to Mikhail Mishustin, the head of the Russian tax service, who is viewed as a possible placeholder. [Isabelle Khurshudyan reports from Moscow](#): “The broad moves came shortly after Putin gave his annual address to Russian lawmakers and proposed major constitutional changes such as transferring more power to parliament, including the ability to name the country’s prime minister. Currently, the premier is selected by the president. Putin took advantage of that by promptly nominating Mishustin, who has not been part of Russia’s top-tier leadership before.”

-- Medvedev has long been part of Putin’s St. Petersburg inner circle, but Putin dropped him like a hot rock so he could scapegoat him for the country's domestic challenges. [Robyn Dixon explains](#): “Putin reaped popularity gains inside Russia after he annexed Crimea in 2014 and rebuilt Russian global clout in the Middle East and elsewhere. But Medvedev, as prime minister, was left as a convenient scapegoat for Russia’s domestic problems: a stagnant economy, low wages and pensions, and enduring corruption. ... One reason for [Putin’s] removal of Medvedev may have been fears that the prime minister’s unpopularity would drag Putin’s approval ratings down from their current position in the high 60s. An October opinion poll by the Levada Center found that 72 percent of Russians believed

the government's interests were not aligned with those of the population, and 53 percent thought the government lived off the people and did not care how they survived.”

**-- Dozens were arrested as protests resumed in Lebanon following weeks of relative calm. [Sarah Dadouch reports](#):**

“Authorities said 47 police officers were injured and 59 people were arrested during clashes on Tuesday, which came after weeks of calm. On Wednesday night, hundreds of protesters surrounded the facility where those arrested were being held. Since October, the country has been struggling with political turmoil and severe economic uncertainty.”

**-- The Murdoch family's discord is playing out publicly. [Sarah Ellison reports](#):** “It took an epic natural disaster to publicly surface the long-standing tension within one of the world's wealthiest and most powerful families. In an unusual, brief statement, James and Kathryn Murdoch voiced their ‘frustration’ this week with what they see as the Murdoch family empire's role in climate change denial. The comments, while focused narrowly on the way Murdoch-owned media properties have covered the wildfires in Australia, highlighted the family's underlying discord. (The fires have claimed 27 lives and an estimated 1 billion animals.) Since James officially left the company founded by his father Rupert Murdoch — after having lost out to his older brother, Lachlan, in a succession race — James and his wife, Kathryn, have become increasingly outspoken about their views. Many of their perspectives directly contradict the editorial direction of the Murdochs' properties, including Fox News and News Corp. Australia, the most dominant force in the Australian media landscape.”

**-- Prince Harry and Meghan's decision to quit their roles as senior royals has put Queen Elizabeth II in the role of crisis manager – and family brand protector – once again.** [William Booth reports](#): “Of all the thinly sourced tabloid narratives about feuding royal houses and their woes, the one with zero traction is that Elizabeth is losing it. She is the epitome of cool under pressure, able to move from one challenge to the next, said Penny Junor, a royal historian. ... It is worth noting that many of the challenges Elizabeth has faced have been generated by the family itself — through a long litany of affairs, divorces, sketchy financial dealings and drunken mischief.”

**-- Europe is at risk of being torn asunder: Germany's Angela Merkel, in a warning to the E.U., says Brexit must be “a wake-up call.”** [From the Financial Times](#): “Berlin worries a post-Brexit UK that reserves the right to diverge from EU rules on goods, workers' rights, taxes and environmental standards could create a serious economic competitor on its doorstep. ... Europe must, she says, respond by upping its game, becoming ‘attractive, innovative, creative, a good place for research and education.’”



Residents who support continued refugee resettlement hold signs during a December meeting in Bismarck, N.D. (James MacPherson/AP)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERSHADOWED:**

**-- A federal judge temporarily halted the Trump administration's policy allowing local governments to block refugees, saying it is likely "unlawful." [Ann E. Marimow](#) and [Maria Sachetti](#) report:**

"Giving states and local governments the power to consent to the resettlement of refugees — which is to say veto power to determine whether refugees will be received in their midst — flies in the face of clear Congressional intent,' [District Judge Peter] Messitte wrote in a 31-page decision. The judge said the administration's grant of a veto power is 'arbitrary and capricious as well as inherently susceptible to

hidden bias.”

-- **“The Trump administration is moving to strengthen protections for students who want to pray or worship in public schools and proposing changes that would make it easier for religious groups that provide social services to access federal funds,”** [Moriah Balingit reports](#). “Nine federal agencies, including the Education Department, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Justice Department, are proposing rules that would reduce requirements for those religious organizations. The rules would lift an Obama-era executive order that compelled religious organizations to tell the people they serve that they can receive the same service from a secular provider. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said her department plans to remind schools that students and teachers have a constitutional right to pray in public schools, and that student-led religious organizations should get to access public facilities just like secular ones.”

-- **The Trump administration plans to impose several new requirements on billions of dollars in relief aid for Puerto Rico.** [Arelis R. Hernández and Jeff Stein report](#): “Under the parameters the Trump administration is proposing, Puerto Rico’s government will have to agree to give new oversight authority to the island’s federally mandated Fiscal Control Board — an appointed, independent government body — to receive funding for certain federal projects, officials said. **Puerto Rico also will have to agree to pay federal contractors working on disaster relief less than \$15 an hour,** despite a recent executive order mandating the rate.”

-- **The Treasury’s internal watchdog is probing the Trump**



**administration's Opportunity Zone program.** [From NBC News:](#)

“Richard LeFrak, a friend of Trump's, and the family interests of Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, among others, could benefit from possible projects in designated opportunity zones. ... The program, which Sens. Cory Booker, D-N.J., and Tim Scott, R-S.C., added to the 2017 tax bill, was meant to spur growth in underserved areas, and it prompted the designation of 8,800 lower-income census tracts as opportunity zones where investors could reap significant tax benefits. Last October, Booker and Democratic Reps. Ron Kind of Wisconsin and Emanuel Cleaver of Missouri sent a letter to the Treasury Department's Office of Inspector General asking how the zones were chosen.”

**-- Virginia ratified the Equal Rights Amendment in a historic**

**vote.** [Gregory S. Schneider, Laura Vozzella and Patricia Sullivan](#)

[report:](#) “Numerous legal hurdles still have to be cleared before the ERA, which prohibits discrimination based on sex, would become part of the Constitution. Critics say various deadlines for ratification have long since passed. But supporters were jubilant that Virginia, after years of failure, is poised to become the 38th state to approve the amendment. They pledged to mount a massive national campaign to enact it. ‘For the women of Virginia and the women of America, the resolution has finally passed,’ Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-Fairfax), the first female House speaker in the 401-year history of Virginia’s legislature, said in announcing the result of the House vote. ...

**Republican lawmakers, who bottled up the ERA in subcommittee during their 26 years in control of the House of Delegates, tried to postpone action with parliamentary challenges.** Several also said the vote was merely symbolic, because it remains unclear

whether the amendment can actually be ratified so long after its initial approval.”

**-- The Navy has concluded that no significant environmental harm would come from its proposed tripling of the size of a Nevada bombing range. From the AP:** “Adding more than 1,000 square miles ... to the range at Naval Air Station Fallon 65 miles ... east of Reno is critical to meeting combat training needs for modern aircraft and weapons systems that have outgrown training capabilities over the past two decades, the Navy says. Critics say that in addition to adversely impacting fish and wildlife, the expansion would restrict access to public land for hunters, ATV riders and back-country explorers, including at a national wildlife refuge. **The expanded range would cover an area half the size of the state of Delaware.**”

**-- A new lawsuit claims Jeffrey Epstein trafficked girls in the Caribbean until 2018. From the Times:** “Mr. Epstein, a wealthy financier who died by suicide in a Manhattan jail last year, was bringing **girls as young as 11 and 12** to his secluded estate in the Virgin Islands, known as Little Saint James, and **kept a computerized database to track the availability and movements of women and girls**, the lawsuit said. The lawsuit, which was filed by Denise N. George, the attorney general of the Virgin Islands, broadened the dimensions of the wrongdoing in which Mr. Epstein was said to have engaged. ... The suit was filed against Mr. Epstein’s estate and seeks the forfeiture of Little Saint James and Mr. Epstein’s second private island, Great Saint James, as well as the dissolution of numerous shell companies he established in the territory that officials have said acted as fronts for his sex trafficking enterprise.”

-- Trump will host college football national champion LSU on Friday to celebrate its perfect season. ([Jacob Bogage](#))

### SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

The CNN audio of Warren confronting Sanders after the debate also featured Tom Steyer saying he just wanted to say hi. The billionaire joked after the tape came out:



Someone added the theme song of HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm" to the footage:



**Michael Schwab** ✓  
@michaelschwab13



Here is Tom Steyer's interaction with Sanders and Warren to Curb Your Enthusiasm #DemocraticDebate



♡ 2,192 4:50 AM - Jan 15, 2020



💬 688 people are talking about this



Sanders downplayed his clash with Warren to a CNN reporter who was assigned to stake out his office:



Rep. Ann Kuster (D-N.H.) backs Pete Buttigieg. Hers has been one of the most sought-after endorsements in the state that has the first primary:



A BBC reporter noted that there were no women at the table when Trump met with China representatives:



**Tara McKelvey**   
@Tara\_Mckelvey



The president brought me and other reporters briefly into a room at the White House before lunch with the Chinese guests. Jared Kushner and others were there. Number of men at the table: 26. Number of women: 0. (Female interpreters scooted back and helped with the conversation).



♡ 751 7:13 PM - Jan 15, 2020



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Elsewhere, however, women are finally getting seats at the table:

 **Alexander Nazaryan**   
@alexnazaryan 

All 13 of the Republican managers for the Clinton impeachment trial were white men.

For the Trump impeachment trial, Speaker Pelosi named three managers who are people of color and three women. [news.yahoo.com/pelosi-names-i...](https://news.yahoo.com/pelosi-names-i...)



 370 5:10 PM - Jan 15, 2020 

 136 people are talking about this 

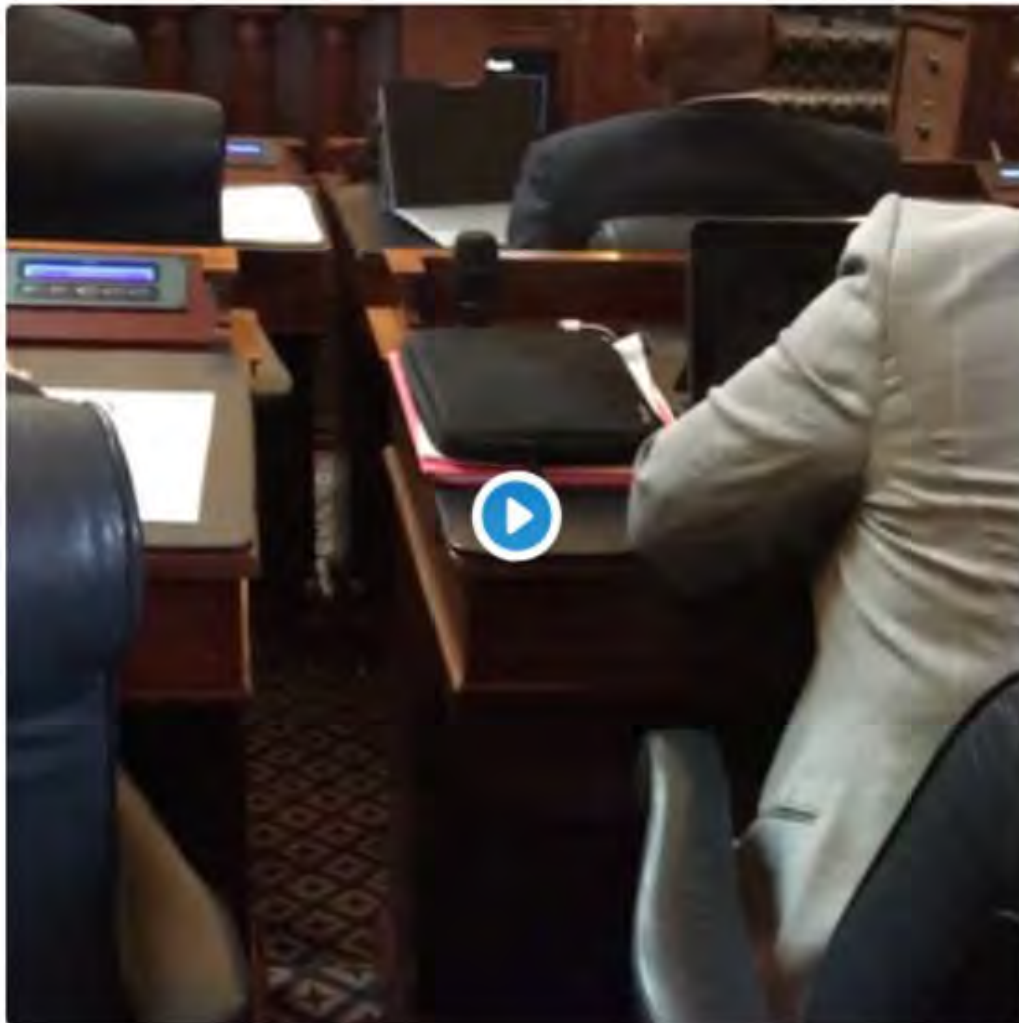
And Virginia's first openly transgender delegate celebrated the state ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment. It's the New Dominion:



**Danica Roem** ✓  
@pwcdanica



The Virginia House of Delegates just voted to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution of United States of America.  
"Equal rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex."



♥ 22.6K 6:22 PM - Jan 15, 2020

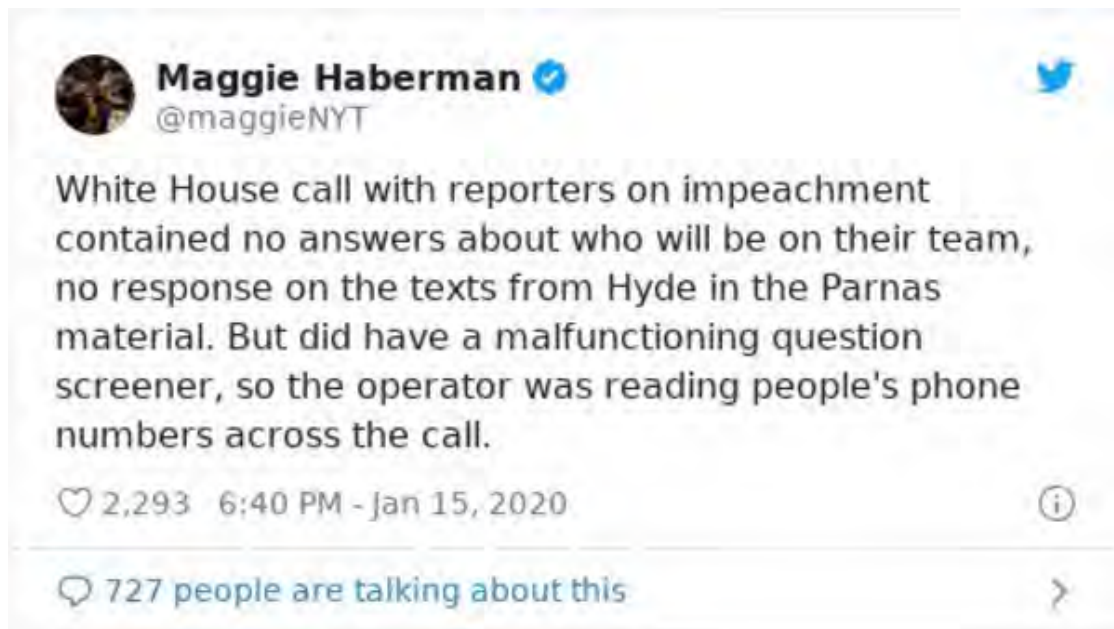


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The White House's background press call on impeachment had some technical issues:



Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) was criticized for dismissing the Parnas bombshells:



**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "It's like a foreign language," Trump said as he struggled to read aloud the Constitution early in his presidency, according to Rucker and Leonnig's new book. ([Parker](#))

## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Seth Meyers went through the trove of evidence Lev Parnas turned in to Democratic investigators:



Stephen Colbert decided that the new evidence doesn't make Rudy Giuliani look good:



Sam Bee reviewed Tuesday night's debate drama:



Andrew Yang wasn't on the debate stage on Tuesday, so the "Daily Show's" Ronny Chieng invited him to their own personal debate:



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# The Daily 202

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## Congress shows the ability to legislate through impeachment



Roberts sworn in, administers oath to senators



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: Moments before the start of the third presidential impeachment trial in U.S. history on Thursday, the Senate voted 89 to 10 to [approve](#) President Trump's landmark trade deal with Canada and Mexico.**

This rewrite of the 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement, which allows Trump to deliver on a signature campaign promise from 2016, is one of the most significant trade votes in a generation. It passed with overwhelming bipartisan support from a coalition of strange bedfellows, including the AFL-CIO and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Final passage came a day after Trump signed [a partial economic deal](#) with China, another political victory for a White House that's eager to defuse trade tensions in an election

year.

The subsequent reading of the two articles of impeachment and the swearing-in of the senators as jurors soon overshadowed these hard-fought triumphs for Trump. But the trade vote nevertheless gives cover for lawmakers in both parties to reassure constituents back home that they're getting results, even amid contentious deliberations over whether the president abused the power of his office to coerce a foreign government to boost his reelection prospects by announcing an investigation of Democratic challenger Joe Biden.

**Trump has boasted that the specter of impeachment, and the desire of Democrats not to look like they're doing nothing, got this deal across the finish line.** Last month, one day after voting almost entirely on party lines to impeach Trump, the House also [passed](#) the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement on a lopsided vote of 385 to 41. With their eyes on the fall elections, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) have separately pointed to the USMCA as proof that their side is focused on the pocketbook issues that voters care most about.





Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) rides the Senate subway to the Capitol. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

**-- Eight Senate Democrats and Bernie Sanders voted against the deal. But only one Republican broke with the president: Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.), perhaps the most outspoken advocate for free trade in Congress.** Toomey unsuccessfully raised procedural concerns about the USMCA on the Senate floor before the vote. “I was very disturbed to see a new trade agreement that's designed in part to *diminish* trade – very much the wrong direction,” he explained afterward in an interview. “I felt it was important to make a stand and make the case that this certainly shouldn't be a template for future agreements.”

**Toomey called me last night as he drove home to Pennsylvania for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend at the end of one of the most surreal days of his nine years in the Senate.** “It's just

very strange,” Toomey said. “There were moments that seemed surreal to me today in the Senate. It's just such an unusual moment.” Now sworn in as a juror, Toomey will spend the weekend at home and return for proceedings to begin in earnest on Tuesday.

**He has complained that Republicans got “rolled” because the Trump administration made too many concessions to Democrats in a desire to get something done.** He said “the worst provisions” in the new deal relate to automobiles. For example, there’s now a requirement that at least 30 percent of cars – and 40 percent by 2023 – must be made by workers who earn at least \$16 an hour. This will raise wages in Mexico, but Toomey said it will also raise prices to buy lower-end small cars that are assembled south of the border. The deal also sunsets after 16 years, meaning that the three countries will need to go through another renegotiation process, which Toomey fears will chill business investment by introducing a cloud of uncertainty about the future terms of trade.

**The USMCA was initially signed a year ago by Trump, but the requirement that it must first be ratified by the House gave Pelosi leverage to demand changes and concessions, including higher labor standards in Mexico, higher environmental standards and stronger enforcement mechanisms.** A team of nine House Democrats worked with U.S. Trade Representative Bob Lighthizer and his staff for months to reach a compromise. At Pelosi’s behest, the renegotiated deal also killed a provision pushed by pharmaceutical companies that would have guaranteed them 10 years of market exclusivity for biologics, a class of drugs that are especially costly.



Pat Toomey listens as President Trump speaks about trade policy during a 2018 meeting in the Cabinet Room at the White House. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

**-- Toomey isn't as flashy about it as some of his hardline colleagues who love to go on television, but the vote underscored his record as one of the most reliable fiscal conservatives in Congress. The 58-year-old served in the House for**

three terms until 2004. After narrowly losing a primary challenge that year against then-Republican Sen. Arlen Specter, Toomey served as president of the Club for Growth, the conservative group created to support open markets and oppose regulations. As Toomey geared up for a rematch against Specter in 2010, the incumbent changed parties after being promised Barack Obama's endorsement. But Specter lost in the Democratic primary to Joe Sestak. Toomey then won the seat that fall. He got narrowly reelected in one of the marquee races of 2016, as Trump became the first Republican presidential candidate to carry the Keystone State since 1988.

**Toomey has picked his fights carefully in the Trump era.** All told, he's voted with the president's position 83 percent of the time in the current Congress, according to the running tabulation [by FiveThirtyEight](#). But he's twice supported efforts to overturn Trump's declaration of a national emergency for border wall funding, and he backed the resolution of disapproval last February for withdrawing U.S. forces from Syria.

**Since Trump took office, the junior senator has voted against all the major omnibus spending bills and the bloated farm bill.** He's opposed raising the debt ceiling and joined small groups of senators in voting against hurricane relief packages that weren't paid for with spending cuts elsewhere. Many Republicans insisted on this throughout Obama's presidency but have reversed their approach under Trump. Toomey has stayed consistent on these kinds of votes.

**Throughout, trade has remained Toomey's signature issue.** "I've been very, very candid with everyone in the administration – from the president to the vice president and the trade representative – they

know exactly where I stand,” he told me. “I tried hard to persuade them of my point of view. I obviously failed, but to their credit, they always heard me out.”

**Trump campaigned four years ago as a protectionist, rejecting decades of Republican orthodoxy.** The president’s support for old-fashioned industrial policies and a reflexive inclination to impose tariffs on other countries – something he threatened to do against a trio of European leaders just last week if they didn’t cave to his demands on Iran – appear to be among his longest and most deeply-held beliefs.

**But Toomey said he believes “there’s generally still very broad support” for the concept of free trade in his party.** “If you asked the Republican senators if they consider themselves ‘free traders,’ I think the vast majority would say they do, but I acknowledge that there has always been a protectionist element,” he said. “There are protectionists among Republicans who would like to further restrict trade, and I do think it’s important for free traders to push back on that.”

McConnell said last month that the final deal was “not as good as I had hoped” but better than nothing. He and the vast majority of the GOP conference are loath to oppose Trump, especially on what he’s described as his top legislative priority.

**-- Toomey’s ultimate support for the president at the end of this impeachment trial is not in doubt. But the lone holdout among Senate Republicans on the USMCA offers a timely reminder that it’s still possible to hate the sin (protectionism, in this case) but still love the sinner (Trump).** “Look, I do support the president,” he

said. "I'm going to fully support his reelection campaign. I'm going to campaign for him. I think his policies have generally been terrific for the economy, and I think his foreign policy has made us more secure. But I have a separate election certificate. I was elected by the people of Pennsylvania to serve them in the Senate, and I have a responsibility to reach my own judgments and conclusions about policy, so occasionally I'm going to disagree with the president. When I do, I've got an obligation to take that stand."



Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) leaves a news conference on Thursday. (Julio Cortez/AP)

-- **Chuck Schumer was one of the Democrats who voted no.** The minority leader seems worried about a primary challenge from his left in 2022 by someone like Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. That also seemed to be a motivating factor for Sen. Ed Markey (Mass.), who voted no after his primary challenger Rep. Joe Kennedy III opposed

the deal last month. Schumer insisted that he voted no because the deal “does not address climate change” and includes “handouts for the oil and gas industry, such as lifting tariffs on tar sands.” Markey, a sponsor of the Green New Deal, also cited environmental concerns.

**Former, and perhaps future, presidential candidates Kirsten Gillibrand (N.Y.), Cory Booker (N.J.) and Kamala Harris (Calif.) had essentially boxed themselves into voting no while still in the running.** The remaining three Democratic opponents were Rhode Island’s senators, Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, plus Hawaii’s Brian Schatz.

**One of the most interesting clashes during the Democratic debate on Tuesday night in Des Moines was over this USMCA pact.** Sanders expressed his opposition while rivals Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar and Pete Buttigieg endorsed the deal, at least partly, to help Iowa farmers who have suffered from Trump’s trade wars.

Trying to sell the package to Democrats who traditionally oppose trade deals, **Pelosi bragged during a closed-door meeting with her caucus last month about the concessions that her team of negotiators got.** “We ate their lunch,” the Speaker said, according to multiple people in the room.

For his part, **Trump boasted that he gave little away.** “We left a little stuff for the union because we figured to get it signed, we will give a little bit and we did it, and then we have one great deal, and now you have the Democrats trying to take credit for this deal and that is okay,” the president said during his rally in Michigan on the night that he got

impeached by the House. “Whatever it takes.”

-- Programming note: The Daily 202 will not publish on Monday in honor of MLK Day.



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Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei leads Friday prayers in Tehran.  
(Khamenei website/via Reuters)

### **WHILE YOU WERE IN MORNING MEETINGS:**

**-- Leading Friday prayers in Iran, Iran's supreme leader said Trump is a "clown" who will push a "poisoned dagger" into the backs of the Iranian people. From the AP: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei "lashed out at Western countries, saying they are too weak to 'bring Iranians to their knees.' He said Britain, France and Germany, which this week triggered a dispute mechanism to try and bring Iran back into compliance with the unraveling 2015 nuclear agreement, were 'contemptible' governments and 'servants' of the United States."**

**-- The Pentagon belatedly acknowledged that 11 U.S. troops are being screened for traumatic brain injuries as a result of the Iranian missile attacks on Jan. 8 against two bases in Iraq,**

according to the [Wall Street Journal](#).

-- And the Taliban just signaled that some kind of agreement with the United States may be near. [Susannah George reports](#): “The two sides ‘discussed the signing of the agreement and the ceremony for it,’ Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen tweeted Friday. It’s unclear what agreement Shaheen is referring to. Neither Shaheen nor the State Department responded to requests for comment. ... Friday’s announcement comes after statements from Pakistani and Taliban officials that the insurgent group is prepared to reduce violence in an effort to reboot stalled peace talks. But those statements lacked specifics on how long it would last, where it would apply and whether it would include the cessation of attacks on both Afghan and American forces.”



Schiff reads articles of impeachment to Senate

**MORE ON IMPEACHMENT:**

-- Trump expanded his legal team to include Harvard emeritus law professor Alan Dershowitz, former Florida attorney general Pam Bondi and former independent counsels Ken Starr and Robert Ray. [Josh Dawsey and John Wagner report](#): “In an interview with The Washington Post, Dershowitz said he would present arguments at the Senate trial that obstruction of Congress and abuse of power do not reach the constitutional standard to impeach a president for high crimes and misdemeanors. Starr and Ray, who investigated Bill Clinton, are also joining the team, as well as Bondi, who had been helping Trump with messaging during the impeachment proceedings. Trump wanted Dershowitz and Bondi on the team because he thinks they are talented on TV and convincing, a White House official familiar with the selections said. Starr, he thinks, gives him credence because of his role in the Clinton impeachment. Trump’s team is being led by White House counsel Pat Cipollone and also includes Jay Sekulow, a personal lawyer to the president.”

-- The trial opened yesterday with rancor over [a swirl of new evidence and allegations](#) about Trump's dealings with Ukraine brought forth by Rudy Giuliani's former associate Lev Parnas. [Seung Min Kim, Rachael Bade, Mike DeBonis and Toluse Olorunnipa report](#): “Republican lawmakers appeared unswayed by the new information, focusing on attacking the Democratic-led investigation in the House for not uncovering the evidence before sending the impeachment articles to the Senate. ... Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) said it is the responsibility of the House, not the Senate, to gather evidence and present a case for impeachment. ... The chorus of Republicans unwilling to consider additional evidence served as an indication that Democrats will face an uphill climb in their

attempts to further build a case ... Democrats accused their Republican colleagues of turning a blind eye to incriminating evidence and staging a political coverup ... Republicans sought to challenge his credibility by highlighting that he had been indicted on campaign finance charges last year. ...

**“Roberts then asked the senators to 'solemnly swear' to 'do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws.' While each senator said 'I do,' Democrats and Republicans immediately clashed over what constitutes a fair trial.** The key point of division was whether to hear from witnesses who could shed additional light on Trump’s Ukraine dealings. ... Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) was among a group of senators pushing the idea of ‘reciprocity’ whereby the Republican and Democratic sides would each get to call witnesses. ... Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) said it was ‘likely’ that she would vote for additional witnesses after the initial arguments. ... But some senators sought to dodge the question of witnesses altogether, aiming to avoid reporters and underscoring the tense atmosphere surrounding the case.”

#### **QUOTE OF THE DAY:**

"Hear ye! Hear ye! Here ye! All persons are commanded to keep silent, on pain of imprisonment while the House of Representatives is exhibiting to the Senate of the United States articles of impeachment against Donald John Trump, president of the United States," Senate Sergeant at Arms Michael Stenger announced as formalities began. ([Felicia Sonmez](#))

-- The Senate trial will shape not only the president's legacy but also that of Republican senators and their party, [writes Dan Balz](#): "Will they follow the lead of their House colleagues, who in the face of damning testimony embraced the president's explanations, that his interactions with Ukraine were 'perfect,' and that he was acting in the interests of the country rather than for personal political gain? Or will they judge him more independently, and critically, even if eventually stopping short of casting guilty votes?"

-- Parnas told CNN's Anderson Cooper last night that he and former national security adviser John Bolton "could fill in all the dots" about Trump's alleged abuse of power in Ukraine. ([Colby Itkowitz](#))



People deny knowing Lev Parnas. Then they show up in a photo with him.

-- Parnas's attorney keeps posting images and footage of his client with Trump. One of the most recent posts features Parnas introducing former Ukrainian politician Roman Nasirov to Trump at

Mar-a-Lago three years ago. Nasirov is currently fighting abuse of office charges in Ukraine. ([Paul Sonne](#))

-- **“Trump hotel’s mix of GOP insiders and hangers-on helped give rise to impeachment episodes,”** by [David Fahrenthold](#), [Josh Dawsey](#) and [Jonathan O’Connell](#): “They are key locations in the drama that led to [impeachment]: the steakhouse table where Trump’s private lawyer set out a nameplate, ‘Rudolph W. Giuliani, Private Office.’ The upstairs hideaway, where Giuliani’s team planned its outreach to Ukraine. And the expensive bar, where Giuliani’s team met an odd figure: Robert F. Hyde, a big-talking ex-Marine who claimed to have the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine under surveillance. ... For three years, Trump’s hotel near the White House has been a loose, anybody-welcome hangout for Republicans. ... **‘POTUS doesn’t know, or maybe doesn’t care, but that hotel is the root of many of his problems,’** said one Republican who is close to **Giuliani and Trump ...**

“One former Trump hotel staffer said that **Giuliani was so comfortable there that he sometimes left without paying — ‘like he was at home.’** The restaurant often had to eat the bill, the former employee said ... At that table, Giuliani met repeatedly with Parnas and Igor Fruman, a pair of Soviet-born Americans who were seeking influence in Republican politics — and helping Giuliani pressure Ukraine to provide dirt on Biden. On the day Parnas and Fruman were arrested, charged with campaign-finance violations unrelated to Ukraine, they had previously had lunch at the Trump hotel.” Parnas told Maddow: “It was like a breeding ground at the Trump hotel.”

-- **A federal judge’s delay may help Trump dodge a subpoena for**

**his federal tax returns, House Democrats claim.** [Spencer S. Hsu reports](#): “U.S. District Judge Trevor N. McFadden said he would not rule in the matter until an appeals court decides whether to uphold another judge’s order that former Trump White House counsel Donald McGahn must comply with a House subpoena to testify in Congress’s impeachment probe. ... However, attorneys for the House ... strongly objected because the subpoena will expire when this term of Congress expires at the end of this year. They said the delay thwarts the House’s ability to ensure White House compliance with urgent legislative oversight, including whether Trump took inappropriate advantage of tax laws to engage in decades-long tax avoidance schemes.”

**-- Vice President Pence was dangled as a bargaining chip — perhaps unwittingly — to exert leverage over a foreign government, according to Parnas.** [Ashley Parker, Rosalind S. Helderman and Paul Sonne report](#): “Parnas said he arrived for his May meeting in Kyiv with a top aide to Ukraine’s president-elect, Volodymyr Zelensky, with a clear directive from [Giuliani]: Unless Zelensky announced an investigation into [Joe Biden], his country’s relationship with the United States would sour. Among the consequences he threatened, Parnas said in interviews this week: that [Pence’s] expected attendance at Zelensky’s inauguration later that month — a high-level recognition that the Ukrainians urgently sought — would be canceled. **When Ukrainians were unresponsive, Parnas said he relayed the bad news to Giuliani. ‘Okay, they’ll see,’ the president’s lawyer responded,** Parnas told MSNBC. **The very next day, Trump instructed Pence to cancel his trip to Ukraine for Zelensky’s inauguration,** according to a whistleblower

complaint and congressional testimony from one of Pence's own aides."

**-- In an op-ed for today's Wall Street Journal, Pence celebrates Sen. Edmund Ross (R-Kan.) for voting against the removal of Andrew Johnson as president in 1868.** Ross was a character in John F. Kennedy's book "Profiles in Courage," Pence notes. "Once Johnson was impeached, Ross was determined to render a fair judgment, resisting his own party's stampede. After he told a colleague he wouldn't let his political leanings affect his decision, word spread throughout the caucus that Ross was 'shaky.' The Republicans came down on him hard."

**-- Ukrainian Prime Minister Oleksiy Honcharuk offered to resign after he criticized Zelensky in leaked audio.** [Isabelle Khurshudyan and David L. Stern report](#): "Zelensky's office tweeted that it received Honcharuk's resignation offer and 'will consider it.' ... In the recordings that leaked earlier this week, Honcharuk says in a closed-door meeting with several ministers that Zelensky 'doesn't understand how the economy works.' Honcharuk didn't deny that it's his voice in the audio, but said on Facebook that the recording was doctored from 'snippets of government meetings' to give the impression 'that I and my team do not respect the president.' ... Ukraine's Zerkalo Nedeli newspaper reported that Zelensky will reject Honcharuk's offer, citing unnamed sources in the presidential office."





The breakdown of the Warren-Sanders alliance | On the 2020 trail

## 2020 WATCH:

-- **Being stuck in Washington for jury duty poses logistical challenges for the four senators running for president.** [Michael Scherer reports](#) that Elizabeth Warren's husband and surrogates, including former housing secretary Julián Castro and Rep. Katie Porter (D-Calif.), will hold events on her behalf in Iowa during the trial. Amy Klobuchar's husband and daughter Abigail, along with Minnesota's governor Tim Walz, will stump for her. Michael Bennet, bypassing Iowa to focus on New Hampshire, plans satellite and radio interviews to keep in the mix. "I'd rather be in Iowa today," Bernie Sanders told reporters yesterday at the Capitol. "There's a caucus there in two and a half weeks. I'd rather be in New Hampshire and Nevada and so forth. But I swore a constitutional oath."

**Klobuchar is the most likely to suffer because of the impeachment trial since she has a smaller organization than**

**Sanders and Warren.** Right now, she's polling under the critical 15 percent threshold required to win delegates from Iowa. The state is next door to Minnesota, so her campaign will be functionally over if she underperforms.

**Biden and Pete Buttigieg are both trying to capitalize on the absence of their rivals:** "Buttigieg's campaign has argued that staying out of the polarized impeachment conversation will bolster his pitch as the candidate who can mollify partisan tensions and disrupt the traditional Washington ways of doing things. He held five events in Iowa on Thursday ... and has planned another five town halls on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week ... Biden will also host events in the state during those days. After playing defense in the early days of the impeachment saga, Biden's campaign has recently pivoted to embrace its complicated presence, arguing that the president's alleged efforts to find disparaging information on the Biden family in Ukraine is a reflection of the candidate's strength..."

**We don't know how long the trial will go. Mitch McConnell says he's using the Clinton impeachment as a blueprint, forcing the senators to work every day but Sunday after taking MLK Day off.** "That trial set aside three days for House prosecutors to present their case, three days for a White House defense, and three days for Senate questions and answers before debate and a vote on a motion to dismiss which took two days," Scherer notes. "If the current Senate follows the same format and votes promptly to end the proceeding, the presidential candidates would be forced to stay in Washington through Saturday, Feb. 1, two days before the Iowa caucuses.

"But Democrats, including the presidential contenders, continue to

argue for the Senate to accept the testimony of new witnesses, a precedent that was followed in 1999. The vote to hear witness testimony that year led to a five-day break to take depositions, another day to prepare and present evidence, and seven more days of trial on the Senate floor. A repeat of that schedule ... could disrupt campaigning before the Feb. 11 New Hampshire primary.”

**-- The rupture between Warren and Sanders over who called whom a liar has laid bare the central fight among liberals: Is the Trump era of scorched-earth politics a moment for purity or pragmatism? [Annie Linskey and Sean Sullivan report](#): “On Thursday, as an array of left-leaning groups urged a truce, some acknowledged the difficulty of bridging the gap between two figures who, despite their shared status as liberal icons, have sharply different personalities and approaches. ... **The two have not spoken since Tuesday evening**, Sanders said ... and his campaign officials said the campaign sent emails to surrogates this week encouraging them not to escalate the conflict with Warren. ... Leaders of six liberal groups that have endorsed either Warren or Sanders issued a joint statement Thursday saying the senators’ campaigns and supporters ‘will need to find a way to cooperate.’ ... Similarly, on Wednesday, 18 liberal groups launched an effort that includes a pledge to ‘focus our fight for the nomination against candidates supported by the corporate wing, instead of fighting each other.’”**

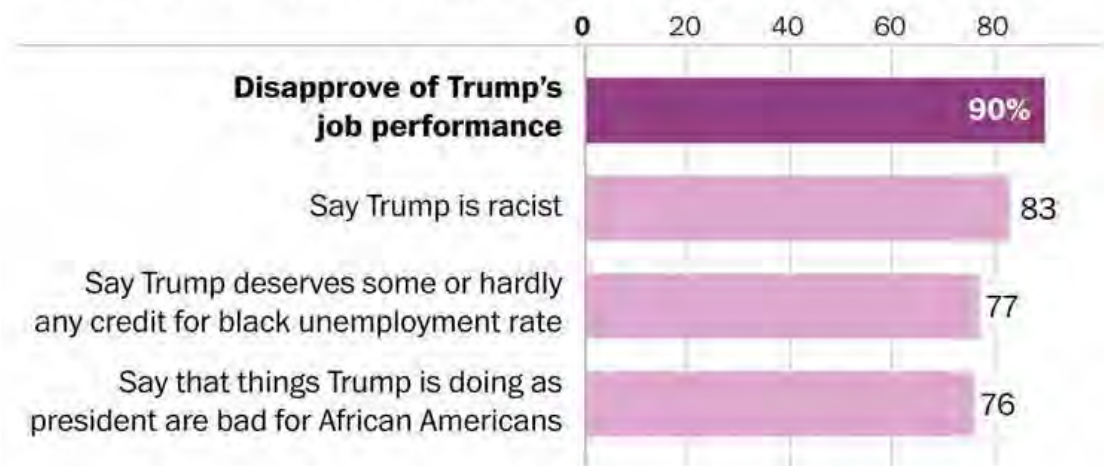
**-- Jill Biden is trying to close the deal for her husband, one tiny Iowa town at a time. [Holly Bailey reports](#): “Jill Biden is a relentless charm machine, with a jammed schedule of half a dozen or more events a day here as she seeks to win over voters. On a swing**

through rural Western Iowa this week, she spoke to small rooms of mostly undecided voters, including a group of about 10 people who had gathered inside a Mexican restaurant on a frigid Monday afternoon. ... The group, which included mostly older voters, looked embarrassed to admit to the wife of a candidate that they were still undecided, but Biden sought to reassure them."

**-- The Trump campaign is trying to make inroads among women and communities of color, including blacks and Hispanics. From the AP:** "The operation was in full force Thursday when the president's daughter-in-law, Lara Trump, senior campaign adviser Mercedes Schlapp and press secretary Kayleigh McEnany began a two-day 'Women for Trump' bus tour through Iowa aimed at engaging women with training sessions, round tables and panel discussions. ... Meanwhile, in must-win Florida, Vice President Mike Pence headlined a 'Latinos for Trump' event in Kissimmee at Nación de Fe, an evangelical church with a mostly Latino congregation as part of his own bus tour. ... Around the same time in battleground Pennsylvania, a few dozen people filled the pews of First Immanuel Baptist Church in Philadelphia for a 'Black Voices for Trump' discussion focused on Trump's impact on the African American community ahead of a volunteer training session. The church's pastor opened with a call to 'make Pennsylvania great again.'"

**-- Fresh Washington Post-Ipsos polling, released this morning, shows how much work the president has cut out for him: More than 8 in 10 black Americans say they believe Trump is a racist and that he has made racism a bigger problem in the country:**

## Over 8 in 10 black Americans say Trump is a racist



Note: Responses from different questions; other response options not shown.

Source: Jan. 2-8, 2020, Washington Post-Ipsos KnowledgePanel poll of 1,088 black Americans with an error margin of +/- 3.5 percentage points

THE WASHINGTON POST

### -- Evelyn Yang revealed she's a survivor of sexual assault by an OB-GYN who has been accused of abusing dozens of patients.

From CNN: "His name was Dr. Robert Hadden. ... Hadden started asking her inappropriate, unsolicited questions about sexual activity with her husband, which were unrelated to her health or the health of her unborn child. Looking back, she now believes he was prepping her for sexual abuse. ... 'The examinations became longer, more frequent, and I learned that they were unnecessary most of the time,' she recalled, but she told herself, 'I suppose I just need to trust him.' Yang says Hadden violated that trust in an unthinkable way when she was seven months pregnant. ... 'I knew it was wrong. I knew I was being assaulted,' she added. ...

"Yang found a lawyer, who discovered that the Manhattan district attorney's office had an open case against Hadden. Several other

women had come forward with similar stories of being assaulted by Hadden while he was their OB-GYN. ... The office of Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance is the same one that was lenient with Jeffrey Epstein over registering as a sex offender and had initially failed to prosecute Harvey Weinstein after allegations of sexual abuse ... In 2016, the Manhattan district attorney's office agreed to a plea deal with Hadden. He pleaded guilty to two of nine charges against him ... As part of the deal, Hadden would lose his medical license and register as the lowest-level sex offender, but he would not go to jail.”



The Virginia state Capitol building is surrounded by fencing in preparation for Monday's rally by gun rights advocates. (Dean Hoffmeyer/Richmond Times-Dispatch/AP)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

**-- A Circuit Court judge upheld Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's temporary ban on firearms on the state capitol grounds ahead of Monday's gun rights rally. [Gregory S. Schneider reports](#): "From**

Friday night until Tuesday, weapons of any kind will be prohibited on the grounds of the Capitol under a state of emergency. Northam (D) said the precaution was necessary because of ‘credible intelligence’ that militias and gun rights advocates are threatening violence at the rally. ‘This is the right decision,’ Northam said in a statement about Richmond Chief Judge Joi Jeter Taylor’s ruling Thursday afternoon. ‘These threats are real — as evidenced by reports of neo-Nazis arrested this morning after discussing plans to head to Richmond with firearms.’ Gun rights groups filed an appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court on Thursday evening.”

**-- Hours before the judge’s decision, the FBI arrested three alleged white supremacists believed to be headed to the pro-gun rally. From the AP:** “The three men, members of The Base, were taken into custody on federal felony charges in Maryland and Delaware ... A criminal complaint charges Canadian national Patrik Jordan Mathews, 27, and Brian Mark Lemley Jr., 33, of Elkton, Maryland, with transporting a firearm and ammunition with intent to commit a felony. William Garfield Bilbrough IV, 19, of Denton, Maryland, is charged with ‘transporting and harboring aliens.’ ... **In encrypted chat rooms, members of The Base have discussed committing acts of violence against blacks and Jews, ways to make improvised explosive devices, their military-style training camps and their desire to create a white ‘ethno-state,’** according to an FBI agent’s affidavit. ... Mathews illegally crossed the U.S. border near Minnesota in August and Bilbrough traveled 600 miles ... each way in a car to pick him up and bring him to Maryland, authorities said. Mathews, who appeared in court Thursday with a bushy beard, was a combat engineer in the Canadian Army Reserve.

Lemley was a 'cavalry scout' in the U.S. Army, court papers show.”

**-- Bill Barr's Justice Department is investigating years-old disclosures of classified information about a Russian intelligence document, a backward-looking inquiry that appears to be targeting former FBI director Jim Comey with the goal of chilling press oversight of the government.** [From the Times](#): “Law enforcement officials are scrutinizing at least two news articles about the F.B.I. and Mr. Comey, published in [The New York Times](#) and [The Washington Post](#) in 2017, that mentioned the Russian government document ... Hackers working for Dutch intelligence officials obtained the document and provided it to the F.B.I., and both its existence and the collection of it were highly classified secrets ... The document played a key role in Mr. Comey’s decision to sideline the Justice Department and announce in July 2016 that the F.B.I. would not recommend that Hillary Clinton face charges in her use of a private email server to conduct government business while secretary of state.” Trump has previously called on his loyalists to use the levers of law enforcement to pursue his perceived enemies.

**-- The House voted to overturn a Trump rule that makes loan forgiveness harder, setting the stage for a Senate fight.** [Danielle Douglas-Gabriel reports](#): “The 231-to-180 vote fell largely along party lines, with six Republicans endorsing a resolution to scrap the administration’s overhaul of a 1995 law known as ‘borrower defense to repayment.’ The law gives the Education Department authority to cancel the federal debt of students whose colleges misled them about graduation or job placement rates to get them to enroll. ... The Trump administration finalized its rewrite of the Obama rule in September,



limiting the time borrowers have to apply for relief and requiring them to prove financial harm. The rule will take effect July 1.”

**-- A panel of aviation safety experts assembled by the Department of Transportation defended the Federal Aviation Administration system that approved the deadly 737 Max jets. [Ian Duncan and Michael Laris report](#):** The panel dismissed “criticisms that the agency gives manufacturers too much authority to oversee their own work. Instead, the panel warned against overhauling the system the FAA uses to review new aircraft. The group, led by Lee Moak, the former head of a major pilots union, found that the current system of allowing Boeing and other manufacturers to oversee much of their own work both ‘promotes safety’ and allows ‘industry and innovation to thrive.’ ... Boeing, whose standing has been badly hurt by the crashes and subsequent internal messages, said in a statement that it appreciated the committee’s work and would study its recommendations.”

**-- A coalition of 14 states and D.C. sued to stop the Trump administration’s plan to take away food stamps from 700,000 unemployed people. [Spencer S. Hsu reports](#):** “In the lawsuit, attorneys general from the District, Maryland, Virginia, New York, California and other states ... asserted the justification for the cuts were based on no evidence and ignored local labor market conditions. ... In the lawsuit, states along the northeastern U.S. corridor joined by California, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada and Oregon said their governments would face heavy new administrative and financial burdens, economic damages and increased costs from ‘the negative health effects of malnutrition and instability.’”

-- The New York Mets parted ways with Carlos Beltrán before he oversaw a single game amid the sign-stealing scandal that has roiled Major League Baseball. [Dave Sheinin reports](#): “Beltrán, 42, was implicated Monday in the Astros’ scheme, in which players, along with then-bench coach Alex Cora, used a center field camera and a video monitor behind their dugout to steal the signs of opposing catchers. Beltrán, a designated hitter for the 2017 Astros, who won the World Series that fall, was the only player from that team named as a participant in the scheme.”

## SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

Republican lobbyist Bruce Mehlman makes these five predictions in his quarterly [PowerPoint presentation](#) for clients:



**2020 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEADERS**

- 1. Disruption Is Accelerating**
  - *Understand what new innovations are coming and the challenges & opportunities they present for you, your stakeholders & competitors.*
- 2. Political Risk Is Growing**
  - *Conduct scenario planning to identify and mitigate risks in a deglobalizing world; include experts in politics and policy in business considerations.*
- 3. Traditional Gatekeepers Are Losing Power**
  - *Expand stakeholder outreach to those who can validate your brand locally and partner on your priorities because you supported theirs.*
- 4. A Reform Era Is Coming**
  - *Identify and support policy reforms that meaningfully expand opportunity... global populism will continue rising until more citizens feel “dealt-in”.*
- 5. Expect to See More Black Swans**
  - *Prepare for a greater number of high-impact, formerly-low-probability events to protect your license to operate and anticipate opportunities.*

MEHLMAN CASTAGNIETTI  
ROSEN & THOMAS

As the Senate accepted the articles, Trump tweeted an instantly iconic message:



The president seems to often turn to a county-by-county map of the 2016 election results for reassurance in difficult moments:



**Dan Zak** ✓  
@MrDanZak



I have also spotted this there. People were carrying it around the Oval Office the day he was impeached, at dusk, & then took it on his helicopter. Seems like a security blanket? When you feel insecure about your 3-million vote deficit, & your poll numbers, just look at the red. [twitter.com/betsy\\_klein/st...](https://twitter.com/betsy_klein/st...)

**Betsy Klein** ✓ @betsy\_klein

Spotted on the resolute desk in the Oval Office during the President's event on school prayer: a map of 2016 election results by county



♥ 523 8:37 PM - Jan 16, 2020



💬 186 people are talking about this



Sen. Martha McSally (R-Ariz.) lashed out at a CNN reporter who asked her about whether witnesses should be called in the impeachment trial:



The lawmaker, who was appointed to fill John McCain's seat when he died after she lost a Senate race in 2018, shared a staffer's video of the encounter and soon after her campaign was fundraising off the controversy -- with support from the Trump campaign. "The attack on a veteran congressional reporter might have been considered out of character for McSally as recently as two years ago, when she was known as a moderate House member focused on national security matters and reticent to comment on Trump's controversial remarks," [Mike DeBonis and Lateshia Beachum note](#). But McSally has chosen to fully hitch her horse to Trump's in a bid to win a full term this November in a state that's trending away from Republicans.

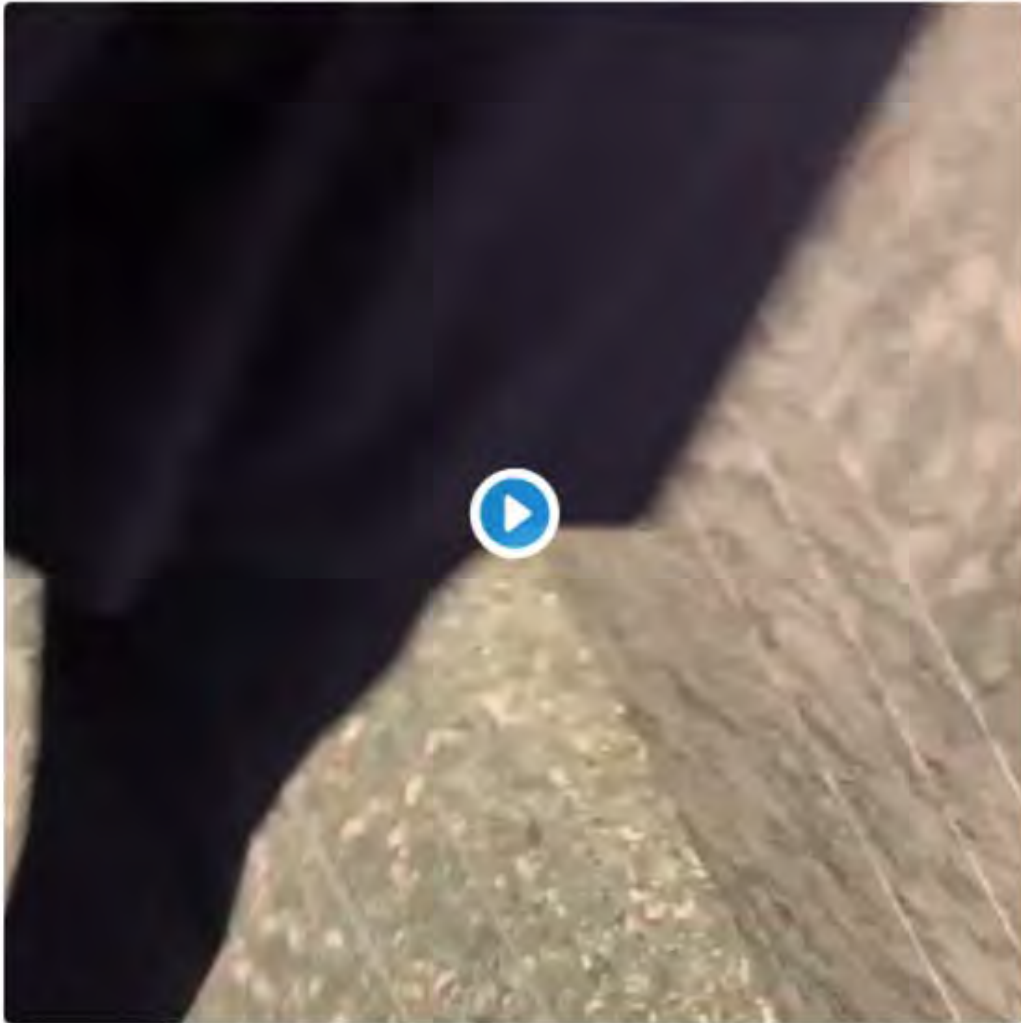


**Martha McSally** ✓  
@SenMcSallyAZ



A) you are.

B) here's the video. [twitter.com/mkraju/status/...](https://twitter.com/mkraju/status/...)



**Manu Raju** ✓ @mkraju

Sen. Martha McSally, a Republican facing a difficult election race, lashed out when I asked if she would consider new evidence as part of the Senate trial. "You're a liberal hack - I'm not talking to you. You're a liberal hack." She then walked into a hearing room.

♡ 45.7K 3:22 PM - Jan 16, 2020



💬 48.6K people are talking about this



The president's daughter-in-law talked about Trump's love for money in a room full of Iowa women:



Put into this historical perspective, the American election doesn't sound so bad:



And a presidential candidate won a push-up contest in New Hampshire:



**Jean Mackin** ✓  
@JeanWMUR



One of those memorable New Hampshire Primary moments: @TulsiGabbard challenged to a push-up contest at a Manchester Town Hall. She wins. #nhpolitics #fitn #wmur



♡ 4,012 1:03 AM - Jan 17, 2020



💬 844 people are talking about this



## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert reviewed Parnas's evidence:





Trevor Noah went through a list of Trump's "friends":



Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) revealed for the first time publicly that she has alopecia:



"I'm ready now because I want to be free from the secret, and the shame that the secret carries with it," Pressley said in an interview with the Root. ([Michael Brice-Saddler](#))

Washington Conservatory of Music piano fellow Michael Adcock talked to The Post about "Impeachment Polka," written during the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson:



'A real ear-worm': What one pianist thinks about the 'Impeachment Polka'

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

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## Congress shows the ability to legislate through impeachment



Roberts sworn in, administers oath to senators



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: Moments before the start of the third presidential impeachment trial in U.S. history on Thursday, the Senate voted 89 to 10 to [approve](#) President Trump's landmark trade deal with Canada and Mexico.**

This rewrite of the 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement, which allows Trump to deliver on a signature campaign promise from 2016, is one of the most significant trade votes in a generation. It passed with overwhelming bipartisan support from a coalition of strange bedfellows, including the AFL-CIO and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Final passage came a day after Trump signed [a partial economic deal](#) with China, another political victory for a White House that's eager to defuse trade tensions in an election

year.

The subsequent reading of the two articles of impeachment and the swearing-in of the senators as jurors soon overshadowed these hard-fought triumphs for Trump. But the trade vote nevertheless gives cover for lawmakers in both parties to reassure constituents back home that they're getting results, even amid contentious deliberations over whether the president abused the power of his office to coerce a foreign government to boost his reelection prospects by announcing an investigation of Democratic challenger Joe Biden.

**Trump has boasted that the specter of impeachment, and the desire of Democrats not to look like they're doing nothing, got this deal across the finish line.** Last month, one day after voting almost entirely on party lines to impeach Trump, the House also [passed](#) the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement on a lopsided vote of 385 to 41. With their eyes on the fall elections, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) have separately pointed to the USMCA as proof that their side is focused on the pocketbook issues that voters care most about.



Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) rides the Senate subway to the Capitol. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

**-- Eight Senate Democrats and Bernie Sanders voted against the deal. But only one Republican broke with the president: Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.), perhaps the most outspoken advocate for free trade in Congress.** Toomey unsuccessfully raised procedural concerns about the USMCA on the Senate floor before the vote. “I was very disturbed to see a new trade agreement that's designed in part to *diminish* trade – very much the wrong direction,” he explained afterward in an interview. “I felt it was important to make a stand and make the case that this certainly shouldn't be a template for future agreements.”

**Toomey called me last night as he drove home to Pennsylvania for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend at the end of one of the most surreal days of his nine years in the Senate.** “It's just

very strange,” Toomey said. “There were moments that seemed surreal to me today in the Senate. It's just such an unusual moment.” Now sworn in as a juror, Toomey will spend the weekend at home and return for proceedings to begin in earnest on Tuesday.

**He has complained that Republicans got “rolled” because the Trump administration made too many concessions to Democrats in a desire to get something done.** He said “the worst provisions” in the new deal relate to automobiles. For example, there’s now a requirement that at least 30 percent of cars – and 40 percent by 2023 – must be made by workers who earn at least \$16 an hour. This will raise wages in Mexico, but Toomey said it will also raise prices to buy lower-end small cars that are assembled south of the border. The deal also sunsets after 16 years, meaning that the three countries will need to go through another renegotiation process, which Toomey fears will chill business investment by introducing a cloud of uncertainty about the future terms of trade.

**The USMCA was initially signed a year ago by Trump, but the requirement that it must first be ratified by the House gave Pelosi leverage to demand changes and concessions, including higher labor standards in Mexico, higher environmental standards and stronger enforcement mechanisms.** A team of nine House Democrats worked with U.S. Trade Representative Bob Lighthizer and his staff for months to reach a compromise. At Pelosi’s behest, the renegotiated deal also killed a provision pushed by pharmaceutical companies that would have guaranteed them 10 years of market exclusivity for biologics, a class of drugs that are especially costly.





Pat Toomey listens as President Trump speaks about trade policy during a 2018 meeting in the Cabinet Room at the White House. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

**-- Toomey isn't as flashy about it as some of his hardline colleagues who love to go on television, but the vote underscored his record as one of the most reliable fiscal conservatives in Congress. The 58-year-old served in the House for**

three terms until 2004. After narrowly losing a primary challenge that year against then-Republican Sen. Arlen Specter, Toomey served as president of the Club for Growth, the conservative group created to support open markets and oppose regulations. As Toomey geared up for a rematch against Specter in 2010, the incumbent changed parties after being promised Barack Obama's endorsement. But Specter lost in the Democratic primary to Joe Sestak. Toomey then won the seat that fall. He got narrowly reelected in one of the marquee races of 2016, as Trump became the first Republican presidential candidate to carry the Keystone State since 1988.

**Toomey has picked his fights carefully in the Trump era.** All told, he's voted with the president's position 83 percent of the time in the current Congress, according to the running tabulation [by FiveThirtyEight](#). But he's twice supported efforts to overturn Trump's declaration of a national emergency for border wall funding, and he backed the resolution of disapproval last February for withdrawing U.S. forces from Syria.

**Since Trump took office, the junior senator has voted against all the major omnibus spending bills and the bloated farm bill.** He's opposed raising the debt ceiling and joined small groups of senators in voting against hurricane relief packages that weren't paid for with spending cuts elsewhere. Many Republicans insisted on this throughout Obama's presidency but have reversed their approach under Trump. Toomey has stayed consistent on these kinds of votes.

**Throughout, trade has remained Toomey's signature issue.** "I've been very, very candid with everyone in the administration – from the president to the vice president and the trade representative – they

know exactly where I stand,” he told me. “I tried hard to persuade them of my point of view. I obviously failed, but to their credit, they always heard me out.”

**Trump campaigned four years ago as a protectionist, rejecting decades of Republican orthodoxy.** The president’s support for old-fashioned industrial policies and a reflexive inclination to impose tariffs on other countries – something he threatened to do against a trio of European leaders just last week if they didn’t cave to his demands on Iran – appear to be among his longest and most deeply-held beliefs.

**But Toomey said he believes “there’s generally still very broad support” for the concept of free trade in his party.** “If you asked the Republican senators if they consider themselves ‘free traders,’ I think the vast majority would say they do, but I acknowledge that there has always been a protectionist element,” he said. “There are protectionists among Republicans who would like to further restrict trade, and I do think it’s important for free traders to push back on that.”

McConnell said last month that the final deal was “not as good as I had hoped” but better than nothing. He and the vast majority of the GOP conference are loath to oppose Trump, especially on what he’s described as his top legislative priority.

**-- Toomey’s ultimate support for the president at the end of this impeachment trial is not in doubt. But the lone holdout among Senate Republicans on the USMCA offers a timely reminder that it’s still possible to hate the sin (protectionism, in this case) but still love the sinner (Trump).** “Look, I do support the president,” he

said. "I'm going to fully support his reelection campaign. I'm going to campaign for him. I think his policies have generally been terrific for the economy, and I think his foreign policy has made us more secure. But I have a separate election certificate. I was elected by the people of Pennsylvania to serve them in the Senate, and I have a responsibility to reach my own judgments and conclusions about policy, so occasionally I'm going to disagree with the president. When I do, I've got an obligation to take that stand."



Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) leaves a news conference on Thursday. (Julio Cortez/AP)

-- **Chuck Schumer was one of the Democrats who voted no.** The minority leader seems worried about a primary challenge from his left in 2022 by someone like Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. That also seemed to be a motivating factor for Sen. Ed Markey (Mass.), who voted no after his primary challenger Rep. Joe Kennedy III opposed

the deal last month. Schumer insisted that he voted no because the deal “does not address climate change” and includes “handouts for the oil and gas industry, such as lifting tariffs on tar sands.” Markey, a sponsor of the Green New Deal, also cited environmental concerns.

**Former, and perhaps future, presidential candidates Kirsten Gillibrand (N.Y.), Cory Booker (N.J.) and Kamala Harris (Calif.) had essentially boxed themselves into voting no while still in the running.** The remaining three Democratic opponents were Rhode Island’s senators, Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, plus Hawaii’s Brian Schatz.

**One of the most interesting clashes during the Democratic debate on Tuesday night in Des Moines was over this USMCA pact.** Sanders expressed his opposition while rivals Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar and Pete Buttigieg endorsed the deal, at least partly, to help Iowa farmers who have suffered from Trump’s trade wars.

Trying to sell the package to Democrats who traditionally oppose trade deals, **Pelosi bragged during a closed-door meeting with her caucus last month about the concessions that her team of negotiators got.** “We ate their lunch,” the Speaker said, according to multiple people in the room.

For his part, **Trump boasted that he gave little away.** “We left a little stuff for the union because we figured to get it signed, we will give a little bit and we did it, and then we have one great deal, and now you have the Democrats trying to take credit for this deal and that is okay,” the president said during his rally in Michigan on the night that he got

impeached by the House. “Whatever it takes.”

-- Programming note: The Daily 202 will not publish on Monday in honor of MLK Day.



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Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei leads Friday prayers in Tehran.  
(Khamenei website/via Reuters)

### **WHILE YOU WERE IN MORNING MEETINGS:**

**-- Leading Friday prayers in Iran, Iran's supreme leader said Trump is a "clown" who will push a "poisoned dagger" into the backs of the Iranian people. From the AP: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei "lashed out at Western countries, saying they are too weak to 'bring Iranians to their knees.' He said Britain, France and Germany, which this week triggered a dispute mechanism to try and bring Iran back into compliance with the unraveling 2015 nuclear agreement, were 'contemptible' governments and 'servants' of the United States."**

**-- The Pentagon belatedly acknowledged that 11 U.S. troops are being screened for traumatic brain injuries as a result of the Iranian missile attacks on Jan. 8 against two bases in Iraq,**

according to the [Wall Street Journal](#).

-- And the Taliban just signaled that some kind of agreement with the United States may be near. [Susannah George reports](#): “The two sides ‘discussed the signing of the agreement and the ceremony for it,’ Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen tweeted Friday. It’s unclear what agreement Shaheen is referring to. Neither Shaheen nor the State Department responded to requests for comment. ... Friday’s announcement comes after statements from Pakistani and Taliban officials that the insurgent group is prepared to reduce violence in an effort to reboot stalled peace talks. But those statements lacked specifics on how long it would last, where it would apply and whether it would include the cessation of attacks on both Afghan and American forces.”



Schiff reads articles of impeachment to Senate

**MORE ON IMPEACHMENT:**



-- Trump expanded his legal team to include Harvard emeritus law professor Alan Dershowitz, former Florida attorney general Pam Bondi and former independent counsels Ken Starr and Robert Ray. [Josh Dawsey and John Wagner report](#): “In an interview with The Washington Post, Dershowitz said he would present arguments at the Senate trial that obstruction of Congress and abuse of power do not reach the constitutional standard to impeach a president for high crimes and misdemeanors. Starr and Ray, who investigated Bill Clinton, are also joining the team, as well as Bondi, who had been helping Trump with messaging during the impeachment proceedings. Trump wanted Dershowitz and Bondi on the team because he thinks they are talented on TV and convincing, a White House official familiar with the selections said. Starr, he thinks, gives him credence because of his role in the Clinton impeachment. Trump’s team is being led by White House counsel Pat Cipollone and also includes Jay Sekulow, a personal lawyer to the president.”

-- The trial opened yesterday with rancor over [a swirl of new evidence and allegations](#) about Trump's dealings with Ukraine brought forth by Rudy Giuliani's former associate Lev Parnas. [Seung Min Kim, Rachael Bade, Mike DeBonis and Toluse Olorunnipa report](#): “Republican lawmakers appeared unswayed by the new information, focusing on attacking the Democratic-led investigation in the House for not uncovering the evidence before sending the impeachment articles to the Senate. ... Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) said it is the responsibility of the House, not the Senate, to gather evidence and present a case for impeachment. ... The chorus of Republicans unwilling to consider additional evidence served as an indication that Democrats will face an uphill climb in their

attempts to further build a case ... Democrats accused their Republican colleagues of turning a blind eye to incriminating evidence and staging a political coverup ... Republicans sought to challenge his credibility by highlighting that he had been indicted on campaign finance charges last year. ...

**“Roberts then asked the senators to 'solemnly swear' to 'do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws.' While each senator said 'I do,' Democrats and Republicans immediately clashed over what constitutes a fair trial.** The key point of division was whether to hear from witnesses who could shed additional light on Trump’s Ukraine dealings. ... Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) was among a group of senators pushing the idea of ‘reciprocity’ whereby the Republican and Democratic sides would each get to call witnesses. ... Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) said it was ‘likely’ that she would vote for additional witnesses after the initial arguments. ... But some senators sought to dodge the question of witnesses altogether, aiming to avoid reporters and underscoring the tense atmosphere surrounding the case.”

#### **QUOTE OF THE DAY:**

"Hear ye! Hear ye! Here ye! All persons are commanded to keep silent, on pain of imprisonment while the House of Representatives is exhibiting to the Senate of the United States articles of impeachment against Donald John Trump, president of the United States," Senate Sergeant at Arms Michael Stenger announced as formalities began. ([Felicia Sonmez](#))

-- The Senate trial will shape not only the president's legacy but also that of Republican senators and their party, [writes Dan Balz](#): "Will they follow the lead of their House colleagues, who in the face of damning testimony embraced the president's explanations, that his interactions with Ukraine were 'perfect,' and that he was acting in the interests of the country rather than for personal political gain? Or will they judge him more independently, and critically, even if eventually stopping short of casting guilty votes?"

-- Parnas told CNN's Anderson Cooper last night that he and former national security adviser John Bolton "could fill in all the dots" about Trump's alleged abuse of power in Ukraine. ([Colby Itkowitz](#))



People deny knowing Lev Parnas. Then they show up in a photo with him.

-- Parnas's attorney keeps posting images and footage of his client with Trump. One of the most recent posts features Parnas introducing former Ukrainian politician Roman Nasirov to Trump at

Mar-a-Lago three years ago. Nasirov is currently fighting abuse of office charges in Ukraine. ([Paul Sonne](#))

-- **“Trump hotel’s mix of GOP insiders and hangers-on helped give rise to impeachment episodes,”** by [David Fahrenthold](#), [Josh Dawsey](#) and [Jonathan O’Connell](#): “They are key locations in the drama that led to [impeachment]: the steakhouse table where Trump’s private lawyer set out a nameplate, ‘Rudolph W. Giuliani, Private Office.’ The upstairs hideaway, where Giuliani’s team planned its outreach to Ukraine. And the expensive bar, where Giuliani’s team met an odd figure: Robert F. Hyde, a big-talking ex-Marine who claimed to have the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine under surveillance. ... For three years, Trump’s hotel near the White House has been a loose, anybody-welcome hangout for Republicans. ... **‘POTUS doesn’t know, or maybe doesn’t care, but that hotel is the root of many of his problems,’** said one Republican who is close to Giuliani and Trump ...

“One former Trump hotel staffer said that **Giuliani was so comfortable there that he sometimes left without paying — ‘like he was at home.’** The restaurant often had to eat the bill, the former employee said ... At that table, Giuliani met repeatedly with Parnas and Igor Fruman, a pair of Soviet-born Americans who were seeking influence in Republican politics — and helping Giuliani pressure Ukraine to provide dirt on Biden. On the day Parnas and Fruman were arrested, charged with campaign-finance violations unrelated to Ukraine, they had previously had lunch at the Trump hotel.” Parnas told Maddow: “It was like a breeding ground at the Trump hotel.”

-- **A federal judge’s delay may help Trump dodge a subpoena for**

**his federal tax returns, House Democrats claim.** [Spencer S. Hsu reports](#): “U.S. District Judge Trevor N. McFadden said he would not rule in the matter until an appeals court decides whether to uphold another judge’s order that former Trump White House counsel Donald McGahn must comply with a House subpoena to testify in Congress’s impeachment probe. ... However, attorneys for the House ... strongly objected because the subpoena will expire when this term of Congress expires at the end of this year. They said the delay thwarts the House’s ability to ensure White House compliance with urgent legislative oversight, including whether Trump took inappropriate advantage of tax laws to engage in decades-long tax avoidance schemes.”

**-- Vice President Pence was dangled as a bargaining chip — perhaps unwittingly — to exert leverage over a foreign government, according to Parnas.** [Ashley Parker, Rosalind S. Helderman and Paul Sonne report](#): “Parnas said he arrived for his May meeting in Kyiv with a top aide to Ukraine’s president-elect, Volodymyr Zelensky, with a clear directive from [Giuliani]: Unless Zelensky announced an investigation into [Joe Biden], his country’s relationship with the United States would sour. Among the consequences he threatened, Parnas said in interviews this week: that [Pence’s] expected attendance at Zelensky’s inauguration later that month — a high-level recognition that the Ukrainians urgently sought — would be canceled. **When Ukrainians were unresponsive, Parnas said he relayed the bad news to Giuliani. ‘Okay, they’ll see,’ the president’s lawyer responded,** Parnas told MSNBC. **The very next day, Trump instructed Pence to cancel his trip to Ukraine for Zelensky’s inauguration,** according to a whistleblower

complaint and congressional testimony from one of Pence's own aides."

**-- In an op-ed for today's Wall Street Journal, Pence celebrates Sen. Edmund Ross (R-Kan.) for voting against the removal of Andrew Johnson as president in 1868.** Ross was a character in John F. Kennedy's book "Profiles in Courage," Pence notes. "Once Johnson was impeached, Ross was determined to render a fair judgment, resisting his own party's stampede. After he told a colleague he wouldn't let his political leanings affect his decision, word spread throughout the caucus that Ross was 'shaky.' The Republicans came down on him hard."

**-- Ukrainian Prime Minister Oleksiy Honcharuk offered to resign after he criticized Zelensky in leaked audio.** [Isabelle Khurshudyan and David L. Stern report](#): "Zelensky's office tweeted that it received Honcharuk's resignation offer and 'will consider it.' ... In the recordings that leaked earlier this week, Honcharuk says in a closed-door meeting with several ministers that Zelensky 'doesn't understand how the economy works.' Honcharuk didn't deny that it's his voice in the audio, but said on Facebook that the recording was doctored from 'snippets of government meetings' to give the impression 'that I and my team do not respect the president.' ... Ukraine's Zerkalo Nedeli newspaper reported that Zelensky will reject Honcharuk's offer, citing unnamed sources in the presidential office."



The breakdown of the Warren-Sanders alliance | On the 2020 trail

## 2020 WATCH:

-- **Being stuck in Washington for jury duty poses logistical challenges for the four senators running for president.** [Michael Scherer reports](#) that Elizabeth Warren's husband and surrogates, including former housing secretary Julián Castro and Rep. Katie Porter (D-Calif.), will hold events on her behalf in Iowa during the trial. Amy Klobuchar's husband and daughter Abigail, along with Minnesota's governor Tim Walz, will stump for her. Michael Bennet, bypassing Iowa to focus on New Hampshire, plans satellite and radio interviews to keep in the mix. "I'd rather be in Iowa today," Bernie Sanders told reporters yesterday at the Capitol. "There's a caucus there in two and a half weeks. I'd rather be in New Hampshire and Nevada and so forth. But I swore a constitutional oath."

**Klobuchar is the most likely to suffer because of the impeachment trial since she has a smaller organization than**

**Sanders and Warren.** Right now, she's polling under the critical 15 percent threshold required to win delegates from Iowa. The state is next door to Minnesota, so her campaign will be functionally over if she underperforms.

**Biden and Pete Buttigieg are both trying to capitalize on the absence of their rivals:** "Buttigieg's campaign has argued that staying out of the polarized impeachment conversation will bolster his pitch as the candidate who can mollify partisan tensions and disrupt the traditional Washington ways of doing things. He held five events in Iowa on Thursday ... and has planned another five town halls on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week ... Biden will also host events in the state during those days. After playing defense in the early days of the impeachment saga, Biden's campaign has recently pivoted to embrace its complicated presence, arguing that the president's alleged efforts to find disparaging information on the Biden family in Ukraine is a reflection of the candidate's strength..."

**We don't know how long the trial will go. Mitch McConnell says he's using the Clinton impeachment as a blueprint, forcing the senators to work every day but Sunday after taking MLK Day off.** "That trial set aside three days for House prosecutors to present their case, three days for a White House defense, and three days for Senate questions and answers before debate and a vote on a motion to dismiss which took two days," Scherer notes. "If the current Senate follows the same format and votes promptly to end the proceeding, the presidential candidates would be forced to stay in Washington through Saturday, Feb. 1, two days before the Iowa caucuses.

"But Democrats, including the presidential contenders, continue to



argue for the Senate to accept the testimony of new witnesses, a precedent that was followed in 1999. The vote to hear witness testimony that year led to a five-day break to take depositions, another day to prepare and present evidence, and seven more days of trial on the Senate floor. A repeat of that schedule ... could disrupt campaigning before the Feb. 11 New Hampshire primary.”

**-- The rupture between Warren and Sanders over who called whom a liar has laid bare the central fight among liberals: Is the Trump era of scorched-earth politics a moment for purity or pragmatism? [Annie Linskey and Sean Sullivan report](#): “On Thursday, as an array of left-leaning groups urged a truce, some acknowledged the difficulty of bridging the gap between two figures who, despite their shared status as liberal icons, have sharply different personalities and approaches. ... **The two have not spoken since Tuesday evening**, Sanders said ... and his campaign officials said the campaign sent emails to surrogates this week encouraging them not to escalate the conflict with Warren. ... Leaders of six liberal groups that have endorsed either Warren or Sanders issued a joint statement Thursday saying the senators’ campaigns and supporters ‘will need to find a way to cooperate.’ ... Similarly, on Wednesday, 18 liberal groups launched an effort that includes a pledge to ‘focus our fight for the nomination against candidates supported by the corporate wing, instead of fighting each other.’”**

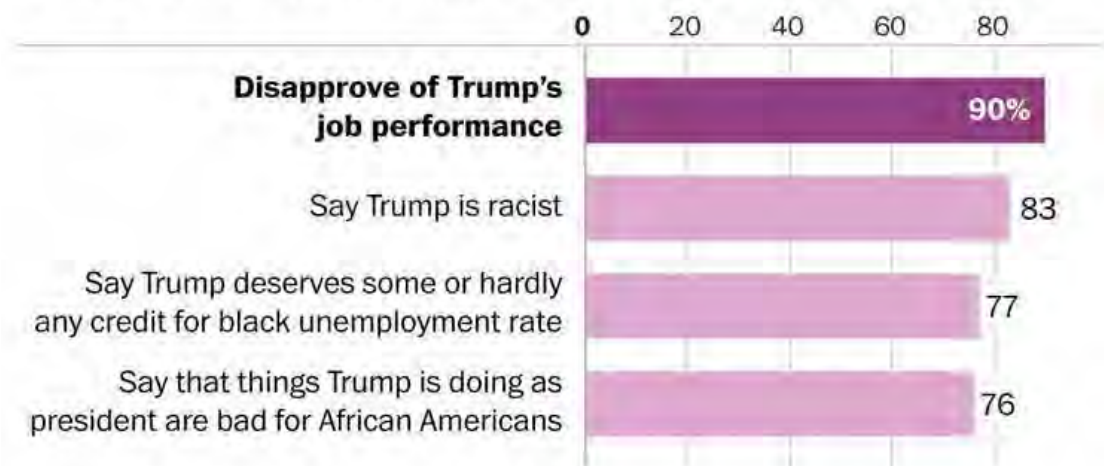
**-- Jill Biden is trying to close the deal for her husband, one tiny Iowa town at a time. [Holly Bailey reports](#): “Jill Biden is a relentless charm machine, with a jammed schedule of half a dozen or more events a day here as she seeks to win over voters. On a swing**

through rural Western Iowa this week, she spoke to small rooms of mostly undecided voters, including a group of about 10 people who had gathered inside a Mexican restaurant on a frigid Monday afternoon. ... The group, which included mostly older voters, looked embarrassed to admit to the wife of a candidate that they were still undecided, but Biden sought to reassure them."

**-- The Trump campaign is trying to make inroads among women and communities of color, including blacks and Hispanics. From the AP:** "The operation was in full force Thursday when the president's daughter-in-law, Lara Trump, senior campaign adviser Mercedes Schlapp and press secretary Kayleigh McEnany began a two-day 'Women for Trump' bus tour through Iowa aimed at engaging women with training sessions, round tables and panel discussions. ... Meanwhile, in must-win Florida, Vice President Mike Pence headlined a 'Latinos for Trump' event in Kissimmee at Nación de Fe, an evangelical church with a mostly Latino congregation as part of his own bus tour. ... Around the same time in battleground Pennsylvania, a few dozen people filled the pews of First Immanuel Baptist Church in Philadelphia for a 'Black Voices for Trump' discussion focused on Trump's impact on the African American community ahead of a volunteer training session. The church's pastor opened with a call to 'make Pennsylvania great again.'"

**-- Fresh Washington Post-Ipsos polling, released this morning, shows how much work the president has cut out for him: More than 8 in 10 black Americans say they believe Trump is a racist and that he has made racism a bigger problem in the country:**

## Over 8 in 10 black Americans say Trump is a racist



Note: Responses from different questions; other response options not shown.

Source: Jan. 2-8, 2020, Washington Post-Ipsos KnowledgePanel poll of 1,088 black Americans with an error margin of +/- 3.5 percentage points

THE WASHINGTON POST

### -- Evelyn Yang revealed she's a survivor of sexual assault by an OB-GYN who has been accused of abusing dozens of patients.

From CNN: "His name was Dr. Robert Hadden. ... Hadden started asking her inappropriate, unsolicited questions about sexual activity with her husband, which were unrelated to her health or the health of her unborn child. Looking back, she now believes he was prepping her for sexual abuse. ... 'The examinations became longer, more frequent, and I learned that they were unnecessary most of the time,' she recalled, but she told herself, 'I suppose I just need to trust him.' Yang says Hadden violated that trust in an unthinkable way when she was seven months pregnant. ... 'I knew it was wrong. I knew I was being assaulted,' she added. ...

"Yang found a lawyer, who discovered that the Manhattan district attorney's office had an open case against Hadden. Several other

women had come forward with similar stories of being assaulted by Hadden while he was their OB-GYN. ... The office of Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance is the same one that was lenient with Jeffrey Epstein over registering as a sex offender and had initially failed to prosecute Harvey Weinstein after allegations of sexual abuse ... In 2016, the Manhattan district attorney's office agreed to a plea deal with Hadden. He pleaded guilty to two of nine charges against him ... As part of the deal, Hadden would lose his medical license and register as the lowest-level sex offender, but he would not go to jail.”



The Virginia state Capitol building is surrounded by fencing in preparation for Monday's rally by gun rights advocates. (Dean Hoffmeyer/Richmond Times-Dispatch/AP)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

**-- A Circuit Court judge upheld Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's temporary ban on firearms on the state capitol grounds ahead of Monday's gun rights rally. [Gregory S. Schneider reports](#): "From**

Friday night until Tuesday, weapons of any kind will be prohibited on the grounds of the Capitol under a state of emergency. Northam (D) said the precaution was necessary because of ‘credible intelligence’ that militias and gun rights advocates are threatening violence at the rally. ‘This is the right decision,’ Northam said in a statement about Richmond Chief Judge Joi Jeter Taylor’s ruling Thursday afternoon. ‘These threats are real — as evidenced by reports of neo-Nazis arrested this morning after discussing plans to head to Richmond with firearms.’ Gun rights groups filed an appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court on Thursday evening.”

**-- Hours before the judge’s decision, the FBI arrested three alleged white supremacists believed to be headed to the pro-gun rally. From the AP:** “The three men, members of The Base, were taken into custody on federal felony charges in Maryland and Delaware ... A criminal complaint charges Canadian national Patrik Jordan Mathews, 27, and Brian Mark Lemley Jr., 33, of Elkton, Maryland, with transporting a firearm and ammunition with intent to commit a felony. William Garfield Bilbrough IV, 19, of Denton, Maryland, is charged with ‘transporting and harboring aliens.’ ... **In encrypted chat rooms, members of The Base have discussed committing acts of violence against blacks and Jews, ways to make improvised explosive devices, their military-style training camps and their desire to create a white ‘ethno-state,’** according to an FBI agent’s affidavit. ... Mathews illegally crossed the U.S. border near Minnesota in August and Bilbrough traveled 600 miles ... each way in a car to pick him up and bring him to Maryland, authorities said. Mathews, who appeared in court Thursday with a bushy beard, was a combat engineer in the Canadian Army Reserve.

Lemley was a 'cavalry scout' in the U.S. Army, court papers show.”

**-- Bill Barr's Justice Department is investigating years-old disclosures of classified information about a Russian intelligence document, a backward-looking inquiry that appears to be targeting former FBI director Jim Comey with the goal of chilling press oversight of the government.** [From the Times](#): “Law enforcement officials are scrutinizing at least two news articles about the F.B.I. and Mr. Comey, published in [The New York Times](#) and [The Washington Post](#) in 2017, that mentioned the Russian government document ... Hackers working for Dutch intelligence officials obtained the document and provided it to the F.B.I., and both its existence and the collection of it were highly classified secrets ... The document played a key role in Mr. Comey’s decision to sideline the Justice Department and announce in July 2016 that the F.B.I. would not recommend that Hillary Clinton face charges in her use of a private email server to conduct government business while secretary of state.” Trump has previously called on his loyalists to use the levers of law enforcement to pursue his perceived enemies.

**-- The House voted to overturn a Trump rule that makes loan forgiveness harder, setting the stage for a Senate fight.** [Danielle Douglas-Gabriel reports](#): “The 231-to-180 vote fell largely along party lines, with six Republicans endorsing a resolution to scrap the administration’s overhaul of a 1995 law known as ‘borrower defense to repayment.’ The law gives the Education Department authority to cancel the federal debt of students whose colleges misled them about graduation or job placement rates to get them to enroll. ... The Trump administration finalized its rewrite of the Obama rule in September,

limiting the time borrowers have to apply for relief and requiring them to prove financial harm. The rule will take effect July 1.”

**-- A panel of aviation safety experts assembled by the Department of Transportation defended the Federal Aviation Administration system that approved the deadly 737 Max jets. [Ian Duncan and Michael Laris report](#):** The panel dismissed “criticisms that the agency gives manufacturers too much authority to oversee their own work. Instead, the panel warned against overhauling the system the FAA uses to review new aircraft. The group, led by Lee Moak, the former head of a major pilots union, found that the current system of allowing Boeing and other manufacturers to oversee much of their own work both ‘promotes safety’ and allows ‘industry and innovation to thrive.’ ... Boeing, whose standing has been badly hurt by the crashes and subsequent internal messages, said in a statement that it appreciated the committee’s work and would study its recommendations.”

**-- A coalition of 14 states and D.C. sued to stop the Trump administration’s plan to take away food stamps from 700,000 unemployed people. [Spencer S. Hsu reports](#):** “In the lawsuit, attorneys general from the District, Maryland, Virginia, New York, California and other states ... asserted the justification for the cuts were based on no evidence and ignored local labor market conditions. ... In the lawsuit, states along the northeastern U.S. corridor joined by California, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada and Oregon said their governments would face heavy new administrative and financial burdens, economic damages and increased costs from ‘the negative health effects of malnutrition and instability.’”

-- The New York Mets parted ways with Carlos Beltrán before he oversaw a single game amid the sign-stealing scandal that has roiled Major League Baseball. [Dave Sheinin reports](#): “Beltrán, 42, was implicated Monday in the Astros’ scheme, in which players, along with then-bench coach Alex Cora, used a center field camera and a video monitor behind their dugout to steal the signs of opposing catchers. Beltrán, a designated hitter for the 2017 Astros, who won the World Series that fall, was the only player from that team named as a participant in the scheme.”

## SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

Republican lobbyist Bruce Mehlman makes these five predictions in his quarterly [PowerPoint presentation](#) for clients:



**2020 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEADERS**

- 1. Disruption Is Accelerating**
  - *Understand what new innovations are coming and the challenges & opportunities they present for you, your stakeholders & competitors.*
- 2. Political Risk Is Growing**
  - *Conduct scenario planning to identify and mitigate risks in a deglobalizing world; include experts in politics and policy in business considerations.*
- 3. Traditional Gatekeepers Are Losing Power**
  - *Expand stakeholder outreach to those who can validate your brand locally and partner on your priorities because you supported theirs.*
- 4. A Reform Era Is Coming**
  - *Identify and support policy reforms that meaningfully expand opportunity... global populism will continue rising until more citizens feel “dealt-in”.*
- 5. Expect to See More Black Swans**
  - *Prepare for a greater number of high-impact, formerly-low-probability events to protect your license to operate and anticipate opportunities.*

MEHLMAN CASTAGNIETTI  
ROSEN & THOMAS



As the Senate accepted the articles, Trump tweeted an instantly iconic message:



The president seems to often turn to a county-by-county map of the 2016 election results for reassurance in difficult moments:



**Dan Zak** ✓  
@MrDanZak



I have also spotted this there. People were carrying it around the Oval Office the day he was impeached, at dusk, & then took it on his helicopter. Seems like a security blanket? When you feel insecure about your 3-million vote deficit, & your poll numbers, just look at the red. [twitter.com/betsy\\_klein/st...](https://twitter.com/betsy_klein/st...)

**Betsy Klein** ✓ @betsy\_klein

Spotted on the resolute desk in the Oval Office during the President's event on school prayer: a map of 2016 election results by county



♥ 523 8:37 PM - Jan 16, 2020



💬 186 people are talking about this



Sen. Martha McSally (R-Ariz.) lashed out at a CNN reporter who asked her about whether witnesses should be called in the impeachment trial:



The lawmaker, who was appointed to fill John McCain's seat when he died after she lost a Senate race in 2018, shared a staffer's video of the encounter and soon after her campaign was fundraising off the controversy -- with support from the Trump campaign. "The attack on a veteran congressional reporter might have been considered out of character for McSally as recently as two years ago, when she was known as a moderate House member focused on national security matters and reticent to comment on Trump's controversial remarks," [Mike DeBonis and Lateshia Beachum note](#). But McSally has chosen to fully hitch her horse to Trump's in a bid to win a full term this November in a state that's trending away from Republicans.

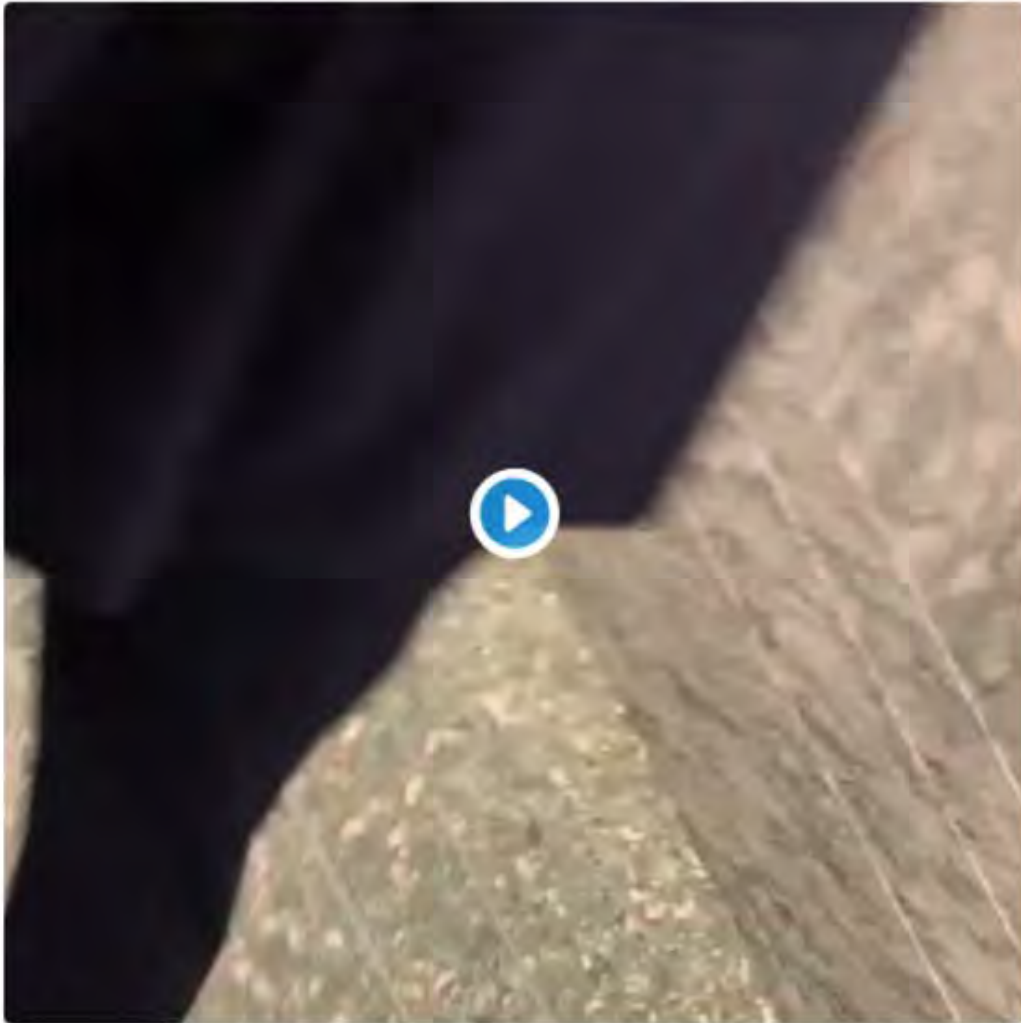


**Martha McSally** ✓  
@SenMcSallyAZ



A) you are.

B) here's the video. [twitter.com/mkraju/status/...](https://twitter.com/mkraju/status/...)



**Manu Raju** ✓ @mkraju

Sen. Martha McSally, a Republican facing a difficult election race, lashed out when I asked if she would consider new evidence as part of the Senate trial. "You're a liberal hack - I'm not talking to you. You're a liberal hack." She then walked into a hearing room.

♡ 45.7K 3:22 PM - Jan 16, 2020



💬 48.6K people are talking about this



The president's daughter-in-law talked about Trump's love for money in a room full of Iowa women:



Put into this historical perspective, the American election doesn't sound so bad:



And a presidential candidate won a push-up contest in New Hampshire:



**Jean Mackin** ✓  
@JeanWMUR



One of those memorable New Hampshire Primary moments: @TulsiGabbard challenged to a push-up contest at a Manchester Town Hall. She wins. #nhpolitics #fitn #wmur



♡ 4,012 1:03 AM - Jan 17, 2020



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## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert reviewed Parnas's evidence:



Trevor Noah went through a list of Trump's "friends":



Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) revealed for the first time publicly that she has alopecia:



"I'm ready now because I want to be free from the secret, and the shame that the secret carries with it," Pressley said in an interview with the Root. ([Michael Brice-Saddler](#))

Washington Conservatory of Music piano fellow Michael Adcock talked to The Post about "Impeachment Polka," written during the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson:





'A real ear-worm': What one pianist thinks about the 'Impeachment Polka'

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# The Daily 202

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**Senators plead for volunteers in Iowa to step up as the impeachment trial pulls them away**



Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) holds a town hall meeting on Monday night in Mason City, Iowa. (Ivan Alvarado/Reuters)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

## **THE BIG IDEA:**

**WAUKEE, Iowa – Sen. Amy Klobuchar’s political hero is Paul Wellstone.** Her campaign bus is green because his campaign bus was green, for example. When Wellstone was facing a tough fight in Minnesota to keep his Senate seat in 2002 after voting against the Iraq War, Klobuchar was unopposed for reelection as the district attorney for the county that includes Minneapolis. That allowed her to travel around the state with him. You probably remember that Wellstone died in a tragic plane crash weeks before the election, but he was also diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in that final year of his

life.

“He would always run back and forth in parades, but that last year of his life he couldn’t run anymore because of the M.S.,” Klobuchar recalled during a town hall meeting here on Sunday night. “He would just stand on the back of his bus and wave. Here’s the amazing thing: He had energized so many people in those green shirts to run around that bus, hundreds of people, that you didn’t even notice that he wasn’t running himself. That’s what I’m asking you to do for me.”

Klobuchar asked the crowd of 140 people to do that for her because the Minnesota senator needed to leave Iowa to serve as a juror in the impeachment trial of President Trump. **With some momentum, and an impressive list of endorsements, Klobuchar said she “would like nothing more” than to keep barnstorming the state. “But it is my lot in life,” she said.**

All four of the senators still seeking the Democratic presidential nomination scrambled over the three-day holiday weekend to talk with as many voters as possible. They each campaigned in Iowa on Monday before flying to Washington, where they’re required to be for the impeachment trial. Proceedings commence this afternoon, with a floor fight over Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s proposed ground rules for the trial.

The 100 senators won’t be sequestered in a hotel for this jury duty, but they’ll be functionally stranded in the capital six days a week – they get Sundays off – until, potentially, even beyond the Iowa caucuses on Feb. 3.

**“I’m going to be stuck in Washington for God knows how long so**

**we need you to take my place,” Sen. Bernie Sanders told 750 supporters on Monday night at the end of a 50-minute speech at the State Historical Museum of Iowa in Des Moines. “Give two-hour speeches like I do, you know,” he joked. “Do whatever you can do!”**

The independent senator from Vermont hoped he might be able to fly back to Iowa tomorrow night for a late-night rally at the University of Northern Iowa after the trial wrapped up for the day, but McConnell’s proposed rules mean that arguments could drag on past midnight, so the campaign just announced that it’s nixed that event. Instead, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) will headline events on Sanders’s behalf later in the week.

Sanders noted that “Us, not me” has been his 2020 slogan. “Ironically, the ‘us, not me,’ is becoming very much of a reality in the last two weeks of this campaign because I am not going to be able to be here as much as I would like, so you guys are going to have to carry the ball,” he said.



Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) takes the stage on Monday afternoon for a town hall meeting in Grimes, Iowa. (Brian Snyder/Reuters)

**It's undeniably terrible timing for jury duty, and Chief Justice John Roberts wouldn't excuse the senators, even if they asked.**

To be sure, none of the four would dream of making such a request. They all insist that their day jobs, and sworn oaths, are their top priorities.

**"There are things that are more important than politics," Sen. Elizabeth Warren said when initially asked about impeachment on Sunday afternoon at Weeks Middle School in Des Moines,** repeating a talking point she's used for weeks. When asked again, after finishing her 106th town hall in Iowa, the senator from Massachusetts took a wistful turn as she mused about how her time on the ground here has "changed" her. The former law professor said she'll miss fielding questions from everyday people.

**“I’ll also miss the babies and the pinkie promises,” Warren said.**

“I really have loved this part of the campaign. And I hope I’ll be able to come back more to Iowa. ... They talk about the issues that matter to them. This is the give-and-take that should really be at the heart of our democracy. We can’t have a democracy that’s all about TV ads and billionaires and sucking up to billionaires. We need a democracy like the kind I’ve been able to experience with the people of Iowa in the last year. It’s really important. **It’s changed me.** And it’s really strengthened my faith in what we can do in a democracy. So I hope we’re going to be able to keep this movement going, even if I have to be in D.C. I’ll do my best.”

**Polls show impeachment is not top of mind for most caucusgoers. All the Democratic candidates are on the same page that Trump should be removed from office, so there’s no contrast to highlight. But that does not mean voters don’t care or aren’t paying close attention.** Michael Marcheck, 31, a grad student who wants to become a social studies teacher, drove from Nebraska to volunteer for Warren. He wore a button at her rally that said “Merry Impeachmas” with a picture of Speaker Nancy Pelosi clapping at Trump during last year’s State of the Union. “Please let everyone in the East know that we do care about impeachment here in the Midwest,” he said.

**Later in the day, Warren used a candidate forum to emphasize her pledge that she would not appoint anyone as an ambassador who contributes to her campaign.** She singled out Gordon Sondland as the poster boy for why. Trump picked the Oregon hotelier to be U.S. ambassador to the European Union after a million-dollar

contribution to the president's inauguration committee. Sondland became one of "the three amigos" in Trump's campaign to allegedly coerce Ukraine to announce an investigation into Joe Biden. "Ambassadorships should not be for sale," Warren said. "It's Washington corruption at its worst."

**Warren's closing argument is that she's the candidate most committed to, and capable of, fighting political "corruption,"** which she says is at the heart of every problem in Washington. She's promised for over a year to enact the biggest set of ethics overhauls since Watergate, but she's put extra emphasis on the theme as the impeachment issue ripened over the past few months. Warren's campaign has aired [two anti-corruption ads](#) in Iowa, including one that features clips of Sondland testifying before the House Intelligence Committee in November.

**Warren unveiled her latest plan this morning, pegged to the impeachment trial, to address "the corruption and incompetence of the Trump administration."** In it, she says she will ask for the immediate resignations of all Trump political appointees on the day she becomes president, including U.S. attorneys. Warren proposes the establishment of a Justice Department task force that would have "independent authority" to "investigate corruption during the Trump administration and to hold government officials accountable for illegal activity." She pledges to review the performance of independent agencies in order to "remove leading officials for cause where there is justification to do so." And she promises an investigation into "federal contracting arrangements that arose as a result of corruption in the Trump administration – and end them." ([Read Warren's eight-page](#)



proposal here.)

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Amy Klobuchar boards her bus in Des Moines on Sunday after a candidate forum. (Andrew Harnik/AP)

**Klobuchar declines to rule out giving ambassadorships to her major donors, but she often cites Marie Yovanovitch on the stump as a model for the kind of person she'll appoint to top jobs if she wins.** Trump allegedly recalled Yovanovitch, a career Foreign Service officer, as ambassador to Ukraine at the behest of his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, an episode at the heart of the impeachment trial. "I personally know her and got to spend time with her out in Ukraine," Klobuchar said.

**The Minnesotan has perhaps the most to lose in Iowa from impeachment.** She needs to garner 15 percent in a precinct to be considered "viable" enough to receive delegates. Klobuchar is straddling that threshold in the polls, trailing in fifth place behind Warren, Sanders, Biden and former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg.

Klobuchar is a grinder. During a recent three-day stretch, she visited 27 counties. "I would love to do 10 counties a day, but I am going to be there," she said, referring to Washington.

**Her town hall in this Des Moines suburb had a somber vibe.** Bob Dylan's downbeat "[Girl from the North Country](#)" played before she took the stage, far from the typical musical fare at political events. She began her remarks by noting that the Green Bay Packers were getting blown out in the NFC Championship game. "But as a Vikings fan, I can relate," she said.

Speaking at an "innovation center" in an office park, with an icy parking lot and subzero temperatures outside, Klobuchar expressed

confidence she can still campaign while serving as a juror. “I always tell people that I’m a mom, and I can do two things at once,” she said, adding that her daughter will hold events on her behalf. “You will enjoy her.”

In the coming days, Klobuchar promises to push hard for the Senate to call witnesses. “If they are not going to allow us to have witnesses, we may as well give the president a crown and a scepter,” Klobuchar said, repeating one of her lines from last week’s Democratic debate.

**Supporters hope that Klobuchar can use the national platform to bolster her standing.** “I have mixed feelings about it,” said Klobuchar supporter Margo Marks, 74, of Waukee. “How much it would help her to be here, I don’t know. But I’m glad to have her out there as a juror. She’s a great representative who will ask the right questions and hopefully influence people.”

**Dan Looker, 72, said after listening to Klobuchar’s speech that he will heed her call for help and sign up for extra door-knocking shifts over the next two weeks.** The retired business editor of Successful Farming magazine, who lives in Des Moines, has believed Klobuchar was presidential timber since she questioned Brett Kavanaugh about his drinking. Looker thinks the senior senator from Minnesota proved her mettle by not getting rattled when Trump’s Supreme Court nominee – fighting allegations of sexual assault – asked her if she’s ever been blackout drunk. Kavanaugh subsequently apologized for his emotional outburst. “I’m sure impeachment is an added challenge for her, but anyone who lives in Iowa has seen lots of ads for all the candidates,” he said. “If she can afford to run ads, I think she’ll be okay.”



Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) answers questions on Monday during the 2020 Iowa Brown & Black Democratic Presidential Forum in Des Moines. All four senators running for president took questions about race-related issues on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Sen. Michael Bennet has mostly focused on New Hampshire, but he was in Iowa on Monday for a Brown and Black Forum that drew all the major candidates.** The senator from Colorado said he's not raised enough money to pay for the private planes that give the top-tier candidates more scheduling flexibility. "If they'll let me get on their charters, I might go with them, but I can't afford one myself," Bennet joked after the forum. "We all have an important constitutional responsibility to fulfill, and I feel like we've got to make sure we take the time to take it seriously and we cannot let the campaigning distract us."

Bennet emphasized that he'll "mostly" be in the Granite State when

the trial is not going on, which is easier to fly to than Iowa. “Whatever it takes, we’ll make it work,” he said. “I hope this may turn into a more interesting trial than people thought it would be.”

Before he headed to the airport yesterday afternoon, I asked Bennet how impeachment shapes his closing message. “Some people say, ‘Well, if you know the guy’s going to be acquitted, why would you go through this?’ First of all, we don’t know that he’s going to be acquitted. It’s likely, but we don’t know that,” he answered. “Second, I think this is a real opportunity for us to reestablish a standard of what we expect out of the president of the United States and our elected leadership generally, and I think he’s failed that test miserably.”

**To be sure, being absent from Iowa is not necessarily a death knell.** Consider the inverse: No Democratic candidate has spent more time in the Hawkeye State this cycle than former Maryland congressman John Delaney, who continues to register at zero percent in the polls. As Delaney spoke during that forum, almost all the reporters in the filing room got up to go ask questions of Andrew Yang, the entrepreneur who has never held public office and whose big idea is to give every American a thousand-dollar check each month. Yang didn’t qualify for the last debate, but he’s planning a bus tour to take him all over Iowa. He expressed condolences to the senators who are waylaid by impeachment. “I feel bad for my competitors because I wish they were out campaigning too, sharing their visions, but the circumstances are what they are,” Yang said.



Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) speaks during a rally on Monday night at the State Historical Museum of Iowa in Des Moines. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)



Impeachment is shaping up to be an early test of Sanders's theory of the case for 2020, which is that he can expand the electorate by exciting millions of people, thereby engaging them in the political process, who won't support an establishment candidate.

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Sanders recalled taking a bus from Chicago to Washington in 1963 to watch King deliver his “I have a dream” speech. “Sometimes the media kind of sanitizes what Dr. King was all about,” Sanders said. “He was a political revolutionary. ... In the spirit of Dr. King, what this campaign is about and what makes this campaign different than other campaigns, is that we are not just here to defeat Donald Trump. We are here to transform the United States of America. That’s what political revolution is.”

**Sanders’s microphone cut out a dozen times during his stump speech at the historical museum.** After the seventh time, he quipped: “Donald Trump stops at nothing!” Perturbed, the senator kept talking without the speakers on. His supporters quieted, straining to listen as the senator raised his voice to promise he will disrupt the power structure. “As president, I intend to not only be the commander-in-chief of the military,” he said. “I intend to be organizer-in-chief, as well.”

**He emphasized that his volunteers have a duty to step up in his absence because the future of their “revolution” depends on it.** “If we win here in Iowa, and with your help I believe we can, then I think we’re going to win in New Hampshire,” Sanders said. “And if we win in New Hampshire, we’re going to win in Nevada. And if we win in Nevada, we’re going to do very well in South Carolina. And then we’re going to win in California. ... Four years ago, Iowa started the revolution. Let’s complete the revolution in Iowa.”

**Shari Hawk, a retired nurse who lives in the suburb of Ankeny, will be a precinct captain for Sanders on caucus night.** She’s

been door-knocking, phone-banking and even got asked to leave a shopping center a few days ago where she was canvassing for Sanders. Hawk told me with great pride that she converted a handful of undecided voters into Sanders supporters before management told her to skedaddle. **She acknowledged feeling some stress that the trial will keep Sanders away, but she said that the drawbacks of his absence are obviated somewhat by the work she and other volunteers have done over the past five years, dating to the 2016 campaign**, to build up a winning organization in the state. “It still bothers me, though, because nobody excites people like Bernie himself does,” said Hawk, 69. “We all know that. But we also know his surrogates can raise the roof.”

**Brit Voss, 30, is less worried about the politics of the impeachment trial than the bottom line.** She and her girlfriend live in New Mexico but follow Sanders around the country to sell merchandise at his events. She said they give some of their proceeds as a donation to the campaign. “Impeachment will affect our sales because he’s not able to have rallies,” Voss said. “It means we’re not going to have rallies to go sell our merchandise, so it is affecting us financially. I want Trump to be impeached, but what does that mean? At this point, it seems like it’s all kind of a facade because Republicans are never going to remove him from office. So, personally, I feel like it’s just a waste of time.”



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The House impeachment managers make their way to the Senate for a walk-through of the Senate floor in preparation for the impeachment trial. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

## THE LATEST ON IMPEACHMENT:

**-- Trump's defense team is working behind the scenes with Senate GOP allies to ensure former national security adviser John Bolton does not testify publicly if Democrats win enough votes to force witnesses.** [Robert Costa and Rachael Bade report:](#) "One option being discussed, according to a senior administration official, would be to move Bolton's testimony to a classified setting because of national security concerns, ensuring that it is not public. To receive the testimony in a classified session, Trump's attorneys would have to request such a step, according to one official, adding that it would probably need the approval of 51 senators. But that proposal, discussed among some Senate Republicans in recent days, is seen as a final tool against Bolton becoming an explosive figure in the trial. First, Republicans involved in the discussions said, would come a fierce battle in the courts. ... Trump has said he would assert executive privilege if Bolton were called to testify ... And the White House has indicated in conversations with Republican lawmakers that it could appeal to federal courts for an injunction that would stop Bolton if he refuses to go along with their instructions."

**-- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) didn't release the draft ground rules that will guide proceedings until late yesterday afternoon, and they're clearly written to wrap up the trial as quickly as possible.** [Seung Min Kim and Karoun Demirjian report:](#) "McConnell's organizing resolution ... offers each side 24 hours to make its opening arguments, starting on Wednesday but compressed into two session days. **It is unclear whether Democrats would press to use all their time, which could push testimony**

**past midnight.** After the House managers and Trump's lawyers make their case, senators will be allowed 16 hours to question the opposing sides. After that, the sides will debate for a maximum of four hours on whether to consider subpoenaing witnesses or documents at all, followed by a vote on whether to do so. If a majority of senators agree, then there will probably be motions from both sides to call various witnesses, with subsequent votes on issuing subpoenas.

**“The resolution also allows Trump’s team to move to dismiss the charges at any time** — although it is not explicitly mentioned in the four-page measure — because doing so is allowed under standard impeachment trial rules. The Senate trial also won’t automatically admit evidence from the House process, according to GOP officials, a key difference from the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton ... Though the material will be printed and made available to senators, it won’t be automatically admissible unless a majority of senators approve it. The resolution infuriated Democratic senators, with Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) calling the document a ‘national disgrace’ and accusing McConnell of shrouding testimony and rushing the trial. ...

**“The proceedings Tuesday will formally begin with a debate over the McConnell resolution.** The impeachment managers and the president’s lawyers will have an opportunity to debate the proposed rules, while Schumer is expected to offer changes to the measure that would allow the Senate to call several witnesses desired by Democrats at the outset. Democrats could also push for more than one vote on witnesses and documents. But all 53 Republican senators are expected to support the rules as written by McConnell. Once

those parameters are set, the formal arguments will begin."

-- **A [CNN poll finds](#) that 69 percent of Americans want to hear from witnesses during the trial.** A slight 51 percent majority says the Senate should vote to convict and remove Trump from office, with 45 percent say senators should vote against conviction and removal.

-- **An [NPR poll](#) shows that 51 percent of Americans think Trump has personally encouraged election interference in 2020.**

Additionally, 41 percent said they believed the United States is not very prepared or not prepared at all to keep November's election safe and secure.

-- **Dueling filings: Trump's legal team argued in a [171-page legal brief](#) that the two articles of impeachment are "structurally deficient" and urged senators for an acquittal in a "rigged process." In their own [111-page brief](#), the House's seven impeachment managers laid out their case against Trump.** The White House says there was no underlying crime. Democrats point to [the Government Accountability Office opinion](#) last week that Trump withholding aid appropriated by Congress broke the law. The new Republican talking point is that senators should only pay attention to evidence the House had when it voted to impeach on Dec. 18.

-- **Both sides did walk-throughs of the Senate chamber on Monday, and the White House announced the names of eight House Republicans who will be part of Trump's defense.** They will make his case on cable news, not the Senate floor, but as official representatives of the president: Reps. Doug Collins (Ga.), Mike Johnson (La.), Jim Jordan (Ohio), Debbie Lesko (Ariz.), Mark

Meadows (N.C.), John Ratcliffe (Tex.), Elise Stefanik (N.Y.) and Lee Zeldin (N.Y.).

**-- A lawyer for Rudy Giuliani's former associate Lev Parnas said Attorney General Bill Barr has a conflict of interest and should recuse himself from Parnas's criminal case.** Joseph Bondy cites references to the attorney general in Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. ([Shayna Jacobs](#))

**-- The trove of messages released in recent days from Parnas reveal his wide reach among Ukraine's oligarchs and political elites.** [Robyn Dixon, David L. Stern and Natalie Gryvnyak report](#): "The connections read like a who's who of Ukraine's political elite: members of [Zelensky's] inner circle, the country's head police officer, the chief of security services, two former top prosecutors and one of Ukraine's richest men. Parnas's messages showed how he ping-ponged around the globe, jetting to Warsaw, Kyiv, Vienna, Israel, Paris and Madrid, always, he has claimed, with Giuliani's consent and Trump's knowledge ... At times, Parnas showed frustration when efforts to get Zelensky officials to cooperate stumbled. Giuliani and Parnas struggled and failed to get a meeting between Giuliani and Zelensky in April and May. When his texts to members of Zelensky's administration went unanswered, Parnas, left hanging, responded with double question marks."

**-- Trump made 16,241 false or misleading claims during his first three years in the White House,** according to [the running tally from The Post's Fact Checker team](#).



Gun rights activists descend on Virginia capital

## DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERSHADOWED:

-- Thousands of gun rights advocates descended upon the Virginia Capitol carrying weapons, flags and threats of insurrection. But no violence erupted. [Greg Schneider](#), [Laura Vozzella](#), [Patricia Sullivan](#) and [Michael Miller](#) report: "Armed militias carrying assault-style weapons marched in formation until the crowds

grew too thick. Protesters without firearms filed through 17 metal detectors at a single entrance to Capitol Square, where Gov. Ralph Northam had temporarily banned weapons, and cheered fiery speeches about the Second Amendment. ... Intelligence from law enforcement about outside threats had put Virginia officials on edge and led to a massive police presence. The crackdown also made Northam (D) a symbol of the country's cultural and political divide — as evidenced by harsh signs Monday depicting him as a 'tyrant,' 'radical Ralph' and photoshopped into a Nazi uniform. ... Inside the white-columned Capitol, the halls were strangely quiet as lawmakers went about their business. Young pages had the day off for safety; there was a skeleton staff but a beefed-up police presence. ...

**“Public safety officials said there were about 16,000 people, based on how many blocks of street and sidewalk were filled, while rally organizers said they believed there were twice that many.** Authorities reported no major incidents and only a single arrest — of a 21-year-old woman charged with wearing a mask in public — despite the presence of numerous out-of-state militia and extremist groups that had threatened violence online and in social media. ... Officers did remove a homemade guillotine that had been set up on the street, inscribed with the words: 'The penalty for treason is death.' ... Militia members began arriving from other states the night before the rally, with more than 100 gathering for dinner and prayers in a remote part of Henrico County. Vehicles in the parking lot bore license plates from Texas, Oklahoma, Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New Jersey and more. ... **There were almost no signs of counterprotesters.** In a rare clash, a man who said he was a shooting survivor confronted a teen carrying an oversize long gun.

‘Why do you need to have that gun?’ the man demanded. A small contingent watched the two argue; they eventually shook hands and walked off peacefully.”

**-- The rally followed a weekend of gun violence across the nation:**

- In Hawaii, a shooting left two officers dead at a Honolulu home that went up in flames with several others, leaving the suspect and two others unaccounted for, officials said. ([Marisa Iati and Hannah Knowles](#))
- In San Antonio, an assailant shot and killed two people and wounded five others inside a club. A 19-year-old suspect was later arrested and will be charged with murder, police said. ([Michael Brice-Saddler](#))
- In Kansas City, Mo., a gunman opened fire on a line of people outside a bar, killing a woman and wounding 15 others before an armed security guard shot and killed him. ([Michael Brice-Saddler and Reis Thebault](#))

**-- As Virginia grapples with the gun control proposals that drew such crowds to its capitol, Maryland is quietly trying to further tighten regulations that are already some of the strictest in the nation.** Bills that face favorable prospects include a ban on untraceable “ghost guns” and a requirement for all private sales of rifles and shotguns to be subject to background checks. ([Erin Cox](#))



**-- Secretary of the Navy nominee Kenneth Braithwaite may have had an undisclosed contract with Cambridge Analytica, documents suggest.** [From CBS News](#): “Braithwaite ... made no mention of an agreement in his required government disclosure form, and says he never entered one. Braithwaite was required to disclose every paid and unpaid position he held outside government within the two prior calendar years before the Senate confirmed him to be ambassador.”

**-- The religious-schools case is heading to the Supreme Court, testing the constitutionality of state laws that exclude religious organizations from the government funding available to others and further escalating the debate on school choice.** [Robert Barnes reports](#): “The issue rests on whether a scholarship fund supported by tax-deductible donations can help children attending the state’s private schools, most of which are religious. Arguments are scheduled for Wednesday. ... Montana told the court that, as in 37 other states, it is reasonable for its constitution to prohibit direct or indirect aid to religious organizations. ... But Montana is being called before a Supreme Court increasingly skeptical of such stark lines between church and state. A majority of justices in 2017 said Missouri could not ban a church school from requesting a grant from a state program that rehabilitated playgrounds. ... The Montana case is prompted by a 2015 decision by the state’s legislature to create a tax-credit program for those who wanted to donate to a scholarship fund.”

**-- State senators in Oklahoma want “Make America Great Again” license plates, a move that could violate federal campaign finance rules.** The Trump-themed licenses would, if approved by the

state legislature, be added to a list of 98 other specialty designs Oklahoma drivers can choose to purchase for \$35. Of that amount, \$20 goes to the designated organization that matches the theme of the plate, although two senators claim the money collected from the 'MAGA' plates would not go directly to the president's reelection bid but would instead be split between two veterans groups. The Oklahoma Tax Commission, which handles the plates, would enter a licensing agreement with a corporation designated by Trump. ([Katie Mettler](#))



Central American migrants cross river into Mexico

## **THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

**-- U.S.-bound Central American migrants clashed with Mexican forces at the Guatemala border after Mexico's authorities rejected their request to transit north. [Kevin Sieff reports](#): "Mexican National Guard troops deployed along the banks of the river tried to repel those who waded across and pursued others who reached**

Mexican soil. The caravan, which formed last week in Honduras, presented a new test for the Mexican government, which promised the Trump administration last year that it would step up enforcement, even as President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said he would respect the rights of migrants. ... The group waiting at the border on Monday appeared to be the largest in more than a year, and its size has posed a particular challenge for Mexican security forces."

**-- Trump arrived in Davos overnight and immediately took a victory lap, taking credit for a soaring stock market, low unemployment and a "blue collar boom" in jobs and income. Heather Long reports:** "Trump ran through economic statistics with a salesman's delivery, crowing about growth during his three years in office that he said bested his predecessors and defied his skeptics. .. Trump, who has called climate change a hoax, did not directly address the theme during his 30-minute address here, though he did call for rejecting 'the perennial prophets of doom and their predictions of the apocalypse.' He also made no mention of impeachment or U.S. politics, though he took a swipe at 'radical socialism,' his term for Democratic ideas about health care, education and other issues. ... Forum founder and chairman Klaus Schwab thanked Trump 'for injecting optimism' into the discussion. ... Trump got a polite but not enthusiastic reception in the hall, though a few in the audience slipped out well before he wrapped up."

**-- The global economy is likely to rebound in 2020, but the International Monetary Fund warned of eerie parallels to the 1920s. Long reports:** "Global growth is expected to hit 3.3 percent this year, the IMF predicted. That is up from 2.9 percent last year, which

was the worst year for the world economy since the Great Recession. ... But [at the World Economic Forum], as top business and political leaders gather in this ski chalet town in the Swiss Alps, uncertainty remains high ... [IMF Managing Director Kristalina] Georgieva warned that the record or near-record levels of wealth inequality in the United States, United Kingdom and many other parts of the world, combined with the rapid advancement of technology, feels a lot like the 1920s, which ultimately led to financial disaster. ... The IMF is urging countries to use this time now, while unemployment is low and growth is decent, to address bigger problems in the economy.”

**-- Sanders and Warren are not attending the annual gathering of global elites and billionaires at Davos, but the two are hot discussion topics. So is climate change. Long reports:** “Leaders of large corporations are eager to show they are doing something about the world’s biggest problems and do not need the sweeping policy changes that Sanders and Warren are proposing. ... **For the first time, ‘climate action failure’ was the No. 1 risk in the World Economic Forum’s Global Risk Report, which is based on a survey of more than 1,000 key business and political figures.** ... As candidates like Sanders and Warren keep the spotlight on billionaires and protesters take to the streets in Switzerland holding signs that say ‘Eat the Rich,’ there’s an awareness that giving to foundations and charities is no longer enough. But few here are committing to concrete solutions.”

**-- At Davos, teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg said “pretty much nothing has been done” to tackle climate change.** “Without treating this as a real crisis we cannot solve it,” she said. “It will

require much more than this, this is just the very beginning.”

([Bloomberg News](#))

**-- Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou, facing extradition to the United States, argued that the charges against her aren't crimes in Canada.** [Amanda Coletta reports](#): Under Canadian law, to 'commit' Meng for extradition, the allegations must meet the test of 'double criminality,' meaning that the charges of which she is accused in the United States must also be considered crimes in Canada. Meng's legal team told Associate Chief Justice Heather Holmes that the alleged misrepresentations do not amount to fraud, and that the case is really about the United States trying to enforce its sanctions against Iran — sanctions that did not exist in Canada at the time Canadian officials agreed to begin extradition.”

**-- Iran has asked the U.S. and French authorities for equipment to download information from the black boxes of the Ukrainian airliner that was downed nearly two weeks ago.** ([Reuters](#))

**-- The Brexit deal has received a setback in the House of Lords after three amendments to Prime Minister Boris Johnson's bill were passed.** ([The Guardian](#))

**-- China is trying to close the city at the center of a mystery virus that has claimed six lives.** Chinese officials have confirmation that the pneumonialike coronavirus can be spread from person to person, so they're trying to limit travel in and out of the city of Wuhan, where the vast majority of disease cases have been reported. ([Anna Fifield](#))

**-- Norway Prime Minister Erna Solberg lost her parliamentary majority after the right-wing Progress Party withdrew its**


**ministers from the government coalition.** [Rick Noack reports](#): “The right-wing protest move came in response to the controversial repatriation of a suspected Islamic State member and her children from a Syrian camp. ... The unnamed 29-year-old suspect was arrested upon her return but is denying the accusations ... If prosecutors are unable to prove she had ties to the Islamic State, it could put Solberg’s government at further risk of accusations that she handled the case recklessly, as right-wing critics allege.”

**-- Seven members of a hiking group are still missing after an avalanche hit the Himalayas, and 200 others have been rescued.** [Hannah Knowles reports](#): “Military and government officials have joined tourism groups, locals and others to look for the four South Korean hikers and their three Nepali guides, and to bring scores of others ‘whose lives were in jeopardy’ to safety, Nepal’s tourism department said in a statement. But avalanches and heavy snowfall have thwarted those operations ... Poor conditions kept a military helicopter with rescue teams from landing Monday...”

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Trump’s legal team took a tour of the impeachment battleground:




**Frank Thorp V**   
@frankthorp



The WH defense team leaves the Capitol after a final walk-through ahead of tomorrow's Senate impeachment trial:



 103 8:35 PM - Jan 20, 2020



 83 people are talking about this



Alan Dershowitz, the liberal lawyer Trump tapped for his defense team, didn't represent Clinton 21 years ago because he was too toxic:



**andrew kaczynski** 🤔 ✓  
@KFILE



From 1999:

CNN: How would you conduct defending Bill Clinton in the Senate if you were in charge of it?

Dershowitz: "Well, the first thing I would do is say, 'Fire Dershowitz.' We don't want to get involved with people saying, 'O.J.'s lawyer is representing the president.'"



♡ 2,965 10:38 PM - Jan 20, 2020



💬 1,152 people are talking about this



The Office of Legal Counsel has become more politicized than ever under Barr, coming up with often dubious justifications for Trump's most brazen conduct. Many lawyers noticed that Trump's team wasn't particularly careful about details in its brief:



**southpaw** @nycsouthpaw · 13h





Make OLC reform a campaign issue.  
twitter.com/andygrewal/sta...

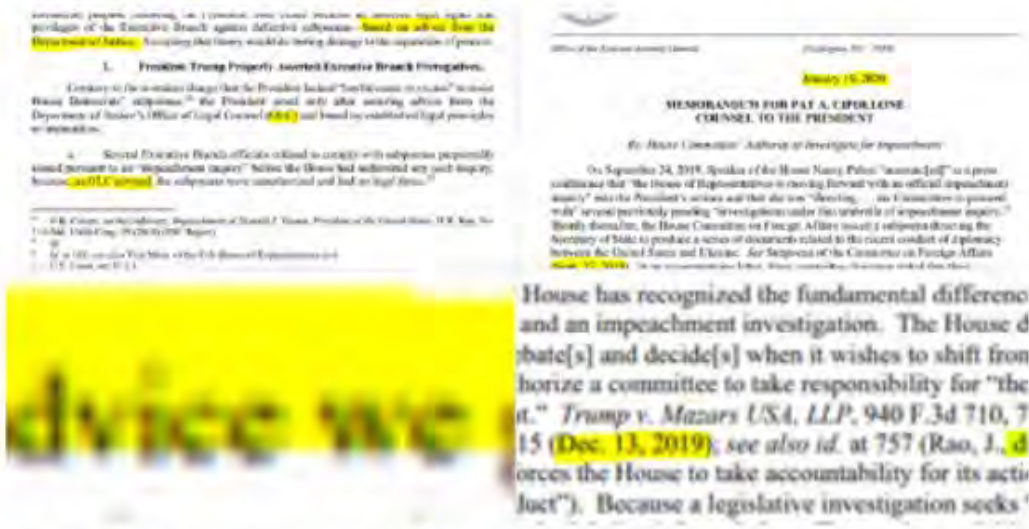
**Andy Grewal** @AndyGrewal

White House brief has 37-page OLC memo, dated yesterday, in its appendix. It concludes that subpoenas issued prior to 10/31/19 are invalid because there was not a formal impeachment inquiry vote.



 **Max Kennerly** ✓  
@MaxKennerly

The Trump / Barr OLC doesn't even bother with the pretense of lawfulness. OLC's memo, dated yesterday, supposedly "memorializes" how in Sept, Oct, & Nov 2019 they advised Trump to ignore subpoenas based upon... Judge Rao's dissent in an unrelated case issued on Dec 13, 2019. 😞



716 10:48 PM - Jan 20, 2020 ⓘ

479 people are talking about this >

A former House speaker warned fellow Republicans to take Klobuchar's candidacy seriously:

 **Newt Gingrich** ✓  
@newtgingrich

Senator Amy Klobuchar is the most dangerous candidate for the GOP. She is calm, pleasant, rational and has a history of working with Republicans. The NYTimes endorsement means much more to her than the joint endorsement means to Elizabeth Warren.

7,485 2:42 PM - Jan 20, 2020 ⓘ

2,193 people are talking about this >

Joe Biden didn't get the Times endorsement, but his campaign highlighted the support he received from an African American woman in the elevator on his way to sit down with their editorial board:



**Joe Biden (Text Join to 30330)** ✓  
@JoeBiden



Honored to have won Jacquelyn's endorsement.



7,571 likes 8:08 PM - Jan 20, 2020



1,960 people are talking about this



The FBI shared a message honoring MLK, prompting a CNN anchor to recall the bureau's not-always-great history:



**Jake Tapper** ✓  
@jaketapper



The FBI under J. Edgar Hoover had a completely different approach to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., of course.

It smeared him, wiretapped him (signed off by Attorney General Robert Kennedy), and encouraged him to commit suicide. [twitter.com/FBI/status/121...](https://twitter.com/FBI/status/121...)

**FBI** ✓ @FBI

Today, the FBI honors the life and work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A quote from Dr. King is etched in stone at the FBI Academy's reflection garden in Quantico as a reminder to all students and FBI employees: "The time is always right to do what is right." #MLKDay






14.6K 4:37 PM - Jan 20, 2020




5,071 people are talking about this








Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) could have been one of the contenders in Iowa this weekend if he had run for president. Instead, he went shopping in the snow of Ohio. From his wife:

 **Connie Schultz**   
@ConnieSchultz 

He's off to Washington, but yesterday my guy was all about the Costco.



 3,746  1:26 AM - Jan 21, 2020 

 192 people are talking about this 

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "It was awful because it was my life's work

and I'm good at it, and there's no reason in the world that the president shouldn't trust me," said Sue Gordon, the former deputy director of national intelligence, of her dismissal by the president. (InStyle)

## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Trump received a mixed reaction when he visited the MLK memorial:



Trump receives cheers, boos during MLK Jr. memorial visit

Stephen Colbert broke down Trump's lawyers' appearances on the Sunday shows:



And he sat down with Tom Steyer:



Seth Meyers took a look at the Lev Parnas evidence:



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**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Senators plead for volunteers in Iowa to step up as the impeachment trial pulls them away  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 21, 2020 10:52:30 AM

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

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**Senators plead for volunteers in Iowa to step up as the impeachment trial pulls them away**



Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) holds a town hall meeting on Monday night in Mason City, Iowa. (Ivan Alvarado/Reuters)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

## **THE BIG IDEA:**

**WAUKEE, Iowa – Sen. Amy Klobuchar’s political hero is Paul Wellstone.** Her campaign bus is green because his campaign bus was green, for example. When Wellstone was facing a tough fight in Minnesota to keep his Senate seat in 2002 after voting against the Iraq War, Klobuchar was unopposed for reelection as the district attorney for the county that includes Minneapolis. That allowed her to travel around the state with him. You probably remember that Wellstone died in a tragic plane crash weeks before the election, but he was also diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in that final year of his

life.

“He would always run back and forth in parades, but that last year of his life he couldn’t run anymore because of the M.S.,” Klobuchar recalled during a town hall meeting here on Sunday night. “He would just stand on the back of his bus and wave. Here’s the amazing thing: He had energized so many people in those green shirts to run around that bus, hundreds of people, that you didn’t even notice that he wasn’t running himself. That’s what I’m asking you to do for me.”

Klobuchar asked the crowd of 140 people to do that for her because the Minnesota senator needed to leave Iowa to serve as a juror in the impeachment trial of President Trump. **With some momentum, and an impressive list of endorsements, Klobuchar said she “would like nothing more” than to keep barnstorming the state. “But it is my lot in life,” she said.**

All four of the senators still seeking the Democratic presidential nomination scrambled over the three-day holiday weekend to talk with as many voters as possible. They each campaigned in Iowa on Monday before flying to Washington, where they’re required to be for the impeachment trial. Proceedings commence this afternoon, with a floor fight over Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s proposed ground rules for the trial.

The 100 senators won’t be sequestered in a hotel for this jury duty, but they’ll be functionally stranded in the capital six days a week – they get Sundays off – until, potentially, even beyond the Iowa caucuses on Feb. 3.

**“I’m going to be stuck in Washington for God knows how long so**

**we need you to take my place,” Sen. Bernie Sanders told 750 supporters on Monday night at the end of a 50-minute speech at the State Historical Museum of Iowa in Des Moines. “Give two-hour speeches like I do, you know,” he joked. “Do whatever you can do!”**

The independent senator from Vermont hoped he might be able to fly back to Iowa tomorrow night for a late-night rally at the University of Northern Iowa after the trial wrapped up for the day, but McConnell’s proposed rules mean that arguments could drag on past midnight, so the campaign just announced that it’s nixed that event. Instead, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) will headline events on Sanders’s behalf later in the week.

Sanders noted that “Us, not me” has been his 2020 slogan. “Ironically, the ‘us, not me,’ is becoming very much of a reality in the last two weeks of this campaign because I am not going to be able to be here as much as I would like, so you guys are going to have to carry the ball,” he said.



Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) takes the stage on Monday afternoon for a town hall meeting in Grimes, Iowa. (Brian Snyder/Reuters)

**It's undeniably terrible timing for jury duty, and Chief Justice John Roberts wouldn't excuse the senators, even if they asked.**

To be sure, none of the four would dream of making such a request. They all insist that their day jobs, and sworn oaths, are their top priorities.

**"There are things that are more important than politics," Sen. Elizabeth Warren said when initially asked about impeachment on Sunday afternoon at Weeks Middle School in Des Moines,** repeating a talking point she's used for weeks. When asked again, after finishing her 106th town hall in Iowa, the senator from Massachusetts took a wistful turn as she mused about how her time on the ground here has "changed" her. The former law professor said she'll miss fielding questions from everyday people.

**“I’ll also miss the babies and the pinkie promises,” Warren said.**

“I really have loved this part of the campaign. And I hope I’ll be able to come back more to Iowa. ... They talk about the issues that matter to them. This is the give-and-take that should really be at the heart of our democracy. We can’t have a democracy that’s all about TV ads and billionaires and sucking up to billionaires. We need a democracy like the kind I’ve been able to experience with the people of Iowa in the last year. It’s really important. **It’s changed me.** And it’s really strengthened my faith in what we can do in a democracy. So I hope we’re going to be able to keep this movement going, even if I have to be in D.C. I’ll do my best.”

**Polls show impeachment is not top of mind for most caucusgoers. All the Democratic candidates are on the same page that Trump should be removed from office, so there’s no contrast to highlight. But that does not mean voters don’t care or aren’t paying close attention.** Michael Marcheck, 31, a grad student who wants to become a social studies teacher, drove from Nebraska to volunteer for Warren. He wore a button at her rally that said “Merry Impeachmas” with a picture of Speaker Nancy Pelosi clapping at Trump during last year’s State of the Union. “Please let everyone in the East know that we do care about impeachment here in the Midwest,” he said.

**Later in the day, Warren used a candidate forum to emphasize her pledge that she would not appoint anyone as an ambassador who contributes to her campaign.** She singled out Gordon Sondland as the poster boy for why. Trump picked the Oregon hotelier to be U.S. ambassador to the European Union after a million-dollar

contribution to the president's inauguration committee. Sondland became one of "the three amigos" in Trump's campaign to allegedly coerce Ukraine to announce an investigation into Joe Biden. "Ambassadorships should not be for sale," Warren said. "It's Washington corruption at its worst."

**Warren's closing argument is that she's the candidate most committed to, and capable of, fighting political "corruption,"** which she says is at the heart of every problem in Washington. She's promised for over a year to enact the biggest set of ethics overhauls since Watergate, but she's put extra emphasis on the theme as the impeachment issue ripened over the past few months. Warren's campaign has aired [two anti-corruption ads](#) in Iowa, including one that features clips of Sondland testifying before the House Intelligence Committee in November.

**Warren unveiled her latest plan this morning, pegged to the impeachment trial, to address "the corruption and incompetence of the Trump administration."** In it, she says she will ask for the immediate resignations of all Trump political appointees on the day she becomes president, including U.S. attorneys. Warren proposes the establishment of a Justice Department task force that would have "independent authority" to "investigate corruption during the Trump administration and to hold government officials accountable for illegal activity." She pledges to review the performance of independent agencies in order to "remove leading officials for cause where there is justification to do so." And she promises an investigation into "federal contracting arrangements that arose as a result of corruption in the Trump administration – and end them." ([Read Warren's eight-page](#)

proposal here.)

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Amy Klobuchar boards her bus in Des Moines on Sunday after a candidate forum. (Andrew Harnik/AP)



**Klobuchar declines to rule out giving ambassadorships to her major donors, but she often cites Marie Yovanovitch on the stump as a model for the kind of person she'll appoint to top jobs if she wins.** Trump allegedly recalled Yovanovitch, a career Foreign Service officer, as ambassador to Ukraine at the behest of his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, an episode at the heart of the impeachment trial. "I personally know her and got to spend time with her out in Ukraine," Klobuchar said.

**The Minnesotan has perhaps the most to lose in Iowa from impeachment.** She needs to garner 15 percent in a precinct to be considered "viable" enough to receive delegates. Klobuchar is straddling that threshold in the polls, trailing in fifth place behind Warren, Sanders, Biden and former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg.

Klobuchar is a grinder. During a recent three-day stretch, she visited 27 counties. "I would love to do 10 counties a day, but I am going to be there," she said, referring to Washington.

**Her town hall in this Des Moines suburb had a somber vibe.** Bob Dylan's downbeat "[Girl from the North Country](#)" played before she took the stage, far from the typical musical fare at political events. She began her remarks by noting that the Green Bay Packers were getting blown out in the NFC Championship game. "But as a Vikings fan, I can relate," she said.

Speaking at an "innovation center" in an office park, with an icy parking lot and subzero temperatures outside, Klobuchar expressed

confidence she can still campaign while serving as a juror. “I always tell people that I’m a mom, and I can do two things at once,” she said, adding that her daughter will hold events on her behalf. “You will enjoy her.”

In the coming days, Klobuchar promises to push hard for the Senate to call witnesses. “If they are not going to allow us to have witnesses, we may as well give the president a crown and a scepter,” Klobuchar said, repeating one of her lines from last week’s Democratic debate.

**Supporters hope that Klobuchar can use the national platform to bolster her standing.** “I have mixed feelings about it,” said Klobuchar supporter Margo Marks, 74, of Waukee. “How much it would help her to be here, I don’t know. But I’m glad to have her out there as a juror. She’s a great representative who will ask the right questions and hopefully influence people.”

**Dan Looker, 72, said after listening to Klobuchar’s speech that he will heed her call for help and sign up for extra door-knocking shifts over the next two weeks.** The retired business editor of Successful Farming magazine, who lives in Des Moines, has believed Klobuchar was presidential timber since she questioned Brett Kavanaugh about his drinking. Looker thinks the senior senator from Minnesota proved her mettle by not getting rattled when Trump’s Supreme Court nominee – fighting allegations of sexual assault – asked her if she’s ever been blackout drunk. Kavanaugh subsequently apologized for his emotional outburst. “I’m sure impeachment is an added challenge for her, but anyone who lives in Iowa has seen lots of ads for all the candidates,” he said. “If she can afford to run ads, I think she’ll be okay.”



Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) answers questions on Monday during the 2020 Iowa Brown & Black Democratic Presidential Forum in Des Moines. All four senators running for president took questions about race-related issues on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Sen. Michael Bennet has mostly focused on New Hampshire, but he was in Iowa on Monday for a Brown and Black Forum that drew all the major candidates.** The senator from Colorado said he's not raised enough money to pay for the private planes that give the top-tier candidates more scheduling flexibility. "If they'll let me get on their charters, I might go with them, but I can't afford one myself," Bennet joked after the forum. "We all have an important constitutional responsibility to fulfill, and I feel like we've got to make sure we take the time to take it seriously and we cannot let the campaigning distract us."

Bennet emphasized that he'll "mostly" be in the Granite State when

the trial is not going on, which is easier to fly to than Iowa. “Whatever it takes, we’ll make it work,” he said. “I hope this may turn into a more interesting trial than people thought it would be.”

Before he headed to the airport yesterday afternoon, I asked Bennet how impeachment shapes his closing message. “Some people say, ‘Well, if you know the guy’s going to be acquitted, why would you go through this?’ First of all, we don’t know that he’s going to be acquitted. It’s likely, but we don’t know that,” he answered. “Second, I think this is a real opportunity for us to reestablish a standard of what we expect out of the president of the United States and our elected leadership generally, and I think he’s failed that test miserably.”

**To be sure, being absent from Iowa is not necessarily a death knell.** Consider the inverse: No Democratic candidate has spent more time in the Hawkeye State this cycle than former Maryland congressman John Delaney, who continues to register at zero percent in the polls. As Delaney spoke during that forum, almost all the reporters in the filing room got up to go ask questions of Andrew Yang, the entrepreneur who has never held public office and whose big idea is to give every American a thousand-dollar check each month. Yang didn’t qualify for the last debate, but he’s planning a bus tour to take him all over Iowa. He expressed condolences to the senators who are waylaid by impeachment. “I feel bad for my competitors because I wish they were out campaigning too, sharing their visions, but the circumstances are what they are,” Yang said.



Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) speaks during a rally on Monday night at the State Historical Museum of Iowa in Des Moines. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)



Impeachment is shaping up to be an early test of Sanders's theory of the case for 2020, which is that he can expand the electorate by exciting millions of people, thereby engaging them in the political process, who won't support an establishment candidate.

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Sanders recalled taking a bus from Chicago to Washington in 1963 to watch King deliver his “I have a dream” speech. “Sometimes the media kind of sanitizes what Dr. King was all about,” Sanders said. “He was a political revolutionary. ... In the spirit of Dr. King, what this campaign is about and what makes this campaign different than other campaigns, is that we are not just here to defeat Donald Trump. We are here to transform the United States of America. That’s what political revolution is.”

**Sanders’s microphone cut out a dozen times during his stump speech at the historical museum.** After the seventh time, he quipped: “Donald Trump stops at nothing!” Perturbed, the senator kept talking without the speakers on. His supporters quieted, straining to listen as the senator raised his voice to promise he will disrupt the power structure. “As president, I intend to not only be the commander-in-chief of the military,” he said. “I intend to be organizer-in-chief, as well.”

**He emphasized that his volunteers have a duty to step up in his absence because the future of their “revolution” depends on it.** “If we win here in Iowa, and with your help I believe we can, then I think we’re going to win in New Hampshire,” Sanders said. “And if we win in New Hampshire, we’re going to win in Nevada. And if we win in Nevada, we’re going to do very well in South Carolina. And then we’re going to win in California. ... Four years ago, Iowa started the revolution. Let’s complete the revolution in Iowa.”

**Shari Hawk, a retired nurse who lives in the suburb of Ankeny, will be a precinct captain for Sanders on caucus night.** She’s

been door-knocking, phone-banking and even got asked to leave a shopping center a few days ago where she was canvassing for Sanders. Hawk told me with great pride that she converted a handful of undecided voters into Sanders supporters before management told her to skedaddle. **She acknowledged feeling some stress that the trial will keep Sanders away, but she said that the drawbacks of his absence are obviated somewhat by the work she and other volunteers have done over the past five years, dating to the 2016 campaign**, to build up a winning organization in the state. “It still bothers me, though, because nobody excites people like Bernie himself does,” said Hawk, 69. “We all know that. But we also know his surrogates can raise the roof.”

**Brit Voss, 30, is less worried about the politics of the impeachment trial than the bottom line.** She and her girlfriend live in New Mexico but follow Sanders around the country to sell merchandise at his events. She said they give some of their proceeds as a donation to the campaign. “Impeachment will affect our sales because he’s not able to have rallies,” Voss said. “It means we’re not going to have rallies to go sell our merchandise, so it is affecting us financially. I want Trump to be impeached, but what does that mean? At this point, it seems like it’s all kind of a facade because Republicans are never going to remove him from office. So, personally, I feel like it’s just a waste of time.”

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The House impeachment managers make their way to the Senate for a walk-through of the Senate floor in preparation for the impeachment trial. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)



## THE LATEST ON IMPEACHMENT:

-- Trump's defense team is working behind the scenes with Senate GOP allies to ensure former national security adviser John Bolton does not testify publicly if Democrats win enough votes to force witnesses. [Robert Costa and Rachael Bade report](#): "One option being discussed, according to a senior administration official, would be to move Bolton's testimony to a classified setting because of national security concerns, ensuring that it is not public. To receive the testimony in a classified session, Trump's attorneys would have to request such a step, according to one official, adding that it would probably need the approval of 51 senators. But that proposal, discussed among some Senate Republicans in recent days, is seen as a final tool against Bolton becoming an explosive figure in the trial. First, Republicans involved in the discussions said, would come a fierce battle in the courts. ... Trump has said he would assert executive privilege if Bolton were called to testify ... And the White House has indicated in conversations with Republican lawmakers that it could appeal to federal courts for an injunction that would stop Bolton if he refuses to go along with their instructions."

-- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) didn't release the draft ground rules that will guide proceedings until late yesterday afternoon, and they're clearly written to wrap up the trial as quickly as possible. [Seung Min Kim and Karoun Demirjian report](#): "McConnell's organizing resolution ... offers each side 24 hours to make its opening arguments, starting on Wednesday but compressed into two session days. It is unclear whether Democrats would press to use all their time, which could push testimony

**past midnight.** After the House managers and Trump's lawyers make their case, senators will be allowed 16 hours to question the opposing sides. After that, the sides will debate for a maximum of four hours on whether to consider subpoenaing witnesses or documents at all, followed by a vote on whether to do so. If a majority of senators agree, then there will probably be motions from both sides to call various witnesses, with subsequent votes on issuing subpoenas.

**“The resolution also allows Trump’s team to move to dismiss the charges at any time** — although it is not explicitly mentioned in the four-page measure — because doing so is allowed under standard impeachment trial rules. The Senate trial also won’t automatically admit evidence from the House process, according to GOP officials, a key difference from the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton ... Though the material will be printed and made available to senators, it won’t be automatically admissible unless a majority of senators approve it. The resolution infuriated Democratic senators, with Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) calling the document a ‘national disgrace’ and accusing McConnell of shrouding testimony and rushing the trial. ...

**“The proceedings Tuesday will formally begin with a debate over the McConnell resolution.** The impeachment managers and the president’s lawyers will have an opportunity to debate the proposed rules, while Schumer is expected to offer changes to the measure that would allow the Senate to call several witnesses desired by Democrats at the outset. Democrats could also push for more than one vote on witnesses and documents. But all 53 Republican senators are expected to support the rules as written by McConnell. Once

those parameters are set, the formal arguments will begin."

-- **A [CNN poll finds](#) that 69 percent of Americans want to hear from witnesses during the trial.** A slight 51 percent majority says the Senate should vote to convict and remove Trump from office, with 45 percent say senators should vote against conviction and removal.

-- **An [NPR poll](#) shows that 51 percent of Americans think Trump has personally encouraged election interference in 2020.**

Additionally, 41 percent said they believed the United States is not very prepared or not prepared at all to keep November's election safe and secure.

-- **Dueling filings: Trump's legal team argued in a [171-page legal brief](#) that the two articles of impeachment are "structurally deficient" and urged senators for an acquittal in a "rigged process."** **In their own [111-page brief](#), the House's seven impeachment managers laid out their case against Trump.** The White House says there was no underlying crime. Democrats point to [the Government Accountability Office opinion](#) last week that Trump withholding aid appropriated by Congress broke the law. The new Republican talking point is that senators should only pay attention to evidence the House had when it voted to impeach on Dec. 18.

-- **Both sides did walk-throughs of the Senate chamber on Monday, and the White House announced the names of eight House Republicans who will be part of Trump's defense.** They will make his case on cable news, not the Senate floor, but as official representatives of the president: Reps. Doug Collins (Ga.), Mike Johnson (La.), Jim Jordan (Ohio), Debbie Lesko (Ariz.), Mark

Meadows (N.C.), John Ratcliffe (Tex.), Elise Stefanik (N.Y.) and Lee Zeldin (N.Y.).

**-- A lawyer for Rudy Giuliani's former associate Lev Parnas said Attorney General Bill Barr has a conflict of interest and should recuse himself from Parnas's criminal case.** Joseph Bondy cites references to the attorney general in Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. ([Shayna Jacobs](#))

**-- The trove of messages released in recent days from Parnas reveal his wide reach among Ukraine's oligarchs and political elites.** [Robyn Dixon, David L. Stern and Natalie Gryvnyak report](#): "The connections read like a who's who of Ukraine's political elite: members of [Zelensky's] inner circle, the country's head police officer, the chief of security services, two former top prosecutors and one of Ukraine's richest men. Parnas's messages showed how he ping-ponged around the globe, jetting to Warsaw, Kyiv, Vienna, Israel, Paris and Madrid, always, he has claimed, with Giuliani's consent and Trump's knowledge ... At times, Parnas showed frustration when efforts to get Zelensky officials to cooperate stumbled. Giuliani and Parnas struggled and failed to get a meeting between Giuliani and Zelensky in April and May. When his texts to members of Zelensky's administration went unanswered, Parnas, left hanging, responded with double question marks."

**-- Trump made 16,241 false or misleading claims during his first three years in the White House,** according to [the running tally from The Post's Fact Checker team](#).



Gun rights activists descend on Virginia capital

## DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERSHADOWED:

-- Thousands of gun rights advocates descended upon the Virginia Capitol carrying weapons, flags and threats of insurrection. But no violence erupted. [Greg Schneider](#), [Laura Vozzella](#), [Patricia Sullivan](#) and [Michael Miller](#) report: "Armed militias carrying assault-style weapons marched in formation until the crowds

grew too thick. Protesters without firearms filed through 17 metal detectors at a single entrance to Capitol Square, where Gov. Ralph Northam had temporarily banned weapons, and cheered fiery speeches about the Second Amendment. ... Intelligence from law enforcement about outside threats had put Virginia officials on edge and led to a massive police presence. The crackdown also made Northam (D) a symbol of the country's cultural and political divide — as evidenced by harsh signs Monday depicting him as a 'tyrant,' 'radical Ralph' and photoshopped into a Nazi uniform. ... Inside the white-columned Capitol, the halls were strangely quiet as lawmakers went about their business. Young pages had the day off for safety; there was a skeleton staff but a beefed-up police presence. ...

**“Public safety officials said there were about 16,000 people, based on how many blocks of street and sidewalk were filled, while rally organizers said they believed there were twice that many.** Authorities reported no major incidents and only a single arrest — of a 21-year-old woman charged with wearing a mask in public — despite the presence of numerous out-of-state militia and extremist groups that had threatened violence online and in social media. ... Officers did remove a homemade guillotine that had been set up on the street, inscribed with the words: 'The penalty for treason is death.' ... Militia members began arriving from other states the night before the rally, with more than 100 gathering for dinner and prayers in a remote part of Henrico County. Vehicles in the parking lot bore license plates from Texas, Oklahoma, Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New Jersey and more. ... **There were almost no signs of counterprotesters.** In a rare clash, a man who said he was a shooting survivor confronted a teen carrying an oversize long gun.

‘Why do you need to have that gun?’ the man demanded. A small contingent watched the two argue; they eventually shook hands and walked off peacefully.”

**-- The rally followed a weekend of gun violence across the nation:**

- In Hawaii, a shooting left two officers dead at a Honolulu home that went up in flames with several others, leaving the suspect and two others unaccounted for, officials said. ([Marisa Iati and Hannah Knowles](#))
- In San Antonio, an assailant shot and killed two people and wounded five others inside a club. A 19-year-old suspect was later arrested and will be charged with murder, police said. ([Michael Brice-Saddler](#))
- In Kansas City, Mo., a gunman opened fire on a line of people outside a bar, killing a woman and wounding 15 others before an armed security guard shot and killed him. ([Michael Brice-Saddler and Reis Thebault](#))

**-- As Virginia grapples with the gun control proposals that drew such crowds to its capitol, Maryland is quietly trying to further tighten regulations that are already some of the strictest in the nation.** Bills that face favorable prospects include a ban on untraceable “ghost guns” and a requirement for all private sales of rifles and shotguns to be subject to background checks. ([Erin Cox](#))

**-- Secretary of the Navy nominee Kenneth Braithwaite may have had an undisclosed contract with Cambridge Analytica, documents suggest.** [From CBS News](#): “Braithwaite ... made no mention of an agreement in his required government disclosure form, and says he never entered one. Braithwaite was required to disclose every paid and unpaid position he held outside government within the two prior calendar years before the Senate confirmed him to be ambassador.”

**-- The religious-schools case is heading to the Supreme Court, testing the constitutionality of state laws that exclude religious organizations from the government funding available to others and further escalating the debate on school choice.** [Robert Barnes reports](#): “The issue rests on whether a scholarship fund supported by tax-deductible donations can help children attending the state’s private schools, most of which are religious. Arguments are scheduled for Wednesday. ... Montana told the court that, as in 37 other states, it is reasonable for its constitution to prohibit direct or indirect aid to religious organizations. ... But Montana is being called before a Supreme Court increasingly skeptical of such stark lines between church and state. A majority of justices in 2017 said Missouri could not ban a church school from requesting a grant from a state program that rehabilitated playgrounds. ... The Montana case is prompted by a 2015 decision by the state’s legislature to create a tax-credit program for those who wanted to donate to a scholarship fund.”

**-- State senators in Oklahoma want “Make America Great Again” license plates, a move that could violate federal campaign finance rules.** The Trump-themed licenses would, if approved by the



state legislature, be added to a list of 98 other specialty designs Oklahoma drivers can choose to purchase for \$35. Of that amount, \$20 goes to the designated organization that matches the theme of the plate, although two senators claim the money collected from the 'MAGA' plates would not go directly to the president's reelection bid but would instead be split between two veterans groups. The Oklahoma Tax Commission, which handles the plates, would enter a licensing agreement with a corporation designated by Trump. ([Katie Mettler](#))



Central American migrants cross river into Mexico

## **THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

**-- U.S.-bound Central American migrants clashed with Mexican forces at the Guatemala border after Mexico's authorities rejected their request to transit north. [Kevin Sieff reports](#): "Mexican National Guard troops deployed along the banks of the river tried to repel those who waded across and pursued others who reached**

Mexican soil. The caravan, which formed last week in Honduras, presented a new test for the Mexican government, which promised the Trump administration last year that it would step up enforcement, even as President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said he would respect the rights of migrants. ... The group waiting at the border on Monday appeared to be the largest in more than a year, and its size has posed a particular challenge for Mexican security forces."

**-- Trump arrived in Davos overnight and immediately took a victory lap, taking credit for a soaring stock market, low unemployment and a "blue collar boom" in jobs and income. Heather Long reports:** "Trump ran through economic statistics with a salesman's delivery, crowing about growth during his three years in office that he said bested his predecessors and defied his skeptics. .. Trump, who has called climate change a hoax, did not directly address the theme during his 30-minute address here, though he did call for rejecting 'the perennial prophets of doom and their predictions of the apocalypse.' He also made no mention of impeachment or U.S. politics, though he took a swipe at 'radical socialism,' his term for Democratic ideas about health care, education and other issues. ... Forum founder and chairman Klaus Schwab thanked Trump 'for injecting optimism' into the discussion. ... Trump got a polite but not enthusiastic reception in the hall, though a few in the audience slipped out well before he wrapped up."

**-- The global economy is likely to rebound in 2020, but the International Monetary Fund warned of eerie parallels to the 1920s. Long reports:** "Global growth is expected to hit 3.3 percent this year, the IMF predicted. That is up from 2.9 percent last year, which

was the worst year for the world economy since the Great Recession. ... But [at the World Economic Forum], as top business and political leaders gather in this ski chalet town in the Swiss Alps, uncertainty remains high ... [IMF Managing Director Kristalina] Georgieva warned that the record or near-record levels of wealth inequality in the United States, United Kingdom and many other parts of the world, combined with the rapid advancement of technology, feels a lot like the 1920s, which ultimately led to financial disaster. ... The IMF is urging countries to use this time now, while unemployment is low and growth is decent, to address bigger problems in the economy.”

**-- Sanders and Warren are not attending the annual gathering of global elites and billionaires at Davos, but the two are hot discussion topics. So is climate change. Long reports:** “Leaders of large corporations are eager to show they are doing something about the world’s biggest problems and do not need the sweeping policy changes that Sanders and Warren are proposing. ... **For the first time, ‘climate action failure’ was the No. 1 risk in the World Economic Forum’s Global Risk Report, which is based on a survey of more than 1,000 key business and political figures.** ... As candidates like Sanders and Warren keep the spotlight on billionaires and protesters take to the streets in Switzerland holding signs that say ‘Eat the Rich,’ there’s an awareness that giving to foundations and charities is no longer enough. But few here are committing to concrete solutions.”

**-- At Davos, teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg said “pretty much nothing has been done” to tackle climate change.** “Without treating this as a real crisis we cannot solve it,” she said. “It will

require much more than this, this is just the very beginning.”

([Bloomberg News](#))

**-- Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou, facing extradition to the United States, argued that the charges against her aren't crimes in Canada.** [Amanda Coletta reports](#): Under Canadian law, to 'commit' Meng for extradition, the allegations must meet the test of 'double criminality,' meaning that the charges of which she is accused in the United States must also be considered crimes in Canada. Meng's legal team told Associate Chief Justice Heather Holmes that the alleged misrepresentations do not amount to fraud, and that the case is really about the United States trying to enforce its sanctions against Iran — sanctions that did not exist in Canada at the time Canadian officials agreed to begin extradition.”

**-- Iran has asked the U.S. and French authorities for equipment to download information from the black boxes of the Ukrainian airliner that was downed nearly two weeks ago.** ([Reuters](#))

**-- The Brexit deal has received a setback in the House of Lords after three amendments to Prime Minister Boris Johnson's bill were passed.** ([The Guardian](#))

**-- China is trying to close the city at the center of a mystery virus that has claimed six lives.** Chinese officials have confirmation that the pneumonialike coronavirus can be spread from person to person, so they're trying to limit travel in and out of the city of Wuhan, where the vast majority of disease cases have been reported. ([Anna Fifield](#))

**-- Norway Prime Minister Erna Solberg lost her parliamentary majority after the right-wing Progress Party withdrew its**


**ministers from the government coalition.** [Rick Noack reports](#): “The right-wing protest move came in response to the controversial repatriation of a suspected Islamic State member and her children from a Syrian camp. ... The unnamed 29-year-old suspect was arrested upon her return but is denying the accusations ... If prosecutors are unable to prove she had ties to the Islamic State, it could put Solberg’s government at further risk of accusations that she handled the case recklessly, as right-wing critics allege.”

**-- Seven members of a hiking group are still missing after an avalanche hit the Himalayas, and 200 others have been rescued.** [Hannah Knowles reports](#): “Military and government officials have joined tourism groups, locals and others to look for the four South Korean hikers and their three Nepali guides, and to bring scores of others ‘whose lives were in jeopardy’ to safety, Nepal’s tourism department said in a statement. But avalanches and heavy snowfall have thwarted those operations ... Poor conditions kept a military helicopter with rescue teams from landing Monday...”

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Trump’s legal team took a tour of the impeachment battleground:




**Frank Thorp V**   
@frankthorp



The WH defense team leaves the Capitol after a final walk-through ahead of tomorrow's Senate impeachment trial:



 103 8:35 PM - Jan 20, 2020



 83 people are talking about this



Alan Dershowitz, the liberal lawyer Trump tapped for his defense team, didn't represent Clinton 21 years ago because he was too toxic:



**andrew kaczynski** 🤔 ✓  
@KFILE



From 1999:

CNN: How would you conduct defending Bill Clinton in the Senate if you were in charge of it?

Dershowitz: "Well, the first thing I would do is say, 'Fire Dershowitz.' We don't want to get involved with people saying, 'O.J.'s lawyer is representing the president.'"



♡ 2,965 10:38 PM - Jan 20, 2020



💬 1,152 people are talking about this



The Office of Legal Counsel has become more politicized than ever under Barr, coming up with often dubious justifications for Trump's most brazen conduct. Many lawyers noticed that Trump's team wasn't particularly careful about details in its brief:



**southpaw** @nycsouthpaw · 13h



Make OLC reform a campaign issue.  
twitter.com/andygrewal/sta...

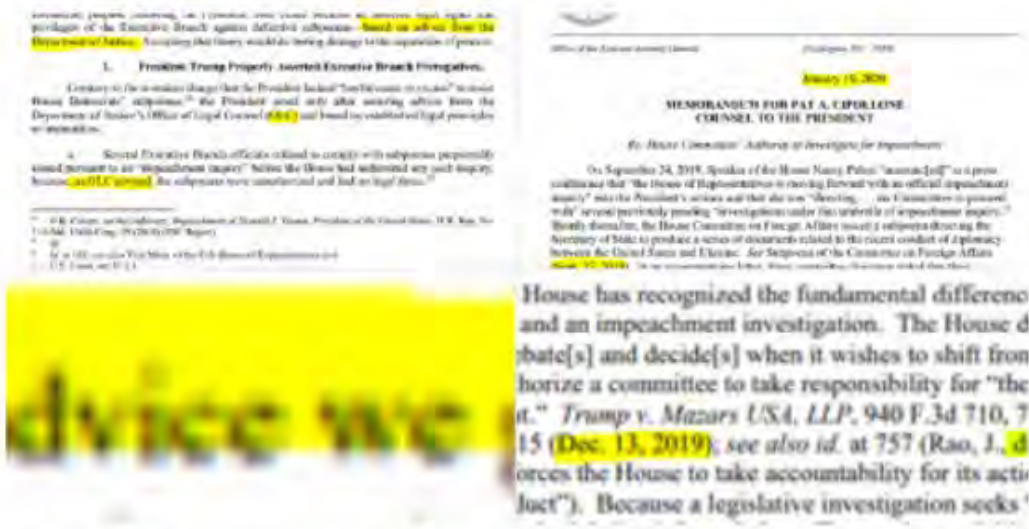
**Andy Grewal** @AndyGrewal

White House brief has 37-page OLC memo, dated yesterday, in its appendix. It concludes that subpoenas issued prior to 10/31/19 are invalid because there was not a formal impeachment inquiry vote.



 **Max Kennerly** ✓  
@MaxKennerly

The Trump / Barr OLC doesn't even bother with the pretense of lawfulness. OLC's memo, dated yesterday, supposedly "memorializes" how in Sept, Oct, & Nov 2019 they advised Trump to ignore subpoenas based upon... Judge Rao's dissent in an unrelated case issued on Dec 13, 2019. 😞





716 10:48 PM - Jan 20, 2020 ⓘ

479 people are talking about this >

A former House speaker warned fellow Republicans to take Klobuchar's candidacy seriously:

 **Newt Gingrich** ✓  
@newtgingrich

Senator Amy Klobuchar is the most dangerous candidate for the GOP. She is calm, pleasant, rational and has a history of working with Republicans. The NYTimes endorsement means much more to her than the joint endorsement means to Elizabeth Warren.

7,485 2:42 PM - Jan 20, 2020 ⓘ

2,193 people are talking about this >

Joe Biden didn't get the Times endorsement, but his campaign highlighted the support he received from an African American woman in the elevator on his way to sit down with their editorial board:



**Joe Biden (Text Join to 30330)** ✓  
@JoeBiden



Honored to have won Jacquelyn's endorsement.



7,571 likes 8:08 PM - Jan 20, 2020



1,960 people are talking about this



The FBI shared a message honoring MLK, prompting a CNN anchor to recall the bureau's not-always-great history:



**Jake Tapper** ✓  
@jaketapper



The FBI under J. Edgar Hoover had a completely different approach to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., of course.

It smeared him, wiretapped him (signed off by Attorney General Robert Kennedy), and encouraged him to commit suicide. [twitter.com/FBI/status/121...](https://twitter.com/FBI/status/121...)

**FBI** ✓ @FBI

Today, the FBI honors the life and work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A quote from Dr. King is etched in stone at the FBI Academy's reflection garden in Quantico as a reminder to all students and FBI employees: "The time is always right to do what is right." #MLKDay






14.6K 4:37 PM - Jan 20, 2020




5,071 people are talking about this








Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) could have been one of the contenders in Iowa this weekend if he had run for president. Instead, he went shopping in the snow of Ohio. From his wife:

 **Connie Schultz**   
@ConnieSchultz 

He's off to Washington, but yesterday my guy was all about the Costco.



 3,746  1:26 AM - Jan 21, 2020 

 192 people are talking about this 

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "It was awful because it was my life's work

and I'm good at it, and there's no reason in the world that the president shouldn't trust me," said Sue Gordon, the former deputy director of national intelligence, of her dismissal by the president. (InStyle)

## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Trump received a mixed reaction when he visited the MLK memorial:



Trump receives cheers, boos during MLK Jr. memorial visit

Stephen Colbert broke down Trump's lawyers' appearances on the Sunday shows:



And he sat down with Tom Steyer:



Seth Meyers took a look at the Lev Parnas evidence:



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### **Coal export battle hinges on commerce clause**

A pair of energy-producing states may face ideological challenges in their quest for a high court review of Washington state's blockade against the last major coal export project on the West Coast.

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#### **States, groups fight FERC changes to largest grid market**

### 4. ENERGY TRANSITIONS:

#### **Ind. to close large coal plant**

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### 5. OIL AND GAS:

#### **EPA, Colo. company reach deal to cut emissions**

### 6. OIL AND GAS:

#### **Trump admin, groups push court to nix Blackfeet lease**

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### 7. RENEWABLE ENERGY:



## Calif. launches its biggest locally run solar project

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**Energy executives back carbon capture at Davos forum**

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**India plans to mandate cyber protections for power grids**

### OIL AND GAS

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**Belarus imports oil from Norway after Russia halts supplies**

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# The Daily 202

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**Joe Biden talks Ukraine, but not impeachment, in Iowa – as the Senate trial complicates his messaging**



Joe Biden fields questions from voters on Tuesday afternoon in Ames, Iowa. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

## **THE BIG IDEA:**

**AMES, Iowa – “There are people being killed in Ukraine by Russian soldiers right now, as I speak to you,” Joe Biden said at a campaign event here on Tuesday afternoon. “As I speak to you!”**

Also as the former vice president spoke at Iowa State University, the Senate debated the rules for the trial of President Trump. The president was impeached by the House for his alleged efforts to coerce the Ukrainian government into announcing an investigation

into Joe and Hunter Biden by freezing hundreds of millions of dollars in military aid that Congress approved to help fend off Russia's ongoing occupation of the Donbas region.

**The Democratic presidential candidate brought up Ukraine to criticize Trump for appeasing Vladimir Putin and not supporting allies**, which Biden says emboldens the revanchist Russians. "Look at what's happening in Hungary," Biden continued, firing himself up. "When you live next to the bear, and the Americans don't look like they're going to take care of you, what happens? You make accommodations with the bear! It's just like in the Cold War."

**Biden never mentioned impeachment during his hour-long, town hall-style meeting, and no one in the audience asked about it, but the issue hovered.** "One of the things that is on the ballot here is basically the abuse of power," he said. "We've never seen a time, in my view, in modern history where we've seen such an abuse of power by a president of the United States of America, disregarding the truth and using the following tactic: If you lie enough ... and you repeat it, repeat it, repeat it, repeat it and repeat it, eventually the notion is that a number of people are going to think it's true."

**The split-screen between the impeachment trial and Biden's event showcased a paradox that the next few weeks may put in even starker relief.** The centerpiece of Biden's pitch is that he can bridge the partisan divides and work with Republican senators to get big things done, yet those very Republican senators voted in lockstep on Tuesday with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to block witnesses and subpoenas, just as they banded together to block Merrick Garland from even getting a hearing four years ago when

Barack Obama nominated him to fill a Supreme Court vacancy. Biden's much ballyhooed relationships did no good then, even when Obama picked a moderate judge he believed would appeal to Republicans.

**Biden nodded to how discordant it might seem for him to talk about being able to work with the other side amid all the acrimony.** He joked that his opponents have called him too old *and* too naive. "I thought they were contradictory notions," Biden said, before rejecting the idea that he cannot work with the modern GOP. "I know this new Republican Party better than anybody. I've been the object of their affection for some time now," he continued, drawing laughter. "I fully understand the way they try to malign my only surviving son and the way they've gone after my family, even my grandkids."

**He explained that he doesn't hold grudges, which he said is the key to compromise and even the survival of the republic.** "Look, one of the things a president has to do is you have to be a fighter and a competitor, but a president also needs to be a healer," Biden continued. "I can't keep a grudge in terms of the way they've gone after me. But it's not about me. It's about you. It's about the American people. We've got to heal the country. ... I'm convinced that it can be done. I've done it my whole career."



Biden takes a selfie with Susan Klein of Ames, Iowa. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)

-- I interviewed a dozen Biden supporters after the rally, and all of them cited without prompting either his ability to work with Republican lawmakers or appeal to traditional GOP voters as one of the reasons they're planning to caucus for him on Feb. 3. "He's the one Trump fears the most, so that's why he's been targeted," said Bob Lorr, 82, of Ames. "Also, to straighten out this mess, Democrats are going to have to appeal to independents and Never Trumpers, and Joe is moderate enough that he can do that better than any of the other candidates."

-- To be sure, the Biden campaign remains on edge about the Ukraine topic generally and Trump's allegations specifically. When an Iowa voter accused Biden last month of "selling access" by getting his son a job he wasn't qualified for, he angrily

called the questioner “a damn liar” and said he had nothing to do with the Ukrainian energy company Burisma. The testy exchange overshadowed John Kerry’s endorsement at the same event.

As proceedings began yesterday, **Biden’s rapid response director, Andrew Bates, posted a four-minute video on YouTube of himself drinking a beer at a Philadelphia bar as he argues, sometimes with profanity, that his boss did nothing wrong by trying to remove Viktor Shokin as Ukraine’s top prosecutor.** While his father was vice president, Hunter served on the board of Burisma, Ukraine’s largest private gas company, whose owner came under scrutiny by Ukrainian prosecutors for possible abuse of power and unlawful enrichment. Trump and his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani have promoted an unfounded allegation that Biden pushed for Shokin’s ouster to stop a corruption investigation into Burisma to protect his son. Hunter, 49, is no longer on the board and was not accused of wrongdoing.

**Biden alluded to his children multiple times during the event, though he never mentioned Hunter by name.** He often name-checks his son Beau, who died of brain cancer in his 40s, as he did again on Tuesday to express how proud he is that there’s a freeway named for him in Kosovo. Explaining why he opposes tuition-free college, Biden said he doesn’t think it would have been fair to make taxpayers foot the bill for his son to go Yale Law School. Hunter graduated from there in 1996.

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Biden greets supporters after his Ames event. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)

-- As Biden talked in Ames, White House counsel Pat Cipollone took digs at the four senators running for president **who needed to report to the Capitol for jury duty**. "Some of you are upset



because you should be in Iowa right now,” he said on the floor, prompting several senators to [glance](#) toward Bernie Sanders.

**The trial meant that Biden had Central Iowa to himself. This swelled the media throng that usually follows him.** About 180 voters came to see Biden speak while 70 journalists, including 14 television cameramen, observed from a press pen. “You all have the keys to the kingdom here in Iowa,” Biden told the voters. The 77-year-old wears a full suit and tie on the trail, more formal than his Democratic rivals, and he tends to draw older crowds than his opponents.

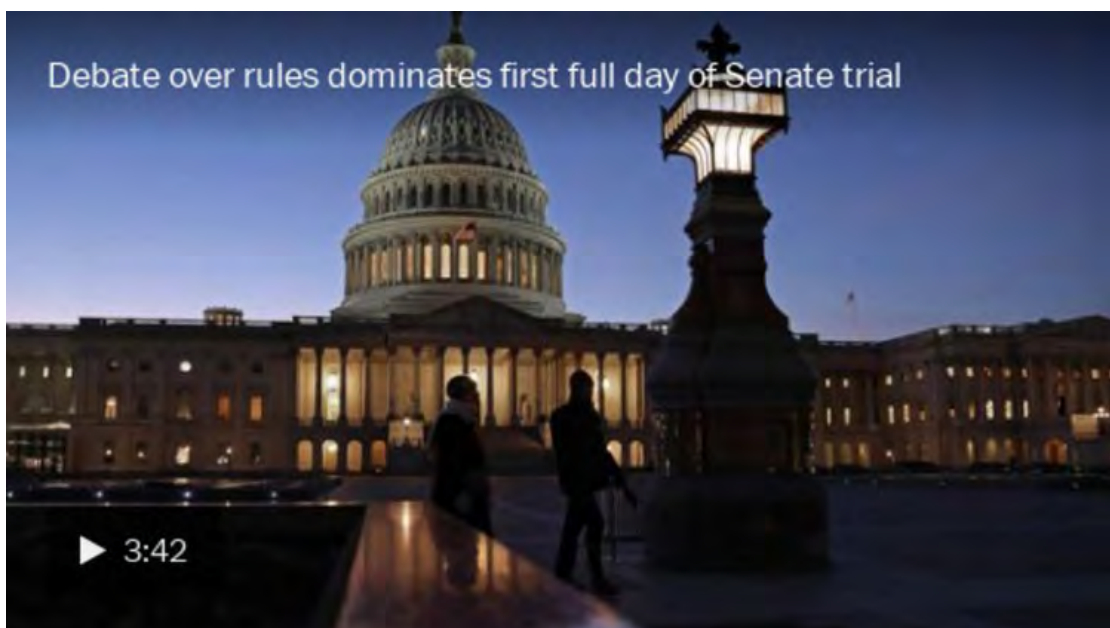
**-- The U.S. Capitol is 1,034 miles east of Ames, and Davos, Switzerland, is another 4,000 miles beyond that. Trump is there for the World Economic Forum.** In an interview with CNBC this morning, Trump was asked which Democrat he’d prefer to face in November. After declaring that Mike Bloomberg has no chance of winning the party’s nod, the president ripped Biden. “I don’t know if Joe’s going to limp across the line,” Trump said. “He can’t put together a sentence, but it could be him. And it could be Crazy Bernie. I don’t know who it’s going to be. Whoever it is, I’m ready.”

**-- A national CNN poll published this morning finds Sanders overtaking Biden, 27 percent to 24 percent. This is first time that the network’s survey has not had the former vice president in first place nationally.** Elizabeth Warren is a distant third with 14 percent, followed by Pete Buttigieg at 11 percent, Bloomberg at 5 percent and Amy Klobuchar and Andrew Yang at 4 percent.

**-- An Iowa poll released Monday put Biden in the lead with 25**

**percent among likely caucusgoers, followed by Warren with 17 percent, Buttigieg with 16 percent, Sanders with 14 percent and Klobuchar with 11 percent.** The quarterly survey, conducted by a Democratic pollster for Focus on Rural America, also asked which candidate is “best equipped” to handle the tensions with Iran “and other global hot spots.” Biden led with 42 percent. The survey, in the field during the three days after last week’s debate, is different than [the Des Moines Register poll](#), which put Sanders in the lead in this state.

**-- Polls show that Biden’s foreign policy experience is one of his biggest selling points in the nominating contest, despite his vote for the Iraq War, so he’s leaning into it.** He’s delivering a foreign policy speech this afternoon in Osage, Iowa. And the super PAC supporting Biden yesterday launched [a new ad](#) in the state called “The Storm” that shows footage of a choppy ocean as text appears onscreen that says Biden is “A President to Right the Ship” and “The Democrat Who Can Lead Through the Storm.”



**-- On Capitol Hill, meanwhile, several Senate Democrats are privately discussing the possibility of calling Republicans' bluff on witnesses by offering to trade the testimony of Hunter for the testimony of former national security adviser John Bolton or another senior Trump administration official.** "The discussions about the Bidens are being closely held, and the issue is fraught for Democrats, due to the differing levels of support for Biden in a chamber stocked with presidential candidates and the clashing views on impeachment strategy," [Rachael Bade, Bob Costa and Seung Min Kim report](#). "In private conversations in recent days, there has been much loathing of the Republicans' spotlight on the Bidens among Senate Democrats, but also a fear that unless a witness deal is eventually struck, the trial could proceed without witnesses ... That predicament has led to discussions ... For now, Senate Democrats are being advised by their leadership to reject the idea of a trade-off out of hand, keeping the focus instead on the GOP's refusal to subpoena key administration officials ...

**"Inside Biden's 2020 operation, there is little interest in publicly engaging with what Biden's advisers and friends dismiss as 'a stupid Republican talking point,'** said a person familiar with the campaign's stance on the issue ... Democrats interested in a possible deal said they would want an assurance from the president that he would not assert executive privilege over Bolton or whichever witness they choose. Most acknowledge that an agreement seems unlikely, even as they insist it isn't off the table.

**“One Democrat argued it could be risky for the Biden campaign but said it could also give them a chance to steal the microphone from Trump.** Additionally, some Democrats privately say Hunter, with his well-chronicled struggle with addiction, could come across as a sympathetic figure under GOP attacks. One idea that has been informally floated, according to two people close to the Biden campaign, is to instead offer testimony from Joe Biden in exchange for testimony from Trump.”

**Delaware’s two Democratic senators, both Biden backers, are taking different tacks:** “If you want to give Joe Biden an opportunity to sit in the well of the Senate and answer the question, ‘Do you think the president acted appropriately?’ go right ahead,” said Chris Coons, who holds Biden’s seat. “I can’t imagine a person more comfortable in the well of the Senate than a man who spent 36 years here as a United States senator.”

“Hunter Biden is not accused of withholding \$391 million of congressional authorized defense spending for one of our allies who’s under attack by Russia. Donald Trump is,” said Tom Carper, who served alongside Biden for many years. “We need to keep that in mind.”



Democratic candidates walk arm-in-arm on Monday during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade in Columbia, S.C. (Randall Hill/Reuters)



-- Biden doesn't just have to worry about Trump. He's been feuding for days with Sanders, fending off attacks from his left. Law professor Zephyr Teachout, a Sanders supporter who has lost races in New York for governor and Congress, accused Biden of having "a big corruption problem" that "makes him a weak candidate"

in [an op-ed for the Guardian](#) on Monday. “I know it seems crazy, but a lot of the voters we need – independents and people who might stay home – will look at Biden and Trump and say: ‘They’re all dirty,’” Teachout wrote.

**The “corruption” piece didn’t mention Ukraine, but a Sanders campaign staffer blasted it out to the press list. Sanders then publicly [disavowed the op-ed](#).** The senator from Vermont [told CBS News](#) that he doesn’t think Biden is corrupt. Biden said Sanders even made a point to personally apologize to him backstage during the Brown & Black Forum in Des Moines on Monday afternoon. “He said, ‘Joe, I’m sorry. I don’t subscribe to that. I don’t think that’s true,’” Biden [recalled to WHO](#), the local NBC affiliate, after his event in Ames.

**-- But the two campaigns were attacking each other again last night, releasing dueling videos on Social Security:**



**Joe Biden (Text Join to 30330)** ✓

@JoeBiden



I've been fighting to protect — and expand — Social Security for my whole career. Any suggestion otherwise is just flat-out wrong.



♥ 8,617 1:07 AM - Jan 22, 2020



💬 8,632 people are talking about this





**Bernie Sanders** ✓  
@BernieSanders



Let's be honest, Joe. One of us fought for decades to cut Social Security, and one of us didn't. But don't take it from me. Take it from you.



78.1K 2:53 AM - Jan 22, 2020



26.6K people are talking about this



-- “The Sanders style of campaigning has increasingly grated on Biden and his campaign, who view his tactics as unfair and out of bounds,” [Matt Viser reports](#). “Some Democrats lamented that Sanders has not faced enough scrutiny, even as he has been repeatedly underestimated by some party leaders.”

-- “Before Biden entered the race last year, some rivals were quietly whispering about the bad optics of his son getting lucrative contracts based on family connections,” [Politico’s Marc Caputo reports](#). “Some Democratic campaigns released opposition research about Hunter Biden, saying it was part of a pattern of him



profiting off his father's position as vice president and, before that, a senator. But then news of Trump's efforts to leverage Ukraine broke ... And Democrats quickly backed away from saying anything critical ... 'That line of attack is just off the table,' said one Democratic consultant with one of the rival campaigns. 'No one wants to look like Trump's messenger boy. Trump screwed it all up.'"

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Nadler and Cipollone went off on each other. Then Chief Justice Roberts admonished both.

## THE LATEST ON IMPEACHMENT:

**-- In the 1 a.m. hour today, Chief Justice John Roberts rebuked House impeachment managers and Trump's defense lawyers over their decorum.** “I think it is appropriate at this point for me to admonish both the House managers and president’s counsel in equal terms to remember that they are addressing the world’s greatest deliberative body,” the chief justice said. “One reason it has earned that title is because its members avoid speaking in a manner and using language that is not conducive to civil discourse.”

**His comment came after an acrimonious exchange between House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) and Trump lawyers Pat Cipollone and Jay Sekulow.** Roberts noted that a House manager was admonished for using the phrase “pettifogging” during a 1905 impeachment trial of a federal judge. Pettifogging is an

archaic term that means placing undue emphasis on petty details. “I don’t think we need to aspire to that high of standard,” he quipped, “but I do think those addressing the Senate should remember where they are.” ([Paul Kane and Elise Viebeck](#))

**-- Speaking to reporters this morning, Trump said he’d like for some of his closest advisers – including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo – to testify, but claimed that allowing them to do so would likely become a national security issue.** The president said his former secretary of energy, Rick Perry, was very interested in testifying, but Trump wouldn’t allow him to do so for the same reason. Trump also told reporters he didn’t believe Bill Clinton should’ve been impeached and suggested that Rudy Giuliani couldn’t be a part of his defense team because “it could be that he’d have a conflict.”

**-- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was forced to revise his ground rules for the trial to avert a rebellion among Republicans.** [Seung Min Kim, Felicia Sonmez and Mike DeBonis report](#): “In the end, the final parameters of the [trial were] approved on strictly partisan lines, but the measure passed only after revisions [to placate Republicans.] ... Now, both the Democratic impeachment managers and Trump’s defense team will have up to three days each to make their case, and evidence from the House will be entered automatically unless there is an objection. The changes were so last-minute that there were handwritten scribbles in the legislation marking the revisions.” After those tweaks, the rules [now largely mirror](#) what the Senate used for Bill Clinton’s trial in 1999.

**“One of the senators most upset about the initial provisions was Susan Collins (R-Maine),** who will be a key swing vote on procedural

matters during the trial. But the concerns spread beyond a closely watched core of potential GOP swing senators, with Rob Portman (R-Ohio) also among those voicing objections in the closed-door lunch about the two-day timetable. That provision didn't please Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), either. ... Democrats seized on the changes as proof that a small clutch of GOP senators facing public opposition to any component of the highly contentious trial could force McConnell to reverse course, though the Republican leader ultimately won all 53 GOP votes in favor of his measure. ...

**“On other issues, Republicans killed attempts from Democrats to modify the parameters of the proceedings to allow for an assortment of documents and a slate of witnesses at the outset**

... Earlier in the debate, Schumer and Senate Democrats forced an attempt to subpoena documents kept by the White House — including the National Security Council — as well as separate efforts to obtain records from the State Department, the Pentagon and the Office of Management and Budget. Democrats also pushed to summon [John] Bolton, acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and other administration witnesses that Democrats had demanded for weeks. All were rejected on party-line votes.”

**-- A new Monmouth University poll found that a 57 percent majority of Americans believe that House managers should be able to introduce new evidence during Trump's trial.** Another 37 percent think the impeachment managers should be limited to sharing only what was revealed during the initial inquiry. In the poll, 53 percent said the House was correct to impeach Trump.

**-- House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) said**

intelligence agencies are withholding key evidence related to the Ukraine affair on “the instruction of others, or with the advice of others.” ([CBS News](#))

-- The argument from Trump’s legal team that abuse of power is not an impeachable offense has been overwhelmingly rejected not just by constitutional scholars but also Attorney General Bill Barr. [From the Times](#): “In summer 2018, when he was still in private practice, Mr. Barr wrote a confidential memo for the Justice Department and Mr. Trump’s legal team to help the president get out of a problem. The special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III, was pressuring him to answer questions about whether he had illegally impeded the Russia investigation. Mr. Trump should not talk to investigators about his actions as president, even under a subpoena, Mr. Barr wrote in his 19-page memo... Mr. Barr based his advice on a sweeping theory of executive power under which obstruction of justice laws do not apply to presidents ... Even without the possibility of criminal penalties, he wrote, a check is in place on presidents who abuse their discretionary power to control the executive branch of government — impeachment.”

-- **Slumber claimed its first impeachment victim – Sen. James Risch (R-Idaho).** “Shortly after 5:30 p.m., Risch — chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which oversees the State Department — could be seen from the press gallery motionless, with his eyes closed and head slumped against his right hand,” [DeBonis and Karoun Demirjian report](#).

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** For senators, the trial means no coffee, no cellphones and no talking. The lack of caffeine is already causing Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) some discomfort. "I drink coffee from

the minute I wake up until bedtime," Cramer told [the Wall Street Journal](#). "It's the only drug that I use or abuse, with the exception of occasional ibuprofen. So my biggest challenge is to drink enough coffee to stay awake, but not drink so much that I, you know, that I'm, ah, uncomfortable in the chamber."

**-- Impeachment witnesses from the State Department face staggering legal bills that they're forced to pay out of their own pocket.** Six witnesses [told the New Yorker's Robin Wright](#) that they have accrued as much as half a million dollars in bills that are not being covered by the government. The diplomats and senior officials involved – most of whom have spent a lifetime earning modest government salaries – have had to tap into personal-liability insurance or relied on the generosity of friends and fellow diplomats who've built legal funds for them. The State Department will reimburse witnesses' lawyers for only about a quarter of the charges for a single lawyer versed in government issues at a Washington firm. But key witnesses have each required teams of several lawyers to represent them in the past months.

**-- Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) voiced “extreme concern and discomfort” about restrictions placed on members of the press covering the trial.** In a letter to Senate Sergeant at Arms Michael Stenger, who imposed the new security requirements, Heinrich said, “to place limitations on the press is to place limitations on the American people's ability to learn about the character and conduct of their elected leaders.” ([Michael Brice-Saddler](#))

**-- Thomas Railsback, an Illinois Republican congressman who helped draw up articles of impeachment against Richard Nixon in 1974 as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, died on Monday at age 87.** All the obituaries lead with his role in Watergate, a

timely reminder that many lawmakers' legacies will be defined by how they conduct themselves during this process. [From the AP's obit](#): “Railsback credited Nixon with getting him elected to Congress in 1966 by campaigning for him in western Illinois. ‘I feel badly about what happened to Nixon,’ Railsback told the Idaho Statesman in 2012. ‘On the other hand, after listening to the (White House) tapes and seeing all the evidence, it was something we had to do because the evidence was there.’ ... Railsback said he believes he lost his seat in the 1982 Republican primary ... in part due to his impeachment vote.”

-- **Commentary from The Post's opinion page:**

- [The Post's Editorial Board](#): “Trump's impeachment defense is designed to destroy guardrails on presidential power.”
- [David Ignatius](#): “What does impeachment show the world? America's stability.”
- [Dana Milbank](#): “And the White House defense is ... well, there isn't one.”
- [Hugh Hewitt](#): “Anything other than a rapid acquittal will deeply damage the presidency.”
- [Greg Sargent](#): “Memo to vulnerable GOP senators: You're already on video, and it's bad.”
- [Gary Abernathy](#): “Impeachment is a race to the bottom. And no one really wins.”
- [Henry Olsen](#): “And so begins an impeachment trial that will change no one's mind.”
- [Marc Thiessen](#): “Democrats are hoping John Bolton will bring down Trump. Good luck with that.”



What you need to know about the deadly coronavirus found in the U.S.

## **THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

**-- Chinese health authorities are trying to impose a quasi-quarantine around the hotspot of a mystery pneumonia-like virus that has claimed nine lives in China and has been confirmed in the United States for the first time. [Anna Fifield](#), [Lena H. Sun](#) and [Lenny Bernstein](#) report:** "The U.S. case — a man in his 30s under observation in Washington state — had links to the area of most concern in China: the commercial center of Wuhan about halfway between Beijing and Hong Kong. In an attempt to contain the virus, Chinese authorities advised people in the city of 11 million not to leave. But the U.S. case showed how far the virus has moved beyond the Wuhan region. ... The Geneva-based World Health Organization said it would hold an emergency meeting Wednesday to decide whether to designate the outbreak as an international public health emergency."



**-- U.S. officials added the Chicago and Atlanta international airports to the list of places where passengers arriving from Wuhan, China, will be screened for the coronavirus. [Lori Aratani and Lena H. Sun report](#):** "Enhanced screening is already taking place at John F. Kennedy, Los Angeles and San Francisco international airports. More than 1,200 travelers have been screened, but no one has been found to have the virus or been hospitalized through the screenings."

**-- North Korea shut its borders to foreign tourists in an attempt to keep out the coronavirus. ([Miriam Berger and Simon Denyer](#))**

**-- In Davos, Trump renewed his threat to put hefty tariffs on European goods, deepening the rift with longtime U.S. allies. [Heather Long reports](#):** "As part of this push Tuesday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin warned Italy and Britain could face U.S. tariffs if they pursue taxes on large technology companies such as Facebook and Alphabet's Google. French President Emmanuel Macron agreed in recent days to delay a similar tax to avoid Trump's tariffs."

**-- More U.S. troops left Iraq for medical treatment following Iran's missile attack on military facilities there. [Dan Lamothe reports](#):** "The Pentagon said Friday that 11 service members required medical treatment outside Iraq. U.S. military officials declined to say Tuesday how many more are receiving care but said 'additional' personnel had been sent to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. The officials left open the possibility that the number could increase in coming days."

**-- When asked about this story during his presser in Davos, Trump told reporters he'd heard they had suffered headaches and "a couple of other things" but insisted that "it's not very serious."** The president added that he was not told about the injuries until "numerous days later." "I've seen people with no legs and with no arms, and I've seen people who were horribly, horribly Injured," he added, referring to improvised explosive devices. "I consider them to be really bad injuries."

**-- Iran confirmed that two Russian-made missiles downed the Ukrainian passenger plane.** [Paul Schemm reports](#): "While Iran's Revolutionary Guard had previously admitted it shot down the plane, the report marked the first official acknowledgment that two missiles struck the aircraft, matching amateur videos that surfaced after the Boeing 737-800 went down. The report by Iran's Civil Aviation Organization did not immediately say the Tor M-1 missiles caused the crash but only that 'the impact of these missiles on the accident and the analysis of this action are under investigation.' Russia announced the delivery of the Tor M-1 system — also known as SA-15 — to Iran in 2007."

**-- The Saudi crown prince has been implicated in the hack of Jeff Bezos, Amazon founder and owner of The Post.** [Marc Fisher and Steven Zeitchik report](#): "A United Nations investigation to be released Wednesday will report that [Bezos's] cellphone was hacked in 2018 after he got a WhatsApp message that came from an account purportedly belonging to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ... The Guardian newspaper, which first reported Mohammed's alleged involvement Tuesday, said Bezos and the prince ... were

engaged in a friendly chat on WhatsApp on May 1, 2018, when Mohammed sent Bezos an apparently infected video file. It was unclear Tuesday whether the United Nations conducted its own forensic investigation or relied on work done by a consultant hired by Bezos or someone else.”

**-- Lebanon formed a new Hezbollah-backed government amid mounting unrest. [Liz Sly and Suzan Haldamous report](#):** “The dominant role in the government’s formation played by Iranian-allied Hezbollah, which proposed the candidacy of Prime Minister Hassan Diab in December and has pushed forcefully in recent days for his lineup of ministers, risks alienating some of Lebanon’s traditional Western allies, including the United States, at a time when Lebanon’s collapsing economy urgently needs international assistance. ... Supporters of the new government are hoping that Diab, a relative unknown, can win over the protesters and convince foreign donors that he represents a new breed of politician capable of implementing reforms.”

**-- An architect of the CIA's brutal interrogation and detention program defended the agency and its practices. [From the AP](#):** “James Mitchell ... is facing questions now because lawyers for the five men accused of planning and providing logistical support for the Sept. 11 attacks are seeking to prevent the government from using statements the defendants gave to the FBI as evidence against them in a war crimes trial scheduled to start next January at the U.S. base in Cuba. ... The five defendants, who include the self-proclaimed mastermind of the Sept. 11 hijacking plot, were subjected to waterboarding and other methods now widely regarded as torture.

Mitchell, who helped develop the program with another private contractor and others, insisted the CIA feared ‘another catastrophic attack,’ possibly involving nuclear weapons, and was trying to stop it.”

**-- Mexico confirmed that 2019 was its most murderous year in recent history as homicides ticked up 2.7 percent.** The National System of Public Security said that 35,588 people were victims of homicide last year. That includes 1,006 women targeted in “femicides.” ([Mary Beth Sheridan](#))

**-- American journalist Glenn Greenwald was charged with cybercrimes in Brazil for his role in bringing to light cellphone messages that have embarrassed prosecutors.** [From the Times:](#) “Mr. Greenwald, an ardent critic of Brazil’s far-right president, Jair Bolsonaro, is a deeply polarizing figure in Brazil, where his work is lionized by leftists and condemned as partisan and heavy handed by officials in the Bolsonaro administration. The news organization Mr. Greenwald co-founded, The Intercept Brasil, published articles last year based on the leaked cellphone messages that raised questions about the integrity and the motives of key members of Brazil’s justice system.”



Supreme Court punts Affordable Care Act appeal

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

**-- The Supreme Court denied a motion to fast-track a challenge to the Affordable Care Act, punting a decision on the issue until after the 2020 election. [Robert Barnes reports](#): “Without comment, the justices turned down a motion by the House of Representatives and Democratic-led states to expedite review of a decision last month by a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit. The panel struck down the law’s mandate that individuals buy health insurance but sent back to a lower court the question of whether the rest of the statute can stand without it. But the lower courts have kept the Affordable Care Act in place as appeals continue, and a practical effect of the Supreme Court’s action is that it will stay that way at least through the November elections.”**

**-- The Trump administration has drafted plans that would make it**

**more difficult for pregnant women from foreign countries to obtain tourist visas.** [From BuzzFeed News](#): “A draft rule and draft guidance drawn up for State Department officers at embassies across the world would make it so anyone attempting to travel on a tourist visa to the US while they could give birth would be forced to clear an additional hurdle: convincing a consular officer they have another legitimate reason to come to the US. ... Consular officers would be directed to determine whether the applicant will be traveling to the US for the primary purpose of giving birth ... The officers can have reason to believe this may be the case if the applicant states this in a form or in an interview. Officers, however, are told not to ask as a matter of course whether the applicant is pregnant or intends to become pregnant, or require an applicant to provide evidence that they are not pregnant.”

**-- The White House also plans on expanding travel restrictions for people from seven countries.** The nations being considered for the new rules are Belarus, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Sudan, Tanzania and Nigeria, Africa’s most populous country. ([WSJ](#))

**-- An Iranian student who was set to attend Northeastern University in Boston was deported Monday night.** [From the Boston Globe](#): “Mohammad Shahab Dehghani Hossein Abadi, a 24-year-old undergraduate student, had been detained by Customs and Border Protection at Logan after arriving Sunday. [His] lawyers filed an emergency petition to block his removal Monday night, and Judge Allison D. Burroughs ordered a 48-hour stay. But before a hearing took place, [he] was flown to France — in defiance of the judge’s order. ... At the scheduled hearing Tuesday morning, Judge Richard

Stearns said the case was now moot, since the student was already out of the country.”

**-- Harvey Weinstein’s defense team will cite “loving” email exchanges with some of his accusers in opening statements.** [Shayna Jacobs reports](#): “The contents of the emails are expected to be key to Weinstein’s defense that encounters with women who say he forced them into sexual acts were actually consensual. His attorneys have also suggested that women sought to advance their careers by getting involved with Weinstein sexually. ... The email-related ruling Tuesday was something of a victory for Weinstein’s team. [Defense attorney Damon] Cheronis, out of the gate, will get to give jurors a preview of what is to come. He referred to the email exchanges as ‘devastating’ and said the accusers not only contradict their own claims but ‘bragged’ about their affairs with Weinstein.”

**-- Most Americans want abortion to remain legal, but back some state restrictions, according to a new Kaiser Family Foundation poll.** [Ariana Eujung Cha and Emily Guskin report](#): “A majority of Americans (59 percent) said abortion should be legal in most or all cases, and about 7 in 10 said that Roe v. Wade should not be overturned ... A clear majority (69 percent) of the public supports laws requiring abortions to be performed by doctors who have hospital admitting privileges, similar to the requirements in a Louisiana law challenged in a case that goes before the Supreme Court this term. Majorities of Americans also support laws that require women to wait 24 hours between meeting a health-care provider and getting an abortion (66 percent) and laws requiring doctors to show and describe

ultrasound images to them (57 percent).”

**-- Michael Avenatti was jailed in an isolation unit that once held El Chapo ahead of his trial on extortion charges. The warden said it's “for his own safety.”** The pugnacious lawyer has been in custody since last week, when a federal judge in California revoked his bail in a separate case. He was to stand trial this week in New York. ([Shayna Jacobs](#))

**-- The Virginia Senate advanced a measure that will replace Lee-Jackson Day with an Election Day holiday.** ([Laura Vozzella](#))

**-- The Boeing 737 Max probably will not be allowed to fly again until mid-2020, the company announced.** ([Lori Aratani](#))

**-- So close: Derek Jeter fell one vote shy of becoming baseball's second unanimous Hall of Fame selection.** Jeter, a 14-time all-star, was polling at 100 percent in vote-tracking of publicly available ballots this week, but one voter, unidentified as of Tuesday evening, apparently saw something lacking in Jeter's record. ([Dave Sheinin](#))

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Trump tweeted dozens of times before the sun rose over Davos this morning, focusing mostly on the impeachment trial and reposting statements made by several of his Republican defenders and sharing this video from the National Republican Senatorial Committee multiple times:



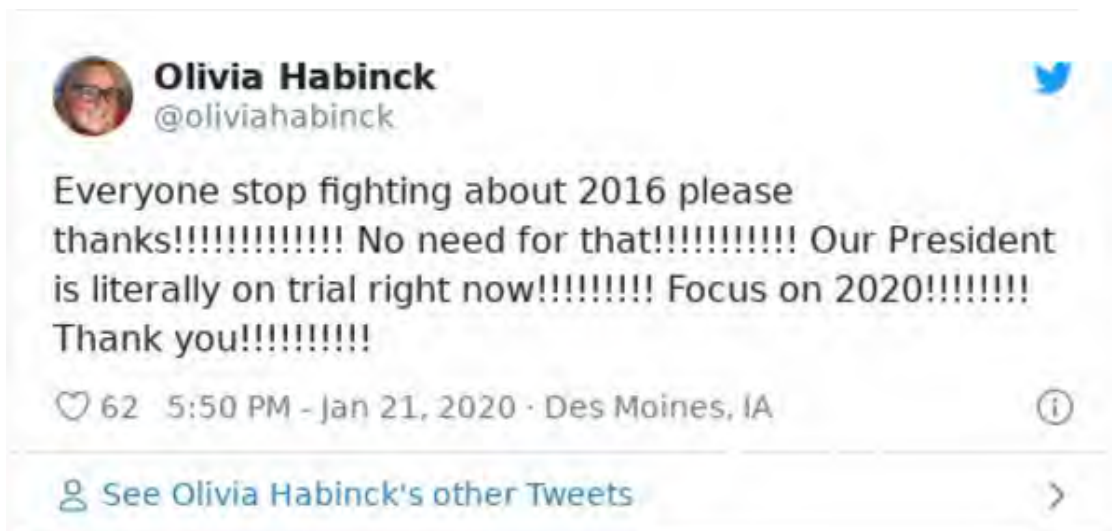


"The flurry of impeachment talk at Davos belied White House efforts to project Trump as detached from the increasingly partisan impeachment fight and more focused on delivering results for the country," write [Toluse Olorunnipa and Anne Gearan](#).

Hillary Clinton announced she will support whoever the Democrats nominate, trying to tamp down [a day of backlash](#) from the left for trashing Bernie Sanders in [an interview with the Hollywood Reporter](#) and declining to commit to support him:



The president of the College and Young Democrats of Iowa urged party elders to stop relitigating the Sanders v. Clinton fights of 2016:



Democratic senators lashed out on Twitter when Republicans voted against calling witnesses:



From a former U.S. ambassador to Russia under Obama:



A top official at the National Republican Senatorial Committee embraced new nicknames for Mitch McConnell, who functionally controls the party's campaign arm:



**Matt Whitlock** ✓  
@matt diz whitlock



On CNN earlier @GloriaBorger referred to Mitch McConnell as "Machiavelli Mitch."

Another excellent nickname. H/t @ltthompso



♥ 218 9:53 PM - Jan 21, 2020



💬 69 people are talking about this





**Matt Whitlock** ✓  
@matt diz whitlock



Even if they changed the rules so the Democrats could go to bed early, he'll still be [#MidnightMitch](#) to us.



♥ 116 6:58 PM - Jan 21, 2020



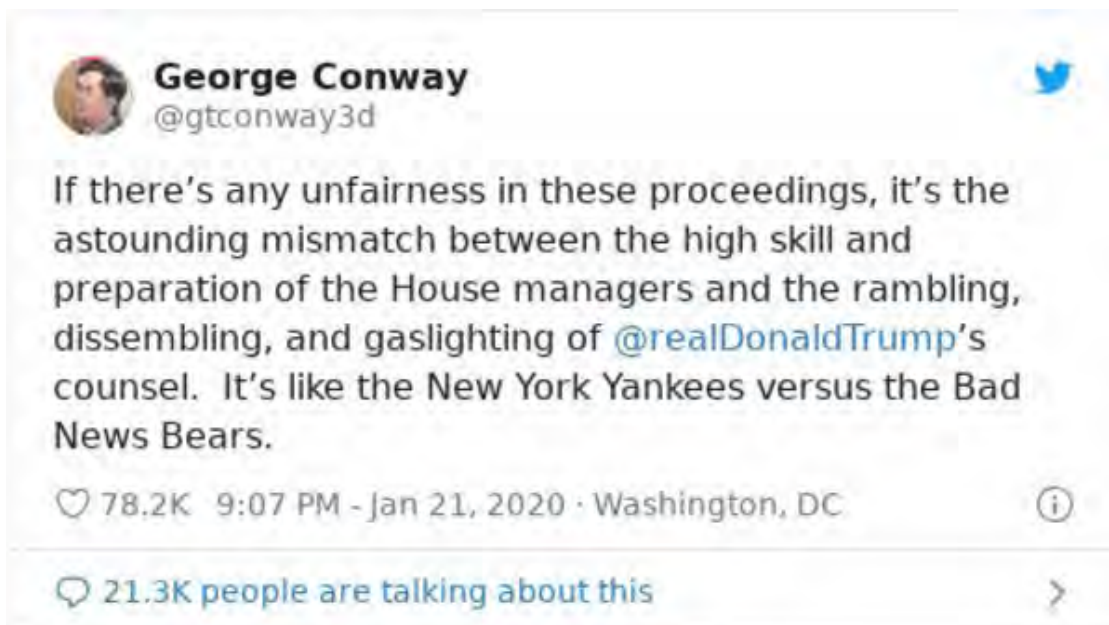
💬 25 people are talking about this



A former prosecutor noted that the chief justice's hands are mostly tied on procedure:



Conservative lawyer and Never Trumper George Conway, husband of counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway, was not impressed by the president's legal team's opening arguments:



**VIDEOS OF THE DAY:**

Stephen Colbert joked that the Senate was getting to decide whether breaking the law is illegal, adding that the odds don't look great:



Jimmy Kimmel went out and asked the public for their thoughts on impeachment:



And Katie Sowers of the 49ers is the NFL's first female and openly gay Super Bowl-bound assistant coach:



Meet Katie Sowers, the NFL's first female and openly gay Super Bowl-bound coach

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## Joe Biden talks Ukraine, but not impeachment, in Iowa – as the Senate trial complicates his messaging



Joe Biden fields questions from voters on Tuesday afternoon in Ames, Iowa. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

## **THE BIG IDEA:**

**AMES, Iowa – “There are people being killed in Ukraine by Russian soldiers right now, as I speak to you,” Joe Biden said at a campaign event here on Tuesday afternoon. “As I speak to you!”**

Also as the former vice president spoke at Iowa State University, the Senate debated the rules for the trial of President Trump. The president was impeached by the House for his alleged efforts to coerce the Ukrainian government into announcing an investigation

into Joe and Hunter Biden by freezing hundreds of millions of dollars in military aid that Congress approved to help fend off Russia's ongoing occupation of the Donbas region.

**The Democratic presidential candidate brought up Ukraine to criticize Trump for appeasing Vladimir Putin and not supporting allies**, which Biden says emboldens the revanchist Russians. "Look at what's happening in Hungary," Biden continued, firing himself up. "When you live next to the bear, and the Americans don't look like they're going to take care of you, what happens? You make accommodations with the bear! It's just like in the Cold War."

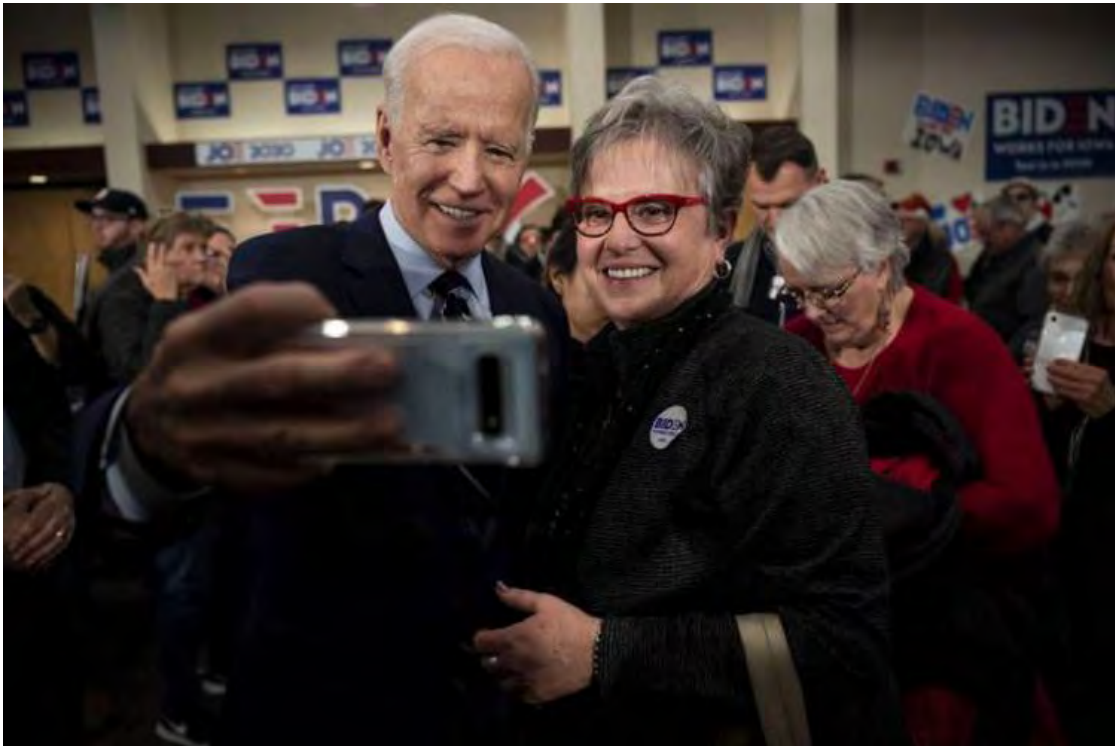
**Biden never mentioned impeachment during his hour-long, town hall-style meeting, and no one in the audience asked about it, but the issue hovered.** "One of the things that is on the ballot here is basically the abuse of power," he said. "We've never seen a time, in my view, in modern history where we've seen such an abuse of power by a president of the United States of America, disregarding the truth and using the following tactic: If you lie enough ... and you repeat it, repeat it, repeat it, repeat it and repeat it, eventually the notion is that a number of people are going to think it's true."

**The split-screen between the impeachment trial and Biden's event showcased a paradox that the next few weeks may put in even starker relief.** The centerpiece of Biden's pitch is that he can bridge the partisan divides and work with Republican senators to get big things done, yet those very Republican senators voted in lockstep on Tuesday with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to block witnesses and subpoenas, just as they banded together to block Merrick Garland from even getting a hearing four years ago when

Barack Obama nominated him to fill a Supreme Court vacancy. Biden's much ballyhooed relationships did no good then, even when Obama picked a moderate judge he believed would appeal to Republicans.

**Biden nodded to how discordant it might seem for him to talk about being able to work with the other side amid all the acrimony.** He joked that his opponents have called him too old *and* too naive. "I thought they were contradictory notions," Biden said, before rejecting the idea that he cannot work with the modern GOP. "I know this new Republican Party better than anybody. I've been the object of their affection for some time now," he continued, drawing laughter. "I fully understand the way they try to malign my only surviving son and the way they've gone after my family, even my grandkids."

**He explained that he doesn't hold grudges, which he said is the key to compromise and even the survival of the republic.** "Look, one of the things a president has to do is you have to be a fighter and a competitor, but a president also needs to be a healer," Biden continued. "I can't keep a grudge in terms of the way they've gone after me. But it's not about me. It's about you. It's about the American people. We've got to heal the country. ... I'm convinced that it can be done. I've done it my whole career."



Biden takes a selfie with Susan Klein of Ames, Iowa. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)

-- I interviewed a dozen Biden supporters after the rally, and all of them cited without prompting either his ability to work with Republican lawmakers or appeal to traditional GOP voters as one of the reasons they're planning to caucus for him on Feb. 3. "He's the one Trump fears the most, so that's why he's been targeted," said Bob Lorr, 82, of Ames. "Also, to straighten out this mess, Democrats are going to have to appeal to independents and Never Trumpers, and Joe is moderate enough that he can do that better than any of the other candidates."

-- To be sure, the Biden campaign remains on edge about the Ukraine topic generally and Trump's allegations specifically. When an Iowa voter accused Biden last month of "selling access" by getting his son a job he wasn't qualified for, he angrily

called the questioner “a damn liar” and said he had nothing to do with the Ukrainian energy company Burisma. The testy exchange overshadowed John Kerry’s endorsement at the same event.

As proceedings began yesterday, **Biden’s rapid response director, Andrew Bates, posted a four-minute video on YouTube of himself drinking a beer at a Philadelphia bar as he argues, sometimes with profanity, that his boss did nothing wrong by trying to remove Viktor Shokin as Ukraine’s top prosecutor.** While his father was vice president, Hunter served on the board of Burisma, Ukraine’s largest private gas company, whose owner came under scrutiny by Ukrainian prosecutors for possible abuse of power and unlawful enrichment. Trump and his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani have promoted an unfounded allegation that Biden pushed for Shokin’s ouster to stop a corruption investigation into Burisma to protect his son. Hunter, 49, is no longer on the board and was not accused of wrongdoing.

**Biden alluded to his children multiple times during the event, though he never mentioned Hunter by name.** He often name-checks his son Beau, who died of brain cancer in his 40s, as he did again on Tuesday to express how proud he is that there’s a freeway named for him in Kosovo. Explaining why he opposes tuition-free college, Biden said he doesn’t think it would have been fair to make taxpayers foot the bill for his son to go Yale Law School. Hunter graduated from there in 1996.

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Biden greets supporters after his Ames event. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)

-- As Biden talked in Ames, White House counsel Pat Cipollone took digs at the four senators running for president **who needed to report to the Capitol for jury duty**. "Some of you are upset

because you should be in Iowa right now,” he said on the floor, prompting several senators to [glance](#) toward Bernie Sanders.

**The trial meant that Biden had Central Iowa to himself. This swelled the media throng that usually follows him.** About 180 voters came to see Biden speak while 70 journalists, including 14 television cameramen, observed from a press pen. “You all have the keys to the kingdom here in Iowa,” Biden told the voters. The 77-year-old wears a full suit and tie on the trail, more formal than his Democratic rivals, and he tends to draw older crowds than his opponents.

**-- The U.S. Capitol is 1,034 miles east of Ames, and Davos, Switzerland, is another 4,000 miles beyond that. Trump is there for the World Economic Forum.** In an interview with CNBC this morning, Trump was asked which Democrat he’d prefer to face in November. After declaring that Mike Bloomberg has no chance of winning the party’s nod, the president ripped Biden. “I don’t know if Joe’s going to limp across the line,” Trump said. “He can’t put together a sentence, but it could be him. And it could be Crazy Bernie. I don’t know who it’s going to be. Whoever it is, I’m ready.”

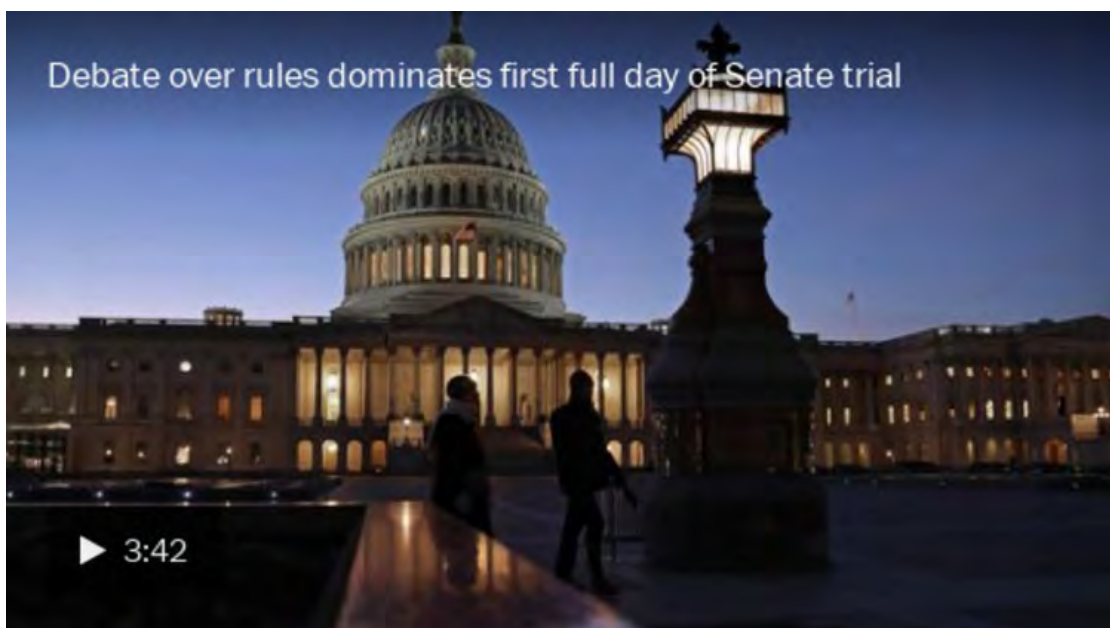
**-- A national CNN poll published this morning finds Sanders overtaking Biden, 27 percent to 24 percent. This is first time that the network’s survey has not had the former vice president in first place nationally.** Elizabeth Warren is a distant third with 14 percent, followed by Pete Buttigieg at 11 percent, Bloomberg at 5 percent and Amy Klobuchar and Andrew Yang at 4 percent.

**-- An Iowa poll released Monday put Biden in the lead with 25**



**percent among likely caucusgoers, followed by Warren with 17 percent, Buttigieg with 16 percent, Sanders with 14 percent and Klobuchar with 11 percent.** The quarterly survey, conducted by a Democratic pollster for Focus on Rural America, also asked which candidate is “best equipped” to handle the tensions with Iran “and other global hot spots.” Biden led with 42 percent. The survey, in the field during the three days after last week’s debate, is different than [the Des Moines Register poll](#), which put Sanders in the lead in this state.

**-- Polls show that Biden’s foreign policy experience is one of his biggest selling points in the nominating contest, despite his vote for the Iraq War, so he’s leaning into it.** He’s delivering a foreign policy speech this afternoon in Osage, Iowa. And the super PAC supporting Biden yesterday launched [a new ad](#) in the state called “The Storm” that shows footage of a choppy ocean as text appears onscreen that says Biden is “A President to Right the Ship” and “The Democrat Who Can Lead Through the Storm.”



**-- On Capitol Hill, meanwhile, several Senate Democrats are privately discussing the possibility of calling Republicans' bluff on witnesses by offering to trade the testimony of Hunter for the testimony of former national security adviser John Bolton or another senior Trump administration official.** "The discussions about the Bidens are being closely held, and the issue is fraught for Democrats, due to the differing levels of support for Biden in a chamber stocked with presidential candidates and the clashing views on impeachment strategy," [Rachael Bade, Bob Costa and Seung Min Kim report](#). "In private conversations in recent days, there has been much loathing of the Republicans' spotlight on the Bidens among Senate Democrats, but also a fear that unless a witness deal is eventually struck, the trial could proceed without witnesses ... That predicament has led to discussions ... For now, Senate Democrats are being advised by their leadership to reject the idea of a trade-off out of hand, keeping the focus instead on the GOP's refusal to subpoena key administration officials ...

**"Inside Biden's 2020 operation, there is little interest in publicly engaging with what Biden's advisers and friends dismiss as 'a stupid Republican talking point,'** said a person familiar with the campaign's stance on the issue ... Democrats interested in a possible deal said they would want an assurance from the president that he would not assert executive privilege over Bolton or whichever witness they choose. Most acknowledge that an agreement seems unlikely, even as they insist it isn't off the table.

**“One Democrat argued it could be risky for the Biden campaign but said it could also give them a chance to steal the microphone from Trump.** Additionally, some Democrats privately say Hunter, with his well-chronicled struggle with addiction, could come across as a sympathetic figure under GOP attacks. One idea that has been informally floated, according to two people close to the Biden campaign, is to instead offer testimony from Joe Biden in exchange for testimony from Trump.”

**Delaware’s two Democratic senators, both Biden backers, are taking different tacks:** “If you want to give Joe Biden an opportunity to sit in the well of the Senate and answer the question, ‘Do you think the president acted appropriately?’ go right ahead,” said Chris Coons, who holds Biden’s seat. “I can’t imagine a person more comfortable in the well of the Senate than a man who spent 36 years here as a United States senator.”

“Hunter Biden is not accused of withholding \$391 million of congressional authorized defense spending for one of our allies who’s under attack by Russia. Donald Trump is,” said Tom Carper, who served alongside Biden for many years. “We need to keep that in mind.”



Democratic candidates walk arm-in-arm on Monday during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade in Columbia, S.C. (Randall Hill/Reuters)



-- Biden doesn't just have to worry about Trump. He's been feuding for days with Sanders, fending off attacks from his left. Law professor Zephyr Teachout, a Sanders supporter who has lost races in New York for governor and Congress, accused Biden of having "a big corruption problem" that "makes him a weak candidate"

in [an op-ed for the Guardian](#) on Monday. “I know it seems crazy, but a lot of the voters we need – independents and people who might stay home – will look at Biden and Trump and say: ‘They’re all dirty,’” Teachout wrote.

**The “corruption” piece didn’t mention Ukraine, but a Sanders campaign staffer blasted it out to the press list. Sanders then publicly [disavowed the op-ed](#).** The senator from Vermont [told CBS News](#) that he doesn’t think Biden is corrupt. Biden said Sanders even made a point to personally apologize to him backstage during the Brown & Black Forum in Des Moines on Monday afternoon. “He said, ‘Joe, I’m sorry. I don’t subscribe to that. I don’t think that’s true,’” Biden [recalled to WHO](#), the local NBC affiliate, after his event in Ames.

**-- But the two campaigns were attacking each other again last night, releasing dueling videos on Social Security:**



**Joe Biden (Text Join to 30330)** ✓

@JoeBiden



I've been fighting to protect — and expand — Social Security for my whole career. Any suggestion otherwise is just flat-out wrong.



♥ 8,617 1:07 AM - Jan 22, 2020



💬 8,632 people are talking about this





**Bernie Sanders** ✓  
@BernieSanders



Let's be honest, Joe. One of us fought for decades to cut Social Security, and one of us didn't. But don't take it from me. Take it from you.



78.1K 2:53 AM - Jan 22, 2020



26.6K people are talking about this



-- “The Sanders style of campaigning has increasingly grated on Biden and his campaign, who view his tactics as unfair and out of bounds,” [Matt Viser reports](#). “Some Democrats lamented that Sanders has not faced enough scrutiny, even as he has been repeatedly underestimated by some party leaders.”

-- “Before Biden entered the race last year, some rivals were quietly whispering about the bad optics of his son getting lucrative contracts based on family connections,” [Politico’s Marc Caputo reports](#). “Some Democratic campaigns released opposition research about Hunter Biden, saying it was part of a pattern of him

profiting off his father's position as vice president and, before that, a senator. But then news of Trump's efforts to leverage Ukraine broke ... And Democrats quickly backed away from saying anything critical ... 'That line of attack is just off the table,' said one Democratic consultant with one of the rival campaigns. 'No one wants to look like Trump's messenger boy. Trump screwed it all up.'"



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Nadler and Cipollone went off on each other. Then Chief Justice Roberts admonished both.

## THE LATEST ON IMPEACHMENT:

**-- In the 1 a.m. hour today, Chief Justice John Roberts rebuked House impeachment managers and Trump's defense lawyers over their decorum.** “I think it is appropriate at this point for me to admonish both the House managers and president’s counsel in equal terms to remember that they are addressing the world’s greatest deliberative body,” the chief justice said. “One reason it has earned that title is because its members avoid speaking in a manner and using language that is not conducive to civil discourse.”

**His comment came after an acrimonious exchange between House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) and Trump lawyers Pat Cipollone and Jay Sekulow.** Roberts noted that a House manager was admonished for using the phrase “pettifogging” during a 1905 impeachment trial of a federal judge. Pettifogging is an

archaic term that means placing undue emphasis on petty details. “I don’t think we need to aspire to that high of standard,” he quipped, “but I do think those addressing the Senate should remember where they are.” ([Paul Kane and Elise Viebeck](#))

**-- Speaking to reporters this morning, Trump said he’d like for some of his closest advisers – including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo – to testify, but claimed that allowing them to do so would likely become a national security issue.** The president said his former secretary of energy, Rick Perry, was very interested in testifying, but Trump wouldn’t allow him to do so for the same reason. Trump also told reporters he didn’t believe Bill Clinton should’ve been impeached and suggested that Rudy Giuliani couldn’t be a part of his defense team because “it could be that he’d have a conflict.”

**-- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was forced to revise his ground rules for the trial to avert a rebellion among Republicans.** [Seung Min Kim, Felicia Sonmez and Mike DeBonis report](#): “In the end, the final parameters of the [trial were] approved on strictly partisan lines, but the measure passed only after revisions [to placate Republicans.] ... Now, both the Democratic impeachment managers and Trump’s defense team will have up to three days each to make their case, and evidence from the House will be entered automatically unless there is an objection. The changes were so last-minute that there were handwritten scribbles in the legislation marking the revisions.” After those tweaks, the rules [now largely mirror](#) what the Senate used for Bill Clinton’s trial in 1999.

**“One of the senators most upset about the initial provisions was Susan Collins (R-Maine),** who will be a key swing vote on procedural

matters during the trial. But the concerns spread beyond a closely watched core of potential GOP swing senators, with Rob Portman (R-Ohio) also among those voicing objections in the closed-door lunch about the two-day timetable. That provision didn't please Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), either. ... Democrats seized on the changes as proof that a small clutch of GOP senators facing public opposition to any component of the highly contentious trial could force McConnell to reverse course, though the Republican leader ultimately won all 53 GOP votes in favor of his measure. ...

**“On other issues, Republicans killed attempts from Democrats to modify the parameters of the proceedings to allow for an assortment of documents and a slate of witnesses at the outset**

... Earlier in the debate, Schumer and Senate Democrats forced an attempt to subpoena documents kept by the White House — including the National Security Council — as well as separate efforts to obtain records from the State Department, the Pentagon and the Office of Management and Budget. Democrats also pushed to summon [John] Bolton, acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and other administration witnesses that Democrats had demanded for weeks. All were rejected on party-line votes.”

**-- A new Monmouth University poll found that a 57 percent majority of Americans believe that House managers should be able to introduce new evidence during Trump's trial.** Another 37 percent think the impeachment managers should be limited to sharing only what was revealed during the initial inquiry. In the poll, 53 percent said the House was correct to impeach Trump.

**-- House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) said**

intelligence agencies are withholding key evidence related to the Ukraine affair on “the instruction of others, or with the advice of others.” ([CBS News](#))

-- The argument from Trump’s legal team that abuse of power is not an impeachable offense has been overwhelmingly rejected not just by constitutional scholars but also Attorney General Bill Barr. [From the Times](#): “In summer 2018, when he was still in private practice, Mr. Barr wrote a confidential memo for the Justice Department and Mr. Trump’s legal team to help the president get out of a problem. The special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III, was pressuring him to answer questions about whether he had illegally impeded the Russia investigation. Mr. Trump should not talk to investigators about his actions as president, even under a subpoena, Mr. Barr wrote in his 19-page memo... Mr. Barr based his advice on a sweeping theory of executive power under which obstruction of justice laws do not apply to presidents ... Even without the possibility of criminal penalties, he wrote, a check is in place on presidents who abuse their discretionary power to control the executive branch of government — impeachment.”

-- **Slumber claimed its first impeachment victim – Sen. James Risch (R-Idaho).** “Shortly after 5:30 p.m., Risch — chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which oversees the State Department — could be seen from the press gallery motionless, with his eyes closed and head slumped against his right hand,” [DeBonis and Karoun Demirjian report](#).

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** For senators, the trial means no coffee, no cellphones and no talking. The lack of caffeine is already causing Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) some discomfort. "I drink coffee from

the minute I wake up until bedtime," Cramer told [the Wall Street Journal](#). "It's the only drug that I use or abuse, with the exception of occasional ibuprofen. So my biggest challenge is to drink enough coffee to stay awake, but not drink so much that I, you know, that I'm, ah, uncomfortable in the chamber."

**-- Impeachment witnesses from the State Department face staggering legal bills that they're forced to pay out of their own pocket.** Six witnesses [told the New Yorker's Robin Wright](#) that they have accrued as much as half a million dollars in bills that are not being covered by the government. The diplomats and senior officials involved – most of whom have spent a lifetime earning modest government salaries – have had to tap into personal-liability insurance or relied on the generosity of friends and fellow diplomats who've built legal funds for them. The State Department will reimburse witnesses' lawyers for only about a quarter of the charges for a single lawyer versed in government issues at a Washington firm. But key witnesses have each required teams of several lawyers to represent them in the past months.

**-- Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) voiced “extreme concern and discomfort” about restrictions placed on members of the press covering the trial.** In a letter to Senate Sergeant at Arms Michael Stenger, who imposed the new security requirements, Heinrich said, “to place limitations on the press is to place limitations on the American people's ability to learn about the character and conduct of their elected leaders.” ([Michael Brice-Saddler](#))

**-- Thomas Railsback, an Illinois Republican congressman who helped draw up articles of impeachment against Richard Nixon in 1974 as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, died on Monday at age 87.** All the obituaries lead with his role in Watergate, a

timely reminder that many lawmakers' legacies will be defined by how they conduct themselves during this process. [From the AP's obit](#): “Railsback credited Nixon with getting him elected to Congress in 1966 by campaigning for him in western Illinois. ‘I feel badly about what happened to Nixon,’ Railsback told the Idaho Statesman in 2012. ‘On the other hand, after listening to the (White House) tapes and seeing all the evidence, it was something we had to do because the evidence was there.’ ... Railsback said he believes he lost his seat in the 1982 Republican primary ... in part due to his impeachment vote.”

-- **Commentary from The Post's opinion page:**

- [The Post's Editorial Board](#): “Trump's impeachment defense is designed to destroy guardrails on presidential power.”
- [David Ignatius](#): “What does impeachment show the world? America's stability.”
- [Dana Milbank](#): “And the White House defense is ... well, there isn't one.”
- [Hugh Hewitt](#): “Anything other than a rapid acquittal will deeply damage the presidency.”
- [Greg Sargent](#): “Memo to vulnerable GOP senators: You're already on video, and it's bad.”
- [Gary Abernathy](#): “Impeachment is a race to the bottom. And no one really wins.”
- [Henry Olsen](#): “And so begins an impeachment trial that will change no one's mind.”
- [Marc Thiessen](#): “Democrats are hoping John Bolton will bring down Trump. Good luck with that.”



What you need to know about the deadly coronavirus found in the U.S.

## **THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

**-- Chinese health authorities are trying to impose a quasi-quarantine around the hotspot of a mystery pneumonia-like virus that has claimed nine lives in China and has been confirmed in the United States for the first time. [Anna Fifield](#), [Lena H. Sun](#) and [Lenny Bernstein](#) report:** "The U.S. case — a man in his 30s under observation in Washington state — had links to the area of most concern in China: the commercial center of Wuhan about halfway between Beijing and Hong Kong. In an attempt to contain the virus, Chinese authorities advised people in the city of 11 million not to leave. But the U.S. case showed how far the virus has moved beyond the Wuhan region. ... The Geneva-based World Health Organization said it would hold an emergency meeting Wednesday to decide whether to designate the outbreak as an international public health emergency."

**-- U.S. officials added the Chicago and Atlanta international airports to the list of places where passengers arriving from Wuhan, China, will be screened for the coronavirus. [Lori Aratani and Lena H. Sun report](#):** "Enhanced screening is already taking place at John F. Kennedy, Los Angeles and San Francisco international airports. More than 1,200 travelers have been screened, but no one has been found to have the virus or been hospitalized through the screenings."

**-- North Korea shut its borders to foreign tourists in an attempt to keep out the coronavirus. ([Miriam Berger and Simon Denyer](#))**

**-- In Davos, Trump renewed his threat to put hefty tariffs on European goods, deepening the rift with longtime U.S. allies. [Heather Long reports](#):** "As part of this push Tuesday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin warned Italy and Britain could face U.S. tariffs if they pursue taxes on large technology companies such as Facebook and Alphabet's Google. French President Emmanuel Macron agreed in recent days to delay a similar tax to avoid Trump's tariffs."

**-- More U.S. troops left Iraq for medical treatment following Iran's missile attack on military facilities there. [Dan Lamothe reports](#):** "The Pentagon said Friday that 11 service members required medical treatment outside Iraq. U.S. military officials declined to say Tuesday how many more are receiving care but said 'additional' personnel had been sent to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. The officials left open the possibility that the number could increase in coming days."



**-- When asked about this story during his presser in Davos, Trump told reporters he'd heard they had suffered headaches and "a couple of other things" but insisted that "it's not very serious."** The president added that he was not told about the injuries until "numerous days later." "I've seen people with no legs and with no arms, and I've seen people who were horribly, horribly Injured," he added, referring to improvised explosive devices. "I consider them to be really bad injuries."

**-- Iran confirmed that two Russian-made missiles downed the Ukrainian passenger plane.** [Paul Schemm reports](#): "While Iran's Revolutionary Guard had previously admitted it shot down the plane, the report marked the first official acknowledgment that two missiles struck the aircraft, matching amateur videos that surfaced after the Boeing 737-800 went down. The report by Iran's Civil Aviation Organization did not immediately say the Tor M-1 missiles caused the crash but only that 'the impact of these missiles on the accident and the analysis of this action are under investigation.' Russia announced the delivery of the Tor M-1 system — also known as SA-15 — to Iran in 2007."

**-- The Saudi crown prince has been implicated in the hack of Jeff Bezos, Amazon founder and owner of The Post.** [Marc Fisher and Steven Zeitchik report](#): "A United Nations investigation to be released Wednesday will report that [Bezos's] cellphone was hacked in 2018 after he got a WhatsApp message that came from an account purportedly belonging to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ... The Guardian newspaper, which first reported Mohammed's alleged involvement Tuesday, said Bezos and the prince ... were

engaged in a friendly chat on WhatsApp on May 1, 2018, when Mohammed sent Bezos an apparently infected video file. It was unclear Tuesday whether the United Nations conducted its own forensic investigation or relied on work done by a consultant hired by Bezos or someone else.”

**-- Lebanon formed a new Hezbollah-backed government amid mounting unrest.** [Liz Sly and Suzan Haldamous report](#): “The dominant role in the government’s formation played by Iranian-allied Hezbollah, which proposed the candidacy of Prime Minister Hassan Diab in December and has pushed forcefully in recent days for his lineup of ministers, risks alienating some of Lebanon’s traditional Western allies, including the United States, at a time when Lebanon’s collapsing economy urgently needs international assistance. ... Supporters of the new government are hoping that Diab, a relative unknown, can win over the protesters and convince foreign donors that he represents a new breed of politician capable of implementing reforms.”

**-- An architect of the CIA's brutal interrogation and detention program defended the agency and its practices.** [From the AP](#): “James Mitchell ... is facing questions now because lawyers for the five men accused of planning and providing logistical support for the Sept. 11 attacks are seeking to prevent the government from using statements the defendants gave to the FBI as evidence against them in a war crimes trial scheduled to start next January at the U.S. base in Cuba. ... The five defendants, who include the self-proclaimed mastermind of the Sept. 11 hijacking plot, were subjected to waterboarding and other methods now widely regarded as torture.

Mitchell, who helped develop the program with another private contractor and others, insisted the CIA feared ‘another catastrophic attack,’ possibly involving nuclear weapons, and was trying to stop it.”

**-- Mexico confirmed that 2019 was its most murderous year in recent history as homicides ticked up 2.7 percent.** The National System of Public Security said that 35,588 people were victims of homicide last year. That includes 1,006 women targeted in “femicides.” ([Mary Beth Sheridan](#))

**-- American journalist Glenn Greenwald was charged with cybercrimes in Brazil for his role in bringing to light cellphone messages that have embarrassed prosecutors.** [From the Times:](#) “Mr. Greenwald, an ardent critic of Brazil’s far-right president, Jair Bolsonaro, is a deeply polarizing figure in Brazil, where his work is lionized by leftists and condemned as partisan and heavy handed by officials in the Bolsonaro administration. The news organization Mr. Greenwald co-founded, The Intercept Brasil, published articles last year based on the leaked cellphone messages that raised questions about the integrity and the motives of key members of Brazil’s justice system.”



Supreme Court punts Affordable Care Act appeal

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

**-- The Supreme Court denied a motion to fast-track a challenge to the Affordable Care Act, punting a decision on the issue until after the 2020 election. [Robert Barnes reports](#): “Without comment, the justices turned down a motion by the House of Representatives and Democratic-led states to expedite review of a decision last month by a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit. The panel struck down the law’s mandate that individuals buy health insurance but sent back to a lower court the question of whether the rest of the statute can stand without it. But the lower courts have kept the Affordable Care Act in place as appeals continue, and a practical effect of the Supreme Court’s action is that it will stay that way at least through the November elections.”**

**-- The Trump administration has drafted plans that would make it**

**more difficult for pregnant women from foreign countries to obtain tourist visas.** [From BuzzFeed News](#): “A draft rule and draft guidance drawn up for State Department officers at embassies across the world would make it so anyone attempting to travel on a tourist visa to the US while they could give birth would be forced to clear an additional hurdle: convincing a consular officer they have another legitimate reason to come to the US. ... Consular officers would be directed to determine whether the applicant will be traveling to the US for the primary purpose of giving birth ... The officers can have reason to believe this may be the case if the applicant states this in a form or in an interview. Officers, however, are told not to ask as a matter of course whether the applicant is pregnant or intends to become pregnant, or require an applicant to provide evidence that they are not pregnant.”

**-- The White House also plans on expanding travel restrictions for people from seven countries.** The nations being considered for the new rules are Belarus, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Sudan, Tanzania and Nigeria, Africa’s most populous country. ([WSJ](#))

**-- An Iranian student who was set to attend Northeastern University in Boston was deported Monday night.** [From the Boston Globe](#): “Mohammad Shahab Dehghani Hossein Abadi, a 24-year-old undergraduate student, had been detained by Customs and Border Protection at Logan after arriving Sunday. [His] lawyers filed an emergency petition to block his removal Monday night, and Judge Allison D. Burroughs ordered a 48-hour stay. But before a hearing took place, [he] was flown to France — in defiance of the judge’s order. ... At the scheduled hearing Tuesday morning, Judge Richard

Stearns said the case was now moot, since the student was already out of the country.”

**-- Harvey Weinstein’s defense team will cite “loving” email exchanges with some of his accusers in opening statements.** [Shayna Jacobs reports](#): “The contents of the emails are expected to be key to Weinstein’s defense that encounters with women who say he forced them into sexual acts were actually consensual. His attorneys have also suggested that women sought to advance their careers by getting involved with Weinstein sexually. ... The email-related ruling Tuesday was something of a victory for Weinstein’s team. [Defense attorney Damon] Cheronis, out of the gate, will get to give jurors a preview of what is to come. He referred to the email exchanges as ‘devastating’ and said the accusers not only contradict their own claims but ‘bragged’ about their affairs with Weinstein.”

**-- Most Americans want abortion to remain legal, but back some state restrictions, according to a new Kaiser Family Foundation poll.** [Ariana Eujung Cha and Emily Guskin report](#): “A majority of Americans (59 percent) said abortion should be legal in most or all cases, and about 7 in 10 said that Roe v. Wade should not be overturned ... A clear majority (69 percent) of the public supports laws requiring abortions to be performed by doctors who have hospital admitting privileges, similar to the requirements in a Louisiana law challenged in a case that goes before the Supreme Court this term. Majorities of Americans also support laws that require women to wait 24 hours between meeting a health-care provider and getting an abortion (66 percent) and laws requiring doctors to show and describe

ultrasound images to them (57 percent).”

**-- Michael Avenatti was jailed in an isolation unit that once held El Chapo ahead of his trial on extortion charges. The warden said it's “for his own safety.”** The pugnacious lawyer has been in custody since last week, when a federal judge in California revoked his bail in a separate case. He was to stand trial this week in New York. ([Shayna Jacobs](#))

**-- The Virginia Senate advanced a measure that will replace Lee-Jackson Day with an Election Day holiday.** ([Laura Vozzella](#))

**-- The Boeing 737 Max probably will not be allowed to fly again until mid-2020, the company announced.** ([Lori Aratani](#))

**-- So close: Derek Jeter fell one vote shy of becoming baseball's second unanimous Hall of Fame selection.** Jeter, a 14-time all-star, was polling at 100 percent in vote-tracking of publicly available ballots this week, but one voter, unidentified as of Tuesday evening, apparently saw something lacking in Jeter's record. ([Dave Sheinin](#))

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Trump tweeted dozens of times before the sun rose over Davos this morning, focusing mostly on the impeachment trial and reposting statements made by several of his Republican defenders and sharing this video from the National Republican Senatorial Committee multiple times:



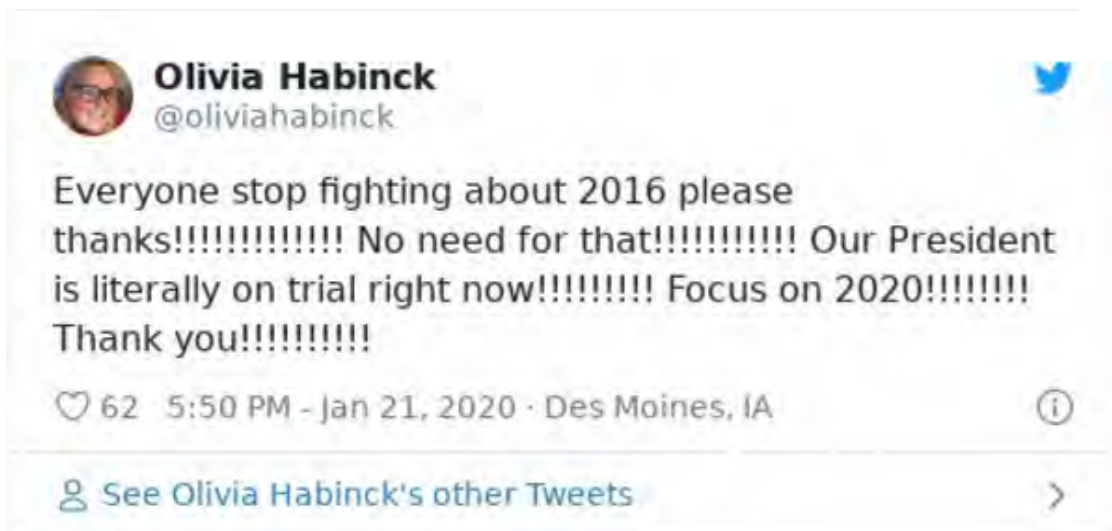
"The flurry of impeachment talk at Davos belied White House efforts to project Trump as detached from the increasingly partisan impeachment fight and more focused on delivering results for the country," write [Toluse Olorunnipa and Anne Gearan](#).

Hillary Clinton announced she will support whoever the Democrats nominate, trying to tamp down [a day of backlash](#) from the left for trashing Bernie Sanders in [an interview with the Hollywood Reporter](#) and declining to commit to support him:





The president of the College and Young Democrats of Iowa urged party elders to stop relitigating the Sanders v. Clinton fights of 2016:



Democratic senators lashed out on Twitter when Republicans voted against calling witnesses:



From a former U.S. ambassador to Russia under Obama:



A top official at the National Republican Senatorial Committee embraced new nicknames for Mitch McConnell, who functionally controls the party's campaign arm:



**Matt Whitlock** ✓  
@matt diz whitlock



On CNN earlier @GloriaBorger referred to Mitch McConnell as "Machiavelli Mitch."

Another excellent nickname. H/t @ltthompso



♡ 218 9:53 PM - Jan 21, 2020



💬 69 people are talking about this





**Matt Whitlock** ✓  
@matt diz whitlock



Even if they changed the rules so the Democrats could go to bed early, he'll still be [#MidnightMitch](#) to us.



♥ 116 6:58 PM - Jan 21, 2020



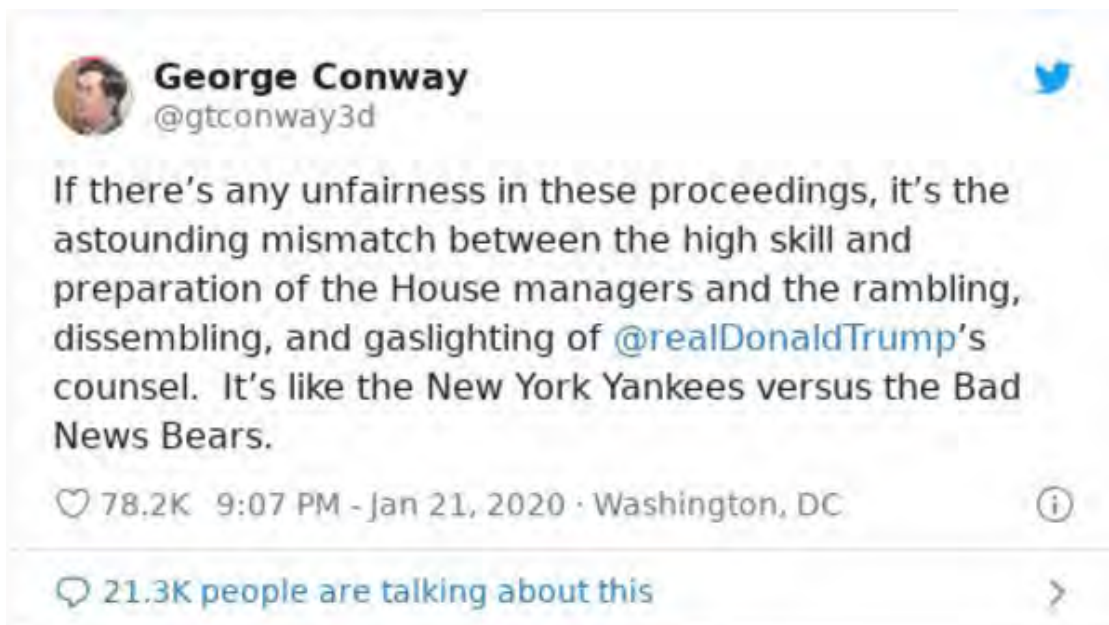
💬 25 people are talking about this



A former prosecutor noted that the chief justice's hands are mostly tied on procedure:



Conservative lawyer and Never Trumper George Conway, husband of counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway, was not impressed by the president's legal team's opening arguments:



**VIDEOS OF THE DAY:**

Stephen Colbert joked that the Senate was getting to decide whether breaking the law is illegal, adding that the odds don't look great:



Jimmy Kimmel went out and asked the public for their thoughts on impeachment:



And Katie Sowers of the 49ers is the NFL's first female and openly gay Super Bowl-bound assistant coach:



Meet Katie Sowers, the NFL's first female and openly gay Super Bowl-bound coach

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**'Right matters.' Adam Schiff quotes Alexander Vindman in plea to unmoved GOP senators.**





'Because in America, right matters': Watch Schiff's passionate closing remarks in Senate trial



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA:** Lead House impeachment manager Adam Schiff has repeatedly held up Army Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman as the model of courage that Senate Republicans should follow during President Trump's trial.

The House Intelligence chairman fought back emotion late last night as he recalled Vindman's November appearance before his committee. Vindman was born in the Soviet Union, but his father brought him here when he was a young boy. The director of European Affairs on the National Security Council, who received a Purple Heart after he was injured in Iraq, said that his father worried when he told him he would testify. But he reassured him. "This is America,"

Vindman [recalled](#) telling his dad. “Here, right matters.” The audience broke into spontaneous applause.

**“Here, right is supposed to matter,” Schiff told senators last night in the 10 p.m. hour, wrapping up day two of his case against Trump, which he will conclude Friday afternoon.** “It’s what’s made us the greatest nation on Earth. No Constitution can protect us if right doesn’t matter anymore. You know you can’t trust this president to do what’s right for this country. You can trust that he will do what’s right for Donald Trump. He’ll do it now. He’ll do it for the next several months. He’ll do it in the election if he’s allowed to. This is why, if you find him guilty, you must find that he should be removed. Because right matters. Because right matters. And the truth matters. Otherwise we are lost.”

**The Democrat from California has repeatedly praised Vindman and others for “sticking their necks out”** to answer questions about the president’s alleged Ukraine coercion campaign when his former bosses, including ex-national security adviser John Bolton, refused to come before the House. “I have such admiration for the fact they did,” Schiff said on Wednesday. “But what would really vindicate that leap of faith ... is if we show the same courage. They risked everything—their careers—and, yes, I know what you are asked to decide may risk yours too, but if they could show the courage, so can we.”

**Over the course of several hours earlier in the afternoon, Schiff had laid out 10 separate arguments** for why Trump’s push to get Ukraine to announce an investigation of Joe and Hunter Biden was intended for the president’s personal benefit and not to advance the national interest. “When we’re done, we believe that

we will have made the case overwhelmingly that the president is guilty,” Schiff said. “Is there really any doubt about this? I mean, do we really have any doubt about the facts here? Does anybody really question whether the president is capable of what he’s charged with? No one is really making the argument Donald Trump would never do such a thing ... because, of course, we know that he would.”

Vindman remains assigned to the White House, something that has drawn the continuing ire of pro-Trump commentators. Schiff thanked senators last night for “keeping an open mind about all of the issues we are presenting.” But, after Schiff spoke, Senate Republican leaders privately expressed growing confidence that they can win the vote next week to block additional witnesses from being summoned to testify. It’s not clear whether Schiff’s calls for courage have pushed any Republican senators toward breaking with the president and their party leaders on the key votes coming up next week surrounding summoning witnesses or subpoenaing documents.

**-- Schiff spoke a few hours after Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), one of the jurors, questioned Vindman’s patriotism by propagating an unsubstantiated conspiracy theory from the fever swamps of the dark corners of the pro-Trump fringe Internet.** Blackburn claimed that Vindman once **badmouthed** the United States to Russians while serving overseas. “Adam Schiff is hailing Alexander Vindman as an American patriot,” she tweeted. “How patriotic is it to badmouth and ridicule our great nation in front of Russia, America’s greatest enemy?”

Vindman’s lawyer, former ambassador David Pressman, accused Blackburn of defaming his client. “That a member of the Senate — at

a moment when the Senate is undertaking its most solemn responsibility — would choose to take to Twitter to spread slander about a member of the military is a testament to cowardice,” Pressman emailed. “While Senator Blackburn fires off defamatory tweets, Lieutenant Colonel Vindman will continue to do what he has always done: serve our country dutifully and with honor.”

**Blackburn isn't backing down and [tweeted](#) another attack around 8 p.m. Trump himself retweeted her this morning.** The senator, who won Bob Corker's seat after he retired in 2018, has also accused Vindman of being a “handler” for the whistleblower who filed the complaint. Vindman testified before Schiff's committee that he spoke with an intelligence community official about Trump's July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, but he declined to identify the official on the advice of counsel because he said he didn't want to blow someone's cover. But no public evidence exists that he was a source for the whistleblower.



Schiff lists 10 reasons Ukraine investigations were for Trump's personal gain

-- **Schiff, a mild-mannered former federal prosecutor, has emerged as a surprisingly polarizing figure.** Perhaps it's because the president has accused him of committing treason, in addition to calling him "pencil neck" and "liddle." Trump has now tweeted about Schiff hundreds of times. Schiff's boosters say the right only loathes him because he's so effective.

-- **The president's allies at Fox News have elevated Schiff this week into perhaps the biggest boogeyman for their audience.** Arguably he's a bigger target of their vitriol right now than Nancy Pelosi, Bernie Sanders or even the four minority women in the Squad. If you've watched the network for even a few minutes this week, especially in primetime, you've probably seen hosts and guests attacking the man from Burbank.

Tucker Carlson continued his mockery last night of the man he's taken to calling "[Saint Adam](#)," a nickname intended to convey what he portrays as the congressman's sanctimoniousness. "Say what you will, but as a piece of theater, it had literally everything," Carlson said after playing a video clip of Schiff talking on the Senate floor about how Trump's approach to Ukraine has played into Russian President Vladimir Putin's hands.

"Adam Schiff has amnesia," Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows (R-N.C.) [told](#) Laura Ingraham.

"They accused us of doing nefarious things with this Lev Parnas character," House Intelligence Committee ranking member Devin Nunes (R-Calif.) [told](#) Sean Hannity. "The truth is Adam Schiff and the

Democrats have been doing nefarious things with Parnas!”

“Adam's ordinarily not that stupid, but when you tell the jury, the Senate, on one day that they're corrupt, and then you tell the American people they cannot be trusted to pick the commander in chief, that's just a wildly stupid trial strategy,” former congressman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) [told](#) Bret Baier.

**-- Rudy Giuliani appeared on “Fox & Friends” this morning to attack the Democratic managers.** “It’s a complete show on the part of the Democrats, and they should be sued for conspiracy to defraud the United States, and they should pay for that hearing,” he said. “I’m going to present over the next two to three weeks shocking crimes at the highest levels of both governments while the Senate is listening to a totally phony group of stories about non-impeachable offenses.”

Giuliani has been promising for a while now to release said evidence. It has not been forthcoming, so take such claims with more than a grain of salt. The president’s lawyer also said for months that he was going to release a lengthy report rebutting former special counsel Bob Mueller’s findings on Russian interference and whether Trump obstructed justice. He never did.

**-- There has been some hyperbole from the left, as well.** Esquire’s Charlie Pierce calls Schiff the Daniel Webster of our time. Walter Dellinger, who was acting U.S. solicitor general under Bill Clinton, said Schiff offered “one of the most impressive performances by a lawyer I have ever seen.” MSNBC legal commentator Jason Johnson called Schiff’s opening statement on Wednesday “a speech that kids will be giving in 2060 at university projects.” Actress and activist Alyssa

Milano, who has been attending the trial, said “it felt like you were watching a one-man show on Broadway.”

**Stephen Colbert offered an early valentine to Schiff during his show.** “It was gratifying to see someone taking the constitutional responsibility of their office seriously,” the comedian told his viewers on CBS. Breaking out of character, he said that Schiff spoke “clearly, passionately, cogently, and, I believe, courageously.”

-- **Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) called Schiff “well spoken” and said “did a good job of creating a tapestry.”** But other **Republican senators have told reporters that Schiff was overly “smooth” or “slick,” which they meant as negatives.** “In a way I do feel like I’m introducing myself to a number of the senators,” Schiff told [the Associated Press](#), adding that they’re “finding I’m not the demon that I’m portrayed as on Fox.”

-- **Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) expressed hope that four Republicans still might be persuaded to vote for witnesses.** “Just about every Republican’s eyes were glued on Mr. Schiff,” he said. “It was a powerful rendition.”

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**Net oil imports are at 50-year lows. How did we do it?**



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Schumer: Republicans' 'nothing new' argument 'rings hollow'

### **WITNESS WATCH:**

-- All eyes are on Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.). "Privately, senior Senate Republicans expect the vote to seek witness testimony to fail, but they are watching Alexander and several other Republicans closely. And wherever Alexander comes down is



almost sure to be the majority position in the Senate,” [Politico reports](#). “He’s a retiring defender of the Senate as an institution who’s occasionally bucked his party, but he also counts Mitch McConnell as a longtime ally. He’s more hesitant to criticize Trump than are some other Republicans, but he also has said it was ‘inappropriate’ for Trump to ask foreign governments to investigate his political opponents. ... [Democrats] are holding out hope that Alexander will be their hero in the mold of the late Sen. John McCain, whose extraordinary vote derailed the GOP’s effort to repeal Obamacare.”

**-- Trump is keeping his distance from the Republicans who might vote to call witnesses after White House advisers warned the president that outreach wouldn’t help his cause. Democrats are also giving them space.** [Mike DeBonis and Josh Dawsey report](#): “Democrats say there is no serious effort to privately lobby the Republicans, with the party relying instead on public opinion and the House prosecutors to squeeze them into breaking ranks.”

**-- Sens. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) and Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) played with blue and purple fidget spinners. These are popular toys for children. In contrast, Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), who will potentially cast decisive votes on witnesses, almost never moved from their second-row desks.** “Collins is a furious note taker, while Murkowski just stares intensely at the speaker,” [Paul Kane reports](#).

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** “I am one pooped puppy,” Murkowski said last night after Schiff’s speech. She added that she was too tired to discuss the substance of the Democratic presentation right then. She said she might go home to draw a bath and enjoy a glass of wine. ([Kane](#))

**-- Collins sent a handwritten note to Roberts before his admonishment of the lawyers for both sides in the wee hours of Wednesday morning.** The senior senator for Maine, facing a tough reelection fight, [told WCSH-TV](#) in her state that the debate had become “too personal,” and she said she got mad when House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler accused Senate Republicans of being part of a coverup. “I had heard both sides impugn the integrity of one another and also cast aspersions on the Senate,” Collins said. “That is just not appropriate.” Collins said she’s undecided on witnesses but added that the Nadler comments won’t affect her decision.

**-- Fresh polling shows most Americans overwhelmingly think witnesses should testify.** [An AP-NORC poll](#) shows that 7 in 10 Americans say Trump should allow his top aides to appear before the Senate, including most Republicans. The same survey found that 45 percent think Trump should be convicted, 40 percent said he should not be and 14 percent said they don’t know enough to have an opinion.

**-- But, but, but: “Mitch McConnell doesn’t care what you think,” Ben Terris writes in [a new profile of the majority leader](#). “He just wants to win.”**

**-- A growing number of Republican senators are pointing to Trump's threat to invoke executive privilege as an excuse to vote against even trying to call witnesses, [CNN reports](#):** “GOP senators are privately and publicly raising concerns that issuing subpoenas -- to top officials like acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and

former national security adviser John Bolton and for documents blocked by the White House -- will only serve to drag out the proceedings. Plus, many say there's little appetite for such a time-consuming fight, given that legal battles may ultimately not be successful and could force the courts to rule on hugely consequential constitutional issues about the separation of powers between the branches of government.”



Senate trial: Republicans hint that Bidens could become the focus of defense



## **MORE FROM THE TRIAL:**

**-- Democrats used a significant chunk of time on Thursday to preemptively defend the Bidens, who they expect Trump's lawyers to attack when they get the floor:** "Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D-Tex.), another impeachment manager, sought to debunk the allegations that Joe Biden did anything nefarious in his dealings with Ukraine," [Seung Min Kim, John Wagner and Karoun Demirjian report](#). "But Republican senators said the focus on the Bidens by Democrats made the former vice president and his son fair game for Trump's defense team. ... Garcia noted that Trump and Republicans didn't focus on Biden's actions toward Ukraine until 2019 ... She also referenced a letter from Sens. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), Rob Portman (R-Ohio) ... and other senators in the Ukraine Caucus to argue that Biden's desire to see [prosecutor Viktor] Shokin removed reflected official U.S. policy ... As Garcia spoke, a visibly upset and red-faced Johnson rose from his seat, approached Portman and whispered in his ear. Portman reacted impassively, but his comments did not appear to calm Johnson, who departed the floor for the Republican cloakroom moments later. Johnson, a fierce ally of Trump, said in October that he did not recall signing the letter. ..."

**"Before the trial officially began Thursday afternoon, dozens of senators from both parties entered a secure facility in the Senate basement to view a classified document provided by Jennifer Williams,** a national security adviser to Vice President Pence. ... The document had been previously submitted to the House Intelligence Committee. Some senators spent only a few minutes in the facility; others stayed for the better part of an hour. Several Democrats

emerged to say they didn't understand why the document had been classified. 'I don't believe it's being withheld from the public for national security reasons. It may be withheld for political security reasons,' said Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.)."

**-- The favorite talking point for most Senate Republicans continues to be that they're learning nothing new because House managers are repeating themselves.** Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) [told reporters](#) during last night's dinner break that it felt like "Groundhog Day in the Senate." Ironically, he had repeated throughout the day that it felt like "Groundhog Day." He said the same thing to CNN in the morning.

"For them to say they're bored, it has a lot to do with them not wanting to hear evidence," countered Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii). "They don't want to hear that this president who they're so busy supporting did these things. As I put it, the truth hurts."

**-- Tomorrow's timing:** Senate Majority Whip John Thune (R-S.D.) tells reporters that Saturday's session will likely start and end earlier than the past few days. **Party leaders are still trying to negotiate a deal to start the day as early as 8 a.m. so they can wrap up by noon.** This would allow Democratic presidential candidates to fly to Iowa for campaign events. The trial has started at 1 p.m. during the week so that Chief Justice John Roberts can participate in pre-scheduled Supreme Court oral arguments before crossing the street to preside over the trial in the Capitol.

**-- Pelosi may be half a world away from the Senate floor, but that doesn't mean the speaker doesn't have the trial under**

**control.** [From the Times](#): “Even in her absence from the Capitol this week, as the speaker traveled through Poland and Israel ... she had her hand firmly on the tiller. ... In many ways, Ms. Pelosi is the eighth, largely unseen manager of the Democrats’ case. ... Ms. Pelosi has dispatched her handpicked House general counsel to sit at the table inside the Senate chamber, with the prosecutors acting as her eyes and ears. **She reviewed all the managers’ written briefs before they were filed.**”



Schiff begins impeachment proceedings with a quote from Alexander Hamilton

## **THE LEGALITY QUESTION:**

**-- A core argument from Democrats yesterday was that the framers didn't believe a president needed to break the law in order to warrant impeachment.** “The Constitution is not a suicide pact,” [said](#) Nadler, one of the managers. “It does not leave us stuck with presidents who abuse their power in unforeseen ways that threaten our security and democracy. Until recently, it did not occur to

me that our president would call a foreign leader and demand a sham investigation meant to kneecap his political opponents, all in exchange for releasing vital military aid that the president was already required by law to provide.”

**-- The House’s lawyers filed a motion with an appeals court last night that says Trump’s defense lawyers have contradicted, and therefore undermined, the Department of Justice’s position on subpoenas.** [Ann Marimow reports](#): “The lawyers for [Pelosi] asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to rule quickly on the pair of separation-of-powers cases, which they said could affect the Senate proceedings. House Democrats went to court seeking testimony from former White House counsel Donald McGahn and access to secret grand jury evidence from former special counsel Robert S. Mueller III’s Russia investigation. Justice Department attorneys have urged the appeals court to stay out of what they say are political disputes between Congress and the White House.” But the president’s team is now telling the Senate that these are matters more properly left to the courts.

**-- The White House also stonewalled the Government Accountability Office when the independent congressional watchdog requested information about the freeze on Ukraine aid.** [From Politico](#): “The White House responded to the [GAO’s] inquiry with a one-page letter on Dec. 20, citing a legal memo from the Office of Management and Budget that defended the hold on military aid as necessary to ensure spending the funds wouldn’t ‘conflict with the President’s foreign policy.’ ... The correspondence is part of what led GAO to ... conclude last week that Trump’s decision to withhold

military aid violated federal law.”

**-- Follow the money: The documents turned over by Lev Parnas, Giuliani’s former associate, provide details about the web of dark money that helped fund Trump’s Ukrainian gambit. From**

**Bloomberg News:** “Money flowed to Giuliani and his cohorts from home loans, friends, relative strangers and wealthy businessmen, some with interests in the gas and energy sector. It even came from a lawyer for an embattled Ukrainian energy tycoon fighting extradition to the U.S. on a conspiracy charge. ... **The travel arrangements could brush up against campaign finance laws.** While Giuliani [and Parnas] can volunteer as much of their time as they want for a campaign, any subsidy for such work by third parties would generally need to be reported as a contribution, and money from foreign individuals would be illegal.”



Opinion | Jonathan Turley: Trump's impeachment defense could create a dangerous precedent



-- Commentary from The Post's opinion pages:

- [House GOP star witness Jonathan Turley](#): "Trump's impeachment defense could create a dangerous precedent."
- [Dana Milbank](#): "John Roberts comes face to face with the mess he made."
- [Ruth Marcus](#): "A more assertive John Roberts would be a bad idea."
- [Brenda Wineapple](#), author of a book on Andrew Johnson's impeachment: "If John Roberts is seeking a role model, let's hope it's not Salmon Chase."
- [Michael Gerson](#): "Republicans aren't serving the country, or even the president. Just themselves."
- [Eugene Robinson](#): "Senate Republicans' defense of Trump is as mushy as apple pie."
- [Josh Rogin](#): "Trump's lawyers don't understand how foreign aid works."
- [Jen Rubin](#): "House managers deliver a constitutional lesson."
- [Garret Graff](#), founding director of the Aspen Institute's Cyber & Technology Program: "Trump won't protect our elections, so private companies are doing it."
- [Dan Drezner](#): "When American political institutions give up: After three years of Trump, there have been some unhealthy adjustments."

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Regional talk radio is Republicans' secret weapon to reelecting Trump

## 2020 WATCH:

-- Regional radio hosts across the country have found themselves showered with attention by senior Trump officials, who have made accessibility to local conservative talking heads a central part of the president's reelection strategy. [Sarah Ellison reports](#): "Pouring attention on regional talk-radio hosts is a classic Trumpworld move: giving relatively unknown characters proximity to the White House has paid off with a disproportionate amount of attention and praise lavished on the president and his agenda. ... The strategy has been particularly powerful as Trump and his team have engaged in what [Steve] Bannon calls 'information warfare' over the impeachment fight..."

-- Kamala "[that-little-girl-was-me](#)" Harris is weighing an endorsement of Joe Biden to boost her standing in the veepstakes. [From the New York Times](#): "Such a move could lift Mr.

Biden's campaign and perhaps do even more to enhance Ms. Harris's chances of becoming vice president, but it could also anger her liberal base in California. An endorsement by Ms. Harris, if she wades into the primary race at all, would be unlikely to happen until after the Senate impeachment trial ... She and [Biden] have remained in contact since she exited the race and had a long conversation in the immediate aftermath of her departure."

**-- Anita Hill told an Iowa crowd last night that it's too late for Biden to apologize for the way he mistreated and diminished her when she testified against Clarence Thomas in 1991.** "The statute of limitations for his apology is up," Hill said in response to a question from the audience at the University of Iowa, where she gave a lecture on ending sexual harassment. "What are you going to do about it? What are you going to do today? Will you promise as leader of this country ... to use all of your energy to address the problem as it happened and to prevent it from happening to another generation? That's what I want to hear. And I not only want to hear from him, I want to hear from every one of them who want to be the leader of this country." ([BuzzFeed News](#))

**-- Bernie Sanders asked his supporters to cool it – but they don't always listen.** [Sean Sullivan reports](#): "Campaign officials have been pressing surrogates and other allies not to escalate combustible disputes that have recently become more personal, ... including a tense fight with Joe Biden, a separate altercation with [Elizabeth Warren] and a renewed schism with Hillary Clinton. ... But many Sanders supporters, and even some campaign aides, are inclined to take a more aggressive approach that they say will highlight important

differences. ... Some close Sanders allies acknowledged the difficulty of balancing the passions of his loyal backers, inspired by his calls for a political revolution and his staunchly liberal platform, with the need to demonstrate a broader unity.”

**-- Sanders’s rise in the polls means he’ll be talking more about his electability than a revolution.** While speeches he’s made over the past two weeks still feature his signature call to action, he’s spending more time explaining to voters how policies like Medicare-for-all would work in their daily lives, as well as how he could beat Trump. ([Bloomberg News](#))

**-- One in five women doubt that a woman can win the presidency, according to a new CNN poll.** What’s telling about this news is that just 9 percent of men said the same. ([Eugene Scott](#))

**-- Mike Bloomberg may be lagging behind his Democratic competitors in the polls, but he’s attracted the president’s obsessive attention by baiting him with constant attack ads.** [Josh Dawsey and Michael Scherer report](#): “The president has repeatedly attacked Bloomberg on Twitter, calling him ‘Mini Mike’ to insult his small stature, and frequently focused on him in conversations with campaign advisers and White House officials. ‘It’s very clear that the ads we are running have gotten under his skin because they are effective,’ said Howard Wolfson, a senior Bloomberg aide ... Wolfson said to expect more blistering ads against the president in coming months. ... Bloomberg campaign manager Kevin Sheekey debuted a new ad on ‘Fox & Friends’ on Thursday that cited a new book by two Washington Post reporters, who chronicle how Trump lashed out at U.S. military leaders, characterizing them as ‘dopes and babies.’

Trump responded shortly after the spot aired.”

**-- Former top supporters of Cory Booker accused Pete**

**Buttigieg’s campaign of “chasing ambulances.”** [From BuzzFeed](#)

[News](#): “The phone calls to Amy Nielsen came around two hours apart. It was last Monday around 12 p.m., not long after the news broke, when her phone lit up with his name. By then, Nielsen considered Cory Booker ‘part of [her] family.’ ... So the end of his campaign felt ... like ‘a death.’ ... The next call came around 2:30 p.m., this time from an unknown number. It was Pete Buttigieg, calling to seek Nielsen’s support now that her candidate had made the decision to ‘step aside.’ ... ‘It was a gut punch — like, really? He did not ‘step aside’ for you,’ she said. ‘Like, wow, that’s some nerve right there.’ Later that night, she said, Nielsen heard from one of Booker’s field organizers who said she had already been contacted by the Buttigieg campaign to go door-knock.”

**-- Twelve years ago, Buttigieg spent the final week before the 2008 caucuses in rural southwest Iowa, trying to turn out voters for Barack Obama in one of the most conservative towns in the**

**state.** [Holly Bailey spoke with him about what he learned](#): “This was a

new experience to really talk to people like this,’ Buttigieg recalled. ‘And what I found was, first of all, you can’t assume where somebody is going to be. We were in an area where a lot of people weren’t Democrats to begin with, and those who were were more likely to be for [John] Edwards. But they would hear us out when we were talking about Obama. And sometimes, as you do when you go door-to-door, somebody, because you represent a presidential campaign, would just pour out everything that was on their mind, everything they were

upset about."

**-- Early voting means that millions are already eligible to cast their ballot.** [From the AP](#): "In Minnesota, in-person early voting began Jan. 17. Vermont's deadline to mail out its absentee ballots was the same day. Many of the 14 Super Tuesday states will offer some form of early voting between now and mid-February."

**-- Howard County saw a bigger swing from Obama in 2012 to Trump in 2016 than any other in Iowa.** [The Wall Street Journal's John McCormick took the pulse for 2020](#): "Recent interviews with dozens of voters here suggest that most of Mr. Trump's 2016 supporters ... plan to stick with him, even though some said they have grown weary of his personal behavior and trade fights. Among those who previously voted for Mr. Obama and Mr. Trump, many said they are reserving judgment until they see who wins the Democratic nomination. ... What such swing voters do in 2020 will have national implications. Before Mr. Trump, Howard County hadn't backed a Republican for president since Ronald Reagan in 1984. It is one of the 31 counties in Iowa—the most of any state—that backed Mr. Obama twice and then switched to Mr. Trump. The president won in 2016 partly because he ran up huge victories in small, heavily rural counties. While he is likely to win such areas again, margins could matter. If Democrats can keep him from racking up the kind of gains he did in places like Howard County in 2016, that could help determine whether he will again carry battleground states such as Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania."

**-- A new Iowa caucus app is sparking election security concerns.** [From NBC News](#): "The app will be used in Iowa and

Nevada by caucus managers — local registered Democrats who sign up to organize and run the caucus process in each location — to expedite the process, calculate and assign delegates and report results back quickly. The app will also be used in satellite voting locations across the country and overseas. But questions about the app remain unanswered, including who developed it and whether it has been subjected to independent security testing. Security experts say that the app is a potential target for early election interference, particularly since it is downloaded on to the personal phones of the caucus managers. Party officials say operational security prevents them from disclosing specifics about the app.”

**-- Big-money groups aligned with the Senate GOP raised \$68.3 million in 2019, an off-year record. [Michelle Ye Hee Lee reports:](#)**

“The majority of the money raised in 2019 came in the latter half of the year, particularly in the final two months, largely driven by the House Democrats’ impeachment inquiry.”





Activists, scientists and others rally on the Mall in 2018 at the March for Science. (Marvin Joseph/The Washington Post)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

-- **The ranks of scientists are growing thin in the Trump administration.** [Annie Gowen, Juliet Eilperin, Ben Guarino and Andrew Ba Tran report:](#) “Dozens of government computers sit in a nondescript building [in Kansas City, Mo.], able to connect to a data model that could help farmers manage the impact of a changing climate on their crops. But no one in this federal agency would know how to access the model, or, if they did, what to do with the data. That’s because the ambitious federal researcher who created it in Washington quit rather than move when the Agriculture Department relocated his agency to an office park here last fall. He is one of hundreds of scientists across the federal government who have been

forced out, sidelined or muted since President Trump took office. ... In the first two years of the Trump administration, more than 1,600 federal scientists left government, according to Office of Personnel Management employment data ... That represents a 1.5 percent drop, compared with the 8 percent increase during the same period in the Obama administration.”

**-- The Justice Department conceded that it had “insufficient” cause to continue monitoring a former Trump campaign adviser during the Russia probe.** [Matt Zapotosky reports](#): “The concession was revealed in an order posted on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court’s website. In December, according to the order, the department told the court it had come to believe that in at least two of the four applications to monitor the former adviser, Carter Page, ‘there was insufficient predication to establish probable cause’ to believe he was acting as a Russian agent.”

**-- The Trump administration will create additional new hurdles for pregnant foreign women seeking U.S. tourist visas.** The administration said it's trying to crack down on what it calls “birth tourism,” trying to reduce what conservatives call “anchor babies,” by instructing consular officers to assess whether women requesting tourist visas are hoping to give birth on U.S. soil, which would effectively grant their children American citizenship. Starting today, the State Department will no longer issue temporary visitor visas to women hoping to travel to the country with the stated purpose of having a child. **Foggy Bottom said consular officers cannot require pregnancy tests to make the determination but wouldn’t rule out a woman’s physical appearance when making the**

decision, per [Abigail Hauslohner and Maria Sacchetti](#).

-- **Trump's "national public health emergency" declaration on the opioid crisis expired because his people at the Department of Health and Human Services forgot to renew it.** An HHS spokesperson said the nine-day lapse had been corrected and blamed a clerical error. The emergency status, first announced in 2017 as a measure deemed necessary to direct more resources toward the drug overdose crisis, needs to be renewed every 90 days. ([Politico](#))

-- **Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin said teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg, 17, needs to study economics before offering her thoughts on climate change.** [Heather Long reports from Davos](#): "Thunberg and Mnuchin are both attending the World Economic Forum this week. ... At a news conference on Thursday, Mnuchin was asked for his reaction to Thunberg's insistence on fossil fuel divestment. 'Who is she?' he tried to joke to reporters before taking a jab at Thunberg, suggesting she didn't understand what she was talking about. ... 'Is she the chief economist or who is she? I'm confused. ... After she goes and studies economics in college she can go back and explain that to us.'"

-- **Actress Annabella Sciorra, who played Gloria in "The Sopranos," testified that Harvey Weinstein raped her more than 25 years ago.** [Shayna Jacobs reports](#): "'I was punching him. I was kicking him. I was just trying to get him away from me, and he took my hands and put them over my head,' Sciorra told the jury in Weinstein's sexual assault trial, her eyes welling up with tears and her voice breaking. ... Weinstein, who had been watching her from the defense

table, turned his gaze away from his accuser as she emotionally detailed the encounter. ... In her five hours of testimony, she described freezing after the attack, adding that 'It was just so disgusting that my body started to shake.' She said she had no romantic interest in Weinstein. The film producer arrived at her Manhattan apartment uninvited one night."



How China is reacting to the deadly coronavirus outbreak

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- "A young, healthy man from Wuhan and a person living 1,500 miles from the epicenter of the coronavirus are among the latest victims of the outbreak, which has incited fear and anger across China as the important Spring Festival gets underway," [Anna Fifield reports from Beijing](#). "Reports of eight new deaths from the pneumonia-like virus, taking the total to 26, came as authorities enforced a lockdown across large parts of the province of Hubei, population 59 million. But they also came as the medical system

clearly struggled to cope with the outbreak, with reports of crowded hospitals, stressed doctors and dwindling supplies. Adding to the stress, Friday marked the official start of ... when China celebrates the arrival of the new lunar year. Authorities around the country, including in the capital Beijing, have canceled the temple fairs and festivals that accompany the holiday to avoid having large public gatherings where the airborne virus could be spread. ...The Forbidden City in Beijing, which can admit 80,000 people a day and was already entirely sold out for the holiday, has been closed until further notice. Production companies have postponed the release of seven blockbuster films that were to be released over the holiday, leading Chinese cinema companies to close the country's 70,000 movie theaters. ...

**“The National Health Commission reported Friday that there are now more than 830 confirmed cases of infection,** and reports of new cases continued to roll in from [around the country](#): from Xinjiang in the west to Shandong in the east, from Inner Mongolia in the north to Hainan in the south. **A total of 8,420 were reported to be under observation.** South Korean authorities confirmed Friday that a second person tested positive for the new coronavirus. ... Japan also confirmed a second case, a man in his 40s from Wuhan who arrived in Japan on Sunday on a flight through Hong Kong. Other countries to have reported infections including Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam and the United States. **In addition to a confirmed case in Washington state, Texas has reported a potential case of coronavirus in Brazos County, about 100 miles northwest of Houston.** The patient contracted a respiratory illness within two weeks of traveling in Wuhan and is being isolated at home, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

**“Some details about the latest deaths in China have raised concerns about the virus’s spread.** Until now, the vast majority of the people had been older than 60 and almost all of them had existing health conditions. All of them had been in Hubei province ... But the latest announcement said that 36-year-old man from Wuhan, identified only by his family name, Li, died on Thursday. He had no chronic diseases or other existing health conditions, and had been treated with anti-virus medication and antibiotics since being admitted to a hospital on Jan. 9.”

**-- Wall Street stumbled yesterday amid fears that efforts to curtail the virus could further disrupt the global economy. ([David Lynch](#))**

**-- The U.S. has officially refused to extradite Anne Sacoolas, the diplomat’s wife who fled the U.K. to avoid facing charges for killing a British teen by driving on the wrong side of the road. A State Department spokesman said extraditing Sacoolas would “set an extraordinarily troubling precedent” but did not elaborate. ([Meagan Flynn](#))**

**-- Trump’s sanctions on Iran are fueling a new refugee crisis – in Turkey. [Erin Cunningham and Mohammad Mahdi Sultani report:](#)** “Decades ago, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan prompted thousands of people to flee to neighboring Iran. Now, many of these refugees are once again seeking a new home in a new land, Turkey, desperate to escape the dire economic conditions fueled by U.S. sanctions on Tehran. ... Turkish authorities are grappling with nearly 4 million refugees. This is the world’s largest population of displaced people, according to the United Nations, including more than 170,000

registered Afghan refugees. Turkey has struggled to contain the influx even as aid agencies say the number of arrivals from Iran is on the rise.”

**-- A critic of the Saudi Arabian government said a suspected Saudi agent tried to kidnap him on U.S. soil, a claim backed up by multiple U.S. and foreign sources familiar with the episode.** [From the Daily Beast](#): “Abdulrahman Almutairi is a 27-year-old comedian and former student at the University of San Diego with a big social-media presence. After Almutairi used social media to criticize the powerful Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman over the October 2018 murder and dismemberment of Washington Post contributor [Jamal] Khashoggi, an unidentified Saudi man accompanied Almutairi’s father on a flight to collect Almutairi against his will and bring him back to Saudi Arabia...”

**-- The Trump administration has missed the deadline, established by law, to turn over to Congress an unclassified report on Khashoggi's murder and the role played by the regime in Riyadh.** [From BuzzFeed News](#): “In December, lawmakers passed a sweeping defense bill that included a provision ordering the director of national intelligence to send Congress an unclassified report identifying those responsible for Khashoggi’s death at a Saudi Arabian consulate in 2018. The legislation set the deadline for the report at 30 days, which passed earlier this week.”

**-- A small team of FBI agents spent years trying to solve a stubborn mystery – whether officials from Saudi Arabia were involved in the Sept. 11 attacks.** [A team of ProPublica and NYT Magazine reporters tell their story](#): “The FBI has disputed the idea that

foreign-policy considerations significantly influenced its investigation. In interviews, current and former bureau officials and federal prosecutors insisted to us that they never would have hesitated to pursue any Saudi who could have been solidly linked to the 9/11 plot ... But others who worked on the matter, including **some at the FBI's highest levels, say that the United States' complex and often-troubled relationship with the Saudi regime was an unavoidable fact throughout their investigations.** Even as the Saudi authorities became more cooperative with the United States in fighting al-Qaida after 2003, they were minimally and grudgingly helpful when it came to the 9/11 inquiry. **According to current and former officials, requests for assistance that might rattle the Saudi security agencies were frequently balanced against FBI and CIA needs for Saudi help** against continuing terror threats.”

-- **Trump will host Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his political rival, Benny Gantz, next week to discuss his Middle East peace plan.** The meeting comes amid Trump's trial, as well as Netanyahu and Gantz's own troubles at home, where they've both failed to form a government. ([ABC News](#))

-- **Hundreds of thousands reportedly protested the American troop presence in Iraq.** Families and children marched along signs that read “no, no to America,” as the White House ignores Iraq's parliament's vote to expel U.S. troops from the country. ([CNN](#))

-- **The top U.S. commander in the Middle East said the recent troop surge there may not end soon, despite what the president said.** “You're here because I requested that you come,” Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie told sailors and Marines aboard the USS Bataan



amphibious assault ship. “I’m not sure how long you’re going to stay in the theater. We’ll work that out as we go ahead. Could be quite a while, could be less than that, just don’t know right now.” ([AP](#))

**-- Some Mexicans believe the Central American caravans might soon come to an end as the nation’s authorities strengthen their anti-migrant operations at the Guatemalan border. [From the AP](#):**

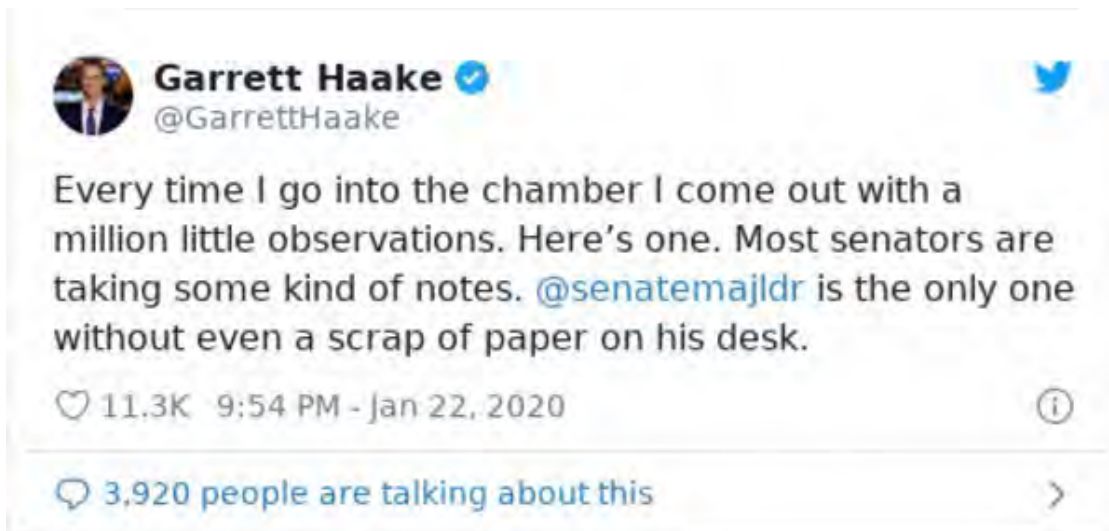
“From the roadside stand where his family sells mole, barbecue and chicken stew, Miguel Ángel Vázquez has seen all the caravans of Central American migrants and asylum seekers stream past his front door in recent years... After watching armored National Guard troops and immigration agents break up the latest one right on his doorstep, loading men, women and wailing children onto buses and hauling them off to a detention center in the nearby city of Tapachula, he’s sure of one thing. ‘I can see that these caravans are no longer going to pass,’ said Vázquez, 56.”

**-- East Africa is suffering its worst invasion of desert locusts in 25 years. ([CNN](#))**

**-- Climate change will disrupt the global economy, but central banks aren’t ready. [From the Times](#):** “A report issued this week by an umbrella organization for the world’s central banks argued that ... central bankers lack tools to deal with what it says could be one of the biggest economic dislocations of all time. The book-length [report](#), published by the Bank for International Settlements, in Basel, Switzerland, signals what could be the overriding theme for central banks in the decade to come.”

**SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

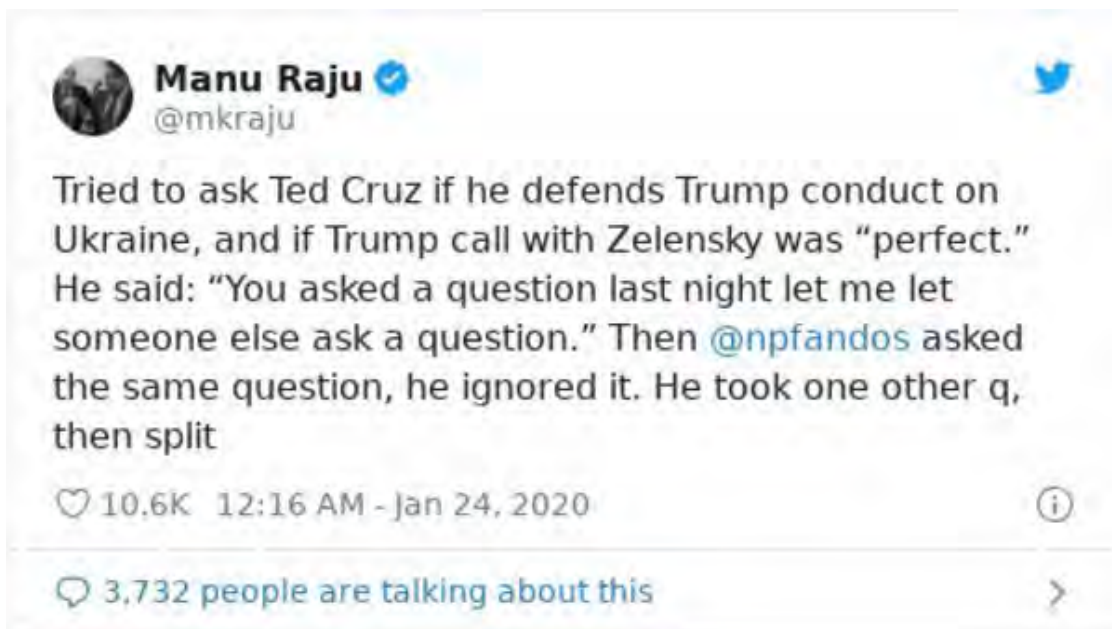
Mitch McConnell made lots of eye contact with Adam Schiff:



Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) suggested a drinking game:



Trump's vanquished 2016 rival also refused to answer questions from reporters at CNN and the Times about whether Trump's July 25 call was "perfect":



Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) tried to troll House impeachment managers during their presentation by reading this book on the Senate floor:



**Sen. Marsha Blackburn** ✓

@MarshaBlackburn



First - I'm reading Resistance (At All Costs) by Kim Strassel. Read the chapter on obstruction. It provides good insights into today's proceedings.

Second - busy mamas are the best at multi-tasking. Try it. [twitter.com/JRubinBlogger/...](https://twitter.com/JRubinBlogger/)

**Jennifer Rubin** ✓ @JRubinBlogger

Replying to @GarrettHaake and 3 others

@MarshaBlackburn might improve her understanding of the facts and law if she paid attention. This is shameful




♥ 2,023 8:28 PM - Jan 23, 2020




💬 3,022 people are talking about this






Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) assured supporters that she can both do her day job and run for president:



 **Amy Klobuchar**   
@amyklobuchar 

Last night I spoke to 12,000 Iowans on our statewide tele-town hall to discuss how we'll get our country back on the path of progress. Like I said, I can do two things (and be in two places) at once!  
[twitter.com/kyunglahcnn/st...](https://twitter.com/kyunglahcnn/st...)

**Kyung Lah**  @KyungLahCNN  
Replying to @KyungLahCNN

The campaign just said "there are 12,000 people on the call right now." @amyklobuchar tele town hall to #IAcaucus statewide crowd

 2,435  11:31 PM - Jan 23, 2020 

 [463 people are talking about this](#) 

Marianne Williamson, who dropped out of the presidential race earlier this month, said her appearance with Andrew Yang in Iowa does not constitute an endorsement:

 **Marianne Williamson**   
@marwilliamson 

I am not endorsing any presidential candidate at this time; I support all the progressive candidates. I'm appearing with Andrew Yang in Fairfield because I know the institutional obstructions to his candidacy and I want to see him continue in the race past Iowa.

 8,138  3:21 PM - Jan 23, 2020 

 [1,546 people are talking about this](#) 

Bernie Sanders hit back at the JPMorgan Chase CEO after he criticized socialism:



Pete Buttigieg launched his campaign one year ago yesterday. A senior adviser marveled at how far he's come:



**Lis Smith** ✓  
@Lis\_Smith



One year ago today- @petebuttigieg had 88k followers on @twitter. 7k fewer than I currently have and...2k fewer than his dogs' twitter account currently has. 🐕  
@firstdogsSB [twitter.com/kevinstine/sta...](https://twitter.com/kevinstine/status/1221111111)

**Kevin Stine** @KevinStine

Not a bad year for @PeteButtigieg. @Lis\_Smith #TeamPete

1 YEAR AGO

AND NOW



**Pete Buttigieg** ✓

@PeteButtigieg

@JohnFetterman, @OregonPatrick, and 15 others follow  
Just launched a presidential exploratory committee. Afghanistan vet, musician, businessman, husband to Chasten and South Bend's "Mayor Pete." (BOOT-edge-edge)

South Bend, Indiana [peteforamerica.com](https://peteforamerica.com)

Joined December 2010

2,557 Following 88.6K Followers

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Pin Pinned Tweet



**Pete Buttigieg** ✓ @PeteButtigieg · 5h

I launched a presidential exploratory committee because it is a season for boldness and it is time to focus on the future. Are you ready to walk away from the politics of the past?

Join the team at [peteforamerica.com](https://peteforamerica.com)



**Pete Buttigieg** ✓

@PeteButtigieg

Afghanistan veteran, South Bend's Mayor Pete, husband. Running for president to rally Americans together to meet our urgent challenges: Boot-Edge-Edge. (he/him)

South Bend, Indiana [peteforamerica.com](https://peteforamerica.com)

Joined December 2010

2,588 Following 1.5M Followers

Followed by @joshbryson, James@Frankenburg, Tolcan@Real, and 50 others

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes



**Pete Buttigieg** ✓ @PeteButtigieg · 17m

Reflecting on this past year, I'm more hopeful than ever in our nation's ability to come together and turn the page toward a better future.

Let's get to work.



692 7:25 PM - Jan 23, 2020



124 people are talking about this



Mike Bloomberg's commercials are breaking through:



And Trump continued to tweet up a storm, sharing this picture that a supporter posted:





**Donald J. Trump** ✓  
@realDonaldTrump



That is a real fan. Thank you!



♥ 189K 9:50 PM - Jan 23, 2020



💬 49.5K people are talking about this



### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

We looked at the different effects Trump's immigration policies have had on migrant populations:



From child separation to DNA sampling: The impact of Trump's other immigration 'barriers'

Stephen Colbert reviewed the many ways senators have distracted themselves during the trial:



And Seth Meyers listed a few times when the Senate wasn't the "world's greatest deliberative body":



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From: [The Washington Post](#)

To: [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: 'Right matters.' Adam Schiff quotes Alexander Vindman in plea to unmoved GOP senators.  
Date: Friday, January 24, 2020 10:25:35 AM

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

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**'Right matters.' Adam Schiff quotes Alexander Vindman in plea to unmoved GOP senators.**



'Because in America, right matters': Watch Schiff's passionate closing remarks in Senate trial



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: Lead House impeachment manager Adam Schiff has repeatedly held up Army Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman as the model of courage that Senate Republicans should follow during President Trump's trial.**

The House Intelligence chairman fought back emotion late last night as he recalled Vindman's November appearance before his committee. Vindman was born in the Soviet Union, but his father brought him here when he was a young boy. The director of European Affairs on the National Security Council, who received a Purple Heart after he was injured in Iraq, said that his father worried when he told him he would testify. But he reassured him. "This is America,"

Vindman [recalled](#) telling his dad. “Here, right matters.” The audience broke into spontaneous applause.

**“Here, right is supposed to matter,” Schiff told senators last night in the 10 p.m. hour, wrapping up day two of his case against Trump, which he will conclude Friday afternoon.** “It’s what’s made us the greatest nation on Earth. No Constitution can protect us if right doesn’t matter anymore. You know you can’t trust this president to do what’s right for this country. You can trust that he will do what’s right for Donald Trump. He’ll do it now. He’ll do it for the next several months. He’ll do it in the election if he’s allowed to. This is why, if you find him guilty, you must find that he should be removed. Because right matters. Because right matters. And the truth matters. Otherwise we are lost.”

**The Democrat from California has repeatedly praised Vindman and others for “sticking their necks out”** to answer questions about the president’s alleged Ukraine coercion campaign when his former bosses, including ex-national security adviser John Bolton, refused to come before the House. “I have such admiration for the fact they did,” Schiff said on Wednesday. “But what would really vindicate that leap of faith ... is if we show the same courage. They risked everything—their careers—and, yes, I know what you are asked to decide may risk yours too, but if they could show the courage, so can we.”

**Over the course of several hours earlier in the afternoon, Schiff had laid out 10 separate arguments for why Trump’s push to get Ukraine to announce an investigation of Joe and Hunter Biden was intended for the president’s personal benefit and not to advance the national interest.** “When we’re done, we believe that

we will have made the case overwhelmingly that the president is guilty,” Schiff said. “Is there really any doubt about this? I mean, do we really have any doubt about the facts here? Does anybody really question whether the president is capable of what he’s charged with? No one is really making the argument Donald Trump would never do such a thing ... because, of course, we know that he would.”

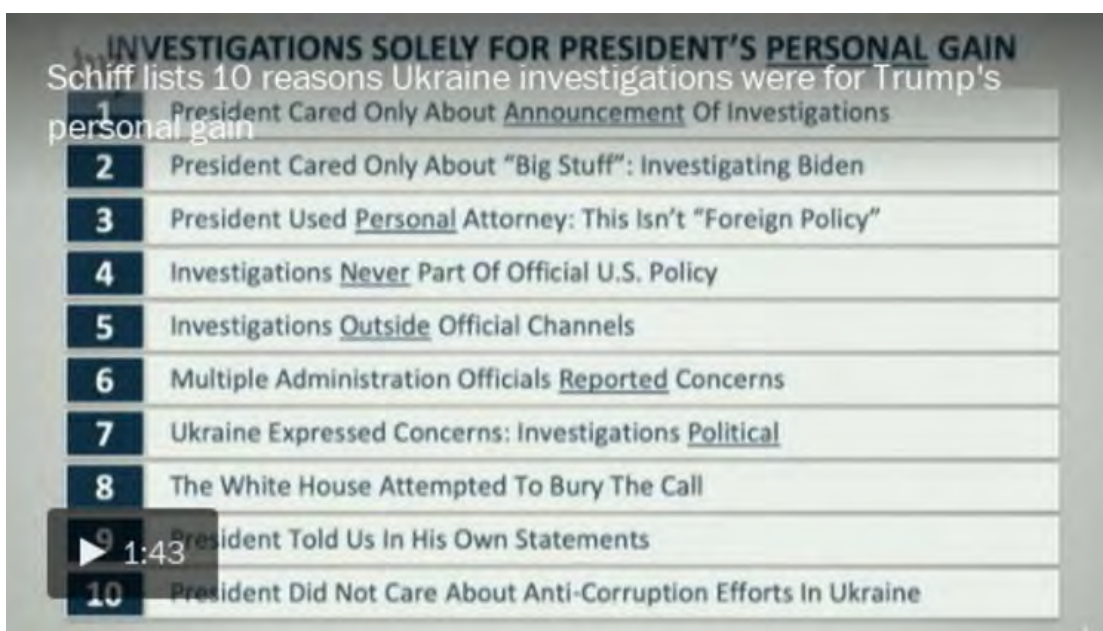
Vindman remains assigned to the White House, something that has drawn the continuing ire of pro-Trump commentators. Schiff thanked senators last night for “keeping an open mind about all of the issues we are presenting.” But, after Schiff spoke, Senate Republican leaders privately expressed growing confidence that they can win the vote next week to block additional witnesses from being summoned to testify. It’s not clear whether Schiff’s calls for courage have pushed any Republican senators toward breaking with the president and their party leaders on the key votes coming up next week surrounding summoning witnesses or subpoenaing documents.

**-- Schiff spoke a few hours after Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), one of the jurors, questioned Vindman’s patriotism by propagating an unsubstantiated conspiracy theory from the fever swamps of the dark corners of the pro-Trump fringe Internet.** Blackburn claimed that Vindman once **badmouthed** the United States to Russians while serving overseas. “Adam Schiff is hailing Alexander Vindman as an American patriot,” she tweeted. “How patriotic is it to badmouth and ridicule our great nation in front of Russia, America’s greatest enemy?”

Vindman’s lawyer, former ambassador David Pressman, accused Blackburn of defaming his client. “That a member of the Senate — at

a moment when the Senate is undertaking its most solemn responsibility — would choose to take to Twitter to spread slander about a member of the military is a testament to cowardice,” Pressman emailed. “While Senator Blackburn fires off defamatory tweets, Lieutenant Colonel Vindman will continue to do what he has always done: serve our country dutifully and with honor.”

**Blackburn isn't backing down and [tweeted](#) another attack around 8 p.m. Trump himself retweeted her this morning.** The senator, who won Bob Corker's seat after he retired in 2018, has also accused Vindman of being a “handler” for the whistleblower who filed the complaint. Vindman testified before Schiff's committee that he spoke with an intelligence community official about Trump's July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, but he declined to identify the official on the advice of counsel because he said he didn't want to blow someone's cover. But no public evidence exists that he was a source for the whistleblower.



Schiff lists 10 reasons Ukraine investigations were for Trump's personal gain



-- **Schiff, a mild-mannered former federal prosecutor, has emerged as a surprisingly polarizing figure.** Perhaps it's because the president has accused him of committing treason, in addition to calling him "pencil neck" and "liddle." Trump has now tweeted about Schiff hundreds of times. Schiff's boosters say the right only loathes him because he's so effective.

-- **The president's allies at Fox News have elevated Schiff this week into perhaps the biggest boogeyman for their audience.** Arguably he's a bigger target of their vitriol right now than Nancy Pelosi, Bernie Sanders or even the four minority women in the Squad. If you've watched the network for even a few minutes this week, especially in primetime, you've probably seen hosts and guests attacking the man from Burbank.

Tucker Carlson continued his mockery last night of the man he's taken to calling "[Saint Adam](#)," a nickname intended to convey what he portrays as the congressman's sanctimoniousness. "Say what you will, but as a piece of theater, it had literally everything," Carlson said after playing a video clip of Schiff talking on the Senate floor about how Trump's approach to Ukraine has played into Russian President Vladimir Putin's hands.

"Adam Schiff has amnesia," Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows (R-N.C.) [told](#) Laura Ingraham.

"They accused us of doing nefarious things with this Lev Parnas character," House Intelligence Committee ranking member Devin Nunes (R-Calif.) [told](#) Sean Hannity. "The truth is Adam Schiff and the

Democrats have been doing nefarious things with Parnas!”

“Adam's ordinarily not that stupid, but when you tell the jury, the Senate, on one day that they're corrupt, and then you tell the American people they cannot be trusted to pick the commander in chief, that's just a wildly stupid trial strategy,” former congressman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) [told](#) Bret Baier.

**-- Rudy Giuliani appeared on “Fox & Friends” this morning to attack the Democratic managers.** “It’s a complete show on the part of the Democrats, and they should be sued for conspiracy to defraud the United States, and they should pay for that hearing,” he said. “I’m going to present over the next two to three weeks shocking crimes at the highest levels of both governments while the Senate is listening to a totally phony group of stories about non-impeachable offenses.”

Giuliani has been promising for a while now to release said evidence. It has not been forthcoming, so take such claims with more than a grain of salt. The president’s lawyer also said for months that he was going to release a lengthy report rebutting former special counsel Bob Mueller’s findings on Russian interference and whether Trump obstructed justice. He never did.

**-- There has been some hyperbole from the left, as well.** Esquire’s Charlie Pierce calls Schiff the Daniel Webster of our time. Walter Dellinger, who was acting U.S. solicitor general under Bill Clinton, said Schiff offered “one of the most impressive performances by a lawyer I have ever seen.” MSNBC legal commentator Jason Johnson called Schiff’s opening statement on Wednesday “a speech that kids will be giving in 2060 at university projects.” Actress and activist Alyssa

Milano, who has been attending the trial, said “it felt like you were watching a one-man show on Broadway.”

**Stephen Colbert offered an early valentine to Schiff during his show.** “It was gratifying to see someone taking the constitutional responsibility of their office seriously,” the comedian told his viewers on CBS. Breaking out of character, he said that Schiff spoke “clearly, passionately, cogently, and, I believe, courageously.”

-- **Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) called Schiff “well spoken” and said “did a good job of creating a tapestry.”** But other **Republican senators have told reporters that Schiff was overly “smooth” or “slick,” which they meant as negatives.** “In a way I do feel like I’m introducing myself to a number of the senators,” Schiff told [the Associated Press](#), adding that they’re “finding I’m not the demon that I’m portrayed as on Fox.”

-- **Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) expressed hope that four Republicans still might be persuaded to vote for witnesses.** “Just about every Republican’s eyes were glued on Mr. Schiff,” he said. “It was a powerful rendition.”

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Content from [API](#)

**Net oil imports are at 50-year lows. How did we do it?**



America's natural gas and oil companies have been working together to reduce dependence on foreign oil. Learn how we're powering a bright future for our country together at [EnergyForProgress.org](https://EnergyForProgress.org).

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Schumer: Republicans' 'nothing new' argument 'rings hollow'

### **WITNESS WATCH:**

-- All eyes are on Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.). "Privately, senior Senate Republicans expect the vote to seek witness testimony to fail, but they are watching Alexander and several other Republicans closely. And wherever Alexander comes down is

almost sure to be the majority position in the Senate,” [Politico reports](#). “He’s a retiring defender of the Senate as an institution who’s occasionally bucked his party, but he also counts Mitch McConnell as a longtime ally. He’s more hesitant to criticize Trump than are some other Republicans, but he also has said it was ‘inappropriate’ for Trump to ask foreign governments to investigate his political opponents. ... [Democrats] are holding out hope that Alexander will be their hero in the mold of the late Sen. John McCain, whose extraordinary vote derailed the GOP’s effort to repeal Obamacare.”

**-- Trump is keeping his distance from the Republicans who might vote to call witnesses after White House advisers warned the president that outreach wouldn’t help his cause. Democrats are also giving them space.** [Mike DeBonis and Josh Dawsey report](#): “Democrats say there is no serious effort to privately lobby the Republicans, with the party relying instead on public opinion and the House prosecutors to squeeze them into breaking ranks.”

**-- Sens. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) and Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) played with blue and purple fidget spinners. These are popular toys for children. In contrast, Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), who will potentially cast decisive votes on witnesses, almost never moved from their second-row desks.** “Collins is a furious note taker, while Murkowski just stares intensely at the speaker,” [Paul Kane reports](#).

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** “I am one pooped puppy,” Murkowski said last night after Schiff’s speech. She added that she was too tired to discuss the substance of the Democratic presentation right then. She said she might go home to draw a bath and enjoy a glass of wine. ([Kane](#))

**-- Collins sent a handwritten note to Roberts before his admonishment of the lawyers for both sides in the wee hours of Wednesday morning.** The senior senator for Maine, facing a tough reelection fight, [told WCSH-TV](#) in her state that the debate had become “too personal,” and she said she got mad when House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler accused Senate Republicans of being part of a coverup. “I had heard both sides impugn the integrity of one another and also cast aspersions on the Senate,” Collins said. “That is just not appropriate.” Collins said she’s undecided on witnesses but added that the Nadler comments won’t affect her decision.

**-- Fresh polling shows most Americans overwhelmingly think witnesses should testify.** [An AP-NORC poll](#) shows that 7 in 10 Americans say Trump should allow his top aides to appear before the Senate, including most Republicans. The same survey found that 45 percent think Trump should be convicted, 40 percent said he should not be and 14 percent said they don’t know enough to have an opinion.

**-- But, but, but: “Mitch McConnell doesn’t care what you think,” Ben Terris writes in [a new profile of the majority leader](#). “He just wants to win.”**

**-- A growing number of Republican senators are pointing to Trump's threat to invoke executive privilege as an excuse to vote against even trying to call witnesses, [CNN reports](#):** “GOP senators are privately and publicly raising concerns that issuing subpoenas -- to top officials like acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and

former national security adviser John Bolton and for documents blocked by the White House -- will only serve to drag out the proceedings. Plus, many say there's little appetite for such a time-consuming fight, given that legal battles may ultimately not be successful and could force the courts to rule on hugely consequential constitutional issues about the separation of powers between the branches of government.”



Senate trial: Republicans hint that Bidens could become the focus of defense



## **MORE FROM THE TRIAL:**

**-- Democrats used a significant chunk of time on Thursday to preemptively defend the Bidens, who they expect Trump's lawyers to attack when they get the floor:** "Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D-Tex.), another impeachment manager, sought to debunk the allegations that Joe Biden did anything nefarious in his dealings with Ukraine," [Seung Min Kim, John Wagner and Karoun Demirjian report](#). "But Republican senators said the focus on the Bidens by Democrats made the former vice president and his son fair game for Trump's defense team. ... Garcia noted that Trump and Republicans didn't focus on Biden's actions toward Ukraine until 2019 ... She also referenced a letter from Sens. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), Rob Portman (R-Ohio) ... and other senators in the Ukraine Caucus to argue that Biden's desire to see [prosecutor Viktor] Shokin removed reflected official U.S. policy ... As Garcia spoke, a visibly upset and red-faced Johnson rose from his seat, approached Portman and whispered in his ear. Portman reacted impassively, but his comments did not appear to calm Johnson, who departed the floor for the Republican cloakroom moments later. Johnson, a fierce ally of Trump, said in October that he did not recall signing the letter. ..."

**"Before the trial officially began Thursday afternoon, dozens of senators from both parties entered a secure facility in the Senate basement to view a classified document provided by Jennifer Williams,** a national security adviser to Vice President Pence. ... The document had been previously submitted to the House Intelligence Committee. Some senators spent only a few minutes in the facility; others stayed for the better part of an hour. Several Democrats



emerged to say they didn't understand why the document had been classified. 'I don't believe it's being withheld from the public for national security reasons. It may be withheld for political security reasons,' said Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.)."

**-- The favorite talking point for most Senate Republicans continues to be that they're learning nothing new because House managers are repeating themselves.** Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) [told reporters](#) during last night's dinner break that it felt like "Groundhog Day in the Senate." Ironically, he had repeated throughout the day that it felt like "Groundhog Day." He said the same thing to CNN in the morning.

"For them to say they're bored, it has a lot to do with them not wanting to hear evidence," countered Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii). "They don't want to hear that this president who they're so busy supporting did these things. As I put it, the truth hurts."

**-- Tomorrow's timing:** Senate Majority Whip John Thune (R-S.D.) tells reporters that Saturday's session will likely start and end earlier than the past few days. **Party leaders are still trying to negotiate a deal to start the day as early as 8 a.m. so they can wrap up by noon.** This would allow Democratic presidential candidates to fly to Iowa for campaign events. The trial has started at 1 p.m. during the week so that Chief Justice John Roberts can participate in pre-scheduled Supreme Court oral arguments before crossing the street to preside over the trial in the Capitol.

**-- Pelosi may be half a world away from the Senate floor, but that doesn't mean the speaker doesn't have the trial under**

**control.** [From the Times](#): “Even in her absence from the Capitol this week, as the speaker traveled through Poland and Israel ... she had her hand firmly on the tiller. ... In many ways, Ms. Pelosi is the eighth, largely unseen manager of the Democrats’ case. ... Ms. Pelosi has dispatched her handpicked House general counsel to sit at the table inside the Senate chamber, with the prosecutors acting as her eyes and ears. **She reviewed all the managers’ written briefs before they were filed.**”



Schiff begins impeachment proceedings with a quote from Alexander Hamilton

## **THE LEGALITY QUESTION:**

**-- A core argument from Democrats yesterday was that the framers didn't believe a president needed to break the law in order to warrant impeachment.** “The Constitution is not a suicide pact,” [said](#) Nadler, one of the managers. “It does not leave us stuck with presidents who abuse their power in unforeseen ways that threaten our security and democracy. Until recently, it did not occur to

me that our president would call a foreign leader and demand a sham investigation meant to kneecap his political opponents, all in exchange for releasing vital military aid that the president was already required by law to provide.”

**-- The House’s lawyers filed a motion with an appeals court last night that says Trump’s defense lawyers have contradicted, and therefore undermined, the Department of Justice’s position on subpoenas.** [Ann Marimow reports](#): “The lawyers for [Pelosi] asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to rule quickly on the pair of separation-of-powers cases, which they said could affect the Senate proceedings. House Democrats went to court seeking testimony from former White House counsel Donald McGahn and access to secret grand jury evidence from former special counsel Robert S. Mueller III’s Russia investigation. Justice Department attorneys have urged the appeals court to stay out of what they say are political disputes between Congress and the White House.” But the president’s team is now telling the Senate that these are matters more properly left to the courts.

**-- The White House also stonewalled the Government Accountability Office when the independent congressional watchdog requested information about the freeze on Ukraine aid.** [From Politico](#): “The White House responded to the [GAO’s] inquiry with a one-page letter on Dec. 20, citing a legal memo from the Office of Management and Budget that defended the hold on military aid as necessary to ensure spending the funds wouldn’t ‘conflict with the President’s foreign policy.’ ... The correspondence is part of what led GAO to ... conclude last week that Trump’s decision to withhold

military aid violated federal law.”

-- **Follow the money:** The documents turned over by Lev Parnas, Giuliani’s former associate, provide details about the web of dark money that helped fund Trump’s Ukrainian gambit. [From Bloomberg News](#): “Money flowed to Giuliani and his cohorts from home loans, friends, relative strangers and wealthy businessmen, some with interests in the gas and energy sector. It even came from a lawyer for an embattled Ukrainian energy tycoon fighting extradition to the U.S. on a conspiracy charge. ... **The travel arrangements could brush up against campaign finance laws.** While Giuliani [and Parnas] can volunteer as much of their time as they want for a campaign, any subsidy for such work by third parties would generally need to be reported as a contribution, and money from foreign individuals would be illegal.”



Opinion | Jonathan Turley: Trump's impeachment defense could create a dangerous precedent

-- Commentary from The Post's opinion pages:

- [House GOP star witness Jonathan Turley](#): "Trump's impeachment defense could create a dangerous precedent."
- [Dana Milbank](#): "John Roberts comes face to face with the mess he made."
- [Ruth Marcus](#): "A more assertive John Roberts would be a bad idea."
- [Brenda Wineapple](#), author of a book on Andrew Johnson's impeachment: "If John Roberts is seeking a role model, let's hope it's not Salmon Chase."
- [Michael Gerson](#): "Republicans aren't serving the country, or even the president. Just themselves."
- [Eugene Robinson](#): "Senate Republicans' defense of Trump is as mushy as apple pie."
- [Josh Rogin](#): "Trump's lawyers don't understand how foreign aid works."
- [Jen Rubin](#): "House managers deliver a constitutional lesson."
- [Garret Graff](#), founding director of the Aspen Institute's Cyber & Technology Program: "Trump won't protect our elections, so private companies are doing it."
- [Dan Drezner](#): "When American political institutions give up: After three years of Trump, there have been some unhealthy adjustments."

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Regional talk radio is Republicans' secret weapon to reelecting Trump

## 2020 WATCH:

-- Regional radio hosts across the country have found themselves showered with attention by senior Trump officials, who have made accessibility to local conservative talking heads a central part of the president's reelection strategy. [Sarah Ellison reports](#): "Pouring attention on regional talk-radio hosts is a classic Trumpworld move: giving relatively unknown characters proximity to the White House has paid off with a disproportionate amount of attention and praise lavished on the president and his agenda. ... The strategy has been particularly powerful as Trump and his team have engaged in what [Steve] Bannon calls 'information warfare' over the impeachment fight..."

-- Kamala "[that-little-girl-was-me](#)" Harris is weighing an endorsement of Joe Biden to boost her standing in the veepstakes. [From the New York Times](#): "Such a move could lift Mr.

Biden's campaign and perhaps do even more to enhance Ms. Harris's chances of becoming vice president, but it could also anger her liberal base in California. An endorsement by Ms. Harris, if she wades into the primary race at all, would be unlikely to happen until after the Senate impeachment trial ... She and [Biden] have remained in contact since she exited the race and had a long conversation in the immediate aftermath of her departure."

**-- Anita Hill told an Iowa crowd last night that it's too late for Biden to apologize for the way he mistreated and diminished her when she testified against Clarence Thomas in 1991.** "The statute of limitations for his apology is up," Hill said in response to a question from the audience at the University of Iowa, where she gave a lecture on ending sexual harassment. "What are you going to do about it? What are you going to do today? Will you promise as leader of this country ... to use all of your energy to address the problem as it happened and to prevent it from happening to another generation? That's what I want to hear. And I not only want to hear from him, I want to hear from every one of them who want to be the leader of this country." ([BuzzFeed News](#))

**-- Bernie Sanders asked his supporters to cool it – but they don't always listen.** [Sean Sullivan reports](#): "Campaign officials have been pressing surrogates and other allies not to escalate combustible disputes that have recently become more personal, ... including a tense fight with Joe Biden, a separate altercation with [Elizabeth Warren] and a renewed schism with Hillary Clinton. ... But many Sanders supporters, and even some campaign aides, are inclined to take a more aggressive approach that they say will highlight important



differences. ... Some close Sanders allies acknowledged the difficulty of balancing the passions of his loyal backers, inspired by his calls for a political revolution and his staunchly liberal platform, with the need to demonstrate a broader unity.”

**-- Sanders’s rise in the polls means he’ll be talking more about his electability than a revolution.** While speeches he’s made over the past two weeks still feature his signature call to action, he’s spending more time explaining to voters how policies like Medicare-for-all would work in their daily lives, as well as how he could beat Trump. ([Bloomberg News](#))

**-- One in five women doubt that a woman can win the presidency, according to a new CNN poll.** What’s telling about this news is that just 9 percent of men said the same. ([Eugene Scott](#))

**-- Mike Bloomberg may be lagging behind his Democratic competitors in the polls, but he’s attracted the president’s obsessive attention by baiting him with constant attack ads.** [Josh Dawsey and Michael Scherer report](#): “The president has repeatedly attacked Bloomberg on Twitter, calling him ‘Mini Mike’ to insult his small stature, and frequently focused on him in conversations with campaign advisers and White House officials. ‘It’s very clear that the ads we are running have gotten under his skin because they are effective,’ said Howard Wolfson, a senior Bloomberg aide ... Wolfson said to expect more blistering ads against the president in coming months. ... Bloomberg campaign manager Kevin Sheekey debuted a new ad on ‘Fox & Friends’ on Thursday that cited a new book by two Washington Post reporters, who chronicle how Trump lashed out at U.S. military leaders, characterizing them as ‘dopes and babies.’

Trump responded shortly after the spot aired.”

**-- Former top supporters of Cory Booker accused Pete**

**Buttigieg’s campaign of “chasing ambulances.”** [From BuzzFeed](#)

[News](#): “The phone calls to Amy Nielsen came around two hours apart. It was last Monday around 12 p.m., not long after the news broke, when her phone lit up with his name. By then, Nielsen considered Cory Booker ‘part of [her] family.’ ... So the end of his campaign felt ... like ‘a death.’ ... The next call came around 2:30 p.m., this time from an unknown number. It was Pete Buttigieg, calling to seek Nielsen’s support now that her candidate had made the decision to ‘step aside.’ ... ‘It was a gut punch — like, really? He did not ‘step aside’ for you,’ she said. ‘Like, wow, that’s some nerve right there.’ Later that night, she said, Nielsen heard from one of Booker’s field organizers who said she had already been contacted by the Buttigieg campaign to go door-knock.”

**-- Twelve years ago, Buttigieg spent the final week before the 2008 caucuses in rural southwest Iowa, trying to turn out voters for Barack Obama in one of the most conservative towns in the**

**state.** [Holly Bailey spoke with him about what he learned](#): “This was a

new experience to really talk to people like this,’ Buttigieg recalled. ‘And what I found was, first of all, you can’t assume where somebody is going to be. We were in an area where a lot of people weren’t Democrats to begin with, and those who were were more likely to be for [John] Edwards. But they would hear us out when we were talking about Obama. And sometimes, as you do when you go door-to-door, somebody, because you represent a presidential campaign, would just pour out everything that was on their mind, everything they were

upset about."

**-- Early voting means that millions are already eligible to cast their ballot.** [From the AP](#): "In Minnesota, in-person early voting began Jan. 17. Vermont's deadline to mail out its absentee ballots was the same day. Many of the 14 Super Tuesday states will offer some form of early voting between now and mid-February."

**-- Howard County saw a bigger swing from Obama in 2012 to Trump in 2016 than any other in Iowa.** [The Wall Street Journal's John McCormick took the pulse for 2020](#): "Recent interviews with dozens of voters here suggest that most of Mr. Trump's 2016 supporters ... plan to stick with him, even though some said they have grown weary of his personal behavior and trade fights. Among those who previously voted for Mr. Obama and Mr. Trump, many said they are reserving judgment until they see who wins the Democratic nomination. ... What such swing voters do in 2020 will have national implications. Before Mr. Trump, Howard County hadn't backed a Republican for president since Ronald Reagan in 1984. It is one of the 31 counties in Iowa—the most of any state—that backed Mr. Obama twice and then switched to Mr. Trump. The president won in 2016 partly because he ran up huge victories in small, heavily rural counties. While he is likely to win such areas again, margins could matter. If Democrats can keep him from racking up the kind of gains he did in places like Howard County in 2016, that could help determine whether he will again carry battleground states such as Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania."

**-- A new Iowa caucus app is sparking election security concerns.** [From NBC News](#): "The app will be used in Iowa and

Nevada by caucus managers — local registered Democrats who sign up to organize and run the caucus process in each location — to expedite the process, calculate and assign delegates and report results back quickly. The app will also be used in satellite voting locations across the country and overseas. But questions about the app remain unanswered, including who developed it and whether it has been subjected to independent security testing. Security experts say that the app is a potential target for early election interference, particularly since it is downloaded on to the personal phones of the caucus managers. Party officials say operational security prevents them from disclosing specifics about the app.”

**-- Big-money groups aligned with the Senate GOP raised \$68.3 million in 2019, an off-year record. [Michelle Ye Hee Lee reports:](#)**

“The majority of the money raised in 2019 came in the latter half of the year, particularly in the final two months, largely driven by the House Democrats’ impeachment inquiry.”



Activists, scientists and others rally on the Mall in 2018 at the March for Science. (Marvin Joseph/The Washington Post)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

-- **The ranks of scientists are growing thin in the Trump administration.** [Annie Gowen, Juliet Eilperin, Ben Guarino and Andrew Ba Tran report:](#) "Dozens of government computers sit in a nondescript building [in Kansas City, Mo.], able to connect to a data model that could help farmers manage the impact of a changing climate on their crops. But no one in this federal agency would know how to access the model, or, if they did, what to do with the data. That's because the ambitious federal researcher who created it in Washington quit rather than move when the Agriculture Department relocated his agency to an office park here last fall. He is one of hundreds of scientists across the federal government who have been

forced out, sidelined or muted since President Trump took office. ... In the first two years of the Trump administration, more than 1,600 federal scientists left government, according to Office of Personnel Management employment data ... That represents a 1.5 percent drop, compared with the 8 percent increase during the same period in the Obama administration.”

**-- The Justice Department conceded that it had “insufficient” cause to continue monitoring a former Trump campaign adviser during the Russia probe.** [Matt Zapotosky reports](#): “The concession was revealed in an order posted on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court’s website. In December, according to the order, the department told the court it had come to believe that in at least two of the four applications to monitor the former adviser, Carter Page, ‘there was insufficient predication to establish probable cause’ to believe he was acting as a Russian agent.”

**-- The Trump administration will create additional new hurdles for pregnant foreign women seeking U.S. tourist visas.** The administration said it's trying to crack down on what it calls “birth tourism,” trying to reduce what conservatives call “anchor babies,” by instructing consular officers to assess whether women requesting tourist visas are hoping to give birth on U.S. soil, which would effectively grant their children American citizenship. Starting today, the State Department will no longer issue temporary visitor visas to women hoping to travel to the country with the stated purpose of having a child. **Foggy Bottom said consular officers cannot require pregnancy tests to make the determination but wouldn’t rule out a woman’s physical appearance when making the**

decision, per [Abigail Hauslohner and Maria Sacchetti](#).

-- **Trump's "national public health emergency" declaration on the opioid crisis expired because his people at the Department of Health and Human Services forgot to renew it.** An HHS spokesperson said the nine-day lapse had been corrected and blamed a clerical error. The emergency status, first announced in 2017 as a measure deemed necessary to direct more resources toward the drug overdose crisis, needs to be renewed every 90 days. ([Politico](#))

-- **Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin said teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg, 17, needs to study economics before offering her thoughts on climate change.** [Heather Long reports from Davos](#): "Thunberg and Mnuchin are both attending the World Economic Forum this week. ... At a news conference on Thursday, Mnuchin was asked for his reaction to Thunberg's insistence on fossil fuel divestment. 'Who is she?' he tried to joke to reporters before taking a jab at Thunberg, suggesting she didn't understand what she was talking about. ... 'Is she the chief economist or who is she? I'm confused. ... After she goes and studies economics in college she can go back and explain that to us.'"

-- **Actress Annabella Sciorra, who played Gloria in "The Sopranos," testified that Harvey Weinstein raped her more than 25 years ago.** [Shayna Jacobs reports](#): "'I was punching him. I was kicking him. I was just trying to get him away from me, and he took my hands and put them over my head,' Sciorra told the jury in Weinstein's sexual assault trial, her eyes welling up with tears and her voice breaking. ... Weinstein, who had been watching her from the defense

table, turned his gaze away from his accuser as she emotionally detailed the encounter. ... In her five hours of testimony, she described freezing after the attack, adding that 'It was just so disgusting that my body started to shake.' She said she had no romantic interest in Weinstein. The film producer arrived at her Manhattan apartment uninvited one night."



How China is reacting to the deadly coronavirus outbreak

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- "A young, healthy man from Wuhan and a person living 1,500 miles from the epicenter of the coronavirus are among the latest victims of the outbreak, which has incited fear and anger across China as the important Spring Festival gets underway," [Anna Fifield reports from Beijing](#). "Reports of eight new deaths from the pneumonia-like virus, taking the total to 26, came as authorities enforced a lockdown across large parts of the province of Hubei, population 59 million. But they also came as the medical system



clearly struggled to cope with the outbreak, with reports of crowded hospitals, stressed doctors and dwindling supplies. Adding to the stress, Friday marked the official start of ... when China celebrates the arrival of the new lunar year. Authorities around the country, including in the capital Beijing, have canceled the temple fairs and festivals that accompany the holiday to avoid having large public gatherings where the airborne virus could be spread. ...The Forbidden City in Beijing, which can admit 80,000 people a day and was already entirely sold out for the holiday, has been closed until further notice. Production companies have postponed the release of seven blockbuster films that were to be released over the holiday, leading Chinese cinema companies to close the country's 70,000 movie theaters. ...

**“The National Health Commission reported Friday that there are now more than 830 confirmed cases of infection,** and reports of new cases continued to roll in from [around the country](#): from Xinjiang in the west to Shandong in the east, from Inner Mongolia in the north to Hainan in the south. **A total of 8,420 were reported to be under observation.** South Korean authorities confirmed Friday that a second person tested positive for the new coronavirus. ... Japan also confirmed a second case, a man in his 40s from Wuhan who arrived in Japan on Sunday on a flight through Hong Kong. Other countries to have reported infections including Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam and the United States. **In addition to a confirmed case in Washington state, Texas has reported a potential case of coronavirus in Brazos County, about 100 miles northwest of Houston.** The patient contracted a respiratory illness within two weeks of traveling in Wuhan and is being isolated at home, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

**“Some details about the latest deaths in China have raised concerns about the virus’s spread.** Until now, the vast majority of the people had been older than 60 and almost all of them had existing health conditions. All of them had been in Hubei province ... But the latest announcement said that 36-year-old man from Wuhan, identified only by his family name, Li, died on Thursday. He had no chronic diseases or other existing health conditions, and had been treated with anti-virus medication and antibiotics since being admitted to a hospital on Jan. 9.”

**-- Wall Street stumbled yesterday amid fears that efforts to curtail the virus could further disrupt the global economy. ([David Lynch](#))**

**-- The U.S. has officially refused to extradite Anne Sacoolas, the diplomat’s wife who fled the U.K. to avoid facing charges for killing a British teen by driving on the wrong side of the road. A State Department spokesman said extraditing Sacoolas would “set an extraordinarily troubling precedent” but did not elaborate. ([Meagan Flynn](#))**

**-- Trump’s sanctions on Iran are fueling a new refugee crisis – in Turkey. [Erin Cunningham and Mohammad Mahdi Sultani report:](#)** “Decades ago, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan prompted thousands of people to flee to neighboring Iran. Now, many of these refugees are once again seeking a new home in a new land, Turkey, desperate to escape the dire economic conditions fueled by U.S. sanctions on Tehran. ... Turkish authorities are grappling with nearly 4 million refugees. This is the world’s largest population of displaced people, according to the United Nations, including more than 170,000

registered Afghan refugees. Turkey has struggled to contain the influx even as aid agencies say the number of arrivals from Iran is on the rise.”

**-- A critic of the Saudi Arabian government said a suspected Saudi agent tried to kidnap him on U.S. soil, a claim backed up by multiple U.S. and foreign sources familiar with the episode.** [From the Daily Beast](#): “Abdulrahman Almutairi is a 27-year-old comedian and former student at the University of San Diego with a big social-media presence. After Almutairi used social media to criticize the powerful Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman over the October 2018 murder and dismemberment of Washington Post contributor [Jamal] Khashoggi, an unidentified Saudi man accompanied Almutairi’s father on a flight to collect Almutairi against his will and bring him back to Saudi Arabia...”

**-- The Trump administration has missed the deadline, established by law, to turn over to Congress an unclassified report on Khashoggi's murder and the role played by the regime in Riyadh.** [From BuzzFeed News](#): “In December, lawmakers passed a sweeping defense bill that included a provision ordering the director of national intelligence to send Congress an unclassified report identifying those responsible for Khashoggi’s death at a Saudi Arabian consulate in 2018. The legislation set the deadline for the report at 30 days, which passed earlier this week.”

**-- A small team of FBI agents spent years trying to solve a stubborn mystery – whether officials from Saudi Arabia were involved in the Sept. 11 attacks.** [A team of ProPublica and NYT Magazine reporters tell their story](#): “The FBI has disputed the idea that

foreign-policy considerations significantly influenced its investigation. In interviews, current and former bureau officials and federal prosecutors insisted to us that they never would have hesitated to pursue any Saudi who could have been solidly linked to the 9/11 plot ... But others who worked on the matter, including **some at the FBI's highest levels, say that the United States' complex and often-troubled relationship with the Saudi regime was an unavoidable fact throughout their investigations.** Even as the Saudi authorities became more cooperative with the United States in fighting al-Qaida after 2003, they were minimally and grudgingly helpful when it came to the 9/11 inquiry. **According to current and former officials, requests for assistance that might rattle the Saudi security agencies were frequently balanced against FBI and CIA needs for Saudi help** against continuing terror threats.”

-- **Trump will host Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his political rival, Benny Gantz, next week to discuss his Middle East peace plan.** The meeting comes amid Trump's trial, as well as Netanyahu and Gantz's own troubles at home, where they've both failed to form a government. ([ABC News](#))

-- **Hundreds of thousands reportedly protested the American troop presence in Iraq.** Families and children marched along signs that read “no, no to America,” as the White House ignores Iraq's parliament's vote to expel U.S. troops from the country. ([CNN](#))

-- **The top U.S. commander in the Middle East said the recent troop surge there may not end soon, despite what the president said.** “You're here because I requested that you come,” Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie told sailors and Marines aboard the USS Bataan

amphibious assault ship. “I’m not sure how long you’re going to stay in the theater. We’ll work that out as we go ahead. Could be quite a while, could be less than that, just don’t know right now.” ([AP](#))

**-- Some Mexicans believe the Central American caravans might soon come to an end as the nation’s authorities strengthen their anti-migrant operations at the Guatemalan border. [From the AP](#):**

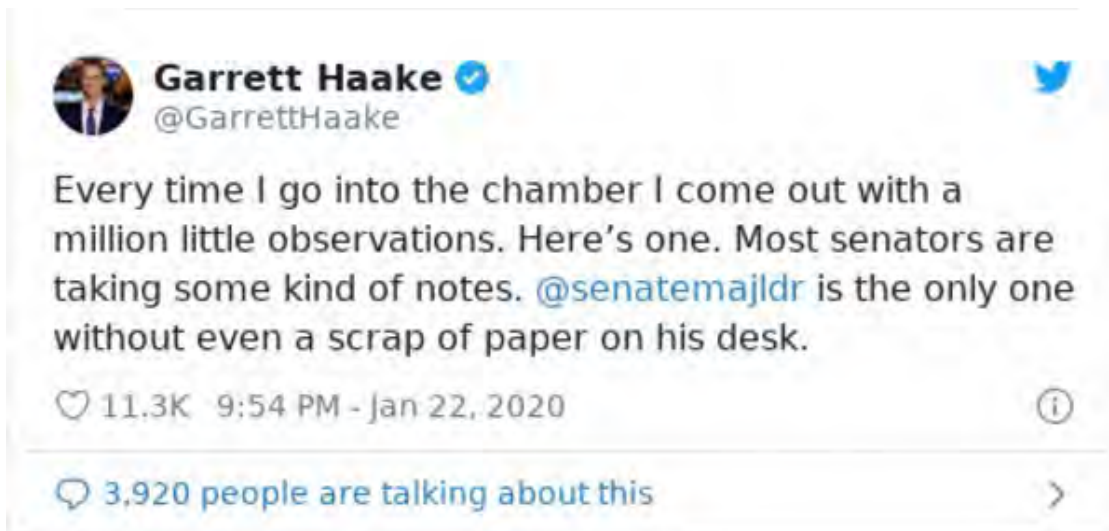
“From the roadside stand where his family sells mole, barbecue and chicken stew, Miguel Ángel Vázquez has seen all the caravans of Central American migrants and asylum seekers stream past his front door in recent years... After watching armored National Guard troops and immigration agents break up the latest one right on his doorstep, loading men, women and wailing children onto buses and hauling them off to a detention center in the nearby city of Tapachula, he’s sure of one thing. ‘I can see that these caravans are no longer going to pass,’ said Vázquez, 56.”

**-- East Africa is suffering its worst invasion of desert locusts in 25 years. ([CNN](#))**

**-- Climate change will disrupt the global economy, but central banks aren’t ready. [From the Times](#):** “A report issued this week by an umbrella organization for the world’s central banks argued that ... central bankers lack tools to deal with what it says could be one of the biggest economic dislocations of all time. The book-length [report](#), published by the Bank for International Settlements, in Basel, Switzerland, signals what could be the overriding theme for central banks in the decade to come.”

**SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

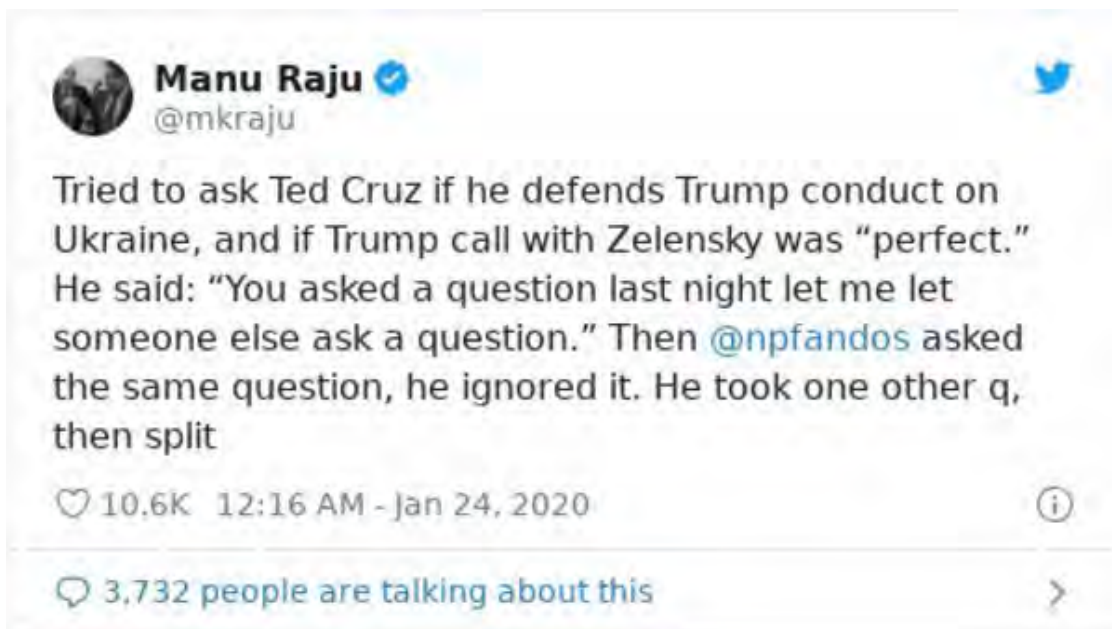
Mitch McConnell made lots of eye contact with Adam Schiff:



Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) suggested a drinking game:



Trump's vanquished 2016 rival also refused to answer questions from reporters at CNN and the Times about whether Trump's July 25 call was "perfect":



Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) tried to troll House impeachment managers during their presentation by reading this book on the Senate floor:



**Sen. Marsha Blackburn** ✓

@MarshaBlackburn



First - I'm reading Resistance (At All Costs) by Kim Strassel. Read the chapter on obstruction. It provides good insights into today's proceedings.

Second - busy mamas are the best at multi-tasking. Try it. [twitter.com/JRubinBlogger/...](https://twitter.com/JRubinBlogger/)

**Jennifer Rubin** ✓ @JRubinBlogger

Replying to @GarrettHaake and 3 others

@MarshaBlackburn might improve her understanding of the facts and law if she paid attention. This is shameful

♥ 2,023 8:28 PM - Jan 23, 2020






💬 3,022 people are talking about this



Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) assured supporters that she can both do her day job and run for president:







 **Amy Klobuchar**   
@amyklobuchar 

Last night I spoke to 12,000 Iowans on our statewide tele-town hall to discuss how we'll get our country back on the path of progress. Like I said, I can do two things (and be in two places) at once!  
[twitter.com/kyunglahcnn/st...](https://twitter.com/kyunglahcnn/st...)

**Kyung Lah**  @KyungLahCNN  
Replying to @KyungLahCNN

The campaign just said "there are 12,000 people on the call right now." @amyklobuchar tele town hall to #IAcaucus statewide crowd

 2,435  11:31 PM - Jan 23, 2020 

 [463 people are talking about this](#) 

Marianne Williamson, who dropped out of the presidential race earlier this month, said her appearance with Andrew Yang in Iowa does not constitute an endorsement:

 **Marianne Williamson**   
@marwilliamson 

I am not endorsing any presidential candidate at this time; I support all the progressive candidates. I'm appearing with Andrew Yang in Fairfield because I know the institutional obstructions to his candidacy and I want to see him continue in the race past Iowa.

 8,138  3:21 PM - Jan 23, 2020 

 [1,546 people are talking about this](#) 

Bernie Sanders hit back at the JPMorgan Chase CEO after he criticized socialism:



Pete Buttigieg launched his campaign one year ago yesterday. A senior adviser marveled at how far he's come:



**Lis Smith** ✓  
@Lis\_Smith



One year ago today- @petebuttigieg had 88k followers on @twitter. 7k fewer than I currently have and...2k fewer than his dogs' twitter account currently has. 🐕  
@firstdogsSB [twitter.com/kevinstine/sta...](https://twitter.com/kevinstine/status/1221111111)

**Kevin Stine** @KevinStine

Not a bad year for @PeteButtigieg. @Lis\_Smith #TeamPete

1 YEAR AGO

AND NOW



**Pete Buttigieg** ✓

@PeteButtigieg

@JohnFetterman, @OregonPatrick, and 15 others follow  
Just launched a presidential exploratory committee. Afghanistan vet, musician, businessman, husband to Chasten and South Bend's "Mayor Pete." (BOOT-edge-edge)

South Bend, Indiana [peteforamerica.com](https://peteforamerica.com)

Joined December 2010

2,557 Following 88.6K Followers

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**Pete Buttigieg** ✓ @PeteButtigieg · 5h

I launched a presidential exploratory committee because it is a season for boldness and it is time to focus on the future. Are you ready to walk away from the politics of the past?

Join the team at [peteforamerica.com](https://peteforamerica.com)



**Pete Buttigieg** ✓

@PeteButtigieg

Afghanistan veteran, South Bend's Mayor Pete, husband. Running for president to rally Americans together to meet our urgent challenges: Boot-Edge-Edge. (he/him)

South Bend, Indiana [peteforamerica.com](https://peteforamerica.com)

Joined December 2010

2,588 Following 1.5M Followers

Followed by @joshbryson, James@Penderburg, Tolson Reed, and 58 others

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes



**Pete Buttigieg** ✓ @PeteButtigieg · 17m

Reflecting on this past year, I'm more hopeful than ever in our nation's ability to come together and turn the page toward a better future.

Let's get to work.



692 7:25 PM - Jan 23, 2020



124 people are talking about this



Mike Bloomberg's commercials are breaking through:



And Trump continued to tweet up a storm, sharing this picture that a supporter posted:



**Donald J. Trump** ✓  
@realDonaldTrump



That is a real fan. Thank you!



♥ 189K 9:50 PM - Jan 23, 2020



💬 49.5K people are talking about this



### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

We looked at the different effects Trump's immigration policies have had on migrant populations:



From child separation to DNA sampling: The impact of Trump's other immigration 'barriers'

Stephen Colbert reviewed the many ways senators have distracted themselves during the trial:



And Seth Meyers listed a few times when the Senate wasn't the "world's greatest deliberative body":




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# Morning Mix

Stories from all over.



(Harry How/Getty Images)



# ‘Time to say goodbye’: Kobe Bryant’s poetic farewell to basketball is unbearably heartbreaking now

“This has been absolutely beautiful,” Bryant said after his final game in April 2016. “I can’t believe it’s come to an end. You guys will always be in my heart.”

By Allyson Chiu and Katie Shepherd • [Read more »](#)

## ‘My story began in this town’: Kobe Bryant mourned in Italy, where he learned to play basketball

A look back at Kobe Bryant's childhood in Italy, where "my dream began."



By Meagan Flynn • [Read more »](#)

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## John Altobelli, coach killed with family in helicopter crash, was ‘Kobe of the junior college baseball world’

A celebrated sports figure in his own right, the longtime baseball coach of the Orange County College Pirates had



grown close to Kobe Bryant as their daughters played basketball together.

By Teo Armus • [Read more »](#)

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## Trump denies telling Bolton that Ukraine aid was tied to investigations as explosive book claiming otherwise leaks



The president's tweet, just after midnight Monday, was his first reaction to an explosive report about the manuscript of his former national security adviser's forthcoming book.

By Fred Barbash • [Read more »](#)

## Democrats have a new impeachment hero: Fox News analyst Andrew Napolitano



"What is required for removal of the president?" Napolitano wrote in an op-ed. "A demonstration of presidential commission of high crimes and misdemeanors, of which in Trump's case the evidence is ample and uncontradicted."

By Allyson Chiu • [Read more »](#)



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: John Bolton's book undercuts the Trump defense team's claims that there are no firsthand witnesses  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2020 7:57:58 AM

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**John Bolton's book undercuts the Trump defense team's claims that there are no firsthand witnesses**



Trump's impeachment defense details 6 pieces of evidence they say exonerate the president



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: Revelations about former national security adviser John Bolton's forthcoming memoir have shattered a central argument advanced by President Trump's defense lawyers during his impeachment trial.**

"Not a single witness testified that the president himself said that there was any connection between any investigations and security assistance, a presidential meeting or anything else," deputy White House counsel Michael Purpura told senators on Saturday.

"There was no firsthand witnesses that actually said the president did anything wrong," Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.) repeated Sunday morning [on Fox News](#).

Then [the New York Times reported](#) Sunday night that Bolton discloses – in a manuscript submitted to the White House last month for a classification review – that Trump told him directly last August that he wanted to continue freezing \$391 million in security assistance to Ukraine until officials there helped with investigations into Democrats, including Joe and Hunter Biden.

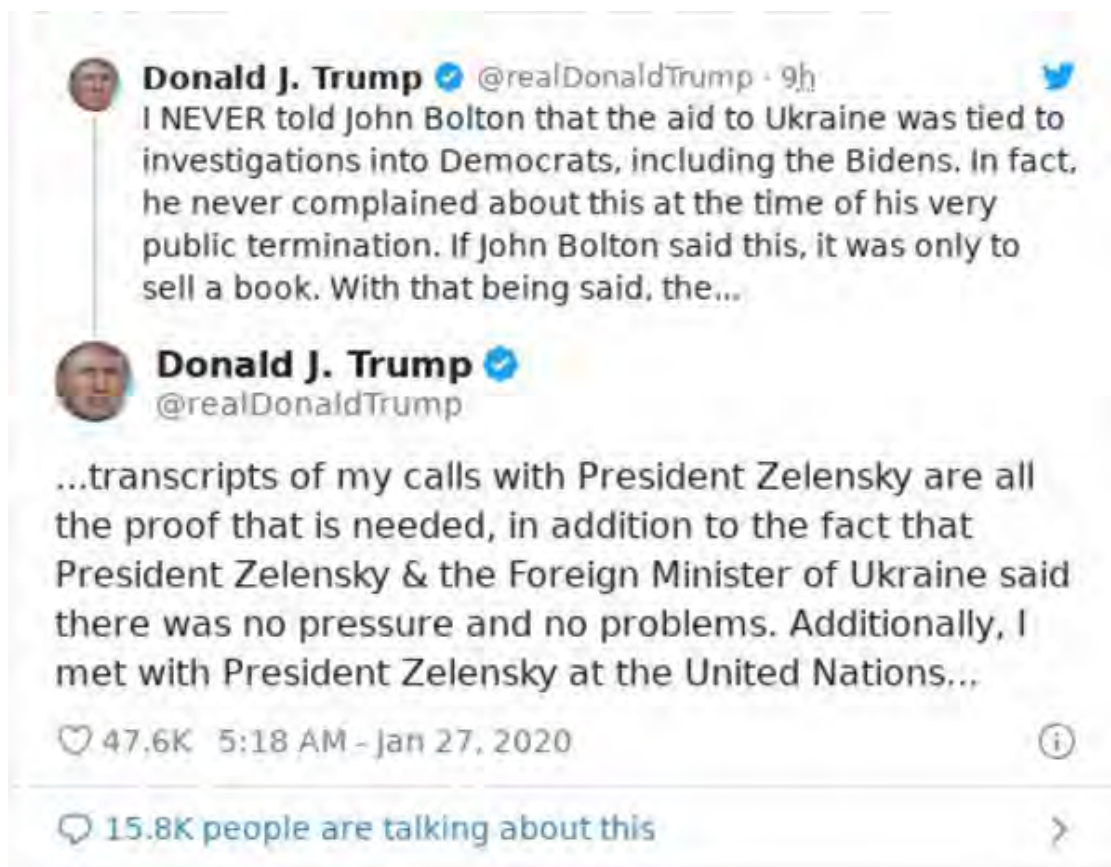
This erodes Trump’s insistence that there was never a quid pro quo, but it also adds to the body of evidence, including documents and sworn testimony, that the president was directly involved in the alleged scheme to coerce an ally, under attack from Russia, to announce an investigation of a leading 2020 challenger in exchange for delivering support that had been approved by Congress. Bolton aides testified during the House hearings that the then-national security adviser had referred to what was being cooked up vis-a-vis Ukraine as a “drug deal” that he didn’t want any part of. Bolton directed deputies such as Fiona Hill to raise their concerns with White House lawyers.

**-- Over dozens of pages in his draft, Bolton reportedly offers new details that implicate senior administration officials who have refused to testify as having firsthand knowledge.** For example, Bolton writes that **acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney was present for at least one phone call where the president and his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani discussed then-Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch.** “Mr. Mulvaney has told associates he would always step away when the president spoke with his lawyer to protect their attorney-client privilege,” Maggie Haberman and Michael Schmidt report.

According to their story, **Bolton also says that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo acknowledged to him privately that there was no basis to Giuliani's claims that Yovanovitch was corrupt.** He also allegedly believed Giuliani may have been acting on behalf of other clients. "Mr. Bolton also said that after the president's July phone call with the president of Ukraine, **he raised with Attorney General William P. Barr his concerns about Mr. Giuliani,** who was pursuing a shadow Ukraine policy encouraged by the president, and told Mr. Barr that the president had mentioned him on the call," per the Times. "A spokeswoman for Mr. Barr denied that he learned of the call from Mr. Bolton."

-- Two people familiar with the manuscript **confirm to The Washington Post** that Bolton details how Trump tied Ukraine aid to the desire for Biden probes and that he recounts conversations with other senior officials.

-- Trump denied Bolton's allegations on Twitter this morning:



This is another moment when it would be politically advantageous if the president had not [squandered his credibility with a flood of falsehoods](#). Trump made 16,241 demonstrably false or misleading claims during his first three years as president, our Fact Checker team [tabulated last week](#).

**-- These revelations have injected a jolt of unpredictability into an otherwise scripted trial.** Bolton has said that he would testify if subpoenaed by the Senate. In conversations last night, senior Senate Republican aides told me that Bolton testifying would increase pressure for Mulvaney and others to answer questions. They worry that additional testimony might further undercut the absolutist insistence of Trump's defense team that "the president did absolutely nothing wrong," as White House Counsel Pat Cipollone told senators on Saturday. A vote to call Bolton would also ratchet up pressure from



Trump's allies to subpoena Hunter Biden, which could drag the process out.



Mulvaney confirms Ukraine quid pro quo

-- Notably, Trump's defense lawyers never mentioned Mulvaney during their opening day of arguments on Saturday. The Democratic House managers last week played the footage from October of Mulvaney in the White House briefing room. The acting chief of staff admitted that Trump had "absolutely" mentioned to him

concerns about “the corruption related to the DNC server.”

“And that's why we held up the money,” Mulvaney said.

“What you just described is a quid pro quo,” a reporter replied.

“We do that all the time with foreign policy,” Mulvaney responded.

He later issued a statement [trying](#) to walk this back, but he’s refused to answer any subsequent questions or participate in the congressional inquiries.

**-- The White House could still attempt to delay the publication of Bolton’s book, scheduled for March 17, or block some of its contents by claiming that they’re classified.** Bolton’s memoir will be entitled “[The Room Where It Happened](#),” an apparent play on the song from “Hamilton,” and the cover art puts those words inside an oval, an apparent reference to the Oval Office. The 528-page book, which became [available for preorder](#) on Amazon last night, covers all 519 days that Bolton served as national security adviser.

**-- Complicating attacks from the Trump team: They can call him disgruntled, but Bolton is no squish.** The 71-year-old hawk held senior national security jobs under Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush before Trump brought him into the White House. A graduate of Yale Law School, he’s been known for decades as a skilled bureaucratic knife fighter.

**-- The president’s allies quickly complained about the timing of the disclosure, but Bolton’s lawyer and spokeswoman contend that someone in the White House leaked to the Times, not anyone in their camp.**

-- **The White House has had a copy of Bolton's draft manuscript since Dec. 30.** Bolton's lawyer Charles Cooper shared a cover letter that he sent to the National Security Council's records management division that day for a standard review process, including a request that it not be shared widely. "It is clear, regrettably, from The New York Times article published today that the prepublication review process has been corrupted and that information has been disclosed by persons other than those properly involved in reviewing the manuscript," Cooper said in a statement. Bolton spokeswoman Sarah Tinsley added: "The ambassador has not passed the draft manuscript to anyone else. Period."

Bolstering their arguments, the Times story cites two sources saying that **the submission of the manuscript to the White House "intensified concerns among some of [Trump's] advisers that they needed to block Mr. Bolton from testifying."**



John Bolton watches President Trump meet with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban in the Oval Office last May. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

**-- Democrats have been demanding four witnesses. In addition to Bolton and Mulvaney, they want to call Michael Duffey and Robert Blair.** “Clear direction from POTUS to continue to hold,” Duffey emailed the Pentagon’s acting comptroller on Aug. 30, [according to Just Security](#). Duffey was formerly executive director of the Republican Party of Wisconsin until he got a patronage job at the Office of Management and Budget. Blair was a top aide to Mulvaney.

**-- Four Republican senators need to join the Democrats to vote for summoning Bolton as a witness.** The quartet seen as most likely to favor testimony are Susan Collins (Maine), Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), Mitt Romney (Utah) and Lamar Alexander (Tenn.). “Romney and Collins have already indicated that they are likely to support hearing from witnesses and getting more evidence, and Romney has also said that he would like to hear from Bolton,” [per Seung Min Kim, Felicia Sonmez and Josh Dawsey](#).

Even if they don’t ultimately vote to hear from Bolton, the allegations in the manuscript will generate a fresh round of pressure on vulnerable GOP incumbents who are facing tough reelection fights, such as Iowa’s Joni Ernst, Colorado’s Cory Gardner and North Carolina’s Thom Tillis.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) reupped his push to call the witnesses “with direct knowledge” of Trump’s actions. “John Bolton has the evidence,” he tweeted. “It’s up to four Senate Republicans to ensure that John Bolton, Mick Mulvaney, and the

others testify.”

**-- A joint statement from the seven House impeachment managers said the “explosive revelation ... confirms what we already know”:** “There can be no doubt now that Mr. Bolton directly contradicts the heart of the President’s defense and therefore must be called as a witness,” the Democratic lawmakers said. “The Senate trial must seek the full truth and Mr. Bolton has vital information to provide. There is no defensible reason to wait until his book is published, when the information he has to offer is critical to the most important decision Senators must now make — whether to convict the President of impeachable offenses.”

**The House managers emphasized that Bolton didn’t testify during their investigation after the White House instructed him not to do so.** “The President knows how devastating his testimony would be, and, according to the report, the White House has had a draft of his manuscript for review,” they wrote. “President Trump’s cover-up must come to an end. Americans know that a fair trial must include both the documents and witnesses blocked by the President — that starts with Mr. Bolton.”

**-- If the Senate votes not to call Bolton, the trial could end with Trump’s acquittal as early as this week.**

Sen. Doug Jones (D), facing a difficult reelection race in Alabama, suggested that the Senate should subpoena the manuscript:

 **Doug Jones** ✓  
@DougJones

The Senate needs to hear from Bolton. The American people deserve to hear from Bolton. If we can't get Bolton let's get a subpoena for the book! #subpoenathebook #ImpartialJustice [twitter.com/nytimes/status...](https://twitter.com/nytimes/status...)

**The New York Times** ✓ @nytimes  
Breaking News: President Trump said he wanted to keep aid to Ukraine frozen until its officials helped him with investigations into Democrats, John Bolton wrote in an unpublished manuscript of a new book [nyti.ms/2vk9mjq](https://nyti.ms/2vk9mjq)

6,289 12:37 AM - Jan 27, 2020

2,417 people are talking about this

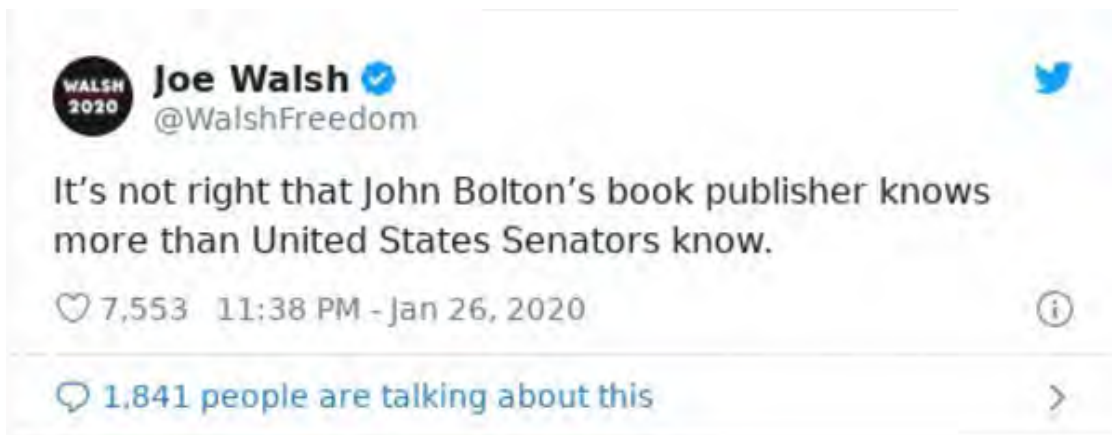
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From a former Republican congressman who is waging a long-shot bid against Trump for the GOP nomination:



A former GOP congressman from Florida, who has been critical of Trump, warned his former colleagues:



The Michigan congressman who left the GOP after endorsing impeachment said the president's excuses for not wanting Bolton to testify don't pass the smell test:



**Justin Amash** ✓  
@justinamash



Try to hold your laughter.

President Trump on why he doesn't want Bolton to testify:

"What happens if he reveals what I think about a certain leader and it's not very positive?"

[twitter.com/nytimes/status...](https://twitter.com/nytimes/status...)

**The New York Times** ✓ @nytimes

Breaking News: President Trump said he wanted to keep aid to Ukraine frozen until its officials helped him with investigations into Democrats, John Bolton wrote in an unpublished manuscript of a new book [nyti.ms/2vk9mjq](https://nyti.ms/2vk9mjq)

♥ 21.8K 11:50 PM - Jan 26, 2020



💬 6,243 people are talking about this



A chorus of Democrats also warned of "a cover-up," including the speaker of the House:





**Nancy Pelosi** ✓  
@SpeakerPelosi



Amb. Bolton reportedly heard directly from Trump that aid for Ukraine was tied to political investigations.

The refusal of the Senate to call for him, other relevant witnesses, and documents is now even more indefensible.

The choice is clear: our Constitution, or a cover-up.  
[twitter.com/maggienny/stat...](https://twitter.com/maggienny/stat...)

**Maggie Haberman** ✓ @maggieNYT

SCOOP: Bolton book draft, circulated to associates and sent to WH for review process, describes a convo w POTUS where he says he doesn't want to release withheld aid till Ukraine turned over material related to investigations @nytmike and me [nytimes.com/2020/01/26/us/...](https://nytimes.com/2020/01/26/us/...)

55.2K 12:14 AM - Jan 27, 2020



22.7K people are talking about this



A Harvard Law professor who held senior legal jobs in the George W. Bush administration said that draft manuscripts like Bolton's are often widely circulated, even though technically they are supposed to be closely held:



**Jack Goldsmith** ✓  
@jackgoldsmith



From personal experience I can attest that, despite 28 CFR 17.18(h), the exec branch often circulates manuscripts submitted for prepub review widely,

including to political officials, & it often asks for deletions for reasons having nothing to do w/ disclosure of classified info. [twitter.com/nytmike/status...](https://twitter.com/nytmike/status...)

**Michael S. Schmidt**  @nytmike

Letter Bolton's lawyer, Chuck Cooper, sent to WH on Dec 30 for pre publication review.



2,028 2:12 AM - Jan 27, 2020



837 people are talking about this



Trump this morning retweeted several attacks on both Bolton and the Times from his loyalists in the conservative media ecosystem:



**Lou Dobbs** ✓

@LouDobbs



Rejected Neocon, Failing NYTimes, Deep State's Last Desperate Act After @POTUS Attorneys Destroy Radical Dems, Schiff and Pelosi Charges: NYTimes says Bolton Book Claims @realDonaldTrump Trump tied Ukraine Aid to Biden Probe [thegatewaypundit.com/2020/01/perfec...](https://thegatewaypundit.com/2020/01/perfec...)  
#MAGA #AmericaFirst



**Perfect Timing: Anonymous Sources Claim Bolton B...**

Several anonymous sources have reportedly told The New York Times that a book manuscript by Ambassador John [thegatewaypundit.com](https://thegatewaypundit.com)

♥ 11.1K 3:27 AM - Jan 27, 2020



💬 6,204 people are talking about this





**Dan Bongino** ✓  
@dbongino



Regarding Bolton:

- 1) Nobody cares
- 2) The aid was delivered
- 3) The Ukrainians aren't victims (just ask them)
- 4) The Democrats' corruption in Ukraine is real
- 5) Nobody cares

♡ 55.8K 2:13 AM - Jan 27, 2020



💬 20K people are talking about this



**Joe Gooding** 100 🇺🇸  
@joegooding



This "Bolton Bombshell" from The NY Times (hardly a reliable source on @POTUS @realDonaldTrump reporting) seems to have dropped at an orchestrated opportunity. Totally manufactured. #NextRevFNC



**NY TIMES: BOLTON'S UNPUBLISHED BOOK SAYS TRUMP TIED UKRAINE AID TO BIDEN & OTHER INVESTIGATIONS**

**FOX NEWS ALERT**

MARICOPA COUNTY IS THE FIFTH U.S. CASE OF CORONAVIRUS FROM CHINA ... CHINESE OFFICIALS SAY

♡ 9,260 2:49 AM - Jan 27, 2020



💬 4,501 people are talking about this



## **MORE ON IMPEACHMENT:**

**-- Former acting ambassador to Ukraine Bill Taylor rebuked Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for [suggesting to NPR](#) that Americans don't care about Ukraine.** From his [op-ed in today's New York Times](#): “Ukraine is defending itself and the West against Russian attack. If Ukraine succeeds, we succeed. The relationship between the United States and Ukraine is key to our national security... Russia is fighting a hybrid war against Ukraine, Europe and the United States. This war has many components: armed military aggression, energy supply, cyber attacks, disinformation and election interference. On each of these battlegrounds, Ukraine is the front line. ... The United States and our allies support Ukraine in this war by providing the Ukrainian armed forces with weapons, training and support. American security assistance to Ukraine regularly receives broad, bipartisan support in Congress; the importance of that assistance to Ukraine — and to U.S. national security — is not at issue. ...

**“The Kremlin is attacking the rules that have guided relations among nations since World War II, rules that kept the peace among major European powers for 70 years. ... Until Russia withdraws from Ukraine — both Donbas and Crimea — and recognizes that Ukraine is an independent, sovereign nation, other nations cannot be secure. Until Russia recommits to a rules-based international order, Western nations are in jeopardy. Ukraine is the front line.”**

**-- Pompeo claimed an NPR host lied when setting up an interview with him, but email records support the journalist’s account of how the exchange came to be. [Paul Farhi reports](#): “The emails ...**

indicate that Pompeo's staff was aware that NPR's Mary Louise Kelly would ask Pompeo about several topics in the interview and raised no objections, contrary to Pompeo's characterization. In an extraordinary statement issued on State Department letterhead on Saturday, Pompeo blasted Kelly for repeatedly asking him why he refused to express support for the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch. Kelly said afterward **Pompeo berated her using profanity and challenged her to locate Ukraine on an unmarked map, which Kelly said she did.** ... Pompeo's statement implied that Kelly had agreed before the interview to confine her questions to developments in Iran and that he would not be asked about other subjects. ... But emails between Kelly and Pompeo's press aide, Katie Martin, a day before the interview show that there was no such agreement and that Kelly made clear her intention to question Pompeo about other topics."



After GOP previews Trump's impeachment defense, lawmakers clash over what's next

-- Trump stepped up his **attacks** against **House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff** on Sunday, tweeting that the lead House manager “has not paid the price, yet, for what he has done to our **Country!**” Schiff (D-Calif.) said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that he believes the post was "intended" as a threat. White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said on Fox News that it was “ridiculous” for Schiff to claim that. “I think he means ... [Schiff] hasn't yet paid the price with the voters,” she said. “I mean, it seems he's having a little bit of a mental issue when you sit on the floor for hours and hours and hours. He's obsessed with this president and trying to take him down.” ([Felicia Sonmez and Elise Viebeck report](#))

-- **House Judiciary Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) disclosed that his wife, Joyce, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last month shortly after his committee voted to send two articles of impeachment to the full House.** “She has undergone surgery and is taking further steps to address the spread of the cancer,” Nadler said in a statement. “On Monday, I will be in New York with her to meet with doctors, determine a path forward, and begin her treatment. I am sorry to miss some of the Senate Impeachment Trial, which is of critical importance to our democracy. I plan to return to Washington late Monday and appreciate the support of my colleagues and staff as I take this time to be with my wife and begin the long fight against her cancer.”

-- **Trump lawyer Alan Dershowitz once said that Trump, now his client, was “destabilizing and unpredictable.”** The quote comes from a 2016 book entitled “Electile Dysfunction.” ([NBC News](#))

-- **Former Republican senator Slade Gorton (Wash.) encouraged senators to honor their oaths by voting to call witnesses the way that he did during Bill Clinton's trial.** "I worry that the Senate is falling short of its responsibility," he writes in [an op-ed for USA Today](#). "Indeed, the impeachment trial has dawned with a series of party line votes, as was the case in the House. To be clear, the Senate is not the House. It's supposed to be an institution where — particularly on issues of process, if not ideology — common ground is identified through careful compromise.... Senators have the chance to affirm what the framers envisioned and — even if it doesn't change anyone's mind — secure all relevant evidence and make an informed decision to defend the Constitution and the republic. ... In any trial, the decision-makers need to hear from witnesses and see the evidence in order to reach the best possible verdict. And they can't hear witnesses who have been blocked or read evidence that has been hidden."

-- **Commentary from The Post's opinion page:**

- [Editorial page editor Fred Hiatt](#): "The White House offers senators a false, and poisonous, choice."
- [Max Boot](#): "Every day that Pompeo stays in office, he makes Tillerson look better by comparison"
- [E.J. Dionne Jr.](#): "Trump's selfishness harms you, too."
- [Dana Milbank](#): "Trump's lawyers are absolutely entitled to their own facts."

-- **Reality check: Many Americans are paying little attention.** [From the AP](#): "Voters in several states said ... they're only casually following the Senate trial, or avoiding it altogether — too busy to pay close



attention, bored of the legal arguments, convinced the outcome is preordained or just plain tired of the whole partisan saga. ... 'I've been watching some really odd stuff just to avoid it,' said Kim Ashford, 50, a court-appointed advocate for foster children from Gilbert, Arizona. 'In my circle, everybody's tired of hearing about it. There's nobody budging. Let's just agree to disagree.' ... The six major networks drew about 11.8 million viewers on the first day of the Senate trial ...

Combined viewership plummeted to fewer than 9 million people on the trial's second day ... By comparison, an estimated 13.8 million people watched the first day of the House impeachment hearings last fall.

Around the time of the House impeachment vote last month, stories about impeachment averaged about 20 million page views each day.

Last week, impeachment stories drew about 15 million page views daily, according to digital advertising and web tracking company Taboola. Google searches on impeachment have also declined since the House vote.”

-- **Spiking the football?** Trump and top White House aides are discussing how he should celebrate his presumed acquittal, [Politico reports](#), including “whether he should deliver a rare Oval Office address to mark the occasion.”



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Bernie Sanders speaks on Sunday to volunteers, alongside Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), at his field office in Ankeny, Iowa. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

## 2020 WATCH:

-- Trump is in a much more competitive position to get reelected than he was last fall, according to a new [Washington Post-ABC News poll](#). "The state of the economy and perceptions of Trump's handling of it pose a challenge for Democratic presidential candidates," Scott Clement and Dan Balz report. "Despite Americans'

concerns that the economic system favors the wealthy, the latest Post-ABC poll finds fewer than half are worried about maintaining their own standard of living ... Just over 10 months until Election Day, **Americans see Trump as a slight favorite for reelection, with 49 percent expecting him to win and 43 percent predicting that his Democratic challenger will prevail.** But those expectations are highly partisan, with 87 percent of Republicans saying they believe Trump will win reelection while a somewhat smaller 78 percent majority of Democrats say they believe their party's nominee will win.

**"The national Post-ABC poll tested Trump in six potential general election matchups and finds that registered voters nationwide are roughly split between supporting the president and backing the Democratic candidates.** Neither Trump nor Democrats hold a statistically significant advantage in any matchup ... given the poll's four-point margin of sampling error among registered voters. ... The close matchups between Trump and Democrats among registered voters represent a contrast with an October Post-ABC poll in which [Joe] Biden, [Bernie] Sanders, [Elizabeth] Warren and [Pete] Buttigieg all held double-digit advantages over the incumbent. ...

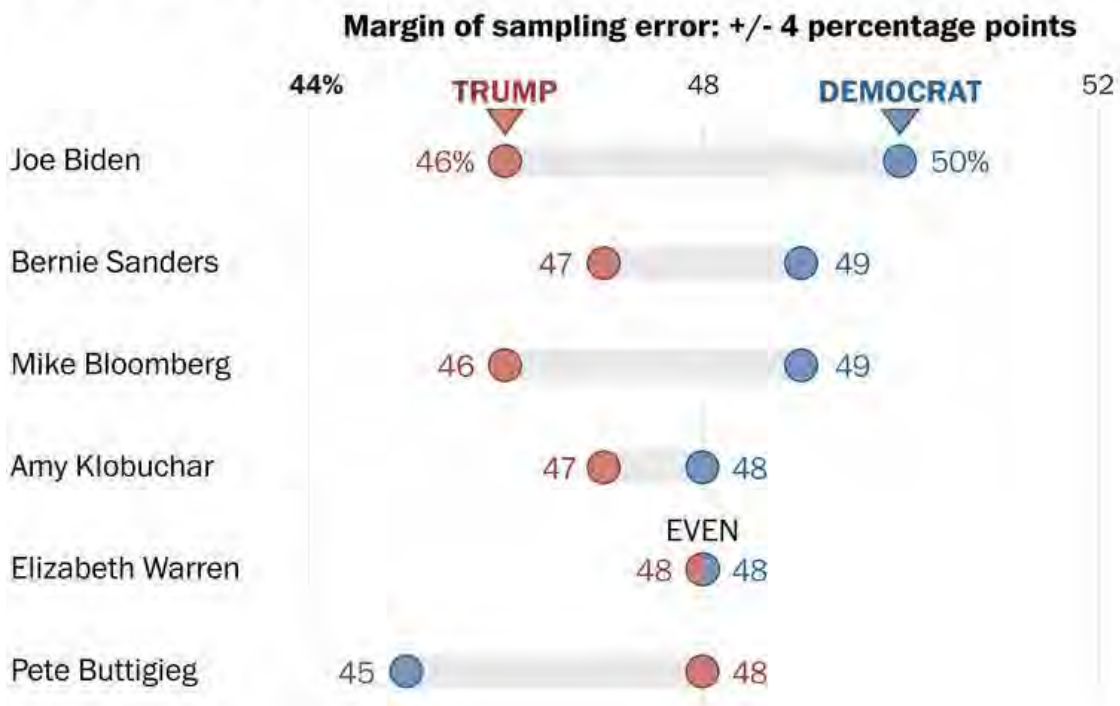
**"The shift coincides with a rise in Trump's approval rating from 38 percent to 44 percent** among the public overall, with 51 percent currently disapproving. ... Trump's improved standing ... owes in part to political independents. Trump receives between 47 percent and 52 percent support among voters in this group depending on his Democratic opponent, an improvement from October when he got between 39 percent and 42 percent support. ... **The Post-ABC poll also finds 56 percent approve of Trump's handling of the**

economy, up 10 percentage points from last fall and the highest rating on this issue of his presidency. The difference of 12 points between Trump's economic approval rating and his overall approval is an indication of how public opinion on other aspects of Trump's performance have been a drag on his popularity."

**POLL** Washington Post-ABC News Poll

**In general election matchups, no clear advantage for Trump or potential Democratic nominees**

Q: If the 2020 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Donald Trump, the Republican and \_\_\_\_\_, the Democrat, for whom would you vote? Would you lean toward Trump or \_\_\_\_\_?



Note: Other/No opinion not shown

Source: Jan. 20-23, 2020, Washington Post-ABC News poll of 880 registered voters with an error margin of +/- 4 percentage points.

THE WASHINGTON POST

-- Sanders is facing a barrage of attacks from his rivals, as polls show him surging in the early states. [Chelsea Janes and Sean Sullivan report](#): "Sanders could be the nominee," the campaign of

Pete Buttigieg declared in an ominous-sounding fundraising message to supporters Saturday. ... The focus on Sanders represents a shift from much of the past year in which the top candidates largely ignored the senator ... Several new public polls have shown Sanders on the rise, particularly in Iowa and New Hampshire, where he appears to have taken the lead. ... Much of the intensifying debate over Sanders over the weekend centered on his ability — or lack thereof — to beat Trump. ... [Amy Klobuchar told] ABC News that Sanders's Medicare-for-all plan puts him out of step with voters in many more moderate or conservative parts of the country that might be open to voting Democratic in November. ... Rep. Cindy Axne (D-Iowa), who offered her high-profile endorsement to Biden on Saturday, said a 'pragmatic' platform is key to fostering victories like hers in down-ballot races ...

**“A more cutting critique came Sunday from another candidate, former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg, who seemed to mock Sanders's political ideology during a South Florida speech to Jewish voters.** 'I know I'm not the only Jewish candidate running for president. But I am the only one who doesn't want to turn America into a kibbutz,' he said, a reference to the socialism shared by Sanders and the Israeli collective farm where Sanders worked decades ago. ... After Sanders was criticized for promoting the endorsement of podcast host Joe Rogan, who has made disrespectful remarks about the transgender community, Biden tweeted Saturday: 'Transgender equality is the civil rights issue of our time. There is no room for compromise when it comes to basic human rights.' ...

**“Sanders has sought to turn the sudden hostility he is facing into a battle cry** that he hopes will energize his base to turn out in large

numbers on caucus night. 'The big-money interests are getting very nervous,' he said, prompting cheers. 'They're looking at recent polls in New Hampshire and in Iowa, and they're saying, 'Oh, my god, Sanders can win.'"

**-- An example of the mounting scrutiny for Sanders: [CNN](#) unearthed a 1994 video of the Vermont liberal offering support for the controversial Biden crime bill, arguing that the country needed "some more jails."** Sanders has recently described the bill as "terrible" and apologized for voting for it, adding that his view at the time was that the bill wasn't perfect but that he viewed it as a major step "in controlling and preventing crime."

**-- Iowans have been through a long and bruising hunt for a candidate to love. [Jenna Johnson](#) beautifully tells the story of one family:** "When Tanya Keith and her teenage daughter Aviva Jotzke learned that their favorite Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, had dropped out of the race a few weeks before the Iowa caucuses, they cried and mourned with fellow supporters. Then they began to assess their options. Over the next seven days, they would attend three campaign events for different candidates, have numerous conversations with each other and friends who had committed to other candidates, and endure what seemed a never-ending weighing and reweighing of what issues and leadership traits matter most to them. ... Their desire to commit early is rare this caucus season. Iowans always feel a special responsibility in kick-starting primary voting, but that sentiment has been heightened this year by the party's determination to defeat [Trump]." The mother and daughter decide at the end of the story to caucus for Warren.

-- It's still fluid: A new poll from [Suffolk University and USA Today](#) shows Biden leading in Iowa with 25 percent, followed by Sanders at 19 percent. Buttigieg is at 18 percent, Warren gets 13 percent and Klobuchar is at 6 percent.

-- **Buttigieg made an electability pitch during a town hall on Fox News last night.** "This network is known for having a lot more conservative viewers, but I don't think you have to be a Democrat to see what is wrong with this president," the former mayor said.  
([Politico](#))

-- **Entrepreneur Andrew Yang qualified for the February debate in New Hampshire after missing out on this month's Des Moines debate.** The [candidate qualified](#) after a CNN-University of New Hampshire poll pegged him at five percent in the Granite State.



Hear from residents inside the sealed-off city off Wuhan, China

**THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

-- Reports of coronavirus infections and deaths are soaring in China, and a fifth case has now been confirmed in the United States. [Gerry Shih, David J. Lynch, Simon Denyer and Brittany Shammas report](#): “The government in Beijing broadened an extraordinary quarantine to more than 50 million people — roughly equal to the population of Spain — enforcing a travel ban on 16 cities in central Hubei province, where the lethal virus first appeared. In the United States, **health officials confirmed three new cases — one in Arizona and two in California** — bringing the total to five. The patients — in Southern California, Chicago, Arizona and Washington state — had traveled from Wuhan, officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. All are hospitalized. As of midafternoon Sunday, **the CDC has been investigating 100 people in 26 states, including the five who were confirmed infected. Of those, 25 people have been tested and are not infected with the virus.** ... Chinese officials, however, say the worst is yet to come. Health Minister Ma Xiaowei said Sunday that the virus is developing the ability to spread more easily, while the vice minister of industry, Wang Jiangping, said demand for medical supplies is overwhelming China's ability to produce them. ...

**“China's national health commission reported that 2,744 people across 30 provinces had been infected as of Sunday. Eighty deaths have been reported, including in major metropolitan areas such as Shanghai.** Several doctors in Beijing, the capital, also reported being infected. Patients also have been confirmed in France, South Korea, Japan, Nepal, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan and Australia. ... The galloping virus, which has crimped travel, shuttered movie theaters and idled factories, will further depress



[economic] growth. ... The virus will also imperil China's ability to meet the targets for additional purchases of U.S. goods contained in the trade deal President Trump signed earlier this month.” (Our graphics team has mapped out the spread of the coronavirus, illustrating why officials are so worried.)

**-- Worries are growing that the quarantine in China won't be enough.** Gerry and Simon report: “Widespread suspicions on Chinese social media that government officials mishandled the early stages of the crisis were fanned dramatically on Monday by an unlikely player: the Wuhan mayor himself. In a remarkable interview with Chinese state broadcaster CCTV, Zhou [Xianwang] acknowledged that his city did not release ‘timely and satisfactory’ information at the start of the epidemic, and he appeared to blame higher-ups in his chain of command. ‘I hope everyone can understand that this is an infectious disease, and infectious diseases must be disclosed according to law,’ he said. ‘We can only disclose information after we receive authorization.’”

**-- China has banned the trade of wild animals until the epidemic is under control, as evidence mounts the disease was transmitted to humans through snake meat sold at a market in Wuhan.** The new restrictions ban the transport and sale of wild animals. Experts believe the country is paying a heavy price after the government failed to learn one of the critical lessons from the SARS epidemic 17 years ago: Diseases can mutate easily and spread to humans in markets where different species of live animals live in close and unhygienic proximity. (Simon and Lyric Li)

**-- Three rockets crashed into the U.S. Embassy compound in**

**Baghdad, wounding one.** [Louisa Loveluck reports](#): “The strike Sunday was the first known direct hit inside the U.S. Embassy’s heavily fortified compound. One missile hit the dining facility, while two others landed close by, officials said. The identity and nationality of the wounded individual was not made public Monday, but U.S. officials ... said that the person had suffered a non-life-threatening injury and that a small fire had been extinguished.”

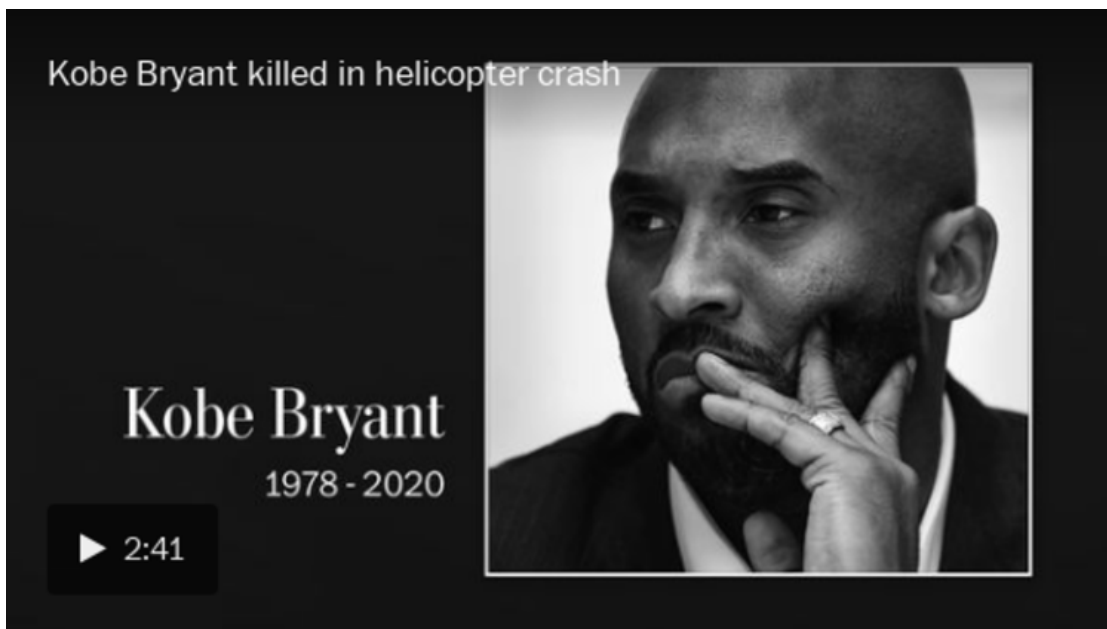
**-- Jared Kushner’s Middle East peace plan will finally be released publicly tomorrow,** [Axios reports](#): The deal’s details have been closely guarded by the president’s son-in-law and his small team, which includes Ambassador to Israel David Friedman. **Palestinian leadership has already preemptively rejected Kushner’s effort and has been left totally out of the loop** after cutting off contact with the administration after Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.

**-- One of Brexit’s biggest impacts may be the end of freedom of movement.** [Karla Adam and William Booth report](#): “For a generation, for more than four decades, Londoners have been able to pack off to Lisbon, Berliners to Birmingham, Mancunians to Milan. No paperwork, no visas, no job offer needed on the other side — just buy a ticket and go. ... But Brexit campaigners pushed the notion that Britain needed to ‘take back control’ of its borders. Europeans, the Brexiteers claimed — looking pointedly at the poorer countries on the eastern edge of the bloc — took British jobs and strained British social services. E.U. citizens will be able to continue to move here freely through the Brexit transition period, until at least December. But afterward, they will need to apply — and will no longer get preference over applicants from

other continents.”

**-- In an attempt to attract one group of foreigners it doesn't want to lose, the U.K. has launched a new visa to lure researchers, mathematicians and scientists. [From Politico](#): “The so-called Global Talent scheme will replace the Tier 1 visa program for ‘exceptional talents’ and is set to go live on February 20. It will not have a cap on the number of applicants allowed in and will enable recognized U.K.-based research projects to recruit talent from abroad without hurdles ... [U]p to 2,500 academics have left Scotland since the Brexit referendum, sparking fears of a post-Brexit brain drain.”**

**-- The Kremlin is struggling to control cyberspace at home, despite it being notorious for global meddling online. [Isabelle Khurshudyan reports](#): “Russia so far has tread relatively carefully in its censorship efforts. Still, Internet-freedom monitors in Russia fear its new ‘sovereign Internet’ law could one day rival Chinese and Iranian online oversight. The London-based rights monitor Freedom House ranked Russia 51st out of 65 countries on its Internet-freedom rating last year. The legislation came into force in November, but it could be a year before the technology is in place. It aims to route Russian Web traffic and data through points controlled by state authorities and to build a national domain name system. This, supporters claim, would give Russia greater control of Internet content and traffic. ... But critics see it as the government’s way of further cracking down on one of the few free sources of information remaining in the country.”**



Kobe Bryant killed in helicopter crash

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

-- The nation was shocked after NBA star Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna were killed in a helicopter crash. The five-time NBA champion and two-time Olympic gold medalist was 41. [Ben Golliver and Miranda Green report](#): The Bryants were “riding in an S-76 helicopter Sunday when it crashed just before 10 a.m. into a hillside near Calabasas, Calif., roughly 30 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The flight manifest listed nine people on board — one pilot and eight passengers — and there were no survivors ... The smooth shooting guard, who patterned his game after Michael Jordan, entered the NBA straight out of high school in 1996. ... By his fourth season, he had teamed with Shaquille O’Neal to win the first of three consecutive championships. ...

“Bryant, who retired as the NBA’s third-all-time leading scorer

**with 33,643 points, was expected to be inducted to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame on the first ballot this summer. ...** Orange Coast College baseball coach John Altobelli; his wife, Keri; and his daughter Alyssa were also passengers on the helicopter ... In retirement, Bryant wrote children's books and produced animated stories, while also pursuing assorted media and business projects with his Gravity Studios. In 2018, he won an Academy Award for best animated short film for 'Dear Basketball,' his love letter to the sport. **Bryant and Gianna shared a love for basketball, with Bryant serving as her coach and occasionally taking her to Lakers games.** Just last month, they sat courtside for the Lakers' victory over the Dallas Mavericks..."

-- **Remembrances flooded the Internet.** Athletes and fans, including politicians and celebrities, struggled to process the tragedy. ([Rick Maese and Cindy Boren](#))

-- **Bryant was a tireless competitor who became a global sports icon,** [writes columnist Kent Babb](#): "The journey had begun on his family's driveway in Philadelphia, where on snowy days Mr. Bryant's mother would ask him to clear the driveway. He would do so just enough to shoot hoops, sometimes putting up hundreds of shots per day as he perfected a form that would become internationally famous."

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** *"We never know when our time here will be over, so we all need to make the most of every minute we have,"* [Kobe wrote in a 2001 piece for Newsweek.](#)



Highlights from the 2020 Grammy Awards

-- **The Grammys celebrated Bryant's life in a touching memorial at the Staples Center, home of the Lakers, as thousands of fans mourned outside.** [Elahe Izadi reports](#): "Host Alicia Keys stepped to the stage and tried to make sense of the moment. 'Here we are, together, on music's biggest night, celebrating the artists that do it best,' she said. 'But to be honest with you, we're all feeling crazy sadness right now because earlier today, Los Angeles, America, and the whole wide world lost a hero and we're literally standing here heartbroken in the house that Kobe Bryant built.'"

-- **Billie Eilish picked up the top four awards at the show, which was saturated with tension over the ouster of Recording Academy chief executive Deborah Dugan.** [Chris Richards reports](#): "Dugan was dismissed from her post just 10 days before Sunday night's national telecast on CBS. Then, five days after her removal, Dugan filed a discrimination complaint with the Equal Employment

Opportunity Commission — one that includes accusations of sexual misconduct by the Academy’s former chairman and current general counsel Joel Katz, as well as claims of a rigged voting process that Dugan said had been poisoned by a boys-club atmosphere. (Katz has denied the allegations.) But Sunday’s show somehow went on — slowly and exhaustingly, for nearly four hours, without anyone mentioning the elephant in the room. Instead, the big surprise was Eilish’s dramatic sweep in the top four categories. The 18-year-old pop prodigy won album of the year for her intimate and innovative debut ... song and record of the year for her sauntering hit ‘Bad Guy’; and best new artist. In the final moments of the show, Eilish’s acceptance speech for record of the year was simply a bewildered, ‘Bye!’ ”

**-- Trump’s longtime spiritual adviser Paula White called for “all satanic pregnancies to miscarry” during a sermon that has gone viral. [Derek Hawkins and Angela Fritz report](#): “We declare that anything that’s been conceived in satanic wombs, that it will miscarry, it will not be able to carry forth any plan of destruction, any plan of harm,’ White said before an auditorium of congregants. ... White’s words are largely being interpreted literally — that she wishes for evil women to have miscarriages — but **she shared a rare response to the criticism in which she explained that she was speaking in metaphor**, praying for evil plans to be foiled in her congregants’ lives.”**

**-- The New Orleans Saints football organization asked a court to conceal from the public hundreds of emails that allegedly show team executives helping do damage control for the area’s**

**Catholic archdiocese to contain the fallout from a sexual abuse crisis.** Attorneys for about two dozen men suing the church claim that 276 documents obtained during discovery show that the NFL team advised the Archdiocese of New Orleans on “messaging” to downplay revelations of abuse. (AP)

**-- A site known for anti-Semitic remarks – including a claim by its founder that impeachment is a “Jew coup” – received press credentials to cover Trump's trip to Davos.** [From the Times](#): “Five employees of TruNews, which is based in Florida, received formal credentials from the White House to cover the president’s trip, [Rick] Wiles said in an interview last week from his hotel room in Switzerland — a room in a ski lodge reserved by the Trump administration for traveling members of the American press. (Like other media organizations, TruNews paid for its flights and lodging.) ... Mr. Wiles’s ability to secure credentials after his anti-Semitic remarks — which prompted a formal rebuke from two members of Congress — has left civil rights groups deeply troubled. ... TruNews was not granted special access to the president in Davos, nor did its members travel on Air Force One. But one of Mr. Wiles’s colleagues, Edward Szall, asked a question of the president’s daughter Ivanka Trump during a news conference.”

**-- Amazon employees launched a mass defiance of the company’s communications policy in support of colleagues who were warned they would be fired if they criticized the company’s climate policies.** [Jay Greene reports](#): “Amazon Employees for Climate Justice, a group of workers concerned about the company’s business with the oil and gas industry as well as its carbon footprint,

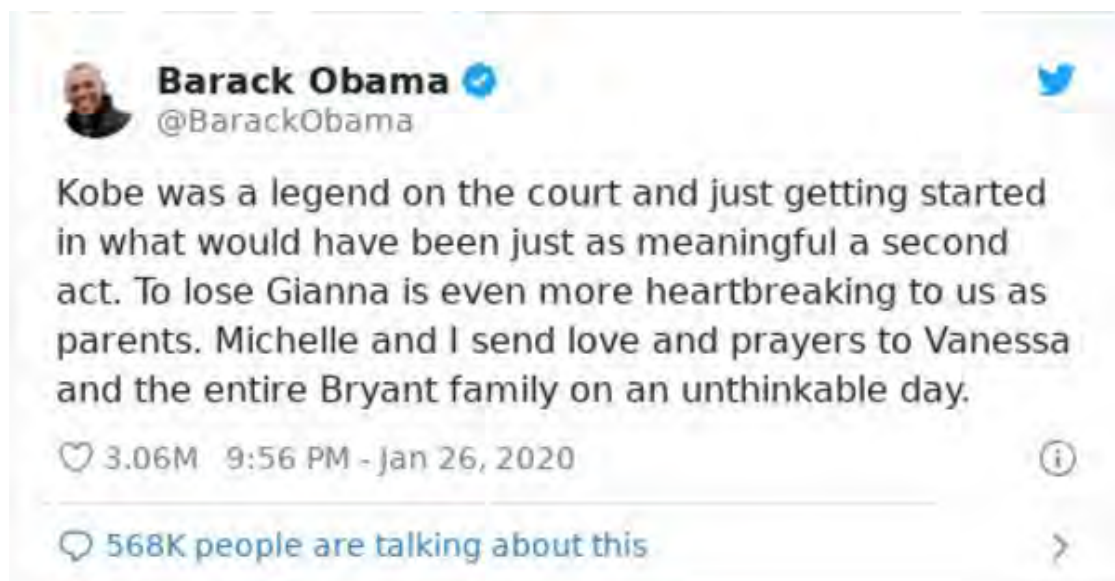


published quotes from 357 workers in [a post on Medium](#). The comments, all of which are attributed to Amazon workers by name, are a mass defiance of company rules that bar workers from commenting publicly on its business without corporate justification and approval from executives. (Amazon founder and chief executive Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post.)”

-- **Michelle Obama can now add “Grammy winner” to her long list of achievements.** The former first lady took home the trophy for the Best Spoken Word Album category last night for her audiobook recording of her memoir “Becoming.” ([Entertainment Weekly](#))

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Many took to Twitter to mourn Kobe Bryant:





**Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** ✓

@kaj33



Most people will remember Kobe as the magnificent athlete who inspired a whole generation of basketball players. But I will always remember him as a man who was much more than an athlete.



♥ 366K 9:22 PM - Jan 26, 2020



💬 84.9K people are talking about this





How it's playing in Kobe's adopted hometown:



The legend's last tweet led to reflection, including from the wife of a college basketball coach:



Seven other people died alongside the Bryants, including a mother, father and daughter from Orange County:



**Geoff Bennett** ✓  
@GeoffRBennett



Lift up this family, too. [twitter.com/complex/status...](https://twitter.com/complex/status...)

**Complex** ✓ @Complex

Orange County baseball coach John Altobelli, his daughter Alyssa and wife Keri died in helicopter crash along with Kobe Bryant.

More: [cmplx.co/oZYu7KV](https://cmplx.co/oZYu7KV)



♡ 165K 12:51 AM - Jan 27, 2020



💬 37.1K people are talking about this



Schiff expressed support for Jerry Nadler:



**Adam Schiff** ✓  
@RepAdamSchiff



There is nothing more important than family. Thinking of my friend and colleague @RepJerryNadler and his wife during this difficult time. His leadership has been crucial.

Jerry, we're keeping you and Joyce in our prayers as we continue our important work together.

[twitter.com/repjerryadler...](https://twitter.com/repjerryadler...)

**(((Rep. Nadler)))** ✓ @RepJerryNadler

Read my statement on missing part of the Senate Impeachment Trial on Monday because of a family health matter:

Washington, D.C. - Today, House Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), one of the designated House Managers for the Senate Impeachment Trial of President Trump, issued the following statement:

"In December, following the House Judiciary Committee markup of the Articles of Impeachment against President Donald J. Trump, my wife was admitted to the hospital where she was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer. She has undergone surgery and is taking further steps to address the spread of the cancer. On Monday, I will be in New York with her to meet with doctors, determine a path forward, and begin her treatment. I am sorry to miss some of the Senate Impeachment Trial, which is of critical importance to our democracy. I plan to return to Washington late Monday and appreciate the support of my colleagues and staff as I take this time to be with my wife and begin the long fight against her cancer."

\*\*\*

♥ 54.5K 1:34 AM - Jan 27, 2020



💬 10.3K people are talking about this



Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), who is retiring, will cast the first vote on witnesses later this week:



Louise Linton, the wife of the Treasury secretary, posted and then deleted a picture on Instagram in which she sided with Greta Thunberg over her own husband:



**Olivia Nuzzi**

@Olivianuzzi



🇺🇸 Louise Linton comes out against her own husband, Steve Mnuchin, to side with Greta Thunberg 🇺🇸

Earlier this week, Mnuchin said Thunberg could explain climate change, "after she goes and studies economics in college."



**louiselinton**



**55 likes**

🤍 9,937 9:13 PM - Jan 25, 2020

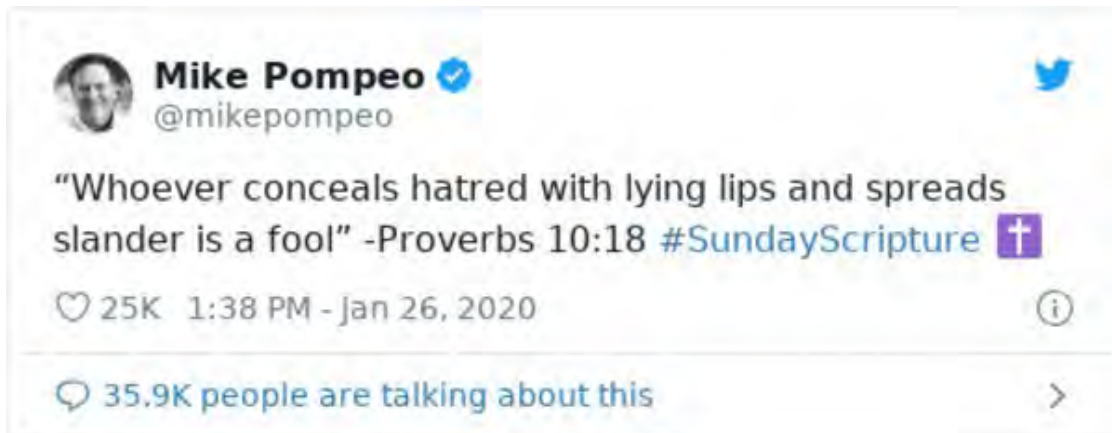


💬 2,469 people are talking about this





And the secretary of state used scripture to send a thinly veiled message to his critics:



### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Kobe recalled the first time he saw his Team USA uniform in this tear-jerking interview from 2008:



**Nick Zaccardi**

@nzaccardi



A moment from NBC's coverage of the 2008 Olympics that I will always remember. Kobe Bryant telling Cris Collinsworth about the first time he received his USA uniform.



♡ 2,572 8:43 PM - Jan 26, 2020



💬 947 people are talking about this



A video of Bryant and his daughter Gigi breaking down an NBA game went viral:



**neontaster**  
@neontaster



This video is all over the place and I just realized that he's explaining something to her and she finishes the sentence for him. When she starts speaking, they are mouth the same words. You can tell he's impressed.



♡ 31.8K 3:02 AM - Jan 27, 2020



💬 4,345 people are talking about this



In case you missed it, "Satan" interviewed "Trump's attorney Alan Dershowitz," played by Jon Lovitz, for the cold open of

"Saturday Night Live":



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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: John Bolton's book undercuts the Trump defense team's claims that there are no firsthand witnesses  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2020 7:58:39 AM

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

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**John Bolton's book undercuts the Trump defense team's claims that there are no firsthand witnesses**



Trump's impeachment defense details 6 pieces of evidence they say exonerate the president



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: Revelations about former national security adviser John Bolton's forthcoming memoir have shattered a central argument advanced by President Trump's defense lawyers during his impeachment trial.**

"Not a single witness testified that the president himself said that there was any connection between any investigations and security assistance, a presidential meeting or anything else," deputy White House counsel Michael Purpura told senators on Saturday.

"There was no firsthand witnesses that actually said the president did anything wrong," Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.) repeated Sunday morning [on Fox News](#).

Then [the New York Times reported](#) Sunday night that Bolton discloses – in a manuscript submitted to the White House last month for a classification review – that Trump told him directly last August that he wanted to continue freezing \$391 million in security assistance to Ukraine until officials there helped with investigations into Democrats, including Joe and Hunter Biden.

This erodes Trump's insistence that there was never a quid pro quo, but it also adds to the body of evidence, including documents and sworn testimony, that the president was directly involved in the alleged scheme to coerce an ally, under attack from Russia, to announce an investigation of a leading 2020 challenger in exchange for delivering support that had been approved by Congress. Bolton aides testified during the House hearings that the then-national security adviser had referred to what was being cooked up vis-a-vis Ukraine as a "drug deal" that he didn't want any part of. Bolton directed deputies such as Fiona Hill to raise their concerns with White House lawyers.

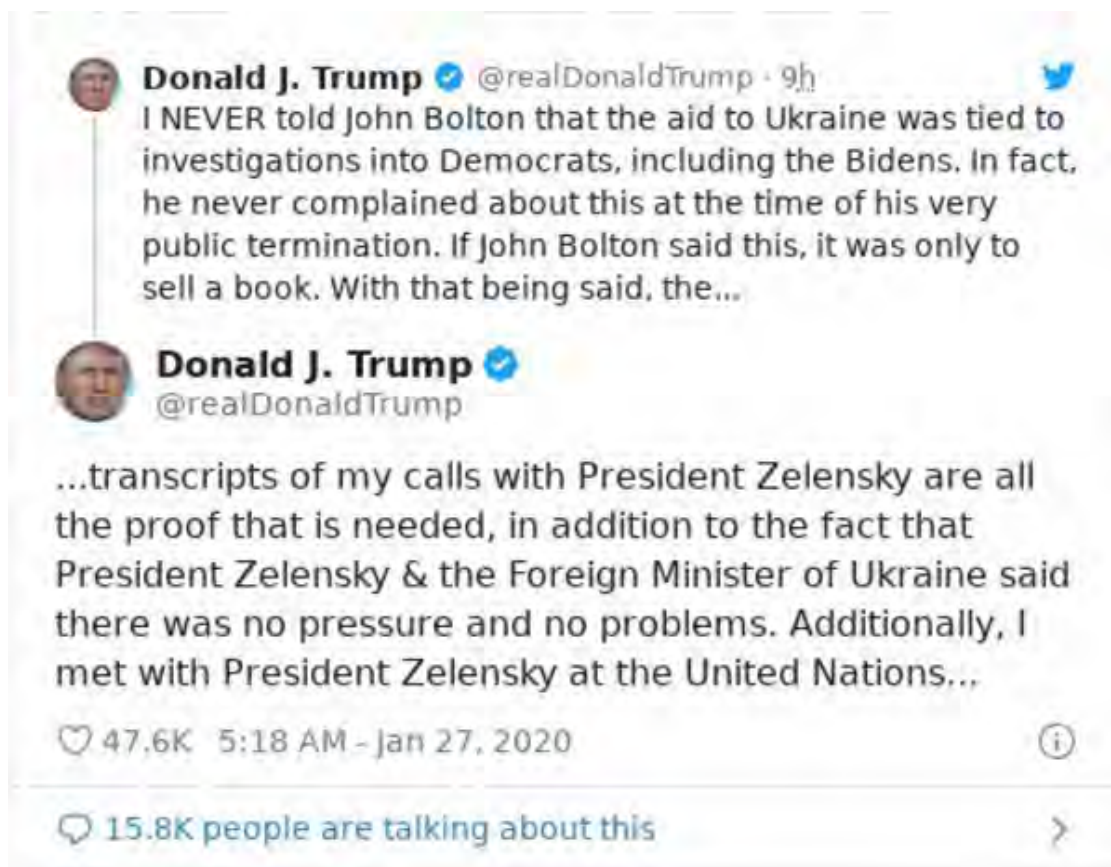
**-- Over dozens of pages in his draft, Bolton reportedly offers new details that implicate senior administration officials who have refused to testify as having firsthand knowledge.** For example, Bolton writes that **acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney was present for at least one phone call where the president and his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani discussed then-Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch.** "Mr. Mulvaney has told associates he would always step away when the president spoke with his lawyer to protect their attorney-client privilege," Maggie Haberman and Michael Schmidt report.

According to their story, **Bolton also says that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo acknowledged to him privately that there was no basis to Giuliani's claims that Yovanovitch was corrupt.** He also allegedly believed Giuliani may have been acting on behalf of other clients. "Mr. Bolton also said that after the president's July phone call with the president of Ukraine, **he raised with Attorney General William P. Barr his concerns about Mr. Giuliani,** who was pursuing a shadow Ukraine policy encouraged by the president, and told Mr. Barr that the president had mentioned him on the call," per the Times. "A spokeswoman for Mr. Barr denied that he learned of the call from Mr. Bolton."

-- Two people familiar with the manuscript **confirm to The Washington Post** that Bolton details how Trump tied Ukraine aid to the desire for Biden probes and that he recounts conversations with other senior officials.

-- Trump denied Bolton's allegations on Twitter this morning:





This is another moment when it would be politically advantageous if the president had not [squandered his credibility with a flood of falsehoods](#). Trump made 16,241 demonstrably false or misleading claims during his first three years as president, our Fact Checker team [tabulated last week](#).

**-- These revelations have injected a jolt of unpredictability into an otherwise scripted trial.** Bolton has said that he would testify if subpoenaed by the Senate. In conversations last night, senior Senate Republican aides told me that Bolton testifying would increase pressure for Mulvaney and others to answer questions. They worry that additional testimony might further undercut the absolutist insistence of Trump's defense team that "the president did absolutely nothing wrong," as White House Counsel Pat Cipollone told senators on Saturday. A vote to call Bolton would also ratchet up pressure from

Trump's allies to subpoena Hunter Biden, which could drag the process out.



Mulvaney confirms Ukraine quid pro quo

-- Notably, Trump's defense lawyers never mentioned Mulvaney during their opening day of arguments on Saturday. The Democratic House managers last week played the footage from October of Mulvaney in the White House briefing room. The acting chief of staff admitted that Trump had "absolutely" mentioned to him

concerns about “the corruption related to the DNC server.”

“And that's why we held up the money,” Mulvaney said.

“What you just described is a quid pro quo,” a reporter replied.

“We do that all the time with foreign policy,” Mulvaney responded.

He later issued a statement [trying](#) to walk this back, but he’s refused to answer any subsequent questions or participate in the congressional inquiries.

**-- The White House could still attempt to delay the publication of Bolton’s book, scheduled for March 17, or block some of its contents by claiming that they’re classified.** Bolton’s memoir will be entitled “[The Room Where It Happened](#),” an apparent play on the song from “Hamilton,” and the cover art puts those words inside an oval, an apparent reference to the Oval Office. The 528-page book, which became [available for preorder](#) on Amazon last night, covers all 519 days that Bolton served as national security adviser.

**-- Complicating attacks from the Trump team: They can call him disgruntled, but Bolton is no squish.** The 71-year-old hawk held senior national security jobs under Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush before Trump brought him into the White House. A graduate of Yale Law School, he’s been known for decades as a skilled bureaucratic knife fighter.

**-- The president’s allies quickly complained about the timing of the disclosure, but Bolton’s lawyer and spokeswoman contend that someone in the White House leaked to the Times, not anyone in their camp.**

-- **The White House has had a copy of Bolton's draft manuscript since Dec. 30.** Bolton's lawyer Charles Cooper shared a cover letter that he sent to the National Security Council's records management division that day for a standard review process, including a request that it not be shared widely. "It is clear, regrettably, from The New York Times article published today that the prepublication review process has been corrupted and that information has been disclosed by persons other than those properly involved in reviewing the manuscript," Cooper said in a statement. Bolton spokeswoman Sarah Tinsley added: "The ambassador has not passed the draft manuscript to anyone else. Period."

Bolstering their arguments, the Times story cites two sources saying that **the submission of the manuscript to the White House "intensified concerns among some of [Trump's] advisers that they needed to block Mr. Bolton from testifying."**



John Bolton watches President Trump meet with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban in the Oval Office last May. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

**-- Democrats have been demanding four witnesses. In addition to Bolton and Mulvaney, they want to call Michael Duffey and Robert Blair.** “Clear direction from POTUS to continue to hold,” Duffey emailed the Pentagon’s acting comptroller on Aug. 30, [according to Just Security](#). Duffey was formerly executive director of the Republican Party of Wisconsin until he got a patronage job at the Office of Management and Budget. Blair was a top aide to Mulvaney.

**-- Four Republican senators need to join the Democrats to vote for summoning Bolton as a witness.** The quartet seen as most likely to favor testimony are Susan Collins (Maine), Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), Mitt Romney (Utah) and Lamar Alexander (Tenn.). “Romney and Collins have already indicated that they are likely to support hearing from witnesses and getting more evidence, and Romney has also said that he would like to hear from Bolton,” [per Seung Min Kim, Felicia Sonmez and Josh Dawsey](#).

Even if they don’t ultimately vote to hear from Bolton, the allegations in the manuscript will generate a fresh round of pressure on vulnerable GOP incumbents who are facing tough reelection fights, such as Iowa’s Joni Ernst, Colorado’s Cory Gardner and North Carolina’s Thom Tillis.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) reupped his push to call the witnesses “with direct knowledge” of Trump’s actions. “John Bolton has the evidence,” he tweeted. “It’s up to four Senate Republicans to ensure that John Bolton, Mick Mulvaney, and the

others testify.”

**-- A joint statement from the seven House impeachment managers said the “explosive revelation ... confirms what we already know”:** “There can be no doubt now that Mr. Bolton directly contradicts the heart of the President’s defense and therefore must be called as a witness,” the Democratic lawmakers said. “The Senate trial must seek the full truth and Mr. Bolton has vital information to provide. There is no defensible reason to wait until his book is published, when the information he has to offer is critical to the most important decision Senators must now make — whether to convict the President of impeachable offenses.”

**The House managers emphasized that Bolton didn’t testify during their investigation after the White House instructed him not to do so.** “The President knows how devastating his testimony would be, and, according to the report, the White House has had a draft of his manuscript for review,” they wrote. “President Trump’s cover-up must come to an end. Americans know that a fair trial must include both the documents and witnesses blocked by the President — that starts with Mr. Bolton.”

**-- If the Senate votes not to call Bolton, the trial could end with Trump’s acquittal as early as this week.**

Sen. Doug Jones (D), facing a difficult reelection race in Alabama, suggested that the Senate should subpoena the manuscript:

 **Doug Jones** ✓  
@DougJones

The Senate needs to hear from Bolton. The American people deserve to hear from Bolton. If we can't get Bolton let's get a subpoena for the book! #subpoenathebook #ImpartialJustice [twitter.com/nytimes/status...](https://twitter.com/nytimes/status...)

**The New York Times** ✓ @nytimes  
Breaking News: President Trump said he wanted to keep aid to Ukraine frozen until its officials helped him with investigations into Democrats, John Bolton wrote in an unpublished manuscript of a new book [nyti.ms/2vk9mjq](https://nyti.ms/2vk9mjq)

6,289 12:37 AM - Jan 27, 2020

2,417 people are talking about this

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From a former Republican congressman who is waging a long-shot bid against Trump for the GOP nomination:



A former GOP congressman from Florida, who has been critical of Trump, warned his former colleagues:



The Michigan congressman who left the GOP after endorsing impeachment said the president's excuses for not wanting Bolton to testify don't pass the smell test:





**Justin Amash** ✓  
@justinamash



Try to hold your laughter.

President Trump on why he doesn't want Bolton to testify:

"What happens if he reveals what I think about a certain leader and it's not very positive?"

[twitter.com/nytimes/status...](https://twitter.com/nytimes/status...)

**The New York Times** ✓ @nytimes

Breaking News: President Trump said he wanted to keep aid to Ukraine frozen until its officials helped him with investigations into Democrats, John Bolton wrote in an unpublished manuscript of a new book [nyti.ms/2vk9mjq](https://nyti.ms/2vk9mjq)

♥ 21.8K 11:50 PM - Jan 26, 2020



💬 6,243 people are talking about this



A chorus of Democrats also warned of "a cover-up," including the speaker of the House:



**Nancy Pelosi** ✓  
@SpeakerPelosi



Amb. Bolton reportedly heard directly from Trump that aid for Ukraine was tied to political investigations.

The refusal of the Senate to call for him, other relevant witnesses, and documents is now even more indefensible.

The choice is clear: our Constitution, or a cover-up.  
[twitter.com/maggienny/stat...](https://twitter.com/maggienny/stat...)

**Maggie Haberman** ✓ @maggieNYT

SCOOP: Bolton book draft, circulated to associates and sent to WH for review process, describes a convo w POTUS where he says he doesn't want to release withheld aid till Ukraine turned over material related to investigations @nytmike and me [nytimes.com/2020/01/26/us/...](https://nytimes.com/2020/01/26/us/...)

♥ 55.2K 12:14 AM - Jan 27, 2020



💬 22.7K people are talking about this



A Harvard Law professor who held senior legal jobs in the George W. Bush administration said that draft manuscripts like Bolton's are often widely circulated, even though technically they are supposed to be closely held:



**Jack Goldsmith** ✓  
@jackgoldsmith



From personal experience I can attest that, despite 28 CFR 17.18(h), the exec branch often circulates manuscripts submitted for prepub review widely,

including to political officials, & it often asks for deletions for reasons having nothing to do w/ disclosure of classified info. [twitter.com/nytmike/status...](https://twitter.com/nytmike/status...)

**Michael S. Schmidt**  @nytmike

Letter Bolton's lawyer, Chuck Cooper, sent to WH on Dec 30 for pre publication review.



Trump this morning retweeted several attacks on both Bolton and the Times from his loyalists in the conservative media ecosystem:



**Lou Dobbs** ✓

@LouDobbs



Rejected Neocon, Failing NYTimes, Deep State's Last Desperate Act After @POTUS Attorneys Destroy Radical Dems, Schiff and Pelosi Charges: NYTimes says Bolton Book Claims @realDonaldTrump Trump tied Ukraine Aid to Biden Probe [thegatewaypundit.com/2020/01/perfec...](https://thegatewaypundit.com/2020/01/perfec...)  
#MAGA #AmericaFirst



**Perfect Timing: Anonymous Sources Claim Bolton B...**

Several anonymous sources have reportedly told The New York Times that a book manuscript by Ambassador John [thegatewaypundit.com](https://thegatewaypundit.com)

♥ 11.1K 3:27 AM - Jan 27, 2020



💬 6,204 people are talking about this





**Dan Bongino** ✓  
@dbongino



Regarding Bolton:

- 1) Nobody cares
- 2) The aid was delivered
- 3) The Ukrainians aren't victims (just ask them)
- 4) The Democrats' corruption in Ukraine is real
- 5) Nobody cares

♡ 55.8K 2:13 AM - Jan 27, 2020



💬 20K people are talking about this



**Joe Gooding** 100 🇺🇸  
@joegooding



This "Bolton Bombshell" from The NY Times (hardly a reliable source on @POTUS @realDonaldTrump reporting) seems to have dropped at an orchestrated opportunity. Totally manufactured. #NextRevFNC



**NY TIMES: BOLTON'S UNPUBLISHED BOOK SAYS TRUMP TIED UKRAINE AID TO BIDEN & OTHER INVESTIGATIONS**

**FOX NEWS ALERT**

MARICOPA COUNTY IS THE FIFTH U.S. CASE OF CORONAVIRUS FROM CHINA ... CHINESE OFFICIALS SAY

♡ 9,260 2:49 AM - Jan 27, 2020



💬 4,501 people are talking about this



## **MORE ON IMPEACHMENT:**

**-- Former acting ambassador to Ukraine Bill Taylor rebuked Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for [suggesting to NPR](#) that Americans don't care about Ukraine.** From his [op-ed in today's New York Times](#): “Ukraine is defending itself and the West against Russian attack. If Ukraine succeeds, we succeed. The relationship between the United States and Ukraine is key to our national security... Russia is fighting a hybrid war against Ukraine, Europe and the United States. This war has many components: armed military aggression, energy supply, cyber attacks, disinformation and election interference. On each of these battlegrounds, Ukraine is the front line. ... The United States and our allies support Ukraine in this war by providing the Ukrainian armed forces with weapons, training and support. American security assistance to Ukraine regularly receives broad, bipartisan support in Congress; the importance of that assistance to Ukraine — and to U.S. national security — is not at issue. ...

**“The Kremlin is attacking the rules that have guided relations among nations since World War II, rules that kept the peace among major European powers for 70 years. ... Until Russia withdraws from Ukraine — both Donbas and Crimea — and recognizes that Ukraine is an independent, sovereign nation, other nations cannot be secure. Until Russia recommits to a rules-based international order, Western nations are in jeopardy. Ukraine is the front line.”**

**-- Pompeo claimed an NPR host lied when setting up an interview with him, but email records support the journalist’s account of how the exchange came to be. [Paul Farhi reports](#): “The emails ...**

indicate that Pompeo's staff was aware that NPR's Mary Louise Kelly would ask Pompeo about several topics in the interview and raised no objections, contrary to Pompeo's characterization. In an extraordinary statement issued on State Department letterhead on Saturday, Pompeo blasted Kelly for repeatedly asking him why he refused to express support for the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch. Kelly said afterward **Pompeo berated her using profanity and challenged her to locate Ukraine on an unmarked map, which Kelly said she did.** ... Pompeo's statement implied that Kelly had agreed before the interview to confine her questions to developments in Iran and that he would not be asked about other subjects. ... But emails between Kelly and Pompeo's press aide, Katie Martin, a day before the interview show that there was no such agreement and that Kelly made clear her intention to question Pompeo about other topics."



After GOP previews Trump's impeachment defense, lawmakers clash over what's next

-- Trump stepped up his **attacks** against **House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff** on Sunday, tweeting that the lead House manager “has not paid the price, yet, for what he has done to our **Country!**” Schiff (D-Calif.) said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that he believes the post was "intended" as a threat. White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said on Fox News that it was “ridiculous” for Schiff to claim that. “I think he means ... [Schiff] hasn't yet paid the price with the voters,” she said. “I mean, it seems he's having a little bit of a mental issue when you sit on the floor for hours and hours and hours. He's obsessed with this president and trying to take him down.” ([Felicia Sonmez and Elise Viebeck report](#))

-- **House Judiciary Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) disclosed that his wife, Joyce, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last month shortly after his committee voted to send two articles of impeachment to the full House.** “She has undergone surgery and is taking further steps to address the spread of the cancer,” Nadler said in a statement. “On Monday, I will be in New York with her to meet with doctors, determine a path forward, and begin her treatment. I am sorry to miss some of the Senate Impeachment Trial, which is of critical importance to our democracy. I plan to return to Washington late Monday and appreciate the support of my colleagues and staff as I take this time to be with my wife and begin the long fight against her cancer.”

-- **Trump lawyer Alan Dershowitz once said that Trump, now his client, was “destabilizing and unpredictable.”** The quote comes from a 2016 book entitled “Electile Dysfunction.” ([NBC News](#))



-- **Former Republican senator Slade Gorton (Wash.) encouraged senators to honor their oaths by voting to call witnesses the way that he did during Bill Clinton's trial.** "I worry that the Senate is falling short of its responsibility," he writes in [an op-ed for USA Today](#). "Indeed, the impeachment trial has dawned with a series of party line votes, as was the case in the House. To be clear, the Senate is not the House. It's supposed to be an institution where — particularly on issues of process, if not ideology — common ground is identified through careful compromise.... Senators have the chance to affirm what the framers envisioned and — even if it doesn't change anyone's mind — secure all relevant evidence and make an informed decision to defend the Constitution and the republic. ... In any trial, the decision-makers need to hear from witnesses and see the evidence in order to reach the best possible verdict. And they can't hear witnesses who have been blocked or read evidence that has been hidden."

-- **Commentary from The Post's opinion page:**

- [Editorial page editor Fred Hiatt](#): "The White House offers senators a false, and poisonous, choice."
- [Max Boot](#): "Every day that Pompeo stays in office, he makes Tillerson look better by comparison"
- [E.J. Dionne Jr.](#): "Trump's selfishness harms you, too."
- [Dana Milbank](#): "Trump's lawyers are absolutely entitled to their own facts."

-- **Reality check: Many Americans are paying little attention.** [From the AP](#): "Voters in several states said ... they're only casually following the Senate trial, or avoiding it altogether — too busy to pay close

attention, bored of the legal arguments, convinced the outcome is preordained or just plain tired of the whole partisan saga. ... 'I've been watching some really odd stuff just to avoid it,' said Kim Ashford, 50, a court-appointed advocate for foster children from Gilbert, Arizona. 'In my circle, everybody's tired of hearing about it. There's nobody budging. Let's just agree to disagree.' ... The six major networks drew about 11.8 million viewers on the first day of the Senate trial ...

Combined viewership plummeted to fewer than 9 million people on the trial's second day ... By comparison, an estimated 13.8 million people watched the first day of the House impeachment hearings last fall.

Around the time of the House impeachment vote last month, stories about impeachment averaged about 20 million page views each day.

Last week, impeachment stories drew about 15 million page views daily, according to digital advertising and web tracking company Taboola. Google searches on impeachment have also declined since the House vote.”

-- **Spiking the football?** Trump and top White House aides are discussing how he should celebrate his presumed acquittal, [Politico reports](#), including “whether he should deliver a rare Oval Office address to mark the occasion.”



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Bernie Sanders speaks on Sunday to volunteers, alongside Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), at his field office in Ankeny, Iowa. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

## 2020 WATCH:

-- Trump is in a much more competitive position to get reelected than he was last fall, according to a new [Washington Post-ABC News poll](#). "The state of the economy and perceptions of Trump's handling of it pose a challenge for Democratic presidential candidates," Scott Clement and Dan Balz report. "Despite Americans'

concerns that the economic system favors the wealthy, the latest Post-ABC poll finds fewer than half are worried about maintaining their own standard of living ... Just over 10 months until Election Day, **Americans see Trump as a slight favorite for reelection, with 49 percent expecting him to win and 43 percent predicting that his Democratic challenger will prevail.** But those expectations are highly partisan, with 87 percent of Republicans saying they believe Trump will win reelection while a somewhat smaller 78 percent majority of Democrats say they believe their party's nominee will win.

**"The national Post-ABC poll tested Trump in six potential general election matchups and finds that registered voters nationwide are roughly split between supporting the president and backing the Democratic candidates.** Neither Trump nor Democrats hold a statistically significant advantage in any matchup ... given the poll's four-point margin of sampling error among registered voters. ... The close matchups between Trump and Democrats among registered voters represent a contrast with an October Post-ABC poll in which [Joe] Biden, [Bernie] Sanders, [Elizabeth] Warren and [Pete] Buttigieg all held double-digit advantages over the incumbent. ...

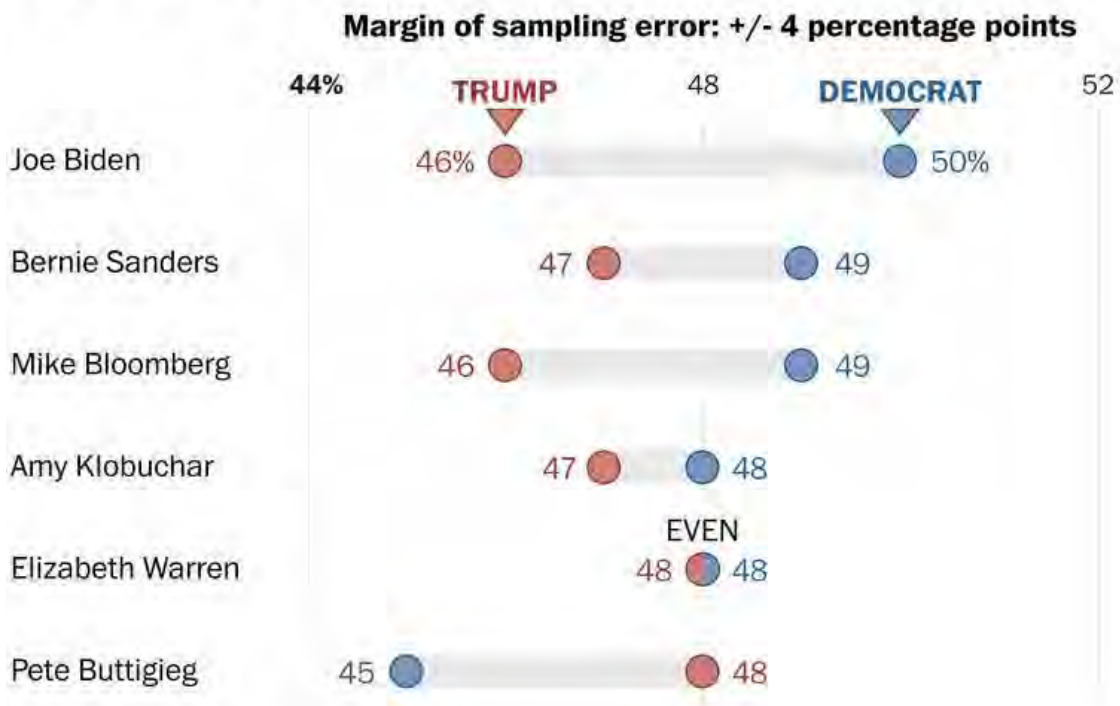
**"The shift coincides with a rise in Trump's approval rating from 38 percent to 44 percent** among the public overall, with 51 percent currently disapproving. ... Trump's improved standing ... owes in part to political independents. Trump receives between 47 percent and 52 percent support among voters in this group depending on his Democratic opponent, an improvement from October when he got between 39 percent and 42 percent support. ... **The Post-ABC poll also finds 56 percent approve of Trump's handling of the**

economy, up 10 percentage points from last fall and the highest rating on this issue of his presidency. The difference of 12 points between Trump's economic approval rating and his overall approval is an indication of how public opinion on other aspects of Trump's performance have been a drag on his popularity."

**POLL** Washington Post-ABC News Poll

**In general election matchups, no clear advantage for Trump or potential Democratic nominees**

Q: If the 2020 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Donald Trump, the Republican and \_\_\_\_\_, the Democrat, for whom would you vote? Would you lean toward Trump or \_\_\_\_\_?



Note: Other/No opinion not shown

Source: Jan. 20-23, 2020, Washington Post-ABC News poll of 880 registered voters with an error margin of +/- 4 percentage points.

THE WASHINGTON POST

-- Sanders is facing a barrage of attacks from his rivals, as polls show him surging in the early states. [Chelsea Janes and Sean Sullivan report](#): "Sanders could be the nominee," the campaign of

Pete Buttigieg declared in an ominous-sounding fundraising message to supporters Saturday. ... The focus on Sanders represents a shift from much of the past year in which the top candidates largely ignored the senator ... Several new public polls have shown Sanders on the rise, particularly in Iowa and New Hampshire, where he appears to have taken the lead. ... Much of the intensifying debate over Sanders over the weekend centered on his ability — or lack thereof — to beat Trump. ... [Amy Klobuchar told] ABC News that Sanders's Medicare-for-all plan puts him out of step with voters in many more moderate or conservative parts of the country that might be open to voting Democratic in November. ... Rep. Cindy Axne (D-Iowa), who offered her high-profile endorsement to Biden on Saturday, said a 'pragmatic' platform is key to fostering victories like hers in down-ballot races ...

**“A more cutting critique came Sunday from another candidate, former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg, who seemed to mock Sanders's political ideology during a South Florida speech to Jewish voters.** 'I know I'm not the only Jewish candidate running for president. But I am the only one who doesn't want to turn America into a kibbutz,' he said, a reference to the socialism shared by Sanders and the Israeli collective farm where Sanders worked decades ago. ... After Sanders was criticized for promoting the endorsement of podcast host Joe Rogan, who has made disrespectful remarks about the transgender community, Biden tweeted Saturday: 'Transgender equality is the civil rights issue of our time. There is no room for compromise when it comes to basic human rights.' ...

**“Sanders has sought to turn the sudden hostility he is facing into a battle cry** that he hopes will energize his base to turn out in large

numbers on caucus night. 'The big-money interests are getting very nervous,' he said, prompting cheers. 'They're looking at recent polls in New Hampshire and in Iowa, and they're saying, 'Oh, my god, Sanders can win.'"

**-- An example of the mounting scrutiny for Sanders: [CNN](#) unearthed a 1994 video of the Vermont liberal offering support for the controversial Biden crime bill, arguing that the country needed "some more jails."** Sanders has recently described the bill as "terrible" and apologized for voting for it, adding that his view at the time was that the bill wasn't perfect but that he viewed it as a major step "in controlling and preventing crime."

**-- Iowans have been through a long and bruising hunt for a candidate to love. [Jenna Johnson](#) beautifully tells the story of one family:** "When Tanya Keith and her teenage daughter Aviva Jotzke learned that their favorite Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, had dropped out of the race a few weeks before the Iowa caucuses, they cried and mourned with fellow supporters. Then they began to assess their options. Over the next seven days, they would attend three campaign events for different candidates, have numerous conversations with each other and friends who had committed to other candidates, and endure what seemed a never-ending weighing and reweighing of what issues and leadership traits matter most to them. ... Their desire to commit early is rare this caucus season. Iowans always feel a special responsibility in kick-starting primary voting, but that sentiment has been heightened this year by the party's determination to defeat [Trump]." The mother and daughter decide at the end of the story to caucus for Warren.

-- It's still fluid: A new poll from [Suffolk University and USA Today](#) shows Biden leading in Iowa with 25 percent, followed by Sanders at 19 percent. Buttigieg is at 18 percent, Warren gets 13 percent and Klobuchar is at 6 percent.

-- Buttigieg made an electability pitch during a town hall on Fox News last night. "This network is known for having a lot more conservative viewers, but I don't think you have to be a Democrat to see what is wrong with this president," the former mayor said.  
([Politico](#))

-- Entrepreneur Andrew Yang qualified for the February debate in New Hampshire after missing out on this month's Des Moines debate. The [candidate qualified](#) after a CNN-University of New Hampshire poll pegged him at five percent in the Granite State.



Hear from residents inside the sealed-off city off Wuhan, China

**THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**



-- **Reports of coronavirus infections and deaths are soaring in China, and a fifth case has now been confirmed in the United States.** [Gerry Shih, David J. Lynch, Simon Denyer and Brittany Shammas report:](#) “The government in Beijing broadened an extraordinary quarantine to more than 50 million people — roughly equal to the population of Spain — enforcing a travel ban on 16 cities in central Hubei province, where the lethal virus first appeared. In the United States, **health officials confirmed three new cases — one in Arizona and two in California** — bringing the total to five. The patients — in Southern California, Chicago, Arizona and Washington state — had traveled from Wuhan, officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. All are hospitalized. As of midafternoon Sunday, **the CDC has been investigating 100 people in 26 states, including the five who were confirmed infected. Of those, 25 people have been tested and are not infected with the virus.** ... Chinese officials, however, say the worst is yet to come. Health Minister Ma Xiaowei said Sunday that the virus is developing the ability to spread more easily, while the vice minister of industry, Wang Jiangping, said demand for medical supplies is overwhelming China's ability to produce them. ...

**“China's national health commission reported that 2,744 people across 30 provinces had been infected as of Sunday. Eighty deaths have been reported, including in major metropolitan areas such as Shanghai.** Several doctors in Beijing, the capital, also reported being infected. Patients also have been confirmed in France, South Korea, Japan, Nepal, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan and Australia. ... The galloping virus, which has crimped travel, shuttered movie theaters and idled factories, will further depress

[economic] growth. ... The virus will also imperil China's ability to meet the targets for additional purchases of U.S. goods contained in the trade deal President Trump signed earlier this month.” (Our graphics team has mapped out the spread of the coronavirus, illustrating why officials are so worried.)

**-- Worries are growing that the quarantine in China won't be enough.** Gerry and Simon report: “Widespread suspicions on Chinese social media that government officials mishandled the early stages of the crisis were fanned dramatically on Monday by an unlikely player: the Wuhan mayor himself. In a remarkable interview with Chinese state broadcaster CCTV, Zhou [Xianwang] acknowledged that his city did not release ‘timely and satisfactory’ information at the start of the epidemic, and he appeared to blame higher-ups in his chain of command. ‘I hope everyone can understand that this is an infectious disease, and infectious diseases must be disclosed according to law,’ he said. ‘We can only disclose information after we receive authorization.’”

**-- China has banned the trade of wild animals until the epidemic is under control, as evidence mounts the disease was transmitted to humans through snake meat sold at a market in Wuhan.** The new restrictions ban the transport and sale of wild animals. Experts believe the country is paying a heavy price after the government failed to learn one of the critical lessons from the SARS epidemic 17 years ago: Diseases can mutate easily and spread to humans in markets where different species of live animals live in close and unhygienic proximity. (Simon and Lyric Li)

**-- Three rockets crashed into the U.S. Embassy compound in**

**Baghdad, wounding one.** [Louisa Loveluck reports](#): “The strike Sunday was the first known direct hit inside the U.S. Embassy’s heavily fortified compound. One missile hit the dining facility, while two others landed close by, officials said. The identity and nationality of the wounded individual was not made public Monday, but U.S. officials ... said that the person had suffered a non-life-threatening injury and that a small fire had been extinguished.”

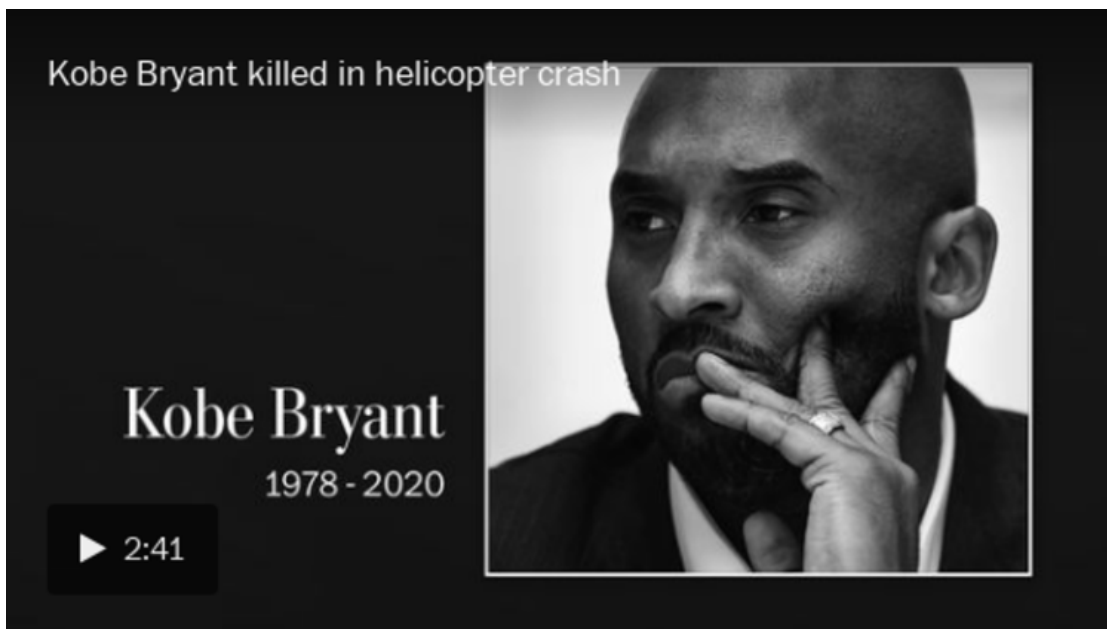
**-- Jared Kushner’s Middle East peace plan will finally be released publicly tomorrow,** [Axios reports](#): The deal’s details have been closely guarded by the president’s son-in-law and his small team, which includes Ambassador to Israel David Friedman. **Palestinian leadership has already preemptively rejected Kushner’s effort and has been left totally out of the loop** after cutting off contact with the administration after Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.

**-- One of Brexit’s biggest impacts may be the end of freedom of movement.** [Karla Adam and William Booth report](#): “For a generation, for more than four decades, Londoners have been able to pack off to Lisbon, Berliners to Birmingham, Mancunians to Milan. No paperwork, no visas, no job offer needed on the other side — just buy a ticket and go. ... But Brexit campaigners pushed the notion that Britain needed to ‘take back control’ of its borders. Europeans, the Brexiteers claimed — looking pointedly at the poorer countries on the eastern edge of the bloc — took British jobs and strained British social services. E.U. citizens will be able to continue to move here freely through the Brexit transition period, until at least December. But afterward, they will need to apply — and will no longer get preference over applicants from

other continents.”

**-- In an attempt to attract one group of foreigners it doesn't want to lose, the U.K. has launched a new visa to lure researchers, mathematicians and scientists. [From Politico](#): “The so-called Global Talent scheme will replace the Tier 1 visa program for ‘exceptional talents’ and is set to go live on February 20. It will not have a cap on the number of applicants allowed in and will enable recognized U.K.-based research projects to recruit talent from abroad without hurdles ... [U]p to 2,500 academics have left Scotland since the Brexit referendum, sparking fears of a post-Brexit brain drain.”**

**-- The Kremlin is struggling to control cyberspace at home, despite it being notorious for global meddling online. [Isabelle Khurshudyan reports](#): “Russia so far has tread relatively carefully in its censorship efforts. Still, Internet-freedom monitors in Russia fear its new ‘sovereign Internet’ law could one day rival Chinese and Iranian online oversight. The London-based rights monitor Freedom House ranked Russia 51st out of 65 countries on its Internet-freedom rating last year. The legislation came into force in November, but it could be a year before the technology is in place. It aims to route Russian Web traffic and data through points controlled by state authorities and to build a national domain name system. This, supporters claim, would give Russia greater control of Internet content and traffic. ... But critics see it as the government’s way of further cracking down on one of the few free sources of information remaining in the country.”**



Kobe Bryant killed in helicopter crash

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

-- The nation was shocked after NBA star Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna were killed in a helicopter crash. The five-time NBA champion and two-time Olympic gold medalist was 41. [Ben Golliver and Miranda Green report](#): The Bryants were “riding in an S-76 helicopter Sunday when it crashed just before 10 a.m. into a hillside near Calabasas, Calif., roughly 30 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The flight manifest listed nine people on board — one pilot and eight passengers — and there were no survivors ... The smooth shooting guard, who patterned his game after Michael Jordan, entered the NBA straight out of high school in 1996. ... By his fourth season, he had teamed with Shaquille O’Neal to win the first of three consecutive championships. ...

“Bryant, who retired as the NBA’s third-all-time leading scorer

**with 33,643 points, was expected to be inducted to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame on the first ballot this summer. ...** Orange Coast College baseball coach John Altobelli; his wife, Keri; and his daughter Alyssa were also passengers on the helicopter ... In retirement, Bryant wrote children's books and produced animated stories, while also pursuing assorted media and business projects with his Gravity Studios. In 2018, he won an Academy Award for best animated short film for 'Dear Basketball,' his love letter to the sport. **Bryant and Gianna shared a love for basketball, with Bryant serving as her coach and occasionally taking her to Lakers games.** Just last month, they sat courtside for the Lakers' victory over the Dallas Mavericks..."

-- **Remembrances flooded the Internet.** Athletes and fans, including politicians and celebrities, struggled to process the tragedy. ([Rick Maese and Cindy Boren](#))

-- **Bryant was a tireless competitor who became a global sports icon,** [writes columnist Kent Babb](#): "The journey had begun on his family's driveway in Philadelphia, where on snowy days Mr. Bryant's mother would ask him to clear the driveway. He would do so just enough to shoot hoops, sometimes putting up hundreds of shots per day as he perfected a form that would become internationally famous."

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** *"We never know when our time here will be over, so we all need to make the most of every minute we have,"* [Kobe wrote in a 2001 piece for Newsweek.](#)



Highlights from the 2020 Grammy Awards

-- **The Grammys celebrated Bryant's life in a touching memorial at the Staples Center, home of the Lakers, as thousands of fans mourned outside.** [Elahe Izadi reports](#): "Host Alicia Keys stepped to the stage and tried to make sense of the moment. 'Here we are, together, on music's biggest night, celebrating the artists that do it best,' she said. 'But to be honest with you, we're all feeling crazy sadness right now because earlier today, Los Angeles, America, and the whole wide world lost a hero and we're literally standing here heartbroken in the house that Kobe Bryant built.'"

-- **Billie Eilish picked up the top four awards at the show, which was saturated with tension over the ouster of Recording Academy chief executive Deborah Dugan.** [Chris Richards reports](#): "Dugan was dismissed from her post just 10 days before Sunday night's national telecast on CBS. Then, five days after her removal, Dugan filed a discrimination complaint with the Equal Employment

Opportunity Commission — one that includes accusations of sexual misconduct by the Academy’s former chairman and current general counsel Joel Katz, as well as claims of a rigged voting process that Dugan said had been poisoned by a boys-club atmosphere. (Katz has denied the allegations.) But Sunday’s show somehow went on — slowly and exhaustingly, for nearly four hours, without anyone mentioning the elephant in the room. Instead, the big surprise was Eilish’s dramatic sweep in the top four categories. The 18-year-old pop prodigy won album of the year for her intimate and innovative debut ... song and record of the year for her sauntering hit ‘Bad Guy’; and best new artist. In the final moments of the show, Eilish’s acceptance speech for record of the year was simply a bewildered, ‘Bye!’ ”

**-- Trump’s longtime spiritual adviser Paula White called for “all satanic pregnancies to miscarry” during a sermon that has gone viral. [Derek Hawkins and Angela Fritz report](#): “We declare that anything that’s been conceived in satanic wombs, that it will miscarry, it will not be able to carry forth any plan of destruction, any plan of harm,’ White said before an auditorium of congregants. ... White’s words are largely being interpreted literally — that she wishes for evil women to have miscarriages — but **she shared a rare response to the criticism in which she explained that she was speaking in metaphor**, praying for evil plans to be foiled in her congregants’ lives.”**

**-- The New Orleans Saints football organization asked a court to conceal from the public hundreds of emails that allegedly show team executives helping do damage control for the area’s**



**Catholic archdiocese to contain the fallout from a sexual abuse crisis.** Attorneys for about two dozen men suing the church claim that 276 documents obtained during discovery show that the NFL team advised the Archdiocese of New Orleans on “messaging” to downplay revelations of abuse. (AP)

**-- A site known for anti-Semitic remarks – including a claim by its founder that impeachment is a “Jew coup” – received press credentials to cover Trump's trip to Davos.** [From the Times](#): “Five employees of TruNews, which is based in Florida, received formal credentials from the White House to cover the president’s trip, [Rick] Wiles said in an interview last week from his hotel room in Switzerland — a room in a ski lodge reserved by the Trump administration for traveling members of the American press. (Like other media organizations, TruNews paid for its flights and lodging.) ... Mr. Wiles’s ability to secure credentials after his anti-Semitic remarks — which prompted a formal rebuke from two members of Congress — has left civil rights groups deeply troubled. ... TruNews was not granted special access to the president in Davos, nor did its members travel on Air Force One. But one of Mr. Wiles’s colleagues, Edward Szall, asked a question of the president’s daughter Ivanka Trump during a news conference.”

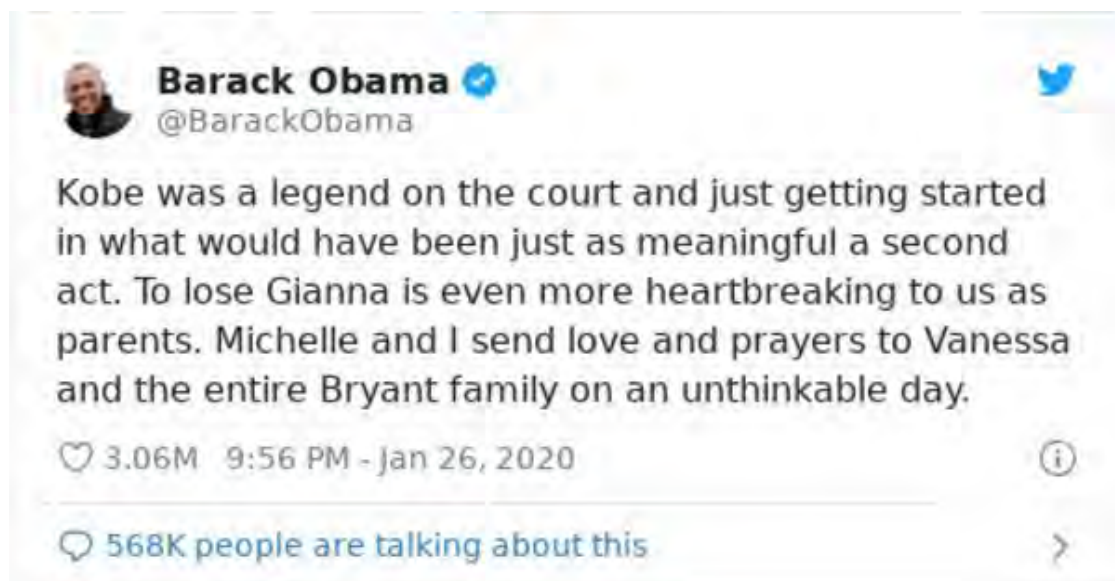
**-- Amazon employees launched a mass defiance of the company’s communications policy in support of colleagues who were warned they would be fired if they criticized the company’s climate policies.** [Jay Greene reports](#): “Amazon Employees for Climate Justice, a group of workers concerned about the company’s business with the oil and gas industry as well as its carbon footprint,

published quotes from 357 workers in [a post on Medium](#). The comments, all of which are attributed to Amazon workers by name, are a mass defiance of company rules that bar workers from commenting publicly on its business without corporate justification and approval from executives. (Amazon founder and chief executive Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post.)”

-- **Michelle Obama can now add “Grammy winner” to her long list of achievements.** The former first lady took home the trophy for the Best Spoken Word Album category last night for her audiobook recording of her memoir “Becoming.” ([Entertainment Weekly](#))

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Many took to Twitter to mourn Kobe Bryant:





**Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** ✓

@kaj33



Most people will remember Kobe as the magnificent athlete who inspired a whole generation of basketball players. But I will always remember him as a man who was much more than an athlete.



♥ 366K 9:22 PM - Jan 26, 2020



💬 84.9K people are talking about this





How it's playing in Kobe's adopted hometown:



The legend's last tweet led to reflection, including from the wife of a college basketball coach:



Seven other people died alongside the Bryants, including a mother, father and daughter from Orange County:



**Geoff Bennett** ✓  
@GeoffRBennett



Lift up this family, too. [twitter.com/complex/status...](https://twitter.com/complex/status...)

**Complex** ✓ @Complex

Orange County baseball coach John Altobelli, his daughter Alyssa and wife Keri died in helicopter crash along with Kobe Bryant.

More: [cmplx.co/oZYu7KV](https://cmplx.co/oZYu7KV)



♡ 165K 12:51 AM - Jan 27, 2020



💬 37.1K people are talking about this



Schiff expressed support for Jerry Nadler:



**Adam Schiff** ✓  
@RepAdamSchiff



There is nothing more important than family. Thinking of my friend and colleague @RepJerryNadler and his wife during this difficult time. His leadership has been crucial.

Jerry, we're keeping you and Joyce in our prayers as we continue our important work together.

[twitter.com/repjerryadler...](https://twitter.com/repjerryadler...)

**(((Rep. Nadler)))** ✓ @RepJerryNadler

Read my statement on missing part of the Senate Impeachment Trial on Monday because of a family health matter:

Washington, D.C. - Today, House Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), one of the designated House Managers for the Senate Impeachment Trial of President Trump, issued the following statement:

"In December, following the House Judiciary Committee markup of the Articles of Impeachment against President Donald J. Trump, my wife was admitted to the hospital where she was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer. She has undergone surgery and is taking further steps to address the spread of the cancer. On Monday, I will be in New York with her to meet with doctors, determine a path forward, and begin her treatment. I am sorry to miss some of the Senate Impeachment Trial, which is of critical importance to our democracy. I plan to return to Washington late Monday and appreciate the support of my colleagues and staff as I take this time to be with my wife and begin the long fight against her cancer."

\*\*\*

♥ 54.5K 1:34 AM - Jan 27, 2020



💬 10.3K people are talking about this



Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), who is retiring, will cast the first vote on witnesses later this week:



Louise Linton, the wife of the Treasury secretary, posted and then deleted a picture on Instagram in which she sided with Greta Thunberg over her own husband:





**Olivia Nuzzi**

@Olivianuzzi



🇺🇸 Louise Linton comes out against her own husband, Steve Mnuchin, to side with Greta Thunberg 🇺🇸

Earlier this week, Mnuchin said Thunberg could explain climate change, "after she goes and studies economics in college."



**louiselinton**



**55 likes**

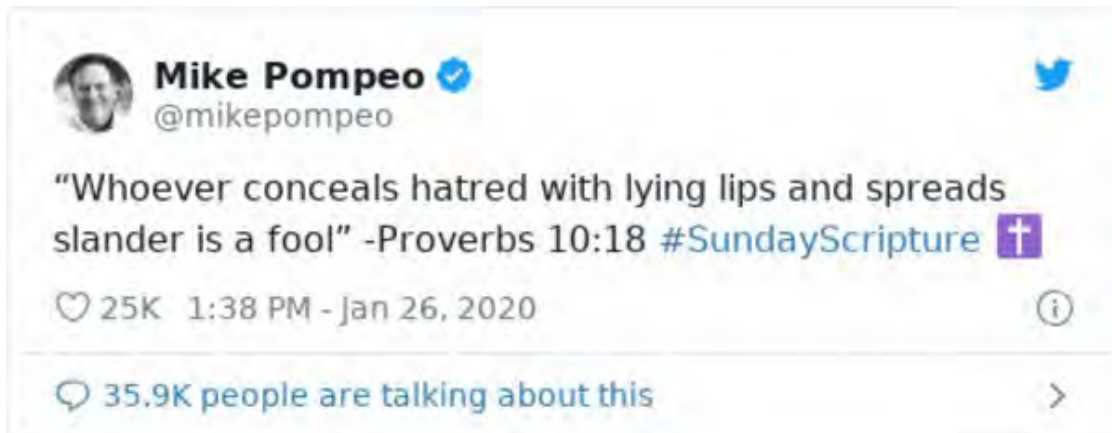
🤍 9,937 9:13 PM - Jan 25, 2020



💬 2,469 people are talking about this



And the secretary of state used scripture to send a thinly veiled message to his critics:



### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Kobe recalled the first time he saw his Team USA uniform in this tear-jerking interview from 2008:



**Nick Zaccardi**

@nzaccardi



A moment from NBC's coverage of the 2008 Olympics that I will always remember. Kobe Bryant telling Cris Collinsworth about the first time he received his USA uniform.



♡ 2,572 8:43 PM - Jan 26, 2020



💬 947 people are talking about this



A video of Bryant and his daughter Gigi breaking down an NBA game went viral:



**neontaster**  
@neontaster



This video is all over the place and I just realized that he's explaining something to her and she finishes the sentence for him. When she starts speaking, they are mouth the same words. You can tell he's impressed.



♡ 31.8K 3:02 AM - Jan 27, 2020



💬 4,345 people are talking about this



In case you missed it, "Satan" interviewed "Trump's attorney Alan Dershowitz," played by Jon Lovitz, for the cold open of

"Saturday Night Live":



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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Morning Mix: A tech company gave doctors free software — rigged to encourage them to prescribe opioids, prosecutors say  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 5:31:16 AM



**2020**  
THE CLIMATE  
FROM **The Washington Post**

**Inside the politics of climate change**  
This daily newsletter from reporter **Maxine Joselow** is a must-read for environmental decisionmakers, energy executives and the climate-curious alike.

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**The Washington Post**

# Morning Mix

Stories from all over.



NOxycodone pain pills prescribed for a patient with chronic pain lie on display.

## A tech company gave doctors free software — rigged to encourage them to prescribe opioids, prosecutors say

Practice Fusion accepted \$1 million in kickbacks from a major opioid manufacturer in exchange for boosting their sales, according to court documents filed Monday.

By Antonia Farzan • [Read more »](#)

## A GOP lawmaker, the son of an Auschwitz survivor, compared doctors treating transgender children to Nazis. He regrets it.



Deutsch told The Washington Post late Monday that he did not intend to equate those crimes with the medical practices that would be affected by South Dakota House Bill 1057.

By Katie Shepherd • [Read more »](#)

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## ‘Vile man’: Mother of viral meme star orders Rep. Steve King to stop using her

## son's image in campaign ad

Laney Griner, who's son is the popular meme "Success Kid," sent a cease-and-desist letter to King and his campaign Monday.

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## A cooler in the water led investigators to an alleged 'serial' baby-killer, now charged in five deaths over 9 years

Police say Paul Allen Perez killed five infants between 1992 and 2001, going entirely undetected until a fisherman's grim discovery put investigators on his trail.

By Meagan Flynn • [Read more »](#)



## John Altobelli, coach killed with family and Bryant in helicopter crash, was 'Kobe of the junior college baseball world'

A celebrated sports figure in his own right, the longtime baseball coach of the Orange County College Pirates had





grown close to Kobe Bryant as their daughters played basketball together.

By Teo Armus • [Read more »](#)

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Five reasons Trump is poised to get acquitted — but Watergate brought down Nixon  
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# The Daily 202

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**Five reasons Trump is poised to get acquitted — but Watergate brought down Nixon**



Ken Starr says 'impeachment is hell'



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: Ken Starr said Monday that “the rank criminality of the Nixon administration” necessitated the 37th president’s impeachment.**

Speaking on the Senate floor in his capacity as President Trump’s defense lawyer, Starr held up the proceedings against Richard Nixon – not the Bill Clinton impeachment he’ll always be remembered for – as the gold standard.

He contrasted the House’s 410-to-4 vote authorizing a formal impeachment inquiry against Nixon in 1974 with the fact that no Republican lawmakers supported the Trump impeachment inquiry in October or his impeachment in December. Starr quoted Peter Rodino, the Democratic chairman of the House Judiciary Committee back

then, saying that impeachment must be bipartisan to be accepted by the American people.

Trump's emissary added that the article of impeachment charging Nixon with abuse of power laid out "a deeply troubling story of numerous crimes – not one, not two, *numerous* crimes – carried out at the direction of the president himself." In contrast, Starr said, the article of impeachment charging Trump with abuse of power does not accuse him of breaking any specific statutes. Nixon resigned before the full House could impeach him, so he never faced a Senate trial.

"Importantly, President Nixon's own party was slowly but inexorably moving toward favoring the removal of their chosen leader from the nation's highest office – who had just won reelection by a landslide," Starr told the senators in a 54-minute presentation. "It bears emphasis: This was the first presidential impeachment in over 100 years. It also bears emphasis: It was powerfully bipartisan.

"Like war, impeachment is hell," he continued. "Those of us who lived through the Clinton impeachment, including members of this body, full well understand that a presidential impeachment is tantamount to domestic war. ... But it's filled with acrimony and it divides the country like nothing else. ... I respectfully submit that the Senate should close this chapter, this idiosyncratic chapter, on this increasingly disruptive act."

Democrats have hoped this process would become a Watergate redux. Lead House impeachment manager Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) has wondered aloud why GOP lawmakers aren't turning on the president. "Where," he's asked, "is Howard Baker?" Reacting to news about

John Bolton's book manuscript, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) declared yesterday that this trial is unfolding "a little bit" like Watergate. "Every few days, there's another revelation and another revelation and another revelation, and the case gets stronger and stronger," he said yesterday afternoon during a break.

Thanks partly to the influence of longtime confidants like Roger Stone – who literally has a Nixon tattoo – Trump historically has appeared to [identify more with Nixon](#) than other Republican presidents, [including Ronald Reagan](#) and both Bushes. After all, Trump paid to run full-page ads in The Washington Post attacking Reagan's foreign policy in 1987.

But even the president's strongest critics in the Capitol, who argue that his alleged abuses are more egregious than Nixon's, concede privately that Trump will almost certainly be acquitted in a matter of days or weeks. I talked to several historians and veterans of that era, from the White House and Congress, about some of the differences. In addition to what Starr said, here are five other key differences between then and now:



Nixon and Trump. (AP and Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

### **1) Nixon didn't have Fox News.**

“Nixon never would have been forced to resign if you existed in your current state back in 1972, '73, '74,” Fox News personality Geraldo Rivera [told](#) Fox News host Sean Hannity in 2018 amid Bob Mueller’s probe. “It’s too bad for Nixon because nobody like you existed then. I say that because I believe that our prime responsibility now is to unshackle the 45th president of the United States.”

It’s a worthwhile counterfactual to consider, especially as Fox’s morning show and prime-time hosts stayed almost unflappably loyal no matter how bad the news. The late Roger Ailes, who founded Fox News, was Nixon’s media consultant and created the channel as an alternative to the mainstream media that he felt had been too harsh on Nixon.

“There are other cultural and social factors, but our current media landscape is one of the key differences between the Nixon era and today,” said New York University’s [Michael Koncewicz](#), the author of [“They Said No to Nixon: Republicans Who Stood Up to the President’s Abuses of Power.”](#)

“Nixon always told his advisers that they needed to build a ‘new establishment,’ and that included media,” Koncewicz explained. “For many Nixon loyalists, the lesson of Watergate was that they didn’t have the media on their side. Conservative media has played a crucial role in making sure that politicians and voters are loyal to Trump.”

Last night alone brought several fresh illustrations of just how much air cover Fox News provides for Trump, even after the kind of development that might have doomed previous presidents. For a moment, try to imagine the fallout if a former national security adviser in any previous White House wrote a book accusing the sitting president of linking military aid with investigations of his political challenger.

At the top of his show, Hannity [declared](#) that Trump’s defense team had obliterated the case against the president. “The Democrats’ pathetic case is getting blown to pieces,” he said. “They should be embarrassed. ... It’s time to put this to an end. It’s a charade.”

Then House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) came on and [told Hannity](#) that no witnesses need to be called because the July 25 rough transcript totally vindicates Trump.

During his show, Tucker Carlson [likened](#) Bolton to a snake for his

“betrayal” of the president. “Will John Bolton testify? Who knows? Either way, it won't change the outcome: Trump will be acquitted,” Carlson reassured his viewers. “It's a totally stupid sideshow. We'll be embarrassed about it later.”

House Intelligence Committee ranking Republican Devin Nunes [told](#) Laura Ingraham that the National Security Council staff should be “quarantined across the Potomac” until damaging leaks for the president stop.

Lara Trump, the president's daughter-in-law, [told](#) Martha McCallum earlier in the evening that Democrats impeached Trump because of his economic success.

“The Five” co-host Greg Gutfeld [claimed](#) with a straight face that Bolton's book “vindicates Trump” because it shows he cares about corruption. “It's nothing,” Gutfeld said of the latest bombshell.

It's like this every day. There are several very serious journalists at the network, especially Chris Wallace, but they occasionally find themselves [at loggerheads](#) with pundits.

Koncewicz, who previously worked for the National Archives at the Nixon presidential library, pointed to some of the modern conservative media figures, including at Fox, who have defended Nixon, including Carlson. “There's definitely a split,” he said on Monday after watching Starr eviscerate Nixon. “Some are willing to throw him under the bus, but others view him as a martyr for the cause. I think a part of the conservative movement believed that Watergate was a political hit job against a president who won a landslide victory in 1972. That part of the movement has been emboldened by the similarities between



Nixon and Trump.”

## **2) Nixon didn't have an economy this strong.**

Ken Khachigian was a deputy special assistant to Nixon in the White House from 1970 until the end, and he stayed loyal to help the former president write his memoirs. When I asked if Nixon might have survived with Fox News, Khachigian said that's just part of the story.

“You're right on point, we would have had a much better chance of survival with a different media environment,” he emailed. “We were stuck, basically, with three networks, wires, newspapers, etc., with no safety valves to release our side of the story in counterpoint with any volume. If there had been the equivalent of Fox, as well as talk radio, social networking PLUS a majority in the Senate, we would have had more national leverage to get our message across. We had plenty of ammo, but fewer guns.”

But Khachigian noted that they had “other obstacles” – “namely poor timing by defending Israel in the Yom Kippur War, inflaming the Arab states resulting in the Arab Oil embargo. Gasoline prices shot up; there were gas lines, shortages resulting in basic nightmares that affected voters every day beginning in the fall of '73 through the winter. Finally, America was exhausted after the long and divisive domestic battles over the Vietnam War – with Nixon getting the brunt. And we, in the White House -- after slogging through the culture wars defending the unpopular policies of a wartime president, faced with the recession caused by international events, topped by Watergate and impeachment -- were weary of the battle as well. Many in the staff didn't have the stomach for it, and without the proper level of legal

defense, there was little hope – adding it all up – of having staying power. There's more, but that's my elevator version.”

The new [Washington Post-ABC News poll](#) published yesterday shows Trump is in a much stronger position to get reelected than he was in the fall, and the economy is a big part of why. This president’s approval rating has gone up during the impeachment process.



Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) speaks to reporters on Aug. 7, 1974, after GOP

leaders staged an intervention with Richard Nixon at the White House to push him to resign. The 1964 GOP nominee is flanked by Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott, left, and House GOP leader John Rhodes. Nixon announced his resignation the next day. (AP)

### **3) Nixon would have faced a much less loyal Senate if he had gone to trial.**

Republicans were in the minority, but the institution was different back then.

“The rise of Fox News and its powerful hold on the Republican base is certainly an important factor in our increasingly tribal politics. But in my view, this Senate impeachment trial, and the failure of Republican senators to step up to their responsibility, reflects the long decline of the Senate, which has become an accelerating downward spiral in the last decade,” said Ira Shapiro, who served 12 years in senior Democratic staff roles in the Senate before serving as a trade negotiator in the Clinton administration. “If Nixon had been impeached, his trial would have occurred in a strong Senate that operated on the basis on bipartisanship, mutual respect and trust. ... Republicans would not have been blind defenders of the president; nor would they have simply fallen in line behind any Senate Republican leader.”

Shapiro wrote [“The Last Great Senate: Courage and Statesmanship in Times of Crisis”](#) about what the chamber was like in the 1970s. He said the Senate was eager to reassert its power against the “imperial presidencies” of both Lyndon Johnson and Nixon. He also notes that Majority Leader Mitch McConnell maintains much stronger control over his conference than Hugh Scott ever could have in 1974.

Shapiro has been most surprised during this trial about how retiring Republican senators who will never face voters again, besides Lamar Alexander (Tenn.), have not appeared to waver thus far on voting to call witnesses. “My fear has always been that the broken Senate would weaken to the point where it could not perform its ultimate responsibility: checking a corrupt and dangerous president who threatened our constitutional system and our democracy,” said Shapiro. “That nightmare scenario is upon us. It would only take a few Senate Republicans to prevent it.”

#### **4) Lordy, there aren't tapes this time.**

Presidential historian Tim Naftali, who as the director of the Nixon presidential library [created the first objective exhibit](#) on Watergate at the accompanying museum, said “the key variable” is the tapes.

“It is the damning nature of the White House tapes,” said Naftali, who wrote a chapter in [“Impeachment: An American History,”](#) an excellent summary of when the process has been used. “In August [1974], after he knew he would have to turn over the June 23, 1972 tape eventually, the president still delayed his resignation on the off chance that his defenders would swallow the revelation of the ‘smoking gun’ tape. But they didn't. I don't see that, even if they had had a friendly outlet at their disposal, their anger at being deceived would have been any less strong. This is not to say that relentless, shameless spin doesn't matter in shaping the pressures on elected officials, but even President ‘read-the-transcript’ Trump knows that his defenders like to believe that their faith in him is based on something.”



Acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, standing next to personal aide to the president Nicholas Luna, listens as Trump meets in November with the prime minister of Bulgaria in the Oval Office. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

### **5) Trump’s acting White House chief of staff is stonewalling to protect him.**

“Al Haig was not looking out for Nixon the way Mick Mulvaney is looking out for Trump,” said Ray Locker, the author of “[Haig’s Coup](#)” and “[Nixon’s Gamble](#).”

Locker says “one huge difference” is that the Trump White House is even less cooperative about requests for testimony and records than Nixon’s. “The Nixon White House did a terrible job of defending him,” he said. “You look at what they talked about during that time. They were not really hammering away. They made a half-hearted attempt to rebut John Dean when he testified. ... They just weren’t going after these people the way that Trump is. They cooperated more. Haig was

giving them documents.”

In a statement yesterday, the attorney for Mulvaney, Bob Driscoll, dismissed the charges in Bolton’s book concerning the acting chief of staff’s knowledge about alleged actions taken toward Ukraine as having “more to do with publicity than the truth.”

“John Bolton never informed Mick Mulvaney of any concerns surrounding Bolton’s purported August conversation with the president,” Driscoll claimed. “Nor did Mr. Mulvaney ever have a conversation with the president or anyone else indicating that Ukrainian military aid was withheld in exchange for a Ukrainian investigation of Burisma, the Bidens, or the 2016 election.”



Senate trial: Trump's legal team continues defense



## MORE FROM THE TRIAL:

-- Trump and his team are **still trying to contain the damage from Bolton's book**. Defense lawyer Alan Dershowitz dismissed the kerfuffle over the manuscript during a speech last night on the Senate floor. "Nothing in the Bolton revelations, even if true, would rise to the level of an abuse of power or an impeachable offense," he said.

-- Defense lawyer Jane Raskin **said Rudy Giuliani was doing what every defense lawyer is supposed to do when he pursued leads in Ukraine to help the president**. "Mr. Giuliani is just a minor player, that shiny object designed to distract you," she told senators. "You may not like his style, but one might argue that he is everything Clarence Darrow said: A defense lawyer must be outrageous, irreverent, blasphemous, a rogue, a renegade."

-- Defense lawyer Jay Sekulow **argued that Democrats are really trying to remove Trump over policy differences, not for abusing power**. "If the bar of impeachment has now reached that level, then for the sake of the republic, the danger that puts not just this body but our entire constitutional framework in is unmanageable," he said.

**-- Starr's lecture to Senate Democrats about how presidential impeachments are terrible for democracy bewildered Democrats, via Mike DeBonis:**

“He has given new meaning to the term irony — maybe even hypocrisy,” said Sen. Dick Blumenthal (D-Conn.). “It was really incredibly surreal to see him talking about impeachment as something that should be done with solemnity and restraint. If they had chosen a worse spokesman on that topic, they would have had to search very hard.”

**-- Who is paying all these defense attorneys? Ann Marimow, Beth Reinhard and Josh Dawsey report:**

“The Republican National Committee is picking up the tab for at least two of Trump's private attorneys [Sekulow and Raskin] in the ongoing trial, an arrangement that differs from the legal fund then-president Bill Clinton set up, only to see it fail to raise enough to cover his millions of dollars in bills before he left office. ... Because Trump is on trial as a result of his status as an officeholder or candidate, election law allows him to dip into campaign or party funds for his legal bills. ... [Dershowitz] said he will not accept payment for his work ... Starr declined to talk about his legal fees ... Bondi did not respond to request for comment about her salary.”

**-- Over the past four months, congressional Republicans have floated no fewer than 29 defenses of Trump's actions on Ukraine. (JM Rieger rounds them up.)**

**-- “This is all a game,” Joe Biden told reporters last night in Iowa after the president's attorneys attacked him and his son. “Even if they bring me up — no one has said I've done anything that was**



wrong, period. What is there to defend?” ([ABC](#))



Attorney General Bill Barr, left, and Noel Francisco, the solicitor general, wave from a Justice Department balcony to antiabortion activists marching toward the Supreme Court last Friday during the March for Life. (Jose Luis Magana/AP)

**-- The bigger picture: Bolton’s book adds to the mounting evidence that the pressure Trump and his aides put on Ukraine was driven by a focus on his political rivals. ([Paul Sonne and Roz Helderman connect the dots.](#))**

**-- The latest: Bolton reveals in the draft of his book that he expressed concern directly to Attorney General Bill Barr last year that Trump was effectively granting personal favors to the autocratic leaders of Turkey and China, [the New York Times scoops](#): “Mr. Barr responded by pointing to a pair of Justice Department investigations of companies in those countries and said he was worried that Mr. Trump had created the appearance that he**

had undue influence over what would typically be independent inquiries, according to the manuscript. ... Mr. Bolton's account underscores the fact that the unease about Mr. Trump's seeming embrace of authoritarian leaders, long expressed by experts and his opponents, also existed among some of the senior cabinet officers entrusted by the president to carry out his foreign policy and national security agendas. ...

**“Mr. Bolton wrote in the manuscript that Mr. Barr singled out Mr. Trump's conversations with [Xi Jinping] about the Chinese telecommunications firm ZTE, which agreed in 2017 to plead guilty and pay heavy fines for violating American sanctions on doing business with North Korea, Iran and other countries. A year later, Mr. Trump lifted the sanctions over objections from his own advisers and Republican lawmakers.**

**“Mr. Barr also cited remarks Mr. Trump made to [Recep Tayyip Erdogan] in 2018 about the investigation of Halkbank, Turkey's second-largest state-owned bank.** The Justice Department was scrutinizing Halkbank on fraud and money-laundering charges for helping Iran evade sanctions imposed by the Treasury Department. Mr. Erdogan had been making personal appeals to Mr. Trump to use his authority to halt any additional enforcement against the bank. ... For months, it looked as though the unusual lobbying effort might succeed; but in October, the Justice Department indicted the bank for aiding Iran. The charges were seen in part as an attempt by the administration to show that it was taking a tough line on Turkey.”

**-- Bolton, his publisher and his literary agency said**

**“categorically” in a joint statement that they did not leak the manuscript to the Times.** The Times says it does not discuss sources and methods. Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec responded to the Times story: “There was no discussion of 'personal favors' or 'undue influence' on investigations, nor did Attorney General Barr state that the president's conversations with foreign leaders was improper.”



Venezuela's socialist president, Nicolás Maduro, waves a flag after delivering a speech from a balcony at his palace in Caracas last Thursday. (Carlos Becerra/Bloomberg News)

**-- Follow the money: “An ally of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has hired a Washington lobbyist whose business has boomed under the Trump administration as part of a \$12.5 million effort to ease sanctions and reset bilateral relations as the U.S.-backed campaign to oust the socialist leader stalls,”** [the](#)

**AP reports:** “The Maduro government’s top lawyer, Inspector General Reinaldo Muñoz, hired lobbyist Robert Stryk’s Sonoran Policy Group as part of a larger contract he signed with Foley & Lardner, a law firm with offices in Washington. ... Muñoz’s contract with Foley, for a flat fee of \$12.5 million, extends until May 10. Stryk’s share of the deal, as a consultant, is \$2 million. Stryk, a winemaker and former Republican aide who unsuccessfully ran for mayor of Yountville, California, is one of the top lobbyists in Trump’s Washington.

**“A former unpaid Trump campaign adviser on the West Coast, his firm, Sonoran Policy Group, had no reported lobbying from 2013 to 2016 but has billed more than \$10.5 million to foreign clients since the start of 2017.** Like Venezuela, many of the clients have bruised reputations in Washington or are under U.S. sanctions, such as the governments of Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Interior, which signed a \$5.4 million contract in May 2017. He also represents the scandal-plagued Isabel dos Santos, Africa’s richest woman, who is fighting allegations that she accumulated vast wealth through state loans brokered by her father, Angola’s former president.

**“This month, Stryk’s name showed up in handwritten notes released by the House Intelligence Committee as part of the impeachment inquiry into Trump.** [Lev Parnas] wrote a note to himself on stationery from the Ritz-Carlton hotel in Vienna saying ‘hire Robert Stryk lobbyist.’ ... One of Giuliani’s clients, Venezuelan businessman Alejandro Betancourt, hosted Trump’s personal attorney and Parnas at his castle outside Madrid last summer. ... Stryk did not immediately return a phone call requesting comment.”



Romney: It's 'increasingly likely' Republicans will call Bolton to testify

-- Notable commentary from The Post's opinion page:

- [Barbara McQuade](#), University of Michigan law professor and former U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan: "Trump waived executive privilege when he called Bolton a liar."
- [George Conway](#), conservative lawyer and husband to counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway: "Bolton's testimony would be devastating. Not even Republicans could look away."
- [The Post's Editorial Board](#): "If senators fail to call Bolton, their trial is a farce."
- [Jonathan Turley](#): "The revelations about Bolton's book may not be so devastating for Trump."
- [Michael Gerson on Bolton](#): "Trump has finally met his match."

- **Eugene Robinson:** “If John Bolton doesn’t testify, it’s a coverup, not a trial.”
- **Dana Milbank:** “Trump’s lawyers suffer from Bolton-induced amnesia.”
- **Catherine Rampell:** “Our expectations for Republican senators are so low it’s astonishing.”
- **Max Boot:** “Republicans’ lack of outrage — even after Bolton’s smoking-gun evidence — is outrageous.”
- **Jennifer Rubin:** “Trump’s defense is irrelevant. Only Bolton matters now.”
- **Harry Litman:** “Why ‘too much delay’ is such a bogus argument against bringing in John Bolton.”
- **Paul Waldman:** “The Trump team’s latest impeachment strategy: Trolling.”

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Netanyahu to Trump: 'I look forward to making history with you tomorrow'

## **THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

**-- Trump's Middle East peace plan is expected to offer conditional statehood for Palestinians.** [Anne Gearan, Steve Hendrix and Ruth Eglash report](#): "Trump described his proposals for Middle East peace in private meetings Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the veteran Israeli leader's challenger in upcoming elections, Benny Gantz. No Palestinians attended the White House preview of what is described as a highly detailed proposal for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that dates from Israel's founding in 1948. ... The package is expected to propose a redrawn border between Israel and the West Bank that would incorporate large Jewish settlements into Israel proper, while continuing some forms of Israeli security control over the territory Israel seized in 1967 and has occupied since. ... It is expected to offer limited autonomy to Palestinians in the West Bank and East

Jerusalem that would increase over about a three-year timeline if Palestinian leadership undertook new political measures, renounced violence and took other steps in negotiation with Israel.”

**-- Bibi withdrew his request for immunity from prosecution on corruption charges hours before parliamentary proceedings on the issue were set to begin.** [From the AP](#): “The Knesset was widely expected to reject Netanyahu’s immunity request, which would have dealt a massive blow to the prime minister ahead of the March 2 parliamentary elections — the third in less than a year. Netanyahu’s Likud party was planning to boycott Tuesday’s Knesset session. Netanyahu’s retraction paves the way for legal proceedings against him to go forward. He was indicted on counts of fraud, breach of trust and bribery in November in three separate cases.”

**-- As fear over the spread of the coronavirus grows, the U.S. warned Americans to avoid all nonessential travel to China.** [Gerry Shih, Lena Sun, Simon Denyer and Joel Achenbach report](#): “In a rare public mea culpa, a Chinese official said Monday that the government had mishandled the early stages of the crisis, which has claimed at least 100 lives and infected more than 4,400 people. Wuhan Mayor Zhou Xianwang, speaking with Chinese state broadcaster CCTV, said his city did not release ‘timely and satisfactory’ information at the start of the epidemic, and he appeared to blame higher-ups in his chain of command. ... The mayor said 5 million people have already left his city, some before and some after the official quarantine. ...

**“Late Monday, a top U.S. health official criticized Chinese authorities for not inviting U.S. and other international investigative agencies to join them in researching the new virus.**



While China has been more transparent than it was during the 2003 SARS outbreak, U.S. officials are still getting their information through press briefings rather than from direct transfer of scientific data, said Anthony S. Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Fauci pointed out that China's health minister, Ma Xiaowei, said publicly Sunday that the virus could be transmitted by an infected person even before symptoms appear. ... This could affect how the U.S. screens people traveling from China. ...

**“Amid growing alarm about the disease’s fast spread, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is boosting staffing at 20 U.S. airports that have quarantine facilities. ...**

Epidemiologists around the globe raced to understand how the virus spreads, how long it incubates before making a person ill, whether it can be contagious even when the person is asymptomatic, and how lethal it is. They said the public should not assume the worst about this outbreak. **This virus does not appear to be as deadly as SARS or MERS**, two similar coronaviruses that made the jump from animals to humans earlier this century and that were ultimately contained. ... In the United States, 110 people in 26 states are being tested for possible infection, but only five so far ... are confirmed to have the infection.”

**-- Hong Kong and Russia announced dramatic restrictions on travel to and from China as governments across Asia struggle with an increasingly difficult dilemma: choosing between public health or economic vitality. [Shih and Denyer report](#): “Do they stop people from traveling to their countries for business or vacation and risk a major hit to their economies or should they hope increased**

border screenings will prevent the epidemic from spreading further?  
... But China's government can't afford to shut the economy down indefinitely — not least because its political legitimacy and its expensive system of societal control rest squarely on economic growth and tax revenue. ... Global stock markets took a sharp downturn Monday as investors grew increasingly anxious about the swift spread of the coronavirus beyond China. The Dow Jones industrial average plunged 454 points, or about 1.6 percent.”

**-- A U.S. military plane crashed in Taliban territory in Afghanistan.** [Sayed Salahuddin and Susannah George](#) report: “It was unknown how many people were on board or whether there were survivors. ... Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed on Twitter that an ‘enemy intelligence aircraft’ crashed and subsequently told The Post that ‘our mujahideen [fighters] tactically crashed the plane.’ He did not explain what tactics were purportedly used to bring down the plane.”

**-- U.S.-backed Afghan forces have been unable to reach the site of the crash.** Afghan officials said bad weather and heavily mined roads have prevented forces from reaching the site more than 24 hours after the crash was first reported. U.S. officials have not said how many people were on board or whether there were survivors. ([Sharif Hassan and Susannah George](#))

**-- The U.S. dropped more munitions on Afghanistan last year than at any other time over the past decade.** ([Task & Purpose](#))

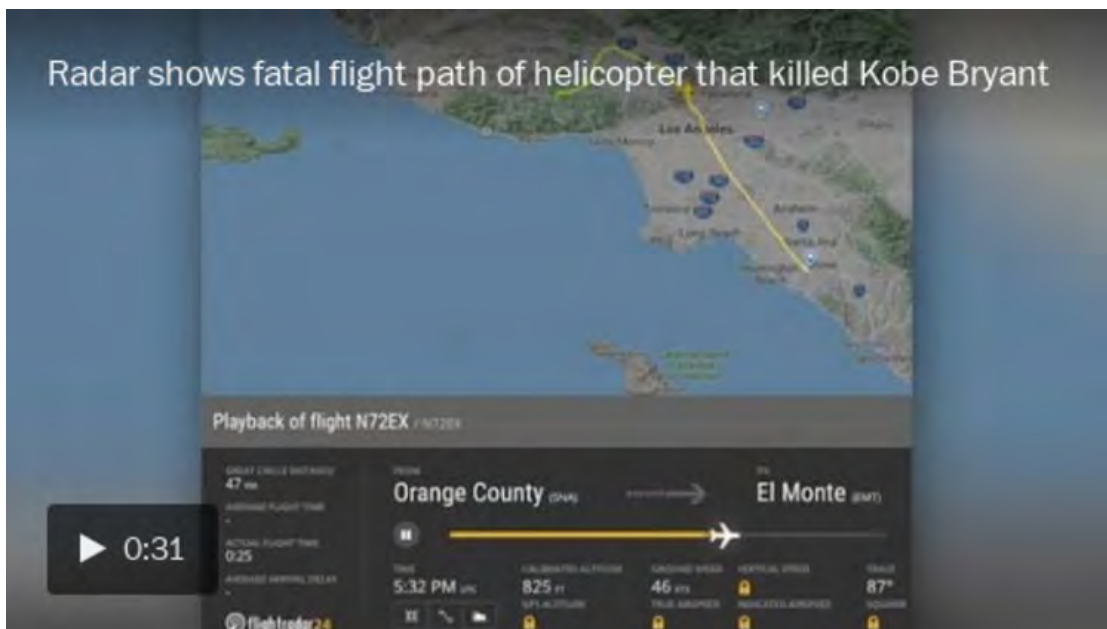
**-- Syrian government forces launched a new attack against the final rebel-held pocket in northwestern Syria following a short-**

**lived cease-fire.** [Sarah Dadouch and Asser Khattab report:](#)

“Government troops started pushing westward this week from near the city of Aleppo, prompting panic and flight among residents on the rebel-held side of the province living in what they considered a relatively safe area. ... Various Turkish-backed rebel factions and Islamist groups have fortified themselves in Syria’s northwestern corner. These groups oppose Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, whose forces, backed by Russia and Iran, have been retaking territory across Syria. ... Syria’s official news agency SANA said Monday that the Syrian army had expanded its operations into western Aleppo in retaliation for ‘repeated assaults by terrorist organizations’ on residential neighborhoods in government-held Aleppo, which SANA said resulted in dozens of deaths and injuries.”

**-- The State Department removed an NPR reporter from a trip with Mike Pompeo days after the secretary of state got into a dispute with another reporter from the news organization.** [Carol Morello reports:](#)

“Michele Kelemen, a veteran State Department correspondent for NPR, was scheduled to be one of a handful of reporters flying on Pompeo’s plane to report on his week-long trip to Europe and Central Asia starting Wednesday. It was Kelemen’s turn in a rotation for a ‘pool’ seat on the plane representing radio reporters, and she got the needed visas. But ... Kelemen was notified Sunday that she would not accompany Pompeo on his trip to five countries including Ukraine. ... Kelemen was given no formal reason for being kicked off. ... She was dropped after Pompeo got into a [contentious exchange with NPR host Mary Louise Kelly](#) and issued a statement [accusing her of lying to him.](#)”



Radar shows fatal flight path of helicopter that killed Kobe Bryant

## DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:

-- "The helicopter pilot flying Kobe Bryant, the basketball star's daughter and six other passengers Sunday grappled with poor weather, asking at one point for special permission to fly by sight in worse-than-normal visibility, but he displayed no signs of concern in his communications with air traffic controllers," [Ian Duncan](#), [Luz Lazo](#), [Justin George](#) and [Rick Maese](#) report. "Shortly after he got special clearance to continue through controlled airspace, he veered from Highway 101 below and crashed into the Calabasas, Calif., hills. ... On Monday, the investigation got underway, with a team from the National Transportation Safety Board arriving at a crash site guarded against curious eyes by sheriff's deputies on horseback. ... In air traffic control records reviewed by The Washington Post, the pilot requested permission to fly under the special conditions near

Burbank Airport. [National Transportation Safety Board board member Jennifer] Homendy said the pilot circled for 12 minutes until the approval came. On the records reviewed by The Post, the Burbank controller responds that it will be a few moments and asks the pilot to hold. Seconds later, the controller tells the pilot that he can plan to transition to the north side of Van Nuys Airport. ...

**“Ara Zobayan, the pilot at the controls, was experienced at flying in the area and served as Bryant’s pilot for a number of years,**

according to the director of a Los Angeles aviation trade group.

Zobayan had held a commercial license since 2007 and was qualified to fly in bad weather under regulations known as instrument flight rules, according to FAA records. He was also qualified to teach people to fly in those conditions, indicating that he had significant experience.”

**-- The U.S. attorney in Manhattan said that prosecutors and FBI officials handling the Jeffrey Epstein sex abuse investigation had reached out to Britain’s Prince Andrew, but the royal who has faced allegations related to Epstein had so far provided “zero cooperation.”** [Matt Zapotosky and William Booth report](#): “U.S.

Attorney Geoffrey Berman made the assertion outside of Epstein’s New York City mansion at a news conference meant to raise awareness about a state law that provides a window for those sexually abused as children to sue their abuser even if the statute of limitations has expired. In response to questions from reporters, Berman said the investigation into Epstein’s abuse and those who might have facilitated it was ongoing — even though he killed himself while in federal custody on sex trafficking charges last year. As a part

of that case, Berman said investigators had reached out to Prince Andrew. One of Epstein's accusers, Virginia Roberts Giuffre, claims she was paid by Epstein for sexual encounters with the prince when she was 17 years old. Buckingham Palace did not immediately comment on the developments."

**-- A second Harvey Weinstein accuser took the witness stand to describe an alleged 2006 sexual assault. [Shayna Jacobs reports](#):**

"Mimi Haleyi, 42, said Weinstein forced her into his bedroom after she accepted what she thought was a friendly social invitation to meet at his condominium in New York's SoHo neighborhood on July 10, 2006. ... Haleyi, who said she rejected prior advances by the powerful movie producer, testified that the visit quickly became a nightmare. ...

Defense lawyer Damon Cheronis suggested Haleyi was trying to exploit a relationship with Weinstein to help her career. She sent him her friends' scripts and pitched him her own production called 'Trash TV,' while checking in with him periodically about whether he had any production gigs for her. ... Weinstein is charged with a criminal sex act for allegedly forcing oral sex on Haleyi. He also faces rape charges related to aspiring actress Jessica Mann, who says Weinstein assaulted her at a Doubletree Hotel in Manhattan in 2013."

**-- The Supreme Court allowed the Trump administration to begin implementing "wealth test" rules making it easier to deny immigrants residency or U.S. entry based on whether they have used or could use public-assistance programs. [Robert Barnes and Maria Sacchetti report](#): Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. "was joined by conservative Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel A. Alito Jr., Neil M. Gorsuch and Brett M. Kavanaugh in lifting the injunction. All four of**

the court's liberal justices — Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan — noted their disagreement. ... Under the new policy, immigrants would be suspect if they are in the United States legally and use public benefits — such as Medicaid, food stamps or housing assistance — too often or are deemed likely to someday rely on them. The new criteria provide 'positive' and 'negative' factors for immigration officials to weigh as they decide on green-card applications. Negative factors include if a person is unemployed, dropped out of high school or is not fluent in English.”

**-- Immigration judges are quitting or retiring early because of the Trump administration.** [From the Los Angeles Times](#): “Immigration Judge Charles Honeyman was nearing retirement, but he vowed not to leave while Trump was president and risk being replaced by an ideologue with an anti-immigration agenda. ... He tried to ignore demands to speed through cases without giving them the consideration he believed the law required. But as the pressure from Washington increased, Honeyman started having stomach pains and thinking, ‘There are a lot of cases I’m going to have to deny that I’ll feel sick over.’ This month, after 24 years on the bench, the 70-year-old judge called it quits. Dozens of other judges concerned about their independence have done the same. ... The precise number of judges who have quit under duress is unclear. Kathryn Mattingly, a spokeswoman for the courts, said a total of 45 left their positions in the fiscal year that ended last September, but she declined to provide a breakdown of how many of those were deaths, planned retirements or promotions to the immigration appeals board. More information may become available Wednesday, when a House judiciary

subcommittee is scheduled to hear testimony on the state of judicial independence and due process in the country's 68 immigration courts."

**-- A British man became the fifth immigrant to die in ICE custody since October.** The 39-year-old man died at the Baker County Detention Center in Florida, and officials said the preliminary cause of death appeared to be "self-inflicted strangulation." The case, however, remains under investigation. ([BuzzFeed News](#))

**-- An Iranian PhD student who planned on studying at Michigan State University was deported after being detained by Customs and Border Protection officers at the Detroit airport.** Alireza Yazdani's removal comes a week after another Iranian who'd arrived on a student visa was deported in Boston. ([CNN](#))

**-- Wolfgang Halbig, a notorious tormentor of the parents of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting victims, was arrested in Florida.** [From the NYT](#): "Halbig, a former contributor to Infowars, the online and radio show hosted by the far-right provocateur Alex Jones, has spread false claims for years that the [shooting] was an elaborate government hoax aimed at confiscating Americans' firearms. When challenged or confronted by Sandy Hook families, Mr. Halbig has released their personal information, taunted them or emailed them photographs of what he claimed were their dead children 'all grown up.' ... [Halbig] was arrested after a complaint filed by Leonard Pozner, whose son Noah, 6, died in the shooting. The arrest affidavit said that Mr. Halbig repeatedly emailed Mr. Pozner's Social Security number, date of birth and other information to a long list of recipients. ... Mr. Halbig was released after posting a \$5,000 cash bond and will



appear in court in late February. The charge carries a maximum penalty of a year in prison.”



Elizabeth Warren waits to speak at a gala hosted by the Scott County Democrats in Bettendorf, Iowa, on Saturday. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

## **2020 WATCH:**

**-- Elizabeth Warren bet big on Iowa. Will it be enough? [Annie Linskey and Holly Bailey report](#):** “Warren officials appear to be lowering expectations for Iowa. Campaign manager Roger Lau issued a memo Friday warning against ‘breathless media narratives’ emerging from the caucuses. ... In urban areas, her team assigned one organizer to a single county, while in rural regions, each organizer oversaw two or three counties at most. Meanwhile, staff members for other candidates were sometimes assigned as many as a dozen counties. ... Although Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend,

Ind., is employing a similar type of one-on-one organizing, Democrats not affiliated with either campaign say Warren's organizers have simply been at it longer. ... Still, all this attention to detail has not defused the biggest question Warren faces as a candidate.

Organizers mounting door-to-door efforts or reaching out to voters in remote locations regularly hear questions about whether she could beat Trump.”

**-- A group of Democratic operatives are scrambling to fund an effort to attack Bernie Sanders should he win Iowa and New Hampshire.**

**From the Daily Beast:** “Big money Democrats have shown reluctance at funding such an effort, which could consist of ads attacking Sanders, and institutions associated with Democratic politics have largely shied away from being part of any campaign that goes after the senator, either out of fear over the backlash or growing acceptance at the prospect of him becoming the party's nominee. ... According to FEC records, the sum total of reported independent expenditures opposing Sanders—directly and by name—was just \$32.72 as of Monday. And that was spent by Club for Growth, a conservative group that has also run digital ads that seem designed to actually boost Sanders among liberals and which supplemented those spots with a TV ad on Monday. That may very well change in the coming days. The organization Democratic Majority for Israel, which is run by pollster Mark Mellman, is buying tens of thousands of dollars in airtime in Iowa, according to documents filed with the [FCC] on Monday. ... The group's ads, it told the FCC, will focus on ‘electability in the General Election of potential Democratic nominee’—a common [charge] lobbied against the Vermonter.”

**-- Impeachment and Iowa mean New Hampshire has largely been ignored by the Democratic candidates lately.** In recent days, voters have been more likely to see a campaign surrogate than the actual candidates stumping in the state. Other than Buttigieg, most of the candidates in the top tier have had five or fewer events in New Hampshire since the start of the year. ([AP](#))

**-- Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.) will wage a primary challenge against appointed GOP Sen. Kelly Loeffler.** [Rachael Bade reports:](#) The move will probably trigger “an intraparty Republican brawl between a top defender of [Trump] and a business executive who was appointed to the post by Gov. Brian Kemp. Collins, a four-term Republican from northern Georgia, had lobbied hard for the position when Sen. Johnny Isakson announced his retirement last year. Kemp, however, chose Loeffler, against the advice of Trump, who backed Collins for the job. ... The news comes as Democrats are eyeing Georgia as a top 2020 target in their bid to retake the Senate. Since the race would constitute a special election to finish Isakson’s last two years in office, it would not include a primary, allowing multiple candidates of both parties to run for the position.”

**-- Everytown for Gun Safety, a gun-control group co-founded by Mike Bloomberg, announced a \$60 million spending plan for the 2020 elections that targets Trump and other officials who have resisted new gun regulations.** [Michael Scherer reports:](#) “A memo laying out plans for the spending names North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper and Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro, both Democrats, as allies whom the group will defend. It names two Republican senators, Cory Gardner (Colo.) and Martha McSally

(Ariz.), as targets for defeat.”

**-- A local fissure in Pennsylvania politics is highlighting a national dilemma for the Democratic Party as it tries to address the environmental demands of the liberal activists while reaching out to voters who rely on the manufacturing industry. [Tim Craig](#)**

**reports:** “The hulking petrochemical plant is being constructed 30 miles from his city, but Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto worries it's just the sort of polluting industry that could threaten residents' health and drive away the white-collar jobs of the future. ... But here near the developing complex on the banks of the Ohio River, local Democratic official Earl ‘Butch’ Shamp looks downstream at Peduto and sees the kind of politician he says is killing the Democratic Party in large swaths of southwestern Pennsylvania. ... The petrochemical plant has become a political crucible. ... Peduto said he is leaning toward Bloomberg and Buttigieg because the energy policy positions of [Sanders] and [Warren] — who support a ban on fracking — ‘would be devastating to the Rust Belt.’ Conversely, Biden’s positions, he said, ‘are more like Donald Trump’s than they are a pragmatic approach toward the middle.’ ... In Beaver County, Shamp said Democratic residents feel Peduto cares more about ‘building bike lanes’ than workers’ ability to feed their families. ‘Democrats have just gone way, way too far to the left,’ said Shamp, 61, who voted for Trump in 2016 and probably will again.”

**-- Rapid change is roiling Virginia’s Republicans. [Gregory Schneider](#)**  
**reports:** “One Republican delegate warns that Virginia is splitting in two. Another would support returning liberal Arlington and Alexandria to the District of Columbia. **Lawmakers in West Virginia**

**have offered to annex rural Frederick County, outside Winchester, to liberate it from its rapidly urbanizing home. ...**

There are 'dramatically different values' in Arlington and Alexandria than other parts of Virginia, [Republican Del. David A.] LaRock said. ... But the problem for Republicans is that the values LaRock sees in Arlington and Alexandria have spread throughout the state."

**-- A federal court ruled that Arizona's ban on mail-in ballots is illegal and appeared to be part of an effort to suppress black, Hispanic and Native American votes. [From the Guardian](#):** "Four years ago, Arizona Republicans made it a felony, punishable by prison time, for third-party groups to collect mail-in ballots during elections — a process often called 'ballot harvesting.' ... 'The adverse impact on minority communities is substantial. Without 'access to reliable and secure mail services,' and without reliable transportation, many minority voters 'prefer instead to give their ballots to a volunteer', ' the court said. And Hispanics and Native Americans make up nearly 37% of the state's population — promising to be a key demographic in this year's presidential election."

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

There was much discussion on social media about Starr's sartorial choices:



**Doug Mills** ✓  
@dougmillsnyt



Kenneth Starr, attorney for President Donald Trump, arrives in the Capitol as the Impeachment trial continues.



♥ 508 6:04 PM - Jan 27, 2020



💬 596 people are talking about this



And many pointed to the glaring hypocrisy between Starr in 1999 and Starr in 2020:

 **Ari Melber**   
@AriMelber 




Starr vs. Starr - I'd say we made this, but really he did




6,208 12:26 AM - Jan 28, 2020 


2,942 people are talking about this 

From a former Republican National Committee chairman:

 **Michael Steele**   
@MichaelSteele 

Right now even GOP Senators are looking at Ken Starr and thinking "WTF?!"

29.1K 6:42 PM - Jan 27, 2020 

5,799 people are talking about this 

Seemingly trying to bolster her standing as Doug Collins prepared a

primary bid, Georgia's newly appointed senator ripped Mitt Romney for seeking witnesses. This is notable because, among other things, Loeffler was one of Romney's major donors when he ran for president in 2012:



Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), who spent last week attacking a [Purple Heart recipient](#), endorsed Loeffler over Collins:





Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) said the quiet part out loud and suggested that the Trump attacks on Biden could hurt him in her state's caucuses:

 **Glenn Kessler**   
@GlennKesslerWP 

Maybe read a few fact checks first. Much of this stuff was debunked months ago. [twitter.com/alanhe/status/...](https://twitter.com/alanhe/status/...)

**Alan He**  @alanhe

ERNST: "IA caucuses are this next Monday evening. And I'm really interested to see how this discussion today informs and influences the Iowa caucus voters, those Demcaucus goers. Will they be supporting VP Biden at this point?"

H/T @JaxAlemany

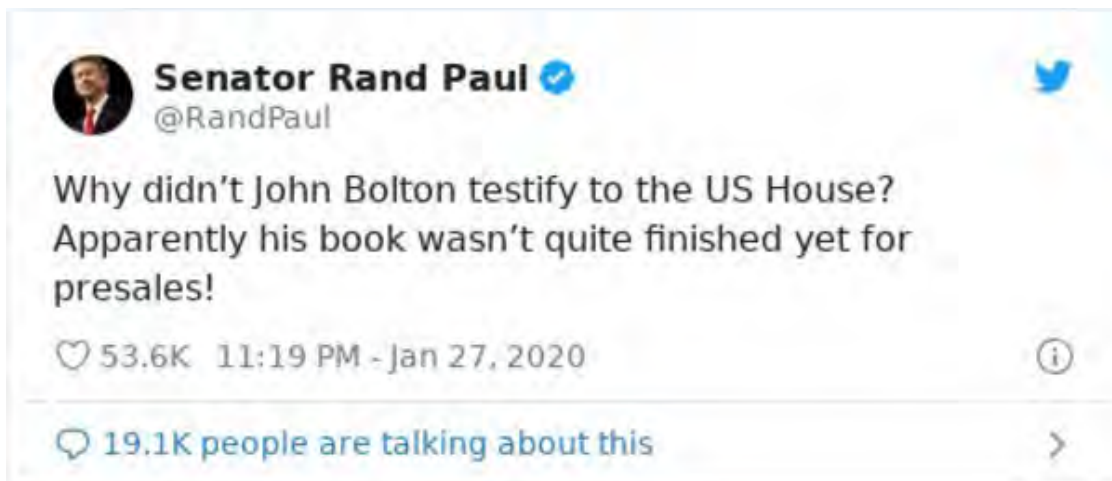


 130 12:33 AM - Jan 28, 2020 

 56 people are talking about this 

And a Kentucky Republican appeared to forget that Trump blocked

Bolton from testifying before the House:



**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** “In the business world, when I was back in the business world, when a deal was tough, people would jokingly refer to it as, ‘This is tougher than Israel and the Palestinians getting together,’ ” Trump joked as he welcomed Benjamin Netanyahu for an Oval Office briefing on his Middle East peace plan. ([Anne Gearan](#), [Steve Hendrix](#), [Ruth Eglash](#))

## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

A 90-year-old Auschwitz survivor returned to the camp 75 years after its liberation:



Ninety-year-old survivor returns to Auschwitz 75 years later

Seth Meyers reviewed the accumulating evidence against the president:



Riffing off Bolton's book, Trevor Noah said the president seems to have many "disgruntled" former employees and wondered why no one ever seems to leave the White House feeling "gruntled":



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Senate Republicans move the goal posts again after Bolton's book and Dershowitz's defense of Trump  
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# The Daily 202

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## Senate Republicans move the goal posts again after Bolton's book and Dershowitz's defense of Trump



Trump defense attorney Alan Dershowitz departs the East Room of the White House on Tuesday after President Trump unveiled his Middle East peace plan proposal. (Joshua Roberts/Reuters)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA:** After Alan Dershowitz helped convince a jury to find him not guilty on two murder charges, O.J. Simpson wrote a book entitled “If I Did It.” The former football star outlined a “hypothetical” account of the fatal stabbings of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman. “No matter how I write this, hypothetical or not, I’m aware that people are going to believe what they want to believe,” Simpson said in an interview for a special [on Fox](#).

**As a member of President Trump’s defense team at the**

**impeachment trial, Dershowitz used some variation of “even if” 10 separate times during his presentation to senators on Monday night.** The emeritus professor at Harvard Law School – who has also defended clients like Jeffrey Epstein, Mike Tyson and Michael Milken – used that “even if” construction as he advanced provocative legal theories that are outside the mainstream of constitutional jurisprudence. Most notably, Dershowitz argued that it would not constitute abuse of power even if the House impeachment managers proved that Trump directly conditioned the delivery of military aid to Ukraine and a White House meeting for Volodymyr Zelensky on Kiev authorities announcing an investigation into Joe and Hunter Biden. Dershowitz did this while dismissing the forthcoming book by former national security adviser John Bolton, in which he [reportedly](#) writes that Trump told him of just such a linkage.

**“Nothing in the Bolton revelations – even if true – would rise to the level of an abuse of power or an impeachable offense,” Dershowitz declared.** “Even if the president, any president, were to demand a quid pro quo as a condition for sending aid to a foreign country – obviously a highly disputed matter in this case – that would not by itself constitute an abuse of power,” he continued. “Quid pro quo alone is not a basis for abuse of power. It’s part of the way foreign policy has been operated by presidents since the beginning of time.”

**After months of repeating over and over that there was “no quid pro quo,” a chorus of Republican lawmakers are now parroting Dershowitz’s line of defense.** The GOP conference seems increasingly prepared to stipulate that there might have been a quid pro quo as a rationale to vote against calling Bolton as a witness. After

all, if there was a quid pro quo but that's not impeachable, or even inappropriate, then Bolton's testimony might be considered moot.

"For the sake of argument, one could assume everything attributable to John Bolton is accurate and still the House case would fall well below the standards to remove a president from office," Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) said in a statement this morning.

Compare that to what Graham told [Axios](#) in October. "If you could show me that, you know, Trump actually was engaging in a quid pro quo, outside the phone call, that would be very disturbing," he said then.

"It would be troubling if any president did a quid pro quo with tax dollars," Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) [said](#) on Oct. 23 after then-acting ambassador to Ukraine Bill Taylor testified, "but so far we don't have evidence that's happened."

Asked about Bolton's book yesterday, Cramer [told](#) reporters: "I think he sounds like a lot of the other witnesses, frankly. I don't know that he's got a lot new to add to it."





What GOP senators have said about John Bolton testifying

**There was a very similar moving of the goal posts during special counsel Bob Mueller's probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election**, as Trump defenders went from insisting that there were no Trump campaign Russian contacts to arguing that there was nothing wrong with talking to the Russians.

"What I can say is that Professor Dershowitz said last night that even if the president asked for the aid to be delayed for, you know, the fact that he wanted an investigation of corruption, that's not an impeachable offense," Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) told Wolf Blitzer on CNN. Paul added that it doesn't matter if the investigation Trump demanded was into the Bidens or anyone else. "They think that rules should be written, that OK, you're allowed to investigate corruption, you're allowed to withhold the aid for corruption, unless that corruption involves a Democrat," Paul said. "No one could write a rule that way. That would be saying to the local Republican sheriff, you're allowed to

go after crime, unless your Democratic opponent's son commits the crime.”

Fox News anchor Neil Cavuto asked this question to Sen. John Cornyn (R-Tex.): “If the president did tell John Bolton that, indeed, there was a relationship between getting that information on the Bidens and aid to the country, that wouldn't be enough for you to say, let's look into this more?”

“No,” Cornyn answered. “Presidents always leverage foreign aid, particularly here, where there's concerns about corruption. ... We basically know what the facts are. That's what the House managers said: They said the facts are uncontested.”

“In my view, additional witnesses are not necessary,” said fellow Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz. “The president was entirely justified in asking for an investigation of corruption concerning Ukraine and potentially Hunter Biden and Joe Biden.”

**-- When acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney made a similar argument in the fall, essentially saying that presidents do *quid pro quos* all the time, he quickly walked it back.** Mulvaney hasn't been back to the briefing room since then. He refused to comply with a subsequent subpoena, citing an order from Trump, one of the grounds for the second article of impeachment pertaining to obstruction of Congress.

**-- Dershowitz also posited during his spirited defense of Trump that impeachment requires the president to violate a specific criminal statute.** “Now, here I'm making, I think, a very important point: *Even if* the Senate were to conclude that a technical crime is not

required for impeachment, the critical question remains,” Dershowitz said. “Do abuse of power and obstruction of Congress constitute impeachable offenses? The relevant history answers that question clearly in the negative.”

-- **“Lawyers and academics strongly disagreed with Dershowitz,”** [Rachael Bade, Karoun Demirjian, Mike DeBonis and Ann Marimow report](#). “Frank O. Bowman, a University of Missouri law professor and author of the book ‘High Crimes and Misdemeanors,’ said Dershowitz’s view is out of step with mainstream constitutional scholars and historians. ‘In making this argument, Alan is essentially alone, and I mean alone,’ Bowman said Tuesday, accusing Republicans of seizing on Dershowitz’s argument because it gives them cover not to convict a president in their own party. ‘What Dershowitz did yesterday was stand up and be a guy with Harvard attached to his name and spout complete nonsense that’s totally unsupported by any scholarship, anywhere.’

“Indeed, a statutory crime has never been required for impeachment, dating back to the 14th century, when the British Parliament invented the procedure as a mechanism for dealing with abuses of royal power. The American framers wrote ‘high crimes and misdemeanors’ into the U.S. Constitution, he noted, to include noncriminal abuses of power, and since then, federal judges and a U.S. senator have been impeached for noncriminal conduct.”



What Alan Dershowitz and Ken Starr used to say about impeachment

-- The Trump team is asserting an extraordinarily far-reaching view of the presidential prerogative. It fits with a pattern: Trump himself has repeatedly said Article II of the Constitution lets him do whatever he wants. It doesn't, of course.

Trump's surrogates said Tuesday on television that abuse of power and obstruction of Congress are not impeachable offenses. "It does not make any difference at the end of the day, as

Professor Dershowitz explained so well yesterday,” said Rep. Mike Johnson (R-La.), a member of Trump's impeachment defense team. “Abuse of power and obstruction of Congress are not impeachable offenses, and it doesn't really matter what anybody says.” CNN’s Jake Tapper pushed back, noting that they were considered impeachable offenses during the impeachment proceedings against Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton, but Johnson was unbowed.

There are major implications of what these senators are saying vis-a-vis Ukraine – and the precedent this will set. They’re saying abusing power is not grounds to remove a president from office, which effectively green lights this and future presidents to leverage their public powers for private political benefit.

**-- Trump’s other defense attorneys took other tacks as they wrapped up their arguments.** Jay Sekulow dismissed Bolton’s “unpublished manuscript” as “unsourced,” even though the source is Bolton. “If you want to call that evidence — I don’t know what you’d call that — I’d call it inadmissible,” he said. Sekulow maintains that “the president at all times acted with perfect, legal, authority.” White House Counsel Pat Cipollone suggested that, even if senators think Trump abused his office, the decision should be [left to voters](#) since this is an election year. “The election is only months away,” he said. “The American people are entitled to choose their president.”

**But the rest of the defense team has also joined Dershowitz out on the limb he’s climbed out on.** The White House hosted a conference call for reporters last night to discuss trial strategy. When “a source on the president’s legal team” – as they are required to be identified – was asked about witnesses, this person answered: “Well, I

don't think that anything that we've said strengthens the case for witnesses. In fact, Professor Dershowitz made it very clear last night that even if everything that came out in the New York Times article were true, there would not be an impeachable offense there.”



Jay Sekulow says John Bolton manuscript 'inadmissible' in impeachment trial

### **WITNESS WATCH:**

**-- In a closed-door meeting after Trump's defense wrapped up, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) told colleagues he doesn't yet have the votes to block witnesses. But he and his leadership team feel they're making progress toward that goal. [Erica Werner](#), [Seung Min Kim](#) and [Rachael Bade](#) report:** “Just four GOP senators would have to join with Democrats ... An initial vote to allow witnesses, expected Friday, does not ensure witnesses would actually be called, since the Senate would have to subsequently hold separate votes on summoning each individual witness. And Trump's ultimate acquittal still remains all but assured,

since a two-thirds vote in the GOP-run Senate would be required to remove him. ... Democrats strongly oppose calling either of the Bidens or agreeing to any witness 'trade,' as suggested by some Republicans. Other plans floated by GOP senators have drawn similar Democratic resistance, including the idea of getting the White House to release Bolton's manuscript for senators to review. ...

**“Several Republican senators up for reelection this November and facing tough campaigns — including Sens. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) — indicated during the meeting that they were ready to vote against witnesses and proceed to the final vote ...** The defense rested at 2:54 p.m. But a few senators lingered [in the chamber], and those huddles showed the tension still left in the room. In chairs in the back, reserved for staffers, Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) sat with freshman Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.), a moderate not prone to listening to leadership. Joe Manchin III (W.Va.), a Democrat always in the mix, first huddled with moderate Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) before moving on to a long one-on-one discussion with Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), another key moderate who had previously been talking with Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.). And, finally, Collins walked over to join a Republican scrum led by Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio), whose back-row desk has long been seen as a pivotal place, given his Bush-era political lineage.”

**-- Three moderate Democrats – Manchin, Sinema and Alabama's Doug Jones – are considering voting to acquit Trump but each supports witnesses. Politico reports: “All three senators remain undecided ... But they could end up with a creative solution. One or more senators may end up splitting their votes, [borrowing a move](#)**

from [Rep. Jared Golden \(D-Maine\)](#), who voted for the abuse of power charge but against the one on obstruction of Congress. ... Manchin insisted Tuesday he hasn't figured out where he will come down. And won't until the trial ends. ... There's no chatter in the caucus about anyone other than Jones, Sinema or Manchin ... although a number of other Democratic senators say they are still undecided."

-- **Manchin said this morning that Hunter Biden could be a relevant witness.** "I think so, I really do," the West Virginia Democrat said [on MSNBC's "Morning Joe."](#)

-- **The Des Moines Register's editorial board rips Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) for her conduct during the trial and calls on her to vote for witnesses:** "She might want to contemplate whether the process, and her comments, will influence Iowa voters when they go to the polls in November to decide whether she deserves a second term. Then there was her response in mid-January after the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office determined the White House violated the law when it withheld nearly \$400 million in assistance to Ukraine ... Ernst dismissed the GAO findings as 'moot' because the White House did eventually provide the aid to Ukraine. ... The message from the junior senator seems to be: It's OK to break the law as long as you later abide by it."





Fox News' shifting tone on John Bolton



## HAPPENING TODAY:

-- Putting the lawyers on trial: Senators plan to use their chance to pose written questions to press the counsels from both sides about their personal involvement at pivotal moments in the process. [Karoun Demirjian](#), [Seung Min Kim](#) and [Rachael Bade](#) [preview](#) what to expect: “Senators have up to 16 hours, divided over

two days beginning Wednesday, to pose questions to either the House managers or the Trump defense team. The lawyers will be given up to five minutes to respond to each query. Each side faces a balancing act in its allotted time. Senate Republicans must weigh the desires of moderates, who want to ask factual questions that could help determine whether to vote to call witnesses, against those of Trump loyalists, who want to pose questions that will allow defense lawyers to double down on attacks against Democrats ...

**“For Democrats, the chief objective is ensuring that their questions create an opportunity for House managers to respond to the Trump team’s arguments. ...** But many Democrats also want to use their time to challenge Trump’s team on what they believe are a series of misrepresentations — including how much his lawyers knew about Bolton’s assertions that Trump held up Ukraine aid to secure an investigation of the Biden family, when they were claiming there was no quid pro quo. ... Senators may direct questions at representatives on either side, but they cannot select which manager from the prosecution or lawyer from the defense answers them ... But part of the allure of turning the spotlight on lawyers is that neither side has at their disposal the testimony of fact witnesses they believe are central to the case.”

**-- Former Rudy Giuliani associate Lev Parnas cannot attend the trial because his ankle monitor prevents him from getting through security.** Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) gave Parnas tickets to the proceeding, but he won’t go after a federal judge denied his request to remove his monitor. ([Shayna Jacobs](#))

**-- Giuliani told [CBS News](#) that he’d love to testify during the trial**

**if he can get clearance from the White House. Don't hold your breath.** The president's personal lawyer also said Bolton never told him he had a problem with the way he was doing business with Ukraine. "He's a personal friend, I thought," Giuliani said. "This is the only conclusion I can come to and it's a harsh one and I feel very bad about it: He's a backstabber."

-- **Oleksandr Danylyuk, the former chairman of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, [tells the Daily Beast](#) that Bolton was the only person in the Trump administration he trusted to help secure a path forward between the two countries.** Danylyuk claims to have maintained constant contact with Bolton in an attempt to secure a meeting between Zelensky and Trump – conversations that he says included reassurances that the U.S. would not freeze aid to Ukraine.

-- **The Energy Department released a trove of documents related to former secretary Rick Perry's Ukraine dealings.** The documents show the department applauding Ukraine for its handling of corruption last May. But the new records don't cover how Trump allegedly began pushing Perry in a different direction: to work with Giuliani to pursue a deal with Ukraine that would help the president politically. ([CNN](#))



Senate trial: Trump's legal team finishes defense

-- **Trump's legal team spent very little time trying to vouch for the legitimacy of the Ukraine conspiracy theories that the president pressed Zelensky to investigate.** [Aaron Blake calls this a gaping hole in Trump's defense:](#) "To the extent that Trump's team tried to argue that the investigations were legitimate, it focused mostly on the idea that Hunter Biden's employment at a Ukrainian gas company was problematic. It spent considerably less time arguing for the theory that Trump actually raised ... on their July 25 phone call: that [Joe Biden] sought to help his son by pushing out Ukraine's top prosecutor. Ditto the other investigation Trump sought. In fact, **Trump's legal team spent literally zero time talking about the one involving the cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike** and a server that was supposedly in Ukraine. Trump's team didn't utter the word 'CrowdStrike' once in three days."

-- **House Democrats are using [Ken Starr's arguments](#) to**

**challenge the Trump administration's position that Congress is not entitled to grand jury records.** [Ann Marimow reports](#): “On Monday, Starr, the former independent counsel who is part of Trump’s team, reminded senators they do not sit as jurors and are in fact a ‘court.’ ... Trump administration lawyers have been arguing the opposite in a pending lawsuit, House lawyers told the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in a [new filing Tuesday](#). In court, the Justice Department has argued that a Senate impeachment trial is not a ‘judicial proceeding’ and therefore not exempt from secrecy rules that shield grand jury materials from disclosure. ‘That argument has now been contradicted by the president’s counsel’s statements to the Senate, which confirm that the Senate sits as a ‘court’ rather than a ‘legislative chamber’ during an impeachment trial,’ according to the filing.”

**-- Bolton has become a target of the pro-Trump Internet.** [Isaac Stanley-Becker dissects the anatomy of a smear](#): “The vilification of Bolton — branding him as a traitor and member of the ‘deep state’... — made use of misleading text as well as eye-catching memes. It moved from anonymous Twitter accounts with a few dozen followers to prime-time hosts on Fox News with an audience of hundreds of thousands. Finally, it made its way to Capitol Hill, when [Rand Paul] described the eyewitness to activity at the heart of the president’s impeachment trial as a ‘disgruntled, fired employee who now has a motive, a multimillion-dollar motive, to inflame the situation.’”

**-- Notable commentary from The Post’s opinion page:**

- [Kathryn Railsback, the oldest daughter of the late Thomas Railsback](#): “Senators confronting

impeachment can learn from my father's example in Watergate.”

- [Dana Milbank](#): “Trump’s defense, lost in space.”
- [Stephen Stromberg](#): “Trump’s lawyers only have self-defeating arguments on the Bolton bombshell.”
- [Jennifer Rubin](#): “Republicans are trapped, thanks to Nancy Pelosi.”
- [Kathleen Parker](#): “Bolton isn’t just selling books. He’s saving his legacy.”
- [Alexandra Petri](#): “I’m very worried about this president. Buy my book to find out why!”
- [Marc Thiessen](#): “Senate Republicans will set a dangerous precedent if they vote to hear from Bolton.”
- [Erik Wemple](#): “The comical hypocrisy of Sean Hannity.”
- [Greg Sargent](#): “Sekulow makes a strong case for hearing from Bolton.”
- [David Lay Williams](#), political science professor: “The founders worried that a republic would fail without ‘virtue.’ Today, we don’t.”

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** “If John Bolton says that in the book, I believe John Bolton,” said former Trump White House chief of staff John Kelly, a retired four-star Marine general. ([Herald Tribune](#))

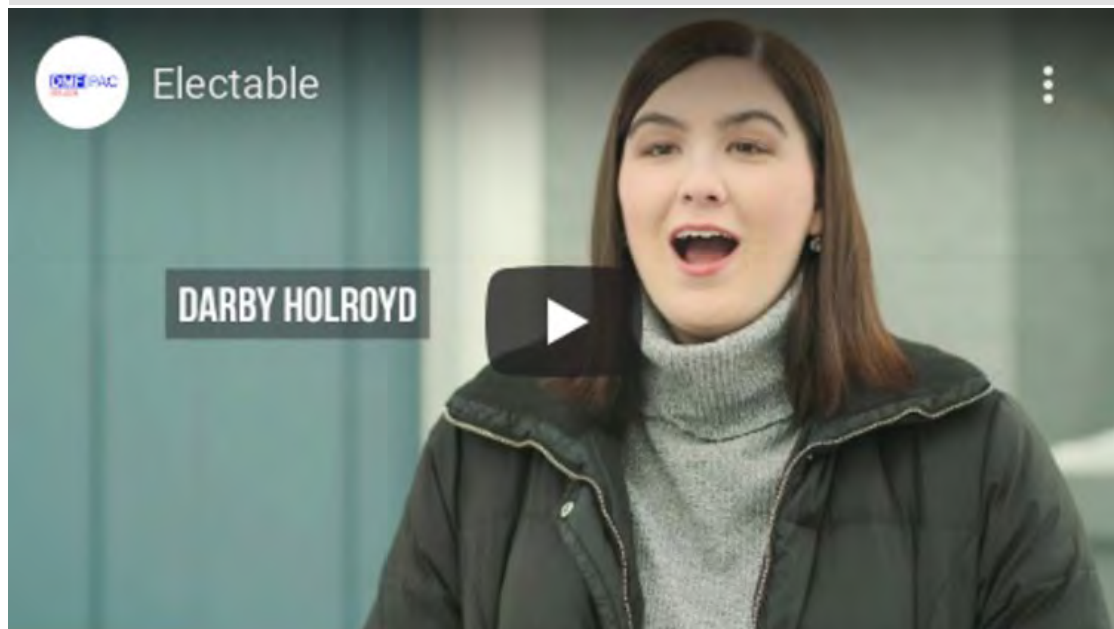
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**2020 WATCH:**

-- A super PAC aligned with the Democratic establishment is launching a \$680,000 ad buy to attack Bernie Sanders during the final five days before the caucuses. Among other hits, the commercial highlights his heart attack. [From the Times](#): "While

Democratic Majority for Israel is focused on raising support for Israel within the party, its spot targets the dominant concern among many Democrats in Iowa and elsewhere: beating [Trump]. Featuring six Iowa voters, the ad argues that Mr. Sanders would be unable to defeat Mr. Trump in the November general election, citing the senator's heart attack last year and his left-wing ideology as evidence that he would be too risky ... The group made its ad reservations on Monday, booking ... a significant level of saturation over a short span ... The buy is heavily weighted toward Cedar Rapids and Des Moines markets, and the group is also airing the ad on cable, including on CNN, MSNBC and ESPN."

-- **Sanders takes the 11th-hour attack seriously enough that he [tweeted a straight-to-camera response](#):** "The billionaire class is getting nervous, and they should," he said. "Under our administration, the wealthy and the powerful will begin paying their fair share in taxes. ... The big-money interests can run all the negative ads they want, but it's not going to work."

-- **While top Democrats are increasingly alarmed that Sanders could gain unstoppable momentum from the early states, they also fear that any anti-Sanders effort would backfire, and that has sidelined a more significant stop-Sanders effort for now. [Matt Viser and Annie Linskey report](#):** "Even the hint of an organized anti-Sanders movement would risk alienating the Vermont senator's sometimes belligerent supporters and play into claims that the process is 'rigged,' many Democrats say privately. Democratic House candidates in swing districts say they are nervous about running on the same ticket as Sanders, but they, too, are reluctant to say so



publicly.”

**-- Joe Biden's team pitched Amy Klobuchar's advisers on a possible alliance during next Monday night's Iowa caucuses, but the Klobuchar team dismissed the offer as not serious.** The [New York Times reports](#) the plan would involve a pledge to help each other in precincts where one of them doesn't meet the threshold of 15 percent support required to win delegates. People in both campaigns played down the conversation after word leaked.

**-- A change to the byzantine caucus rules could leave uncommitted Iowans stuck in a viable group, which is panicking campaigns.** [From the Des Moines Register](#): “Democratic operatives are encouraging Iowa caucusgoers to declare support for a candidate in the beginning of the caucus-night process — even if they may not intend to see that candidate through to the end — to prevent the uncommitted group from securing viability. At a Democratic caucus, Iowans begin by breaking up into groups based on their candidate preference. Due to a new rule change outlined in the Iowa Democratic Party's 74-page Delegate Selection Plan, if a group gains viability — reaches 15 percent of attendees' support and earns a delegate for the county convention — those caucusgoers are locked in and unable to switch to another group.”

**-- Biden wouldn't say whether he thinks Sanders could unify the party if he wins the nomination.** [From the AP](#): “‘We have to unite,’ Biden told reporters in Muscatine, six days before the Iowa caucuses. ‘I'm not going to make judgments now. I just think that it depends upon how we treat one another between now and the time we have a nominee.’ Biden has previously promised to support the Democratic

nominee, regardless of who it is. ... The Biden campaign said Tuesday afternoon that the former vice president would support the eventual nominee.”

-- **“Trump advisers and supporters are split over whether to wage an effort to bolster Sanders,”** [Politico reports](#). "While proponents think Sanders would be an ideal opponent, others are wary that the liberal firebrand could make for a dynamic challenger — with the ability to make inroads in the Rust Belt states likely to decide the outcome of the election. ... Among those pushing for a pro-Sanders offensive is the anti-tax Club for Growth. On Monday, the pro-Trump group launched a TV ad in Iowa that attacks Sanders but does so in ways that could help him with Democrats. The commercial calls Sanders ‘too liberal’ [and] compares Sanders to Democratic heroes Barack Obama and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and says he would spend trillions to combat climate change. The Trump reelection effort, meanwhile, has spent much of the last several weeks focusing its attacks on Sanders — a gambit that two people close to the campaign described as a deliberate effort to draw attention to the Vermont senator. The campaign has used its Twitter account as an anti-Sanders messaging machine and urged prominent surrogates to train their fire on him. Their working assumption is that the presidential attention will only boost his standing among anti-Trump Democratic voters.”

-- **“Running [Bernie] against Trump would be an act of insanity,”** [New York Magazine liberal columnist Jonathan Chait](#) writes in a piece generating a lot of buzz among Democratic elites. “In the months leading up to the 2018 midterm elections, the

Democratic Party was the subject of bitter and widespread criticism from its left wing. The party's strategy was to flip the House by recruiting moderate candidates who would avoid controversial left-wing positions and instead focus attention on Trump's agenda, especially his effort to eliminate Obamacare. The left predicted the strategy would fail — only an inspiring progressive agenda could mobilize enough voters to win back the House. ... Democrats flipped 40 seats. Tellingly, while progressives managed to nominate several candidates in red districts — Kara Eastman in Nebraska, Richard Ojeda in West Virginia, and many others — any one of whose victory they would have cited as proof that left-wing candidates can win Trump districts, not a single one of them prevailed in November.”

**-- New data from Quinnipiac shows that Elizabeth Warren is the top second choice for Democratic primary voters nationally, even as she has faded in the horse race.** Biden is the top choice, followed by Sanders. If first and second picks are combined, Warren matched Sanders in the poll. ([Philip Bump](#))

**-- Klobuchar has faced less media scrutiny over the past several months than anyone else in the top tier. That will change quickly if she performs well in Iowa.** The [Associated Press](#) offers a taste of what's to come: She often talks about her role prosecuting the case stemming from a little girl who was struck by a stray bullet, which ended with the imprisonment of black teenager Myon Burrell. But the [wire service](#) uncovered new evidence and multiple inconsistencies in the police investigation: “With no gun, no DNA, no fingerprints, the case against Burrell revolved around a teen rival who gave conflicting accounts of the shooting. Later, police turned to jailhouse informants,

some of whom say they were coached and have since recanted. Alibis were not questioned. Key evidence has gone missing or was never obtained, including a convenience store surveillance tape that Burrell and others say would have cleared him. And the chief homicide detective was caught on camera offering cash for information -- even if it was just hearsay. Burrell, now 33, has maintained his innocence.” Klobuchar's campaign defended her decision-making.

**-- 2024 watch: Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.) will spend \$19,000 to air a Biden attack ad in Iowa ahead of the caucuses.** He accuses Democrats of impeaching Trump as part of a "coverup." The senator says to the camera: "Biden got away with it, and his son got paid."  
([WSJ](#))

**-- The GOP won a closely watched Texas special election last night.** [From the AP](#): “The victory by Republican Gary Gates, who put more than \$1.5 million of his own money into his run for state House District 28, is sure to bring a sigh of relief for the GOP in a race that was being tracked far beyond Texas. By the final weeks, the race had escalated into the first big special election of 2020. In final unofficial results, Gates polled 58% of the vote to 42% for Democrat Eliz Markowitz. [Biden and Warren] had endorsed Markowitz, and outside groups flooded the race with six-figure checks and television ads. Beto O’Rourke practically made the district a second home after ending his own presidential campaign in November, spending weekends knocking on doors in Katy’s affluent neighborhoods.”

**-- Democrats are preparing for a “hostile” Trump transition.** [From Politico](#): “At least one outside group that works with the 2020 Democratic campaigns has quietly launched a transition-related effort

designed to offer an early look at the landscape that awaits them if they oust Trump. ... That Democrats are making transition-related moves more than nine months before Election Day underscores not only their distrust of Trump but also the reality that taking over the U.S. government is a mammoth task with high stakes. ... Every transition is tricky given the thousands of positions that need to be filled and the array of policy priorities a new team wants to pursue. But several Democrats attached to different 2020 campaigns mentioned very specific concerns about what a Trump departure could mean ... The Democrats said they worry that Trump's political appointees won't meet with the incoming team, that there will be little, if any, paperwork left behind to guide them, and that what documents are shared will not be trustworthy."

**-- A super PAC supporting Senate Democrats announced that it raised \$61 million last year.** The Senate Majority PAC haul is more than twice the amount its Republican counterpart reported raising in the same time, which is wild because the GOP controls the majority. ([Michelle Ye Hee Lee](#))

**-- House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, alarmed by these and other numbers, warned donors of a fundraising crisis.** "They are kicking our a--," the California Republican fumed at the Capitol Hill Club. ([Politico](#))

**-- Some lighter fare: An unexpected political matchup has shaken the Vermont town of Fair Haven.** Incumbent honorary mayor Lincoln – a Nubian goat – has been challenged for her seat by Sammy, a German Shepherd police dog. ([AP](#))



Xi says China will defeat 'devil' coronavirus

## **NEW WORLD ORDER:**

-- **“As the total number of people in mainland China infected by the new coronavirus surpasses those stricken by the 2002-3 SARS epidemic, Beijing has shut down schools indefinitely,”** [Simon Denyer and David Crawshaw report on a special live blog](#): “The World Health Organization said Tuesday that China had agreed to allow global health experts into the country and a top U.S. health official said he had offered to send a team from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to China to help with the coronavirus outbreak. ... **The death toll has risen to 132 in China, with 6,078 confirmed cases of infection as of Wednesday evening local time — a day-over-day increase of more than 1,000.**

“Other countries in the region also are reporting more people infected — nearly all of them tourists from China. **North Korea is calling the fight against the coronavirus a matter of ‘national existence’**

**amid fears over what an outbreak would do to a country with a rudimentary health infrastructure and a malnourished population.** The UAE has reported its first cases — the first in the Middle East — members of a family traveling from Wuhan. Germany reported three new cases late Tuesday, while Thailand confirmed six more. Hong Kong reported two new cases Wednesday. ... Two more coronavirus cases have been reported in Australia, bringing to seven the number of people in the country confirmed as having the virus that originated in central China. ...

**“Researchers with the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity in Melbourne announced on Wednesday that they have grown the coronavirus from a patient sample, potentially paving the way for more scientific breakthroughs.** It was the first time such an experiment had succeeded outside of China, the scientists said. They hope that the sample — set to be shared with laboratories around the world — will help to speed up efforts to develop a vaccine and to diagnose the virus in patients without symptoms. ... China has [also] handed over the genome of the coronavirus to Russia in a joint effort between the two countries to create a vaccine...”

**A plane carrying as many as 240 American evacuees from the Chinese city of Wuhan landed overnight in the United States.** David reports: “The U.S. government chartered the aircraft to retrieve American diplomats and others from the central Chinese city that is at the heart of the deadly coronavirus outbreak. The plane made a refueling stop in Alaska, where the passengers [will] undergo health screening, and would then head for southern California, [the Associated Press reported](#). The aircraft is expected to land at March

Air Reserve Base in California's Riverside County, instead of at Ontario International Airport as originally planned."

**The White House warned airline executives the U.S. government may suspend all flights to and from China if the coronavirus outbreak become a bigger public health threat. [Luz Lazo reports](#):**

"White House officials said they are not banning flights just yet, but said the U.S. government will assess the situation daily, leaving open the possibility of a ban on all flights from China ... Airlines in recent days have already canceled hundreds of flights scheduled from China's Wuhan International Airport, giving U.S. health officials a brief respite as they focused on the logistics of rerouting U.S.-bound travelers from the region to one of five airports for special screening. Travelers are being funneled to airports in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco, where they are being screened for the virus. If cleared, they are allowed to continue to their final destination." **British Airways also indefinitely suspended direct flights today to Beijing and Shanghai.**

**Officials at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, have called off two college basketball games after administrators announced two students who had recently traveled to China were being tested for coronavirus. [Reis Thebault reports](#):** "One of the students visited the campus health center on Monday and exhibited flulike symptoms, prompting staff to test him and his travel companion, a university statement said. The two students are now isolated in their off-campus residences while they await their test results from the CDC."

**-- Experts still can't say whether efforts to limit the spread of the virus will succeed. [Lena H. Sun and Lenny Bernstein report](#):** "Some



early signs are discouraging: Six countries, including China, have confirmed human-to-human transmission of the infection. Those include four cases in Germany connected to a single person ... Cases in China continue to multiply, and five million residents of Wuhan, where the virus originated, have left the city, some of them surely carrying the disease. ... Public health officials said Tuesday that they are grappling with a long list of unknowns that will determine how successful they are in limiting the toll of the widening outbreak. Those questions include how lethal the virus may be, how contagious it is, whether it is transmitted by people who are infected but show no symptoms, and whether it can be largely contained in its country of origin.”

**-- Has Trump's isolationist mentality hindered the U.S.**

**government's response?** When a group of business leaders in Davos last week asked about the coronavirus crisis, the president suggested the matter was a world away from the United States, [CNN reports](#): “Some of the assembled chief executives asked how Trump planned to confront the Wuhan coronavirus, which threatened to affect their global supply chains and spread into some of the world's most populous urban centers. Trump shrugged off their concerns, according to a person familiar with the conversation.”

**-- Trump's Israeli-Palestinian peace proposal was quickly criticized for granting Israel most of what it has sought over decades of conflict while establishing a disjointed Palestinian state.** [Anne Gearan, Steve Hendrix and Ruth Eglash report](#): “Trump touted the plan as the potential solution to decades of bloody strife, but his administration did little to solicit the support of Palestinian

leaders who had rejected it sight unseen and played no role in its drafting. The president presented the proposal as the best Palestinians could hope to get during a ceremony where he stood beside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who eagerly embraced both the president and what he presented. ... The plan would grant Israel vast license to incorporate Jewish settlements and maintain a yoke of security on land it now occupies — proposals that could have immediate consequences. Netanyahu plans to move forward with annexing the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and parts of the Jordan Valley as soon as this weekend... The detailed proposal offers a four-year window for Palestinians to begin negotiations for what would amount to a smaller, weaker version of statehood than envisioned by past U.S. presidents. But the conditional sovereignty is still more than Palestinians have now, and more than many of Trump's critics thought he would offer.”

**-- U.S. forces recovered the bodies of two American service members from the site of a surveillance plane crash in Taliban territory in Afghanistan.** The cause of the crash is still under investigation, but there are “no indications that the crash was caused by enemy fire,” the U.S. military command in Kabul said. ([Susannah George and Missy Ryan](#))

**-- The Pentagon now acknowledges 50 troops have been diagnosed with concussions and traumatic brain injuries as a result of the Iranian missile attack on U.S. forces in Iraq.** “That's an increase of 16 from late last week when the Pentagon said 34 cases had been diagnosed,” [CNN reports](#). “Several Pentagon officials [said] that the number of diagnosed cases is likely to continue to

change. Approximately 200 people who were in the blast zone at the time of the attack have been screened for symptoms. ... **Last week Trump said he does not consider potential brain injuries to be as serious as physical combat wounds, downplaying the severity of the injuries suffered in Iraq.** ... 'I heard that they had headaches, and a couple of other things, but I would say, and I can report, it's not very serious,' Trump [said]." Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Thomas Campbell sends this statement: "**Of these 50, 31 total service members were treated in Iraq and returned to duty,** including 15 of the additional service members who have been diagnosed since the previous report. 18 service members have been transported to Germany for further evaluation and treatment."

-- **A 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck between Jamaica and Cuba, one of the strongest on record for the Caribbean.** Initial reports of damage in the region have been spotty. ([Matthew Cappucci and Jason Samenow](#))



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo waves after Trump acknowledged him during a White House event on the Middle East peace plan. (Alex Brandon/AP)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERSHADOWED:**

**-- America is drowning in red ink: The federal budget deficit will eclipse \$1 trillion in 2020, the Congressional Budget Office said, and the 13-figure shortfall is largely due to the Trump tax cuts.** [Jeff Stein reports](#): “A combination of the 2017 tax cuts and a surge in new spending has pushed the deficit wider. This year would mark the first time since 2012 that the deficit breached \$1 trillion, a threshold that has alarmed some budget experts because **deficits typically contract — not expand — during periods of sustained economic growth**. Overall, the CBO projected that the federal government will spend \$4.6 trillion in the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30 and bring in \$3.6 trillion in tax revenue. ... The CBO also projected the economy would grow by 2.2 percent in 2020, which represents a healthy clip but falls short of the 3 percent target set by the Trump administration. The projections were contained in the CBO’s annual budget and economic outlook.”

**-- The Trump administration is inviting states to convert part of Medicaid into a block grant, a conservative goal Congress rejected more than two years ago.** [Amy Goldstein reports](#): “A letter to every state Medicaid director, to be dispatched Thursday, will offer the possibility of trading away an entitlement program that expands and contracts depending on how many poor people need the government health coverage. In exchange, for able-bodied adults in

the program, states could apply to receive a fixed federal payment and freedom from many of the program's rules, according to several individuals familiar with the plans. ... **Proponents and critics alike expect the block grant guidance will also face court challenges.**

... Allowing block grants in Medicaid has been a prime objective for [administrator of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Seema] Verma since she arrived in Washington three years ago from a role as an Indiana-based health-care consultant whose clients included several states' Medicaid programs. Within the administration, Verma has consistently argued for states to be allowed greater flexibility in running Medicaid, which is a joint responsibility of the federal government and the states.”

**-- Trump will sign the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement during a ceremony at the White House today for about 400 guests, but he chose not to invite any of the key Democrats who shepherded the deal through Congress.** “Guests invited to the South Lawn signing include lawmakers from around the country, workers, farmers, and CEOs, as well as officials from Mexico and Canada,” [Reuters reports](#). “Not invited were House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal and other Democrats who negotiated for months to expand the pact's labor, environmental and enforcement provisions and ensure the approval of the Democratically-controlled House.”

**-- A lack of a “black box” could hinder the NTSB investigation into Kobe Bryant’s helicopter crash.** [Ian Duncan and Luz Lazo report](#): “While airliners and some other aircraft are required to have the recorders, which can gather technical data as well as audio and

video recordings, many helicopters are not. The Federal Aviation Administration says it's difficult to make the economic case for requiring the devices because they don't prevent crashes. ... NTSB investigators continued their work Tuesday, sifting through the crash wreckage, trying to understand what happened and beginning interviews with witnesses. The Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner said it had recovered all nine bodies from the crash scene, three of which had been recovered Sunday afternoon. Four of the people on board, including Bryant, were formally identified by fingerprints."

**-- Retired Navy SEAL Eddie Gallagher – who was accused of war crimes but championed by Trump – struck back at the active-duty SEALs who testified against him by highlighting their faces in a video published on social media.** [From the San Diego Union-Tribune](#): "In a three-minute video posted to his Facebook page and Instagram account ... Gallagher, 40, referred to some members of his former platoon as 'cowards' and highlighted names, photos and — for those still on active duty — their duty status and current units, something former SEALs say places those men — and the Navy's mission — in jeopardy. ... [A] former SEAL from the platoon said publicizing the faces of active-duty SEALs — including one assigned to the elite Development Group, or SEAL Team 6 — could put the lives of the men and their families in danger. ... The video appears to be a trailer for an unspecified future project. Tim Parlatore, one of Gallagher's attorneys, declined to say Monday what that project is or when it will be published."

**-- Another Navy SEAL has been promoted four months after he**

**admitted to choking a Green Beret to death.** [From the Daily Beast:](#) Chief Petty Officer Tony DeDolph “was formally charged in November 2018 with felony murder, conspiracy, obstruction of justice, burglary, hazing, and involuntary manslaughter in the strangulation death of Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar, a Special Forces soldier assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group. ... Days after Melgar was strangled, DeDolph, at the time a petty officer first class, was sent back to his base in Virginia Beach under suspicion of murder. Despite that, DeDolph found himself on the promotion list for chief petty officer in August 2017.”

**-- Meanwhile, Special Operations forces are stretched dangerously thin as the president’s interference in Gallagher’s case and two others comes with a cost to military ethics and discipline,** [writes columnist David Ignatius.](#) "Special Operations Command (SOCOM) [took an important step](#) Tuesday to protect the integrity of its forces with the release of a comprehensive review of the 'culture and ethics' of these elite units. ... But the thrust of the report is clear: Special Operations forces (SOF) are badly frayed by nearly 20 years of war."

**-- Lawyers for Dylann Roof, who was sentenced to death for killing nine black parishioners in a 2015 mass shooting, appealed the decision, arguing that the trial was “tainted” by mental health issues.** ([Katie Shepherd](#))

**-- Trump praised Mike Pompeo for his ugly attacks on NPR journalist Mary Louise Kelly. “You did a good job on her,” the president told his secretary of state at the White House.** [Colby Itkowitz reports:](#) “Trump, alongside [Netanyahu] for an event on the

[Middle East peace proposal] acknowledged Pompeo in the audience. Pompeo received a round of applause. 'Very impressive, Mike,' Trump said, jovially. 'That reporter couldn't have done too good a job on you yesterday. I think you did a good job on her, actually.' Trump was referencing a confrontation Pompeo had with [Kelly] after an interview in which she asked him why he did not do more to defend Marie Yovanovitch, the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine ... [Pompeo] proceeded to curse and yell at Kelly for asking about Ukraine ... [He] did not apologize for his treatment of Kelly."

**-- In an op-ed for today's Times, NPR's Mary Louise Kelly said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo falsely calling her a liar wasn't the worst part of their contentious interview. She said the kerfuffle has diverted attention away from Pompeo's comments about Iran:** "Here's the relevant portion of the interview: KELLY: How do you stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon? POMPEO: We'll stop them. KELLY: How? Sanctions? POMPEO: We'll stop them. He did not offer specifics. Nor did he elaborate, when pressed on how to square his resolve with what [the Iranian foreign minister] had just told me — that all limits on Iran's centrifuge program have been suspended. 'Yeah,' Mr. Pompeo said. 'He's blustering.' ... The point is that recently the risk of miscalculation — of two old adversaries misreading each other and accidentally escalating into armed confrontation — has felt very real. It occurs to me that swapping insults through interviews with journalists such as me might, terrifyingly, be as close as the top diplomats of the United States and Iran came to communicating this month."

**-- Human-trafficking groups refuse to attend Ivanka Trump's**



**White House summit.** [Jessica Contrera reports](#): “Their decision comes after months of anguish over what they describe as an act of public deception. They say that although the president frequently invokes human trafficking, his administration is actively endangering a significant portion of trafficking victims: immigrants. ‘We have such a chasm between rhetoric and reality,’ said Martina Vandenberg, the founder of the Human Trafficking Legal Center, a network of attorneys who take on trafficking cases. ‘This administration is undermining protections carefully built for trafficking victims over two decades.’ The advocates are especially alarmed by increased scrutiny of T visas, which provide temporary legal status for immigrants who can prove they were trafficked while in the United States. At least eight organizations declined invitations to the summit because of their opposition to the administration’s policies.”

**-- Senators expressed a fresh round of frustration that Trump officials are so persistently unwilling to engage with Congress on military decisions.** [Karoun Demirjian reports](#): Senators blasted “State Department officials for holding a closed-door session when none of the information they shared was classified. ... In the weeks since Trump ordered the strike in Baghdad that killed Qasem Soleimani, lawmakers in the House and Senate have rallied around measures to restrain the president’s ability to conduct hostilities against Iran absent explicit congressional authorization. ... In the weeks since the strike that killed Soleimani, administration officials have given conflicting reasons for why they believed they had legal basis to carry it out absent congressional approval ... Administration officials also did not commit to being more forthcoming with Congress, in deference to its war powers, than they have been in the weeks

since the Soleimani strike.”

**-- A Maryland police officer was charged with murder after, police said, he fired seven shots at a man who was handcuffed in the front seat of a cruiser with his hands behind his back. [Rachel Chanson, Dan Morse and Justin Jovenal report](#): “Police Chief Hank Stawinski announced the charges less than a day after the incident, following the department’s investigation. Stawinski said bringing such serious charges against an officer within 24 hours of an incident is ‘unprecedented’ for the department. ... He identified the victim as William Green, 43, of Southeast Washington. Green was killed while sitting in the passenger side of a police cruiser in the Temple Hills area. ... Cpl. Michael Owen Jr. is in custody and awaiting a bond hearing, Stawinski said. He is charged with second-degree murder, manslaughter and associated weapons charges.”**

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**


Trump lashed out at Bolton on Twitter this morning as he pleaded with Republicans not to go along with calling witnesses who could testify against him:



**Donald J. Trump**  @realDonaldTrump · 3h 

For a guy who couldn't get approved for the Ambassador to the U.N. years ago, couldn't get approved for anything since, "begged" me for a non Senate approved job, which I gave him despite many saying "Don't do it, sir," takes the job, mistakenly says "Libyan Model" on T.V., and..



**Donald J. Trump** 

@realDonaldTrump


....many more mistakes of judgement, gets fired because frankly, if I listened to him, we would be in World War Six by now, and goes out and IMMEDIATELY writes a nasty & untrue book. All Classified National Security. Who would do this?

 48.2K 12:28 PM - Jan 29, 2020 



 23.3K people are talking about this 



**Donald J. Trump** 

@realDonaldTrump 

Why didn't John Bolton complain about this "nonsense" a long time ago, when he was very publicly terminated. He said, not that it matters, NOTHING!

 81.2K 5:07 AM - Jan 29, 2020 

 34.2K people are talking about this 

McConnell's former chief of staff and campaign manager predicted that Hunter Biden will wind up testifying if Democrats get Bolton:



**Josh Holmes** ✓  
@Holmesjosh



Not sure about this. I'm still betting that if you see the whites of John Bolton's eyes in the Senate, you'll see the glassy gaze of Hunter Biden's alongside of him. I don't think they're going to vote to launch this Hindenburg. At least not yet. [twitter.com/hotlinejosh/st...](https://twitter.com/hotlinejosh/status/1218444444444444444)

**Josh Kraushaar** ✓ @Hotlinejosh

Big WSJ scoop: McConnell tells R senators he \*doesn't\* have votes to block witnesses.

John Bolton, come on down ... [wsj.com/articles/trump...](https://www.wsj.com/articles/trump...)

♡ 450 11:01 PM - Jan 28, 2020



💬 182 people are talking about this



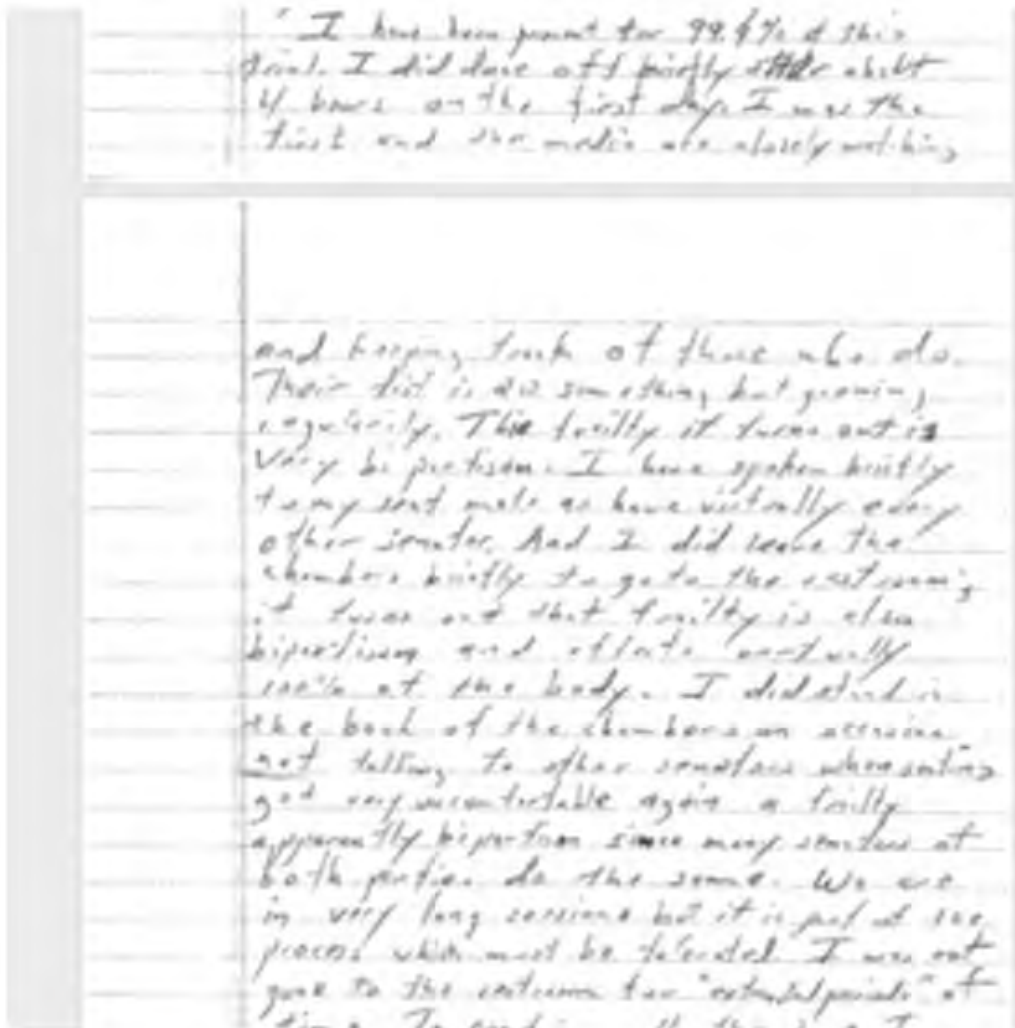
Sen. Jim Risch (R-Idaho) sent a handwritten letter to his local paper to explain why he dozed off during jury duty:



**Lauren Fox** ✓  
@FoxReports



In a handwritten, five-page letter to the Idaho Statesman, Sen. Jim Risch explains to the paper what it is like to be in the chamber and why he is not the only senator to get up occasionally or doze off.



31 8:37 PM - Jan 28, 2020



44 people are talking about this



One of the more colorful moments from Tuesday's proceedings was when Mitt Romney showed up on the Senate floor with some

*chocolate milk:*



There's so much footage of Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) espousing the opposite of what he says now back when he was an impeachment manager making the case against Bill Clinton in 1998:



**andrew kaczynski** 🙄 ✓  
@KFILE



"I think witnesses probably will be essential before it's all over with...will be judged in history, just not for the political moment, my only advice to Senate is let's have a trial that will withstand historical scrutiny." [twitter.com/LindseyGrahamS...](https://twitter.com/LindseyGrahamS...)



**Lindsey Graham** ✓ @LindseyGrahamSC

I'm increasingly optimistic this ends Friday. ...The defense team destroyed the House case.

Check out my conversation with @marthamaccallum tonight about the latest on impeachment, including the call for witnesses. [youtu.be/oA4bW65cG\\_A](https://youtu.be/oA4bW65cG_A)

♡ 96 1:39 AM - Jan 29, 2020



💬 54 people are talking about this



The former Republican congressman who left the party after

endorsing impeachment replied to Graham's new argument against witnesses:



**Justin Amash**  [@justinamash](#)

Sen. Graham believes the traditional process for discovering all relevant facts in a trial is a "lousy idea."  
[twitter.com/mkraju/status/...](https://twitter.com/mkraju/status/...)

**Manu Raju**  [@mkraju](#)

"One witness would probably lead to a lot of witnesses," Sen. Lindsey Graham said, adding it would be a "lousy idea for the country" to go down that route

15.1K 4:04 AM - Jan 29, 2020

4,322 people are talking about this

Here's a fun tidbit from the Clinton trial as Q&A begins later today:



**Ross Garber**  [@rossgarber](#)

In the Clinton impeachment trial Q&A, White House Counsel Charles Ruff used a secret signal to tell the Senate Democratic leader that he had something to say and wanted to be asked an open-ended question.




23 8:10 PM - Jan 28, 2020

See Ross Garber's other Tweets

From the Virginia congressional district once represented by Eric




Cantor, here's a fresh illustration of how Trump has completely taken over the GOP:



 **Jonathan Martin**   
@jmartNYT 



A particularly vivid illustration of how the main GOP litmus test is fealty to Trump: every would-be challenger to [@RepSpanberger](#) dons red MAGA hat.

Spanberger, of course, won her seat in part bc of suburban backlash to Trump.  
[starexponent.com/news/state/gop...](https://starexponent.com/news/state/gop...)



**GOP's Spanberger challengers turn out in force in C...**  
Republicans showed their strength Saturday in Culpeper, massing the candidates who wish to take on Rep. Abigail  
[starexponent.com](https://starexponent.com)

 239 12:57 PM - Jan 28, 2020 

 196 people are talking about this 

**VIDEOS OF THE DAY:**

Stephen Colbert broke down Pompeo's attacks on NPR:



Biden crashed a reporter's live shot during a town hall in Iowa:



**Norah O'Donnell**    
@NorahODonnell



That's live TV for you!

Former VP [@JoeBiden](#) makes a surprise appearance with [@edokeefe](#) on the [@CBSEveningNews](#)



♡ 2,495 11:48 PM - Jan 28, 2020



💬 696 people are talking about this



And it looks like Mike Bloomberg forgot that dogs are really good at shaking hands:



**Christopher J. Hale** ✓  
@chrisjollyhale



I regret to inform you that Mike Bloomberg attempted to shake a dog's mouth.



♥ 18.1K 8:38 PM - Jan 28, 2020



💬 4,734 people are talking about this



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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Trump's defense lawyers refused to answer two important questions related to the president's intent  
**Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 8:16:40 AM

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

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**Trump's defense lawyers refused to answer two important questions related to the president's intent**



Trump lawyer defends accepting foreign information in an election



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: Sometimes what's not said turns out be most revealing.**

Senators posed 93 written questions from 1 p.m. until a little after 11 p.m. on Wednesday as part of President Trump's impeachment trial.

Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), two potential swing votes on whether to call witnesses, teamed up to ask a straightforward question of fact to the president's defense team: Did Trump ever mention Joe and Hunter Biden in connection with corruption when he spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's predecessor -- "or other Ukrainian officials, President Trump's Cabinet members, or top aides or others"?

This could shed light on whether the president's motives were entirely partisan when he pressed his counterpart in Kyiv to look at the former vice president's son on July 25 – three months after Joe Biden announced his candidacy against Trump. Theoretically, it could help the president's case if Trump had brought up the Bidens and corruption to then-Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko when it was still unclear whether he'd run.

But Deputy White House Counsel Patrick Philbin refused to answer. He said he would only talk about issues that were already in the record. "I'm limited to what's in the record, and what's in the record is determined by what the House of Representatives saw," Philbin said. "So I can't point to something in the record that shows President Trump at an earlier time mentioning specifically something related to Joe or Hunter Biden."

This is a lawyerly tactic for evading questions, but it was a particularly dubious excuse because another of the president's defense lawyers had introduced a new Daily Beast article into the record just minutes earlier.

Philbin also dodged when Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah), possibly another key vote, asked Trump's lawyers what specific date the president first ordered the hold on military aid to Ukraine and what his reasoning was at the time he did so. "I don't think there is evidence in the record of a specific date," Philbin said.

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), the lead House impeachment manager, called Philbin's dodges disingenuous. "You're not confined to the record in the House, nor is the president," Schiff told the White House

lawyer in front of all 100 senators. “The president could call witnesses if they existed. There’s nothing to prevent them from saying, ‘As a matter of fact, tomorrow we’re going to call such-and-such, and they’re going to testify that indeed, Donald Trump brought up Hunter Biden to President Poroshenko!’”

Refusing to provide any new information is just the latest illustration of the stonewalling that’s been the centerpiece of the White House strategy to save Trump since word of the whistleblower complaint got out. The White House has not complied with any House subpoenas for witnesses or documents related to the Ukraine affair.

Trump perhaps felt emboldened to forcefully defy congressional subpoenas because of his experience with Bob Mueller. The president paid no discernable political price for refusing to give an interview to the then-special counsel. Eventually, he agreed to answer a limited number of written questions about episodes that occurred before he took office. Remember, Trump’s July 25 with Zelensky call came one day after Mueller testified before Congress.

Later in the evening, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) reupped the Collins and Murkowski query. He sent this question to the president’s lawyers: “Could you please give an accurate and truthful answer to the senators’ question?”

“So I can’t,” Philbin replied. “I’m not in a position to go back into things that the president might have said in private, so I can’t go telling now about things that the president might have said to Cabinet members.”





President Trump talks about health care during a 2017 event at the White House with Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

Trump defense attorney Alan Dershowitz then took it to the next level. In response to a separate question, the emeritus Harvard Law professor referred to what Collins and Murkowski asked. Then he argued that it doesn't matter even if Trump only became interested in Ukraine investigating Biden after the Democrat announced a challenge against him. "His candidacy is a very good reason for upping the interest in his son: If he wasn't running for president, he's a has-been," Dershowitz said. "He's the former vice president of the United States, okay? Big deal. But if he's running for president, that's an enormous big deal."

Dershowitz has [overshadowed](#) the rest of Trump's defense team because he has such a flair for the dramatic and because his over-the-top arguments are so far outside the mainstream of constitutional

jurisprudence. But the soft-spoken Philbin, 52, more subtly staked out a series of startlingly low standards for acceptable presidential conduct during the first day of questions.

For example, Philbin said a president asking Russia and China to look into his political opponents – as Trump has done publicly – would not violate campaign finance laws that make it illegal to accept or solicit a “thing of value” from foreign sources.

“Mere information is not something that would violate the campaign finance laws,” Philbin said in response to a question from Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.). “If there is credible information, credible information of wrongdoing by someone who is running for a public office, it’s not campaign interference for credible information about wrongdoing to be brought to light.”

This is consistent with [Trump’s claim](#) in June that “there isn’t anything wrong” with accepting “oppo research” from foreigners. The president told ABC News at the time – a month before his July 25 call – that he feels no obligation to alert the FBI if his campaign is approached again by foreign agents in 2020 with dirt on a Democrat, as the Russians did ahead of the June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower with Donald Trump Jr., Jared Kushner and Paul Manafort.

Democrats fumed. “Apparently it’s okay for the president to get information from foreign governments in an election — that’s news to me,” said Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.), one of the House managers, responding to Philbin. “As we go forward in this trial itself, we are creating additional dangers to the nation by suggesting that things that have long been prohibited are now suddenly going to be okay

because they've been asserted in the president's defense."

Philbin asserted earlier in the afternoon that that it "cannot possibly be the basis for an impeachable offense" if the president had multiple motivations for pushing Ukraine to announce an investigation of the Bidens – even if one motive was helping his 2020 reelection campaign.

"All elected officials to some extent have in mind how their conduct, how their decisions, their policy decisions will affect the next election," Philbin said. "There's always some personal interest in the electoral outcome of policy."

The 16 hours allotted for Q&A will continue this afternoon, starting at 1 p.m. They'll wrap sometime this evening. The Senate is on track to vote on witnesses tomorrow.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and his lieutenants feel increasingly confident they can twist enough arms to block former national security adviser John Bolton from testifying under oath about Trump's role in the alleged Ukrainian coercion campaign.

"Trump is set to deliver his State of the Union address Feb. 4, and Republicans would like to have the impeachment trial behind them by that point," [Erica Werner, Karoun Demirjian and Elise Viebeck report](#). "My sense is we will get there," said Sen. John Cornyn (R-Tex.), a key McConnell ally. ... For his part, Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) sounded glum about the prospect ... 'The president and Mitch McConnell put huge pressure on these folks,' Schumer told reporters ... 'It's an uphill fight. Is it more likely than not? Probably no. But is it a decent, good chance? Yes.'"

With the notable exception of Collins, the Republican senators who face tough reelection fights in November are falling in line with leadership. Sen. Cory Gardner (Colo.) said he does “not believe we need to hear from an 18th witness.” “I have heard enough,” said appointed Sen. Martha McSally (Ariz.). “It is time to vote.” We’ve heard similar statements from Sens. Thom Tillis (N.C.) and Joni Ernst (Iowa).

Democrats say the lack of candor in response to questions from Collins, Murkowski and Romney is all the more reason to call Bolton and other witnesses, such as acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, who could speak to Trump’s motives. “The Senate can get to the truth by calling witnesses,” said Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.).





Dershowitz: Quid pro quo in Trump's political interest is not impeachable

### **MORE FROM THE TRIAL:**

**-- Chief Justice John Roberts's role in the trial may soon become less like a substitute teacher's and more like an actual judge.** [Robert Barnes reports](#): "Wednesday marked a new phase of the impeachment inquiry, one more likely to reveal what Roberts believes it means for the chief justice of the United States to 'preside' over an impeachment trial of the president. He displayed no inclination to play a more active role. It is largely uncharted territory — only two chief justices in the nation's history have been put in such a position. There is disagreement among those who have studied impeachment over such basic questions as whether he can break a tie vote, much less call witnesses on his own volition. ... **Roberts continued to play it straight. He quietly turned down a question from Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) that might have named the alleged whistleblower in the case, but he otherwise did not question premises or point out**

**what might be inaccuracies.** ... Other questions from senators seemed almost designed to put into the chief justice's mouth the most explosive charges about [the Bidens] or some of the most controversial comments from Trump."

-- **"Democrats are casting a nervous eye on a small group of publicly undecided senators in their ranks as Republicans target ... a bipartisan acquittal,"** [Mike DeBonis reports](#). "Under the spotlight are two centrist mavericks who won election last year — Sens. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) — as well as Sen. Doug Jones (D-Ala.), who will face voters this year after a long-shot win in a special election in 2017."

-- **"Dershowitz — my professor at Harvard Law School — is flat-out wrong in his assertion that abuse of power is not a basis for impeachment,"** former congresswoman **Elizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.)** writes in [an op-ed for today's newspaper](#). "His position contradicts his own prior views, as well as the views of almost all legal scholars, something that Dershowitz himself admits. Just as important, his assertion flies in the face of the articles of impeachment voted against President Richard M. Nixon by the House Judiciary Committee — of which I was a member — in 1974. These articles did not charge Nixon with a crime, a fact Dershowitz willfully ignores."

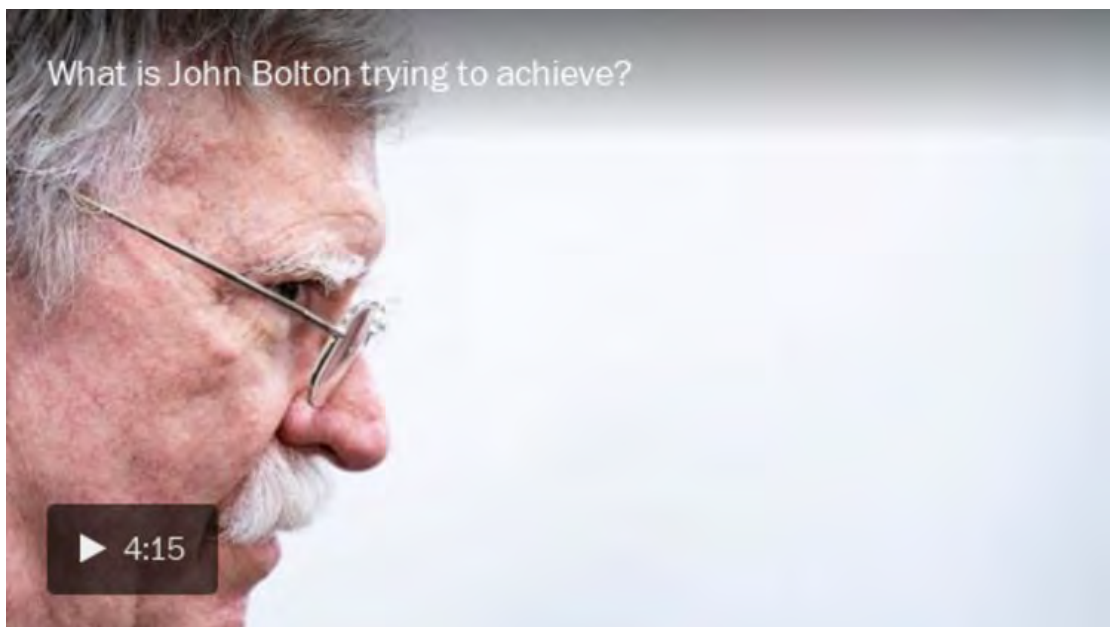
-- **The Post's opinion page is full of additional commentary on this theme:**

- [The Editorial Board](#): "Republicans' damaging new line of defense."
- [George F. Will](#): "There is more utility than futility in

the impeachment trial.”

- **Joe Scarborough:** “Trump’s confederacy of dunces.”
- **Harry Litman:** “Trump’s mixed-motive defense is a lousy argument dressed up in plausible legalese.”

-- **Dershowitz told *Esquire* for a new magazine profile that working for Trump’s defense has led to more blowback than any of his previous clients:** “Worse than Harry Reems. Worse than von Bülow. Worse than O.J. ‘No question,’ he says. ‘My life was a lot happier before I did this than now. I had a lot more friends. I got a lot of grief during the O.J. case. I defended that guy for murder, but it was nothing like this. This is much worse.’ Is Trump held in lower esteem than O.J. was? Dershowitz shrugs. ‘In the O.J. case, people disagreed with what I did,’ he says. ‘Here, people disagree with who I am.’”



What is John Bolton trying to achieve?

-- **Bolton’s lawyer said his book does not contain classified**

**material and asked the White House for an expedited review of the draft chapter about Ukraine in case he's called to testify.** [Tom Hamburger, Josh Dawsey and Karen DeYoung report](#): “The Jan. 24 email to the White House from Bolton’s lawyer, Charles Cooper, was in response to a letter from the National Security Council a day earlier warning that the manuscript contained ‘significant amounts’ of classified material that could not be disclosed publicly. ... Ellen J. Knight, the security council’s senior director for records, access and information security management, said Bolton would be breaking his nondisclosure agreement with the U.S. government if he published the book without deleting the classified material. ... Bolton’s team expects a lengthy fight over the issue.”

**-- The bigger picture: Trump demands fealty from those closest to him while inspiring very little.** Former aides, advisers and associates turn on the president with thrumming regularity, [Ashley Parker observes](#): “They are, en masse, all the president’s disloyal men and women — an unofficial club that includes Rex Tillerson, Trump’s former secretary of state, Omarosa Manigault Newman, a former White House senior adviser, and Michael Cohen, the president’s former personal attorney and fixer ... The culture, of course, is set from the top, with an Oval Office occupant who requires abject fealty but rarely returns it. **Trump is known for his petty cruelty, for berating aides publicly and privately and for presiding over an intentionally gladiatorial West Wing,** where advisers seem to expect to be betrayed at some point — and behave accordingly.”

**-- Rudy Giuliani’s indicted former associate Lev Parnas is unable**



**to enter the Senate chamber to observe the impeachment trial because of his ankle bracelet monitor. That doesn't mean he couldn't make himself its star anyway.** [Maura Judkis and Avi Selk report](#): “Around 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, ... [Parnas] took a stroll from Union Station to the Capitol building. ... If he couldn't say it in front of the Senate, he could say it here, in front of the Union Station Ladurée macaron shop: **‘The president knew everything that was going on in Ukraine,’ Parnas said.** ‘There was many quid pro quos.’ ... Both [Parnas and his lawyer Joseph Bondy] wore gray suits. Both had American flag pins on their lapels. The pair were swarmed by TV camera crews. ‘I’m not here to make a circus,’ said Bondy, but most circuses start with a parade ... ‘I felt like a Kardashian for a few minutes,’ a law student accompanying the legal team remarked. ... ‘Thank you, Lev!’ called out Jennifer Chartrand, 55, of Rockville. She was wearing a knitted pink pussy hat. ‘Thanks for speaking truth!’”

**-- The Trump administration just issued new sanctions on top Russian-backed officials in Crimea.** [Carol Morello reports](#): “The sanctions targeting seven officials and a railway company connecting Russia with Crimea were handed down by the Treasury Department two days before Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is scheduled to meet with officials in Ukraine. The United States has never recognized Moscow’s seizure of Crimea and still considers it a part of Ukraine. ... Treasury Secretary Stephen Mnuchin said the U.S. action ‘reiterates our unwavering support for restoring free and fair democratic political processes in Crimea.’ ... The action gave a subtle cold shoulder to the Crimean officials, preceding each one’s title with ‘so-called.’ Among them was Yuri Gotsanyuk, the ‘so-called Prime Minister of the so-called Republic of Crimea.’”

**-- Ukraine's precarious attempt to balance Russian authoritarianism and Western democracy makes American attention critical to politicians there. For the Ukrainian president, the holy grail is a White House meeting, which is why Volodymyr Zelensky remains so focused on getting that one-on-one with the president.** With Pompeo due to meet Zelensky tomorrow, Ukraine's leadership is looking for a signal on its standing with Trump, [Natalie Gryvnyak and Robyn Dixon report](#). "But the signs for Ukraine are worrying. [Former U.S. special envoy to Ukraine Kurt] Volker has not been replaced since his resignation in September. There has been no new U.S. ambassador appointed to replace Marie Yovanovitch ... And a disquieting silence has descended over U.S.-Ukraine relations amid [impeachment]. ... Even if Pompeo does deliver Zelensky a White House meeting, as Volker suggested, attention will inevitably turn to whether Zelensky offered something helpful to Trump in return."

**-- "The United States last year resettled more nationals from Ukraine, a country that barely registers in the United Nations' assessments of the global refugee crisis, than it did almost any other nationality," [Abigail Hauslohner reports](#).** "Only people fleeing widespread violence and unrest in Congo and Myanmar outnumber the flow of Ukrainian refugees to the United States." There is no indication that Trump's special interest in Ukraine played a role in this rise. "But the demographic shift does appear to be the byproduct of Trump administration policies that have restricted access [from other countries] to the U.S. refugee program, experts said. ... The 4,451 Ukrainians who arrived in the United States during fiscal 2019 made up 15 percent of the 30,000 total refugees who resettled in the

country. In 2016, Ukrainians accounted for just 3 percent.”

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** “I’m no fan of John Bolton, although I like him a little more than I used to,” Schiff joked as he made the case for witnesses.



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Iowa caucus 2020: A step-by-step guide

## 2020 WATCH:

-- Allies for Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders have spoken to Andrew Yang's campaign about cooperation in Iowa on caucus night. And Tom Steyer's campaign was contacted by a representative from Pete Buttigieg's campaign to feel out whether they could work together in some way. [Annie Linskey and Dan Balz report](#): "With just five days to go before the Iowa caucuses, several of the top Democratic campaigns and operatives are eyeing one another as potential, and limited, allies in their battle to win convention delegates. ... Candidates who do not earn support from at least 15 percent of those in the room are not considered viable, and they do not earn delegates. Their backers are free to leave or to align with another candidate. That can lead to negotiations between campaigns over the fate of the supporters of nonviable candidates. ... Those specific deals would be harder for campaigns to use this year

because candidates who reach 15 percent aren't able to shed voters. That potentially offers more power to less popular candidates. Some suggested that it was far-fetched to think an Iowa committed enough to attend the caucuses would be likely to make their second choice based on the recommendation of a campaign staffer. ...

**“Biden’s campaign has also been courting endorsements from two candidates who have left the race — [Kamala] Harris and Cory Booker ...** Yet those discussions have been complicated by the Senate impeachment trial. Booker and Harris have appeared reluctant to make any endorsements while the hearings are ongoing, particularly when Biden is a focus in the proceedings and could still be subpoenaed to testify. ... [Elizabeth] Warren’s staff made an early bet that they could identify Iowans who view her as a second choice, with an eye toward making a direct pitch to those people on caucus night if their first choice doesn’t have enough support. Warren’s campaign declined to speak about caucus night strategy. Yang spoke frankly on Wednesday about caucus strategy but also acknowledged the limitations of sharing supporters.”

**-- Figuring out who won the Iowa caucuses could actually be kind of hard. Philip Bump explains:** “We’re used to knowing who won a race by looking at who got more votes. ... Iowa won’t be that simple. Nor is the state Democratic Party making things easier. It will release not one number on Monday but *four*.

1. The results of the first alignment (which, in our example, Sanders won).
2. The results of the final alignment (which we had Biden winning).

3. The number of state-delegate equivalents each candidate earned.
4. And, a bit later, the estimated number of national delegates each candidate won.

That's four numbers all aimed at measuring the same thing — whom Iowa Democrats want to be the next president. It's likely that all four metrics will point to the same candidate. But if there's a candidate who's the second choice for a lot of voters, it's easy to see how the first two numbers could be in conflict. Add in the wonkiness of the calculations ... and you can see how the other two numbers could throw another name into the mix, especially if the race is close."

**-- Biden will deliver a closing argument in Iowa today doubling as a forceful rebuke of Trump as impeachment tensions grow. The former vice president's campaign shares this sneak peek at the speech:** "Health care. Climate. Guns. National Security. All these issues and more are on the ballot. But something else is on the ballot. Something even more important. Character is on the ballot. America's character. I don't believe we're the dark, angry nation we see in Donald Trump's tweets. I don't believe we're a nation that rips babies out of their mothers' arms. I don't believe we're a nation that builds walls and whips up hysteria over immigrant invasions. I don't believe we're a nation that embraces white supremacists and hate groups. I don't believe we're a nation that defers to Vladimir Putin. ...

"The American people are a good and decent people," Biden plans to say. "They deserve a president who tells them the truth – not lie after lie after lie. They deserve a president who will put the country's interest first – not his own self-interest. They deserve a president who

appeals to the best in us – not the worst. They deserve a president who will bring us together – not pull us apart.”

**-- But, but, but: Biden’s ground game in Iowa is unsteady in some areas, which could hurt him on caucus night.** Trip Gabriel reports in [the New York Times](#): “According to nearly a dozen county Democratic chairs and Biden activists around the state, Mr. Biden’s ground game has weak spots that threaten him with underperforming his polling in Iowa, where he has consistently been at or near the top.... In Des Moines County in eastern Iowa, Tom Courtney, the Democratic co-chairman, said last week he knew of ‘only a few’ Biden precinct captains in his 16 precincts. Asked about the likelihood that a candidate’s supporters would materialize on their own without an organizing staff, Mr. Courtney said, ‘I’ve not seen it before.’ His wife, Nancy Courtney, who is a Biden activist, said there was a ‘slim chance’ Mr. Biden wouldn’t reach viability in some caucuses, meaning his support would fall below a 15 percent threshold needed to earn delegates. ‘A lot of the campaigns have really good staffers and we only have one staffer in Des Moines County,’ she said. ‘That worries me.’”

**-- After a super PAC aligned with the Democratic establishment launched a \$680,000 ad buy against Sanders, the senator’s supporters responded by chipping in \$1.3 million in a day.** In an email to supporters on Tuesday, Sanders’s campaign warned that he was being targeted and alluded to an “outside spending group.” ([NYT](#))

**-- Documents show that Sanders’s team is preparing dozens of potential executive orders on a wide range of domestic policy issues, including immigration, the environment and prescription**

**drugs.** Jeff Stein and Sean Sullivan [report](#): “Aides have presented Sanders with a list of possible executive actions, including more than a dozen options for reversing [Trump’s] immigration policy, such as lifting the cap on the number of refugees accepted into the United States and immediately halting border wall construction. Another option is the reinstatement of an Obama-era program that granted legal status to undocumented immigrants brought to America as children. ... The list of potential executive orders includes unilaterally allowing the United States to import prescription drugs from Canada; directing the Justice Department to legalize marijuana; and declaring climate change a national emergency while banning the exportation of crude oil. Other options cited in the document include canceling federal contracts for firms paying less than \$15 an hour and reversing federal rules blocking U.S. funding to organizations that provide abortion counseling. ... The senator is reviewing the list of possible executive orders but has not signed off on when they would be released or their scope.”

**-- D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser will endorse Mike Bloomberg today, joining more than two dozen other current and former mayors.** [Paul Schwartzmann reports](#): “The second-term mayor is choosing the billionaire businessman [over Biden], who worked closely with the District during the Obama administration and whom she has praised in the past ... In a statement provided by the Bloomberg campaign, Bowser touted Bloomberg as ‘the only candidate who will unify the country and defeat Donald Trump.’”

**-- Hillary Clinton refuses to be served with the defamation lawsuit by Rep. Tulsi Gabbard’s (D-Hawaii).** Gabbard’s attorney said



Clinton has now twice snubbed a process server attempting to deliver court papers. ([New York Post](#))

-- **“Progressives and moderates: Don’t destroy each other,”** columnist **E.J. Dionne writes in an essay previewing his new book “Code Red”**: “Judging from the tone of the Democratic primary on the eve of the Iowa caucuses, feuding seems to be winning. Some of this contention is inevitable; each of these candidates wants to win. The danger lies in fostering the idea that the divides between progressives and moderates are more important than their intense and shared opposition with [Trump] and a right-wing version of Republicanism that seeks to undo our nation’s advances since the New Deal. The triumph of this view would be — let’s not mince words — a social catastrophe. ...

**"Like so many of the binaries in politics, the restoration/transformation optic captures something important but is also a false choice.** The country can’t simply pick up where it left off before Trump took office. The radicalized conservatism that dominates the Republican Party will not go away even if he is defeated. The inequalities of class and race that helped fueled Trump’s rise have deepened during his presidency. You might say restoring the norms that Trump threatens requires transformation. And the majority that opposes Trump is clearly seeking a combination of restoration and transformation. They want to bring back things they believe have been lost as a prelude to moving forward. What they want most to restore is progress. Progressives and moderates need to realize that at this moment in history, they share a commitment to what public life can achieve and the hope that government can be

decent again.”

**-- Warren called for criminal penalties for spreading false information about voting online.** [From CNBC](#): “Warren proposed to combat disinformation by holding big tech companies like Facebook, Twitter and Google responsible for spreading misinformation designed to suppress voters from turning out. ... It’s part of a broader policy to stop disinformation, requiring tech companies and the government to come together to solve the problem.”

**-- Twitter users can now report tweets with misleading information about the election as well as voter suppression.** The reports will be reviewed against Twitter’s terms of service, and offenders could face penalties. ([Politico](#))

**-- Trump allies are handing out tens of thousands of dollars to black voters at events where organizers lavish praise on the president.** [From Politico](#): “The first giveaway took place last month in Cleveland, where recipients whose winning tickets were drawn from a bin landed cash gifts in increments of several hundred dollars, stuffed into envelopes. ... Trump’s campaign has been investing its own money to make inroads with black voters and erode Democrats’ overwhelming advantage with them. But **the cash giveaways are organized under the auspices of an outside charity, the Urban Revitalization Coalition, permitting donors to remain anonymous and make tax-deductible contributions.** The organizers say the events are run by the book and intended to promote economic development in inner cities. But the group behind the cash giveaways is registered as a 501(c)3 charitable organization. One leading legal expert on nonprofit law said the arrangement raises questions about

the group's tax-exempt status, because it does not appear to be vetting the recipients of its money for legitimate charitable need."

 **Simon Denyer**   
@simondenyer 

Doug Perez and his Labrador puppy Chubby prepare to venture onto the streets of Wuhan for a walk.



 2 5:47 AM - Jan 30, 2020 

 [See Simon Denyer's other Tweets](#) 

**THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

-- The death toll from the coronavirus has risen to 170 in China,

**with more than 7,700 confirmed cases of infection — an increase of more than 1,500 on the previous day.** [Simon Denyer and Paul Schemm report](#): “About 100 cases have been recorded outside of mainland China, and four other countries have reported person-to-person transmission of the virus. ... India and the Philippines reported their first cases on Thursday.” The World Health Organization will reconvene its emergency committee today.

-- **“Stranded in Wuhan, frustrated Americans wait to be evacuated — or just hunker down,”** [Simon reports](#): “Doug Perez has a Chinese girlfriend and a Labrador puppy, and he is not leaving the virus-hit city of Wuhan without them. But other Americans in Wuhan are increasingly frustrated as they wait for their government to fly them out. ‘Many Americans do feel kind of abandoned,’ he said in a Skype interview from his home in the city. ... The Chinese government imposed a total travel lockdown on Wuhan last week, leaving 9 million people ... trapped in a city where the virus is raging, and hospitals are overflowing. Already 129 people have died in Wuhan with 2,261 confirmed cases and thousands more suspected of carrying the virus, official figures show, but experts say the real number could be much higher.” **But hundreds of Americans remain in Wuhan with little information, a growing sense of unease and, they say, inadequate communication from the consulate there.**

“Perez, his girlfriend, her brother, and Chubby, the Labrador, are holed up in their two-floor apartment ... He’s been watching ‘The Sopranos,’ reading, and learning computer programming. Wearing a face mask and rubber gloves, **he takes the dog for a walk on the largely deserted streets, steering clear of the few other people**

**about. Even Chubby has a mask, although he does not like wearing it ...** They venture out occasionally to stock up on supplies at local stores. ... 'We went to the grocery store and they were testing everyone's temperature at the door,' he said. 'There was one guy panicking, he kept on touching his forehead.' Perez said he kept his distance."

**-- The State Department announced this morning that it will arrange extra flights for private citizens to evacuate Wuhan, beginning on Monday.** Those traveling would be subject to screening, health observations and monitoring.

**-- University officials here in the States are scrambling to prepare for the arrival of the virus on their campuses.** Schools like Arizona State University, where a member of the community tested positive for the virus, are issuing travel restrictions to China, and some with campuses in and near Shanghai have been forced to delay the start of their spring semester. Several schools, including Baylor University and Miami University in Ohio, have tested students, isolating them in some cases. ([Susan Svrluga and Nick Anderson](#))

**-- Trump has had little to say in public about the growing virus, except to downplay its danger to the United States.** [From the AP:](#) "We're very much involved with them, right now, on the virus that's going around," Trump said yesterday at the White House. He said he discussed the situation with Chinese President Xi Jinping and added that the two countries are "working very closely."

**-- In Brazil, days of deadly floods have left thousands homeless and the nation's prevailing social inequality has only helped**

**drive the number of casualties.** [Terrence McCoy reports](#): “The death toll rose to 62 on Wednesday after another round of battering rains and landslides across the states of Espírito Santo and Minas Gerais, where waves of mud have knocked houses off cliffs and buried dozens of people alive. Belo Horizonte, the Minas Gerais state capital, has been hit particularly hard. More than 100 municipalities have announced states of emergency. ... Descendants of slaves and other poor migrants, unable to find housing in the cities, have historically been shunted into the communities known as favelas. ... This feature of urban life has aggravated the annual scourge of deadly landslides, especially in the country’s heavily populated southeast, where studies have shown the threat of mudslides is greatest. ... The government also plays a role. News reports show state and federal governments have consistently failed to meet funding goals to help mitigate the damage wrought by the annual problem.”

**-- Israel is rushing to capitalize on Trump’s peace plan after Palestinians condemned it as hopelessly biased.** [Steve Hendrix and Ruth Eglash report](#): “Even before the parties had finished poring over the map that described a possible Palestinian state on 70 percent of the West Bank, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made clear he would immediately take steps to annex the other 30 percent — the location of more than 150 Jewish settlements — along with the Jordan Valley. ... The dizzying pace of events left all sides scrambling to assess what was changing and what remained of the dogged status quo. ...

**“Groups of protesters turned out only in parts of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and in nearby Amman, Jordan.** There were scenes

of isolated rock-throwing and burning posters of President Trump and Netanyahu. More-serious clashes occurred in the West Bank on Wednesday, according to Israeli media reports, including the wounding of three protesters by Israeli security forces near Ramallah. ... Israeli settlers were also sorting through the deal's particulars, with mixed responses. They stood to achieve a long-cherished dream of having their hilltop towns and cities become normalized Israeli communities — patrolled by police instead of soldiers — but many balked at the price: a four-year freeze on building and the prospect of a Palestinian state.”

**-- Netanyahu claimed another diplomatic victory after Vladimir Putin pardoned an Israeli backpacker. [Ruth Eglash and Isabelle](#)**

**[Khrushudyan report](#):** “The pit stop in Russia immediately drew widespread speculation that he would return home with Na’ama Issachar, 27, who was sentenced by a Russian court last October to 7½ years in prison for drug smuggling. ... Issachar had been returning to Israel from India via Moscow last spring when Russian police discovered less than a third of an ounce of hashish in her checked luggage. Since her case came to light last summer, Netanyahu, who often boasts about his warm ties with Putin, has faced mounting pressure to make a special plea to the Russian leader for her release. ... Issachar’s mother arrived in Moscow on Tuesday, but authorities denied her request to visit her daughter, apparently in a bid to delay the pardon until Netanyahu’s detour through Russia on Thursday.”



A construction crew works yesterday to clean up a fallen section of the U.S.-Mexico border wall as seen from Mexicali in Baja California. Newly installed panels fell over in high winds. (Stringer/AFP/Getty Images)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

**-- High winds blew over newly installed panels of Trump's border wall, landing on trees on the Mexican side of the border. A**

Customs and Border Patrol spokesman said the sections in Calexico, Calif., that fell had recently been laid so the concrete had not set.

[\(CNN\)](#)

**-- U.S. life expectancy is ticking up as the number of fatal drug overdoses declines and cancer deaths drop. [Joel Achenbach reports](#):** “A decline in the death rate from cancer is the single largest driver of the small increase in life expectancy, the CDC reported. Five of the other nine leading causes of death also showed declines in



death rates, including the top cause, heart disease, as well as unintentional injuries (which include overdoses), chronic lower respiratory diseases, stroke and Alzheimer's disease. Two more, diabetes and kidney disease, were essentially unchanged. Deaths from suicide and influenza and pneumonia increased. Despite the encouraging elements of the CDC mortality report, the broader pattern for American health remains sobering. Life expectancy improved by the tiniest of increments, from 78.6 to 78.7 years. That figure remains lower than the peak in U.S. life expectancy, at 78.9 years, in 2014."

**-- Two former aspiring actresses testified that Harvey Weinstein sexually assaulted them in the mid-2000s.** The women – model Tarale Wulff, who testified that Weinstein raped her in his apartment, and Dawn Dunning, who said Weinstein assaulted her and months later offered movie roles in exchange for sex – aren't officially named as victims in the case because of the statute of limitations, but both were allowed to serve as witnesses to corroborate the stories of the other women. The Manhattan District Attorney's Office is planning on calling a third supporting accuser, who is the subject of a case against Weinstein in Los Angeles. ([Shayna Jacobs](#))




**-- The South Dakota House passed a bill restricting medical treatments for transgender youths.** This is the first state to take action on the flurry of bills nationwide that would restrict medical interventions for transgender children. ([Emily Wax-Thibodeaux and Samantha Schmidt](#))

**-- House Democrats unveiled a \$760 billion infrastructure package that's an ambitious and at times detailed attempt at getting Trump to back a long-awaited bipartisan priority.** [Michael](#)

**Laris reports:** The plan “came with a glaring — and strategic — omission: They avoided saying how the vast majority of it should be paid for, arguing that Trump should be out front on that issue. ... A spokesman for [McConnell] referred to comments the senator made in April about the possibility of passing a \$2 trillion infrastructure bill ... He said an idea raised by Senate Democrats — paying for new infrastructure by rolling back some of the tax cuts — was a ‘non-starter.’ ... House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard E. Neal (D-Mass.) said he thinks a bipartisan deal is possible — and that holding back Democratic declarations on how to fund infrastructure will help that process along.”



#### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Alabama Senate candidate Jeff Sessions, fired by Trump as attorney general, attacked Bolton for speaking out about the president's conduct:

 **Jeff Sessions**  @jeffsessions · 8h   
With regard to the @AmbJohnBolton situation, let me just say this: I did not write a book or go on CNN or criticize @realDonaldTrump for 3 VERY IMPORTANT REASONS...

 **Jeff Sessions**  @jeffsessions

FIRST - I don't believe it is the honorable thing to do. You are there to serve his agenda, not your own. He was elected, not you.



 6,941 10:57 PM - Jan 29, 2020 

 1,840 people are talking about this 

 **Jeff Sessions**  @jeffsessions · 8h   
Replying to @jeffsessions  
SECOND - It is an act of disloyalty to the administration one serves,  
and tends to undermine the unity and teamwork needed to reach the  
highest level of effectiveness.

 **Jeff Sessions**  @jeffsessions

THIRD - it sets a very damaging and dangerous precedent. A President must have the ability to have candid conversations with his National Security Advisor, his AG, his SOS, etc., without fear that those conversations will end up in a book or a newspaper.

 8,332 10:59 PM - Jan 29, 2020 

 2,675 people are talking about this 

A former Justice Department inspector general cried foul as the Trump White House sought to censor Bolton:



**Michael R. Bromwich**  @mrbromwich · 12h



The idea that Bolton would draft a manuscript that contains “significant amounts of classified information” is ridiculous. He knows what’s classified and what’s not. This is tampering with the pre-publication process to intimidate and achieve political ends. [twitter.com/jaketapper/sta...](https://twitter.com/jaketapper/status/1218234567890)

**Jake Tapper**  @jaketapper

WH letter to Bolton warning him against publication of his book as it is right now

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

January 23, 2020

Charles J. Cooper  
Cooper & Kirk  
1525 New Hampshire Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20036

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO C.COOPER@COOPERKIRK.COM

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Thank you for speaking yesterday by telephone. As we discussed, the National Security Council (NSC) Access Management directorate has been provided the manuscript submitted by your client, former Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs John Bolton, for prepublication review. Based on our preliminary review, the manuscript appears to contain significant amounts of classified information. It also appears that some of this classified information is at the TOP SECRET level, which is defined by Executive Order 13526 as information that “reasonably could be expected to cause exceptionally grave harm to the national security” of the United States if disclosed without authorization. Under federal law and the nondisclosure agreements your client signed as a condition for gaining access to classified information, the manuscript may not be published or otherwise disclosed without the deletion of this classified information.

The manuscript remains under review in order for us to do our best to assist your client by identifying the classified information within the manuscript, while at the same time ensuring that publication does not harm the national security of the United States. We will do our best to work with you to ensure your client’s ability to tell his story in a manner that protects U.S. national security. We will be in touch with you shortly with additional, more detailed guidance regarding next steps that should enable you to revise the manuscript and move forward as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

Ellen J. Knight  
Senior Director for Records, Access, and  
Information Security Management



**Michael R. Bromwich** 

@mrbromwich

What a coincidence that @LindseyGrahamSC et al. yesterday suggested reviewing the manuscript in a classified setting, and today the WH claims it contains classified info. This is a drug deal concocted by the WH and GOP members to avoid testimony from Bolton

and GOP senators to avoid testimony from Bolton.

1,299 6:46 PM - Jan 29, 2020



488 people are talking about this



A former lawyer for the National Security Agency, who is now at Brookings and runs Lawfare, reviewed Bolton's options:



**Susan Hennessey** @Susan\_Hennessey · 9h

The smartest thing John Bolton could do for his book at this point is to sit down tonight with a journalist and verbally go on the record with the Ukraine story.



**Susan Hennessey**

@Susan\_Hennessey

The best outcome for Bolton is to be called to testify, which resolves nearly all of his pre-publication review issues. An interview is his best chance of forcing the question.

3,389 9:23 PM - Jan 29, 2020



598 people are talking about this



Rep. Ted Lieu (D-Calif.) mocked Dershowitz's arguments:



**Ted Lieu** ✓  
@tedlieu



Dear @TheJusticeDept: Today I am announcing I am going to violate federal law and solicit a foreign government to help my re-election campaign, because it's in the public interest.

Just kidding. I'm not a criminal like @realDonaldTrump or a crazed enabler like @AlanDersh.  
[twitter.com/cbseveningnews...](https://twitter.com/cbseveningnews...)

**CBS Evening News** ✓ @CBSEveningNews  
Replying to @CBSEveningNews

Pres. Trump's counsel Alan Dershowitz: "If a president does something which he believes will help him get elected in the public interest, that cannot be the kind of quid pro quo that results in impeachment." [cbsn.ws/2GKOq7X](https://cbsn.ws/2GKOq7X)



♥ 39K 11:56 PM - Jan 29, 2020



💬 11.9K people are talking about this



So did Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.):




**Chris Murphy**   
@ChrisMurphyCT



The President's new argument today, that anything he does to benefit his re-election, no matter how corrupt, is unimpeachable, is

B  
A  
N  
A  
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S

 27K 9:00 PM - Jan 29, 2020



 6,167 people are talking about this



From a former FBI special agent who now teaches at Yale:



MSNBC's Rachel Maddow noted a suspicious, unexplained change in the DOJ position on former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn's sentence for lying to the FBI about his Russian contacts:





**Rachel Maddow MSNBC** ✓

@maddow



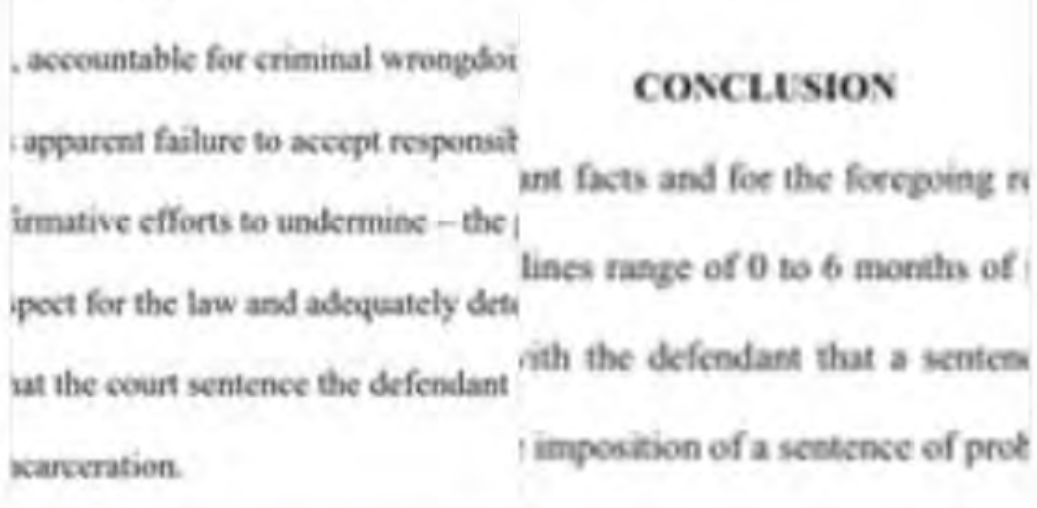
22 days ago, DOJ prosecutors in the Mike Flynn case were asking for a sentence of imprisonment. Now they say they're not.

What happened in the last 22 days?

[twitter.com/adamgoldmanNYT...](https://twitter.com/adamgoldmanNYT...)

**Adam Goldman** ✓ @adamgoldmanNYT

Prosecutors in Flynn case soften stance but why? First filing was 1/7/20. The second is from a filing today.



♥ 11.9K 11:27 PM - Jan 29, 2020



💬 7,615 people are talking about this



The Department of Homeland Security's acting deputy secretary celebrated the detention of another group of migrants:



Jared Kushner, Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law who is in charge of the Middle East portfolio, asked people to "divorce" themselves from all the history of the region. That's not how [history](#) works. [You can't divorce yourself from it:](#)



**The Hill** ✓  
@thehill



Jared Kushner: "What I would encourage people to do is try to divorce yourself from all of the history that's happened over the years and read this plan."



♡ 411 8:01 PM - Jan 29, 2020



💬 1,083 people are talking about this



And Vanessa Bryant, Kobe Bryant's widow, shared an emotional message days after her husband and daughter died in a helicopter crash:



**Jake Tapper** ✓  
@jaketapper



### Vanessa Bryant posts on Instagram



... were so incredibly blessed to have them in our lives. I wish they were here with us forever. They were our beautiful blessings taken from us too soon.

I'm not sure what our lives hold beyond today, and it's impossible to imagine life without them. But we wake up each day, trying to keep pushing because Kobe, and our baby girl, Gigi, are shining on us to light the way. Our love for them is endless — and that's to say, immeasurable. I just wish I could hug them, kiss them and bless them. Have them here with us, forever.

Thank you for sharing your joy, your grief and your support with us. We ask that you grant us the respect and privacy we will need to navigate this new reality.

To honor our Team Mamba family, the Mamba Sports Foundation has set up the MambaOnThree Fund to help support the other families affected by this tragedy. To donate, please go to [MambaOnThree.org](https://MambaOnThree.org).

To further Kobe and Gianna's legacy in youth sports, please visit [MambaSportsFoundation.org](https://MambaSportsFoundation.org).



Liked by [laurenmpratapas](#) and **637,137** others

[vanessabryant](#) My girls and I want to thank the

5,867 1:19 AM - Jan 30, 2020



1,202 people are talking about this



### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

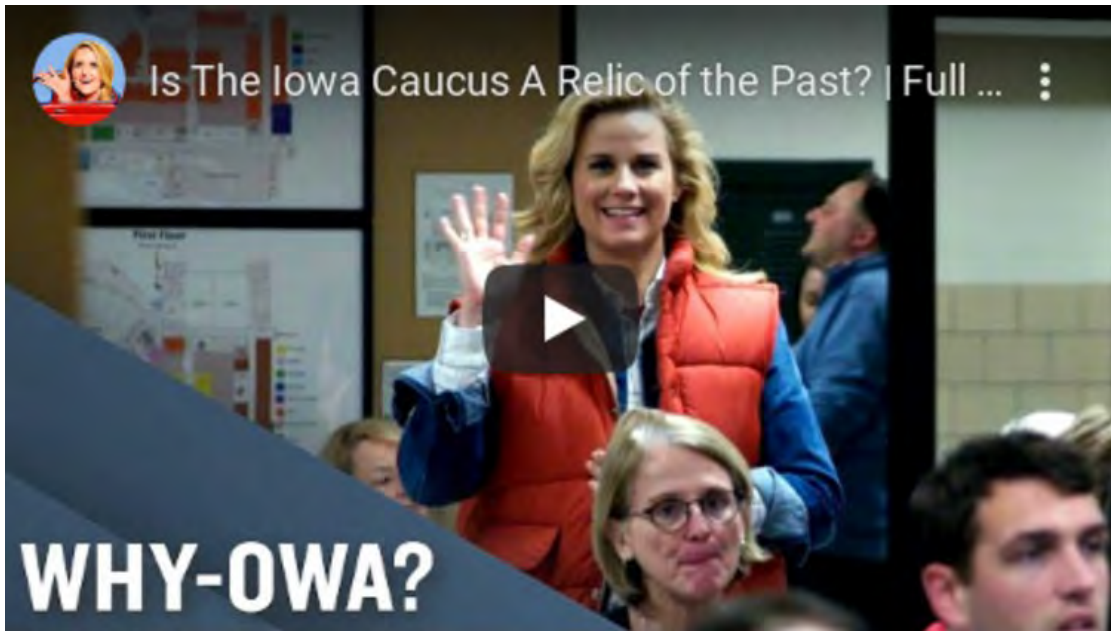
Stephen Colbert had a few questions about Dershowitz's defense of Trump:



“Late Night’s” Amber Ruffin sang a little ditty about Anita Baker endorsing Andrew Yang:



And a “Full Frontal” correspondent went to Iowa to find out if the Iowa caucus is a relic of the past:



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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Trump's defense lawyers refused to answer two important questions related to the president's intent  
**Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 8:17:24 AM

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

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**Trump's defense lawyers refused to answer two important questions related to the president's intent**



Trump lawyer defends accepting foreign information in an election



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA: Sometimes what's not said turns out be most revealing.**

Senators posed 93 written questions from 1 p.m. until a little after 11 p.m. on Wednesday as part of President Trump's impeachment trial.

Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), two potential swing votes on whether to call witnesses, teamed up to ask a straightforward question of fact to the president's defense team: Did Trump ever mention Joe and Hunter Biden in connection with corruption when he spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's predecessor -- "or other Ukrainian officials, President Trump's Cabinet members, or top aides or others"?



This could shed light on whether the president's motives were entirely partisan when he pressed his counterpart in Kyiv to look at the former vice president's son on July 25 – three months after Joe Biden announced his candidacy against Trump. Theoretically, it could help the president's case if Trump had brought up the Bidens and corruption to then-Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko when it was still unclear whether he'd run.

But Deputy White House Counsel Patrick Philbin refused to answer. He said he would only talk about issues that were already in the record. "I'm limited to what's in the record, and what's in the record is determined by what the House of Representatives saw," Philbin said. "So I can't point to something in the record that shows President Trump at an earlier time mentioning specifically something related to Joe or Hunter Biden."

This is a lawyerly tactic for evading questions, but it was a particularly dubious excuse because another of the president's defense lawyers had introduced a new Daily Beast article into the record just minutes earlier.

Philbin also dodged when Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah), possibly another key vote, asked Trump's lawyers what specific date the president first ordered the hold on military aid to Ukraine and what his reasoning was at the time he did so. "I don't think there is evidence in the record of a specific date," Philbin said.

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), the lead House impeachment manager, called Philbin's dodges disingenuous. "You're not confined to the record in the House, nor is the president," Schiff told the White House

lawyer in front of all 100 senators. “The president could call witnesses if they existed. There’s nothing to prevent them from saying, ‘As a matter of fact, tomorrow we’re going to call such-and-such, and they’re going to testify that indeed, Donald Trump brought up Hunter Biden to President Poroshenko!’”

Refusing to provide any new information is just the latest illustration of the stonewalling that’s been the centerpiece of the White House strategy to save Trump since word of the whistleblower complaint got out. The White House has not complied with any House subpoenas for witnesses or documents related to the Ukraine affair.

Trump perhaps felt emboldened to forcefully defy congressional subpoenas because of his experience with Bob Mueller. The president paid no discernable political price for refusing to give an interview to the then-special counsel. Eventually, he agreed to answer a limited number of written questions about episodes that occurred before he took office. Remember, Trump’s July 25 with Zelensky call came one day after Mueller testified before Congress.

Later in the evening, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) reupped the Collins and Murkowski query. He sent this question to the president’s lawyers: “Could you please give an accurate and truthful answer to the senators’ question?”

“So I can’t,” Philbin replied. “I’m not in a position to go back into things that the president might have said in private, so I can’t go telling now about things that the president might have said to Cabinet members.”



President Trump talks about health care during a 2017 event at the White House with Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

Trump defense attorney Alan Dershowitz then took it to the next level. In response to a separate question, the emeritus Harvard Law professor referred to what Collins and Murkowski asked. Then he argued that it doesn't matter even if Trump only became interested in Ukraine investigating Biden after the Democrat announced a challenge against him. "His candidacy is a very good reason for upping the interest in his son: If he wasn't running for president, he's a has-been," Dershowitz said. "He's the former vice president of the United States, okay? Big deal. But if he's running for president, that's an enormous big deal."

Dershowitz has [overshadowed](#) the rest of Trump's defense team because he has such a flair for the dramatic and because his over-the-top arguments are so far outside the mainstream of constitutional

jurisprudence. But the soft-spoken Philbin, 52, more subtly staked out a series of startlingly low standards for acceptable presidential conduct during the first day of questions.

For example, Philbin said a president asking Russia and China to look into his political opponents – as Trump has done publicly – would not violate campaign finance laws that make it illegal to accept or solicit a “thing of value” from foreign sources.

“Mere information is not something that would violate the campaign finance laws,” Philbin said in response to a question from Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.). “If there is credible information, credible information of wrongdoing by someone who is running for a public office, it’s not campaign interference for credible information about wrongdoing to be brought to light.”

This is consistent with [Trump’s claim](#) in June that “there isn’t anything wrong” with accepting “oppo research” from foreigners. The president told ABC News at the time – a month before his July 25 call – that he feels no obligation to alert the FBI if his campaign is approached again by foreign agents in 2020 with dirt on a Democrat, as the Russians did ahead of the June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower with Donald Trump Jr., Jared Kushner and Paul Manafort.

Democrats fumed. “Apparently it’s okay for the president to get information from foreign governments in an election — that’s news to me,” said Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.), one of the House managers, responding to Philbin. “As we go forward in this trial itself, we are creating additional dangers to the nation by suggesting that things that have long been prohibited are now suddenly going to be okay

because they've been asserted in the president's defense."

Philbin asserted earlier in the afternoon that that it "cannot possibly be the basis for an impeachable offense" if the president had multiple motivations for pushing Ukraine to announce an investigation of the Bidens – even if one motive was helping his 2020 reelection campaign.

"All elected officials to some extent have in mind how their conduct, how their decisions, their policy decisions will affect the next election," Philbin said. "There's always some personal interest in the electoral outcome of policy."

The 16 hours allotted for Q&A will continue this afternoon, starting at 1 p.m. They'll wrap sometime this evening. The Senate is on track to vote on witnesses tomorrow.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and his lieutenants feel increasingly confident they can twist enough arms to block former national security adviser John Bolton from testifying under oath about Trump's role in the alleged Ukrainian coercion campaign.

"Trump is set to deliver his State of the Union address Feb. 4, and Republicans would like to have the impeachment trial behind them by that point," [Erica Werner, Karoun Demirjian and Elise Viebeck report](#). "My sense is we will get there," said Sen. John Cornyn (R-Tex.), a key McConnell ally. ... For his part, Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) sounded glum about the prospect ... 'The president and Mitch McConnell put huge pressure on these folks,' Schumer told reporters ... 'It's an uphill fight. Is it more likely than not? Probably no. But is it a decent, good chance? Yes.'"

With the notable exception of Collins, the Republican senators who face tough reelection fights in November are falling in line with leadership. Sen. Cory Gardner (Colo.) said he does “not believe we need to hear from an 18th witness.” “I have heard enough,” said appointed Sen. Martha McSally (Ariz.). “It is time to vote.” We’ve heard similar statements from Sens. Thom Tillis (N.C.) and Joni Ernst (Iowa).

Democrats say the lack of candor in response to questions from Collins, Murkowski and Romney is all the more reason to call Bolton and other witnesses, such as acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, who could speak to Trump’s motives. “The Senate can get to the truth by calling witnesses,” said Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.).





Dershowitz: Quid pro quo in Trump's political interest is not impeachable

### **MORE FROM THE TRIAL:**

**-- Chief Justice John Roberts's role in the trial may soon become less like a substitute teacher's and more like an actual judge.** [Robert Barnes reports](#): "Wednesday marked a new phase of the impeachment inquiry, one more likely to reveal what Roberts believes it means for the chief justice of the United States to 'preside' over an impeachment trial of the president. He displayed no inclination to play a more active role. It is largely uncharted territory — only two chief justices in the nation's history have been put in such a position. There is disagreement among those who have studied impeachment over such basic questions as whether he can break a tie vote, much less call witnesses on his own volition. ... **Roberts continued to play it straight. He quietly turned down a question from Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) that might have named the alleged whistleblower in the case, but he otherwise did not question premises or point out**

**what might be inaccuracies.** ... Other questions from senators seemed almost designed to put into the chief justice's mouth the most explosive charges about [the Bidens] or some of the most controversial comments from Trump."

-- **"Democrats are casting a nervous eye on a small group of publicly undecided senators in their ranks as Republicans target ... a bipartisan acquittal,"** [Mike DeBonis reports](#). "Under the spotlight are two centrist mavericks who won election last year — Sens. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) — as well as Sen. Doug Jones (D-Ala.), who will face voters this year after a long-shot win in a special election in 2017."

-- **"Dershowitz — my professor at Harvard Law School — is flat-out wrong in his assertion that abuse of power is not a basis for impeachment,"** former congresswoman **Elizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.)** writes in [an op-ed for today's newspaper](#). "His position contradicts his own prior views, as well as the views of almost all legal scholars, something that Dershowitz himself admits. Just as important, his assertion flies in the face of the articles of impeachment voted against President Richard M. Nixon by the House Judiciary Committee — of which I was a member — in 1974. These articles did not charge Nixon with a crime, a fact Dershowitz willfully ignores."

-- **The Post's opinion page is full of additional commentary on this theme:**

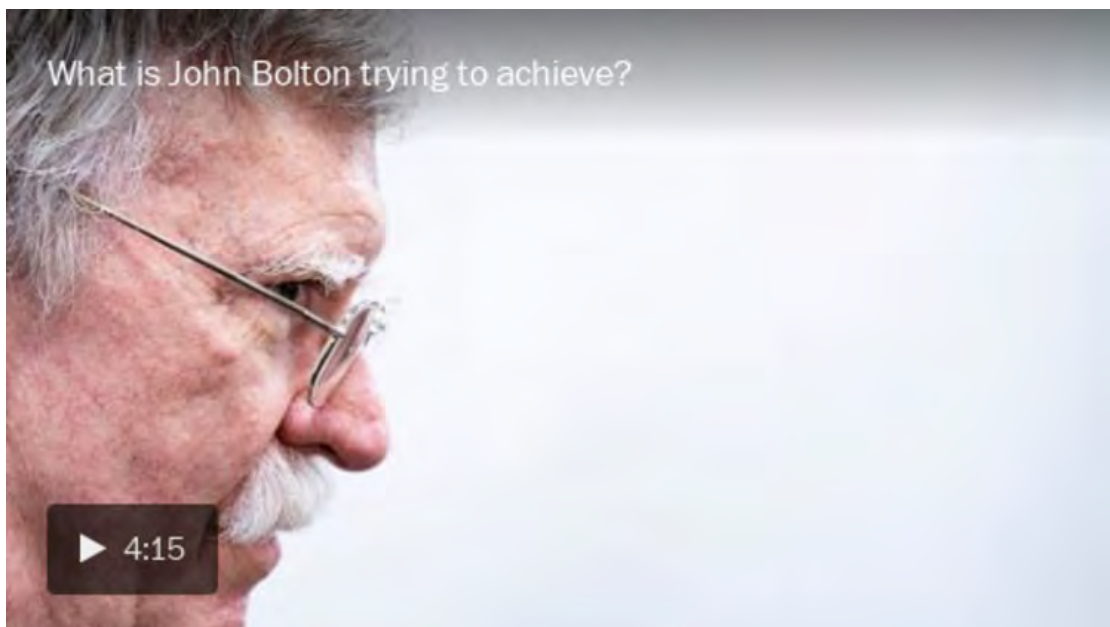
- [The Editorial Board](#): "Republicans' damaging new line of defense."
- [George F. Will](#): "There is more utility than futility in



the impeachment trial.”

- **Joe Scarborough:** “Trump’s confederacy of dunces.”
- **Harry Litman:** “Trump’s mixed-motive defense is a lousy argument dressed up in plausible legalese.”

-- **Dershowitz told *Esquire* for a new magazine profile that working for Trump’s defense has led to more blowback than any of his previous clients:** “Worse than Harry Reems. Worse than von Bülow. Worse than O.J. ‘No question,’ he says. ‘My life was a lot happier before I did this than now. I had a lot more friends. I got a lot of grief during the O.J. case. I defended that guy for murder, but it was nothing like this. This is much worse.’ Is Trump held in lower esteem than O.J. was? Dershowitz shrugs. ‘In the O.J. case, people disagreed with what I did,’ he says. ‘Here, people disagree with who I am.’”



What is John Bolton trying to achieve?

-- **Bolton’s lawyer said his book does not contain classified**

**material and asked the White House for an expedited review of the draft chapter about Ukraine in case he's called to testify.** [Tom Hamburger, Josh Dawsey and Karen DeYoung report](#): “The Jan. 24 email to the White House from Bolton’s lawyer, Charles Cooper, was in response to a letter from the National Security Council a day earlier warning that the manuscript contained ‘significant amounts’ of classified material that could not be disclosed publicly. ... Ellen J. Knight, the security council’s senior director for records, access and information security management, said Bolton would be breaking his nondisclosure agreement with the U.S. government if he published the book without deleting the classified material. ... Bolton’s team expects a lengthy fight over the issue.”

**-- The bigger picture: Trump demands fealty from those closest to him while inspiring very little.** Former aides, advisers and associates turn on the president with thrumming regularity, [Ashley Parker observes](#): “They are, en masse, all the president’s disloyal men and women — an unofficial club that includes Rex Tillerson, Trump’s former secretary of state, Omarosa Manigault Newman, a former White House senior adviser, and Michael Cohen, the president’s former personal attorney and fixer ... The culture, of course, is set from the top, with an Oval Office occupant who requires abject fealty but rarely returns it. **Trump is known for his petty cruelty, for berating aides publicly and privately and for presiding over an intentionally gladiatorial West Wing,** where advisers seem to expect to be betrayed at some point — and behave accordingly.”

**-- Rudy Giuliani’s indicted former associate Lev Parnas is unable**

**to enter the Senate chamber to observe the impeachment trial because of his ankle bracelet monitor. That doesn't mean he couldn't make himself its star anyway.** [Maura Judkis and Avi Selk report](#): “Around 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, ... [Parnas] took a stroll from Union Station to the Capitol building. ... If he couldn't say it in front of the Senate, he could say it here, in front of the Union Station Ladurée macaron shop: **‘The president knew everything that was going on in Ukraine,’ Parnas said.** ‘There was many quid pro quos.’ ... Both [Parnas and his lawyer Joseph Bondy] wore gray suits. Both had American flag pins on their lapels. The pair were swarmed by TV camera crews. ‘I’m not here to make a circus,’ said Bondy, but most circuses start with a parade ... ‘I felt like a Kardashian for a few minutes,’ a law student accompanying the legal team remarked. ... ‘Thank you, Lev!’ called out Jennifer Chartrand, 55, of Rockville. She was wearing a knitted pink pussy hat. ‘Thanks for speaking truth!’”

**-- The Trump administration just issued new sanctions on top Russian-backed officials in Crimea.** [Carol Morello reports](#): “The sanctions targeting seven officials and a railway company connecting Russia with Crimea were handed down by the Treasury Department two days before Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is scheduled to meet with officials in Ukraine. The United States has never recognized Moscow’s seizure of Crimea and still considers it a part of Ukraine. ... Treasury Secretary Stephen Mnuchin said the U.S. action ‘reiterates our unwavering support for restoring free and fair democratic political processes in Crimea.’ ... The action gave a subtle cold shoulder to the Crimean officials, preceding each one’s title with ‘so-called.’ Among them was Yuri Gotsanyuk, the ‘so-called Prime Minister of the so-called Republic of Crimea.’”

**-- Ukraine's precarious attempt to balance Russian authoritarianism and Western democracy makes American attention critical to politicians there. For the Ukrainian president, the holy grail is a White House meeting, which is why Volodymyr Zelensky remains so focused on getting that one-on-one with the president.** With Pompeo due to meet Zelensky tomorrow, Ukraine's leadership is looking for a signal on its standing with Trump, [Natalie Gryvnyak and Robyn Dixon report](#). "But the signs for Ukraine are worrying. [Former U.S. special envoy to Ukraine Kurt] Volker has not been replaced since his resignation in September. There has been no new U.S. ambassador appointed to replace Marie Yovanovitch ... And a disquieting silence has descended over U.S.-Ukraine relations amid [impeachment]. ... Even if Pompeo does deliver Zelensky a White House meeting, as Volker suggested, attention will inevitably turn to whether Zelensky offered something helpful to Trump in return."

**-- "The United States last year resettled more nationals from Ukraine, a country that barely registers in the United Nations' assessments of the global refugee crisis, than it did almost any other nationality," [Abigail Hauslohner reports](#).** "Only people fleeing widespread violence and unrest in Congo and Myanmar outnumber the flow of Ukrainian refugees to the United States." There is no indication that Trump's special interest in Ukraine played a role in this rise. "But the demographic shift does appear to be the byproduct of Trump administration policies that have restricted access [from other countries] to the U.S. refugee program, experts said. ... The 4,451 Ukrainians who arrived in the United States during fiscal 2019 made up 15 percent of the 30,000 total refugees who resettled in the

country. In 2016, Ukrainians accounted for just 3 percent.”

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** “I’m no fan of John Bolton, although I like him a little more than I used to,” Schiff joked as he made the case for witnesses.



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Iowa caucus 2020: A step-by-step guide

## 2020 WATCH:

-- Allies for Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders have spoken to Andrew Yang's campaign about cooperation in Iowa on caucus night. And Tom Steyer's campaign was contacted by a representative from Pete Buttigieg's campaign to feel out whether they could work together in some way. [Annie Linskey and Dan Balz report](#): "With just five days to go before the Iowa caucuses, several of the top Democratic campaigns and operatives are eyeing one another as potential, and limited, allies in their battle to win convention delegates. ... Candidates who do not earn support from at least 15 percent of those in the room are not considered viable, and they do not earn delegates. Their backers are free to leave or to align with another candidate. That can lead to negotiations between campaigns over the fate of the supporters of nonviable candidates. ... Those specific deals would be harder for campaigns to use this year

because candidates who reach 15 percent aren't able to shed voters. That potentially offers more power to less popular candidates. Some suggested that it was far-fetched to think an Iowa committed enough to attend the caucuses would be likely to make their second choice based on the recommendation of a campaign staffer. ...

**“Biden’s campaign has also been courting endorsements from two candidates who have left the race — [Kamala] Harris and Cory Booker ...** Yet those discussions have been complicated by the Senate impeachment trial. Booker and Harris have appeared reluctant to make any endorsements while the hearings are ongoing, particularly when Biden is a focus in the proceedings and could still be subpoenaed to testify. ... [Elizabeth] Warren’s staff made an early bet that they could identify Iowans who view her as a second choice, with an eye toward making a direct pitch to those people on caucus night if their first choice doesn’t have enough support. Warren’s campaign declined to speak about caucus night strategy. Yang spoke frankly on Wednesday about caucus strategy but also acknowledged the limitations of sharing supporters.”

**-- Figuring out who won the Iowa caucuses could actually be kind of hard. Philip Bump explains:** “We’re used to knowing who won a race by looking at who got more votes. ... Iowa won’t be that simple. Nor is the state Democratic Party making things easier. It will release not one number on Monday but *four*.

1. The results of the first alignment (which, in our example, Sanders won).
2. The results of the final alignment (which we had Biden winning).

3. The number of state-delegate equivalents each candidate earned.
4. And, a bit later, the estimated number of national delegates each candidate won.

That's four numbers all aimed at measuring the same thing — whom Iowa Democrats want to be the next president. It's likely that all four metrics will point to the same candidate. But if there's a candidate who's the second choice for a lot of voters, it's easy to see how the first two numbers could be in conflict. Add in the wonkiness of the calculations ... and you can see how the other two numbers could throw another name into the mix, especially if the race is close."

**-- Biden will deliver a closing argument in Iowa today doubling as a forceful rebuke of Trump as impeachment tensions grow. The former vice president's campaign shares this sneak peek at the speech:** "Health care. Climate. Guns. National Security. All these issues and more are on the ballot. But something else is on the ballot. Something even more important. Character is on the ballot. America's character. I don't believe we're the dark, angry nation we see in Donald Trump's tweets. I don't believe we're a nation that rips babies out of their mothers' arms. I don't believe we're a nation that builds walls and whips up hysteria over immigrant invasions. I don't believe we're a nation that embraces white supremacists and hate groups. I don't believe we're a nation that defers to Vladimir Putin. ...

"The American people are a good and decent people," Biden plans to say. "They deserve a president who tells them the truth – not lie after lie after lie. They deserve a president who will put the country's interest first – not his own self-interest. They deserve a president who



appeals to the best in us – not the worst. They deserve a president who will bring us together – not pull us apart.”

**-- But, but, but: Biden’s ground game in Iowa is unsteady in some areas, which could hurt him on caucus night.** Trip Gabriel reports in [the New York Times](#): “According to nearly a dozen county Democratic chairs and Biden activists around the state, Mr. Biden’s ground game has weak spots that threaten him with underperforming his polling in Iowa, where he has consistently been at or near the top.... In Des Moines County in eastern Iowa, Tom Courtney, the Democratic co-chairman, said last week he knew of ‘only a few’ Biden precinct captains in his 16 precincts. Asked about the likelihood that a candidate’s supporters would materialize on their own without an organizing staff, Mr. Courtney said, ‘I’ve not seen it before.’ His wife, Nancy Courtney, who is a Biden activist, said there was a ‘slim chance’ Mr. Biden wouldn’t reach viability in some caucuses, meaning his support would fall below a 15 percent threshold needed to earn delegates. ‘A lot of the campaigns have really good staffers and we only have one staffer in Des Moines County,’ she said. ‘That worries me.’”

**-- After a super PAC aligned with the Democratic establishment launched a \$680,000 ad buy against Sanders, the senator’s supporters responded by chipping in \$1.3 million in a day.** In an email to supporters on Tuesday, Sanders’s campaign warned that he was being targeted and alluded to an “outside spending group.” ([NYT](#))

**-- Documents show that Sanders’s team is preparing dozens of potential executive orders on a wide range of domestic policy issues, including immigration, the environment and prescription**

**drugs.** Jeff Stein and Sean Sullivan [report](#): “Aides have presented Sanders with a list of possible executive actions, including more than a dozen options for reversing [Trump’s] immigration policy, such as lifting the cap on the number of refugees accepted into the United States and immediately halting border wall construction. Another option is the reinstatement of an Obama-era program that granted legal status to undocumented immigrants brought to America as children. ... The list of potential executive orders includes unilaterally allowing the United States to import prescription drugs from Canada; directing the Justice Department to legalize marijuana; and declaring climate change a national emergency while banning the exportation of crude oil. Other options cited in the document include canceling federal contracts for firms paying less than \$15 an hour and reversing federal rules blocking U.S. funding to organizations that provide abortion counseling. ... The senator is reviewing the list of possible executive orders but has not signed off on when they would be released or their scope.”

**-- D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser will endorse Mike Bloomberg today, joining more than two dozen other current and former mayors.** [Paul Schwartzmann reports](#): “The second-term mayor is choosing the billionaire businessman [over Biden], who worked closely with the District during the Obama administration and whom she has praised in the past ... In a statement provided by the Bloomberg campaign, Bowser touted Bloomberg as ‘the only candidate who will unify the country and defeat Donald Trump.’”

**-- Hillary Clinton refuses to be served with the defamation lawsuit by Rep. Tulsi Gabbard’s (D-Hawaii).** Gabbard’s attorney said

Clinton has now twice snubbed a process server attempting to deliver court papers. ([New York Post](#))

-- **“Progressives and moderates: Don’t destroy each other,”** columnist E.J. Dionne writes in [an essay previewing his new book “Code Red”](#): “Judging from the tone of the Democratic primary on the eve of the Iowa caucuses, feuding seems to be winning. Some of this contention is inevitable; each of these candidates wants to win. The danger lies in fostering the idea that the divides between progressives and moderates are more important than their intense and shared opposition with [Trump] and a right-wing version of Republicanism that seeks to undo our nation’s advances since the New Deal. The triumph of this view would be — let’s not mince words — a social catastrophe. ...

**"Like so many of the binaries in politics, the restoration/transformation optic captures something important but is also a false choice.** The country can’t simply pick up where it left off before Trump took office. The radicalized conservatism that dominates the Republican Party will not go away even if he is defeated. The inequalities of class and race that helped fueled Trump’s rise have deepened during his presidency. You might say restoring the norms that Trump threatens requires transformation. And the majority that opposes Trump is clearly seeking a combination of restoration and transformation. They want to bring back things they believe have been lost as a prelude to moving forward. What they want most to restore is progress. Progressives and moderates need to realize that at this moment in history, they share a commitment to what public life can achieve and the hope that government can be

decent again.”

**-- Warren called for criminal penalties for spreading false information about voting online.** [From CNBC](#): “Warren proposed to combat disinformation by holding big tech companies like Facebook, Twitter and Google responsible for spreading misinformation designed to suppress voters from turning out. ... It’s part of a broader policy to stop disinformation, requiring tech companies and the government to come together to solve the problem.”

**-- Twitter users can now report tweets with misleading information about the election as well as voter suppression.** The reports will be reviewed against Twitter’s terms of service, and offenders could face penalties. ([Politico](#))

**-- Trump allies are handing out tens of thousands of dollars to black voters at events where organizers lavish praise on the president.** [From Politico](#): “The first giveaway took place last month in Cleveland, where recipients whose winning tickets were drawn from a bin landed cash gifts in increments of several hundred dollars, stuffed into envelopes. ... Trump’s campaign has been investing its own money to make inroads with black voters and erode Democrats’ overwhelming advantage with them. But **the cash giveaways are organized under the auspices of an outside charity, the Urban Revitalization Coalition, permitting donors to remain anonymous and make tax-deductible contributions.** The organizers say the events are run by the book and intended to promote economic development in inner cities. But the group behind the cash giveaways is registered as a 501(c)3 charitable organization. One leading legal expert on nonprofit law said the arrangement raises questions about

the group's tax-exempt status, because it does not appear to be vetting the recipients of its money for legitimate charitable need."



### THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- The death toll from the coronavirus has risen to 170 in China,

**with more than 7,700 confirmed cases of infection — an increase of more than 1,500 on the previous day.** [Simon Denyer and Paul Schemm report](#): “About 100 cases have been recorded outside of mainland China, and four other countries have reported person-to-person transmission of the virus. ... India and the Philippines reported their first cases on Thursday.” The World Health Organization will reconvene its emergency committee today.

-- **“Stranded in Wuhan, frustrated Americans wait to be evacuated — or just hunker down,”** [Simon reports](#): “Doug Perez has a Chinese girlfriend and a Labrador puppy, and he is not leaving the virus-hit city of Wuhan without them. But other Americans in Wuhan are increasingly frustrated as they wait for their government to fly them out. ‘Many Americans do feel kind of abandoned,’ he said in a Skype interview from his home in the city. ... The Chinese government imposed a total travel lockdown on Wuhan last week, leaving 9 million people ... trapped in a city where the virus is raging, and hospitals are overflowing. Already 129 people have died in Wuhan with 2,261 confirmed cases and thousands more suspected of carrying the virus, official figures show, but experts say the real number could be much higher.” **But hundreds of Americans remain in Wuhan with little information, a growing sense of unease and, they say, inadequate communication from the consulate there.**

“Perez, his girlfriend, her brother, and Chubby, the Labrador, are holed up in their two-floor apartment ... He’s been watching ‘The Sopranos,’ reading, and learning computer programming. Wearing a face mask and rubber gloves, **he takes the dog for a walk on the largely deserted streets, steering clear of the few other people**

**about. Even Chubby has a mask, although he does not like wearing it ...** They venture out occasionally to stock up on supplies at local stores. ... ‘We went to the grocery store and they were testing everyone’s temperature at the door,’ he said. ‘There was one guy panicking, he kept on touching his forehead.’ Perez said he kept his distance.”

**-- The State Department announced this morning that it will arrange extra flights for private citizens to evacuate Wuhan, beginning on Monday.** Those traveling would be subject to screening, health observations and monitoring.

**-- University officials here in the States are scrambling to prepare for the arrival of the virus on their campuses.** Schools like Arizona State University, where a member of the community tested positive for the virus, are issuing travel restrictions to China, and some with campuses in and near Shanghai have been forced to delay the start of their spring semester. Several schools, including Baylor University and Miami University in Ohio, have tested students, isolating them in some cases. ([Susan Svrluga and Nick Anderson](#))

**-- Trump has had little to say in public about the growing virus, except to downplay its danger to the United States.** [From the AP:](#) "We're very much involved with them, right now, on the virus that's going around," Trump said yesterday at the White House. He said he discussed the situation with Chinese President Xi Jinping and added that the two countries are "working very closely."

**-- In Brazil, days of deadly floods have left thousands homeless and the nation's prevailing social inequality has only helped**

**drive the number of casualties.** [Terrence McCoy reports](#): “The death toll rose to 62 on Wednesday after another round of battering rains and landslides across the states of Espírito Santo and Minas Gerais, where waves of mud have knocked houses off cliffs and buried dozens of people alive. Belo Horizonte, the Minas Gerais state capital, has been hit particularly hard. More than 100 municipalities have announced states of emergency. ... Descendants of slaves and other poor migrants, unable to find housing in the cities, have historically been shunted into the communities known as favelas. ... This feature of urban life has aggravated the annual scourge of deadly landslides, especially in the country’s heavily populated southeast, where studies have shown the threat of mudslides is greatest. ... The government also plays a role. News reports show state and federal governments have consistently failed to meet funding goals to help mitigate the damage wrought by the annual problem.”

**-- Israel is rushing to capitalize on Trump’s peace plan after Palestinians condemned it as hopelessly biased.** [Steve Hendrix and Ruth Eglash report](#): “Even before the parties had finished poring over the map that described a possible Palestinian state on 70 percent of the West Bank, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made clear he would immediately take steps to annex the other 30 percent — the location of more than 150 Jewish settlements — along with the Jordan Valley. ... The dizzying pace of events left all sides scrambling to assess what was changing and what remained of the dogged status quo. ...

**“Groups of protesters turned out only in parts of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and in nearby Amman, Jordan.** There were scenes



of isolated rock-throwing and burning posters of President Trump and Netanyahu. More-serious clashes occurred in the West Bank on Wednesday, according to Israeli media reports, including the wounding of three protesters by Israeli security forces near Ramallah. ... Israeli settlers were also sorting through the deal's particulars, with mixed responses. They stood to achieve a long-cherished dream of having their hilltop towns and cities become normalized Israeli communities — patrolled by police instead of soldiers — but many balked at the price: a four-year freeze on building and the prospect of a Palestinian state.”

**-- Netanyahu claimed another diplomatic victory after Vladimir Putin pardoned an Israeli backpacker. [Ruth Eglash and Isabelle](#)**

[Khrushudyan report](#): “The pit stop in Russia immediately drew widespread speculation that he would return home with Na’ama Issachar, 27, who was sentenced by a Russian court last October to 7½ years in prison for drug smuggling. ... Issachar had been returning to Israel from India via Moscow last spring when Russian police discovered less than a third of an ounce of hashish in her checked luggage. Since her case came to light last summer, Netanyahu, who often boasts about his warm ties with Putin, has faced mounting pressure to make a special plea to the Russian leader for her release. ... Issachar’s mother arrived in Moscow on Tuesday, but authorities denied her request to visit her daughter, apparently in a bid to delay the pardon until Netanyahu’s detour through Russia on Thursday.”



A construction crew works yesterday to clean up a fallen section of the U.S.-Mexico border wall as seen from Mexicali in Baja California. Newly installed panels fell over in high winds. (Stringer/AFP/Getty Images)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

**-- High winds blew over newly installed panels of Trump's border wall, landing on trees on the Mexican side of the border. A**

Customs and Border Patrol spokesman said the sections in Calexico, Calif., that fell had recently been laid so the concrete had not set.

([CNN](#))

**-- U.S. life expectancy is ticking up as the number of fatal drug overdoses declines and cancer deaths drop. [Joel Achenbach reports](#): “A decline in the death rate from cancer is the single largest driver of the small increase in life expectancy, the CDC reported. Five of the other nine leading causes of death also showed declines in**

death rates, including the top cause, heart disease, as well as unintentional injuries (which include overdoses), chronic lower respiratory diseases, stroke and Alzheimer's disease. Two more, diabetes and kidney disease, were essentially unchanged. Deaths from suicide and influenza and pneumonia increased. Despite the encouraging elements of the CDC mortality report, the broader pattern for American health remains sobering. Life expectancy improved by the tiniest of increments, from 78.6 to 78.7 years. That figure remains lower than the peak in U.S. life expectancy, at 78.9 years, in 2014."

**-- Two former aspiring actresses testified that Harvey Weinstein sexually assaulted them in the mid-2000s.** The women – model Tarale Wulff, who testified that Weinstein raped her in his apartment, and Dawn Dunning, who said Weinstein assaulted her and months later offered movie roles in exchange for sex – aren't officially named as victims in the case because of the statute of limitations, but both were allowed to serve as witnesses to corroborate the stories of the other women. The Manhattan District Attorney's Office is planning on calling a third supporting accuser, who is the subject of a case against Weinstein in Los Angeles. ([Shayna Jacobs](#))




**-- The South Dakota House passed a bill restricting medical treatments for transgender youths.** This is the first state to take action on the flurry of bills nationwide that would restrict medical interventions for transgender children. ([Emily Wax-Thibodeaux and Samantha Schmidt](#))

**-- House Democrats unveiled a \$760 billion infrastructure package that's an ambitious and at times detailed attempt at getting Trump to back a long-awaited bipartisan priority.** [Michael](#)

**Laris reports:** The plan “came with a glaring — and strategic — omission: They avoided saying how the vast majority of it should be paid for, arguing that Trump should be out front on that issue. ... A spokesman for [McConnell] referred to comments the senator made in April about the possibility of passing a \$2 trillion infrastructure bill ... He said an idea raised by Senate Democrats — paying for new infrastructure by rolling back some of the tax cuts — was a ‘non-starter.’ ... House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard E. Neal (D-Mass.) said he thinks a bipartisan deal is possible — and that holding back Democratic declarations on how to fund infrastructure will help that process along.”



#### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Alabama Senate candidate Jeff Sessions, fired by Trump as attorney general, attacked Bolton for speaking out about the president's conduct:

 **Jeff Sessions**  @jeffsessions · 8h   
With regard to the @AmbJohnBolton situation, let me just say this: I did not write a book or go on CNN or criticize @realDonaldTrump for 3 VERY IMPORTANT REASONS...

 **Jeff Sessions**  @jeffsessions

FIRST - I don't believe it is the honorable thing to do. You are there to serve his agenda, not your own. He was elected, not you.



 6,941 10:57 PM - Jan 29, 2020 

 1,840 people are talking about this 

 **Jeff Sessions**  @jeffsessions · 8h   
Replying to @jeffsessions  
SECOND - It is an act of disloyalty to the administration one serves,  
and tends to undermine the unity and teamwork needed to reach the  
highest level of effectiveness.

 **Jeff Sessions**  @jeffsessions

THIRD - it sets a very damaging and dangerous precedent. A President must have the ability to have candid conversations with his National Security Advisor, his AG, his SOS, etc., without fear that those conversations will end up in a book or a newspaper.

 8,332 10:59 PM - Jan 29, 2020 

 2,675 people are talking about this 

A former Justice Department inspector general cried foul as the Trump White House sought to censor Bolton:



**Michael R. Bromwich**  @mrbromwich · 12h



The idea that Bolton would draft a manuscript that contains “significant amounts of classified information” is ridiculous. He knows what’s classified and what’s not. This is tampering with the pre-publication process to intimidate and achieve political ends. [twitter.com/jaketapper/sta...](https://twitter.com/jaketapper/status/1218444444444444444)

**Jake Tapper**  @jaketapper

WH letter to Bolton warning him against publication of his book as it is right now

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

January 23, 2020

Charles J. Cooper  
Cooper & Kirk  
1525 New Hampshire Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20036

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO C.COOPER@COOPERKIRK.COM

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Thank you for speaking yesterday by telephone. As we discussed, the National Security Council (NSC) Access Management directorate has been provided the manuscript submitted by your client, former Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs John Bolton, for prepublication review. Based on our preliminary review, the manuscript appears to contain significant amounts of classified information. It also appears that some of this classified information is at the TOP SECRET level, which is defined by Executive Order 13526 as information that “reasonably could be expected to cause exceptionally grave harm to the national security” of the United States if disclosed without authorization. Under federal law and the nondisclosure agreements your client signed as a condition for gaining access to classified information, the manuscript may not be published or otherwise disclosed without the deletion of this classified information.

The manuscript remains under review in order for us to do our best to assist your client by identifying the classified information within the manuscript, while at the same time ensuring that publication does not harm the national security of the United States. We will do our best to work with you to ensure your client’s ability to tell his story in a manner that protects U.S. national security. We will be in touch with you shortly with additional, more detailed guidance regarding next steps that should enable you to revise the manuscript and move forward as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

Ellen J. Knight  
Senior Director for Records, Access, and  
Information Security Management



**Michael R. Bromwich** 

@mrbromwich

What a coincidence that @LindseyGrahamSC et al. yesterday suggested reviewing the manuscript in a classified setting, and today the WH claims it contains classified info. This is a drug deal concocted by the WH and GOP members to avoid testimony from Bolton

and GOP senators to avoid testimony from Bolton.

1,299 6:46 PM - Jan 29, 2020



488 people are talking about this



A former lawyer for the National Security Agency, who is now at Brookings and runs Lawfare, reviewed Bolton's options:



**Susan Hennessey**  @Susan\_Hennessey · 9h 

The smartest thing John Bolton could do for his book at this point is to sit down tonight with a journalist and verbally go on the record with the Ukraine story.



**Susan Hennessey** 

@Susan\_Hennessey

The best outcome for Bolton is to be called to testify, which resolves nearly all of his pre-publication review issues. An interview is his best chance of forcing the question.

3,389 9:23 PM - Jan 29, 2020



598 people are talking about this



Rep. Ted Lieu (D-Calif.) mocked Dershowitz's arguments:



**Ted Lieu** ✓  
@tedlieu



Dear @TheJusticeDept: Today I am announcing I am going to violate federal law and solicit a foreign government to help my re-election campaign, because it's in the public interest.

Just kidding. I'm not a criminal like @realDonaldTrump or a crazed enabler like @AlanDersh.  
[twitter.com/cbseveningnews...](https://twitter.com/cbseveningnews...)

**CBS Evening News** ✓ @CBSEveningNews  
Replying to @CBSEveningNews

Pres. Trump's counsel Alan Dershowitz: "If a president does something which he believes will help him get elected in the public interest, that cannot be the kind of quid pro quo that results in impeachment." [cbsn.ws/2GKOq7X](https://cbsn.ws/2GKOq7X)



♥ 39K 11:56 PM - Jan 29, 2020



💬 11.9K people are talking about this



So did Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.):






**Chris Murphy**   
@ChrisMurphyCT



The President's new argument today, that anything he does to benefit his re-election, no matter how corrupt, is unimpeachable, is

B  
A  
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A  
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S

 27K 9:00 PM - Jan 29, 2020



 6,167 people are talking about this



From a former FBI special agent who now teaches at Yale:



MSNBC's Rachel Maddow noted a suspicious, unexplained change in the DOJ position on former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn's sentence for lying to the FBI about his Russian contacts:



**Rachel Maddow MSNBC** ✓

@maddow



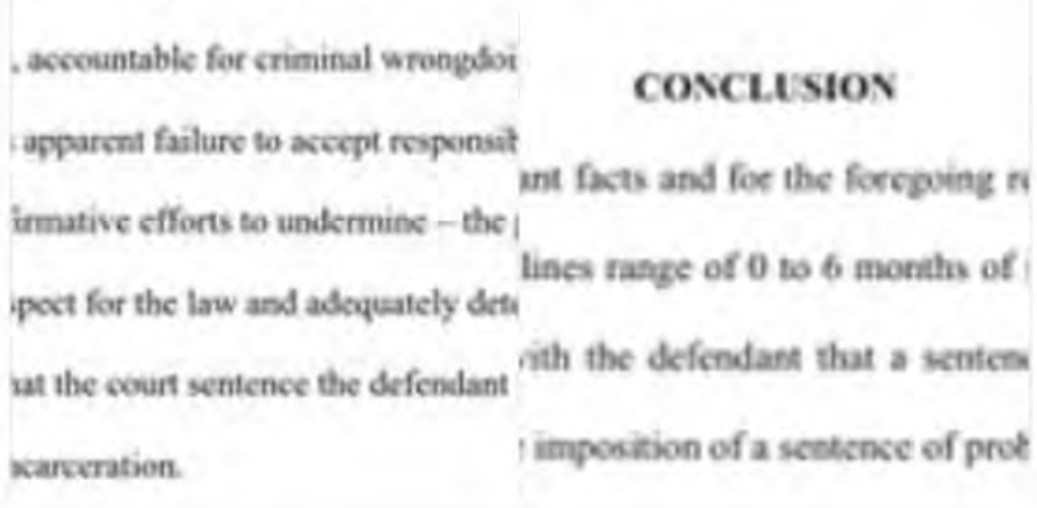
22 days ago, DOJ prosecutors in the Mike Flynn case were asking for a sentence of imprisonment. Now they say they're not.

What happened in the last 22 days?

[twitter.com/adamgoldmanNYT...](https://twitter.com/adamgoldmanNYT...)

**Adam Goldman** ✓ @adamgoldmanNYT

Prosecutors in Flynn case soften stance but why? First filing was 1/7/20. The second is from a filing today.



♥ 11.9K 11:27 PM - Jan 29, 2020



💬 7,615 people are talking about this



The Department of Homeland Security's acting deputy secretary celebrated the detention of another group of migrants:



Jared Kushner, Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law who is in charge of the Middle East portfolio, asked people to "divorce" themselves from all the history of the region. That's not how [history](#) works. [You can't divorce yourself from it:](#)



**The Hill** ✓  
@thehill



Jared Kushner: "What I would encourage people to do is try to divorce yourself from all of the history that's happened over the years and read this plan."



♡ 411 8:01 PM - Jan 29, 2020



💬 1,083 people are talking about this



And Vanessa Bryant, Kobe Bryant's widow, shared an emotional message days after her husband and daughter died in a helicopter crash:



**Jake Tapper** ✓  
@jaketapper



### Vanessa Bryant posts on Instagram



... were so incredibly blessed to have them in our lives. I wish they were here with us forever. They were our beautiful blessings taken from us too soon.

I'm not sure what our lives hold beyond today, and it's impossible to imagine life without them. But we wake up each day, trying to keep pushing because Kobe, and our baby girl, Gigi, are shining on us to light the way. Our love for them is endless — and that's to say, immeasurable. I just wish I could hug them, kiss them and bless them. Have them here with us, forever.

Thank you for sharing your joy, your grief and your support with us. We ask that you grant us the respect and privacy we will need to navigate this new reality.

To honor our Team Mamba family, the Mamba Sports Foundation has set up the MambaOnThree Fund to help support the other families affected by this tragedy. To donate, please go to [MambaOnThree.org](https://MambaOnThree.org).

To further Kobe and Gianna's legacy in youth sports, please visit [MambaSportsFoundation.org](https://MambaSportsFoundation.org).



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**vanessabryant** My girls and I want to thank the

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### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

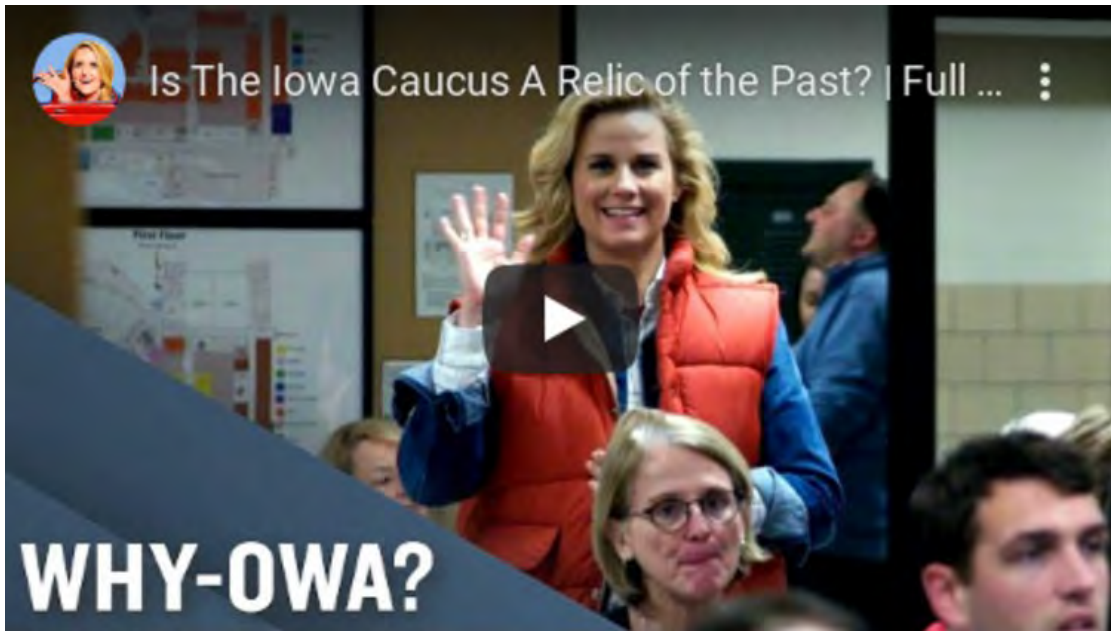
Stephen Colbert had a few questions about Dershowitz's defense of Trump:



“Late Night’s” Amber Ruffin sang a little ditty about Anita Baker endorsing Andrew Yang:



And a “Full Frontal” correspondent went to Iowa to find out if the Iowa caucus is a relic of the past:



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Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Trump doesn't necessarily think Biden is his biggest 2020 threat. At least, not anymore.  
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# The Daily 202

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**Trump doesn't necessarily think Biden is his biggest 2020 threat. At least, not anymore.**



Trump on impeachment at Iowa rally: 'They want to nullify your ballots'



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

## THE BIG IDEA:

**DES MOINES** — The centerpiece of Joe Biden’s closing pitch to Iowa voters is that he’s the Democrat whom President Trump fears **the most**. The impeachment trial has helped establish that this was probably the case last summer when Trump allegedly tried to coerce Ukraine into announcing an investigation of the former vice president by freezing vital military assistance and withholding a White House meeting. **But is it still true?**

Trump flew here Thursday night for a rally to counterprogram the caucuses. With Democrats apparently lacking the votes to call witnesses with firsthand knowledge of his intentions, putting him on the verge of winning acquittal in the Senate, the president delivered

an 86-minute speech that offered several clues into how he now sees the race. He talked more about Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) than anyone else, followed by Biden and then former mayors Pete Buttigieg and Mike Bloomberg.

In a wistful mood about 2016, Trump twice told the crowd that he wishes he could face Hillary Clinton in a rematch. Then he posed a question to the capacity crowd: "Who is tougher: Her, crazy Bernie, sleepy Joe, Boot-edge-edge? Who would be the closest?" Members of the crowd yelled out various names, none discernably louder than the others. "I don't know," Trump continued, shaking his head. "I feel bad because it's too late for her to get in. I kept hoping, but I think honestly, I think that sleepy Joe, crazy Bernie, I don't even want to put Boot-edge-edge in, but I think they'd actually be tougher than her."

As Trump accused Biden of being frequently confused, a woman in the crowd yelled: "It's over for him!" Trump pointed at her and smiled. "It was over for him, actually, if you know him, a long time ago," the president said. "Now it's really over!" The crowd laughed.

To be sure, just because Trump publicly downplays Biden's prospects at a rally doesn't mean he thinks the former vice president isn't a threat. But this president often spends more time trashing whoever is on his mind. If anything, it was notable whom he didn't discuss.

Save for a passing reference to "Pocahontas," his nickname for Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Trump mentioned none of the women currently running against him. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) loves to talk in her stump speech about how Trump tweeted when she announced her candidacy in a blizzard last February that "she looked

like a Snowman(woman).” But Trump ignored her entirely on Thursday night.

Trump described South Bend, Ind., as a “failed” city and blamed Buttigieg. “It’s doing so badly,” he said, not citing evidence. He criticized Bloomberg for not competing in Iowa or the other three early states, asking rhetorically: “What happened to Mini Mike? Where is he?”

The Knapp Center at Drake University was packed to its capacity of about 7,200. Hundreds of people who had registered for tickets were nonetheless turned away by the fire marshal, but they stayed to watch Trump’s marathon monologue on a Jumbotron outside the arena, even though it was 29 degrees. It’s a reminder of the passion the president’s core supporters feel. None of the Democratic candidates fill arenas the way Trump can.



Millie Maddy, 16, and Izzy Bradley, 17, of Albia, Iowa, applaud as they watch a live feed of Trump's rally in Des Moines. (Sue Ogrocki/AP)

**I asked a dozen Trump supporters outside the arena who they think would be the most formidable opponent against the president in a general election. They generally downplayed Biden's strength and dismissed his purported appeal to middle-of-the-road voters.** One guy mentioned Buttigieg's outsider status as compelling. Another floated Klobuchar's moderate credentials. Others noted how much Sanders seems to energize the left in a way Biden cannot.

Trump's visit freshly illustrated his ability to suck up all the political oxygen in 2020 and dominate the conversation. As he spoke in Des Moines, of course, four of the senators seeking the Democratic nomination were stuck in Washington for impeachment jury duty. But he has demonstrated quite a knack for using the bully pulpit of the presidency to influence the issues being debated.

Some of the biggest flashpoints in the Democratic race have involved fights over who is the most electable. Democrats desperately want to oust Trump. Many liberals would be willing to support a moderate if they felt it was required to achieve that end. While Biden asserts, almost as a given, that he's best positioned to topple the incumbent, every other candidate has emphasized their case for why they post up best against Trump. Klobuchar notes the Trump counties she carried on the way to a landslide 2018 reelection in Minnesota. Warren has been highlighting data that show women faring better, including in the midterms. The signs people wave at Sanders rallies, for example, say "Bernie beats Trump."

**Trump cares deeply about crowd sizes, and last night he ridiculed Biden for drawing small crowds around Iowa.** He also accused the former vice president of frequently getting confused about which state he's in. "Joe had a crowd that was so small the other day that they had to set up a roundtable," Trump said.

Democratic strategists aligned with the party establishment suspect that Trump might have stepped up attacks on Sanders lately not because he's now leading in some national polls but to help elevate the democratic socialist and possibly boost turnout for him in the caucuses.

Trump did signal, for instance, that he sees Medicare-for-all as a potentially fatal issue for Sanders as he warned that people would lose their private health insurance under the proposal. "But I'm not going to knock it because I want Bernie to bring it right up to the end," he quipped, "and we'll debate it the day before the election."

**It seems clear that Trump will seek to brand whomever Democrats nominate as a "socialist," even if that person has always categorically rejected the label.** "During this campaign season, the good people of Iowa have had a front row seat to the lunacy and the madness of the totally sick left," Trump said at the rally. "In short, this election is a choice between American freedom and democratic socialism and in some cases, in my opinion, it's worse than socialism. Socialism is a kind word by comparison. The Democrats will lose because America will never be a socialist country."

Previewing the nasty race to come, Trump used hyperbole to attack

the Green New Deal. “They want to kill our cows,” he said. “That means you’re next.”



Joe Biden campaigns Thursday in Waukee, Iowa. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)

-- Trump’s July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, in which the president requested the “favor,” came two hours after Trump live-tweeted about a poll he

**saw highlighted on Fox News.** “When Democrats are polled, the number one thing they’re looking for in a candidate for 2020 is somebody who can beat Donald Trump,” Fox host Steve Doocy [told viewers](#) during the segment that morning. “And right now, so many people go, ‘Well, the only person that kind of qualifies for that is Joe Biden.’”

But that was now six-months-and-a-week ago. Polling does not bolster this conventional wisdom the way it did in the summer. [A Washington Post-ABC News poll](#) published earlier this week found Biden leading Trump 50 percent to 46 percent among registered voters, which is within the four-point margin of sampling error. Bloomberg had 49 percent support to Trump’s 46 percent. Sanders received 49 percent to Trump’s 47 percent, while Klobuchar stood at 48 percent to Trump’s 47 percent. Warren tied with Trump at 48 percent. Buttigieg trailed 45 percent to Trump’s 48 percent, but that’s still within the margin for error.

Biden and his main rivals had double-digit advantages over Trump in our fall poll. But the president’s approval rating has ticked up during the impeachment saga. His improved standing is driven by improving support among independents, who approve of his handling of the economy.

**-- Biden’s campaign has argued that the impeachment trial proves Republicans still fear him most.** Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) gleefully predicted to reporters on Monday that Trump defense attorney Pam Bondi’s portrayal of Biden as corrupt at the impeachment trial would hurt him with Democratic caucus-goers. Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.) made a token ad buy to air a commercial in Iowa



this weekend, on Fox News, accusing Biden of “corruption.” Former Trump strategist Steve Bannon was [quoted](#) earlier this week suggesting that Biden is “the strongest Democratic candidate.”

Last night, Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R-Ga.) asked Trump’s defense team about a Politico article that noted Biden had opposed witnesses during Bill Clinton’s impeachment trial in 1999. Trump attorney Patrick Philbin then cited the so-called “Biden rule” to argue for a vote against witnesses. This reads like opposition research, but it’s a timely reminder of Biden’s very long paper trail. He was first elected to the Senate in 1972. Republicans also dubiously invoked another so-called “Biden rule” to justify not scheduling a hearing for Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland during an election year after Antonin Scalia died in 2016.

“Please keep it coming – because this validation from you is the best we can get,” said Biden chief strategist Mike Donilon. “We will rally around your fear of the vice president.”

Biden didn’t mention any of his Democratic opponents during a 19-minute speech on Thursday morning at an elementary school in Waukee, Iowa, but he did mention Trump 64 times. “In Joe Biden’s America, the president’s tax returns will not be a secret,” Biden said. “Political self-interest will not be confused with national interest. And no one, not even the president of the United States, will be above the law.”

**-- Sanders edges out Biden 27 percent to 26 percent among Democratic primary voters nationally, according to [a new NBC-Wall Street Journal poll](#) published this morning.** Warren has

dropped to a distant third place, with 15 percent support. She was even with Sanders in their last two polls. Bloomberg has jumped into fourth place among Democrats nationally, garnering nine percent.

“The poll revealed a sharp generational divide in the nominating contest,” per the Journal’s write-up. “Mr. Sanders held his largest lead ever—a nearly-30-point advantage—over Mr. Biden among primary voters under age 50, and he led by nearly 40 points among the youngest voters, those under age 35. Mr. Biden, by contrast, led Mr. Sanders by 25 points among people ages 50 and older. ... One danger for Mr. Biden is that older voters also account for much of the newfound strength of Mr. Bloomberg, who is the first choice of 14% of those ages 50 and up.”

**-- Making his closing argument in Iowa, Buttigieg contrasted himself with both Biden and Sanders – attacking them by name for the first time.** “I hear Vice President Biden saying that this is no time to take a risk on someone new,” Buttigieg [said](#) yesterday in Decorah, Iowa. “But history has shown us that the biggest risk we could take with a very important election coming up is to look to the same Washington playbook and recycle the same arguments and expect that to work against a president like Donald Trump, who is new in kind.”

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Senate trial: The final day of questioning



## MORE ON IMPEACHMENT:

-- Senate Republicans are increasingly confident they have the votes to block new testimony at the president's impeachment trial, which would could set the stage for a vote to acquit Trump soon. [Mike DeBonis, Seung Min Kim and David Fahrenthold report](#): "Sen. Susan Collins (Maine) said she will break with Republican leadership and vote to hear witnesses. But ... Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) ... announced Friday that he's ready to end the trial even though he found Trump's behavior 'inappropriate' and leave the president's fate in the hands of voters during the upcoming election. ... Along with Collins, Sen. Mitt Romney (Utah) is still viewed as the likeliest Republican contender to side with Democrats for more testimony, while Sen. Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) could join as well. She said late Thursday night that she is going to review her notes and reflect on the decision. It's unclear who would be the fourth vote...

**"One outside possibility is that the Senate will deadlock on the question of calling witnesses.** That would put Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. in the position of breaking the tie — a role Democrats are

urging him to play. But there is little expectation Roberts would weigh in on such a politically thorny question and instead would allow the tie to result in no witness being subpoenaed. ... [Republicans] appeared unconcerned he would take any decisive action. ...

**“In the 1999 impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton, the Senate heard a combined five hours and 28 minutes of closing arguments. Then, the Senate entered four days of closed-door jury deliberations totaling nearly 26 hours,** before voting to acquit Clinton on two articles of impeachment. In this case, some Republicans said, they want to skip the closing arguments and the deliberations and move ahead to the last step. “That would leave Senate Democrats with few cards to play. They could not stop an acquittal vote. But they could delay it — and force Republican senators to take uncomfortable votes against hearing more evidence or allowing more debate. One idea proposed by Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) is a motion to require Roberts to issue a subpoena for additional documents and witnesses if he thinks they are relevant to the trial. It would probably fail ...

**“Even if Democrats force extra votes, the final vote to acquit Trump could come as early as Friday night or Saturday, unless leaders decide to move it to Monday, just one day before Trump’s State of the Union address.** On Thursday — on the last day of questions and answers in the Senate — the day was mostly devoted to softballs, lobbed by senators at their own side. ... At the start of the day’s session, Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) submitted a question for Roberts to read aloud. The question contained the name of a person who conservative media have alleged is the intelligence

community whistleblower ... Roberts didn't read it. ... After that, Paul stood up, gathered his papers and walked out of the Senate chamber to address reporters. He then said the name that Roberts would not."

-- **"While many Republicans have expressed hopes that the expected failure of a vote to call new witnesses would mean a rapid end to Trump's impeachment trial, officials are warning that might not be the case," Rachael Bade and DeBonis report.** "A longer schedule could mean the trial stretches beyond Monday's Iowa caucuses, further complicating the campaign schedules of the four senators seeking the Democratic nomination who are sitting as jurors. A senior administration official and two congressional officials said Friday that it was unlikely that senators would rush immediately to a verdict if the witness vote fails. ...

**"The administration official and a congressional official raised the possibility that the Senate could take up a new procedural resolution laying out rules for the trial's endgame** — which could include time for closing arguments, private deliberations and public speeches by senators. ... Should the Senate embark on this process, the senior administration official said, a final verdict could be delayed as late as Wednesday — after the Iowa caucuses on Monday and Trump's State of the Union address on Tuesday. But a congressional official noted that much depends on what a majority of senators want to do: A 51-vote majority could choose to hasten the final verdict at any point."

-- **It's no consolation for Democrats, but Alexander took a swipe at Trump's conduct as he announced he will vote to acquit:** "It was inappropriate for the president to ask a foreign leader to

investigate his political opponent and to withhold United States aid to encourage that investigation,” the retiring senator said [in a statement](#). “When elected officials inappropriately interfere with such investigations, it undermines the principle of equal justice under the law. But the Constitution does not give the Senate the power to remove the president from office and ban him from this year’s ballot simply for actions that are inappropriate.”

**-- Bolton writes in his draft manuscript that Trump directed him to help with the alleged pressure campaign to extract damaging information on Democrats from Ukrainian officials more than two months before the July 25 call, [the New York Times reports](#):** “Mr. Trump gave the instruction, Mr. Bolton wrote, during an Oval Office conversation in early May that included the acting White House chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, the president’s personal lawyer Rudolph W. Giuliani and the White House counsel, Pat A. Cipollone, who is now leading the president’s impeachment defense. Mr. Trump told Mr. Bolton to call [Zelensky], who had recently won election as president of Ukraine, to ensure Mr. Zelensky would meet with Mr. Giuliani, who was planning a trip to Ukraine to discuss the investigations that the president sought, in Mr. Bolton’s account. Mr. Bolton never made the call, he wrote.”

**-- During a long-scheduled speech in Austin, Tex., Bolton voiced support for the government officials who testified before the House. [From KXAN](#):** “Bolton defended former diplomatic and state department officials Fiona Hill, Tim Morrison, Alex Vindman, Bill Taylor, and Marie Yovanovitch. ‘All of them acted in the best interest of the country as they saw it and consistent to what they thought our

policies were,' said Bolton, during the question-and-answer time after his keynote speech. He went on to say members of the Trump Administration should 'feel they're able to speak their minds without retribution.' 'The idea that somehow testifying to what you think is true is destructive to the system of government we have — I think, is very nearly the reverse — the exact reverse of the truth,' said Bolton."

**-- Jennifer Williams, who testified in the House inquiry, will leave Vice President Pence's office two months earlier than scheduled.**

She plans to join Central Command in the spring as a deputy foreign policy adviser, [Politico reports](#). She will be advising the command on Middle East policy issues and has had the job lined up since last fall. Marc Short, Pence's chief of staff, said she "requested in writing an early departure."

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** *"This is a happy period for us," Trump told supporters during his rally here Thursday in Des Moines. "It's a happy period because we call it 'impeachment light.'"*



New video shows Parnas attending Trump fundraiser at Mar-a-Lago



**-- Trump's defense team said Giuliani had the right to act as an intermediary for Trump with the Ukrainians, even as they also insisted the president's personal lawyer was not carrying out official U.S. policy.** Deputy White House Counsel Patrick Philbin said it would not be "improper" for a president "in some circumstances ... to rely on a personal confidant" to relay messages back and forth with a foreign government. "That's not prohibited." ([Felicia Sonmez](#))

**-- A new video recording shows the access former Giuliani associates Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman had to Trump at a Mar-a-Lago donor event.** [Josh Dawsey, Rosalind Helderman and Paul Sonne report](#): Ten days before Parnas and Fruman dined with Trump at his D.C. hotel, "they were part of a small group of Republican Party donors who met with the president at ... his Florida estate ... While it was known that Fruman and Parnas had attended an event at Mar-a-Lago, the focus of the event, the timing and who else was in attendance had not been made public. ... The recordings of the two events undercut Trump's repeated assertions that he does not know Parnas and Fruman ... Taken together, the two recordings provide a window into Trump's close interactions with high-dollar donors, despite his pledge to 'drain the swamp.'"

**-- Trump defense lawyer Jay Sekulow refused to disclose who is paying Giuliani's bills to defend the president, raising suspicions.** [Philip Bump reports](#): "A group of Democratic senators ... decided to pose the question of Giuliani's income to the House impeachment managers and Trump's legal team. ... [Sekulow] started talking before he even got to the microphone, he was so indignant. Or so he'd have us believe."

**-- White House Counsel Pat Cipollone's defense has placed him on televisions screens across America, though he would have preferred it was not so. [Manuel Roig-Franzia and Josh Dawsey profile him](#): “He’d argued before the trial that cameras should be banned from the chamber. He believed that Trump’s case could be damaged by the re-airing of comments made by the president and acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, who’d said at a news conference that the media should ‘get over it’ because quid pro quos ‘happen all the time’ in U.S. foreign policy ... But keeping cameras out also would have had the effect of maintaining his carefully nurtured below-the-radar profile. ... Prior to Cipollone’s name emerging as a contender for Trump’s White House counsel job, he’d never even appeared in the news pages of his hometown newspaper — The Post.”**

**-- Commentary from The Post’s opinion page:**

- [The Editorial Board](#): "If Senate Republicans give Trump the coverup he wants, his acquittal will be worthless."
- [George Conway](#), conservative lawyer and husband of counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway: "Don't let the defense fool you. This impeachment is all about corruption."
- [Dana Milbank](#): "The impeachment trial hurtles toward its worst-case conclusion."
- [Marc Thiessen](#): "Republican senators are being set up by the House."
- [Fareed Zakaria](#): "How the story of impeachment tells the story of polarization."

- [Jennifer Rubin](#): “The reasons not to call John Bolton are ridiculous.”
- [Karen Tumulty](#): “Bolton is teaching Trump the difference between loyalty and fealty.”
- [William Treanor](#): “Trump’s attorneys have butchered a crucial Founder’s take on impeachment.”
- [Keith Whittington](#): “The Senate is likely to acquit Trump. It should still reject [Alan] Dershowitz’s logic.”
- [Harry Litman](#): “Dershowitz may have argued himself out of relevance.”

-- **The White House will propose keeping aid to Ukraine intact in the new budget, a departure from past efforts to slash assistance.** [Erica Werner and Jeff Stein report](#): “The money at issue comes from two programs: one administered by the Pentagon, and the other by the State Department. ... **As White House officials prepared their 2021 budget request, set to be released Feb. 10, the Ukraine financing program was once again on the chopping block**, with officials weighing another attempt to cut it down to \$20 million, according to two people with knowledge of the deliberations who spoke on the condition of anonymity to disclose internal discussions. **But after inquiries, ... OMB denied that any cut would be proposed**, with a spokesperson saying the budget would extend existing funding levels.”

-- **Nancy Pelosi has stepped out of the impeachment spotlight after dominating the initial debate.** Returning from a 10-day break that included a visit to Poland, the speaker of the House gave a news conference yesterday that only briefly touched on the trial. ([Paul](#)

Kane)

**-- But her caucus's investigations into Trump will continue after the trial: A federal judge said he's inclined to uphold House subpoenas for documents important to the probe of the administration's foiled plans to add a citizenship question to the census.** [Spencer Hsu reports](#): "Judge Randolph D. Moss said he would rule quickly after a three-hour hearing in Washington, D.C., in which he said courts should not micromanage disputes between the other two branches of government. Moss rejected the White House's sweeping constitutional claim that Congress cannot sue to enforce its subpoena powers and that it can indefinitely withhold communications between federal agency officials through a 'protective assertion' of executive privilege."

**-- Senate investigators conducted an extensive interview of the IRS whistleblower who alleged improper political interference in the audit of the president or the vice president.** The whistleblower delivered transcribed remarks to staffers for Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), the chairman and top Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, [Jeff Stein and Erica Werner report](#).

**-- E. Jean Carroll, the New York writer who last summer accused Trump of raping her in the 1990s, requested that the president submit a DNA sample to determine whether his genetic material is on the black dress she said she was wearing during the alleged assault.** [Michael Brice-Saddler reports](#): "Carroll's lawyers served notice to a Trump attorney on Thursday, asking that Trump provide a sample for 'analysis and comparison against unidentified male DNA present on the dress' ... Carroll's lawyers requested that Trump provide the DNA

sample on March 2 in Washington. ... Trump has vehemently denied the allegation and called it fake news, asserting that he had 'never met this person in my life' and that Carroll was 'not my type.' He also said Carroll had made up the story to promote her book. The request for DNA comes after Carroll sued Trump for defamation in New York state court in November, arguing he had smeared her and damaged her career by calling her a liar.”



Flight attendants deplane at Brisbane airport in Australia on Friday. (Glenn Hunt/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

## **NEW WORLD ORDER:**

**-- Health officials confirmed the first U.S. case of person-to-person transmission of the coronavirus is in Chicago, and the World Health Organization finally declared it a public health emergency. Overnight, the State Department also issued a “do not**

travel” advisory for all of China. That’s the highest warning level, and it previously only applied to the province where the outbreak began.

**“State and federal officials said the sixth infected person in the United States is married to the Chicago-area woman who contracted the virus when she traveled to Wuhan, China,”** [Lenny Bernstein](#), [Lena Sun](#), [Siobhán O'Grady](#) and [Yasmeen Abutaleb](#) report.

“The unidentified man, who is in his 60s, has been isolated in the same suburban hospital as his wife since Tuesday, when he began exhibiting symptoms consistent with the early stages of the virus, including fever, coughing and shortness of breath ... In Chicago, Public Health Commissioner Allison Arwady said the new U.S. patient was placed in isolation Tuesday, the same day he exhibited symptoms. The man, who has underlying health conditions, is in stable condition at a medical center in Hoffman Estates, a suburb of Chicago, where his wife is also hospitalized ...

**“Officials warned a jittery public, however, to expect additional cases and perhaps more person-to-person transmissions of the virus.** ‘Moving forward, we can expect to see more cases, and more cases means the potential for more person-to-person spread,’ said Nancy Messonnier, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nonetheless, the overall risk to people in the United States is still considered quite low, officials said. They advised U.S. residents to take the kinds of precautions they would to guard against seasonal flu — which already has killed at least 8,200 people in late 2019 and early 2020 — including frequent hand-washing and staying home when they are sick. There is no need for face masks in the

United States, Messonnier said.”

**“Around the globe, however, and particularly in China, the respiratory illness caused by the newly identified virus continued on a widening, destructive path ...** The virus had killed 213 people — all of them in China — and infected more than 9,700 as of Friday. About 90 cases have been recorded outside China — including the first two in Italy, both Chinese tourists ... Two cases of coronavirus were confirmed in Britain, while South Korea confirmed an 11th case. ... [Airlines are cutting](#) or completely canceling flights to China, a nation of 1.4 billion people ... **The union representing 15,000 American Airlines pilots sued the company to halt the carrier’s U.S.-China service**, citing ‘serious, and in many ways still unknown, health threats posed by the coronavirus.’”

-- **“China, anxious to shield Communist Party leaders from blame, dismissed a public health official over her handling of the crisis,”** [Shibani Mahtani reports on our special live blog](#). “In Hong Kong, officials closed schools until March as the number of confirmed cases rose to 12 and residents faced supply shortages.” And outcry is building over Australia’s plan to quarantine Wuhan evacuees in an offshore migrant detention center, [O’Grady reports](#).

-- **Trump is under growing pressure to mount a coordinated federal response to the coronavirus threat.** [David Nakamura, Abutaleb and Dawsey report](#): “The White House has sought to tamp down criticism from Democrats in recent days by projecting an air of confidence and competence, with Trump presiding late Wednesday over an interagency briefing in the Situation Room ... ‘This is no cause for urgent panic in any way in the United States,’ Adm. Brett

Giroir, assistant secretary of health, told reporters at the White House on Thursday. ... **One senior administration official said Trump has been hesitant to speak out because some aides have cautioned that he could unnecessarily cause public alarm — and assured him that China is working hard to keep the virus under control.** But increasingly, there is a feeling among aides that the president must say more..."

**-- Facebook will remove fake cures and other harmful misinformation shared about the coronavirus.** [Tony Romm reports](#): "The social-networking giant said in a blog post that its efforts, building off its policies that prohibit users from causing real-world harm, would result in the removal of dangerous claims, such as those that suggest drinking bleach cures the coronavirus, as well as hashtags that promote falsehoods on its photo-sharing site Instagram. ... Facebook also said it would start steering users to more authoritative sources of information from the World Health Organization. Facebook also said it had provided free advertising credits to help organizations run coronavirus education campaigns."





Afghan Army commandos attend their graduation ceremony on Jan. 13 after a three-and-a-half-month training program at the Commando Training Center on the outskirts of Kabul. (Rahmat Gul/AP)

**-- Taliban attacks have reached record-high levels in Afghanistan.** [Susannah George reports](#): “During the last three months of 2019, the Taliban and other insurgent groups launched more than 8,200 attacks against Afghan troops, American forces and civilians, more than any other fourth quarter since 2010, the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said in its [quarterly report](#) released Thursday. ... Overall, the watchdog report found that attacks launched by the Taliban and other insurgent groups increased by 6 percent in 2019 from the previous year.”

**-- Iraq said its military has resumed operations with the U.S.-led coalition against ISIS, which were suspended after Trump ordered the drone strike that killed Qasem Soleimani.** [Louisa](#)

[Loveluck reports](#): “A statement from the office of Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi said the missions have resumed in an attempt to maximize progress against the regrouping Islamist militants ahead of a new U.S.-Iraqi agreement that could lead to a significant reduction of the U.S.-led coalition’s troop presence.”

**-- The House passed two measures seeking to restrain Trump from targeting Iran militarily.** [Karoun Demirjian reports](#): “The legislation would prohibit Trump from using federal funds to strike Iran without prior approval, and repeal an 18-year-old law that he and his advisers have cited to justify killing a top Iranian general earlier this month. Both measures have earned limited Republican support and are expected to face difficult odds in the Senate, where GOP leaders can easily block them from coming to the floor for a vote.”

**-- A leaked Customs and Border Protection memo shows U.S. border officers working at Canadian ports of entry were directed to detain and question travelers of Iranian descent, including American citizens, in the wake of the Soleimani strike.** Citing a high “threat alert,” the document states that, among others, anyone born in Iran, Lebanon or the Palestinian territories between 1961 and 2001 should be vetted. ([CNN](#))

**-- Trump’s border wall is vulnerable to flash floods, which means it will require hundreds of storm gates to prevent it from being knocked over.** [Nick Miroff reports](#): The gates “must be left open for months every summer during ‘monsoon season’ in the desert, according to U.S. border officials, agents and engineers familiar with the plans. The open, unmanned gates in remote areas already have allowed for the easy entry of smugglers and migrants into the United

States. ... **[Trump's wall] effectively acts as a sewer grate that traps the debris; when clogged, the barriers cannot withstand the power of the runoff.** Because the gates typically are located in isolated areas that lack electricity, they cannot be operated from afar."

-- **The "longest ever" drug-smuggling tunnel was discovered at the U.S.-Mexico border, CBP said.** [Kim Bellware reports](#): "Hidden 70 feet beneath a small industrial building in Tijuana, Mexico, lays a long and sophisticated passageway — complete with a railway, plumbing and ventilation system. It stretches the length of almost 12 football fields, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials said Mexican narcotics traffickers had used the tunnel to smuggle drugs across the border, into an industrial area of San Diego."

-- **Trump is expected to reveal his travel ban expansion today.** A draft of the updated ban that was being considered would place immigration restrictions on an additional six countries. ([Politico](#))

-- **Heat and high winds may intensify the bush fires that continue advancing towards Australia's capital of Canberra.** [Andrew Freedman reports](#): "That fire is burning in Namadgi National Park and was accidentally started by a military helicopter used for firefighting."

-- **New data confirms that Antarctica's most dangerous glacier is melting from below.** [Chris Mooney reports](#): "The unprecedented research, part of a multimillion-dollar British and U.S. initiative to study the remote Thwaites Glacier, involved drilling through nearly 2,000 feet of ice to measure water temperatures in a narrow cavity where the glacier first connects with the ocean. This is one of the most difficult-to-reach locations on Earth. At a region known as the

‘grounding line,” where the ice transitions between resting on bedrock and floating on the ocean, scientists measured water temperatures of about 0 degrees Celsius (32 degrees Fahrenheit). That is more than 2 degrees warmer than the freezing point in that location, said David Holland, a New York University glaciologist.”

**-- In other important environmental news, the Trump administration is working to permanently weaken a law to protect birds. [Darryl Fears and Juliet Eilperin report](#):** “Interior Department officials said Thursday that they will propose regulations clarifying that individuals and industrial operators, such as oil, gas and wind companies, will not be penalized if they accidentally kill birds — even on a massive scale. ... Since guidelines under the administration’s interpretation of the law were issued in April 2018, hundreds of ducks, geese, herons and migrating birds have perished in oil pits, on utility lines and in other operations without penalty, according to documents compiled by conservation groups.”

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Former Maryland congressman John Delaney (D) dropped out of the presidential race:



**John Delaney** ✓  
@JohnDelaney



It has been a privilege to campaign for the Democratic nomination for President, but it is clear that God has a different purpose for me at this moment in time. Read my full statement here:

[1/19johndelaney.com/2020/01/31/joh...](https://1/19johndelaney.com/2020/01/31/joh...)



**John Delaney Announces Decision to Withdraw Fro...**

DES MOINES, IA - Today, 2020 Presidential candidate John Delaney announces his decision to withdraw from the 2020  
[johndelaney.com](https://johndelaney.com)

♡ 64 12:55 PM - Jan 31, 2020



💬 57 people are talking about this



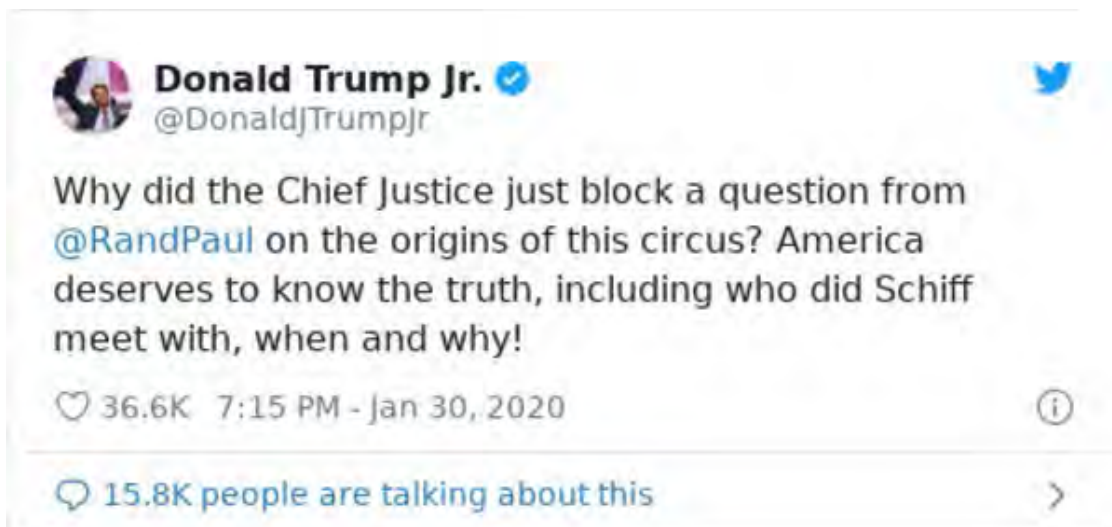
Delaney told CNN he doesn't want to take support away from other moderate candidates in Monday's Iowa caucuses. ([Amy B Wang](#))

Trump defense lawyer Alan Dershowitz tried to walk back some of his

more extreme legal arguments on the president's behalf, as he found himself widely mocked and ridiculed by a chorus of constitutional scholars from across the ideological spectrum:



The president's eldest son expressed support for Rand Paul's efforts to out the alleged whistleblower:



Lead impeachment manager Adam Schiff accused the Trump

administration of rank hypocrisy:



Rep. Justin Amash (Mich.), who declared his independence from the GOP after endorsing impeachment, slammed the Senate for what he describes as an institutional failure:



The former top lawyer at the FBI (Jim Comey's right-hand man) weighed in on the Q&A at the trial:



From a former House GOP staffer and ex-CIA officer who sought the presidency as an independent in 2016:





**Evan McMullin** ✓  
@EvanMcMullin



Republican leaders in Congress believe—and privately say—that they fear the country is quickly changing in ways that may soon deprive them of power, and that they must use the power they have now to delay it as long as possible, even by harming the Republic if necessary.

♡ 20.6K 3:17 PM - Jan 30, 2020



💬 12.6K people are talking about this



Trump tweeted a picture of himself getting briefed on the coronavirus, and some alumni of the intelligence community were shocked that the CIA's live feed was included in what went out:



**Aki Peritz**   
@AkiPeritz



Oh hi, I can see CIA and NSA on the Top secret VTC (per the monitor in pic 2) [twitter.com/realdonaldtrum...](https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrum...)

**Donald J. Trump**  @realDonaldTrump

Just received a briefing on the Coronavirus in China from all of our GREAT agencies, who are also working closely with China. We will continue to monitor the ongoing developments. We have the best experts anywhere in the world, and they are on top of it 24/7!



♡ 645 5:32 PM - Jan 30, 2020



💬 304 people are talking about this



The legendary newscaster Gwen Ifill was honored with a stamp:



**Vanessa Williams**

@WaPoVanessa



❤️❤️❤️ Unveiling of @gwenifill stamp today  
@MetropolitanAME



♡ 61 4:47 PM - Jan 30, 2020



💬 18 people are talking about this



And John Bolton may not be seen near the Senate anytime soon, but his impersonator got close enough:



**Peter Alexander** ✓  
@PeterAlexander



There is now a John Bolton impersonator/comedian on the Hill delivering prepared statements.



♡ 669 5:16 PM - Jan 30, 2020



💬 147 people are talking about this



### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert is worried about the arguments Trump's lawyers have made:



Colbert also “visited” Iowa to talk to voters before the caucuses:



Seth Meyers wondered where Trump found his lawyers:



And, ahead of the Super Bowl on Sunday, Trevor Noah took a look at the world of sports betting:



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From: [The Washington Post](#)

To: [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Trump doesn't necessarily think Biden is his biggest 2020 threat. At least, not anymore.  
Date: Friday, January 31, 2020 10:47:46 AM

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**Trump doesn't necessarily think Biden is his biggest 2020 threat. At least, not anymore.**





Trump on impeachment at Iowa rally: 'They want to nullify your ballots'



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

## THE BIG IDEA:

**DES MOINES** — The centerpiece of Joe Biden’s closing pitch to Iowa voters is that he’s the Democrat whom President Trump fears **the most**. The impeachment trial has helped establish that this was probably the case last summer when Trump allegedly tried to coerce Ukraine into announcing an investigation of the former vice president by freezing vital military assistance and withholding a White House meeting. **But is it still true?**

Trump flew here Thursday night for a rally to counterprogram the caucuses. With Democrats apparently lacking the votes to call witnesses with firsthand knowledge of his intentions, putting him on the verge of winning acquittal in the Senate, the president delivered

an 86-minute speech that offered several clues into how he now sees the race. He talked more about Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) than anyone else, followed by Biden and then former mayors Pete Buttigieg and Mike Bloomberg.

In a wistful mood about 2016, Trump twice told the crowd that he wishes he could face Hillary Clinton in a rematch. Then he posed a question to the capacity crowd: "Who is tougher: Her, crazy Bernie, sleepy Joe, Boot-edge-edge? Who would be the closest?" Members of the crowd yelled out various names, none discernably louder than the others. "I don't know," Trump continued, shaking his head. "I feel bad because it's too late for her to get in. I kept hoping, but I think honestly, I think that sleepy Joe, crazy Bernie, I don't even want to put Boot-edge-edge in, but I think they'd actually be tougher than her."

As Trump accused Biden of being frequently confused, a woman in the crowd yelled: "It's over for him!" Trump pointed at her and smiled. "It was over for him, actually, if you know him, a long time ago," the president said. "Now it's really over!" The crowd laughed.

To be sure, just because Trump publicly downplays Biden's prospects at a rally doesn't mean he thinks the former vice president isn't a threat. But this president often spends more time trashing whoever is on his mind. If anything, it was notable whom he didn't discuss.

Save for a passing reference to "Pocahontas," his nickname for Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Trump mentioned none of the women currently running against him. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) loves to talk in her stump speech about how Trump tweeted when she announced her candidacy in a blizzard last February that "she looked

like a Snowman(woman).” But Trump ignored her entirely on Thursday night.

Trump described South Bend, Ind., as a “failed” city and blamed Buttigieg. “It’s doing so badly,” he said, not citing evidence. He criticized Bloomberg for not competing in Iowa or the other three early states, asking rhetorically: “What happened to Mini Mike? Where is he?”

The Knapp Center at Drake University was packed to its capacity of about 7,200. Hundreds of people who had registered for tickets were nonetheless turned away by the fire marshal, but they stayed to watch Trump’s marathon monologue on a Jumbotron outside the arena, even though it was 29 degrees. It’s a reminder of the passion the president’s core supporters feel. None of the Democratic candidates fill arenas the way Trump can.



Millie Maddy, 16, and Izzy Bradley, 17, of Albia, Iowa, applaud as they watch a live feed of Trump's rally in Des Moines. (Sue Ogrocki/AP)

**I asked a dozen Trump supporters outside the arena who they think would be the most formidable opponent against the president in a general election. They generally downplayed Biden's strength and dismissed his purported appeal to middle-of-the-road voters.** One guy mentioned Buttigieg's outsider status as compelling. Another floated Klobuchar's moderate credentials. Others noted how much Sanders seems to energize the left in a way Biden cannot.

Trump's visit freshly illustrated his ability to suck up all the political oxygen in 2020 and dominate the conversation. As he spoke in Des Moines, of course, four of the senators seeking the Democratic nomination were stuck in Washington for impeachment jury duty. But he has demonstrated quite a knack for using the bully pulpit of the presidency to influence the issues being debated.

Some of the biggest flashpoints in the Democratic race have involved fights over who is the most electable. Democrats desperately want to oust Trump. Many liberals would be willing to support a moderate if they felt it was required to achieve that end. While Biden asserts, almost as a given, that he's best positioned to topple the incumbent, every other candidate has emphasized their case for why they post up best against Trump. Klobuchar notes the Trump counties she carried on the way to a landslide 2018 reelection in Minnesota. Warren has been highlighting data that show women faring better, including in the midterms. The signs people wave at Sanders rallies, for example, say "Bernie beats Trump."

**Trump cares deeply about crowd sizes, and last night he ridiculed Biden for drawing small crowds around Iowa.** He also accused the former vice president of frequently getting confused about which state he's in. "Joe had a crowd that was so small the other day that they had to set up a roundtable," Trump said.

Democratic strategists aligned with the party establishment suspect that Trump might have stepped up attacks on Sanders lately not because he's now leading in some national polls but to help elevate the democratic socialist and possibly boost turnout for him in the caucuses.

Trump did signal, for instance, that he sees Medicare-for-all as a potentially fatal issue for Sanders as he warned that people would lose their private health insurance under the proposal. "But I'm not going to knock it because I want Bernie to bring it right up to the end," he quipped, "and we'll debate it the day before the election."

**It seems clear that Trump will seek to brand whomever Democrats nominate as a "socialist," even if that person has always categorically rejected the label.** "During this campaign season, the good people of Iowa have had a front row seat to the lunacy and the madness of the totally sick left," Trump said at the rally. "In short, this election is a choice between American freedom and democratic socialism and in some cases, in my opinion, it's worse than socialism. Socialism is a kind word by comparison. The Democrats will lose because America will never be a socialist country."

Previewing the nasty race to come, Trump used hyperbole to attack

the Green New Deal. “They want to kill our cows,” he said. “That means you’re next.”



Joe Biden campaigns Thursday in Waukee, Iowa. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)

-- Trump’s July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, in which the president requested the “favor,” came two hours after Trump live-tweeted about a poll he

**saw highlighted on Fox News.** “When Democrats are polled, the number one thing they’re looking for in a candidate for 2020 is somebody who can beat Donald Trump,” Fox host Steve Doocy [told viewers](#) during the segment that morning. “And right now, so many people go, ‘Well, the only person that kind of qualifies for that is Joe Biden.’”

But that was now six-months-and-a-week ago. Polling does not bolster this conventional wisdom the way it did in the summer. [A Washington Post-ABC News poll](#) published earlier this week found Biden leading Trump 50 percent to 46 percent among registered voters, which is within the four-point margin of sampling error. Bloomberg had 49 percent support to Trump’s 46 percent. Sanders received 49 percent to Trump’s 47 percent, while Klobuchar stood at 48 percent to Trump’s 47 percent. Warren tied with Trump at 48 percent. Buttigieg trailed 45 percent to Trump’s 48 percent, but that’s still within the margin for error.

Biden and his main rivals had double-digit advantages over Trump in our fall poll. But the president’s approval rating has ticked up during the impeachment saga. His improved standing is driven by improving support among independents, who approve of his handling of the economy.

**-- Biden’s campaign has argued that the impeachment trial proves Republicans still fear him most.** Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) gleefully predicted to reporters on Monday that Trump defense attorney Pam Bondi’s portrayal of Biden as corrupt at the impeachment trial would hurt him with Democratic caucus-goers. Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.) made a token ad buy to air a commercial in Iowa

this weekend, on Fox News, accusing Biden of “corruption.” Former Trump strategist Steve Bannon was [quoted](#) earlier this week suggesting that Biden is “the strongest Democratic candidate.”

Last night, Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R-Ga.) asked Trump’s defense team about a Politico article that noted Biden had opposed witnesses during Bill Clinton’s impeachment trial in 1999. Trump attorney Patrick Philbin then cited the so-called “Biden rule” to argue for a vote against witnesses. This reads like opposition research, but it’s a timely reminder of Biden’s very long paper trail. He was first elected to the Senate in 1972. Republicans also dubiously invoked another so-called “Biden rule” to justify not scheduling a hearing for Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland during an election year after Antonin Scalia died in 2016.

“Please keep it coming – because this validation from you is the best we can get,” said Biden chief strategist Mike Donilon. “We will rally around your fear of the vice president.”

Biden didn’t mention any of his Democratic opponents during a 19-minute speech on Thursday morning at an elementary school in Waukee, Iowa, but he did mention Trump 64 times. “In Joe Biden’s America, the president’s tax returns will not be a secret,” Biden said. “Political self-interest will not be confused with national interest. And no one, not even the president of the United States, will be above the law.”

**-- Sanders edges out Biden 27 percent to 26 percent among Democratic primary voters nationally, according to [a new NBC-Wall Street Journal poll](#) published this morning.** Warren has



dropped to a distant third place, with 15 percent support. She was even with Sanders in their last two polls. Bloomberg has jumped into fourth place among Democrats nationally, garnering nine percent.

“The poll revealed a sharp generational divide in the nominating contest,” per the Journal’s write-up. “Mr. Sanders held his largest lead ever—a nearly-30-point advantage—over Mr. Biden among primary voters under age 50, and he led by nearly 40 points among the youngest voters, those under age 35. Mr. Biden, by contrast, led Mr. Sanders by 25 points among people ages 50 and older. ... One danger for Mr. Biden is that older voters also account for much of the newfound strength of Mr. Bloomberg, who is the first choice of 14% of those ages 50 and up.”

**-- Making his closing argument in Iowa, Buttigieg contrasted himself with both Biden and Sanders – attacking them by name for the first time.** “I hear Vice President Biden saying that this is no time to take a risk on someone new,” Buttigieg [said](#) yesterday in Decorah, Iowa. “But history has shown us that the biggest risk we could take with a very important election coming up is to look to the same Washington playbook and recycle the same arguments and expect that to work against a president like Donald Trump, who is new in kind.”

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Senate trial: The final day of questioning



## MORE ON IMPEACHMENT:

-- Senate Republicans are increasingly confident they have the votes to block new testimony at the president's impeachment trial, which would could set the stage for a vote to acquit Trump soon. [Mike DeBonis, Seung Min Kim and David Fahrenthold report](#): "Sen. Susan Collins (Maine) said she will break with Republican leadership and vote to hear witnesses. But ... Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) ... announced Friday that he's ready to end the trial even though he found Trump's behavior 'inappropriate' and leave the president's fate in the hands of voters during the upcoming election. ... Along with Collins, Sen. Mitt Romney (Utah) is still viewed as the likeliest Republican contender to side with Democrats for more testimony, while Sen. Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) could join as well. She said late Thursday night that she is going to review her notes and reflect on the decision. It's unclear who would be the fourth vote...

**"One outside possibility is that the Senate will deadlock on the question of calling witnesses.** That would put Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. in the position of breaking the tie — a role Democrats are

urging him to play. But there is little expectation Roberts would weigh in on such a politically thorny question and instead would allow the tie to result in no witness being subpoenaed. ... [Republicans] appeared unconcerned he would take any decisive action. ...

**“In the 1999 impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton, the Senate heard a combined five hours and 28 minutes of closing arguments. Then, the Senate entered four days of closed-door jury deliberations totaling nearly 26 hours,** before voting to acquit Clinton on two articles of impeachment. In this case, some Republicans said, they want to skip the closing arguments and the deliberations and move ahead to the last step. “That would leave Senate Democrats with few cards to play. They could not stop an acquittal vote. But they could delay it — and force Republican senators to take uncomfortable votes against hearing more evidence or allowing more debate. One idea proposed by Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) is a motion to require Roberts to issue a subpoena for additional documents and witnesses if he thinks they are relevant to the trial. It would probably fail ...

**“Even if Democrats force extra votes, the final vote to acquit Trump could come as early as Friday night or Saturday, unless leaders decide to move it to Monday, just one day before Trump’s State of the Union address.** On Thursday — on the last day of questions and answers in the Senate — the day was mostly devoted to softballs, lobbed by senators at their own side. ... At the start of the day’s session, Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) submitted a question for Roberts to read aloud. The question contained the name of a person who conservative media have alleged is the intelligence

community whistleblower ... Roberts didn't read it. ... After that, Paul stood up, gathered his papers and walked out of the Senate chamber to address reporters. He then said the name that Roberts would not."

-- **"While many Republicans have expressed hopes that the expected failure of a vote to call new witnesses would mean a rapid end to Trump's impeachment trial, officials are warning that might not be the case," Rachael Bade and DeBonis report.** "A longer schedule could mean the trial stretches beyond Monday's Iowa caucuses, further complicating the campaign schedules of the four senators seeking the Democratic nomination who are sitting as jurors. A senior administration official and two congressional officials said Friday that it was unlikely that senators would rush immediately to a verdict if the witness vote fails. ...

**"The administration official and a congressional official raised the possibility that the Senate could take up a new procedural resolution laying out rules for the trial's endgame** — which could include time for closing arguments, private deliberations and public speeches by senators. ... Should the Senate embark on this process, the senior administration official said, a final verdict could be delayed as late as Wednesday — after the Iowa caucuses on Monday and Trump's State of the Union address on Tuesday. But a congressional official noted that much depends on what a majority of senators want to do: A 51-vote majority could choose to hasten the final verdict at any point."

-- **It's no consolation for Democrats, but Alexander took a swipe at Trump's conduct as he announced he will vote to acquit:** "It was inappropriate for the president to ask a foreign leader to

investigate his political opponent and to withhold United States aid to encourage that investigation,” the retiring senator said [in a statement](#). “When elected officials inappropriately interfere with such investigations, it undermines the principle of equal justice under the law. But the Constitution does not give the Senate the power to remove the president from office and ban him from this year’s ballot simply for actions that are inappropriate.”

**-- Bolton writes in his draft manuscript that Trump directed him to help with the alleged pressure campaign to extract damaging information on Democrats from Ukrainian officials more than two months before the July 25 call, [the New York Times reports](#):** “Mr. Trump gave the instruction, Mr. Bolton wrote, during an Oval Office conversation in early May that included the acting White House chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, the president’s personal lawyer Rudolph W. Giuliani and the White House counsel, Pat A. Cipollone, who is now leading the president’s impeachment defense. Mr. Trump told Mr. Bolton to call [Zelensky], who had recently won election as president of Ukraine, to ensure Mr. Zelensky would meet with Mr. Giuliani, who was planning a trip to Ukraine to discuss the investigations that the president sought, in Mr. Bolton’s account. Mr. Bolton never made the call, he wrote.”

**-- During a long-scheduled speech in Austin, Tex., Bolton voiced support for the government officials who testified before the House. [From KXAN](#):** “Bolton defended former diplomatic and state department officials Fiona Hill, Tim Morrison, Alex Vindman, Bill Taylor, and Marie Yovanovitch. ‘All of them acted in the best interest of the country as they saw it and consistent to what they thought our

policies were,' said Bolton, during the question-and-answer time after his keynote speech. He went on to say members of the Trump Administration should 'feel they're able to speak their minds without retribution.' 'The idea that somehow testifying to what you think is true is destructive to the system of government we have — I think, is very nearly the reverse — the exact reverse of the truth,' said Bolton."

**-- Jennifer Williams, who testified in the House inquiry, will leave Vice President Pence's office two months earlier than scheduled.**

She plans to join Central Command in the spring as a deputy foreign policy adviser, [Politico reports](#). She will be advising the command on Middle East policy issues and has had the job lined up since last fall. Marc Short, Pence's chief of staff, said she "requested in writing an early departure."

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** *"This is a happy period for us," Trump told supporters during his rally here Thursday in Des Moines. "It's a happy period because we call it 'impeachment light.'"*



New video shows Parnas attending Trump fundraiser at Mar-a-Lago

**-- Trump's defense team said Giuliani had the right to act as an intermediary for Trump with the Ukrainians, even as they also insisted the president's personal lawyer was not carrying out official U.S. policy.** Deputy White House Counsel Patrick Philbin said it would not be "improper" for a president "in some circumstances ... to rely on a personal confidant" to relay messages back and forth with a foreign government. "That's not prohibited." ([Felicia Sonmez](#))

**-- A new video recording shows the access former Giuliani associates Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman had to Trump at a Mar-a-Lago donor event.** [Josh Dawsey, Rosalind Helderman and Paul Sonne report](#): Ten days before Parnas and Fruman dined with Trump at his D.C. hotel, "they were part of a small group of Republican Party donors who met with the president at ... his Florida estate ... While it was known that Fruman and Parnas had attended an event at Mar-a-Lago, the focus of the event, the timing and who else was in attendance had not been made public. ... The recordings of the two events undercut Trump's repeated assertions that he does not know Parnas and Fruman ... Taken together, the two recordings provide a window into Trump's close interactions with high-dollar donors, despite his pledge to 'drain the swamp.'"

**-- Trump defense lawyer Jay Sekulow refused to disclose who is paying Giuliani's bills to defend the president, raising suspicions.** [Philip Bump reports](#): "A group of Democratic senators ... decided to pose the question of Giuliani's income to the House impeachment managers and Trump's legal team. ... [Sekulow] started talking before he even got to the microphone, he was so indignant. Or so he'd have us believe."



**-- White House Counsel Pat Cipollone's defense has placed him on televisions screens across America, though he would have preferred it was not so. [Manuel Roig-Franzia and Josh Dawsey profile him](#): “He’d argued before the trial that cameras should be banned from the chamber. He believed that Trump’s case could be damaged by the re-airing of comments made by the president and acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, who’d said at a news conference that the media should ‘get over it’ because quid pro quos ‘happen all the time’ in U.S. foreign policy ... But keeping cameras out also would have had the effect of maintaining his carefully nurtured below-the-radar profile. ... Prior to Cipollone’s name emerging as a contender for Trump’s White House counsel job, he’d never even appeared in the news pages of his hometown newspaper — The Post.”**

**-- Commentary from The Post’s opinion page:**

- [The Editorial Board](#): "If Senate Republicans give Trump the coverup he wants, his acquittal will be worthless."
- [George Conway](#), conservative lawyer and husband of counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway: "Don't let the defense fool you. This impeachment is all about corruption."
- [Dana Milbank](#): "The impeachment trial hurtles toward its worst-case conclusion."
- [Marc Thiessen](#): "Republican senators are being set up by the House."
- [Fareed Zakaria](#): "How the story of impeachment tells the story of polarization."

- [Jennifer Rubin](#): “The reasons not to call John Bolton are ridiculous.”
- [Karen Tumulty](#): “Bolton is teaching Trump the difference between loyalty and fealty.”
- [William Treanor](#): “Trump’s attorneys have butchered a crucial Founder’s take on impeachment.”
- [Keith Whittington](#): “The Senate is likely to acquit Trump. It should still reject [Alan] Dershowitz’s logic.”
- [Harry Litman](#): “Dershowitz may have argued himself out of relevance.”

-- **The White House will propose keeping aid to Ukraine intact in the new budget, a departure from past efforts to slash assistance.** [Erica Werner and Jeff Stein report](#): “The money at issue comes from two programs: one administered by the Pentagon, and the other by the State Department. ... **As White House officials prepared their 2021 budget request, set to be released Feb. 10, the Ukraine financing program was once again on the chopping block**, with officials weighing another attempt to cut it down to \$20 million, according to two people with knowledge of the deliberations who spoke on the condition of anonymity to disclose internal discussions. **But after inquiries, ... OMB denied that any cut would be proposed**, with a spokesperson saying the budget would extend existing funding levels.”

-- **Nancy Pelosi has stepped out of the impeachment spotlight after dominating the initial debate.** Returning from a 10-day break that included a visit to Poland, the speaker of the House gave a news conference yesterday that only briefly touched on the trial. ([Paul](#)

Kane)

**-- But her caucus's investigations into Trump will continue after the trial: A federal judge said he's inclined to uphold House subpoenas for documents important to the probe of the administration's foiled plans to add a citizenship question to the census.** [Spencer Hsu reports](#): "Judge Randolph D. Moss said he would rule quickly after a three-hour hearing in Washington, D.C., in which he said courts should not micromanage disputes between the other two branches of government. Moss rejected the White House's sweeping constitutional claim that Congress cannot sue to enforce its subpoena powers and that it can indefinitely withhold communications between federal agency officials through a 'protective assertion' of executive privilege."

**-- Senate investigators conducted an extensive interview of the IRS whistleblower who alleged improper political interference in the audit of the president or the vice president.** The whistleblower delivered transcribed remarks to staffers for Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), the chairman and top Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, [Jeff Stein and Erica Werner report](#).

**-- E. Jean Carroll, the New York writer who last summer accused Trump of raping her in the 1990s, requested that the president submit a DNA sample to determine whether his genetic material is on the black dress she said she was wearing during the alleged assault.** [Michael Brice-Saddler reports](#): "Carroll's lawyers served notice to a Trump attorney on Thursday, asking that Trump provide a sample for 'analysis and comparison against unidentified male DNA present on the dress' ... Carroll's lawyers requested that Trump provide the DNA

sample on March 2 in Washington. ... Trump has vehemently denied the allegation and called it fake news, asserting that he had 'never met this person in my life' and that Carroll was 'not my type.' He also said Carroll had made up the story to promote her book. The request for DNA comes after Carroll sued Trump for defamation in New York state court in November, arguing he had smeared her and damaged her career by calling her a liar.”



Flight attendants deplane at Brisbane airport in Australia on Friday. (Glenn Hunt/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

## **NEW WORLD ORDER:**

**-- Health officials confirmed the first U.S. case of person-to-person transmission of the coronavirus is in Chicago, and the World Health Organization finally declared it a public health emergency. Overnight, the State Department also issued a “do not**

travel” advisory for all of China. That’s the highest warning level, and it previously only applied to the province where the outbreak began.

**“State and federal officials said the sixth infected person in the United States is married to the Chicago-area woman who contracted the virus when she traveled to Wuhan, China,”** [Lenny Bernstein](#), [Lena Sun](#), [Siobhán O'Grady](#) and [Yasmeen Abutaleb](#) report.

“The unidentified man, who is in his 60s, has been isolated in the same suburban hospital as his wife since Tuesday, when he began exhibiting symptoms consistent with the early stages of the virus, including fever, coughing and shortness of breath ... In Chicago, Public Health Commissioner Allison Arwady said the new U.S. patient was placed in isolation Tuesday, the same day he exhibited symptoms. The man, who has underlying health conditions, is in stable condition at a medical center in Hoffman Estates, a suburb of Chicago, where his wife is also hospitalized ...

**“Officials warned a jittery public, however, to expect additional cases and perhaps more person-to-person transmissions of the virus.** ‘Moving forward, we can expect to see more cases, and more cases means the potential for more person-to-person spread,’ said Nancy Messonnier, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nonetheless, the overall risk to people in the United States is still considered quite low, officials said. They advised U.S. residents to take the kinds of precautions they would to guard against seasonal flu — which already has killed at least 8,200 people in late 2019 and early 2020 — including frequent hand-washing and staying home when they are sick. There is no need for face masks in the

United States, Messonnier said.”

**“Around the globe, however, and particularly in China, the respiratory illness caused by the newly identified virus continued on a widening, destructive path ...** The virus had killed 213 people — all of them in China — and infected more than 9,700 as of Friday. About 90 cases have been recorded outside China — including the first two in Italy, both Chinese tourists ... Two cases of coronavirus were confirmed in Britain, while South Korea confirmed an 11th case. ... [Airlines are cutting](#) or completely canceling flights to China, a nation of 1.4 billion people ... **The union representing 15,000 American Airlines pilots sued the company to halt the carrier’s U.S.-China service**, citing ‘serious, and in many ways still unknown, health threats posed by the coronavirus.’”

-- **“China, anxious to shield Communist Party leaders from blame, dismissed a public health official over her handling of the crisis,”** [Shibani Mahtani reports on our special live blog](#). “In Hong Kong, officials closed schools until March as the number of confirmed cases rose to 12 and residents faced supply shortages.” And outcry is building over Australia’s plan to quarantine Wuhan evacuees in an offshore migrant detention center, [O’Grady reports](#).

-- **Trump is under growing pressure to mount a coordinated federal response to the coronavirus threat.** [David Nakamura, Abutaleb and Dawsey report](#): “The White House has sought to tamp down criticism from Democrats in recent days by projecting an air of confidence and competence, with Trump presiding late Wednesday over an interagency briefing in the Situation Room ... ‘This is no cause for urgent panic in any way in the United States,’ Adm. Brett

Giroir, assistant secretary of health, told reporters at the White House on Thursday. ... **One senior administration official said Trump has been hesitant to speak out because some aides have cautioned that he could unnecessarily cause public alarm — and assured him that China is working hard to keep the virus under control.** But increasingly, there is a feeling among aides that the president must say more..."

**-- Facebook will remove fake cures and other harmful misinformation shared about the coronavirus.** [Tony Romm reports](#): "The social-networking giant said in a blog post that its efforts, building off its policies that prohibit users from causing real-world harm, would result in the removal of dangerous claims, such as those that suggest drinking bleach cures the coronavirus, as well as hashtags that promote falsehoods on its photo-sharing site Instagram. ... Facebook also said it would start steering users to more authoritative sources of information from the World Health Organization. Facebook also said it had provided free advertising credits to help organizations run coronavirus education campaigns."



Afghan Army commandos attend their graduation ceremony on Jan. 13 after a three-and-a-half-month training program at the Commando Training Center on the outskirts of Kabul. (Rahmat Gul/AP)

**-- Taliban attacks have reached record-high levels in Afghanistan.** [Susannah George reports](#): “During the last three months of 2019, the Taliban and other insurgent groups launched more than 8,200 attacks against Afghan troops, American forces and civilians, more than any other fourth quarter since 2010, the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said in its [quarterly report](#) released Thursday. ... Overall, the watchdog report found that attacks launched by the Taliban and other insurgent groups increased by 6 percent in 2019 from the previous year.”

**-- Iraq said its military has resumed operations with the U.S.-led coalition against ISIS, which were suspended after Trump ordered the drone strike that killed Qasem Soleimani.** [Louisa](#)



[Loveluck reports](#): “A statement from the office of Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi said the missions have resumed in an attempt to maximize progress against the regrouping Islamist militants ahead of a new U.S.-Iraqi agreement that could lead to a significant reduction of the U.S.-led coalition’s troop presence.”

**-- The House passed two measures seeking to restrain Trump from targeting Iran militarily.** [Karoun Demirjian reports](#): “The legislation would prohibit Trump from using federal funds to strike Iran without prior approval, and repeal an 18-year-old law that he and his advisers have cited to justify killing a top Iranian general earlier this month. Both measures have earned limited Republican support and are expected to face difficult odds in the Senate, where GOP leaders can easily block them from coming to the floor for a vote.”

**-- A leaked Customs and Border Protection memo shows U.S. border officers working at Canadian ports of entry were directed to detain and question travelers of Iranian descent, including American citizens, in the wake of the Soleimani strike.** Citing a high “threat alert,” the document states that, among others, anyone born in Iran, Lebanon or the Palestinian territories between 1961 and 2001 should be vetted. ([CNN](#))

**-- Trump’s border wall is vulnerable to flash floods, which means it will require hundreds of storm gates to prevent it from being knocked over.** [Nick Miroff reports](#): The gates “must be left open for months every summer during ‘monsoon season’ in the desert, according to U.S. border officials, agents and engineers familiar with the plans. The open, unmanned gates in remote areas already have allowed for the easy entry of smugglers and migrants into the United

States. ... **[Trump's wall] effectively acts as a sewer grate that traps the debris; when clogged, the barriers cannot withstand the power of the runoff.** Because the gates typically are located in isolated areas that lack electricity, they cannot be operated from afar."

-- **The "longest ever" drug-smuggling tunnel was discovered at the U.S.-Mexico border, CBP said.** [Kim Bellware reports](#): "Hidden 70 feet beneath a small industrial building in Tijuana, Mexico, lays a long and sophisticated passageway — complete with a railway, plumbing and ventilation system. It stretches the length of almost 12 football fields, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials said Mexican narcotics traffickers had used the tunnel to smuggle drugs across the border, into an industrial area of San Diego."

-- **Trump is expected to reveal his travel ban expansion today.** A draft of the updated ban that was being considered would place immigration restrictions on an additional six countries. ([Politico](#))

-- **Heat and high winds may intensify the bush fires that continue advancing towards Australia's capital of Canberra.** [Andrew Freedman reports](#): "That fire is burning in Namadgi National Park and was accidentally started by a military helicopter used for firefighting."

-- **New data confirms that Antarctica's most dangerous glacier is melting from below.** [Chris Mooney reports](#): "The unprecedented research, part of a multimillion-dollar British and U.S. initiative to study the remote Thwaites Glacier, involved drilling through nearly 2,000 feet of ice to measure water temperatures in a narrow cavity where the glacier first connects with the ocean. This is one of the most difficult-to-reach locations on Earth. At a region known as the

‘grounding line,” where the ice transitions between resting on bedrock and floating on the ocean, scientists measured water temperatures of about 0 degrees Celsius (32 degrees Fahrenheit). That is more than 2 degrees warmer than the freezing point in that location, said David Holland, a New York University glaciologist.”

**-- In other important environmental news, the Trump administration is working to permanently weaken a law to protect birds. [Darryl Fears and Juliet Eilperin report](#): “Interior Department officials said Thursday that they will propose regulations clarifying that individuals and industrial operators, such as oil, gas and wind companies, will not be penalized if they accidentally kill birds — even on a massive scale. ... Since guidelines under the administration’s interpretation of the law were issued in April 2018, hundreds of ducks, geese, herons and migrating birds have perished in oil pits, on utility lines and in other operations without penalty, according to documents compiled by conservation groups.”**

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Former Maryland congressman John Delaney (D) dropped out of the presidential race:



**John Delaney** ✓  
@JohnDelaney



It has been a privilege to campaign for the Democratic nomination for President, but it is clear that God has a different purpose for me at this moment in time. Read my full statement here:

[1/19johndelaney.com/2020/01/31/joh...](https://1/19johndelaney.com/2020/01/31/joh...)



**John Delaney Announces Decision to Withdraw Fro...**

DES MOINES, IA - Today, 2020 Presidential candidate John Delaney announces his decision to withdraw from the 2020  
[johndelaney.com](https://johndelaney.com)

♡ 64 12:55 PM - Jan 31, 2020



💬 57 people are talking about this



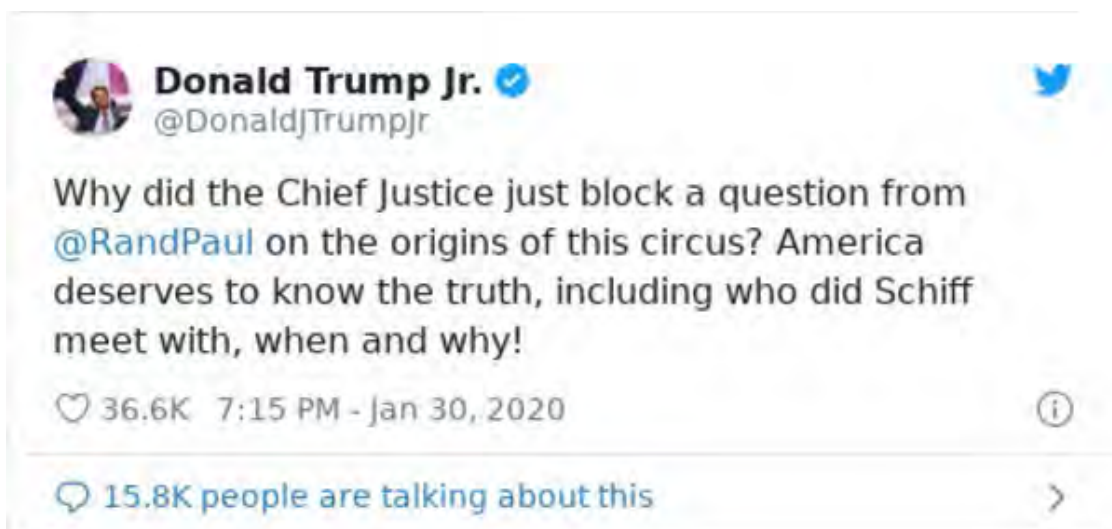
Delaney told CNN he doesn't want to take support away from other moderate candidates in Monday's Iowa caucuses. ([Amy B Wang](#))

Trump defense lawyer Alan Dershowitz tried to walk back some of his

more extreme legal arguments on the president's behalf, as he found himself widely mocked and ridiculed by a chorus of constitutional scholars from across the ideological spectrum:



The president's eldest son expressed support for Rand Paul's efforts to out the alleged whistleblower:



Lead impeachment manager Adam Schiff accused the Trump

administration of rank hypocrisy:



Rep. Justin Amash (Mich.), who declared his independence from the GOP after endorsing impeachment, slammed the Senate for what he describes as an institutional failure:



The former top lawyer at the FBI (Jim Comey's right-hand man) weighed in on the Q&A at the trial:



From a former House GOP staffer and ex-CIA officer who sought the presidency as an independent in 2016:



Trump tweeted a picture of himself getting briefed on the coronavirus, and some alumni of the intelligence community were shocked that the CIA's live feed was included in what went out:





**Aki Peritz**   
@AkiPeritz



Oh hi, I can see CIA and NSA on the Top secret VTC (per the monitor in pic 2) [twitter.com/realdonaldtrum...](https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrum...)

**Donald J. Trump**  @realDonaldTrump

Just received a briefing on the Coronavirus in China from all of our GREAT agencies, who are also working closely with China. We will continue to monitor the ongoing developments. We have the best experts anywhere in the world, and they are on top of it 24/7!



♡ 645 5:32 PM - Jan 30, 2020



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The legendary newscaster Gwen Ifill was honored with a stamp:



**Vanessa Williams**

@WaPoVanessa



❤️❤️❤️ Unveiling of @gwenifill stamp today  
@MetropolitanAME



♡ 61 4:47 PM - Jan 30, 2020



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And John Bolton may not be seen near the Senate anytime soon, but his impersonator got close enough:



**Peter Alexander** ✓  
@PeterAlexander



There is now a John Bolton impersonator/comedian on the Hill delivering prepared statements.



♡ 669 5:16 PM - Jan 30, 2020



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### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert is worried about the arguments Trump's lawyers have made:



Colbert also “visited” Iowa to talk to voters before the caucuses:



Seth Meyers wondered where Trump found his lawyers:



And, ahead of the Super Bowl on Sunday, Trevor Noah took a look at the world of sports betting:



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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Recipes! Dig into dozens of crowd-pleasing Super Bowl treats and an easy weeknight chicken thigh dish  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 8:08:51 AM

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The Washington Post

# Recipes

What to cook during the week ahead, from Post Food editors.

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By [Ann Maloney](#)

[✉ Email](#)

It's true that you can't please all the people all of the time, but we've discovered that if we [share chicken thigh recipes](#), we can please an awful lot of readers most of the time.

Case in point: This week, I whipped up a recipe that calls for browning the thighs and then turning them in a [reduced citrusy, slightly sweet sauce thick enough to coat each piece](#) with deliciousness. It's such an easy way to prepare this juicy, more flavorful (and cheaper) cut of chicken.

Several readers wrote to tell me that they ride the white-meat-only wagon but were tempted by this recipe. I asked them to go for it and let me know if they've converted.

Want more chicken thigh recipes? Search our [Recipe Finder](#).

Folks will [tune into Super Bowl LIV on Sunday](#), but if you're invited to a party — or hosting one — you know TD also stands for Tasty Dishes. We've got dozens of delicious ideas for you, including [six variations on chili](#), a collection of tempting hot dips, a [taste-test of 14 jarred salsa brands](#) and a [smorgasbord of wings, treats and desserts](#) (so you can skip

those Taco Bell Buffalo Chicken Nacho Fries that [Tim Carman declares a hot mess.](#))

And, if you've got a vegetarian in your game-watching group, [Joe Yonan has whipped up a crowd-pleasing mac and cheese](#) that is chock-full of the good green stuff.

If you like the idea of energy bars, but just can't find one that tastes great, try your hand at making [Nourish columnist Ellie Krieger's protein-rich Fruit Nut Energy Bars](#). They are packed with nuts and seeds and the sweetness comes from a variety of dried fruits.

Bring It columnist Cathy Barrow knows how to simplify the complicated. She shares [a recipe for homemade turkey sausage patties](#) (no casings needed), fattened up with a bit of creme fraiche, that perfectly complements an egg-and-cheese breakfast sandwich.

Those sausages are one example of how ground turkey can be turned into delicious dishes. If you need convincing, check out [Kari Sonde's round up of a half dozen ground-turkey recipes that prove this theory](#). She included one of my tips for adding flavor to the lean meat: Slip a tablespoon of bacon fat into a pound or two. (I keep a jar in the refrigerator and add bacon fat to it anytime I make the stuff.) Sure, it adds close to 250 calories and about 14 grams of fat, but that's spread out over multiple servings, and that fat adds a boost of flavor and moisture that the turkey craves. Kari shared more suggestions — including adding feta to a turkey burger — that just might make you take a second look at this lean protein.

Do you love cooking newsletters? Did you know you could subscribe to any of [The Washington Post's Voraciously newsletters](#) at any time? A popular one is Plant Powered, our 12-week series focused on helping you put more vegetables on your plate. This week, we shared [a Harissa Stuffed Bell Peppers recipe](#) from that series. Interested? [Sign up here](#).



See you next week!



(Photo by Stacy Zarin Goldberg for The Washington Post; food styling by Lisa Cherkasky for The Washington Post)

## Honey-Citrus Chicken Thighs

This honey-citrus sauce is wonderful over chicken thighs, but it also is one that complements a variety of proteins from pork chops to shrimp.

By Ann Maloney • [Read more »](#)

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## Greens Mac 'n' Cheese

With greens pureed into the sauce and broccolini florets offering some fresh crunch, it's all good.

By Joe Yonan • [Read more »](#)



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## Build a better breakfast sandwich with this homemade turkey sausage patty

BRING IT | Easy to stir together, this lighter version of sausage is perfect for an egg-cheese sandwich.



By Cathy Barrow • [Read more »](#)

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It's a vibrant vegetarian recipe that tastes as good as it looks.

By Sonja Overhiser and Alex Overhiser • [Read more »](#)



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## Fruit and Nut Energy Bars

These easy-to-make, on-the-go, wholesome bars might make you swear off the packaged kind forever.

By Ellie Krieger • [Read more »](#)



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## More from Voraciously

### 6 recipes that will change your mind about ground turkey

Ground turkey is good! We stand by it!

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Recipes for spice-rubbed ribs, Buffalo chicken dip, nachos, pizza and more.

By Kari Sonde • [Read more »](#)



## 6 hearty chili recipes to warm you up or feed a crowd this winter

Meaty? Vegan? Red? Green? It's all here, and more.

By Becky Krystal • [Read more »](#)



## The Maillard reaction: What it is and why it matters

Sugars, protein and heat are key to some of the best browning and flavors in food.

By Becky Krystal • [Read more »](#)



### We think you'll like this newsletter

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: 'It's called 2016 PTSD.' The ghost of Hillary Clinton haunts the Iowa caucuses.  
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 10:43:54 AM

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**'It's called 2016 PTSD.' The ghost of  
Hillary Clinton haunts the Iowa caucuses.**



Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) introduces her husband, John, and their daughter Abigail during a rally at Franklin Junior High School in Des Moines on Saturday night. (Gene J. Puskar/AP)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

## **THE BIG IDEA:**

**DES MOINES – Amy Klobuchar remembers the text messages she received from her daughter on election night in 2016.** Abigail Bessler, then a student at Yale University, traveled to New York so she could watch Hillary Clinton break the ultimate glass ceiling. When Donald Trump won a shocking upset instead, she texted the senator from Minnesota: “Mom, what should we do now?” Klobuchar wrote back a minute later that she should catch the last train to New Haven: “Remember, you have class tomorrow.” Her distraught daughter

replied: “Mom, I mean our country.”

“That is the question we’ve asked ourselves every day since then: What should we do now?” Klobuchar told hundreds of supporters crammed into the Franklin Junior High gym on Saturday night. “My profound advice is this: We better not screw this up.”

**Tens of thousands of Iowa Democrats are asking themselves that question as they prepare to gather tonight across more than 1,600 precincts for caucuses that will kickstart a five-month marathon to the party’s convention in Milwaukee.** Presidential candidates, their surrogates and rank-and-file voters frequently invoked, always with dread, the memory of 2016 over the weekend. The latest proxy fight between loyalists to Clinton and Bernie Sanders got the lion’s share of attention, but the previous presidential election loomed large at six rallies I covered. The topic came up repeatedly during dozens of interviews across events for all the top contenders.

**Pete Buttigieg’s final rally on Sunday was at Lincoln High School – the home of the Rail Splitters – in the same gymnasium where Clinton held her final rally on the night before the caucuses in 2016.** Buttigieg and his surrogates boast that he’s toured 25 of the 31 Iowa counties that Barack Obama won in 2012 but Clinton lost in 2016. “And we’re getting bigger and better turnout in them,” Rep. Anthony Brown (D-Md.) told the crowd of 2,000 in Des Moines.

**A few hours later, as she warmed up a crowd of 1,100 for Joe Biden at Hiatt Middle School, Rep. Abby Finkenauer (D-Iowa) made the crowd uncomfortable as she forced them to relive their nightmare.** “One of the things that really hit me, and that I cannot say

thank you enough to the vice president for, is the hope he finally gave me that I didn't even know I was missing," she said. "You see, I remember – as every Iowan does – that night in 2016. We didn't just lose the White House that night. We also lost our state Senate, and the GOP took complete control of our state."

Finkenauer picked up her U.S. House seat in the northeast quadrant of the state during the 2018 midterms, but she noted that Democrats need to flip four seats to win the Iowa House in November. She recalled visiting one of those state legislative districts a few days ago, where the Democrat lost by nine votes in 2018, and meeting independents and Republicans who said they'd vote for Biden if he's the nominee. "Joe Biden will help us take back our state," Finkenauer said.



Former vice president Joe Biden campaigns on Sunday at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)

**Facing what looked like an intimidating Clinton juggernaut, Biden chose not to run in 2016. Elizabeth Warren and Mike Bloomberg also considered bids but opted against them. People in Iowa have been speculating that, perhaps, the outcome would have been different if any of the three had challenged her.**

Biden thanked Finkenauer when he took the stage. “We can turn Donald Trump into a four-year historical aberration,” he said, “but we need you.”

The uncharacteristic fixation among Democratic voters on electability – across the ideological spectrum – flows at least in part from that latent sense of shock. **“I’ve actually come up with a term for this that I use: It’s called 2016 PTSD,” said Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-Pa.).** He spent the last two days as a surrogate for Biden, carpooling around Iowa with former senator Bill Nelson (Fla.), telling every Democrat they could find that the former vice president can carry the two swing states they hail from this fall.

**“I did an hour of phone banking today, and literally every person who I reached said, ‘Well, I just want to make sure we pick the best person who can beat Trump,’” Boyle said last night as he and Nelson walked to their rental car after Biden’s rally so they could go watch the Super Bowl.** “I think that’s a big reason why you see such a huge undecided number entering the caucuses. People realize the stakes are just so high for this election. It’s the trauma of election night 2016, as well as what Trump’s been like ever since. If you had a Mitt Romney presidency, I don’t think there’d be the same animus that you see on our side.”



A **CBS survey** of Iowa released on Sunday showed Sanders and Biden tied at 25 percent, with Buttigieg at 21 percent, Warren at 16 percent and Klobuchar at 5 percent.

**For Democratic elites and activists, the lingering shock of Trump's victory is never far from the surface.** Various storylines going into the caucuses involve clashes and tensions that pick at some of the scabs that, it turns out, have not fully scarred over. Clinton has stepped up her criticism of Sanders as he's moved to the top of some polls. In a podcast published Friday, Clinton faulted Sanders for not doing more to unify the party after she beat him in 2016. This followed her criticisms in a documentary that "nobody likes him" and "he got nothing done," which she stood by in an interview with the Hollywood Reporter.

Sanders couldn't attend a Friday evening event in Clive because he was stuck in Washington for the impeachment trial. When Clinton's name came up during a panel discussion of prominent supporters, someone in the crowd booed. The moderator replied not to boo because that's not classy. Then Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), a prominent Sanders surrogate and member of the Squad, interrupted. "No, no, I'll boo," she said, booing for effect. "That's all right — the haters will shut up on Monday."

After Tlaib **expressed regret** the next morning, Sanders campaign manager Faiz Shakir tweeted: "Rashida, you're all good. We love your passion and conviction. Don't change." Then Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill weighed in: "I can't imagine this kind of behavior is something Iowans want to see from candidates and their surrogates."

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Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

## American families can't afford Medicare for All.



Studies confirm that Medicare for All would force Americans to pay more for worse care. Economists agree, there's "no way to pay for Medicare for All without tax increases."

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Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) takes the stage with his grandkids Ella and Dylan at Simpson College on Saturday in Indianola, Iowa. (Salwan Georges/The Washington

Post)

**Sanders alluded to the kerfuffle moments after he took the stage at Simpson College in Indianola on Saturday afternoon.** “I’ll tell you as bluntly as I can why I believe we are the strongest campaign to beat Trump – not to say we are the only campaign,” he said. “Certainly, I hope that we’re going to win. But if we don’t win, we will support the winner.”

The senator from Vermont then announced that his campaign knocked on 500,000 doors in Iowa during the past month. “If it’s a low turnout election, Trump will win,” he said. “And I believe our campaign ... can bring millions of people into the political process who normally do not vote.”

Then, on Saturday night, documentarian Michael Moore, who has been introducing Sanders around the state, ripped the Democratic National Committee during a concert in Cedar Rapids that drew 3,000 people. With echoes from four years ago, Moore accused the DNC of rigging the debate qualification requirements to help Bloomberg, a self-funding billionaire, qualify. The DNC’s spokeswoman replied that this is a “totally false ... conspiracy theory.”

**A lot of the pitches the candidates and their surrogates make feel like allusions to the perceived shortcomings that critics believe allowed Trump to topple Clinton.** “Bernie is a candidate the current president will not be able to vilify as inauthentic, and that’s a huge advantage,” said Jane Sanders, the senator’s wife. “If you watched the debates, you know that I’m not afraid to speak my mind,” added Klobuchar.

Consultants have pleaded with Sanders to talk more about himself throughout the campaign – in addition to his calls for political revolution. The senator obliged when he launched his campaign last February, but he's mostly cut it out. This weekend, though, Sanders took the stage with two of his grandchildren. Then he emphasized his background as the son of an immigrant when he promised to restore protections for "Dreamers," undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children.

"The status quo is terrified of a Bernie presidency," said Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), another member of the Squad, who introduced Sanders at Simpson College. Dozens of students snapped their fingers to signal approval. "Iowa will be able to start a domino effect ... that will take him all the way to the White House."

**Warren tries to straddle the gap from Sanders to Biden.** She emphasized this weekend that she knows how to work within the system to advance her agenda (e.g. to lower the cost of hearing aids) but also knows when to pick fights and apply pressure from the outside (e.g. to save the Affordable Care Act from being repealed). Coincidentally, she appeared at the same student center on Sunday that Sanders campaigned at on Saturday. "I am in this to fight back," Warren declared. "That's why I'm here. We fight back. Fighting back is an act of patriotism."



Pete Buttigieg is hugged by his husband, Chasten Buttigieg, at the end of a rally Sunday at Lincoln High School in Des Moines. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

**Buttigieg also sought to stay out of the spat between Bernie World and Hillary Land.** “I didn’t much enjoy, as a Democrat, living through the experience of 2016, and I want to make sure 2020 resembles 2016 as little as possible,” he said as he left a Saturday event in Waterloo.

Buttigieg has branded himself a unifier. Members of the audience submitted written questions for the candidate at his rally in Des Moines, which were pulled at random from a fishbowl. One asked him to name his favorite Beatles song. “I feel like, in a moment like this, the answer has got to be ‘Come Together,’” said Buttigieg, who is always quick on his feet.

Buttigieg was joined on Sunday afternoon by his mother and mother-

in-law. His mom, [Anne Montgomery](#), at 74, is younger than both Sanders and Biden. With explicit calls for generational change, Buttigieg said the next president will face futuristic challenges that we cannot even begin to fathom because the world is changing so fast. “We need a president prepared to leave the politics of the past in the past,” he said, adding that “falling back on the familiar” is comfortable but dangerous. “We can’t be afraid.”

**Many Democratic rank-and-file voters are exhausted over the Sanders vs. Clinton feud of 2016.** Sean Maguire, 42, is supporting Warren but complimented Sanders for “shifting the Overton window.” “He’s definitely changed the conversation, and we wouldn’t be here without him,” said Maguire, who lives in West Des Moines and works in software. But he thinks Clinton and Sanders need to cut out their feuding. “Hillary has been in politics for decades, and she’s a brilliant woman and clearly capable,” said Maguire. “I think she’s throwing bombs right now because she’s wanting more of a moderate candidate. So she’s using her influence and power to change the narrative and to get us talking. But just shut up and move on.”

I spoke with a mother and daughter from Norwalk, a suburb of Des Moines, who plan to caucus together for Buttigieg after supporting Sanders four years ago. Andrea Legan, 40, an office manager at a law firm, said the fighting between loyalists to Sanders and Clinton is tiresome. “There’s three sides to every story – his, hers and the truth,” she said. “Unlike Trump supporters, I will admit my mistake,” added Sue Woody, 61, a weight-loss consultant. “It just makes me mad that, for the Bernie Bros, it’s him or nobody. That’s how we got Trump.”

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- [Politico](#): “Rivals warn Sanders campaign plans to game Iowa results.”
- [New York Times](#): “Democrats Had a 2020 Vision. This Isn’t Quite What They Expected.”
- [Wall Street Journal](#): “Where Democratic Candidates Might Look for Support in Iowa Caucuses.”
- [Fox News](#): “Iowa counties to watch.”
- [FiveThirtyEight](#): “What Are The X-Factors That Could Change The Results In Iowa?”
- [AP](#): “New rules could muddle results of Iowa caucuses.”
- [Los Angeles Times](#): “Iowa voters are bringing the caucus to California and beyond.”
- [USA Today](#): “Who will win New Hampshire? Unsure Democratic voters are watching Iowa with an eye on

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'We're going to turn the page on impeachment': GOP, Democrats look ahead to Wednesday's vote

## **IMPEACHMENT LATEST:**

-- **Two Senate Republicans acknowledged on the Sunday talk shows that Trump was wrong to pressure Ukraine for his own political benefit, even as they defended their decision to prohibit new evidence in his impeachment trial while pressing ahead with the president's all-but-certain acquittal in a vote scheduled for Wednesday.** They did so even after the Trump administration acknowledged the existence over the weekend [of two dozen emails](#) that could reveal the president's thinking about withholding the military

aid.

- “I think he shouldn’t have done it,” Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) told Chuck Todd on NBC. “I think it was wrong. Inappropriate was the way I’d say — improper, crossing the line.”
- “Maybe not the perfect call,” Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) told Jake Tapper on CNN. “He did it maybe in the wrong manner. ... I think he could have done it through different channels.”

**-- But Ernst also opened the door to the House trying to impeaching Biden if he's elected and Republicans win the majority.** “I think this door of impeachable whatever has been opened,” [she told Bloomberg News](#). “Joe Biden should be very careful what he’s asking for because, you know, we can have a situation where if it should ever be President Biden, that immediately, people, right the day after he would be elected would be saying, ‘Well, we’re going to impeach him.’”

**-- Sen. Susan Collins, the first of two Republicans to break with the president on any aspect of the trial, has found it lonely in the middle.** [Griff Witte reports from her home state](#): “Here in Maine, where the famously independent Collins is locked in a tight reelection campaign, the choice elicited a wintry mix of cold shoulders and icy glares. Republicans quietly counseled that Collins could go no further without inciting a rebellion from the party’s Trump-loving base — perhaps even a primary challenge. Democrats, meanwhile, heaped scorn on the senator for making gestures toward standing up to the president but not doing so when it counts. ... **Siding with Democrats**

**on whether the president should be removed would be unforgivable among Maine's rank-and-file Republicans, who are increasingly part of the Trump wing of the party, not the Collins wing.** ... The base is already restless. In recent weeks, Collins's offices have been flooded with angry voice mails, many of them threatening and hate-filled. The vitriol has come from impeachment supporters as well as the president's defenders, outspoken in demanding that Collins take their side."

**-- RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel won't defend her uncle, Mitt Romney, after he voted in favor of witnesses.** On CBS's ["Face the Nation,"](#) McDaniel was asked about the Utah senator not being invited to the Conservative Political Action Conference as a result of his vote. She claimed she had not seen the CPAC announcement but said some Republicans were justifiably "upset" when other Republicans don't defend the president. "They think if you're not supporting him, you're helping a Democrat get elected. That's a very common belief among the grass-roots of our party," she said.

**-- Lead House impeachment manager Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) declined to say whether the House will subpoena John Bolton now that the Senate has declined to do so.** "Whether it's ... in testimony before the House or it's in his book or it's in one form or another, the truth ... will continue to come out," Schiff said on CBS.

**-- Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) promised a sweeping GOP counterattack against Biden and a pursuit of the whistleblower who brought the president's conduct to light after the Senate is expected to acquit Trump.** "It's going to happen in the coming weeks," he said on Fox News. Graham

used his TV appearance to put the ball in the court of Sen. James E. Risch (R-Idaho), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. “Jim, if you’re watching the show, I hope you are,” he said, “let’s call these people in. Eventually, we’ll get to Hunter Biden. We’re not going to let it go. Jim Risch, you need to start it.” Risch’s office did not respond to requests for comment.

**-- Trump said in an interview that aired on Fox before the Super Bowl that he will go ahead with his State of the Union address on Tuesday night.** "We’re going to talk about the achievements that we’ve made," the president told Sean Hannity.

**-- Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer will deliver the official Democratic response to the State of the Union tomorrow night.** The 48-year-old, elected in 2018, will likely be on vice presidential short lists. ([Detroit Free Press](#))



Major airlines stop flying to China as coronavirus spreads



## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- **Coronavirus infections are predicted to grow exponentially as the outbreak becomes increasingly politicized.** [Anna Fifield and Joel Achenbach report](#): "One nation after another is closing its doors to most Chinese travelers, as the death toll from the novel coronavirus continues to rise with no sign that the virus can be contained before it becomes a full-blown planetary health crisis. China's increasing isolation threatens to turn this new epidemic into a geopolitical conflict, intensifying preexisting tensions between China and the United States and having potentially significant impacts on the global economy. At 5 p.m. Sunday, the United States put into effect [stringent travel restrictions](#) on people coming from China. But the official edict of the Trump administration, announced Friday, led to confusion late Sunday about where, exactly, travelers from China deemed in need of quarantining would be screened and housed at or near the airports where they would be arriving. ...

**"At least a dozen countries have put travel restrictions on people coming from China.** That list includes some neighboring countries

that have closed their borders with China. Such travel restrictions are contrary to public health recommendations and have riled Chinese government officials. **The Foreign Ministry's combative spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, singled out the United States, saying that the World Health Organization has said such restrictions are not necessary.** ... Hua said many countries have offered China support, but in contrast, 'certain U.S. officials' words and actions are neither factual nor appropriate.' That appeared to be a reference to U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who last week said the coronavirus could 'help' to bring jobs to the United States as companies moved operations away from China. ...

**"China's National Health Commission reported Monday that there are now 17,205 confirmed cases of coronavirus infection on the mainland,** plus 15 in Hong Kong and eight in Macao. The WHO reported 146 confirmed cases in 23 countries outside China." Federal officials announced there are 11 U.S. cases of the coronavirus, with a couple from central California falling ill after the husband's trip to China's Hubei province at the epicenter of the outbreak.

**-- The Department of Homeland Security is warning airline passengers their flights may be rerouted if officials discover mid-flight that someone onboard has been to China in the last 14 days. (AP)**

**-- The virus is threatening supply chains that depend on Chinese-made parts and materials. David Lynch reports:** "Some of the United States' best-known manufacturers such as General Electric, Caterpillar and the Big Three automakers, along with many smaller American businesses, depend on what is made in Chinese factories.

Now, they confront life without those items.... 'The concern is not the zombie apocalypse with people dying in the streets. The concern is that a huge chunk of the global economy gets put out of commission as people wait it out,' said Patrick Chovanec, managing director at Silvercrest Asset Management in New York. ... **Most Wall Street economists ... say the economic damage will be limited.**

Economists at JPMorgan Chase Bank on Friday cut their first-quarter global growth estimate by 0.3 percentage points to 2.3 percent. But they predicted a swift rebound that would return China and the global economy to their pre-crisis trends by midyear.”

**-- Stock markets in China reopened this morning after a 10-day break to their sharpest falls in more than four years.** [Simon Denyer and Shibani Mahtani report on our special live blog](#): China's main share indexes plunged more than 8 percent. The government announced it has opened a “super-fast” built hospital in Wuhan. The new facility has 1,000 beds that authorities hope will relieve pressure on the city's overwhelmed hospitals. And Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said this morning that she would close more border crossings with China, leaving only three open. The announcement came as thousands of medical workers in the city started a strike designated to pressure the government into a full border closure.

**-- A man wearing a fake explosive device stabbed two people in south London before he was shot dead by police in what authorities are calling a terrorist attack.** [William Booth and Karla Adam report](#): “Police identified the assailant as Sudesh Amman, 20, recently released from prison, where he had been serving a sentence for ‘Islamist-related terrorism’ offenses. British news media said



Amman pleaded guilty in 2018 to charges of possessing terrorist documents and disseminating terrorist publications. ... Police said that armed officers, part of a proactive counterterrorism surveillance operation, were following Amman on foot when the attack began. ... Three people were wounded, police said.”

**-- Al Qaeda claimed it directed the Saudi military officer who carried out the December shooting at the U.S. military base in Florida that left three sailors dead.** [From the Times](#): “In an audio recording released on Sunday, the leader of the Yemen-based group, Qassim al-Rimi, claimed responsibility for the Dec. 6 attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola, according to SITE, an organization that tracks jihadist media. The group offered no evidence that it had trained the gunman, Second Lt. Mohammed Saeed Alshamrani, but produced a copy of his will as well as correspondence that indicated he had been in contact with Al Qaeda. Experts said those elements gave the claim a plausible air.”

**-- Turkey accused Syria of killing five Turkish soldiers in Syria’s Idlib province, as the Turks carried out retaliatory strikes.** [Kareem Fahim reports](#): The unrest came as “forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad are pursuing a military offensive in Idlib [that] has killed hundreds of civilians and caused an exodus of displaced people from towns caught up in the fighting, according to humanitarian aid groups. ... The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitoring group, said the Turkish soldiers were killed during an exchange of fire near the town of Saraqeb, about 15 miles north of Maarat al-Numan. Turkey ‘has responded to this attack in kind’ and killed 30-35 Syrian soldiers, [Turkish President Recep Tayyip] Erdogan said, adding that

the retaliatory strikes were continuing.”

**-- The head of U.S. Central Command says Iran has “de-escalated,” but the threat of retaliation remains.** [Missy Ryan reports](#): “Speaking during a visit to the USS Harry S. Truman, an American aircraft carrier conducting operations in the northern Arabian Sea, [Gen. Kenneth “Frank” McKenzie Jr.] said Iran’s maritime forces likewise had displayed a ‘fairly normal’ level of activity in recent weeks. ... McKenzie said he believed Iran was still ‘digesting’ the impact of the Trump administration’s decision to kill [Maj. Gen. Qasem] Soleimani ... ‘I think Iran has seen that we do have will and that we’re willing to take action in our own interests,’ McKenzie said. ‘We’re not going to endlessly be the recipient of their actions.’”

**-- The New Yorker’s Adam Entous and Evan Osnos trace back the decisions that led Trump to order the attack on Soleimani:** “The Suleimani operation differed substantially from America’s patterns of targeted killing since 2002. Suleimani was not the leader of a stateless cabal but a high-ranking representative of one of the most populous nations in the Middle East, which, for all its deep involvement in terrorism, is not in a conventional war with the United States. In adopting a mode of assault usually reserved for a wartime enemy, the Administration acted on the belief, which is popular among many of the President’s most influential advisers, that the U.S. has been deceiving itself about the nature of its relationship with Tehran.”

**-- The trial for a promising HIV vaccine failed in South Africa after an analysis showed it was no more effective than a**

**placebo.** [Lenny Bernstein reports](#): “Vaccinations were halted after an independent monitoring panel for the ‘Uhambo’ study in South Africa determined on Jan 23 that 129 people who received the vaccine developed HIV while 123 who were given a placebo contracted the infection.”



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes hugs girlfriend Brittany Matthews after leading his team from behind to win the Super Bowl. (Patrick Semansky/AP)

## THE SUPER BOWL:

**-- The Kansas City Chiefs claimed their first Super Bowl title in 50 years after defeating the San Francisco 49ers. [Mark Maske](#)**

**reports:** Quarterback Patrick "Mahomes delivered a pair of touchdown passes as part of a 21-point outburst as the Chiefs came back to beat the San Francisco 49ers, 31-20, with a stunning late turnaround in Super Bowl LIV on a picture-perfect South Florida night. 'I just went out there and kept competing,' said Mahomes, who was named the game's MVP. 'I knew we weren't in an ideal situation. But I believed in my defense to get stops. They did. And the guys kept believing in me to start making plays down the field, and we found a way to win.' ... Mahomes became a Super Bowl winner in his third NFL season. He had a first-half rushing touchdown and ended up completing 26 of 42 passes for 286 yards. Chiefs Coach Andy Reid added a Super Bowl victory to his distinguished career." Mahomes "showed why he is the best player in the NFL," **writes columnist [Jerry Brewer](#).**

**-- Kyle Shanahan's team lost a double-digit Super Bowl lead.**

**Again. [Jacob Bogage](#) reports:** "The 49ers led by 10 points entering the fourth quarter of Super Bowl LIV, with nearly all the momentum and a championship just 15 minutes away. ... Shanahan is just 40, but he has his own experience with playoff heartache. He was the offensive coordinator for the Falcons three years ago when Atlanta lost a 28-3 second-half lead against Tom Brady and the New England Patriots. Shanahan received plenty of scrutiny after that loss, with critics charging that his play-calling turned too conservative too early ... In those two Super Bowls, Shanahan's offenses have now been

outscored 46-0 in the fourth quarter and overtime.”

**-- Jennifer Lopez and Shakira took over Hard Rock Stadium for a dazzling 12 minutes at halftime, living the American Dream, writes pop music critic Chris Richards:** “For the razzled-and-dazzled, there were armies of dancers pretending to be soldiers, and cheerleaders, and salsa musicians. And there were big songs — the kind you hear at weddings and dentist appointments. And there was a cameo from the rapper Bad Bunny, clad in a trench coat made of liquid steel. And there was a string section playing Led Zeppelin’s ‘Kashmir’ like they were rowing a pirate ship across the Biscayne Bay. And there was Shakira, wagging her tongue at the camera, either singing or trying to communicate with birds of paradise. And there was J-Lo, forever young, twirling around on a pole pointed toward heaven. But through all that, if you were still able to masticate your potato chips in quiet concentration, you may have heard the American Dream itself pulsing in a space where it will always be allowed to live: inside a pop song.”

**-- Our culture reporters say the commercials, overall, were pretty weak this year.** Maura Judkis and Sonia Rao think [the best five spots](#) came from Google, Cheetos, Doritos, Pringles and Snickers. And they identify [the five worst ads](#) as those from Audi, Genesis, Planters, Rocket Mortgage and Sabra.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

[NBC News reported](#) that John F. Kerry was overheard talking on his cellphone Sunday morning in the lobby restaurant of the Renaissance Savery hotel in Des Moines about what it would take to run for

president. A reporter overheard him discussing “the possibility of Bernie Sanders taking down the Democratic Party — down whole.” When the story broke, Kerry said the report was “false,” using an expletive that shares the first letter of his middle name to put a finer point on it. He deleted the tweet and replaced it with this version:



As soon as the Super Bowl was over, the president sent his congratulations ... to the wrong state:



**Katie Rogers** ✓  
@katierogers



The president just deleted this tweet, presumably to not piss off entire state of Missouri

**Donald J. Trump** ✓ @realDonaldTrump...  
Congratulations to the Kansas City Chiefs on a great game, and a fantastic comeback, under immense pressure. You represented the Great State of Kansas and, in fact, the entire USA, so very well. Our Country is PROUD OF YOU!

♥ 1,572 3:25 AM - Feb 3, 2020



💬 687 people are talking about this



After the tweet was deleted, many joked that the president will use a Sharpie to validate his mistake:





**Tarz** \\_(□)\_/ ✓  
@TheyCallMeTarz



I'm just saving everyone from having to see this tomorrow.



♡ 3,943 3:36 AM - Feb 3, 2020



💬 1,131 people are talking about this



The Missouri governor was in Miami cheering for the correct state:



**Governor Mike Parson** ✓

@GovParsonMO



Help us cheer the @Chiefs to victory! #SBLIV  
#ChiefsKingdom



♥ 382 2:52 AM - Feb 3, 2020



💬 42 people are talking about this



The president's elder sons and campaign manager, not subject to federal gift laws, appeared to enjoy the hospitality of a GOP lobbyist:



**Kenneth P. Vogel** ✓

@kenvogel



The president's sons & campaign manager hanging out at the Super Bowl with Trump-linked lobbyist [@JeffMillerCA2TX](#), who companies hire to try to win favorable treatment from the Trump administration.

Recent clients have included Altria, Amazon, Apple & energy & pharmaceutical cos



♥ 356 2:27 AM - Feb 3, 2020



💬 465 people are talking about this



Bob Dole, the 1996 GOP presidential nominee who represented Kansas in the Senate, also went to Miami for the game:



**Senator Bob Dole** ✓  
@SenatorDole



I'm all Chiefs!



♥ 1,558 12:47 AM - Feb 3, 2020



💬 263 people are talking about this



Trump attacked Bloomberg for being short, leading to this moment:



**Paul Farhi** ✓  
@farhip



Chyron of the year (so far):



6,448 5:06 PM - Feb 2, 2020



2,500 people are talking about this



## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

The Trump campaign's Super Bowl ad featured Alice Johnson, whose life sentence for **nonviolent** drug offenses the president commuted in **2018**:



President Trump's ad on criminal justice reform | Super Bowl 2020

“Saturday Night Live” imagined an impeachment "fantasy" trial in the cold open:



SNL also touched on the coronavirus news:



Trevor Noah addressed recent reports that portions of the border wall are falling, joking that maybe Trump should focus on getting the wall done right rather than fast:



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# The Daily 202

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**'It's called 2016 PTSD.' The ghost of Hillary Clinton haunts the Iowa caucuses.**



Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) introduces her husband, John, and their daughter Abigail during a rally at Franklin Junior High School in Des Moines on Saturday night. (Gene J. Puskar/AP)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

## **THE BIG IDEA:**

**DES MOINES – Amy Klobuchar remembers the text messages she received from her daughter on election night in 2016.** Abigail Bessler, then a student at Yale University, traveled to New York so she could watch Hillary Clinton break the ultimate glass ceiling. When Donald Trump won a shocking upset instead, she texted the senator from Minnesota: “Mom, what should we do now?” Klobuchar wrote back a minute later that she should catch the last train to New Haven: “Remember, you have class tomorrow.” Her distraught daughter

replied: “Mom, I mean our country.”

“That is the question we’ve asked ourselves every day since then: What should we do now?” Klobuchar told hundreds of supporters crammed into the Franklin Junior High gym on Saturday night. “My profound advice is this: We better not screw this up.”

**Tens of thousands of Iowa Democrats are asking themselves that question as they prepare to gather tonight across more than 1,600 precincts for caucuses that will kickstart a five-month marathon to the party’s convention in Milwaukee.** Presidential candidates, their surrogates and rank-and-file voters frequently invoked, always with dread, the memory of 2016 over the weekend. The latest proxy fight between loyalists to Clinton and Bernie Sanders got the lion’s share of attention, but the previous presidential election loomed large at six rallies I covered. The topic came up repeatedly during dozens of interviews across events for all the top contenders.

**Pete Buttigieg’s final rally on Sunday was at Lincoln High School – the home of the Rail Splitters – in the same gymnasium where Clinton held her final rally on the night before the caucuses in 2016.** Buttigieg and his surrogates boast that he’s toured 25 of the 31 Iowa counties that Barack Obama won in 2012 but Clinton lost in 2016. “And we’re getting bigger and better turnout in them,” Rep. Anthony Brown (D-Md.) told the crowd of 2,000 in Des Moines.

**A few hours later, as she warmed up a crowd of 1,100 for Joe Biden at Hiatt Middle School, Rep. Abby Finkenauer (D-Iowa) made the crowd uncomfortable as she forced them to relive their nightmare.** “One of the things that really hit me, and that I cannot say

thank you enough to the vice president for, is the hope he finally gave me that I didn't even know I was missing," she said. "You see, I remember – as every Iowan does – that night in 2016. We didn't just lose the White House that night. We also lost our state Senate, and the GOP took complete control of our state."

Finkenauer picked up her U.S. House seat in the northeast quadrant of the state during the 2018 midterms, but she noted that Democrats need to flip four seats to win the Iowa House in November. She recalled visiting one of those state legislative districts a few days ago, where the Democrat lost by nine votes in 2018, and meeting independents and Republicans who said they'd vote for Biden if he's the nominee. "Joe Biden will help us take back our state," Finkenauer said.



Former vice president Joe Biden campaigns on Sunday at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)

**Facing what looked like an intimidating Clinton juggernaut, Biden chose not to run in 2016. Elizabeth Warren and Mike Bloomberg also considered bids but opted against them. People in Iowa have been speculating that, perhaps, the outcome would have been different if any of the three had challenged her.**

Biden thanked Finkenauer when he took the stage. “We can turn Donald Trump into a four-year historical aberration,” he said, “but we need you.”

The uncharacteristic fixation among Democratic voters on electability – across the ideological spectrum – flows at least in part from that latent sense of shock. **“I’ve actually come up with a term for this that I use: It’s called 2016 PTSD,” said Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-Pa.).** He spent the last two days as a surrogate for Biden, carpooling around Iowa with former senator Bill Nelson (Fla.), telling every Democrat they could find that the former vice president can carry the two swing states they hail from this fall.

**“I did an hour of phone banking today, and literally every person who I reached said, ‘Well, I just want to make sure we pick the best person who can beat Trump,’” Boyle said last night as he and Nelson walked to their rental car after Biden’s rally so they could go watch the Super Bowl.** “I think that’s a big reason why you see such a huge undecided number entering the caucuses. People realize the stakes are just so high for this election. It’s the trauma of election night 2016, as well as what Trump’s been like ever since. If you had a Mitt Romney presidency, I don’t think there’d be the same animus that you see on our side.”

A **CBS survey** of Iowa released on Sunday showed Sanders and Biden tied at 25 percent, with Buttigieg at 21 percent, Warren at 16 percent and Klobuchar at 5 percent.

**For Democratic elites and activists, the lingering shock of Trump's victory is never far from the surface.** Various storylines going into the caucuses involve clashes and tensions that pick at some of the scabs that, it turns out, have not fully scarred over. Clinton has stepped up her criticism of Sanders as he's moved to the top of some polls. In a podcast published Friday, Clinton faulted Sanders for not doing more to unify the party after she beat him in 2016. This followed her criticisms in a documentary that "nobody likes him" and "he got nothing done," which she stood by in an interview with the Hollywood Reporter.

Sanders couldn't attend a Friday evening event in Clive because he was stuck in Washington for the impeachment trial. When Clinton's name came up during a panel discussion of prominent supporters, someone in the crowd booed. The moderator replied not to boo because that's not classy. Then Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), a prominent Sanders surrogate and member of the Squad, interrupted. "No, no, I'll boo," she said, booing for effect. "That's all right — the haters will shut up on Monday."

After Tlaib **expressed regret** the next morning, Sanders campaign manager Faiz Shakir tweeted: "Rashida, you're all good. We love your passion and conviction. Don't change." Then Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill weighed in: "I can't imagine this kind of behavior is something Iowans want to see from candidates and their surrogates."

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Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

## American families can't afford Medicare for All.



Studies confirm that Medicare for All would force Americans to pay more for worse care. Economists agree, there's "no way to pay for Medicare for All without tax increases."

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Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) takes the stage with his grandkids Ella and Dylan at Simpson College on Saturday in Indianola, Iowa. (Salwan Georges/The Washington



Post)

**Sanders alluded to the kerfuffle moments after he took the stage at Simpson College in Indianola on Saturday afternoon.** “I’ll tell you as bluntly as I can why I believe we are the strongest campaign to beat Trump – not to say we are the only campaign,” he said. “Certainly, I hope that we’re going to win. But if we don’t win, we will support the winner.”

The senator from Vermont then announced that his campaign knocked on 500,000 doors in Iowa during the past month. “If it’s a low turnout election, Trump will win,” he said. “And I believe our campaign ... can bring millions of people into the political process who normally do not vote.”

Then, on Saturday night, documentarian Michael Moore, who has been introducing Sanders around the state, ripped the Democratic National Committee during a concert in Cedar Rapids that drew 3,000 people. With echoes from four years ago, Moore accused the DNC of rigging the debate qualification requirements to help Bloomberg, a self-funding billionaire, qualify. The DNC’s spokeswoman replied that this is a “totally false ... conspiracy theory.”

**A lot of the pitches the candidates and their surrogates make feel like allusions to the perceived shortcomings that critics believe allowed Trump to topple Clinton.** “Bernie is a candidate the current president will not be able to vilify as inauthentic, and that’s a huge advantage,” said Jane Sanders, the senator’s wife. “If you watched the debates, you know that I’m not afraid to speak my mind,” added Klobuchar.

Consultants have pleaded with Sanders to talk more about himself throughout the campaign – in addition to his calls for political revolution. The senator obliged when he launched his campaign last February, but he's mostly cut it out. This weekend, though, Sanders took the stage with two of his grandchildren. Then he emphasized his background as the son of an immigrant when he promised to restore protections for "Dreamers," undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children.

"The status quo is terrified of a Bernie presidency," said Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), another member of the Squad, who introduced Sanders at Simpson College. Dozens of students snapped their fingers to signal approval. "Iowa will be able to start a domino effect ... that will take him all the way to the White House."

**Warren tries to straddle the gap from Sanders to Biden.** She emphasized this weekend that she knows how to work within the system to advance her agenda (e.g. to lower the cost of hearing aids) but also knows when to pick fights and apply pressure from the outside (e.g. to save the Affordable Care Act from being repealed). Coincidentally, she appeared at the same student center on Sunday that Sanders campaigned at on Saturday. "I am in this to fight back," Warren declared. "That's why I'm here. We fight back. Fighting back is an act of patriotism."



Pete Buttigieg is hugged by his husband, Chasten Buttigieg, at the end of a rally Sunday at Lincoln High School in Des Moines. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

**Buttigieg also sought to stay out of the spat between Bernie World and Hillary Land.** “I didn’t much enjoy, as a Democrat, living through the experience of 2016, and I want to make sure 2020 resembles 2016 as little as possible,” he said as he left a Saturday event in Waterloo.

Buttigieg has branded himself a unifier. Members of the audience submitted written questions for the candidate at his rally in Des Moines, which were pulled at random from a fishbowl. One asked him to name his favorite Beatles song. “I feel like, in a moment like this, the answer has got to be ‘Come Together,’” said Buttigieg, who is always quick on his feet.

Buttigieg was joined on Sunday afternoon by his mother and mother-

in-law. His mom, [Anne Montgomery](#), at 74, is younger than both Sanders and Biden. With explicit calls for generational change, Buttigieg said the next president will face futuristic challenges that we cannot even begin to fathom because the world is changing so fast. “We need a president prepared to leave the politics of the past in the past,” he said, adding that “falling back on the familiar” is comfortable but dangerous. “We can’t be afraid.”

**Many Democratic rank-and-file voters are exhausted over the Sanders vs. Clinton feud of 2016.** Sean Maguire, 42, is supporting Warren but complimented Sanders for “shifting the Overton window.” “He’s definitely changed the conversation, and we wouldn’t be here without him,” said Maguire, who lives in West Des Moines and works in software. But he thinks Clinton and Sanders need to cut out their feuding. “Hillary has been in politics for decades, and she’s a brilliant woman and clearly capable,” said Maguire. “I think she’s throwing bombs right now because she’s wanting more of a moderate candidate. So she’s using her influence and power to change the narrative and to get us talking. But just shut up and move on.”

I spoke with a mother and daughter from Norwalk, a suburb of Des Moines, who plan to caucus together for Buttigieg after supporting Sanders four years ago. Andrea Legan, 40, an office manager at a law firm, said the fighting between loyalists to Sanders and Clinton is tiresome. “There’s three sides to every story – his, hers and the truth,” she said. “Unlike Trump supporters, I will admit my mistake,” added Sue Woody, 61, a weight-loss consultant. “It just makes me mad that, for the Bernie Bros, it’s him or nobody. That’s how we got Trump.”

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- [Wall Street Journal](#): “Where Democratic Candidates Might Look for Support in Iowa Caucuses.”
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- [Los Angeles Times](#): “Iowa voters are bringing the caucus to California and beyond.”
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'We're going to turn the page on impeachment': GOP, Democrats look ahead to Wednesday's vote

## IMPEACHMENT LATEST:

-- **Two Senate Republicans** acknowledged on the Sunday talk shows that Trump was wrong to pressure Ukraine for his own political benefit, even as they defended their decision to prohibit new evidence in his impeachment trial while pressing ahead with the president's all-but-certain acquittal in a vote scheduled for **Wednesday**. They did so even after the Trump administration acknowledged the existence over the weekend of [two dozen emails](#) that could reveal the president's thinking about withholding the military

aid.

- “I think he shouldn’t have done it,” Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) told Chuck Todd on NBC. “I think it was wrong. Inappropriate was the way I’d say — improper, crossing the line.”
- “Maybe not the perfect call,” Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) told Jake Tapper on CNN. “He did it maybe in the wrong manner. ... I think he could have done it through different channels.”

**-- But Ernst also opened the door to the House trying to impeaching Biden if he's elected and Republicans win the majority.** “I think this door of impeachable whatever has been opened,” [she told Bloomberg News](#). “Joe Biden should be very careful what he’s asking for because, you know, we can have a situation where if it should ever be President Biden, that immediately, people, right the day after he would be elected would be saying, ‘Well, we’re going to impeach him.’”

**-- Sen. Susan Collins, the first of two Republicans to break with the president on any aspect of the trial, has found it lonely in the middle.** [Griff Witte reports from her home state](#): “Here in Maine, where the famously independent Collins is locked in a tight reelection campaign, the choice elicited a wintry mix of cold shoulders and icy glares. Republicans quietly counseled that Collins could go no further without inciting a rebellion from the party’s Trump-loving base — perhaps even a primary challenge. Democrats, meanwhile, heaped scorn on the senator for making gestures toward standing up to the president but not doing so when it counts. ... **Siding with Democrats**



**on whether the president should be removed would be unforgivable among Maine's rank-and-file Republicans, who are increasingly part of the Trump wing of the party, not the Collins wing.** ... The base is already restless. In recent weeks, Collins's offices have been flooded with angry voice mails, many of them threatening and hate-filled. The vitriol has come from impeachment supporters as well as the president's defenders, outspoken in demanding that Collins take their side."

**-- RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel won't defend her uncle, Mitt Romney, after he voted in favor of witnesses.** On CBS's "[Face the Nation](#)," McDaniel was asked about the Utah senator not being invited to the Conservative Political Action Conference as a result of his vote. She claimed she had not seen the CPAC announcement but said some Republicans were justifiably "upset" when other Republicans don't defend the president. "They think if you're not supporting him, you're helping a Democrat get elected. That's a very common belief among the grass-roots of our party," she said.

**-- Lead House impeachment manager Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) declined to say whether the House will subpoena John Bolton now that the Senate has declined to do so.** "Whether it's ... in testimony before the House or it's in his book or it's in one form or another, the truth ... will continue to come out," Schiff said on CBS.

**-- Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) promised a sweeping GOP counterattack against Biden and a pursuit of the whistleblower who brought the president's conduct to light after the Senate is expected to acquit Trump.** "It's going to happen in the coming weeks," he said on Fox News. Graham

used his TV appearance to put the ball in the court of Sen. James E. Risch (R-Idaho), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. “Jim, if you’re watching the show, I hope you are,” he said, “let’s call these people in. Eventually, we’ll get to Hunter Biden. We’re not going to let it go. Jim Risch, you need to start it.” Risch’s office did not respond to requests for comment.

**-- Trump said in an interview that aired on Fox before the Super Bowl that he will go ahead with his State of the Union address on Tuesday night.** "We're going to talk about the achievements that we've made," the president told Sean Hannity.

**-- Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer will deliver the official Democratic response to the State of the Union tomorrow night.** The 48-year-old, elected in 2018, will likely be on vice presidential short lists. ([Detroit Free Press](#))



Major airlines stop flying to China as coronavirus spreads



## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- **Coronavirus infections are predicted to grow exponentially as the outbreak becomes increasingly politicized.** [Anna Fifield and Joel Achenbach report](#): "One nation after another is closing its doors to most Chinese travelers, as the death toll from the novel coronavirus continues to rise with no sign that the virus can be contained before it becomes a full-blown planetary health crisis. China's increasing isolation threatens to turn this new epidemic into a geopolitical conflict, intensifying preexisting tensions between China and the United States and having potentially significant impacts on the global economy. At 5 p.m. Sunday, the United States put into effect [stringent travel restrictions](#) on people coming from China. But the official edict of the Trump administration, announced Friday, led to confusion late Sunday about where, exactly, travelers from China deemed in need of quarantining would be screened and housed at or near the airports where they would be arriving. ...

**"At least a dozen countries have put travel restrictions on people coming from China.** That list includes some neighboring countries

that have closed their borders with China. Such travel restrictions are contrary to public health recommendations and have riled Chinese government officials. **The Foreign Ministry's combative spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, singled out the United States, saying that the World Health Organization has said such restrictions are not necessary.** ... Hua said many countries have offered China support, but in contrast, 'certain U.S. officials' words and actions are neither factual nor appropriate.' That appeared to be a reference to U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who last week said the coronavirus could 'help' to bring jobs to the United States as companies moved operations away from China. ...

**"China's National Health Commission reported Monday that there are now 17,205 confirmed cases of coronavirus infection on the mainland,** plus 15 in Hong Kong and eight in Macao. The WHO reported 146 confirmed cases in 23 countries outside China." Federal officials announced there are 11 U.S. cases of the coronavirus, with a couple from central California falling ill after the husband's trip to China's Hubei province at the epicenter of the outbreak.

**-- The Department of Homeland Security is warning airline passengers their flights may be rerouted if officials discover mid-flight that someone onboard has been to China in the last 14 days. (AP)**

**-- The virus is threatening supply chains that depend on Chinese-made parts and materials. David Lynch reports:** "Some of the United States' best-known manufacturers such as General Electric, Caterpillar and the Big Three automakers, along with many smaller American businesses, depend on what is made in Chinese factories.

Now, they confront life without those items.... 'The concern is not the zombie apocalypse with people dying in the streets. The concern is that a huge chunk of the global economy gets put out of commission as people wait it out,' said Patrick Chovanec, managing director at Silvercrest Asset Management in New York. ... **Most Wall Street economists ... say the economic damage will be limited.**

Economists at JPMorgan Chase Bank on Friday cut their first-quarter global growth estimate by 0.3 percentage points to 2.3 percent. But they predicted a swift rebound that would return China and the global economy to their pre-crisis trends by midyear.”

**-- Stock markets in China reopened this morning after a 10-day break to their sharpest falls in more than four years.** [Simon Denyer and Shibani Mahtani report on our special live blog](#): China’s main share indexes plunged more than 8 percent. The government announced it has opened a “super-fast” built hospital in Wuhan. The new facility has 1,000 beds that authorities hope will relieve pressure on the city’s overwhelmed hospitals. And Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said this morning that she would close more border crossings with China, leaving only three open. The announcement came as thousands of medical workers in the city started a strike designated to pressure the government into a full border closure.

**-- A man wearing a fake explosive device stabbed two people in south London before he was shot dead by police in what authorities are calling a terrorist attack.** [William Booth and Karla Adam report](#): “Police identified the assailant as Sudesh Amman, 20, recently released from prison, where he had been serving a sentence for ‘Islamist-related terrorism’ offenses. British news media said

Amman pleaded guilty in 2018 to charges of possessing terrorist documents and disseminating terrorist publications. ... Police said that armed officers, part of a proactive counterterrorism surveillance operation, were following Amman on foot when the attack began. ... Three people were wounded, police said.”

**-- Al Qaeda claimed it directed the Saudi military officer who carried out the December shooting at the U.S. military base in Florida that left three sailors dead.** [From the Times](#): “In an audio recording released on Sunday, the leader of the Yemen-based group, Qassim al-Rimi, claimed responsibility for the Dec. 6 attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola, according to SITE, an organization that tracks jihadist media. The group offered no evidence that it had trained the gunman, Second Lt. Mohammed Saeed Alshamrani, but produced a copy of his will as well as correspondence that indicated he had been in contact with Al Qaeda. Experts said those elements gave the claim a plausible air.”

**-- Turkey accused Syria of killing five Turkish soldiers in Syria’s Idlib province, as the Turks carried out retaliatory strikes.** [Kareem Fahim reports](#): The unrest came as “forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad are pursuing a military offensive in Idlib [that] has killed hundreds of civilians and caused an exodus of displaced people from towns caught up in the fighting, according to humanitarian aid groups. ... The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitoring group, said the Turkish soldiers were killed during an exchange of fire near the town of Saraqeb, about 15 miles north of Maarat al-Numan. Turkey ‘has responded to this attack in kind’ and killed 30-35 Syrian soldiers, [Turkish President Recep Tayyip] Erdogan said, adding that

the retaliatory strikes were continuing.”

**-- The head of U.S. Central Command says Iran has “de-escalated,” but the threat of retaliation remains.** [Missy Ryan reports](#): “Speaking during a visit to the USS Harry S. Truman, an American aircraft carrier conducting operations in the northern Arabian Sea, [Gen. Kenneth “Frank” McKenzie Jr.] said Iran’s maritime forces likewise had displayed a ‘fairly normal’ level of activity in recent weeks. ... McKenzie said he believed Iran was still ‘digesting’ the impact of the Trump administration’s decision to kill [Maj. Gen. Qasem] Soleimani ... ‘I think Iran has seen that we do have will and that we’re willing to take action in our own interests,’ McKenzie said. ‘We’re not going to endlessly be the recipient of their actions.’”

**-- The New Yorker’s Adam Entous and Evan Osnos trace back the decisions that led Trump to order the attack on Soleimani:** “The Suleimani operation differed substantially from America’s patterns of targeted killing since 2002. Suleimani was not the leader of a stateless cabal but a high-ranking representative of one of the most populous nations in the Middle East, which, for all its deep involvement in terrorism, is not in a conventional war with the United States. In adopting a mode of assault usually reserved for a wartime enemy, the Administration acted on the belief, which is popular among many of the President’s most influential advisers, that the U.S. has been deceiving itself about the nature of its relationship with Tehran.”

**-- The trial for a promising HIV vaccine failed in South Africa after an analysis showed it was no more effective than a**

**placebo.** [Lenny Bernstein reports](#): “Vaccinations were halted after an independent monitoring panel for the ‘Uhambo’ study in South Africa determined on Jan 23 that 129 people who received the vaccine developed HIV while 123 who were given a placebo contracted the infection.”





Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes hugs girlfriend Brittany Matthews after leading his team from behind to win the Super Bowl. (Patrick Semansky/AP)

## THE SUPER BOWL:

**-- The Kansas City Chiefs claimed their first Super Bowl title in 50 years after defeating the San Francisco 49ers.** [Mark Maske](#)

[reports](#): Quarterback Patrick "Mahomes delivered a pair of touchdown passes as part of a 21-point outburst as the Chiefs came back to beat the San Francisco 49ers, 31-20, with a stunning late turnaround in Super Bowl LIV on a picture-perfect South Florida night. 'I just went out there and kept competing,' said Mahomes, who was named the game's MVP. 'I knew we weren't in an ideal situation. But I believed in my defense to get stops. They did. And the guys kept believing in me to start making plays down the field, and we found a way to win.' ... Mahomes became a Super Bowl winner in his third NFL season. He had a first-half rushing touchdown and ended up completing 26 of 42 passes for 286 yards. Chiefs Coach Andy Reid added a Super Bowl victory to his distinguished career." Mahomes "showed why he is the best player in the NFL," [writes columnist Jerry Brewer](#).

**-- Kyle Shanahan's team lost a double-digit Super Bowl lead.**

**Again.** [Jacob Bogage reports](#): "The 49ers led by 10 points entering the fourth quarter of Super Bowl LIV, with nearly all the momentum and a championship just 15 minutes away. ... Shanahan is just 40, but he has his own experience with playoff heartache. He was the offensive coordinator for the Falcons three years ago when Atlanta lost a 28-3 second-half lead against Tom Brady and the New England Patriots. Shanahan received plenty of scrutiny after that loss, with critics charging that his play-calling turned too conservative too early ... In those two Super Bowls, Shanahan's offenses have now been

outscored 46-0 in the fourth quarter and overtime.”

**-- Jennifer Lopez and Shakira took over Hard Rock Stadium for a dazzling 12 minutes at halftime, living the American Dream, writes pop music critic Chris Richards:** “For the razzled-and-dazzled, there were armies of dancers pretending to be soldiers, and cheerleaders, and salsa musicians. And there were big songs — the kind you hear at weddings and dentist appointments. And there was a cameo from the rapper Bad Bunny, clad in a trench coat made of liquid steel. And there was a string section playing Led Zeppelin’s ‘Kashmir’ like they were rowing a pirate ship across the Biscayne Bay. And there was Shakira, wagging her tongue at the camera, either singing or trying to communicate with birds of paradise. And there was J-Lo, forever young, twirling around on a pole pointed toward heaven. But through all that, if you were still able to masticate your potato chips in quiet concentration, you may have heard the American Dream itself pulsing in a space where it will always be allowed to live: inside a pop song.”

**-- Our culture reporters say the commercials, overall, were pretty weak this year.** Maura Judkis and Sonia Rao think [the best five spots](#) came from Google, Cheetos, Doritos, Pringles and Snickers. And they identify [the five worst ads](#) as those from Audi, Genesis, Planters, Rocket Mortgage and Sabra.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

[NBC News reported](#) that John F. Kerry was overheard talking on his cellphone Sunday morning in the lobby restaurant of the Renaissance Savery hotel in Des Moines about what it would take to run for

president. A reporter overheard him discussing “the possibility of Bernie Sanders taking down the Democratic Party — down whole.” When the story broke, Kerry said the report was “false,” using an expletive that shares the first letter of his middle name to put a finer point on it. He deleted the tweet and replaced it with this version:



As soon as the Super Bowl was over, the president sent his congratulations ... to the wrong state:



**Katie Rogers** ✓  
@katierogers



The president just deleted this tweet, presumably to not piss off entire state of Missouri

**Donald J. Trump** ✓ @realDonaldTrump  
Congratulations to the Kansas City Chiefs on a great game, and a fantastic comeback, under immense pressure. You represented the Great State of Kansas and, in fact, the entire USA, so very well. Our Country is PROUD OF YOU!

♥ 1,572 3:25 AM - Feb 3, 2020



💬 687 people are talking about this



After the tweet was deleted, many joked that the president will use a Sharpie to validate his mistake:



**Tarz** \\_(□)\_/ ✓  
@TheyCallMeTarz



I'm just saving everyone from having to see this tomorrow.



♡ 3,943 3:36 AM - Feb 3, 2020



💬 1,131 people are talking about this



The Missouri governor was in Miami cheering for the correct state:



**Governor Mike Parson** ✓

@GovParsonMO



Help us cheer the @Chiefs to victory! #SBLIV  
#ChiefsKingdom



♥ 382 2:52 AM - Feb 3, 2020



💬 42 people are talking about this



The president's elder sons and campaign manager, not subject to federal gift laws, appeared to enjoy the hospitality of a GOP lobbyist:



**Kenneth P. Vogel** ✓

@kenvogel



The president's sons & campaign manager hanging out at the Super Bowl with Trump-linked lobbyist [@JeffMillerCA2TX](#), who companies hire to try to win favorable treatment from the Trump administration.

Recent clients have included Altria, Amazon, Apple & energy & pharmaceutical cos



♥ 356 2:27 AM - Feb 3, 2020



💬 465 people are talking about this



Bob Dole, the 1996 GOP presidential nominee who represented Kansas in the Senate, also went to Miami for the game:





**Senator Bob Dole** ✓  
@SenatorDole



I'm all Chiefs!



♥ 1,558 12:47 AM - Feb 3, 2020



💬 263 people are talking about this



Trump attacked Bloomberg for being short, leading to this moment:



**Paul Farhi** ✓  
@farhip



Chyron of the year (so far):



♡ 6,448 5:06 PM - Feb 2, 2020



💬 2,500 people are talking about this



## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

The Trump campaign's Super Bowl ad featured Alice Johnson, whose life sentence for [nonviolent](#) drug offenses the president commuted in [2018](#):



President Trump's ad on criminal justice reform | Super Bowl 2020

“Saturday Night Live” imagined an impeachment "fantasy" trial in the cold open:



SNL also touched on the coronavirus news:



Trevor Noah addressed recent reports that portions of the border wall are falling, joking that maybe Trump should focus on getting the wall done right rather than fast:



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Battle lines are forming over Dominion Energy's \$7.8 billion plan to build the first offshore wind farm in the Mid-Atlantic.

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#### **N.C. coal plant closure fuels gas debate**

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#### **Feds band against energy hackers as ransomware threat rises**

### 4. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

#### **Army unveils 'resilient' solar panels for extreme weather**

## OIL AND GAS

### 5. PIPELINES:

#### **Enbridge Line 3 approval ignites climate battle**

## LOBBYING

### 6. PEOPLE:

#### **Utility group taps ex-Hill aide**

## ELECTRICITY

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**7. CHINA:**

**Solar industry seeks government aid amid virus outbreak**

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**Transmission line foes submit signatures for referendum**

**9. NUCLEAR:**

**2nd reactor being studied for eastern Wash.**

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**10. NATURAL GAS:**

**UAE finds world's biggest gas field since 2005**

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**A bad night for Biden in Iowa is good news for Buttigieg, Klobuchar and Bloomberg**





Joe and Jill Biden address supporters on Monday night while they await results at Drake University in Des Moines. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

## **THE BIG IDEA:**

**DES MOINES – Joe Biden’s core message was electability, but the former vice president failed to consolidate support among the majority of Iowa caucus-goers who said choosing a candidate who can beat President Trump was their first priority, according to preliminary [entrance polls](#) conducted Monday night.**

Just under one-quarter of electability-focused voters supported Biden, while a similar percentage backed former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg. Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)

and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) each drew about 15 percent support among this group.

By contrast, Biden received only 5 percent support among caucus-goers who said it was most important to nominate a candidate they agree with. Sanders led among this group with 36 percent support.

**Because of [technical problems](#), no winner has been called. In fact, the state Democratic Party has still not released any official numbers. It's therefore important to emphasize the preliminary and anecdotal nature of what we know, but there's a body of evidence that points to a bad night for Biden.**

"It's a very close race among the top three candidates (Warren, Sanders, Buttigieg) and Biden came a distant fourth," [tweeted](#) Warren chief strategist Joe Rospars.

"With the numbers we've seen internally and publicly, we're running even or ahead of Vice President Biden," [said](#) Klobuchar campaign manager Justin Buoen.

Biden campaign manager Greg Schultz pushed back on his counterparts. "Our own model shows that Biden overperformed in key districts we needed to be competitive in and we feel confident that this is a tight race with bunched up candidates," he said in a [statement](#) that offered no specifics or numbers. "When it comes to the final outcome of the caucuses, this is still a competition for delegates, and the winner will continue to be based on State Delegate Equivalents. We believe that we have won our fair share of them."

**-- Among moderate and conservative voters, who made up about**

**one-third of caucus-goers, about 1 in 4 said they backed Biden, while another quarter backed Buttigieg, and about 1 in 5 supported Klobuchar, according to the entrance polls.**

Seniors and moderates buoyed Biden's support in the caucuses. Scott Clement, the director of our polling unit, notes that 1 in 3 caucus-goers age 65 or older chose Biden as their initial preference while about 1 in 30 voters under age 30 did so, according to the preliminary entrance polls.



With Iowa caucus results still uncertain, Democrats look to New Hampshire

**-- Biden campaign officials had said they thought he would be viable nearly everywhere, meaning that he'd cross the threshold of getting 15 percent support in the precinct, but observers at several caucus sites reported that he was falling short. My colleagues [scattered across the state](#) to observe precinct caucuses. Here are three especially revealing vignettes from the ground that don't bode well for the former vice president:**

**1) “In a cramped elementary school gymnasium in Muscatine, supporters of [Biden] and [Warren] were stunned when both candidates failed to receive enough votes to remain viable,”** Tim Craig reports. “This was the sort of place where both had hoped to do well. The economy of this Mississippi River town has long revolved around manufacturing. The neighborhoods near the school are a mix of one-story homes with ‘Proud Union Home’ signs in their front yards and grander multistory houses that overlook a country club golf course. In 2016, voters in this precinct were mostly split between Hillary Clinton and [Sanders]. During the general election, Trump narrowly defeated Clinton here — and went on to win Muscatine County, making him the first Republican to do so since 1984. Of the roughly 170 caucus-goers in the gym, only 17 initially voted for Biden and 16 for Warren.

**“For an agonizing 25 minutes, supporters for both campaigns strategized about whether they should form an alliance — but with many Warren supporters skeptical of Biden, and vice versa, the effort collapsed.** The two camps watched their members scatter, sometimes slapping on the stickers of rivals — most often [Buttigieg], who ended the night there with 73 votes, but also Sanders and [Klobuchar], who came in second and third. ‘I’ve been doing this a long time and this is absolutely crazy that neither Biden nor Warren were viable here,’ said Esther Dean, 83, a Biden supporter and attorney.”

If Biden’s not viable in Muscatine, it’s a red flag.

**2) “In the fast-growing Des Moines suburb of Ankeny, local**

**Democrats expected [Buttigieg] and [Warren] to do well, as both had made repeated trips to the area and had large organizing operations,”** Isaac Stanley-Becker reports. “They were surprised when dozens of Sanders supporters showed up and became the largest faction in the precinct. **Biden did not have enough support, and his supporters were quickly surrounded, as if by poachers.** Jacob Middleton, the precinct captain for Sanders, approached the Biden supporters and asked: ‘Is anyone even considering going for Bernie over here?’ ‘No,’ the disillusioned Biden supporters answered in unison. ‘None?’ he repeated. ‘No,’ they said. ... **In the end, a handful of Biden supporters, shocked the former vice president didn’t have enough support to move ahead, refused to pick a second choice.”**

3) **“As the night wore on and the formalities of the caucus taking place in Iowa City’s Englert Theatre took longer than expected, nearly two dozen Biden supporters gathered in the small lobby beneath an exit sign,”** Rachel Chason reports. “They realized there was no way their candidate would make it past the first round of voting, and they tried to decide what to do next. The theater was packed with large crowds for other candidates: 300 for Sanders, nearly 200 for Warren and nearly 100 for Buttigieg. It was no surprise — after all, this is the so-called People’s Republic of Johnson County, home to the highest percentage of registered Democrats in the state. But these Biden supporters weren’t sure if either Sanders or Warren could beat the president.

**“Gene Murphy, 65, has liked Biden for about 40 years — and caucused for him because he thought he had the best shot of**

beating Trump. He decided that he would vote first for Biden, then for Buttigieg. ... ‘Bernie is great,’ he said, ‘but I don’t see him winning.’”

Content from [Partnership for America’s Health Care Future](#)

### American families can’t afford Medicare for All.



Studies confirm that Medicare for All would force Americans to pay more for worse care. Economists agree, there’s “no way to pay for Medicare for All without tax increases.”



Biden in Iowa: ‘Character is on the ballot’

-- **“We’re in this for the long haul,” Biden told supporters at his watch party in Des Moines.** “From our indications, it’s going to be close. We are going to walk out of here with our share of delegates. We don’t know exactly what it is yet, but we feel good about where we are.”

-- **Biden already has a painful history with Iowa.** He dropped out in 1987 after being accused of plagiarizing a speech by British Labour leader Neil Kinnock while in Des Moines. In 2008, he finished fifth in the caucuses here, garnering less than 1 percent of the vote. Months later, Barack Obama would revive Biden’s political career by putting him on the ticket.

-- **Operatives agree it’s safe to say that turnout did not break the record set in 2008 but was more comparable to 2016.** “The one conclusion from the numbers that were being collected by the media suggested that the eventual winner would receive a lower percentage of the vote than any previous winner since 1972, when the modern caucuses were born,” [Dan Balz notes](#). “But that could end up being the secondary story. On Monday night, it was all about Iowa and not the candidates.”

-- **The snafu related to tabulating the results could offer a symbolic reprieve of sorts for Biden.** No matter what gets announced by the state party, some campaigns will have a strong incentive to cast doubt on the results. No one has done this more forcefully, so far, than the Biden campaign. His general counsel Dana Remus sent an open letter to the leaders of the Iowa Democratic Party last night expressing concerns about the “considerable flaws” in

the caucus reporting system, foreshadowing a possible effort to diminish bad results by casting doubt on the veracity of the numbers.

“The app that was intended to relay Caucus results to the Party failed; the Party’s back-up telephonic reporting system likewise has failed. Now, we understand that Caucus Chairs are attempting to — and, in many cases, failing to — report results telephonically to the Party. These acute failures are occurring statewide,” Remus wrote. “We believe that the campaigns deserve full explanations and relevant information regarding the methods of quality control you are employing, and an opportunity to respond, before any official results are released.”

Biden’s deputy campaign manager, Kate Bedingfield, [tweeted](#) that the “integrity of the process is critical.”

**-- State party officials held a second conference call with top officials from the campaigns in the wee hours of this morning.** "The party officials told the campaigns that they planned to release caucus results later on Tuesday, and that they are hand-checking results," Sean Sullivan and Matt Viser report on [our live blog](#). "Sanders senior adviser Jeff Weaver got into a tense exchange with Iowa Democratic Party Chairman Troy Price."

**-- Everyone else tried to claim some success last night. Advisers to Buttigieg and Sanders each distributed internal data to reporters overnight to bolster their claims that they fared well in the unofficial returns.**

“By all indications, we are going on to New Hampshire victorious,” said Buttigieg.



“When those results are announced, I have a good feeling we’re going to be doing very, very well here in Iowa,” said Sanders.

“We know there’s delays, but we know one thing — we are punching above our weight,” said Klobuchar.

“The road won’t be easy, but we are built for the long haul,” said Warren.



Buttigieg in Iowa: 'We are going on to New Hampshire victorious'

-- **Second-place finishes across many groups served Buttigieg well.** My colleague Dan Keating emailed a smart observation from poring over [the preliminary entrance polls](#) of voter preferences: “Buttigieg didn’t dominate among any group, but he racked up many silver medals. Buttigieg isn’t leading among voters under 45 – he’s second. He isn’t leading among 45 and older – he’s second. He’s not leading among people with college degrees – he’s second. He’s also second among Democratic voters without a college degree. ... He’s

second among independents with support from about 2 in 10. He's roughly tied for second with Warren among self-described liberals (again, about 2 in 10). Buttigieg was second in large cities and second in suburbs.

**“It’s not that he’s never first. Preliminary results suggest he led narrowly among women voters.** He led in the more rural areas. He won among caucus-goers who called themselves somewhat liberal, the largest contingent. And one of his only clear weaknesses was with ‘very liberal’ Democrats, among whom he garnered support from just over 1 in 10, a distant third behind Warren and Sanders. He was just a nudge ahead of Biden among people who voted for Clinton in the caucus four years ago. And he nabbed (a distant) second among people who opted for Sanders in the 2016 caucus; Sanders won a majority of his past supporters.”

**“Among people whose top issue was foreign affairs, Buttigieg was ... second. [Biden was first.]** Among people whose top issue was healthcare or climate change, he was essentially tied with Sanders for the lead. For voters prioritizing income inequality, he landed a shocking-for-him third behind Sanders and Warren. Among people who said beating Trump is more important than specific policy issues, Buttigieg roughly matched Biden for first. Among caucus-goers who said specific policies are more important, he once again got second, behind Sanders. Buttigieg’s finish in the caucus shows that a lot of silver medals can get you near the top of the podium.”

**-- Mike Bloomberg, a candidate who doesn’t have to worry about fundraising and who didn’t compete in Iowa, is also looking like one of the winners from all this chaos.** The billionaire former mayor

of New York is pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into advertisements in the states that vote on Super Tuesday, March 3, when more than half the delegates will be awarded. Bloomberg, who stumped in California on Monday, benefits from a weaker Biden and a fragmented field. He hopes to emerge as the moderate alternative to Sanders or Warren.



Sanders in Iowa: 'Change is coming'



**-- There's more danger ahead for Biden. As the race moves to New Hampshire, he has not invested nearly as much as his opponents in the state, putting him at a disadvantage.** Biden spent just \$5,429 on television and radio advertising in New Hampshire through mid-January. Compare that to \$3.6 million from Sanders in that period, and \$128,000 from Warren, according to Advertising Analytics. During the same period, Biden spent \$5 million in Iowa on TV and radio. Advertising Analytics said on Monday that Biden's total spending has now increased to \$215,000.

"Biden's campaign has long sought to play down expectations here, given that Sanders and Warren are from neighboring states," [Michael Kranish reports](#) in today's newspaper from Concord, N.H. "But Biden himself recently delivered a conflicting message. While he stressed he doesn't need a victory here, he said on Jan. 26 on a local television station, WMUR, that 'I think I will win New Hampshire.' ... **Biden, meanwhile, faces challenges here that may be even greater than those he dealt with in Iowa.** The relative lack of minorities, whose support is crucial to his bid, is once again a factor here. Whites make up 91 percent of Iowa and 93 percent in New Hampshire, according to Census Bureau figures. ...

**"Even the best-run campaign organization in New Hampshire will find it difficult to overcome a poor Iowa finish,** according to Dante Scala, a professor of political science at the University of New Hampshire. 'You can build the boat,' Scala said, referring to a campaign organization. 'But you win with the wind in its sails. If you are not the story out of Iowa, your sails can go limp anyway, and it doesn't matter how well the boat is built.'"

New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner noted that, in the last 17 New Hampshire primaries, 14 winners went on to be elected president, and the other three who occupied the White House finished in second place here. “No one has come in less than second in a New Hampshire presidential primary and gone on to be president,” Gardner said.

-- Sanders led Biden by six points, 24 percent to 18 percent, in a [Suffolk University poll](#) of likely New Hampshire Democratic primary voters that was published this morning by the Boston Globe and WBZ-TV. Sanders benefits from enduring support among younger voters and independents. Warren garnered 13 percent and Buttigieg got 11 percent. The others were in single digits, while 12 percent said they're still undecided. The poll was conducted before the caucuses, and public opinion has sometimes shifted dramatically in the week between Iowa and New Hampshire.



Iowa Caucus secretary struggles to report results

## **MORE ON WHAT WENT WRONG IN IOWA:**

-- **“The app that the Iowa Democratic Party commissioned to tabulate and report results from the caucuses on Monday was not properly tested at a statewide scale,”** [the New York Times reports](#), citing sources who were briefed on the app by the state party. “It was quickly put together in just the past two months ... And the party decided to use the app only after another proposal for reporting votes — which entailed having caucus participants call in their votes over the phone — was abandoned, on the advice of Democratic National Committee officials, according to David Jefferson, a board member of Verified Voting, a nonpartisan election integrity organization.”

-- **“Sean Bagniewski, chair of the Polk County Democratic Party, said that local officials were aware of problems with the app since last Thursday and that they had requested state officials resolve the problems — to no avail,”** [Michael Scherer reports](#).

“When local party officials asked the state party about issues they had with the app, they were referred to a ‘dedicated staffer’ who was not able to solve the problems, he said. ‘We had had so many complaints about the app that we started telling our chairs that if they were having problems with the app then you should call in the results,’ Bagniewski said.

**“The state party did not provide any training on how to use the app,** he said, adding that while the caucus trainings are done at the county level, the app itself came from the state level. Local officials had trouble downloading the app, getting a PIN to log in, and activating it even when they had a PIN, Bagniewski said. Then, when

precinct chairmen tried to call the results in via the hotline, they were placed on hold for as long as two hours, he said. ‘When our chairs are calling, it’s a wait time of an hour and a half or two hours. In some cases, they have dropped the call,’ he said.”

-- **“A tech company affiliated with, and funded by, ACRONYM, a Democratic digital nonprofit group that has rapidly expanded in recent years, was responsible for building the Iowa caucus app,”** [HuffPost reports](#). “Multiple Democratic sources, including one of the presidential campaigns, confirmed the app’s creator.”

-- **“We are validating every piece of data we have against our paper trail,” Iowa Democratic chair Troy Price told reporters in a prepared statement early this morning.** “That system is taking longer than expected but it’s in place to ensure we are eventually able to report results with full confidence.” His spokeswoman said earlier that they “found inconsistencies,” but she said it was “simply a reporting issue” and insisted that “the app did not go down and this is not a hack or an intrusion.”

-- **The bigger picture:** With the eyes of the world on Iowa, [Isaac Stanley-Becker calls this](#) “another hiccup in American democracy.”

-- **Are Democrats in disarray?** “The two top officials overseeing Milwaukee’s host committee for the 2020 Democratic National Convention were sidelined Monday amid allegations of a toxic work culture,” [the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports](#).

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** “Iowa is the Broward County of caucuses,” said Klobuchar spokesman Max Steele, a former communications director at the Florida Democratic

Party. (Dave Weigel)



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Senate trial: House managers and Trump lawyers give closing arguments

## IMPEACHMENT LATEST:

-- House managers and the president's defenders offered their closing arguments to a Senate that has largely made up its mind. [Elise Viebeck, Mike DeBonis and Robert Costa report](#): "Two days before Trump's expected acquittal, ... Democrats have nowhere near the two-thirds of the Senate needed to remove Trump from office, and the only remaining drama centered on a few possible swing votes from each party ... In a floor speech, **Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.)** declined to announce his decision, but asked his colleagues to consider censuring Trump, a less severe rebuke than removal from office that few senators were willing to pursue. Sen. Doug Jones (D-Ala.) said that he remains undecided about how he will vote. **Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)** condemned the House's probe while also calling Trump's behavior 'shameful and wrong.' But she said she could not vote to convict. ...

**“Both the House managers and Trump’s legal team crafted their remarks with a view toward the campaign trail, as voters will decide the future of his presidency.** ‘We’re sitting here on the day that election season begins in Iowa. It is wrong. There is only one answer to that, and the answer is to reject those articles of impeachment, to have confidence in the American people, to have confidence in the result of the upcoming election, to have confidence and respect for the last election and not throw it out,’ [Trump lawyer Pat] Cipollone said in his closing remarks. ... [Adam] Schiff argued that Trump lacks the character to comport himself properly as president, describing his behavior as ‘far more destructive’ than the actions of Presidents Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton that triggered their impeachment proceedings. ...

**"At least 10 Republicans have echoed Sen. Lamar Alexander’s (R-Tenn.) belief that Trump’s conduct was 'inappropriate.'** These comments have contributed to speculation that Congress could pursue censure, as Manchin proposed. ‘What the president did was wrong,’ Manchin said in his floor speech. But multiple senators of both parties dismissed the idea as they arrived at the Capitol on Monday. Asked to gauge the appetite for censure among Republicans, Sen. Mike Braun (R-Ind.) said, ‘ ... zero.’ The vast majority of Republicans, he said, believe that Trump committed no wrongdoing and that he has been subjected to a partisan, politically motivated investigation. Several Democrats said they were also uninterested in the idea, calling it a punishment well short of what Trump’s alleged conduct deserves. ‘What he did was an impeachable offense. I think it’s absolutely obvious, and giving a slap on the wrist doesn’t do any good,’ said Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.).”

**-- Trump will deliver his State of the Union tonight, seizing the dais on the cusp of his Senate acquittal to make the case for a second term.** [Philip Rucker and Seung Min Kim report](#): “The theme of Trump’s speech will be ‘the Great American Comeback’ ... Trump plans to present a vision of ‘relentless optimism,’ as one aide put it, and to summon lawmakers from both parties to work together on economic policies and other issue areas. But the traditionally presidential tone previewed by the White House has been belied by the president’s own messages of discord and disunity, and his vow to seek retribution on the Democrats he feels wronged him by searing his impeachment into history. ...

“It is an open question whether Trump will use the address to complain as he has in other forums about his impeachment or to prematurely celebrate the trial’s likely outcome. **Some Republican lawmakers have urged the president not to do so, in part because the Senate is not expected to vote to formally conclude its trial until Wednesday.** ... In a briefing with reporters to preview the speech, a senior administration official said Trump would focus on five issue areas: a ‘blue-collar boom’ for which he credits his trade negotiations with China, Mexico and Canada; domestic policies to help working families, including paid family leave; health care; illegal immigration; and national security. ... Trump also plans to use the speech to sound appeals to his conservative base. For instance, he intends to pitch a tax break to support scholarships for private and religious schools, a pet issue for advocates on the right.”

**-- Two Trump aides quietly spend months compiling Trump’s SOTU speech and allow him to take credit for it.** [From the Times](#):

“In this White House, writing his speech is a job best done anonymously, and by all accounts, [Vince] Haley and [Ross] Worthington understand that. ... Several months ago, an email circulated through the administration, as it has in years past, asking everyone from policy advisers to cabinet officials to submit their top-line achievements and talking points for review. From their perch in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Mr. Haley and Mr. Worthington assembled the suggestions with input from other aides. ... Trump also passed along scraps of paper scribbled with sentences or themes he wanted included in the speech, and had those forwarded to his writers. As this year’s draft began to take shape, Mr. Haley and Mr. Worthington received high-level edits from [Stephen] Miller, with occasional feedback from Anthony R. Dolan, the former chief speechwriter for President Ronald Reagan who works in the White House as an adviser for planning.”

**-- Another Trump aide who often goes uncredited is Gabe Perez, the man tasked with managing the president’s teleprompter.**

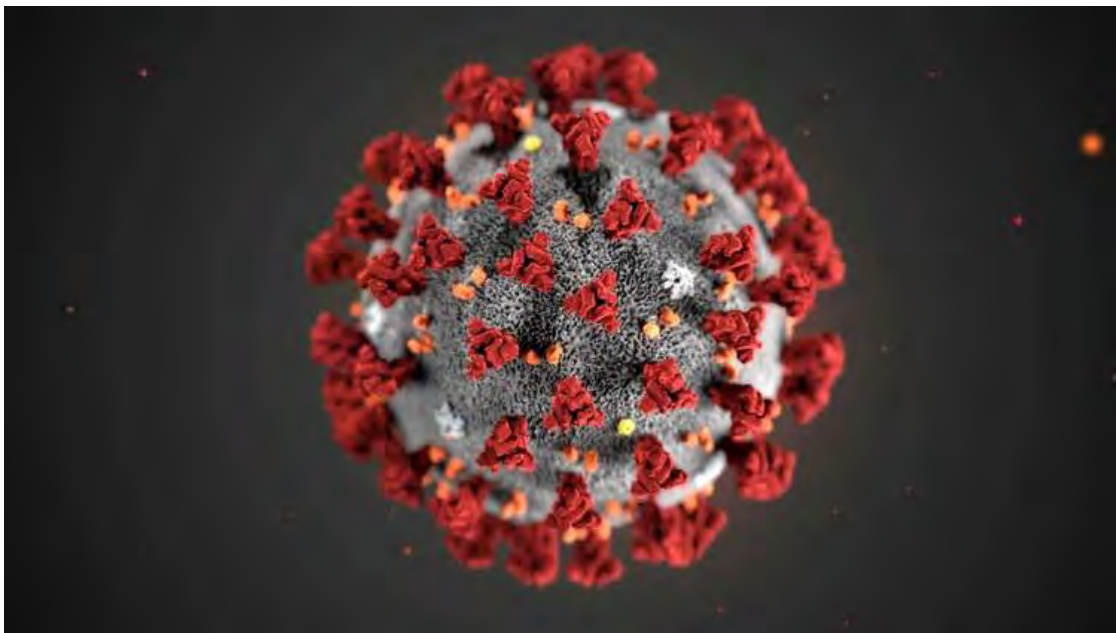
[From Politico](#): “It’s a talent Perez has honed over nearly four years in what some describe as one of the White House’s toughest jobs. Hired by chance after the Trump campaign Googled ‘teleprompters’ and the company he worked for in New York came up, Perez has become the one person Trump trusts to manage his oratory acrobatics, embellishments and ad-libs during even the most scripted appearances. ‘It’s like a high-wire act with no safety net,’ said Jason Miller, Trump’s former communications strategist said.”

**-- Trump is already plotting revenge on John Bolton, [per Vanity](#)**

[Fair](#): “Republicans briefed on Trump’s thinking believe that the

president is out for revenge against his adversaries. 'It's payback time,' a prominent Republican told me last week. 'He has an enemies list that is growing by the day,' another source said. Names that came up in my conversations with Republicans included Adam Schiff, Jerry Nadler, Mitt Romney, and John Bolton. 'Trump's playbook is simple: go after people who crossed him during impeachment.' Several sources said Bolton is at the top of the list."

-- The White House **excluded CNN** from its annual pre-SOTU lunch for news anchors. This came after the Trump campaign removed a Bloomberg News reporter from an Iowa news conference. A campaign official said the move was in keeping with campaign policy, [per the Wall Street Journal](#).



The CDC released this illustration of the ultrastructural morphology exhibited by the new coronavirus, which caused the outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China. (Alissa Eckert, MS; Dan Higgins, MAM/CDC/Reuters)

**THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

**-- The second coronavirus death outside mainland China was reported in Hong Kong, as the outbreak continues to spread.** [Simon Denyer](#), [Derek Hawkins](#) and [Adam Taylor](#) report: “China’s National Health Commission reported Monday that there are 20,438 confirmed cases in China, including 15 in Hong Kong and eight in Macao. The self-governing island of Taiwan reported 10 cases. The World Health Organization reported 146 confirmed cases in 23 countries outside China. ... The United States recorded its 11th case of the coronavirus, with a couple from central California falling ill after the husband’s trip to China’s Hubei province at the epicenter of the outbreak.”

**-- States are scrambling to carry out Trump’s coronavirus travel order.** [Lena Sun](#), [Lori Aratani](#), [William Wan](#) and [Antonio Olivo](#) report: “In interviews, state officials said the order came on Friday with no advance notice and little planning. The restrictions ban non-U.S. citizens who recently visited China from entering the country and quarantine Americans who visited Hubei province, the epicenter of the outbreak, within the past 14 days. (Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and flight crew members are exempted from the ban.) ... ‘The way this was rolled out is concerning. This is not the kind of thing you want to do on the fly because that creates chaos.’ said Hawaii Lt. Gov. Josh Green. ... Local jurisdictions are responsible for quarantine once people leave airports, officials have said. That has left authorities struggling to implement a system they had less than three days to devise.”

**-- The spread of the virus threatens to strain U.S.-China relations and the global health system.** [David Nakamura](#) and [Anna Fifield](#)

**report:** “The rapid spread of the virus has put Beijing on the defensive for what critics have called a slow initial response to contain it and a lack of transparency over the scale of the outbreak. In a briefing for reporters, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman attempted to deflect blame by citing an ‘overreaction’ from the U.S. government that has ‘spread fear’ and set a ‘bad example’ for other nations. ... She asserted that the administration has not offered ‘any substantial assistance’ to combat the virus ... The Trump administration offered a tempered response Monday. [Trump] made no public remarks, while the State Department declined to comment.”

**-- China built a massive hospital in 10 days to combat the coronavirus. It’s still not enough. [Michael Brice-Saddler reports:](#)**

“The facility’s first patients arrived Monday, according to Chinese state media. Huoshenshan’s swift construction was the product of a round-the-clock effort fueled by 4,000 workers and 1,000 construction machines, according to China Daily. ... According to the Associated Press, the two-story, 600,000-square-foot hospital features doubled-sided cabinets and ventilation systems that essentially quarantine patients, allowing hospital staff to deliver supplies without entering their rooms. The building also contains infrared scanners that can detect whether any employees have a fever — one of the coronavirus’s telltale symptoms. ... But even in the early days of Huoshenshan’s construction, it quickly became apparent that the facility would not be large enough to mitigate bed shortages as the virus continues to spread.”



Johnson talks tough on post-Brexit trade deal with Europe

-- **“With Britain's exit from the European Union official, at long last, the two partners on Monday began to squabble over their future relationship, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson huffing that he would rather leave the economic bloc without a free-trade deal than see Britain shackled to fusty European rules,”** [William Booth and Michael Birnbaum report](#): “At the same hour in Brussels, E.U. chief negotiator Michel Barnier outlined the bloc’s demands, declaring that Europe will agree to free trade only if Britain submits to the continent’s regulations. And so begins an 11-month transition period, when all this may or may not be sorted out. In this messy and drawn-out split, after 47 years together, the divvying up of the stuff is not so easy. Britain under Johnson is now all about cutting loose and ‘going global’ and making side deals with the Americans and Australians, while Europe is all about the need preserve a ‘level playing field,’ if Britain wants to be a friend with privileges — meaning access to its single market of 450 million consumers.



**“In broad strokes, in language orotund and marked by the clever turns of phrase he perfected as an Oxford-educated, Fleet Street columnist, the prime minister laid out his vision for a post-Brexit Britain that is a world champion for free trade.** He mixed his metaphors, but his message was clear. Britain is a ship in ‘the slipway’ ready to set sail, a rocket ‘on the launchpad’ ready to blast off, a butterfly ‘leaving its chrysalis.’ ‘We are reemerging after decades of hibernation as a campaigner for global free trade,’ Johnson said. ‘And, frankly, it is not a moment too soon, because the argument for this fundamental liberty is now not being made.’ The prime minister took a subtle swipe at President Trump, warning his audience that trade wars and tariff barriers are in vogue [from Brussels to Beijing and Washington] — and that is a bad thing.”

**-- In a fight for national preservation, Greece is paying parents a baby bonus to boost birthrate. ([The Guardian](#))**

**-- Leaked audio shows that the regime in Tehran knew immediately that one of its own missiles downed the Ukrainian passenger jet. [Erin Cunningham and Isabelle Khurshudyan report](#): “A leaked audio file and transcript were published late Sunday by Ukraine’s 1+1 television channel. They included an exchange between an Iranian air traffic controller and a pilot who said he saw a missile hit Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 on Jan. 8. ‘Flares on route, as if from a missile,’ the pilot of an Aseman Airlines flight from Shiraz to Tehran said to the controller, according to the transcript. The controller responded that the tower was not informed of any missile activity in the area. ‘That surely is light from a missile,’ the pilot said. Later he said, ‘We saw an explosion, a big flare from the**

explosion.”

**-- The U.S. added a “low yield” nuclear weapon to its submarine arsenal.** The low-yield missile joins other more powerful weapons aboard. The deployment is the first major addition to the strategic nuclear arsenal and is a departure from the Obama administration’s policy of depending less on nuclear weapons in pursuit of a nuclear-free world. (AP)

**-- The president’s son-in-law Jared Kushner angered Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s camp due to White House pushback over plans to annex Jewish settlements in the West Bank.** [Steve Hendrix and Ruth Eglash report](#): “Sources among Israeli settler groups and within the prime minister’s circle, according to the reports, blame Kushner for a split in the administration, portraying U.S. Ambassador David Friedman as more willing to see Israel annex the settlements in short order and Kushner resisting fast action. The move would allow Netanyahu to shore up right-wing support in advance of national elections here in March, observers say. ... Netanyahu said hours after the plan’s release that he planned to bring annexation before his cabinet within days. Friedman told reporters that day that the timing was up to Israel. ... But Kushner, in interviews and reportedly in conversations with Israeli officials, put the brakes on, saying the move should wait on a new government to be formed after next month’s vote.”

**-- Former Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi, who deepened ethnic tensions and enriched himself at the public’s expense, died in Nairobi at 95.** [Yamiche Alcindor reports](#): “Mr. Moi was one of the last of Africa’s so-called Big Men, who presided over their

countries in increasingly despotic ways. During 24 ruinous years in power, he curtailed political freedom, presided over the stagnation of Kenya's economy and encouraged patronage politics. He enshrined his name on currency, schools, an international airport and other prominent sites throughout the East African country. Despite condemnation by human rights groups and allegations that he had stolen millions of dollars in aid money, Mr. Moi's ties to the United States remained strong because of Kenya's staunch anti-communism and relative stability in a region ravaged by war and by leaders who were even more erratic."



Kim Kardashian West thanks Trump for his work on criminal justice at a June event promoting the hiring of ex-offenders. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

**DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE  
OVERLOOKED:**

**-- Most of Trump's grants of clemency have bypassed the Justice Department and go to well-connected offenders. [Beth Reinhard and Anne Gearan report](#):** "As the administration takes its cues from celebrities, political allies and Fox News, thousands of other offenders who followed Justice Department rules are waiting, passed over as cases that were brought directly to Trump leaped to the front of the line. For more than 125 years, the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Justice Department has quietly served as the key adviser on clemency, one of the most unlimited powers bestowed on the president by the Constitution. Under Trump, the pardon office has become a bureaucratic way station, according to government data and interviews with lawyers, criminal justice advocates, and former pardon and White House officials. ... Ronald Reagan set a low bar with 669 decisions during his first three years; 3,993 petitions processed during Barack Obama's first three years reached a high-water mark. Trump has ruled on only 204 clemency requests — 24 approvals and 180 denials. That is the slowest pace in decades."

"The joy you get finding meritorious people, working on those cases, making recommendations that go to the White House, seeing people receive the grants — you feel like you've done something," said Larry Kupers, the former head of the office, who quit last year. "If that's not happening, it feels like you are spinning your wheels." Asked what advice he would give offenders seeking leniency, Kupers said: "Find a way to get to Kim Kardashian. I'm very serious about that."

**-- Hundreds of pages of FBI witness interviews from former special counsel Bob Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election were declassified [after](#)**

**BuzzFeed News and CNN filed a FOIA:** “The documents also contained a summary of an interview that Kushner ... had with FBI agents and federal prosecutors in November 2017. But the five-page summary, known as an FBI 302, was almost entirely redacted. Intelligence agencies are still reviewing another Kushner interview summary from 2018 for classified information. Kushner’s interview summaries have been some of the most highly sought-after records from Mueller’s investigation; they were requested by the House Judiciary Committee last year as part of its impeachment inquiry. ... In addition to Kushner’s interview summary, the FBI and the Justice Department turned over 289 pages of heavily redacted summaries of interviews from former White House press secretary Sean Spicer; former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus; Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen.”

**-- Testimony in Harvey Weinstein’s trial ended early after an accuser broke down sobbing when asked about a childhood sexual assault. [Shayna Jacobs reports](#):** “Jessica Mann's cries echoed through the Manhattan courtroom... Prosecutor Joan Illuzzi-Orbon tried to comfort the fragile witness outside the presence of the jury... Mann — in a 2014 email to an ex-boyfriend — referred to a ‘sexual assault’ that did not appear to be one of the nonconsensual encounters she attributes to the Oscar-winning producer. She was shaking and too upset to speak when defense lawyer Donna Rotunno asked if the mention had to do with abuse from her younger years. ... Weinstein provided ‘all the validation I needed,’ [Mann] wrote to a boyfriend, a successful actor, who she said was critical of her Weinstein connection. Mann was on the witness stand for nearly a full day of grueling cross-examination. She had to answer for her history

of interactions with Weinstein, particularly why she remained in a five-year consensual relationship with the producer who she now alleges raped her in 2013.”

-- **Veteran Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie abruptly fired his No. 2, James Byrne, after five months on the job.** But it's not clear why. There was only a brief, cryptic statement that said his ouster was effective immediately, per [Politico](#).

-- **Trump once said everyone should “stand proudly” for the national anthem. But he fidgeted and air-conducted at his own Super Bowl party as “The Star-Spangled Banner” rang.** [Kim Bellware reports](#): “In an Instagram video taken by a guest and later shared with the Miami Herald, other attendees — including members of the first family — are seen standing calmly with hand over heart as ‘The Star-Spangled Banner’ plays. The 20-second clip using the front-facing-camera mode shows Trump doing neither. Instead, the president is seen fidgeting, pointing around the room, straightening his jacket and at one point waving his fingers in the air as if conducting an invisible orchestra.”

-- **Conservative talk radio figure Rush Limbaugh said he has advanced lung cancer.** [Paul Farhi reports](#): “‘I thought about not telling anybody,’ he said on the air from his home studio in West Palm Beach, Fla. ‘It is what it is. You know me, I’m the mayor of Realville. This has happened, and my intention is to come here every day I can and do this program as normally and competently and expertly as I do each and every day because that is the source of my greatest satisfaction professionally, personally.’”

**-- Two women died and a child was wounded in a shooting at a residence hall in Texas A&M University at Commerce.** [Paulina Firozi reports](#): “The toddler is in stable condition, the university’s police chief, Bryan Vaughn, said ... Police found the women’s bodies after a student who lives in the residence hall called police at 10:17 a.m. Central time... Police did not identify a suspected shooter and did not provide additional details at the news conference.”

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

The Democratic candidates descended overnight on New Hampshire:



**David Catanese** ✓

@davecatanese



. @PeteButtigieg has arrived in Nashua, New Hampshire



♡ 472 12:29 PM - Feb 4, 2020



💬 70 people are talking about this



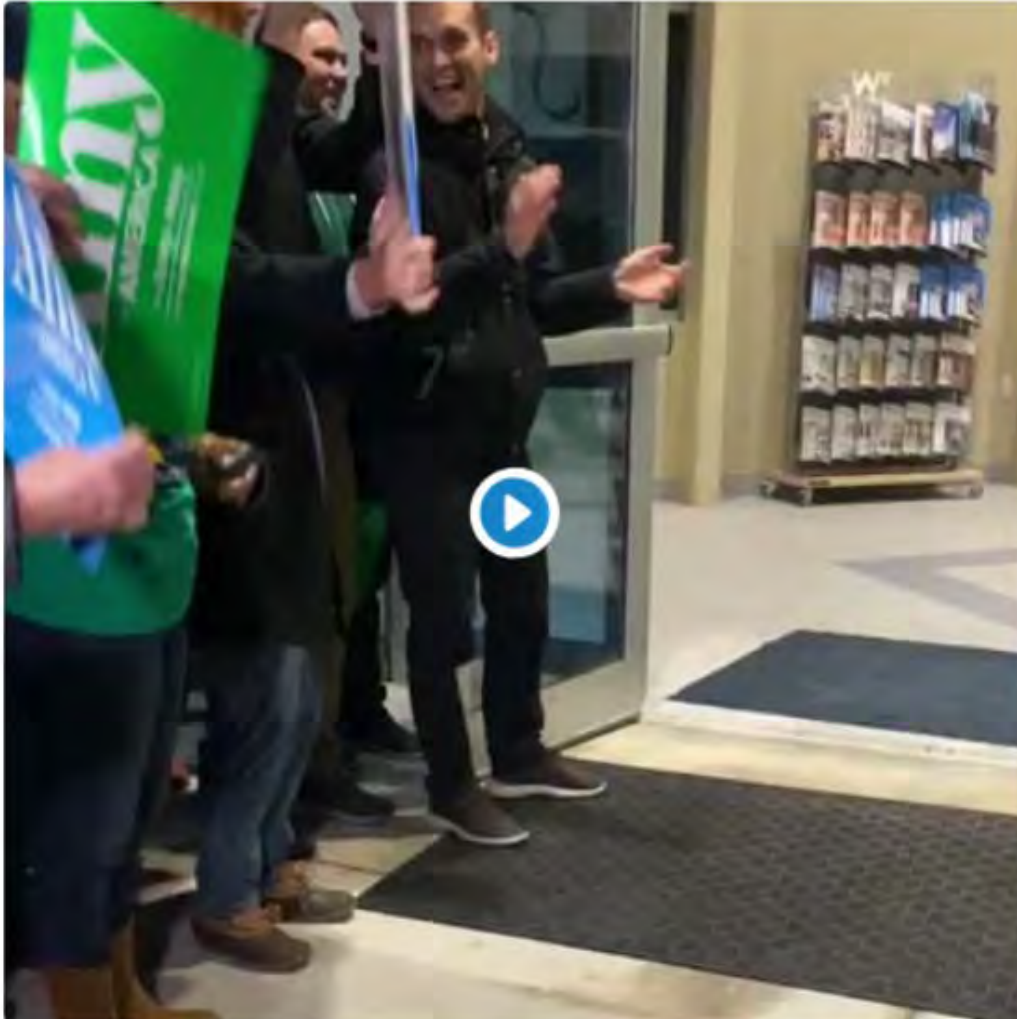




**Nate Evans**  
@nathanpevans



Dozens of [@amyklobuchar](#) supporters in NH greeted her when she landed in Manchester. At 3:30 in the morning.  
[#nhpolitics](#)



♡ 323 9:07 AM - Feb 4, 2020



💬 85 people are talking about this



**Nicole Sganga** @NicoleSganga · 5h



Replying to @NicoleSganga

MANCHESTER, NH — Senator Amy Klobuchar arrives at the airport in New Hampshire. “We just had an excellent night tonight in Iowa. Of course, we don’t know the results yet. Minor problem!” she quips.

Dozens of supporters greeted the Senator at the airport. #nhpolitics #FITN



**Nicole Sganga** ✓  
@NicoleSganga

Senator Amy Klobuchar says "of course" she's concerned about the Iowa caucus results.

She adds there were election results long before apps and computers.

"They've written them all down, they're adding them all up, and we'll get them." #nhpolitics #FITN



116 10:02 AM - Feb 4, 2020



38 people are talking about this



**Annie Linskey** ✓

@AnnieLinskey



Air Warren landed in New Hampshire



5 9:15 AM - Feb 4, 2020



[See Annie Linskey's other Tweets](#)



Warren, the bane of the big banks, ironically won a precinct caucus at an arena named for Wells Fargo, whose previous chief executive she crusaded to get fired:



A screenshot of a Twitter post. The user's profile picture is a circular icon with a man in a suit. The name is **Bharat Ramamurti** and the handle is @BharatRamamurti. The tweet text reads: ".@ewarren won the caucus held at the Wells Fargo Center in Des Moines. Appropriate." Below the text, it shows 4,327 likes and the time "3:41 AM - Feb 4, 2020". At the bottom, it says "569 people are talking about this" with a right-pointing arrow.

**Bharat Ramamurti**  
@BharatRamamurti

.@ewarren won the caucus held at the Wells Fargo Center in Des Moines. Appropriate.

4,327 3:41 AM - Feb 4, 2020

569 people are talking about this

Someone snuck some wine into a voting location. It did not end well:



**Iowa Starting Line**

@IAStartingLine



At one Des Moines precinct tonight, an attendee brought in a concealed bottle of wine, dropped it, and it shattered everywhere



♡ 23.2K 12:56 AM - Feb 4, 2020



💬 5,170 people are talking about this



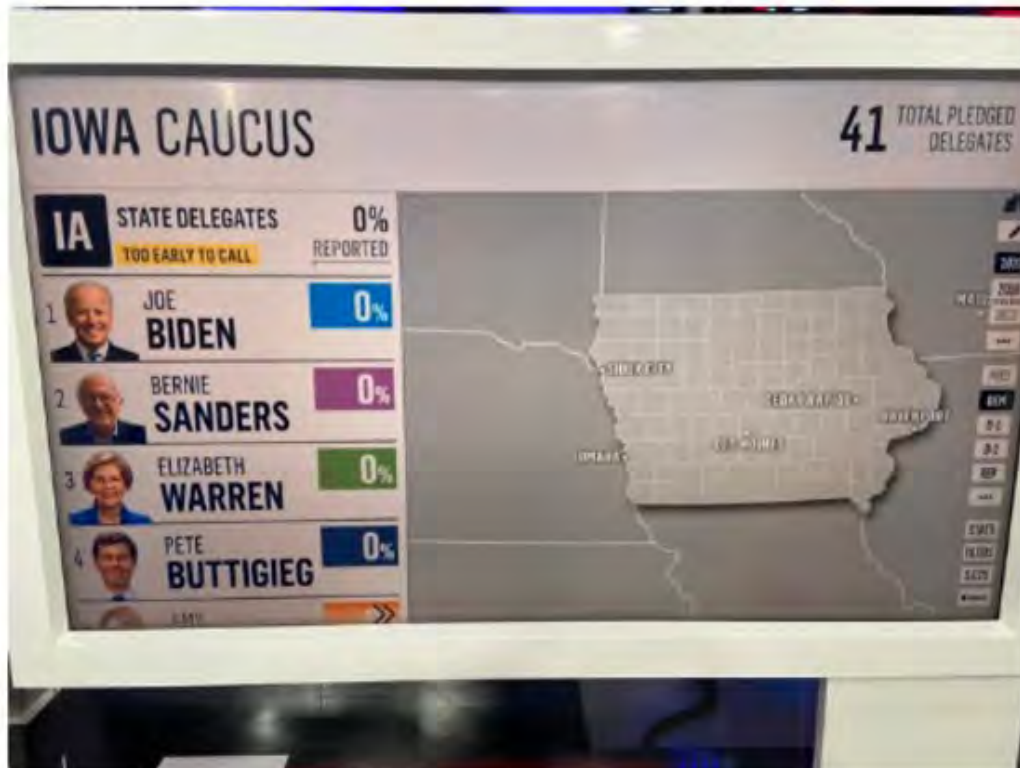
Pete Buttigieg claimed victory without any public evidence to show for it:



**Steve Kornacki**  
@SteveKornacki



The official results as Pete Buttigieg declares himself victorious in Iowa:



8,807 5:29 AM - Feb 4, 2020



2,599 people are talking about this



Here's an example of the handwritten form that Democrats are using from each precinct as backups to check their math:



**Trip Gabriel**  
@tripgabriel



Why so long to report results? Nearly 1,700 caucuses fill out worksheets like this, then report multiple results.

**First Alignment Results** **Caucus Math Worksheet** County: [blank] Precinct: 1 Delegate(s): 18 Nov 2019

Name of candidate or recommended group: **VIABILITY:** 0-2 - your precinct - 10/14  
1-50 precinct

| Name of candidate or recommended group | Number of members after the group after the meeting | VIABILITY: |
|--|---|------------|
| A) Amy                                 | 44  |            |
| B) Bernie                              | 34  |            |
| C) Biden                               | 65-68   |            |
| D) Pete                                | 60-5-14   |            |
| E) Warren                              | 41-53   |            |
| F) Young                               | 7   |            |
| G) UNDEC                               | 0   |            |

AWARDING DELEGATES

| Name of candidate or recommended group | Number of members after the group after the meeting | Number of delegates awarded to this group | Total delegates awarded to this group | Total delegates awarded to all groups | Number of delegates awarded to this group as a percentage of the total delegates awarded |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| A) Amy                                 | 44  | 254                                       | 254                                   | 1732                                  | 14.66%   |
| B) Biden                               | 68  | 254                                       | 254                                   | 1732                                  | 14.66%   |
| C) Pete                                | 18  | 254                                       | 254                                   | 1732                                  | 14.66%   |
| D) WARREN                              | 53  | 254                                       | 254                                   | 1732                                  | 14.66%   |
| E)                                     |   |   |                                       |                                       |  |
| F)                                     |   |   |                                       |                                       |  |
| G)                                     |   |   |                                       |                                       |  |

Signature of Chairperson: [blank] Signature of Secretary: [blank]

923 4:29 AM - Feb 4, 2020

608 people are talking about this

The New York Post mocked Iowa Democrats for screwing up their counting:



# DUH MOINES

## Democrats in chaos as Iowa caucus implodes



Can't anybody here count?! The Iowa Democratic caucuses descended into chaos last night and early this morning as "inconsistencies" in reporting at polling sites — perhaps linked to a glitchy new app — caused an embarrassingly delayed tally in the hotly anticipated first contest in the race for president.

**PAGES 4-5**

**DRAMA AS HARV ACCUSER BREAKS DOWN** **PAGE 7**

Trump's campaign manager Brad Parscale, as well as Eric Trump, hinted without evidence that the results were delayed so they could be rigged:





**Brad Parscale - Text TRUMP to 88022** ✓

@parscale



Quality control = rigged? 🤔

[twitter.com/francisbrennan...](https://twitter.com/francisbrennan...)

**Francis Brennan (Text TRUMP to 88022)** @FrancisBren...

MSNBC's Steve Kornacki reports:

"We've heard from the Iowa state Democratic Party... They say that they are doing, quote, 'quality control on the results that they've received.' They say they are doing it, quote, 'out of an abundance of caution.'" #RiggedElection?



♡ 14.2K 3:19 AM - Feb 4, 2020



💬 7,386 people are talking about this



Twitter said it won't remove posts like this. "The tweet is not in violation of our election integrity policy as it does not suppress voter turnout or mislead people about when, where, or how to vote," Twitter spokesman Brandon Borrman told Tony Romm.


Democrats worked through the night to get an accurate count from Polk County, which includes Des Moines. This is from the county chair:

 **Sean Bagniewski**  
@bagniewski 

It's 2AM and we have supporters for Buttigieg, Klobuchar, Sanders, and Warren at Polk HQ going through every precinct box to send the results we have to the state party so we can finally go to bed.

Our volunteers are literally tireless. #IACaucus



♡ 1,206 8:14 AM - Feb 4, 2020 

💬 267 people are talking about this 

A Michael Bennet supporter wasn't ready to give up:



An embattled Republican congressman from Iowa defended the caucuses:



The former dean of the Iowa press corps, who covered politics for 34 years at the Des Moines Register, said he thinks the caucus system as we've known it is over:



And this is a great analogy:



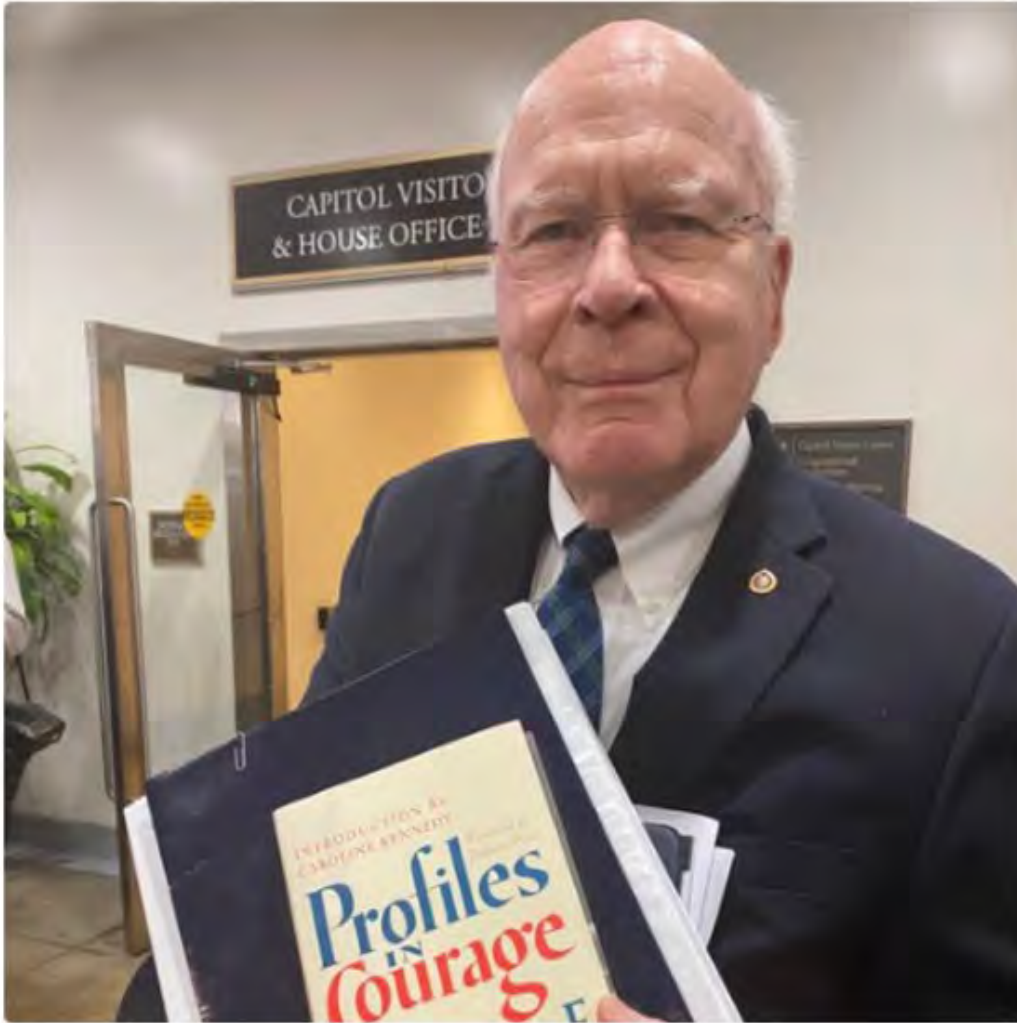
The longest-serving Democratic senator carried a copy of JFK's "Profiles in Courage." Does Pat Leahy know that one of the chapters in the book is actually about a Republican who broke with his party to vote against removing Andrew Johnson at his impeachment trial?:



**John Bresnahan** ✓  
@BresPolitico



.@SenatorLeahy has a subtle message as he searches for Republican senators who'll vote to convict Trump



♥ 143 8:11 PM - Feb 3, 2020



💬 56 people are talking about this



### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert went through some of the excuses Republican senators have used to vote for Trump's acquittal:



Seth Meyers, noting Trump's Super Bowl mix-up, said it is understandable to confuse the two Kansas Cities, if you're a middle-schooler:



"The Daily Show's" Jordan Klepper asked Trump's Iowa supporters for their thoughts on impeachment:



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From: [The Washington Post](#)

To: [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: A bad night for Biden in Iowa is good news for Buttigieg, Klobuchar and Bloomberg  
Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 8:50:32 AM

If you're having trouble reading this, [click here](#).

**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

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**A bad night for Biden in Iowa is good news for Buttigieg, Klobuchar and Bloomberg**



Joe and Jill Biden address supporters on Monday night while they await results at Drake University in Des Moines. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

## **THE BIG IDEA:**

**DES MOINES – Joe Biden’s core message was electability, but the former vice president failed to consolidate support among the majority of Iowa caucus-goers who said choosing a candidate who can beat President Trump was their first priority, according to preliminary [entrance polls](#) conducted Monday night.**

Just under one-quarter of electability-focused voters supported Biden, while a similar percentage backed former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg. Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)

and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) each drew about 15 percent support among this group.

By contrast, Biden received only 5 percent support among caucus-goers who said it was most important to nominate a candidate they agree with. Sanders led among this group with 36 percent support.

**Because of [technical problems](#), no winner has been called. In fact, the state Democratic Party has still not released any official numbers. It's therefore important to emphasize the preliminary and anecdotal nature of what we know, but there's a body of evidence that points to a bad night for Biden.**

"It's a very close race among the top three candidates (Warren, Sanders, Buttigieg) and Biden came a distant fourth," [tweeted](#) Warren chief strategist Joe Rospars.

"With the numbers we've seen internally and publicly, we're running even or ahead of Vice President Biden," [said](#) Klobuchar campaign manager Justin Buoen.

Biden campaign manager Greg Schultz pushed back on his counterparts. "Our own model shows that Biden overperformed in key districts we needed to be competitive in and we feel confident that this is a tight race with bunched up candidates," he said in a [statement](#) that offered no specifics or numbers. "When it comes to the final outcome of the caucuses, this is still a competition for delegates, and the winner will continue to be based on State Delegate Equivalents. We believe that we have won our fair share of them."

**-- Among moderate and conservative voters, who made up about**

**one-third of caucus-goers, about 1 in 4 said they backed Biden, while another quarter backed Buttigieg, and about 1 in 5 supported Klobuchar, according to the entrance polls.**

Seniors and moderates buoyed Biden's support in the caucuses. Scott Clement, the director of our polling unit, notes that 1 in 3 caucus-goers age 65 or older chose Biden as their initial preference while about 1 in 30 voters under age 30 did so, according to the preliminary entrance polls.



With Iowa caucus results still uncertain, Democrats look to New Hampshire

**-- Biden campaign officials had said they thought he would be viable nearly everywhere, meaning that he'd cross the threshold of getting 15 percent support in the precinct, but observers at several caucus sites reported that he was falling short. My colleagues [scattered across the state](#) to observe precinct caucuses. Here are three especially revealing vignettes from the ground that don't bode well for the former vice president:**

**1) “In a cramped elementary school gymnasium in Muscatine, supporters of [Biden] and [Warren] were stunned when both candidates failed to receive enough votes to remain viable,”** Tim Craig reports. “This was the sort of place where both had hoped to do well. The economy of this Mississippi River town has long revolved around manufacturing. The neighborhoods near the school are a mix of one-story homes with ‘Proud Union Home’ signs in their front yards and grander multistory houses that overlook a country club golf course. In 2016, voters in this precinct were mostly split between Hillary Clinton and [Sanders]. During the general election, Trump narrowly defeated Clinton here — and went on to win Muscatine County, making him the first Republican to do so since 1984. Of the roughly 170 caucus-goers in the gym, only 17 initially voted for Biden and 16 for Warren.

**“For an agonizing 25 minutes, supporters for both campaigns strategized about whether they should form an alliance — but with many Warren supporters skeptical of Biden, and vice versa, the effort collapsed.** The two camps watched their members scatter, sometimes slapping on the stickers of rivals — most often [Buttigieg], who ended the night there with 73 votes, but also Sanders and [Klobuchar], who came in second and third. ‘I’ve been doing this a long time and this is absolutely crazy that neither Biden nor Warren were viable here,’ said Esther Dean, 83, a Biden supporter and attorney.”

If Biden’s not viable in Muscatine, it’s a red flag.

**2) “In the fast-growing Des Moines suburb of Ankeny, local**

**Democrats expected [Buttigieg] and [Warren] to do well, as both had made repeated trips to the area and had large organizing operations,”** Isaac Stanley-Becker reports. “They were surprised when dozens of Sanders supporters showed up and became the largest faction in the precinct. **Biden did not have enough support, and his supporters were quickly surrounded, as if by poachers.** Jacob Middleton, the precinct captain for Sanders, approached the Biden supporters and asked: ‘Is anyone even considering going for Bernie over here?’ ‘No,’ the disillusioned Biden supporters answered in unison. ‘None?’ he repeated. ‘No,’ they said. ... **In the end, a handful of Biden supporters, shocked the former vice president didn’t have enough support to move ahead, refused to pick a second choice.”**

3) **“As the night wore on and the formalities of the caucus taking place in Iowa City’s Englert Theatre took longer than expected, nearly two dozen Biden supporters gathered in the small lobby beneath an exit sign,”** Rachel Chason reports. “They realized there was no way their candidate would make it past the first round of voting, and they tried to decide what to do next. The theater was packed with large crowds for other candidates: 300 for Sanders, nearly 200 for Warren and nearly 100 for Buttigieg. It was no surprise — after all, this is the so-called People’s Republic of Johnson County, home to the highest percentage of registered Democrats in the state. But these Biden supporters weren’t sure if either Sanders or Warren could beat the president.

**“Gene Murphy, 65, has liked Biden for about 40 years — and caucused for him because he thought he had the best shot of**

beating Trump. He decided that he would vote first for Biden, then for Buttigieg. ... ‘Bernie is great,’ he said, ‘but I don’t see him winning.’”

Content from [Partnership for America’s Health Care Future](#)

### American families can’t afford Medicare for All.



Studies confirm that Medicare for All would force Americans to pay more for worse care. Economists agree, there’s “no way to pay for Medicare for All without tax increases.”



Biden in Iowa: ‘Character is on the ballot’

-- **“We’re in this for the long haul,” Biden told supporters at his watch party in Des Moines.** “From our indications, it’s going to be close. We are going to walk out of here with our share of delegates. We don’t know exactly what it is yet, but we feel good about where we are.”

-- **Biden already has a painful history with Iowa.** He dropped out in 1987 after being accused of plagiarizing a speech by British Labour leader Neil Kinnock while in Des Moines. In 2008, he finished fifth in the caucuses here, garnering less than 1 percent of the vote. Months later, Barack Obama would revive Biden’s political career by putting him on the ticket.

-- **Operatives agree it’s safe to say that turnout did not break the record set in 2008 but was more comparable to 2016.** “The one conclusion from the numbers that were being collected by the media suggested that the eventual winner would receive a lower percentage of the vote than any previous winner since 1972, when the modern caucuses were born,” [Dan Balz notes](#). “But that could end up being the secondary story. On Monday night, it was all about Iowa and not the candidates.”

-- **The snafu related to tabulating the results could offer a symbolic reprieve of sorts for Biden.** No matter what gets announced by the state party, some campaigns will have a strong incentive to cast doubt on the results. No one has done this more forcefully, so far, than the Biden campaign. His general counsel Dana Remus sent an open letter to the leaders of the Iowa Democratic Party last night expressing concerns about the “considerable flaws” in



the caucus reporting system, foreshadowing a possible effort to diminish bad results by casting doubt on the veracity of the numbers.

“The app that was intended to relay Caucus results to the Party failed; the Party’s back-up telephonic reporting system likewise has failed. Now, we understand that Caucus Chairs are attempting to — and, in many cases, failing to — report results telephonically to the Party. These acute failures are occurring statewide,” Remus wrote. “We believe that the campaigns deserve full explanations and relevant information regarding the methods of quality control you are employing, and an opportunity to respond, before any official results are released.”

Biden’s deputy campaign manager, Kate Bedingfield, [tweeted](#) that the “integrity of the process is critical.”

**-- State party officials held a second conference call with top officials from the campaigns in the wee hours of this morning.** "The party officials told the campaigns that they planned to release caucus results later on Tuesday, and that they are hand-checking results," Sean Sullivan and Matt Viser report on [our live blog](#). "Sanders senior adviser Jeff Weaver got into a tense exchange with Iowa Democratic Party Chairman Troy Price."

**-- Everyone else tried to claim some success last night. Advisers to Buttigieg and Sanders each distributed internal data to reporters overnight to bolster their claims that they fared well in the unofficial returns.**

“By all indications, we are going on to New Hampshire victorious,” said Buttigieg.

“When those results are announced, I have a good feeling we’re going to be doing very, very well here in Iowa,” said Sanders.

“We know there’s delays, but we know one thing — we are punching above our weight,” said Klobuchar.

“The road won’t be easy, but we are built for the long haul,” said Warren.



Buttigieg in Iowa: 'We are going on to New Hampshire victorious'

-- **Second-place finishes across many groups served Buttigieg well.** My colleague Dan Keating emailed a smart observation from poring over [the preliminary entrance polls](#) of voter preferences: “Buttigieg didn’t dominate among any group, but he racked up many silver medals. Buttigieg isn’t leading among voters under 45 – he’s second. He isn’t leading among 45 and older – he’s second. He’s not leading among people with college degrees – he’s second. He’s also second among Democratic voters without a college degree. ... He’s

second among independents with support from about 2 in 10. He's roughly tied for second with Warren among self-described liberals (again, about 2 in 10). Buttigieg was second in large cities and second in suburbs.

**“It’s not that he’s never first. Preliminary results suggest he led narrowly among women voters.** He led in the more rural areas. He won among caucus-goers who called themselves somewhat liberal, the largest contingent. And one of his only clear weaknesses was with ‘very liberal’ Democrats, among whom he garnered support from just over 1 in 10, a distant third behind Warren and Sanders. He was just a nudge ahead of Biden among people who voted for Clinton in the caucus four years ago. And he nabbed (a distant) second among people who opted for Sanders in the 2016 caucus; Sanders won a majority of his past supporters.”

**“Among people whose top issue was foreign affairs, Buttigieg was ... second. [Biden was first.]** Among people whose top issue was healthcare or climate change, he was essentially tied with Sanders for the lead. For voters prioritizing income inequality, he landed a shocking-for-him third behind Sanders and Warren. Among people who said beating Trump is more important than specific policy issues, Buttigieg roughly matched Biden for first. Among caucus-goers who said specific policies are more important, he once again got second, behind Sanders. Buttigieg’s finish in the caucus shows that a lot of silver medals can get you near the top of the podium.”

**-- Mike Bloomberg, a candidate who doesn’t have to worry about fundraising and who didn’t compete in Iowa, is also looking like one of the winners from all this chaos.** The billionaire former mayor

of New York is pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into advertisements in the states that vote on Super Tuesday, March 3, when more than half the delegates will be awarded. Bloomberg, who stumped in California on Monday, benefits from a weaker Biden and a fragmented field. He hopes to emerge as the moderate alternative to Sanders or Warren.



Sanders in Iowa: 'Change is coming'



**-- There's more danger ahead for Biden. As the race moves to New Hampshire, he has not invested nearly as much as his opponents in the state, putting him at a disadvantage.** Biden spent just \$5,429 on television and radio advertising in New Hampshire through mid-January. Compare that to \$3.6 million from Sanders in that period, and \$128,000 from Warren, according to Advertising Analytics. During the same period, Biden spent \$5 million in Iowa on TV and radio. Advertising Analytics said on Monday that Biden's total spending has now increased to \$215,000.

"Biden's campaign has long sought to play down expectations here, given that Sanders and Warren are from neighboring states," [Michael Kranish reports](#) in today's newspaper from Concord, N.H. "But Biden himself recently delivered a conflicting message. While he stressed he doesn't need a victory here, he said on Jan. 26 on a local television station, WMUR, that 'I think I will win New Hampshire.' ... **Biden, meanwhile, faces challenges here that may be even greater than those he dealt with in Iowa.** The relative lack of minorities, whose support is crucial to his bid, is once again a factor here. Whites make up 91 percent of Iowa and 93 percent in New Hampshire, according to Census Bureau figures. ...

**"Even the best-run campaign organization in New Hampshire will find it difficult to overcome a poor Iowa finish,** according to Dante Scala, a professor of political science at the University of New Hampshire. 'You can build the boat,' Scala said, referring to a campaign organization. 'But you win with the wind in its sails. If you are not the story out of Iowa, your sails can go limp anyway, and it doesn't matter how well the boat is built.'"

New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner noted that, in the last 17 New Hampshire primaries, 14 winners went on to be elected president, and the other three who occupied the White House finished in second place here. “No one has come in less than second in a New Hampshire presidential primary and gone on to be president,” Gardner said.

-- Sanders led Biden by six points, 24 percent to 18 percent, in a [Suffolk University poll](#) of likely New Hampshire Democratic primary voters that was published this morning by the Boston Globe and WBZ-TV. Sanders benefits from enduring support among younger voters and independents. Warren garnered 13 percent and Buttigieg got 11 percent. The others were in single digits, while 12 percent said they're still undecided. The poll was conducted before the caucuses, and public opinion has sometimes shifted dramatically in the week between Iowa and New Hampshire.



Iowa Caucus secretary struggles to report results

## **MORE ON WHAT WENT WRONG IN IOWA:**

-- **“The app that the Iowa Democratic Party commissioned to tabulate and report results from the caucuses on Monday was not properly tested at a statewide scale,”** [the New York Times reports](#), citing sources who were briefed on the app by the state party. “It was quickly put together in just the past two months ... And the party decided to use the app only after another proposal for reporting votes — which entailed having caucus participants call in their votes over the phone — was abandoned, on the advice of Democratic National Committee officials, according to David Jefferson, a board member of Verified Voting, a nonpartisan election integrity organization.”

-- **“Sean Bagniewski, chair of the Polk County Democratic Party, said that local officials were aware of problems with the app since last Thursday and that they had requested state officials resolve the problems — to no avail,”** [Michael Scherer reports](#).

“When local party officials asked the state party about issues they had with the app, they were referred to a ‘dedicated staffer’ who was not able to solve the problems, he said. ‘We had had so many complaints about the app that we started telling our chairs that if they were having problems with the app then you should call in the results,’ Bagniewski said.

**“The state party did not provide any training on how to use the app,** he said, adding that while the caucus trainings are done at the county level, the app itself came from the state level. Local officials had trouble downloading the app, getting a PIN to log in, and activating it even when they had a PIN, Bagniewski said. Then, when

precinct chairmen tried to call the results in via the hotline, they were placed on hold for as long as two hours, he said. ‘When our chairs are calling, it’s a wait time of an hour and a half or two hours. In some cases, they have dropped the call,’ he said.”

-- **“A tech company affiliated with, and funded by, ACRONYM, a Democratic digital nonprofit group that has rapidly expanded in recent years, was responsible for building the Iowa caucus app,”** [HuffPost reports](#). “Multiple Democratic sources, including one of the presidential campaigns, confirmed the app’s creator.”

-- **“We are validating every piece of data we have against our paper trail,” Iowa Democratic chair Troy Price told reporters in a prepared statement early this morning.** “That system is taking longer than expected but it’s in place to ensure we are eventually able to report results with full confidence.” His spokeswoman said earlier that they “found inconsistencies,” but she said it was “simply a reporting issue” and insisted that “the app did not go down and this is not a hack or an intrusion.”

-- **The bigger picture:** With the eyes of the world on Iowa, [Isaac Stanley-Becker calls this](#) “another hiccup in American democracy.”

-- **Are Democrats in disarray?** “The two top officials overseeing Milwaukee’s host committee for the 2020 Democratic National Convention were sidelined Monday amid allegations of a toxic work culture,” [the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports](#).

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** “Iowa is the Broward County of caucuses,” said Klobuchar spokesman Max Steele, a former communications director at the Florida Democratic



Party. (Dave Weigel)



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Senate trial: House managers and Trump lawyers give closing arguments

## IMPEACHMENT LATEST:

-- House managers and the president's defenders offered their closing arguments to a Senate that has largely made up its mind. [Elise Viebeck, Mike DeBonis and Robert Costa report](#): "Two days before Trump's expected acquittal, ... Democrats have nowhere near the two-thirds of the Senate needed to remove Trump from office, and the only remaining drama centered on a few possible swing votes from each party ... In a floor speech, **Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.)** declined to announce his decision, but asked his colleagues to consider censuring Trump, a less severe rebuke than removal from office that few senators were willing to pursue. Sen. Doug Jones (D-Ala.) said that he remains undecided about how he will vote. **Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)** condemned the House's probe while also calling Trump's behavior 'shameful and wrong.' But she said she could not vote to convict. ...

**“Both the House managers and Trump’s legal team crafted their remarks with a view toward the campaign trail, as voters will decide the future of his presidency.** ‘We’re sitting here on the day that election season begins in Iowa. It is wrong. There is only one answer to that, and the answer is to reject those articles of impeachment, to have confidence in the American people, to have confidence in the result of the upcoming election, to have confidence and respect for the last election and not throw it out,’ [Trump lawyer Pat] Cipollone said in his closing remarks. ... [Adam] Schiff argued that Trump lacks the character to comport himself properly as president, describing his behavior as ‘far more destructive’ than the actions of Presidents Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton that triggered their impeachment proceedings. ...

**"At least 10 Republicans have echoed Sen. Lamar Alexander’s (R-Tenn.) belief that Trump’s conduct was 'inappropriate.'** These comments have contributed to speculation that Congress could pursue censure, as Manchin proposed. ‘What the president did was wrong,’ Manchin said in his floor speech. But multiple senators of both parties dismissed the idea as they arrived at the Capitol on Monday. Asked to gauge the appetite for censure among Republicans, Sen. Mike Braun (R-Ind.) said, ‘ ... zero.’ The vast majority of Republicans, he said, believe that Trump committed no wrongdoing and that he has been subjected to a partisan, politically motivated investigation. Several Democrats said they were also uninterested in the idea, calling it a punishment well short of what Trump’s alleged conduct deserves. ‘What he did was an impeachable offense. I think it’s absolutely obvious, and giving a slap on the wrist doesn’t do any good,’ said Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.).”

**-- Trump will deliver his State of the Union tonight, seizing the dais on the cusp of his Senate acquittal to make the case for a second term.** [Philip Rucker and Seung Min Kim report](#): “The theme of Trump’s speech will be ‘the Great American Comeback’ ... Trump plans to present a vision of ‘relentless optimism,’ as one aide put it, and to summon lawmakers from both parties to work together on economic policies and other issue areas. But the traditionally presidential tone previewed by the White House has been belied by the president’s own messages of discord and disunity, and his vow to seek retribution on the Democrats he feels wronged him by searing his impeachment into history. ...

“It is an open question whether Trump will use the address to complain as he has in other forums about his impeachment or to prematurely celebrate the trial’s likely outcome. **Some Republican lawmakers have urged the president not to do so, in part because the Senate is not expected to vote to formally conclude its trial until Wednesday.** ... In a briefing with reporters to preview the speech, a senior administration official said Trump would focus on five issue areas: a ‘blue-collar boom’ for which he credits his trade negotiations with China, Mexico and Canada; domestic policies to help working families, including paid family leave; health care; illegal immigration; and national security. ... Trump also plans to use the speech to sound appeals to his conservative base. For instance, he intends to pitch a tax break to support scholarships for private and religious schools, a pet issue for advocates on the right.”

**-- Two Trump aides quietly spend months compiling Trump’s SOTU speech and allow him to take credit for it.** [From the Times](#):

“In this White House, writing his speech is a job best done anonymously, and by all accounts, [Vince] Haley and [Ross] Worthington understand that. ... Several months ago, an email circulated through the administration, as it has in years past, asking everyone from policy advisers to cabinet officials to submit their top-line achievements and talking points for review. From their perch in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Mr. Haley and Mr. Worthington assembled the suggestions with input from other aides. ... Trump also passed along scraps of paper scribbled with sentences or themes he wanted included in the speech, and had those forwarded to his writers. As this year’s draft began to take shape, Mr. Haley and Mr. Worthington received high-level edits from [Stephen] Miller, with occasional feedback from Anthony R. Dolan, the former chief speechwriter for President Ronald Reagan who works in the White House as an adviser for planning.”

**-- Another Trump aide who often goes uncredited is Gabe Perez, the man tasked with managing the president’s teleprompter.**

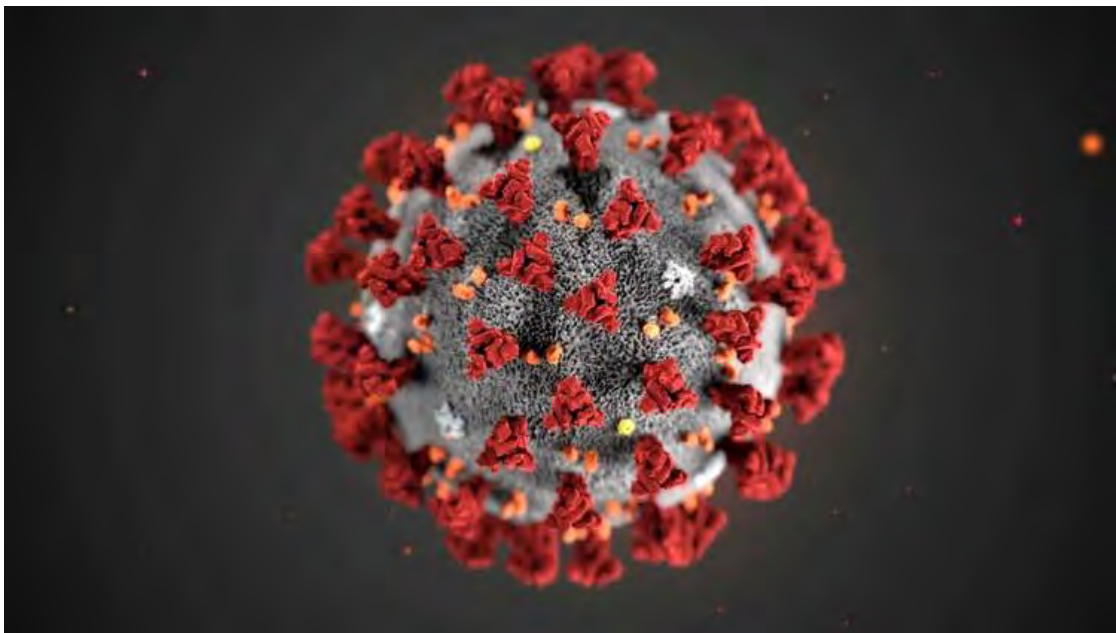
**From Politico:** “It’s a talent Perez has honed over nearly four years in what some describe as one of the White House’s toughest jobs. Hired by chance after the Trump campaign Googled ‘teleprompters’ and the company he worked for in New York came up, Perez has become the one person Trump trusts to manage his oratory acrobatics, embellishments and ad-libs during even the most scripted appearances. ‘It’s like a high-wire act with no safety net,’ said Jason Miller, Trump’s former communications strategist said.”

**-- Trump is already plotting revenge on John Bolton, per Vanity**

**Fair:** “Republicans briefed on Trump’s thinking believe that the

president is out for revenge against his adversaries. 'It's payback time,' a prominent Republican told me last week. 'He has an enemies list that is growing by the day,' another source said. Names that came up in my conversations with Republicans included Adam Schiff, Jerry Nadler, Mitt Romney, and John Bolton. 'Trump's playbook is simple: go after people who crossed him during impeachment.' Several sources said Bolton is at the top of the list."

-- The White House **excluded CNN** from its annual pre-SOTU lunch for news anchors. This came after the Trump campaign removed a Bloomberg News reporter from an Iowa news conference. A campaign official said the move was in keeping with campaign policy, [per the Wall Street Journal](#).



The CDC released this illustration of the ultrastructural morphology exhibited by the new coronavirus, which caused the outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China. (Alissa Eckert, MS; Dan Higgins, MAM/CDC/Reuters)

**THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

**-- The second coronavirus death outside mainland China was reported in Hong Kong, as the outbreak continues to spread.** [Simon Denyer, Derek Hawkins and Adam Taylor report:](#) “China’s National Health Commission reported Monday that there are 20,438 confirmed cases in China, including 15 in Hong Kong and eight in Macao. The self-governing island of Taiwan reported 10 cases. The World Health Organization reported 146 confirmed cases in 23 countries outside China. ... The United States recorded its 11th case of the coronavirus, with a couple from central California falling ill after the husband’s trip to China’s Hubei province at the epicenter of the outbreak.”

**-- States are scrambling to carry out Trump’s coronavirus travel order.** [Lena Sun, Lori Aratani, William Wan and Antonio Olivo report:](#) “In interviews, state officials said the order came on Friday with no advance notice and little planning. The restrictions ban non-U.S. citizens who recently visited China from entering the country and quarantine Americans who visited Hubei province, the epicenter of the outbreak, within the past 14 days. (Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and flight crew members are exempted from the ban.) ... ‘The way this was rolled out is concerning. This is not the kind of thing you want to do on the fly because that creates chaos.’ said Hawaii Lt. Gov. Josh Green. ... Local jurisdictions are responsible for quarantine once people leave airports, officials have said. That has left authorities struggling to implement a system they had less than three days to devise.”

**-- The spread of the virus threatens to strain U.S.-China relations and the global health system.** [David Nakamura and Anna Fifield](#)

**report:** “The rapid spread of the virus has put Beijing on the defensive for what critics have called a slow initial response to contain it and a lack of transparency over the scale of the outbreak. In a briefing for reporters, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman attempted to deflect blame by citing an ‘overreaction’ from the U.S. government that has ‘spread fear’ and set a ‘bad example’ for other nations. ... She asserted that the administration has not offered ‘any substantial assistance’ to combat the virus ... The Trump administration offered a tempered response Monday. [Trump] made no public remarks, while the State Department declined to comment.”

**-- China built a massive hospital in 10 days to combat the coronavirus. It’s still not enough. [Michael Brice-Saddler reports:](#)**

“The facility’s first patients arrived Monday, according to Chinese state media. Huoshenshan’s swift construction was the product of a round-the-clock effort fueled by 4,000 workers and 1,000 construction machines, according to China Daily. ... According to the Associated Press, the two-story, 600,000-square-foot hospital features doubled-sided cabinets and ventilation systems that essentially quarantine patients, allowing hospital staff to deliver supplies without entering their rooms. The building also contains infrared scanners that can detect whether any employees have a fever — one of the coronavirus’s telltale symptoms. ... But even in the early days of Huoshenshan’s construction, it quickly became apparent that the facility would not be large enough to mitigate bed shortages as the virus continues to spread.”





Johnson talks tough on post-Brexit trade deal with Europe

-- **“With Britain's exit from the European Union official, at long last, the two partners on Monday began to squabble over their future relationship, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson huffing that he would rather leave the economic bloc without a free-trade deal than see Britain shackled to fusty European rules,”** [William Booth and Michael Birnbaum report](#): “At the same hour in Brussels, E.U. chief negotiator Michel Barnier outlined the bloc’s demands, declaring that Europe will agree to free trade only if Britain submits to the continent’s regulations. And so begins an 11-month transition period, when all this may or may not be sorted out. In this messy and drawn-out split, after 47 years together, the divvying up of the stuff is not so easy. Britain under Johnson is now all about cutting loose and ‘going global’ and making side deals with the Americans and Australians, while Europe is all about the need preserve a ‘level playing field,’ if Britain wants to be a friend with privileges — meaning access to its single market of 450 million consumers.

**“In broad strokes, in language orotund and marked by the clever turns of phrase he perfected as an Oxford-educated, Fleet Street columnist, the prime minister laid out his vision for a post-Brexit Britain that is a world champion for free trade.** He mixed his metaphors, but his message was clear. Britain is a ship in ‘the slipway’ ready to set sail, a rocket ‘on the launchpad’ ready to blast off, a butterfly ‘leaving its chrysalis.’ ‘We are reemerging after decades of hibernation as a campaigner for global free trade,’ Johnson said. ‘And, frankly, it is not a moment too soon, because the argument for this fundamental liberty is now not being made.’ The prime minister took a subtle swipe at President Trump, warning his audience that trade wars and tariff barriers are in vogue [from Brussels to Beijing and Washington] — and that is a bad thing.”

**-- In a fight for national preservation, Greece is paying parents a baby bonus to boost birthrate. ([The Guardian](#))**

**-- Leaked audio shows that the regime in Tehran knew immediately that one of its own missiles downed the Ukrainian passenger jet. [Erin Cunningham and Isabelle Khurshudyan report](#): “A leaked audio file and transcript were published late Sunday by Ukraine’s 1+1 television channel. They included an exchange between an Iranian air traffic controller and a pilot who said he saw a missile hit Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 on Jan. 8. ‘Flares on route, as if from a missile,’ the pilot of an Aseman Airlines flight from Shiraz to Tehran said to the controller, according to the transcript. The controller responded that the tower was not informed of any missile activity in the area. ‘That surely is light from a missile,’ the pilot said. Later he said, ‘We saw an explosion, a big flare from the**

explosion.”

**-- The U.S. added a “low yield” nuclear weapon to its submarine arsenal.** The low-yield missile joins other more powerful weapons aboard. The deployment is the first major addition to the strategic nuclear arsenal and is a departure from the Obama administration’s policy of depending less on nuclear weapons in pursuit of a nuclear-free world. (AP)

**-- The president’s son-in-law Jared Kushner angered Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s camp due to White House pushback over plans to annex Jewish settlements in the West Bank.** [Steve Hendrix and Ruth Eglash report](#): “Sources among Israeli settler groups and within the prime minister’s circle, according to the reports, blame Kushner for a split in the administration, portraying U.S. Ambassador David Friedman as more willing to see Israel annex the settlements in short order and Kushner resisting fast action. The move would allow Netanyahu to shore up right-wing support in advance of national elections here in March, observers say. ... Netanyahu said hours after the plan’s release that he planned to bring annexation before his cabinet within days. Friedman told reporters that day that the timing was up to Israel. ... But Kushner, in interviews and reportedly in conversations with Israeli officials, put the brakes on, saying the move should wait on a new government to be formed after next month’s vote.”

**-- Former Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi, who deepened ethnic tensions and enriched himself at the public’s expense, died in Nairobi at 95.** [Yamiche Alcindor reports](#): “Mr. Moi was one of the last of Africa’s so-called Big Men, who presided over their

countries in increasingly despotic ways. During 24 ruinous years in power, he curtailed political freedom, presided over the stagnation of Kenya's economy and encouraged patronage politics. He enshrined his name on currency, schools, an international airport and other prominent sites throughout the East African country. Despite condemnation by human rights groups and allegations that he had stolen millions of dollars in aid money, Mr. Moi's ties to the United States remained strong because of Kenya's staunch anti-communism and relative stability in a region ravaged by war and by leaders who were even more erratic."



Kim Kardashian West thanks Trump for his work on criminal justice at a June event promoting the hiring of ex-offenders. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

**DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE  
OVERLOOKED:**

**-- Most of Trump's grants of clemency have bypassed the Justice Department and go to well-connected offenders.** [Beth Reinhard and Anne Gearan report](#): "As the administration takes its cues from celebrities, political allies and Fox News, thousands of other offenders who followed Justice Department rules are waiting, passed over as cases that were brought directly to Trump leaped to the front of the line. For more than 125 years, the Office of the Pardon Attorney in the Justice Department has quietly served as the key adviser on clemency, one of the most unlimited powers bestowed on the president by the Constitution. Under Trump, the pardon office has become a bureaucratic way station, according to government data and interviews with lawyers, criminal justice advocates, and former pardon and White House officials. ... Ronald Reagan set a low bar with 669 decisions during his first three years; 3,993 petitions processed during Barack Obama's first three years reached a high-water mark. Trump has ruled on only 204 clemency requests — 24 approvals and 180 denials. That is the slowest pace in decades."

"The joy you get finding meritorious people, working on those cases, making recommendations that go to the White House, seeing people receive the grants — you feel like you've done something," said Larry Kupers, the former head of the office, who quit last year. "If that's not happening, it feels like you are spinning your wheels." Asked what advice he would give offenders seeking leniency, Kupers said: "Find a way to get to Kim Kardashian. I'm very serious about that."

**-- Hundreds of pages of FBI witness interviews from former special counsel Bob Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election were declassified [after](#)**

**BuzzFeed News and CNN filed a FOIA:** “The documents also contained a summary of an interview that Kushner ... had with FBI agents and federal prosecutors in November 2017. But the five-page summary, known as an FBI 302, was almost entirely redacted. Intelligence agencies are still reviewing another Kushner interview summary from 2018 for classified information. Kushner’s interview summaries have been some of the most highly sought-after records from Mueller’s investigation; they were requested by the House Judiciary Committee last year as part of its impeachment inquiry. ... In addition to Kushner’s interview summary, the FBI and the Justice Department turned over 289 pages of heavily redacted summaries of interviews from former White House press secretary Sean Spicer; former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus; Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen.”

**-- Testimony in Harvey Weinstein’s trial ended early after an accuser broke down sobbing when asked about a childhood sexual assault. [Shayna Jacobs reports](#):** “Jessica Mann's cries echoed through the Manhattan courtroom... Prosecutor Joan Illuzzi-Orbon tried to comfort the fragile witness outside the presence of the jury... Mann — in a 2014 email to an ex-boyfriend — referred to a ‘sexual assault’ that did not appear to be one of the nonconsensual encounters she attributes to the Oscar-winning producer. She was shaking and too upset to speak when defense lawyer Donna Rotunno asked if the mention had to do with abuse from her younger years. ... Weinstein provided ‘all the validation I needed,’ [Mann] wrote to a boyfriend, a successful actor, who she said was critical of her Weinstein connection. Mann was on the witness stand for nearly a full day of grueling cross-examination. She had to answer for her history

of interactions with Weinstein, particularly why she remained in a five-year consensual relationship with the producer who she now alleges raped her in 2013.”

-- **Veteran Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie abruptly fired his No. 2, James Byrne, after five months on the job.** But it's not clear why. There was only a brief, cryptic statement that said his ouster was effective immediately, per [Politico](#).

-- **Trump once said everyone should “stand proudly” for the national anthem. But he fidgeted and air-conducted at his own Super Bowl party as “The Star-Spangled Banner” rang.** [Kim Bellware reports](#): “In an Instagram video taken by a guest and later shared with the Miami Herald, other attendees — including members of the first family — are seen standing calmly with hand over heart as ‘The Star-Spangled Banner’ plays. The 20-second clip using the front-facing-camera mode shows Trump doing neither. Instead, the president is seen fidgeting, pointing around the room, straightening his jacket and at one point waving his fingers in the air as if conducting an invisible orchestra.”

-- **Conservative talk radio figure Rush Limbaugh said he has advanced lung cancer.** [Paul Farhi reports](#): “‘I thought about not telling anybody,’ he said on the air from his home studio in West Palm Beach, Fla. ‘It is what it is. You know me, I’m the mayor of Realville. This has happened, and my intention is to come here every day I can and do this program as normally and competently and expertly as I do each and every day because that is the source of my greatest satisfaction professionally, personally.’”

**-- Two women died and a child was wounded in a shooting at a residence hall in Texas A&M University at Commerce.** [Paulina Firozi reports](#): “The toddler is in stable condition, the university’s police chief, Bryan Vaughn, said ... Police found the women’s bodies after a student who lives in the residence hall called police at 10:17 a.m. Central time... Police did not identify a suspected shooter and did not provide additional details at the news conference.”

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

The Democratic candidates descended overnight on New Hampshire:





**David Catanese** ✓

@davecatanese



. @PeteButtigieg has arrived in Nashua, New Hampshire



♡ 472 12:29 PM - Feb 4, 2020



💬 70 people are talking about this

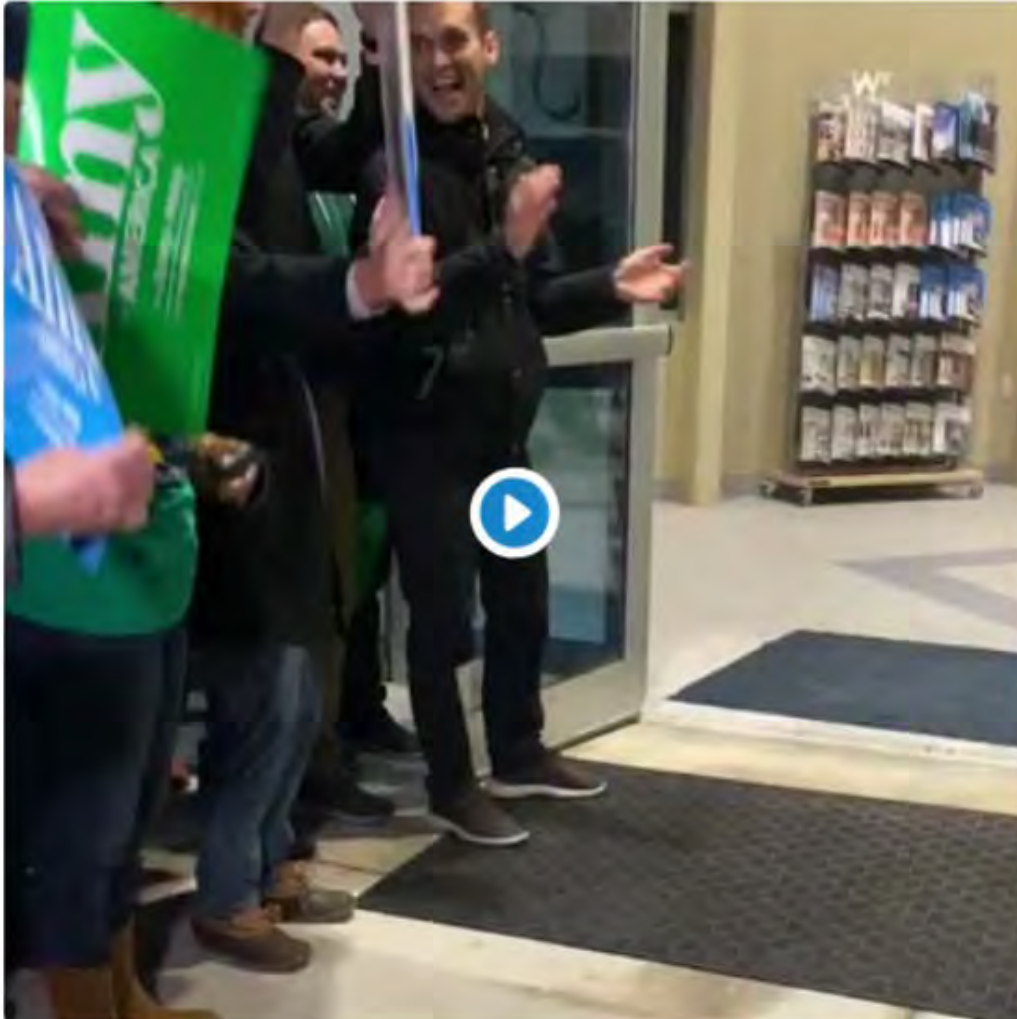




**Nate Evans**  
@nathanpevans



Dozens of [@amyklobuchar](#) supporters in NH greeted her when she landed in Manchester. At 3:30 in the morning.  
[#nhpolitics](#)



♡ 323 9:07 AM - Feb 4, 2020



💬 85 people are talking about this



**Nicole Sganga** @NicoleSganga · 5h



Replying to @NicoleSganga

MANCHESTER, NH — Senator Amy Klobuchar arrives at the airport in New Hampshire. “We just had an excellent night tonight in Iowa. Of course, we don’t know the results yet. Minor problem!” she quips.

Dozens of supporters greeted the Senator at the airport. #nhpolitics #FITN



**Nicole Sganga** ✓  
@NicoleSganga

Senator Amy Klobuchar says "of course" she's concerned about the Iowa caucus results.

She adds there were election results long before apps and computers.

"They've written them all down, they're adding them all up, and we'll get them." #nhpolitics #FITN



116 10:02 AM - Feb 4, 2020



38 people are talking about this



**Annie Linskey** ✓

@AnnieLinskey



Air Warren landed in New Hampshire



5 9:15 AM - Feb 4, 2020



[See Annie Linskey's other Tweets](#)



Warren, the bane of the big banks, ironically won a precinct caucus at an arena named for Wells Fargo, whose previous chief executive she crusaded to get fired:



Someone snuck some wine into a voting location. It did not end well:



**Iowa Starting Line**

@IAStartingLine



At one Des Moines precinct tonight, an attendee brought in a concealed bottle of wine, dropped it, and it shattered everywhere



♡ 23.2K 12:56 AM - Feb 4, 2020



💬 5,170 people are talking about this



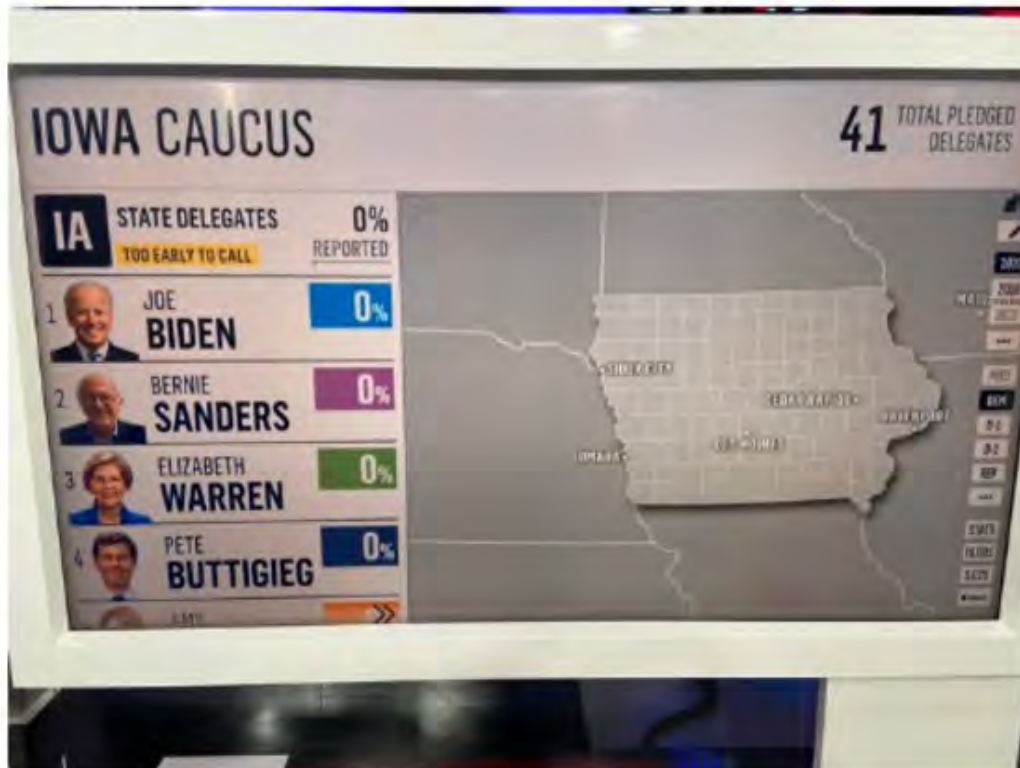
Pete Buttigieg claimed victory without any public evidence to show for it:



**Steve Kornacki**  
@SteveKornacki



The official results as Pete Buttigieg declares himself victorious in Iowa:



8,807 5:29 AM - Feb 4, 2020



2,599 people are talking about this



Here's an example of the handwritten form that Democrats are using from each precinct as backups to check their math:



**Trip Gabriel**  
@tripgabriel



Why so long to report results? Nearly 1,700 caucuses fill out worksheets like this, then report multiple results.

**First Alignment Results** **Caucus Math Worksheet** County: [blank] Precinct: 1 Delegate(s): 18 Nov 2019

Name of candidate or recommended group: **VIABILITY:** 0-2 - your precinct - 1 signed  
1-50 precinct

Number of members within the group after this precinct

A) Amy 44  
 B) Bernie 34  
 C) Biden 65-68  
 D) Pete 60-5-14  
 E) Warren 41-53  
 F) Yara 7  
 G) UNDEC 0

Total number of delegates allocated to this precinct: 254  
 Total number of delegates allocated to this precinct: 381  
 Total number of delegates allocated to this precinct: 39

**AWARDING DELEGATES**

| Name of candidate or recommended group | Number of members within the group after this precinct | Total number of delegates allocated to this precinct | Total number of delegates allocated to this precinct | Total number of delegates allocated to this precinct | Number of delegates allocated to this precinct |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| A) Amy                                 | 44   | 254  | 254  | 1.7322   | 2  |
| B) Biden                               | 68   | 254  | 254  | 2.6777   | 2  |
| C) Pete                                | 18   | 254  | 254  | 3.0708   | 2  |
| D) WARREN                              | 53   | 254  | 254  | 2.0866   | 2  |
| E)                                     |  |  |  |  |  |
| F)                                     |  |  |  |  |  |
| G)                                     |  |  |  |  |  |

Representative of Candidate A: [Signature]  
 Representative of Candidate B: [Signature]  
 Representative of Candidate C: [Signature]  
 Representative of Candidate D: [Signature]

923 4:29 AM - Feb 4, 2020



608 people are talking about this



The New York Post mocked Iowa Democrats for screwing up their counting:





# DUH MOINES

## Democrats in chaos as Iowa caucus implodes



Can't anybody here count?! The Iowa Democratic caucuses descended into chaos last night and early this morning as "inconsistencies" in reporting at polling sites — perhaps linked to a glitchy new app — caused an embarrassingly delayed tally in the hotly anticipated first contest in the race for president.

**PAGES 4-5**

**DRAMA AS HARV ACCUSER BREAKS DOWN** **PAGE 7**

Trump's campaign manager Brad Parscale, as well as Eric Trump, hinted without evidence that the results were delayed so they could be rigged:



**Brad Parscale - Text TRUMP to 88022** ✓

@parscale



Quality control = rigged? 🤔

[twitter.com/francisbrennan...](https://twitter.com/francisbrennan...)

**Francis Brennan (Text TRUMP to 88022)** @FrancisBren...

MSNBC's Steve Kornacki reports:

"We've heard from the Iowa state Democratic Party... They say that they are doing, quote, 'quality control on the results that they've received.' They say they are doing it, quote, 'out of an abundance of caution.'" #RiggedElection?



♡ 14.2K 3:19 AM - Feb 4, 2020



💬 7,386 people are talking about this



Twitter said it won't remove posts like this. "The tweet is not in violation of our election integrity policy as it does not suppress voter turnout or mislead people about when, where, or how to vote," Twitter spokesman Brandon Borrman told Tony Romm.

Democrats worked through the night to get an accurate count from Polk County, which includes Des Moines. This is from the county chair:

 **Sean Bagniewski**  
@bagniewski 

It's 2AM and we have supporters for Buttigieg, Klobuchar, Sanders, and Warren at Polk HQ going through every precinct box to send the results we have to the state party so we can finally go to bed.

Our volunteers are literally tireless. #IACaucus



♡ 1,206 8:14 AM - Feb 4, 2020 

💬 267 people are talking about this 

A Michael Bennet supporter wasn't ready to give up:



An embattled Republican congressman from Iowa defended the caucuses:



The former dean of the Iowa press corps, who covered politics for 34 years at the Des Moines Register, said he thinks the caucus system as we've known it is over:



And this is a great analogy:



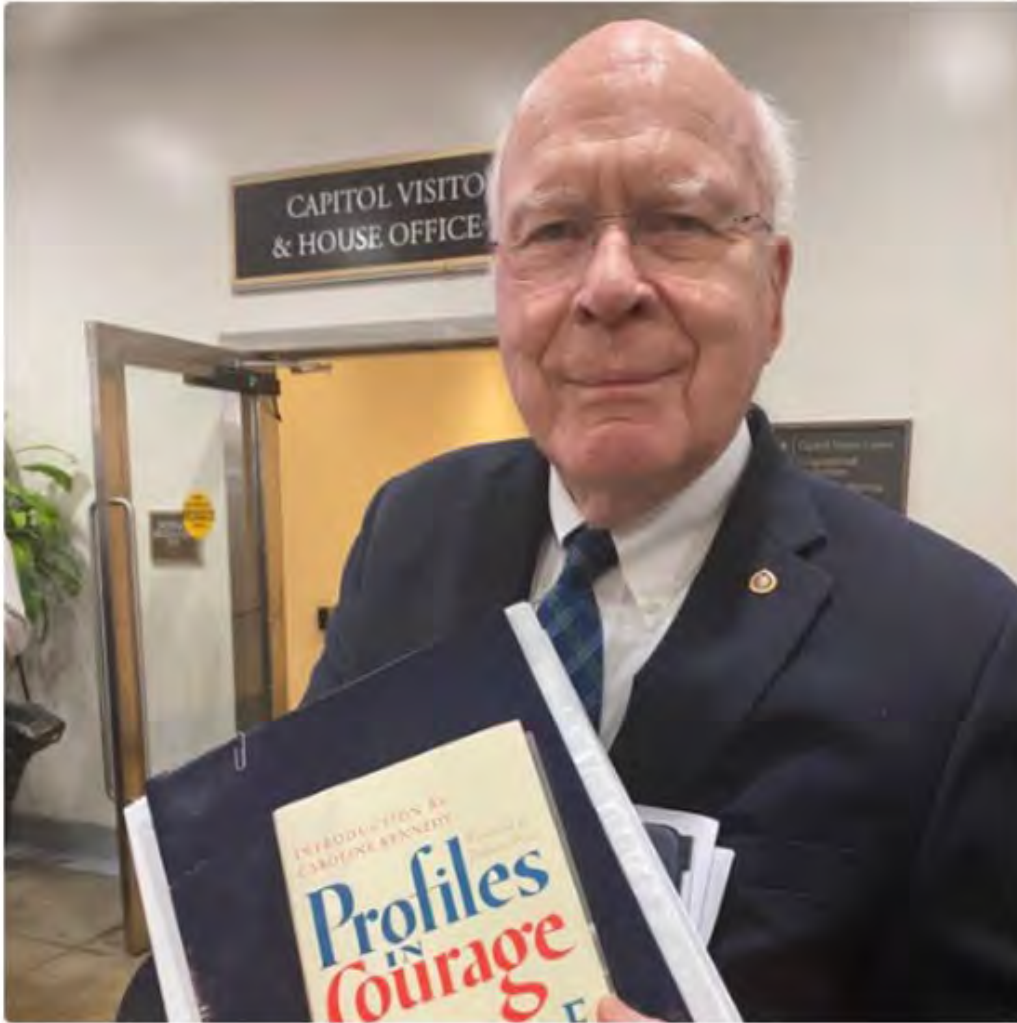
The longest-serving Democratic senator carried a copy of JFK's "Profiles in Courage." Does Pat Leahy know that one of the chapters in the book is actually about a Republican who broke with his party to vote against removing Andrew Johnson at his impeachment trial?:



**John Bresnahan** ✓  
@BresPolitico



.@SenatorLeahy has a subtle message as he searches for Republican senators who'll vote to convict Trump



♥ 143 8:11 PM - Feb 3, 2020



💬 56 people are talking about this



### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert went through some of the excuses Republican senators have used to vote for Trump's acquittal:



Seth Meyers, noting Trump's Super Bowl mix-up, said it is understandable to confuse the two Kansas Cities, if you're a middle-schooler:



"The Daily Show's" Jordan Klepper asked Trump's Iowa supporters for their thoughts on impeachment:





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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: State of the Union showcases Trump's total control of the GOP on eve of probable impeachment acquittal  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 5, 2020 8:17:59 AM

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

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**State of the Union showcases Trump's total control of the GOP on eve of probable impeachment acquittal**



Boasts, Barbs and a ripped up speech: President Trump's 2020 State of the Union address



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA:** President Trump did not mention impeachment during his State of the Union address on Tuesday night, but it loomed large on the eve of his foregone acquittal by the Senate. Many of the Republican jurors in the trial chanted “four more years” as he stepped to the podium, and they interrupted him 128 times for applause during a 77-minute speech.

Not a single Republican in the House broke ranks to vote for either article of impeachment seven weeks ago. Every Republican senator has now announced that they will vote this afternoon against convicting the president, except for Mitt Romney, who has not revealed his intentions either way.

Rep. Jeff Van Drew (R-N.J.), who quit the Democratic Party in December after opposing impeachment, stood on the GOP side of the center aisle last night and sought Trump's attention to get a handshake. Trump held a rally last Wednesday in Van Drew's district — which he carried in 2016 — to ensure the party-switcher will fend off a GOP primary challenge to hold the seat.

Trump has never been more popular than he is right now among Republicans, at the elite and grass-roots levels. [A Gallup poll](#) released yesterday put Trump's approval rating at 49 percent, the highest point of his presidency so far. One big reason: His approval among Republicans rose by six points since early January to 94 percent. That's three points higher than his previous personal best.

At the Republican caucuses in Iowa on Monday night, Trump received 97.1 percent of the vote. Former Massachusetts governor Bill Weld and former Illinois congressman Joe Walsh have campaigned hard against Trump, and both were in Des Moines this weekend, but they were greeted by small crowds and little appetite among Republicans to break with the president who staged a hostile takeover of the party four years ago after finishing second in the Iowa caucuses.



Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) arrives for Trump's State of the Union address. (Leah Millis/Pool/Reuters)

**-- Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) announced on Tuesday that she will vote to acquit Trump on both articles of impeachment passed by the House.** “I believe that the president has learned from this case,” she told CBS News’s Norah O’Donnell. “The president has been impeached. That’s a pretty big lesson. ... I believe that he will be much more cautious in the future.” Other Republicans – including Rob Portman (Ohio), Joni Ernst (Iowa) Shelley Moore Capito (W.V.) – have [used variations](#) of the talking point that Trump has learned his lesson.

**But there is no evidence that Trump has been chastened.** There have been no suggestions that he feels any contrition at all for the alleged scheme to coerce Ukraine to announce an investigation of Joe Biden by freezing military assistance and withholding a White House meeting.

**Trump was even asked directly about Collins’s claim that he learned a lesson during a two-hour, off-the-record lunch with television anchors to preview the speech.** The president replied that he has done nothing wrong. “It was a perfect call,” said Trump, repeating a mantra he’s used for months.

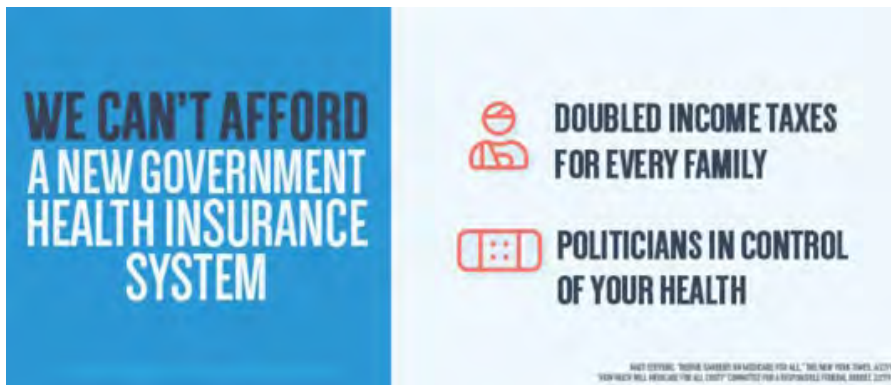
The Washington Post didn’t attend the lunch, but several participants [described it to Josh Dawsey and Phil Rucker](#): “Trump expressed frustration with former national security adviser John Bolton, who the president said had turned on him. Trump also mocked Bolton by saying that he always wanted to be called ‘ambassador,’ even internally at the White House, and that his ambassadorship to the United Nations in the mid-2000s was a recess appointment.

**“Trump also said he wanted to block Bolton’s forthcoming book from being published,** according to two people familiar with knowledge of the lunch. The White House has only said that the book has classified information and that Bolton needs to make changes to the book. Bolton is said to allege that Trump tied aid to Ukraine to politically motivated investigations of his opponents, and people familiar with the project say it is unflattering to the president. The president told the anchors that Bolton could have written the book once Trump left office but that doing it while Trump is still in office ‘is not right.’”

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Content from [Partnership for America’s Health Care Future](#)

**American families can’t afford Medicare for All.**



Studies confirm that Medicare for All would force Americans to pay more for worse care. Economists agree, there's "no way to pay for Medicare for All without tax increases."



Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-Ariz.) holds up a school choice logo on the Republican side of the aisle during the State of the Union address. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

**-- Getting acquitted is not the same thing as being exonerated, but Trump will probably portray it as just that during his looming victory lap. After all, he said last year that Bob Mueller's report**

represented “complete and total exoneration,” even though the former special counsel went out of his way to say that it was not. He even detailed 10 cases of possible obstruction of justice.

**-- Trump’s personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani even told NPR yesterday that the president should continue pushing for a Biden investigation once he’s acquitted.** “Absolutely, 100%,” [Giuliani said](#). “I would have no problem with him doing it. In fact, I’d have a problem with him not doing it.”

**-- Opposing impeachment has been a fundraising gold mine for Republicans.** “Donation pages for WinRed — the GOP’s online fundraising tool — that included the word ‘impeach’ or ‘impeachment’ raised 300 percent more than pages that did not,” [per Politico](#). “Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-N.Y.), who himself has been catapulted from the back benches of Congress to Trump’s Twitter feed through his role defending the president during impeachment, compared the uptick in energy and fundraising dollars to the bitter confirmation fight over Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh in 2018.”

**-- Dozens of prominent Republican surrogates who traveled to Iowa on Monday as a show of force for Trump at the GOP caucuses wore MAGA-style hats that said "Keep Iowa Great" on their chartered flight home:**





(Tim Murtaugh/Trump campaign)

**-- There are daily reminders of the extent to which Trump now dominates Republican politics, even though he did not even join the party until 2009.** For example, Trump repeatedly humiliated Jeff Sessions, culminating with his termination, after the then-attorney general recused himself from overseeing the Justice Department's probe of Russian connections with the Trump campaign in 2016. Sessions is now running in a crowded GOP primary to wrest back the Alabama Senate seat he gave up so he could join the administration. Lacking the president's support, Sessions launched a new campaign commercial yesterday to highlight that he was the first senator to endorse Trump in 2016. "While the others were hiding under their desks, ... I knew he was the one to make America great again," Sessions [says](#) to the camera, as he dons his four-year-old MAGA hat. "And I'll keep fighting for President Trump and his agenda."



Rush Limbaugh awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom



-- Trump made no effort to unify the nation at the end of the third presidential impeachment trial in American history. Instead, he used his third State of the Union to demonstrate anew that his reelection strategy for 2020 is to follow the same base-first playbook that worked in 2016: Divide and conquer.

**He took at least three digs at former president Barack Obama,**

**including his handling of the economy, Cuba and immigration.** “If we hadn’t reversed the failed economic policies of the previous administration, the world would not now be witnessing this great economic success,” Trump said.

Trump awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to a surprised Rush Limbaugh during the speech was also emblematic of this. Limbaugh, who said earlier this week that he’s been diagnosed with lung cancer, has contributed mightily to the polarization. He’s a divisive figure who has been accused over the years of making racist and misogynistic comments on his nationally syndicated radio show. For what it’s worth, like Trump, Limbaugh spent several years pushing the totally discredited conspiracy theory that Obama was not born in the United States and has never apologized.

“Rush Limbaugh: Thank you for your decades of tireless devotion to our country,” Trump said in his State of the Union. “Rush, in recognition of all that you have done for our nation [and] the millions of people a day that you speak to and inspire, ... I am proud to announce tonight that you will be receiving our country’s highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.”

“Oh, no,” an unknown Democrat **yelled** from their side of the chamber when Trump announced the award. “Thank you, Rush,” an unknown Republican yelled from their side.

**-- While Trump extended no olive branches, he threw plenty of other red meat to his base.** He promised to fight to protect prayer in public schools, advocated restrictions on abortion rights and pledged to protect the right to bear arms, which he said is “under siege all

across our country.”

**-- The president also offered an implicit reminder that he’s pushed a party that once proudly and unabashedly championed free markets in the direction of protectionism.** Trump boasted last night about replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement with the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. “Unfair trade is perhaps the single biggest reason that I decided to run for president,” he said. “Many politicians came and went, pledging to change or replace NAFTA, ... and then absolutely nothing happened. But unlike so many who came before me, I keep my promises.”

Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania was [the only Republican senator](#) who voted against ratifying the USMCA last month because of principled conservative objections that it makes trade less free. Other Republicans grumbled privately about the deal’s flaws, and its concessions to organized labor, but they backed the deal anyway.

**-- Trump is talented at the transactional elements of party politics.** During his speech, Trump singled out for praise several Republican senators who have defended him during the trial: He endorsed John Barrasso’s highway bill, Thom Tillis’s proposal to allow people to sue sanctuary cities, Chuck Grassley’s efforts to reduce prescription drug prices and Tim Scott’s work on economic opportunity zones “as part of our great Republican tax cuts.” Trump also praised Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell for confirming 187 of his judicial nominees. “Thank you, Mitch,” he said, “and we have many in the pipeline.”



Democrats didn't hide their disdain for Trump's State of the Union address

**-- But the president has always defined himself politically as much by whom he's against as what's he's for.** Last night, he attacked Pennsylvania's Democratic governor for vetoing a school voucher program opposed by teachers unions. He ripped the city of New York and the state of California for not fully cooperating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers. He slammed the 132 Democrats who have endorsed Medicare-for-all and accused them of wanting to give taxpayer-funded health care to undocumented immigrants, to which House Speaker Nancy Pelosi mouthed "not true." Trump declared: "To those watching at home tonight, I want you to know: We will never let socialism destroy American health care."

**-- What people will remember from last night is that neither Trump nor Pelosi and Democratic leaders tried to hide their mutual disdain for one another.** After Trump appeared to snub Pelosi by not shaking her outstretched hand at the start of the speech,

the speaker of the House ripped up a printout of his speech into four separate piles as he concluded. Asked why she tore up the speech, Pelosi [told reporters](#): “It was the courteous thing to do, considering the alternative.”

The seven House impeachment managers sat together. Rank-and-file Democrats like Lois Frankel from Florida approached Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) to get selfies before Trump’s arrival. This is Trump’s final State of the Union address before voters get to render their own verdict on his tenure.



Trump’s 2020 State of the Union, fact checked | The Fact Checker

### HOW IT'S PLAYING:

-- **The Fact Checker team flags 31 false or misleading statements by the president.** The annual speech was “once again chock-full of stretched facts and dubious figures,” [Glenn Kessler, Sal Rizzo and Sarah Cahlan report](#). “Many of these claims have been fact-checked

repeatedly, yet the president persists in using them.”

-- “**Trump claimed the U.S. economy is ‘roaring’ and ‘the best it has ever been.’ ... The broad consensus among economists is that the U.S. economy is doing well, but these are not unprecedented times,**” [Heather Long reports](#). “In a number of ways, the current economy is the best the nation has seen since the late 1990s.”

-- **Aaron Blake’s four takeaways:** 1. Impeachment bad blood spills over. 2. A (repeatedly) overstated economic case. 3. Running against Barack Obama. 4. The Rush Limbaugh moment was obviously designed to elicit a reaction.

-- **More team coverage:**

- [David Nakamura](#): “Trump paints strong economy as vindication as he tries to move past impeachment.”
- [Rachael Bade](#): “Democrats use State of the Union rebuttal to pivot from impeachment.”
- [Mike DeBonis](#): “Pelosi shreds Trump’s speech, capping a tumultuous year in Washington.”
- [Robin Givhan](#): “Congressional Democrats wore their white-hot fury to the State of the Union.”
- [Ashley Parker](#): “With chants, walkouts and a ripped-up speech, bitter partisanship dominates...”
- [Avi Selk](#): “The cheers, glares and ‘Oh no!’ ... showed just how bitterly divided this Congress is.”
- [Philip Bump](#): “Amid reelection bid, Trump’s State of the Union address goes full reality show. Leveraging

the presidency for his political benefit gets more subtle.”

- [Amber Phillips and Kristina Orrego](#) annotated a transcript of the address.



An advertisement for a podcast. The background is a solid blue color with a subtle pattern of concentric circles. At the top, the text "The Daily 202's" is in a smaller white font, followed by "BIG IDEA" in a very large, bold, white, serif font. Below this, on the left, is a white play button icon inside a white circle. To the right of the icon is the text "Get James's insight into Washington every weekday on your smart speaker or favorite podcast player." in a white, sans-serif font.

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Buttigieg says his campaign 'has taken its place at the front of this race'

## 2020 WATCH:

-- **Pete Buttigieg and Bernie Sanders took the lead after partial results were released from the marred Iowa caucuses.** [Toluse Olorunnipa, Annie Linskey and Chelsea Janes report](#): “According to the early results, which Iowa Democratic Party Chairman Troy Price said represented 62 percent of the state’s precincts, Buttigieg was leading with 26.9 percent of the state’s delegates, followed by Sanders with 25.1 percent. Sanders won some bragging rights with a popular-vote lead, with 28,220 to Buttigieg’s 27,090. [Elizabeth Warren and [Joe Biden](#)] were in third and fourth place with 18.3 and 15.6 percent of the delegates, respectively — disappointing results for candidates who have sought to push the idea that they are most electable. They ranked in the same positions in the popular vote.

**“The full results remained delayed Tuesday after a complex caucus process plagued by technical difficulties in its reporting**

**system that began Monday night and continued with no clear timeline for a resolution.** The Iowa Democratic Party said Tuesday that it was continuing to try to verify the results, collecting boxes of presidential preference cards and pushing precincts to report their results as quickly as possible. ... Buttigieg's voice seemed to crack Tuesday as he acknowledged the unprecedented nature of his success. ...

**“While Sanders came out on top in the popular vote, the overall turnout figures — comparable to 2016’s but far below the record numbers that launched Barack Obama’s candidacy in 2008 — indicated that his pledge to energize an army of young and first-time voters had not been fulfilled.** ... The muddled results served to persuade lower-tier candidates to stay in the race, making the Democrats’ challenge to select a standard-bearer all the more difficult. ... [Amy] Klobuchar was in fifth place in Iowa, according to the partial results, with 12.6 percent of the state’s delegates. Entrepreneur Andrew Yang trailed behind with 1.1 percent, and businessman Tom Steyer had 0.3 percent.” Klobuchar told supporters at a campaign stop in Concord, N.H.: “I’m someone that thrives in chaos. You want a steady hand in chaos, right?”

**-- Iowa Democrats kept their caucusing app secret to prevent hacks. Instead, they got confusion and chaos. [Isaac Stanley-Becker and Michael Scherer report](#):** “Some explanations for the meltdown began to emerge — including the fact that many precinct organizers had not been able to adequately test the app designed for reporting results to party headquarters. But questions also remained about why the state party chose Shadow, a Democratic-aligned start-

up, for such a high-stakes moment. The app had been rolled out for testing in mid-January, just weeks before the caucuses. The delay was intentional, according to a state party official ...

**"Iowa Democrats waited to introduce the software to avoid giving potential hackers time to penetrate it,** the official said, adding that the party chose to keep the name of the vendor secret on the advice of national cybersecurity consultants. In the end, the problem on caucus night was not a hack. Nor could it be explained alone by difficulty in downloading the software. It was a more basic coding error that caused the problems. When caucus leaders started successfully reporting data through the app, a separate system also developed by Shadow collated the information but spit out only partial results, according to a person familiar with the events."

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "We feel really terrible about that," said Gerard Niemira, CEO of the political technology company Shadow, which developed the failed Iowa caucuses app. ([Bloomberg News](#))

**-- The caucus mess – and an emboldened Trump – are fueling Democratic anxiety. [Matt Viser reports:](#)** "The Democratic five-alarm fire has begun. Around the country on Tuesday, Democrats found themselves baffled by the circumstances engulfing their party — even one that is known for, and sometimes takes pride in, its tendency to overreact with worry. 'This is just one sad week,' said former senator Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.). 'While I am having these very dark, sad feelings about the Senate GOP and a whitewash, here comes this mess in Iowa,' Boxer said, referring to the impeachment trial. 'This is a wake-up call. We're going to be tested.' ... Democrats were concerned that turnout for the caucuses, which party officials just

weeks ago predicted would hit record levels due to voter enthusiasm to take on Trump, apparently fell short of expectations, potentially suggesting a lack of enthusiasm for the candidates. ... The combination of the muddled result, a botched process that forced the Iowa Democratic chairman to apologize late Tuesday, and the low participation levels was demoralizing to many in the party.”

**-- The results emboldened Mike Bloomberg, who didn't compete in Iowa. “Bloomberg authorized his advisers Tuesday morning to double television spending for his own presidential campaign,”** [Paul Schwartzman and Michael Scherer report](#). “The campaign has also been authorized to hire more staff, said a person familiar with the strategy. Bloomberg told a noontime crowd [in Detroit] Tuesday that he was sleeping on a plane last night, woke up and asked an aide what had happened in the Iowa caucuses. He said the aide answered, ‘Nothing.’ ‘I still can’t figure out what happened,’ Bloomberg said to laughter. ‘More than any other candidate, we have the momentum.’”

**-- Facing a cash crunch, Biden’s campaign tried to reassure jittery donors on a conference call that the former vice president can still win Nevada and South Carolina. ([CNBC](#))**

**-- Trump and son-in-law Jared Kushner saw their campaign’s Super Bowl ad as a way of making inroads with black voters. [From the Times](#):** “Several senior Trump aides expressed skepticism of Mr. Kushner’s belief that broad numbers of black voters, whose views of the president are overwhelmingly negative, are persuadable. ... Mr. Trump himself was a motivating factor for turning out African-American Democrats in the 2018 midterm elections. Voter participation among black people in 2018 grew from the 2014

midterms, according to data from the Pew Research Center. Despite those numbers and the skepticism from colleagues, **Mr. Kushner has been advising Mr. Trump that black voters can be converted into supporters if they are simply educated on his policies. Mr. Trump's biggest challenge, Mr. Kushner has told people, is a 'knowledge gap' on many of the president's accomplishments, particularly on the issue of criminal justice reform, which Mr. Kushner has spearheaded.**"

**-- Kweisi Mfume won the Democratic primary in the special election to replace the late congressman Elijah Cummings, defeating the revered lawmaker's widow in Baltimore.** Mfume is considered likely to easily reclaim the deep-blue seat he held more than 20 years ago. ([Jenna Portnoy](#))

**-- An increasing number of Republicans are acknowledging they need to begin addressing climate change and offering solutions to have any hope of retaking the House.** [Steven Mufson reports](#): "In poll after poll, large numbers of young and suburban Republican voters are registering their desire for climate action and say the issue is a priority. And their concern about climate change is spreading to older GOP supporters, too. ... The GOP is still hammering out details, but some critics say the new Republican approach to climate change looks a lot like the old one. In addition to trees, senior Republicans are said to be considering tax breaks for research, curbs on plastic waste and big federally funded infrastructure projects in the name of adaptation or resilience. The already well-worn buzzword 'innovation' will be their rallying cry, and natural gas, despite its carbon emissions, will be embraced."



Fear of the coronavirus turns Chinese cities into ghost towns

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- **The overall death toll of the coronavirus has reached 492.** Chinese authorities reported total confirmed cases now top 24,000. More than 3,000 are in critical condition. (Shibani Mahtani, Anna Fifield, Derek Hawkins and Siobhán O’Grady [report in our live blog.](#))

-- **Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam instituted a mandatory 14-day quarantine for visitors arriving from China, bowing to increasingly strident demands from striking health workers on the island.** [Mahtani reports:](#) “Separately, the Hong Kong government will also shut cruise terminals in the city. On Wednesday morning, a cruise ship docked in Hong Kong — initially bound for Taiwan but turned away — with several suspected cases of infections among crew on board. Lam described the measure on Wednesday as 'very strict' and said her government believes there would be a 'substantial

drop' in cross-boundary travel. Implementing such a move is politically sensitive for Hong Kong, which likely needs Beijing's approval for such a measure despite having its own immigration system."

**-- Some 530 Americans stuck in the Wuhan area were evacuated after extended delays that appear to be linked to the political frictions between Beijing and Washington.** [Fifield reports](#): "Some had been in the airport for 48 hours waiting for information, with speculation that flight authorizations had been delayed by Chinese authorities. ... For many of the hundreds of Americans at the airport, the evacuation had been a frustrating experience, compounded by the fact that the U.S. government had evacuated its consulate in Wuhan immediately after the city at the center of the deadly coronavirus outbreak went into lockdown. ... Those difficulties have been compounded, some Americans in the city say, by a feeling that their government has deserted them. 'We're like refugees here,' said one woman from New Jersey who was visiting family in Wuhan for the Lunar New Year holiday when she got trapped in the city. ... Furthermore, [Americans] described scenes of chaos at the airport, with no officials there to help them and not even a sign indicating where to gather. This was in contrast to the Russian evacuation, where consular officials had set up an information desk with a Russian flag and had provided buses to bring Russian citizens through the checkpoints into the airport."

**-- Ten aboard a cruise ship anchored in Japanese waters tested positive for the virus.** The roughly 3,700 passengers and crew aboard the ship will be quarantined for two weeks. ([Simon Denyer](#))

**-- The FDA approved a new diagnostic test to check people for**

**the virus.** The emergency authorization allows public health labs across the country to use the test. The move will speed up testing that, until now, had all taken place at the CDC's headquarters in Atlanta. ([Hawkins](#))

**-- The U.S. oil industry is already suffering from the coronavirus's effects.** [From the NYT](#): "Just a few weeks after the outbreak of the virus, daily Chinese oil demand is already down 20 percent because of dwindling air travel, road transportation and manufacturing. Since China consumes 13 of every 100 barrels of oil the world produces, every oil company is being hit to some extent."

**-- House Democrats urged the Trump administration to seek emergency funding for the outbreak.** In a letter Tuesday, House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) say it's clear that "further resources will be necessary to support an aggressive and comprehensive government-wide response to the 2019 novel Coronavirus, both domestically and internationally." ([Erica Werner](#))

**-- Have you seen or experienced any racism, xenophobia or other forms of discrimination connected to the coronavirus epidemic?** If you have, The Post wants to hear your story. Fill out [this form](#), and one of our colleagues may follow up with you.

**-- The U.S. is pushing an effort to develop a 5G alternative to Chinese communications giant Huawei.** [From the Journal](#): "The plan would build on efforts by some U.S. telecom and technology companies to agree on common engineering standards that would allow 5G software developers to run code on machines that come



from nearly any hardware manufacturer. That would reduce, if not eliminate, reliance on Huawei equipment. Companies including Microsoft Corp., Dell Inc. and AT&T Inc. are part of the effort, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said.”

**-- Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, head of the U.S. Central Command, met with officials in Baghdad amid tensions over the strike that killed Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani. [Missy Ryan reports](#):** “On a day-long unannounced trip, McKenzie also visited U.S. troops at al-Asad military base, one of the targets of a ballistic missile attack that Iran launched in retaliation ... McKenzie, who is concluding a tour of countries across the Middle East, told reporters after his visit that he discussed the future of the foreign military presence and other matters with Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi, President Barham Salih and parliamentary speaker Mohammed al-Halbousi. ... McKenzie declined to comment on whether he and Iraqi leaders discussed a Pentagon proposal to place Patriot missile batteries in Iraq in the wake of the recent missile attack. McKenzie said the destruction at Asad base underscored what he believed was Iran’s intent to inflict fatal damage on U.S. personnel.”

**-- At least 138 Salvadoran deported by the U.S. were killed back home, a rights group said. [Mary Beth Sheridan reports](#):** “A majority of the Salvadorans — 109 — were sent home during the Obama administration, according to Alison Leal Parker, managing director of the U.S. program of Human Rights Watch. But under President Trump, the New York-based organization notes, it has become more difficult to receive asylum. Human Rights Watch predicts the situation ‘will only worsen.’ ... Human Rights Watch also identified 70 cases of

deportees who disappeared following their return or suffered sexual violence, torture or other abuse, often by gangs.”

-- Nigeria was “blindsided” by Trump’s travel ban, its top diplomat claims. [From the NYT](#): “Geoffrey Onyeama, Nigeria’s foreign minister, said that his government was already working to address security concerns that Trump administration officials said had prompted the decision, announced last week, to reject visas for Nigerians seeking to immigrate to the United States. ... He said that included efforts to directly share personal data — including immigrants’ criminal histories, stolen passport information and suspected links to terrorism — with the United States and Interpol member countries.”



A flag for Deutsche Bank flies outside the German bank's New York offices on Wall Street. (Mark Lennihan/AP)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

-- **“If Trump cheated on his taxes, Deutsche Bank would probably know. If his net worth is measured in millions, not billions, Deutsche Bank would probably know. If he secretly got money from the Kremlin, Deutsche Bank would probably know,”** Times reporter [David Enrich](#) writes in an excerpt of his new book, “Dark Towers,” which focuses on the president’s relationship with the bank. “If they ever become public, the bank’s Trump records could serve as a Rosetta Stone to decode the president’s finances. Executives told me that the bank has, or at one point had, portions of Trump’s personal federal income tax returns going back to around 2011. ... The bank has documents detailing the finances and operations of his businesses. And it has records about internal deliberations over whether and how to do business with Trump — a paper trail that most likely reflects some bank employees’ [concerns about potentially suspicious transactions](#) that they detected in the family’s accounts. One reason all these files could be so illuminating is that the bank’s relationship with Trump extended well beyond making simple loans. Deutsche Bank managed tens of millions of dollars of Trump’s personal assets. **The bank also furnished him with other services that have not previously been reported: providing sophisticated financial instruments that shielded him from risks and outside scrutiny, and making introductions to wealthy Russians who were interested in investing in Western real estate.**”

-- **Lawyers for Trump and for adult-film star Stormy Daniels faced off in court over her libel lawsuit against the president.** The fight

is over a 2018 Trump tweet in which he accused her of being a “total con job” for claiming that she was threatened by an unknown man at a casino parking lot in 2011. Daniels claims the tweet was an act of intimidation aimed at hushing up her claim that she and Trump had sexual encounters while he was married to Melania Trump and she was pregnant with their son. ([Politico](#))

**-- The trial for the former CIA employee accused of leaking thousands of agency documents to WikiLeaks began in New York.** [Shane Harris reports](#): “Joshua Schulte, 31, is charged with disclosing classified information to WikiLeaks after allegedly stealing it from a secretive CIA unit where he worked. In more than 8,000 pages of material published in 2017 — known as the Vault 7 leaks — WikiLeaks showed how the CIA breaks into smartphones and Internet-connected devices, including televisions. The disclosure ‘was the single biggest leak of classified national defense information in the history of the CIA,’ Assistant U.S. Attorney David Denton told jurors. Denton said that as a result of the disclosure, CIA operations had ‘come to a halt,’ U.S. intelligence officers serving overseas had been exposed and American adversaries were able to turn cyberweapons developed by the CIA against the United States.”

**-- The ban on flavored e-cigarette pods takes effect tomorrow.** Sales of fruit-, dessert- and mint-flavored pods will be outlawed. Menthol and tobacco flavors will escape the prohibition. ([Laurie McGinley](#))

**-- Civil rights leader Bayard Rustin was pardoned decades after his arrest for having consensual sex with men in California.** [Samantha Schmidt reports](#): “The ‘morals charge,’ which

was often used to target gay people in those years, remained a stain on his record and nearly sidelined him from the movement he helped create. On Wednesday, California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) issued a posthumous pardon for Rustin. Inspired by a call from lawmakers to pardon the civil rights leader, Newsom also announced a clemency initiative that would help clear the records of other people who faced discriminatory charges for consensual activity with people of the same sex. ... The new clemency initiative will focus on identifying eligible candidates for pardons and will accept applications on behalf of people who meet the criteria for consideration, the governor's office said."

**-- Macy's is closing 125 stores – a fifth of its total -- and laying off 2,000 employees as it struggles to win over costumers who are increasingly buying online. [Abha Bhattarai reports](#):** "The department store chain is also shutting down its headquarters in Cincinnati and will move operations to its main headquarters in New York, the company [announced](#) ...Macy's, which had \$25 billion in sales in 2018, is the country's largest department store chain. ... Analysts said the closures, set to take place over three years, would hurt some of the country's most vulnerable shopping malls, and lead to a ripple effect of declining foot traffic and revenue for nearby stores. ... Macy's did not specify which locations it plans to close but said closures would be in 'lower tier' malls."

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Rep. Billy Long (R-Mo.) suggested Pelosi auction the ripped-up pieces of her copy of Trump's speech:



A Texas congresswoman drew a comparison between the reaction to the ripped-up speech and the Trump administration's actions:



**Rep. Sylvia Garcia** ✓  
@RepSylviaGarcia



Folks are more outraged with @SpeakerPelosi ripping up the speech in half than with the fact that Trump has ripped families apart at the border. #SOTU2020

He's ripped babies from their parents' arms and put them in cages.

That should outrage EVERYONE!  
[twitter.com/thehill/status...](https://twitter.com/thehill/status...)

**The Hill** ✓ @thehill

Speaker Pelosi rips up President Trump's #StateoftheUnion address. #SOTU #SOTU2020 [hill.cm/1PToaBc](https://hill.cm/1PToaBc)



♡ 2,673 5:42 AM - Feb 5, 2020



💬 1,273 people are talking about this



The White House's official account, meanwhile, accused Pelosi of ripping up a list of touching moments from the speech, including

recognition of a surviving Tuskegee Airman:



Pelosi shared a picture of herself trying unsuccessfully to shake hands with Trump at the start of the speech:





**Nancy Pelosi** ✓  
@SpeakerPelosi



Democrats will never stop extending the hand of friendship to get the job done [#ForThePeople](#). We will work to find common ground where we can, but will stand our ground where we cannot. [#SOTU](#)



♡ 51.7K 4:08 AM - Feb 5, 2020



💬 36.4K people are talking about this



Fred Guttenberg, who lost his 14-year-old daughter in the 2018 Parkland, Fla., school shooting, attended the speech as a [guest of Pelosi](#). He was escorted out of the gallery when he started shouting after Trump attacked states for passing stricter gun laws and promised to never give an inch on the Second Amendment. As the hashtag [#ImWithFred](#) trended, Guttenberg apologized for his behavior:




**Fred Guttenberg**  @fred\_guttenberg · 59m



(1,2) Tonight was a rough night. I disrupted the State Of The Union and was detained because I let my emotions get the best of me. I simply want to be able to deal with the reality of gun violence and not have to listen to the lies about the 2A as happened tonight.



**Fred Guttenberg** 

@fred\_guttenberg

(2,2) That said, I should not have yelled out. I am thankful for the overwhelming support that I am receiving. However, I do owe my family and friends an apology. I have tried to conduct myself with dignity throughout this process and I will do better as I pursue gun safety.

♡ 4,708 5:51 AM - Feb 5, 2020



💬 1,237 people are talking about this



From an Army veteran at the scene:



**Will Goodwin**  
@Will\_P\_Goodwin



I sat one seat apart from [@fred\\_guttenberg](#) at [#SOTU](#) tonight.

When POTUS started lying about gun violence, he leaned over and said "I'm about to get kicked out but I can't stand this."

And then he stood up for his daughter Jamie and spoke truth to power. [#ImWithFred](#)



♡ 11.9K 4:36 AM - Feb 5, 2020 · Washington, DC



💬 3,361 people are talking about this



Once again, Democratic congresswomen wore white to the SOTU:



**Rep. Nydia Velazquez** ✓  
@NydiaVelazquez



Proud to join women colleagues in wearing white to tonight's #SOTU to honor the suffragette movement and let @POTUS know we will not back down as we fight #ForthePeople! #WearWhite



♡ 114 11:26 PM - Feb 4, 2020



💬 37 people are talking about this



Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) — the Somali-born member of "the Squad" who Trump said last year should "go back" to where she came from — sat near the back of the chamber. She explained why she did not boycott the speech, although she appeared to walk out toward the end:



Nevada Democrats backed out of their plans to use the failed Iowa caucuses app:



**NV Dems**   
@nv Dems



NV Dems Statement on the Iowa Caucus:

*Nevada State Democratic Party Chair William McCurdy II released the below statement regarding the Iowa caucus:*

"NV Dems can confidently say that what happened in the Iowa caucus last night will not happen in Nevada on February 22nd. We will not be employing the same app or vendor used in the Iowa caucus. We had already developed a series of backups and redundant reporting systems, and are currently evaluating the best path forward."

 4,106 5:37 PM - Feb 4, 2020



 1,386 people are talking about this



## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert went live with his thoughts on the president's speech:



Seth Meyers had a few strong words for the Iowa caucuses:



And Hasan Minhaj interviewed Sanders about his campaign promises:



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: State of the Union showcases Trump's total control of the GOP on eve of probable impeachment acquittal  
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# The Daily 202

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**State of the Union showcases Trump's total control of the GOP on eve of probable impeachment acquittal**



Boasts, Barbs and a ripped up speech: President Trump's 2020 State of the Union address



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

**THE BIG IDEA:** President Trump did not mention impeachment during his State of the Union address on Tuesday night, but it loomed large on the eve of his foregone acquittal by the Senate. Many of the Republican jurors in the trial chanted “four more years” as he stepped to the podium, and they interrupted him 128 times for applause during a 77-minute speech.

Not a single Republican in the House broke ranks to vote for either article of impeachment seven weeks ago. Every Republican senator has now announced that they will vote this afternoon against convicting the president, except for Mitt Romney, who has not revealed his intentions either way.

Rep. Jeff Van Drew (R-N.J.), who quit the Democratic Party in December after opposing impeachment, stood on the GOP side of the center aisle last night and sought Trump's attention to get a handshake. Trump held a rally last Wednesday in Van Drew's district — which he carried in 2016 — to ensure the party-switcher will fend off a GOP primary challenge to hold the seat.

Trump has never been more popular than he is right now among Republicans, at the elite and grass-roots levels. [A Gallup poll](#) released yesterday put Trump's approval rating at 49 percent, the highest point of his presidency so far. One big reason: His approval among Republicans rose by six points since early January to 94 percent. That's three points higher than his previous personal best.

At the Republican caucuses in Iowa on Monday night, Trump received 97.1 percent of the vote. Former Massachusetts governor Bill Weld and former Illinois congressman Joe Walsh have campaigned hard against Trump, and both were in Des Moines this weekend, but they were greeted by small crowds and little appetite among Republicans to break with the president who staged a hostile takeover of the party four years ago after finishing second in the Iowa caucuses.



Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) arrives for Trump's State of the Union address. (Leah Millis/Pool/Reuters)

**-- Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) announced on Tuesday that she will vote to acquit Trump on both articles of impeachment passed by the House.** “I believe that the president has learned from this case,” she told CBS News’s Norah O’Donnell. “The president has been impeached. That’s a pretty big lesson. ... I believe that he will be much more cautious in the future.” Other Republicans – including Rob Portman (Ohio), Joni Ernst (Iowa) Shelley Moore Capito (W.V.) – have [used variations](#) of the talking point that Trump has learned his lesson.

**But there is no evidence that Trump has been chastened.** There have been no suggestions that he feels any contrition at all for the alleged scheme to coerce Ukraine to announce an investigation of Joe Biden by freezing military assistance and withholding a White House meeting.

**Trump was even asked directly about Collins’s claim that he learned a lesson during a two-hour, off-the-record lunch with television anchors to preview the speech.** The president replied that he has done nothing wrong. “It was a perfect call,” said Trump, repeating a mantra he’s used for months.

The Washington Post didn’t attend the lunch, but several participants [described it to Josh Dawsey and Phil Rucker](#): “Trump expressed frustration with former national security adviser John Bolton, who the president said had turned on him. Trump also mocked Bolton by saying that he always wanted to be called ‘ambassador,’ even internally at the White House, and that his ambassadorship to the United Nations in the mid-2000s was a recess appointment.

**“Trump also said he wanted to block Bolton’s forthcoming book from being published,** according to two people familiar with knowledge of the lunch. The White House has only said that the book has classified information and that Bolton needs to make changes to the book. Bolton is said to allege that Trump tied aid to Ukraine to politically motivated investigations of his opponents, and people familiar with the project say it is unflattering to the president. The president told the anchors that Bolton could have written the book once Trump left office but that doing it while Trump is still in office ‘is not right.’”

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Content from [Partnership for America’s Health Care Future](#)

**American families can’t afford Medicare for All.**



Studies confirm that Medicare for All would force Americans to pay more for worse care. Economists agree, there's "no way to pay for Medicare for All without tax increases."



Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-Ariz.) holds up a school choice logo on the Republican side of the aisle during the State of the Union address. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

**-- Getting acquitted is not the same thing as being exonerated, but Trump will probably portray it as just that during his looming victory lap. After all, he said last year that Bob Mueller's report**

represented “complete and total exoneration,” even though the former special counsel went out of his way to say that it was not. He even detailed 10 cases of possible obstruction of justice.

**-- Trump’s personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani even told NPR yesterday that the president should continue pushing for a Biden investigation once he’s acquitted.** “Absolutely, 100%,” [Giuliani said](#). “I would have no problem with him doing it. In fact, I’d have a problem with him not doing it.”

**-- Opposing impeachment has been a fundraising gold mine for Republicans.** “Donation pages for WinRed — the GOP’s online fundraising tool — that included the word ‘impeach’ or ‘impeachment’ raised 300 percent more than pages that did not,” [per Politico](#). “Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-N.Y.), who himself has been catapulted from the back benches of Congress to Trump’s Twitter feed through his role defending the president during impeachment, compared the uptick in energy and fundraising dollars to the bitter confirmation fight over Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh in 2018.”

**-- Dozens of prominent Republican surrogates who traveled to Iowa on Monday as a show of force for Trump at the GOP caucuses wore MAGA-style hats that said "Keep Iowa Great" on their chartered flight home:**



(Tim Murtaugh/Trump campaign)

**-- There are daily reminders of the extent to which Trump now dominates Republican politics, even though he did not even join the party until 2009.** For example, Trump repeatedly humiliated Jeff Sessions, culminating with his termination, after the then-attorney general recused himself from overseeing the Justice Department's probe of Russian connections with the Trump campaign in 2016. Sessions is now running in a crowded GOP primary to wrest back the Alabama Senate seat he gave up so he could join the administration. Lacking the president's support, Sessions launched a new campaign commercial yesterday to highlight that he was the first senator to endorse Trump in 2016. "While the others were hiding under their desks, ... I knew he was the one to make America great again," Sessions [says](#) to the camera, as he dons his four-year-old MAGA hat. "And I'll keep fighting for President Trump and his agenda."





Rush Limbaugh awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom



-- Trump made no effort to unify the nation at the end of the third presidential impeachment trial in American history. Instead, he used his third State of the Union to demonstrate anew that his reelection strategy for 2020 is to follow the same base-first playbook that worked in 2016: Divide and conquer.

**He took at least three digs at former president Barack Obama,**

**including his handling of the economy, Cuba and immigration.** “If we hadn’t reversed the failed economic policies of the previous administration, the world would not now be witnessing this great economic success,” Trump said.

Trump awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to a surprised Rush Limbaugh during the speech was also emblematic of this. Limbaugh, who said earlier this week that he’s been diagnosed with lung cancer, has contributed mightily to the polarization. He’s a divisive figure who has been accused over the years of making racist and misogynistic comments on his nationally syndicated radio show. For what it’s worth, like Trump, Limbaugh spent several years pushing the totally discredited conspiracy theory that Obama was not born in the United States and has never apologized.

“Rush Limbaugh: Thank you for your decades of tireless devotion to our country,” Trump said in his State of the Union. “Rush, in recognition of all that you have done for our nation [and] the millions of people a day that you speak to and inspire, ... I am proud to announce tonight that you will be receiving our country’s highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.”

“Oh, no,” an unknown Democrat **yelled** from their side of the chamber when Trump announced the award. “Thank you, Rush,” an unknown Republican yelled from their side.

**-- While Trump extended no olive branches, he threw plenty of other red meat to his base.** He promised to fight to protect prayer in public schools, advocated restrictions on abortion rights and pledged to protect the right to bear arms, which he said is “under siege all

across our country.”

**-- The president also offered an implicit reminder that he’s pushed a party that once proudly and unabashedly championed free markets in the direction of protectionism.** Trump boasted last night about replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement with the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. “Unfair trade is perhaps the single biggest reason that I decided to run for president,” he said. “Many politicians came and went, pledging to change or replace NAFTA, ... and then absolutely nothing happened. But unlike so many who came before me, I keep my promises.”

Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania was [the only Republican senator](#) who voted against ratifying the USMCA last month because of principled conservative objections that it makes trade less free. Other Republicans grumbled privately about the deal’s flaws, and its concessions to organized labor, but they backed the deal anyway.

**-- Trump is talented at the transactional elements of party politics.** During his speech, Trump singled out for praise several Republican senators who have defended him during the trial: He endorsed John Barrasso’s highway bill, Thom Tillis’s proposal to allow people to sue sanctuary cities, Chuck Grassley’s efforts to reduce prescription drug prices and Tim Scott’s work on economic opportunity zones “as part of our great Republican tax cuts.” Trump also praised Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell for confirming 187 of his judicial nominees. “Thank you, Mitch,” he said, “and we have many in the pipeline.”



Democrats didn't hide their disdain for Trump's State of the Union address

**-- But the president has always defined himself politically as much by whom he's against as what's he's for.** Last night, he attacked Pennsylvania's Democratic governor for vetoing a school voucher program opposed by teachers unions. He ripped the city of New York and the state of California for not fully cooperating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers. He slammed the 132 Democrats who have endorsed Medicare-for-all and accused them of wanting to give taxpayer-funded health care to undocumented immigrants, to which House Speaker Nancy Pelosi mouthed "not true." Trump declared: "To those watching at home tonight, I want you to know: We will never let socialism destroy American health care."

**-- What people will remember from last night is that neither Trump nor Pelosi and Democratic leaders tried to hide their mutual disdain for one another.** After Trump appeared to snub Pelosi by not shaking her outstretched hand at the start of the speech,

the speaker of the House ripped up a printout of his speech into four separate piles as he concluded. Asked why she tore up the speech, Pelosi [told reporters](#): “It was the courteous thing to do, considering the alternative.”

The seven House impeachment managers sat together. Rank-and-file Democrats like Lois Frankel from Florida approached Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) to get selfies before Trump’s arrival. This is Trump’s final State of the Union address before voters get to render their own verdict on his tenure.



Trump’s 2020 State of the Union, fact checked | The Fact Checker

### HOW IT'S PLAYING:

-- **The Fact Checker team flags 31 false or misleading statements by the president.** The annual speech was “once again chock-full of stretched facts and dubious figures,” [Glenn Kessler, Sal Rizzo and Sarah Cahlan report](#). “Many of these claims have been fact-checked

repeatedly, yet the president persists in using them.”

-- “**Trump claimed the U.S. economy is ‘roaring’ and ‘the best it has ever been.’ ... The broad consensus among economists is that the U.S. economy is doing well, but these are not unprecedented times,**” [Heather Long reports](#). “In a number of ways, the current economy is the best the nation has seen since the late 1990s.”

-- **Aaron Blake’s four takeaways:** 1. Impeachment bad blood spills over. 2. A (repeatedly) overstated economic case. 3. Running against Barack Obama. 4. The Rush Limbaugh moment was obviously designed to elicit a reaction.

-- **More team coverage:**

- [David Nakamura](#): “Trump paints strong economy as vindication as he tries to move past impeachment.”
- [Rachael Bade](#): “Democrats use State of the Union rebuttal to pivot from impeachment.”
- [Mike DeBonis](#): “Pelosi shreds Trump’s speech, capping a tumultuous year in Washington.”
- [Robin Givhan](#): “Congressional Democrats wore their white-hot fury to the State of the Union.”
- [Ashley Parker](#): “With chants, walkouts and a ripped-up speech, bitter partisanship dominates...”
- [Avi Selk](#): “The cheers, glares and ‘Oh no!’ ... showed just how bitterly divided this Congress is.”
- [Philip Bump](#): “Amid reelection bid, Trump’s State of the Union address goes full reality show. Leveraging

the presidency for his political benefit gets more subtle.”

- [Amber Phillips and Kristina Orrego](#) annotated a transcript of the address.



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Buttigieg says his campaign 'has taken its place at the front of this race'

## 2020 WATCH:

-- **Pete Buttigieg and Bernie Sanders took the lead after partial results were released from the marred Iowa caucuses.** [Toluse Olorunnipa, Annie Linskey and Chelsea Janes report](#): “According to the early results, which Iowa Democratic Party Chairman Troy Price said represented 62 percent of the state’s precincts, Buttigieg was leading with 26.9 percent of the state’s delegates, followed by Sanders with 25.1 percent. Sanders won some bragging rights with a popular-vote lead, with 28,220 to Buttigieg’s 27,090. [Elizabeth Warren and [Joe Biden](#)] were in third and fourth place with 18.3 and 15.6 percent of the delegates, respectively — disappointing results for candidates who have sought to push the idea that they are most electable. They ranked in the same positions in the popular vote.

**“The full results remained delayed Tuesday after a complex caucus process plagued by technical difficulties in its reporting**



**system that began Monday night and continued with no clear timeline for a resolution.** The Iowa Democratic Party said Tuesday that it was continuing to try to verify the results, collecting boxes of presidential preference cards and pushing precincts to report their results as quickly as possible. ... Buttigieg's voice seemed to crack Tuesday as he acknowledged the unprecedented nature of his success. ...

**“While Sanders came out on top in the popular vote, the overall turnout figures — comparable to 2016’s but far below the record numbers that launched Barack Obama’s candidacy in 2008 — indicated that his pledge to energize an army of young and first-time voters had not been fulfilled.** ... The muddled results served to persuade lower-tier candidates to stay in the race, making the Democrats’ challenge to select a standard-bearer all the more difficult. ... [Amy] Klobuchar was in fifth place in Iowa, according to the partial results, with 12.6 percent of the state’s delegates. Entrepreneur Andrew Yang trailed behind with 1.1 percent, and businessman Tom Steyer had 0.3 percent.” Klobuchar told supporters at a campaign stop in Concord, N.H.: “I’m someone that thrives in chaos. You want a steady hand in chaos, right?”

**-- Iowa Democrats kept their caucusing app secret to prevent hacks. Instead, they got confusion and chaos. [Isaac Stanley-Becker and Michael Scherer report](#):** “Some explanations for the meltdown began to emerge — including the fact that many precinct organizers had not been able to adequately test the app designed for reporting results to party headquarters. But questions also remained about why the state party chose Shadow, a Democratic-aligned start-

up, for such a high-stakes moment. The app had been rolled out for testing in mid-January, just weeks before the caucuses. The delay was intentional, according to a state party official ...

**"Iowa Democrats waited to introduce the software to avoid giving potential hackers time to penetrate it,** the official said, adding that the party chose to keep the name of the vendor secret on the advice of national cybersecurity consultants. In the end, the problem on caucus night was not a hack. Nor could it be explained alone by difficulty in downloading the software. It was a more basic coding error that caused the problems. When caucus leaders started successfully reporting data through the app, a separate system also developed by Shadow collated the information but spit out only partial results, according to a person familiar with the events."

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "We feel really terrible about that," said Gerard Niemira, CEO of the political technology company Shadow, which developed the failed Iowa caucuses app. ([Bloomberg News](#))

**-- The caucus mess – and an emboldened Trump – are fueling Democratic anxiety.** [Matt Viser reports](#): "The Democratic five-alarm fire has begun. Around the country on Tuesday, Democrats found themselves baffled by the circumstances engulfing their party — even one that is known for, and sometimes takes pride in, its tendency to overreact with worry. 'This is just one sad week,' said former senator Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.). 'While I am having these very dark, sad feelings about the Senate GOP and a whitewash, here comes this mess in Iowa,' Boxer said, referring to the impeachment trial. 'This is a wake-up call. We're going to be tested.' ... Democrats were concerned that turnout for the caucuses, which party officials just

weeks ago predicted would hit record levels due to voter enthusiasm to take on Trump, apparently fell short of expectations, potentially suggesting a lack of enthusiasm for the candidates. ... The combination of the muddled result, a botched process that forced the Iowa Democratic chairman to apologize late Tuesday, and the low participation levels was demoralizing to many in the party.”

**-- The results emboldened Mike Bloomberg, who didn't compete in Iowa. “Bloomberg authorized his advisers Tuesday morning to double television spending for his own presidential campaign,”** [Paul Schwartzman and Michael Scherer report](#). “The campaign has also been authorized to hire more staff, said a person familiar with the strategy. Bloomberg told a noontime crowd [in Detroit] Tuesday that he was sleeping on a plane last night, woke up and asked an aide what had happened in the Iowa caucuses. He said the aide answered, ‘Nothing.’ ‘I still can’t figure out what happened,’ Bloomberg said to laughter. ‘More than any other candidate, we have the momentum.’”

**-- Facing a cash crunch, Biden’s campaign tried to reassure jittery donors on a conference call that the former vice president can still win Nevada and South Carolina. ([CNBC](#))**

**-- Trump and son-in-law Jared Kushner saw their campaign’s Super Bowl ad as a way of making inroads with black voters. [From the Times](#):** “Several senior Trump aides expressed skepticism of Mr. Kushner’s belief that broad numbers of black voters, whose views of the president are overwhelmingly negative, are persuadable. ... Mr. Trump himself was a motivating factor for turning out African-American Democrats in the 2018 midterm elections. Voter participation among black people in 2018 grew from the 2014

midterms, according to data from the Pew Research Center. Despite those numbers and the skepticism from colleagues, **Mr. Kushner has been advising Mr. Trump that black voters can be converted into supporters if they are simply educated on his policies. Mr. Trump's biggest challenge, Mr. Kushner has told people, is a 'knowledge gap' on many of the president's accomplishments, particularly on the issue of criminal justice reform, which Mr. Kushner has spearheaded.**"

**-- Kweisi Mfume won the Democratic primary in the special election to replace the late congressman Elijah Cummings, defeating the revered lawmaker's widow in Baltimore.** Mfume is considered likely to easily reclaim the deep-blue seat he held more than 20 years ago. ([Jenna Portnoy](#))

**-- An increasing number of Republicans are acknowledging they need to begin addressing climate change and offering solutions to have any hope of retaking the House.** [Steven Mufson reports](#): "In poll after poll, large numbers of young and suburban Republican voters are registering their desire for climate action and say the issue is a priority. And their concern about climate change is spreading to older GOP supporters, too. ... The GOP is still hammering out details, but some critics say the new Republican approach to climate change looks a lot like the old one. In addition to trees, senior Republicans are said to be considering tax breaks for research, curbs on plastic waste and big federally funded infrastructure projects in the name of adaptation or resilience. The already well-worn buzzword 'innovation' will be their rallying cry, and natural gas, despite its carbon emissions, will be embraced."



Fear of the coronavirus turns Chinese cities into ghost towns

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- **The overall death toll of the coronavirus has reached 492.** Chinese authorities reported total confirmed cases now top 24,000. More than 3,000 are in critical condition. (Shibani Mahtani, Anna Fifield, Derek Hawkins and Siobhán O’Grady [report in our live blog.](#))

-- **Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam instituted a mandatory 14-day quarantine for visitors arriving from China, bowing to increasingly strident demands from striking health workers on the island.** [Mahtani reports:](#) “Separately, the Hong Kong government will also shut cruise terminals in the city. On Wednesday morning, a cruise ship docked in Hong Kong — initially bound for Taiwan but turned away — with several suspected cases of infections among crew on board. Lam described the measure on Wednesday as 'very strict' and said her government believes there would be a 'substantial

drop' in cross-boundary travel. Implementing such a move is politically sensitive for Hong Kong, which likely needs Beijing's approval for such a measure despite having its own immigration system."

**-- Some 530 Americans stuck in the Wuhan area were evacuated after extended delays that appear to be linked to the political frictions between Beijing and Washington.** [Fifield reports](#): "Some had been in the airport for 48 hours waiting for information, with speculation that flight authorizations had been delayed by Chinese authorities. ... For many of the hundreds of Americans at the airport, the evacuation had been a frustrating experience, compounded by the fact that the U.S. government had evacuated its consulate in Wuhan immediately after the city at the center of the deadly coronavirus outbreak went into lockdown. ... Those difficulties have been compounded, some Americans in the city say, by a feeling that their government has deserted them. 'We're like refugees here,' said one woman from New Jersey who was visiting family in Wuhan for the Lunar New Year holiday when she got trapped in the city. ... Furthermore, [Americans] described scenes of chaos at the airport, with no officials there to help them and not even a sign indicating where to gather. This was in contrast to the Russian evacuation, where consular officials had set up an information desk with a Russian flag and had provided buses to bring Russian citizens through the checkpoints into the airport."

**-- Ten aboard a cruise ship anchored in Japanese waters tested positive for the virus.** The roughly 3,700 passengers and crew aboard the ship will be quarantined for two weeks. ([Simon Denyer](#))

**-- The FDA approved a new diagnostic test to check people for**

**the virus.** The emergency authorization allows public health labs across the country to use the test. The move will speed up testing that, until now, had all taken place at the CDC's headquarters in Atlanta. ([Hawkins](#))

**-- The U.S. oil industry is already suffering from the coronavirus's effects.** [From the NYT](#): "Just a few weeks after the outbreak of the virus, daily Chinese oil demand is already down 20 percent because of dwindling air travel, road transportation and manufacturing. Since China consumes 13 of every 100 barrels of oil the world produces, every oil company is being hit to some extent."

**-- House Democrats urged the Trump administration to seek emergency funding for the outbreak.** In a letter Tuesday, House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) say it's clear that "further resources will be necessary to support an aggressive and comprehensive government-wide response to the 2019 novel Coronavirus, both domestically and internationally." ([Erica Werner](#))

**-- Have you seen or experienced any racism, xenophobia or other forms of discrimination connected to the coronavirus epidemic?** If you have, The Post wants to hear your story. Fill out [this form](#), and one of our colleagues may follow up with you.

**-- The U.S. is pushing an effort to develop a 5G alternative to Chinese communications giant Huawei.** [From the Journal](#): "The plan would build on efforts by some U.S. telecom and technology companies to agree on common engineering standards that would allow 5G software developers to run code on machines that come

from nearly any hardware manufacturer. That would reduce, if not eliminate, reliance on Huawei equipment. Companies including Microsoft Corp., Dell Inc. and AT&T Inc. are part of the effort, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said.”

**-- Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, head of the U.S. Central Command, met with officials in Baghdad amid tensions over the strike that killed Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani. [Missy Ryan reports](#):** “On a day-long unannounced trip, McKenzie also visited U.S. troops at al-Asad military base, one of the targets of a ballistic missile attack that Iran launched in retaliation ... McKenzie, who is concluding a tour of countries across the Middle East, told reporters after his visit that he discussed the future of the foreign military presence and other matters with Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi, President Barham Salih and parliamentary speaker Mohammed al-Halbousi. ... McKenzie declined to comment on whether he and Iraqi leaders discussed a Pentagon proposal to place Patriot missile batteries in Iraq in the wake of the recent missile attack. McKenzie said the destruction at Asad base underscored what he believed was Iran’s intent to inflict fatal damage on U.S. personnel.”

**-- At least 138 Salvadoran deported by the U.S. were killed back home, a rights group said. [Mary Beth Sheridan reports](#):** “A majority of the Salvadorans — 109 — were sent home during the Obama administration, according to Alison Leal Parker, managing director of the U.S. program of Human Rights Watch. But under President Trump, the New York-based organization notes, it has become more difficult to receive asylum. Human Rights Watch predicts the situation ‘will only worsen.’ ... Human Rights Watch also identified 70 cases of



deportees who disappeared following their return or suffered sexual violence, torture or other abuse, often by gangs.”

-- Nigeria was “blindsided” by Trump’s travel ban, its top diplomat claims. [From the NYT](#): “Geoffrey Onyeama, Nigeria’s foreign minister, said that his government was already working to address security concerns that Trump administration officials said had prompted the decision, announced last week, to reject visas for Nigerians seeking to immigrate to the United States. ... He said that included efforts to directly share personal data — including immigrants’ criminal histories, stolen passport information and suspected links to terrorism — with the United States and Interpol member countries.”



A flag for Deutsche Bank flies outside the German bank's New York offices on Wall Street. (Mark Lennihan/AP)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

-- **“If Trump cheated on his taxes, Deutsche Bank would probably know. If his net worth is measured in millions, not billions, Deutsche Bank would probably know. If he secretly got money from the Kremlin, Deutsche Bank would probably know,”** Times reporter [David Enrich](#) writes in an excerpt of his new book, “Dark Towers,” which focuses on the president’s relationship with the bank. “If they ever become public, the bank’s Trump records could serve as a Rosetta Stone to decode the president’s finances. Executives told me that the bank has, or at one point had, portions of Trump’s personal federal income tax returns going back to around 2011. ... The bank has documents detailing the finances and operations of his businesses. And it has records about internal deliberations over whether and how to do business with Trump — a paper trail that most likely reflects some bank employees’ [concerns about potentially suspicious transactions](#) that they detected in the family’s accounts. One reason all these files could be so illuminating is that the bank’s relationship with Trump extended well beyond making simple loans. Deutsche Bank managed tens of millions of dollars of Trump’s personal assets. **The bank also furnished him with other services that have not previously been reported: providing sophisticated financial instruments that shielded him from risks and outside scrutiny, and making introductions to wealthy Russians who were interested in investing in Western real estate.**”

-- **Lawyers for Trump and for adult-film star Stormy Daniels faced off in court over her libel lawsuit against the president.** The fight

is over a 2018 Trump tweet in which he accused her of being a “total con job” for claiming that she was threatened by an unknown man at a casino parking lot in 2011. Daniels claims the tweet was an act of intimidation aimed at hushing up her claim that she and Trump had sexual encounters while he was married to Melania Trump and she was pregnant with their son. ([Politico](#))

**-- The trial for the former CIA employee accused of leaking thousands of agency documents to WikiLeaks began in New York.** [Shane Harris reports](#): “Joshua Schulte, 31, is charged with disclosing classified information to WikiLeaks after allegedly stealing it from a secretive CIA unit where he worked. In more than 8,000 pages of material published in 2017 — known as the Vault 7 leaks — WikiLeaks showed how the CIA breaks into smartphones and Internet-connected devices, including televisions. The disclosure ‘was the single biggest leak of classified national defense information in the history of the CIA,’ Assistant U.S. Attorney David Denton told jurors. Denton said that as a result of the disclosure, CIA operations had ‘come to a halt,’ U.S. intelligence officers serving overseas had been exposed and American adversaries were able to turn cyberweapons developed by the CIA against the United States.”

**-- The ban on flavored e-cigarette pods takes effect tomorrow.** Sales of fruit-, dessert- and mint-flavored pods will be outlawed. Menthol and tobacco flavors will escape the prohibition. ([Laurie McGinley](#))

**-- Civil rights leader Bayard Rustin was pardoned decades after his arrest for having consensual sex with men in California.** [Samantha Schmidt reports](#): “The ‘morals charge,’ which

was often used to target gay people in those years, remained a stain on his record and nearly sidelined him from the movement he helped create. On Wednesday, California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) issued a posthumous pardon for Rustin. Inspired by a call from lawmakers to pardon the civil rights leader, Newsom also announced a clemency initiative that would help clear the records of other people who faced discriminatory charges for consensual activity with people of the same sex. ... The new clemency initiative will focus on identifying eligible candidates for pardons and will accept applications on behalf of people who meet the criteria for consideration, the governor's office said."

**-- Macy's is closing 125 stores – a fifth of its total -- and laying off 2,000 employees as it struggles to win over costumers who are increasingly buying online. [Abha Bhattarai reports](#):** "The department store chain is also shutting down its headquarters in Cincinnati and will move operations to its main headquarters in New York, the company [announced](#) ...Macy's, which had \$25 billion in sales in 2018, is the country's largest department store chain. ... Analysts said the closures, set to take place over three years, would hurt some of the country's most vulnerable shopping malls, and lead to a ripple effect of declining foot traffic and revenue for nearby stores. ... Macy's did not specify which locations it plans to close but said closures would be in 'lower tier' malls."

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Rep. Billy Long (R-Mo.) suggested Pelosi auction the ripped-up pieces of her copy of Trump's speech:



A Texas congresswoman drew a comparison between the reaction to the ripped-up speech and the Trump administration's actions:



**Rep. Sylvia Garcia** ✓  
@RepSylviaGarcia



Folks are more outraged with @SpeakerPelosi ripping up the speech in half than with the fact that Trump has ripped families apart at the border. #SOTU2020

He's ripped babies from their parents' arms and put them in cages.

That should outrage EVERYONE!  
[twitter.com/thehill/status...](https://twitter.com/thehill/status...)

**The Hill** ✓ @thehill

Speaker Pelosi rips up President Trump's #StateoftheUnion address. #SOTU #SOTU2020 [hill.cm/1PToaBc](https://hill.cm/1PToaBc)



♥ 2,673 5:42 AM - Feb 5, 2020



💬 1,273 people are talking about this



The White House's official account, meanwhile, accused Pelosi of ripping up a list of touching moments from the speech, including

recognition of a surviving Tuskegee Airman:



Pelosi shared a picture of herself trying unsuccessfully to shake hands with Trump at the start of the speech:



**Nancy Pelosi** ✓  
@SpeakerPelosi



Democrats will never stop extending the hand of friendship to get the job done [#ForThePeople](#). We will work to find common ground where we can, but will stand our ground where we cannot. [#SOTU](#)



♡ 51.7K 4:08 AM - Feb 5, 2020



💬 36.4K people are talking about this



Fred Guttenberg, who lost his 14-year-old daughter in the 2018 Parkland, Fla., school shooting, attended the speech as a [guest of Pelosi](#). He was escorted out of the gallery when he started shouting after Trump attacked states for passing stricter gun laws and promised to never give an inch on the Second Amendment. As the hashtag [#ImWithFred](#) trended, Guttenberg apologized for his behavior:






**Fred Guttenberg**  @fred\_guttenberg · 59m



(1,2) Tonight was a rough night. I disrupted the State Of The Union and was detained because I let my emotions get the best of me. I simply want to be able to deal with the reality of gun violence and not have to listen to the lies about the 2A as happened tonight.



**Fred Guttenberg** 

@fred\_guttenberg

(2,2) That said, I should not have yelled out. I am thankful for the overwhelming support that I am receiving. However, I do owe my family and friends an apology. I have tried to conduct myself with dignity throughout this process and I will do better as I pursue gun safety.

♡ 4,708 5:51 AM - Feb 5, 2020



💬 1,237 people are talking about this



From an Army veteran at the scene:



**Will Goodwin**  
@Will\_P\_Goodwin



I sat one seat apart from [@fred\\_guttenberg](#) at [#SOTU](#) tonight.

When POTUS started lying about gun violence, he leaned over and said "I'm about to get kicked out but I can't stand this."

And then he stood up for his daughter Jamie and spoke truth to power. [#ImWithFred](#)



♡ 11.9K 4:36 AM - Feb 5, 2020 · Washington, DC



💬 3,361 people are talking about this



Once again, Democratic congresswomen wore white to the SOTU:



**Rep. Nydia Velazquez** ✓  
@NydiaVelazquez



Proud to join women colleagues in wearing white to tonight's #SOTU to honor the suffragette movement and let @POTUS know we will not back down as we fight #ForthePeople! #WearWhite



♡ 114 11:26 PM - Feb 4, 2020



💬 37 people are talking about this



Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) — the Somali-born member of "the Squad" who Trump said last year should "go back" to where she came from — sat near the back of the chamber. She explained why she did not boycott the speech, although she appeared to walk out toward the end:



Nevada Democrats backed out of their plans to use the failed Iowa caucuses app:



**NV Dems**   
@nvdems



NV Dems Statement on the Iowa Caucus:

*Nevada State Democratic Party Chair William McCurdy II released the below statement regarding the Iowa caucus:*

"NV Dems can confidently say that what happened in the Iowa caucus last night will not happen in Nevada on February 22nd. We will not be employing the same app or vendor used in the Iowa caucus. We had already developed a series of backups and redundant reporting systems, and are currently evaluating the best path forward."

 4,106  5:37 PM - Feb 4, 2020



 1,386 people are talking about this



## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert went live with his thoughts on the president's speech:



Seth Meyers had a few strong words for the Iowa caucuses:



And Hasan Minhaj interviewed Sanders about his campaign promises:



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: A reluctant Romney tried to give Trump an out on impeachment. The White House wouldn't take it.  
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# The Daily 202

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**A reluctant Romney tried to give Trump an out on impeachment. The White House wouldn't take it.**





Sen. Mitt Romney's full speech announcing he will vote to convict Trump



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaró*

**THE BIG IDEA: Mitt Romney wants you to know that voting to remove President Trump from office on an abuse-of-power charge was “the most difficult decision” he’s ever made.**

As he became the first senator [in U.S. history](#) to vote for removing a president of his own party from office, even though he knew it wouldn’t change the outcome, the GOP’s 2012 standard-bearer emphasized his reluctance to do so and highlighted the off-ramps he sought.

Romney revealed that he contacted the White House counsel’s office, through a fellow senator, asking if it would provide sworn affidavits from officials such as former national security adviser John Bolton or acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, but it was to no avail.

“I sought to hear testimony from John Bolton not only because I believed he could add context to the charges, but also because I hoped that what he said might raise reasonable doubt and thus remove from me the awful obligation to vote for impeachment,” Romney said in [an emotional speech](#) on the Senate floor.

The 1975 graduate of Harvard Law School said he also hoped Trump’s defense team would persuade him to [acquit](#) the president during the trial. He found their arguments that a president can only be impeached for violating a specific statute “absurd on its face.”

“I was hoping beyond hope that the defense would present evidence, exculpatory evidence, that would remove from me the responsibility to vote where my conscience was telling me I had to vote,” Romney [told The Washington Post’s Dan Balz](#). “When Nancy Pelosi indicated we’re now going to pursue impeachment, my heart sank in dread.”

Ultimately, Romney chose to split the difference – as Maine Rep. Jared Golden, a freshman Democrat from a conservative district, [did in December](#) – by voting for the article of impeachment on abuse of power but against the article related to obstruction of Congress. His reasoning was that “the House did not take the time to go to the courts” and exhaust all the legal possibilities for compelling testimony and documents from administration officials with firsthand knowledge who could speak to Trump’s role in the alleged effort to coerce Ukraine’s government to announce an investigation of Joe Biden in exchange for delivering military aid.

But Romney emphasized that he does not approve of the White House’s stonewalling, and his comments underscored the extent to

which Trump and his administration did not cooperate with congressional efforts to conduct oversight of the executive branch.

**-- Without tipping off GOP leadership or the White House in advance, Romney explained his agonizing deliberations in half a dozen media interviews that were embargoed until he announced his decision on the Senate floor.** “There has not been a morning since this process began that I've slept beyond 4 a.m.,” Romney told Chris Wallace on [Fox News](#). “I have looked at the testimony in detail. I have attempted to get every piece of information I could.”

**-- The senator told [the Deseret News](#) that some nights he would lean toward acquittal and, on others, he felt less certain.** He took 54 pages of detailed notes in a legal pad. He recalled heading back to his office after the trial wrapped up each night to debrief his staff, sometimes for hours, on what he learned. He told the oldest paper in the state he represents that he spoke with his wife, Ann, every night and discussed his final decision with their five sons and daughters-in-law.

**Romney said he he’s “never experienced ... as much angst” about a decision.** He received texts, emails and calls from people he “hadn’t heard from in a long time” urging him to support the president. “And let me tell you, I’d love to stand with the team,” Romney told the [Deseret News’s](#) Matthew Brown. “But if you stand with the team in contravention of your conscience and the duty you’ve made before God, I would have to endure the censure of my own conscience, as well as the disdain of history.”



President Trump holds up the print edition of today's Washington Post at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington. (Evan Vucci/AP)

-- Romney expressed “regret” for making decisions throughout his career that have been influenced “in some cases by political benefit,” but he said this time is different because he swore an oath to render impartial justice. “I don’t want to be the skunk at the garden party, and I don’t want the disdain of Republicans across the country,” he told [the New York Times’s Mark Leibovich](#). “I have found, in business in particular but also in politics, that when something is in your personal best interests, the ability of the mind to rationalize that that’s the right thing is really quite extraordinary. I have seen it in others, and I have seen it in myself.”

-- **A devout Mormon**, Romney told [the Atlantic](#) that he closely consulted Scripture and the Federalist Papers. He said he read Federalist No. 65 “multiple, multiple times” when trying to assess

whether what the president did warranted removal from office.

Throughout the trial, he told McKay Coppins, he was guided by his father's favorite verse of Mormon scripture: "Search diligently, pray always, and be believing, and all things shall work together for your good."

"I have gone through a process of very thorough analysis and searching, and I have prayed through this process," Romney said.

"But I don't pretend that God told me what to do."

**-- At the National Prayer Breakfast this morning, Trump seemed to take a dig at Romney over the references to his Mormon faith, as well as Speaker Nancy Pelosi over her recent comments that she prays for the president regularly.** "I don't like people who use their faith as justification for doing what they know is wrong," he told a bipartisan crowd of 3,000 people in Washington. "Nor do I like people who say, 'I pray for you,' when they know that that's not so. So many people have been hurt, and we can't let that go on." Trump added: "They have done everything possible to destroy us and, by so doing, very badly hurt our nation."

"He then delivered a 20-minute address that sounded like a campaign speech, spending a good portion of it decrying the impeachment process, which he said was led by some 'very dishonest and corrupt people,'" [Michelle Boorstein and Sarah Pulliam Bailey report](#).

**-- In another interview yesterday, Romney was adamant that his decision had nothing to do with the harsh attacks that Trump has leveled at him since he refused to endorse his candidacy in 2016.**

"I don't hate the president," Romney told [the Salt Lake Tribune's](#)

**Thomas Burr.** “So he shoots a tweet at me now and then. Really? You think I would endure the consequence of the vote I'm going to take for, you know, trying to get even with a tweet? I mean, is there anybody that petty?”

Romney pointed out that score cards show he’s voted with Trump 80 percent of the time over the past year. He said he agrees with many of his policies. He even predicted that Trump will get reelected because of the strong economy in 2020, even if he won’t vote for him. “I can give you a 100% commitment that 72-year-old Mitt Romney is never, ever going to run for president,” Romney told the Tribune. “I did that twice. I'm not doing it again.”

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Content from [Partnership for America’s Health Care Future](#)

### **American families can’t afford Medicare for All.**



Studies confirm that Medicare for All would force Americans to pay more for worse care. Economists agree, there’s “no way to pay for Medicare for All without tax increases.”

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Pro-Trump media reacts to Romney's vote against Trump

-- **Trump's allies on Fox News reacted exactly as Romney predicted.** Laura Ingraham threatened to move to Utah to run against Romney in 2024 if he seeks a second term: “He’s the ultimate selfish, preening, self-centered politician.”

Lou Dobbs said Romney will be “associated with Judas, Brutus [and] Benedict Arnold forever.”

Tucker Carlson refused to say Romney’s name: “That senator shall go unnamed on this show on the grounds that silly moral preening should not be rewarded with the publicity that it’s designed to garner.”

Sean Hannity gave Romney a new nickname: “Pierre Defecto,” a play on his Twitter lurker alias, “Pierre Delecto,” which became public last October. ([Allyson Chiu rounds up more vitriol here.](#))

The [lead item on Breitbart](#) this morning was titled “Mitt Romney stabbed American workers in the back long before he stabbed

Trump."

-- **“Whether the thirst for vengeance against Romney is sustained will hinge on Trump,”** [Josh Dawsey reports](#). “Party and campaign officials said privately that they hoped Trump wouldn’t obsess over the lone defection and move on from impeachment, basking in his acquittal instead of engaging in a days-long tiff with Romney. The president has firm control of the party and could dictate a strategy that is more aggressive, advisers said, if his pique at Romney flares. ... Trump allies could ... push operatives or donors not to support or work for him. White House officials could block policy or budget priorities that Romney wants, according to aides ... A senior Trump campaign official said the longer the Romney news cycle drags on, the worse it is for the president, because it focuses attention on his impeachment.”

-- **Senate Republicans appear to have little appetite for retaliation.** Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.) pronounced himself “surprised and disappointed” with Romney’s vote. When asked how long Romney will be in the doghouse, though, he told reporters: “We don’t have any doghouses here. The most important vote is the next vote.”





Senate acquits Trump on both articles of impeachment

**-- Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) says many of his Republican colleagues believe privately what Romney said publicly about Trump's conduct.** "For the stay-in-office-at-all-cost representatives and senators, fear is the motivator," Brown writes in [an op-ed](#) for today's Times. "They are afraid that Mr. Trump might give them a nickname like 'Low Energy Jeb' and 'Lyin' Ted,' or that he might tweet about their disloyalty. Or — worst of all — that he might come to their state to campaign against them in the Republican primary. They worry: 'Will the hosts on Fox attack me?' 'Will the mouthpieces on talk radio go after me?' 'Will the Twitter trolls turn their followers against me?' ...

"There's an old Russian proverb: The tallest blade of grass is the first cut by the scythe. In private, many of my colleagues agree that the president is reckless and unfit. They admit his lies. And they acknowledge what he did was wrong. They know this president has

done things Richard Nixon never did. And they know that more damning evidence is likely to come out. ... I have asked some of them, 'If the Senate votes to acquit, what will you do to keep this president from getting worse?' Their responses have been shrugs and sheepish looks."

**-- In the end, every Senate Democrat from a red state voted to convict.** In some ways, Alabama's Doug Jones, who [voted for both articles](#), was politically braver than Romney since Jones is on the ballot this November in a state Trump carried by 28 points in 2016. Romney doesn't face voters again until 2024.

The White House thought Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) was its best chance at getting a bipartisan acquittal. Manchin tried to drum up support for a censure resolution, but neither side would go for it. "Despite the false claim that a president can do no wrong, the president is not entitled to act with blatant disregard for an equal branch of government or use the superpower status of the United States to condition our support of democracy and our allies on any political favor," Manchin said.

**-- Commentary from the opinion page:**

- [Marie Yovanovitch](#): "These are turbulent times. But we will persist and prevail."
- [The seven House impeachment managers](#): "Trump won't be vindicated. The Senate won't be, either."
- [George Conway](#): "I believe the president, and in the president."
- [The Post's Editorial Board](#): "It's not over. Congress

- must continue to hold Trump accountable.”
- **Dana Milbank:** “Romney’s act of bravery changed nothing and changed everything.”
  - **Karen Tumulty:** “What Romney learned from his father.”
  - **Helaine Olen:** “Mitt Romney and John McCain both defied Trump. That’s not a coincidence.”
  - **Jennifer Rubin:** “Romney shows us all is not lost.”
  - **Max Boot:** “Was impeachment worth it?”
  - **Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.):** “If my father could help a criminal, I can pray for Donald Trump.”
  - **John Podesta:** “The country needs the House’s oversight now more than ever.”
  - **Marc Thiessen:** “Democrats threw everything they had at Trump. He’s still standing.”
  - **Alexandra Petri:** “The important thing about impeachment is we all had fun and learned a lesson.”



**WHAT'S NEXT?**

**-- Democrats find themselves at a crossroads after the president's acquittal, torn between continuing investigations and a desire to concentrate on health care and other pocketbook issues.** [Rachael Bade and Paul Kane explore the tension](#): "One of the first decisions they face is whether to subpoena [Bolton] ... On Wednesday, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) suggested that it was a matter of time before the chamber would call Bolton. 'When you have a lawless president, you have to bring that to the fore. You have to spotlight that,' Nadler told reporters. ... But other Democrats cautioned that no decision has been made about Bolton and expressed a desire to move on. 'We also have to have our own idea and vision. We can't win the next election just being against Trump,' said Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.). 'We have to be for something.'"

Lead House impeachment manager Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) [told](#) MSNBC's Rachel Maddow last night that, after the Senate voted not to hear witnesses, his team approach Bolton's lawyer and asked if he would submit an affidavit under oath describing what he observed of the president's conduct toward Ukraine. Bolton refused, Schiff said.

**-- Moments after Trump's acquittal, Republican Sens. Chuck Grassley (Iowa) and Ron Johnson (Wis.) announced they would launch a probe of Hunter Biden.** [Colby Itkowitz reports](#): "In a letter sent Wednesday to the head of the Secret Service, the senators write that they are 'reviewing potential conflicts of interest posed by the business activities of Hunter Biden and his associates during the Obama administration, particularly with respect to his business activities in Ukraine and China.' Specifically, they are seeking from the

Secret Service any instances when Hunter Biden traveled with protective security detail during the time his father ... was vice president, as well as when he flew on government planes.”

**-- The Justice Department said it has begun reviewing a 10-month-old allegation by the House Intelligence Committee that Trump ally Erik Prince, the brother of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, repeatedly misled lawmakers during the panel’s investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election.** [Politico reports](#) on a Feb. 4 letter to Schiff, the committee chairman, from Assistant Attorney General Stephen Boyd. “We apologize for the delay in responding to your letter,” Boyd wrote. “... The Department acknowledges receipt of your letter and will refer your request for investigation to the proper investigative agency or component for review.” In his referral, sent last April, Schiff highlighted six instances in which information revealed about Prince in Bob Mueller’s report diverged from Prince’s testimony before the committee in November 2017. “He homed in on Prince’s meeting, in the Seychelles in January 2017, with a Russian banker who is reportedly close to President Vladimir Putin of Russia, an encounter Prince later told congressional officials took place purely by chance,” per Kyle Cheney.

**-- FBI Director Chris Wray defended the bureau during a House Judiciary Committee hearing in which Republicans repeatedly accused the law enforcement agency of violating the civil rights of former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page in 2016.** This was Wray’s first congressional testimony since the DOJ’s inspector general released his highly critical December report on the FBI’s omissions and errors in Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court applications

authorizing wiretaps on Page. “In the wake of that report, Wray announced a number of changes to FBI policy and procedures, including more training for FBI personnel about how to ensure accuracy when applying for such warrants,” [Devlin Barrett reports](#). **“A court-appointed adviser, David Kris, has said Wray’s proposed changes do not go far enough to ensure that the highly secretive court, which handles national security cases involving espionage or terrorism, does not violate Americans’ civil rights.** In his testimony, the FBI director tried to draw a distinction between the specifics of Page’s case and what he said was the broader need for the law which keeps the United States safe.”

**During the hearing, Democrats unsuccessfully pressed Wray to tell them whether Attorney General Bill Barr had asked him to investigate Joe Biden or John Bolton.** “I have assured the Congress, and I can assure the Congress today, that the FBI will only open an investigation based on the facts and the law and proper predication,” Wray said in response to Nadler, the committee chairman. Pressed to be more specific, Wray added, “No one has asked me to open an investigation based on anything other than the facts, the law and proper predication.”

**-- Any new investigations of the 2020 candidates must be cleared by top DOJ officials, [per the NYT](#):** “Barr issued new restrictions on Wednesday over the opening of politically sensitive investigations, an effort meant to avoid upending the presidential election as the F.B.I. inadvertently did in 2016 when its campaign inquiries shaped the outcome of the race. ... The memo said that the F.B.I. and all other divisions under the department’s purview must get Mr. Barr’s approval

before investigating any of the 2020 presidential candidates.”

**-- Pentagon officials were stunned by the White House decision to block aid to Ukraine, new emails show.** [From CNN](#): “Days before the July 2019 call between [Trump] and his Ukrainian counterpart, US officials were still working to expedite the delivery of Javelin anti-tank missiles to the country, according to emails and other internal documents. ... The decision reverberated across the government for weeks. Officials grew so concerned over the deferrals by the Office of Management and Budget that they noted the aid was at ‘serious risk,’ and questioned if the move was illegal.”



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Biden calls Iowa caucus results a 'gut punch'

## 2020 WATCH:

-- **Greetings from Concord, N.H., where I will be camped out through Tuesday's primary.**

-- **Bernie Sanders announced this morning he raised \$25 million in January, making it his best fundraising month so far.** More than 648,000 people contributed — including 219,000 new donors. The campaign announced plans to spend more than \$5.5 million in television and digital commercials across eight new states that vote on Super Tuesday, and it will increase its advertising in California and Texas, which also vote March 3. ([Sean Sullivan and Michelle Ye Hee Lee](#))

-- **Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren acknowledged their growing difficulties following disappointing results in Iowa, and both are recalibrating to improve their chances here.** [Cleve Wootson](#), [Matt](#)



Viser, Michael Scherer and Annie Linskey capture the state of play: After admitting that his fourth-place finish was a “gut punch,” Biden attacked Sanders and Pete Buttigieg. “I am not going to sugarcoat it,” he told a standing-room-only crowd at a VFW hall in Somersworth, N.H.

**Warren pulled nearly \$500,000 worth of TV ads scheduled to run in Nevada and South Carolina after her third-place Iowa finish failed to provide the fundraising bump on which her campaign had counted.** “I just always want to be careful about how we spend our money,” Warren told reporters after a rally in Keene, N.H. (Linskey has [more details here](#) on the Warren clawback.)

**With 97 percent of the Iowa precincts finally reporting, Buttigieg held 26.2 percent of the state delegate equivalents, followed closely by Sanders with 26.1 percent. Sanders maintained a narrow popular vote lead.** Warren had 18.2 percent of the delegates, and Biden trailed with 15.8 percent. Amy Klobuchar garnered 12.2 percent.

**Shake-up watch: Biden’s Iowa state director, Jake Braun, is not expected to continue as a full-time campaign employee.** Braun, who served as national deputy field director for Barack Obama’s 2008 campaign, had been hired in May to oversee Biden’s operation in Iowa. The campaign also will not retain [Adrienne Bogen](#), who was overseeing the Iowa field operations.

**Warren’s campaign manager accused Buttigieg’s strategist of using Twitter to signal to a supportive super PAC where to spend money:** Buttigieg adviser Michael Halle [tweeted](#) that messages about

the former mayor's military experience work "especially" well in Nevada, "where it's critical they see this on the air through the caucus." Warren manager Roger Lau [replied](#), "Did you mean to tweet out this instruction to your super PAC?" The super PAC in question, VoteVets, issued a statement saying its officials "independently decide" their ad strategy.

**Biden criticized Buttigieg for trying to link him to the dysfunction in Washington, where he's been a fixture since 1973:** "Mayor Pete ... calls me part of the old, failed Washington," Biden said. "Is he really saying the Obama-Biden administration was a failure? Pete, just say it out loud." Buttigieg responded on MSNBC that Obama deserves more credit than Biden. "If you look at what President Obama was able to do in two terms, it was extraordinary," Buttigieg said. "But I think the bulk of the credit for the achievements of the Obama administration belong with President Obama."

**-- This back-and-forth foreshadows a heated debate tomorrow night in New Hampshire. It will air on ABC. Seven candidates have qualified:** Biden, Buttigieg, Sanders, Warren, Klobuchar, Tom Steyer and Andrew Yang are all in. That's everyone from last month's debate, plus Yang. The four remaining contenders — Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (Hawaii), Sen. Michael Bennet (Colo.), Mike Bloomberg and former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick — have one day to meet the criteria. Gabbard is the closest. ([Kevin Schaul](#))

**-- In precincts around Iowa, Buttigieg benefited from being people's second choice.** "Tallying losses and gains across the field, Buttigieg gained the most support as a second pick, followed by Klobuchar," [Philip Bump reports](#), based on a review of the data that's

been released. “Yang saw the biggest erosion of support — and didn’t gain much support as a second pick.” (Columnists [Stephen Stromberg](#) and [E.J. Dionne Jr.](#) both have takes on how Buttigieg broke through in the Hawkeye State.)

-- **Mike Bloomberg**, “in an interview in Detroit, said he does not name his Democratic rivals during his speeches because that would only help them,” [Paul Schwartzman reports](#). “‘Why give them the courtesy?’ he asked. ‘I’m running against Donald Trump. To the extent these people are running against me, my polls are going up while theirs are going down.’”





An aircraft chartered by the State Department to evacuate Americans from the Chinese city of Wuhan arrives at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego. (Denis Poroy/Reuters)

## **THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

**-- Americans evacuated from Wuhan face 14 days of quarantine in hotels on military bases in California as authorities wait to see whether anyone has coronavirus. [Siobhán O'Grady](#), [Lenny Bernstein](#), [Anna Fifield](#) and [William Wan](#) report:** "The airport was a 16-hour overnight vigil of lines and paperwork and stress and delays, of squawking children and the worried well, all trying to board the same two planes. Ningxi Xu's name was on the list. But until the converted cargo plane was rising into the sky over Wuhan, China, she couldn't be certain she would be one of the lucky Americans to escape the center of the coronavirus outbreak and make it back home. ... One flight delivered 178 people to Travis Air Force Base outside

Sacramento. The other landed there, then went on to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego, where about 170 people exited. Two more flights are leaving Wuhan and arriving in the United States on Thursday. An additional 195 people who arrived Jan. 28 are quarantined at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, Calif. ...

**“A patient in Wisconsin tested positive for it, bringing the total in the United States to 12 as the global toll grew to 563 people dead and more than 27,000 ill in the health crisis spreading out of China.** The extended confinement is unwelcome, passengers said, but people seem to be taking it in stride. ‘Most people were just glad to be getting out of there,’ Xu said from her hotel room at Miramar. ... **Each flight appeared to have at least one sick person aboard.** On [one] plane, officials said, a small child with a fever was isolated in the rear of the craft in an area blocked off with plastic sheeting. Xu said she saw a woman in a similar place on her flight. The woman did not appear to be aboard for the final leg to Miramar. ... **This is the first quarantine ordered by federal health officials in more than 50 years,** and the CDC is having to improvise. Each family has a private room but is being told to keep some distance — at least six feet — from other families. The children will be told not to share toys.”

**-- A U.S. plane will evacuate a “few dozen” Canadians in Wuhan.** More than 300 Canadians have asked for government assistance to leave the city, but the flight chartered by the Canadian government has room for only 211 of them. ([Amanda Coletta](#))

**-- Several lawmakers confronted Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and other officials about the Trump administration’s response to the virus.** [Erica Werner and Yasmeen](#)

[Abutaleb report](#): “In a closed-door briefing with senators, the two Democratic senators from Hawaii were particularly irate. They complained their state health officials had not been notified in advance that their airport would be one of 11 to receive and quarantine U.S. citizens arriving from China’s Hubei province, the epicenter of the virus. Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) challenged Azar about the communication breakdown and Azar grew defensive, although he later apologized to Schatz for the tenor of their conversation. ... The lack of coordination was acute in Hawaii. Both of the state’s Democratic senators, Schatz and Mazie Hirono, unloaded on the administration, with Schatz describing the administration’s handling of the virus as ‘keystone cops.’”

**-- A 30-hour-old infant became the youngest person diagnosed with coronavirus.** The baby was born in Wuhan to a mother who’d tested positive for the disease before she gave birth. It’s unclear how the disease was transmitted – in the womb, or after birth. ([BBC](#))

**-- Africa has 1.2 billion people, but only six labs there can test for coronavirus.** [Danielle Paquette, Max Bearak and Lenny Bernstein report](#): “No cases have been confirmed so far in any of Africa’s 54 countries, but the risk of an outbreak is high, World Health Organization leaders say. Africa is home to 1.2 billion people, including an estimated 1 million Chinese nationals ... Flights from the Asian power bring at least 1,000 travelers to the continent each day. ... To address that concern, medical teams from 15 African nations are convening in Dakar on Thursday for an emergency workshop on the first layer of readiness: diagnosing the new virus. WHO officials said 24 countries, encompassing most of Africa’s population, will

receive the material needed to conduct the tests by the end of the week.”

**-- China’s conspicuously absent leader reemerged amid the coronavirus crisis — but only for an audience with a friendly autocrat.** [Anna Fifield reports](#): “On Wednesday night, a full week after his last appearance in the state media, Xi [Jinping] reemerged. Not to console quarantined patients in Wuhan or thank the tireless doctors treating them, but for an audience with Cambodia’s autocratic leader, Hun Sen. Xi’s usually ubiquitous face had been pictured in state media only one time in the previous 12 days: a week before, when the director-general of the World Health Organization came to Beijing and praised the Chinese government’s response to the crisis in ways more often associated with party propagandists. ... Although the state media said he was ‘personally directing’ and ‘personally planning’ the response to the crisis, there were no photos of a man who has styled himself as the ‘People’s Leader’ actually mingling with hoi polloi to fight what is being framed as a ‘People’s War.’ He was not in scrubs and a face mask meeting the health-care workers on the front lines. It was Premier Li Keqiang who got that assignment. And there is no footage of him inspecting the pop-up hospitals erected in Wuhan. Vice Premier Sun Chunlan was dispatched for that task. This vacuum was filled — as vacuums are wont to be — with baseless rumors that Xi had experienced a stroke or been overthrown.”

**-- The world’s oceans are speeding up, and, yes, this is another mega-scale consequence of climate change.** [Chris Mooney reports](#): “Three-quarters of the world’s ocean waters have sped up their pace in recent decades, scientists reported Wednesday, a

massive development that was not expected to occur until climate warming became much more advanced. The change is being driven by faster winds, which are adding more energy to the surface of the ocean. That, in turn, produces faster currents and an acceleration of ocean circulation. ... The new research found that 76 percent of the global ocean is speeding up, when the top 2,000 meters of the ocean are taken into account. The increase in speed is most intense in tropical oceans and especially the vast Pacific. Scientists aren't certain of all the consequences of this speedup yet. But they may include impacts in key regions along the eastern coasts of continents, where several currents have intensified. The result in some cases has been damaging ocean hotspots that have upended marine life."

**-- Astronaut Christina Koch has returned to Earth after a record-breaking stay on the International Space Station.** Koch spent 328 days in space, the longest single spaceflight by a woman. ([Christian Davenport](#))

**-- At least 38 people were killed, including rescue workers, in two avalanches in Turkey.** [Kareem Fahim reports](#): "Five people were killed in the first avalanche, which blanketed a highway in Bahcesaray, a mountainous district in eastern Van province at about 5 p.m. Tuesday, trapping vehicles including a minibus, local media reported. Dozens of rescue workers searched the area for additional survivors until about 1 a.m., then resumed the search on Wednesday morning in near-blizzard conditions. At about noon Wednesday, a second avalanche trapped the rescue teams, killing 33 people, the disaster agency said."

**-- A plane skidded off the runway and broke apart at Istanbul's**



**Sabiha International Airport, killing three and injuring scores of other passengers. ([Fahim](#))**



Trump greets Venezuela's Guaidó at White House

**-- Trump met with Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó for the first time, but his interest in the country's presidential crisis has waned. [Karen DeYoung, Anthony Faiola and Anne Gearan report](#): "But the fact that the meeting took place, following Guaidó's appearance as Trump's guest at Tuesday night's State of the Union address, may have been enough to serve their shared goal of demonstrating administration support for Guaidó's interim government. ... It has now been more than a year since Trump promised that he would 'use the full weight of United States economic and diplomatic power' to drive [Nicolás] Maduro from office. Despite U.S. efforts to starve his government of resources with sanctions and the recognition of Guaidó by about 60 countries, Maduro remains. Trump's public interest in the issue has waned, and he has mentioned**

the young opposition figure less and less frequently as the months have gone by. The president's apparent ambivalence has hurt Guaidó's credibility at home, where public dissatisfaction with the anti-Maduro opposition is rising."

**-- The surprises at Trump's State of the Union were carefully planned.** [Ashley Parker and Josh Dawsey report](#): "Late Tuesday afternoon, as President Trump's team readied for an evening of dramatic reveals and made-for-TV twists at his State of the Union address, they hit a momentary snafu. Aides involved in the planning told the House sergeant at arms that they wanted to have a surprise guest enter the chamber in the middle of the president's speech. He resisted, citing protocol and security concerns. But **the White House held firm: If the sergeant at arms wouldn't open the door, then first lady Melania Trump would get up and do it herself.** ... In the end, Trump got the reality-show moment he wanted. As he introduced Amy Williams — a military spouse from Fort Bragg, N.C., whose husband was serving on his fourth deployment to the Middle East — and her two young children, he paused to build suspense for the big reveal. ... The moment was one of several theatrical flourishes orchestrated by the president and his aides that brought a reality-TV or game-show feel to the usually staid annual address to Congress, thrilling Trump's supporters and angering critics who said he was cheapening the event."

**Trump took great pains to keep Guaidó's attendance a secret until the last minute, "despite Guaidó's clear interest in recent weeks for a public sign of support from Trump.** ... One senior administration official said the president did not want [to meet Guaidó](#)

in Florida over the weekend, partially to maintain the surprise and add to the drama of the moment. Administration officials also asked the Venezuelans not to tell anyone that Guaidó would be attending the speech. ...

**“Another beneficiary of Trump’s stagecraft was Janiyah Davis, the fourth-grader.** She and her mother were invited to the House chamber to represent thousands of children on waiting lists for taxpayer-supported private school scholarships. ... [Trump offered] help to Janiyah, who was stuck on the waiting list. ... ‘I can proudly announce tonight that an Opportunity Scholarship has become available, and it’s going to you,’ [he said]. ... As it turns out, the scholarship had ‘become available’ thanks to Trump’s own education secretary. On Wednesday, **a spokeswoman for [Betsy DeVos] said that Janiyah’s tuition was being paid for by DeVos personally.**”

**-- Despite the flare, the speech received poor TV ratings.** [From the Times](#): “Roughly 37.2 million Americans tuned in for Mr. Trump’s speech, Nielsen said on Wednesday, the smallest live-TV audience for a presidential address to Congress since Barack Obama’s valedictory State of the Union in 2016. The viewership on Tuesday was a 20 percent decline from Mr. Trump’s State of the Union last year, and well below the audience for his speeches in 2017 and 2018.”



U.S. Border Patrol agents Joe Curran and Daniel Hernandez inspect border fence construction in the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Lukeville, Ariz. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

**-- Long-term maintenance for Trump's border wall could cost billions, but the administration won't say how much it expects to spend in the coming decades on the structure. [Nick Miroff reports](#): "Department of Homeland Security officials and Trump supporters have mostly waved off such concerns, describing the project as 'enduring infrastructure' that will last far into the future. But lawmakers and congressional staffers from both parties said they lack information about the projected maintenance costs."**

**-- The Trump administration will no longer allow New York residents to enroll in Global Entry or other Trusted Traveler**

**programs, citing new “sanctuary” policies that limit federal access to state driver’s license data, acting homeland security secretary Chad Wolf announced last night on Fox News. Miroff reports:** “Wolf told host Tucker Carlson that he sent a letter to the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles informing the agency that the state’s new limits on information-sharing with U.S. Customs and Border Protection made it impossible for federal authorities to process travelers’ applications for Global Entry and other programs. The measure appears to be one of the Trump administration’s most significant retaliatory moves against ‘sanctuary cities’ and other jurisdictions that limit local cooperation with federal immigration authorities. ... An official with the Department of Homeland Security ... said ... the move would affect the approximately 150,000 New York state residents who apply to the traveler programs each year. Travelers currently enrolled in Global Entry and programs such as SENTRI and NEXUS would not lose their status, but they will not be able to renew.”

**-- A 32-year-old U.S. citizen died while in Border Patrol custody in Texas.** Officials didn’t identify the man but alleged that he was a suspect in a human smuggling incident. (AP)

**-- The White House threatened to veto a \$4.7 billion earthquake aid package for Puerto Rico ahead of a House vote scheduled for Friday. Erica Werner reports:** “The aid package was unlikely to pass the Senate in its current form. In its veto message, the White House Office of Management and Budget called the House legislation ‘misguided.’”

**-- Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie defended his abrupt**

**firing of his deputy secretary, calling the dismissal a “simple business decision.”** [Lisa Rein reports](#): “Wilkie’s firing of James Byrne on Monday has unsettled the veterans community inside and outside VA, and Wilkie provided few answers to why he dismissed a popular leader. ‘There’s nothing personal’ about Byrne’s firing, Wilkie said at a previously scheduled appearance at the National Press Club, ‘but we have so many things going on. ... It’s been my goal to ensure that everyone who works for us performs to the utmost.’ He tied Byrne’s firing to an effort across the Department of Veterans Affairs to hold poor performers accountable.”

**-- In West Palm Beach, Fla., Trump’s name has disappeared from the skyline.** [David Fahrenthold reports](#): “Trump’s name adorned the tops of two tall condo buildings in West Palm Beach for more than two decades — but now it’s gone and won’t be returning, the Palm Beach Post reported Tuesday. The buildings once bore large signs reading ‘Trump Plaza,’ although they haven’t been affiliated with Trump’s company since 1991. The signs came down in late 2017 for cleaning, and the Palm Beach Post reported that residents voted 178-20 to not put them back. ... The condos in West Palm Beach will still be called ‘Trump Plaza,’ and there will still be ground-level signs bearing Trump’s name. The question of whether to remove those will be left to a later vote, the Palm Beach Post reported.”

**-- Bernie Madoff, king of the Ponzi scheme, is seeking a medical release from prison.** [Justin George reports](#): “Madoff said he is in the end stages of kidney disease, must use a wheelchair and is in need of round-the-clock help. At 81, he is too old for a transplant, and he has been moved to palliative care within the Federal Medical Center

prison in Butner, N.C. He is asking for compassionate release so he can die at home. ... Madoff expressed remorse for his massive fraud, in which he swindled investors out of billions, and said his dying wish is to salvage relationships with his grandchildren. He has served 11 years of the 150-year sentence he was given in 2009, after pleading guilty to 11 criminal counts, including fraud and money laundering.”

**-- The last accuser to testify against Harvey Weinstein in his rape and sexual assault case took the witness stand to speak of an alleged attack at the Montage hotel in Beverly Hills in**

**2013. [Shayna Jacobs reports](#):** “Lauren Marie Young’s testimony will be the last the jury will hear from an accuser in Weinstein’s criminal trial in New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan, which nears its end after a month. Young, a 30-year-old model and actress who lives in Pennsylvania, said she, Weinstein and a Mexican model she knew, Claudia Salinas, were in a business meeting in the hotel lounge on Feb. 19, 2013, when Weinstein said they needed to move to his suite so he could get ready for an awards event he was attending with Quentin Tarantino. Young said she resisted every physical advance that was made on her after Salinas left her alone with Weinstein in the bathroom of the suite. She testified that she had been backed into a corner when Weinstein, already naked, pulled her dress down and started masturbating while groping her. ... Up until the February encounter, Weinstein and Salinas talked with Young about the possibility of her appearing on ‘America’s Next Top Model.’”

**-- A drug-sniffing dog picked up a scent inside a sedan during a routine traffic stop in Florida, which led officials to two bags marked “Bag Full of Drugs.” You can probably guess where this**

**is going.** [Tom Jackman reports](#): Inside the bags, police found “75 grams (2.6 ounces) of methamphetamine, more than a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of the date-rape drug GHB, 3.6 grams (0.12 ounces) of fentanyl, plus ecstasy, cocaine and assorted paraphernalia. The driver and passenger were both booked on multiple felony drug charges, according to the Florida Highway Patrol, with a hand from [deputy K-9] Prince of the Santa Rosa County Sheriff’s Office. ‘They don’t always make it that easy for us,’ Lt. W. Robert Cannon of the Florida Highway Patrol said. ‘If it weren’t for the fact that we’re talking about date rape drugs, fentanyl, which we all know can be deadly, cocaine and the other drugs, it would be humorous.’”

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Social media was dominated by impassioned reactions to Romney's vote. Rick Gorka, Romney's traveling press secretary during the 2012 campaign and now a communications director at the Republican National Committee, lit into his old boss:





The RNC chairwoman, who is Romney's niece, was gentler:



A screenshot of a tweet from Ronna McDaniel (@GOPChairwoman). The tweet text reads: "This is not the first time I have disagreed with Mitt, and I imagine it will not be the last. The bottom line is President Trump did nothing wrong, and the Republican Party is more united than ever behind him. I, along with the @GOP, stand with President Trump." The tweet has 28.7K likes and was posted at 7:34 PM on Feb 5, 2020. Below the tweet, it says "16.2K people are talking about this".

**Ronna McDaniel**   
@GOPChairwoman

This is not the first time I have disagreed with Mitt, and I imagine it will not be the last.

The bottom line is President Trump did nothing wrong, and the Republican Party is more united than ever behind him.

I, along with the @GOP, stand with President Trump.

28.7K 7:34 PM - Feb 5, 2020

16.2K people are talking about this

The president's son called for Romney to be expelled from the party:



A screenshot of a tweet from Donald Trump Jr. (@DonaldJTrumpjr). The tweet text reads: "Mitt Romney is forever bitter that he will never be POTUS. He was too weak to beat the Democrats then so he's joining them now. He's now officially a member of the resistance & should be expelled from the @GOP." The tweet has 89.9K likes and was posted at 7:32 PM on Feb 5, 2020. Below the tweet, it says "46.3K people are talking about this".

**Donald Trump Jr.**   
@DonaldJTrumpjr

Mitt Romney is forever bitter that he will never be POTUS. He was too weak to beat the Democrats then so he's joining them now.

He's now officially a member of the resistance & should be expelled from the @GOP.

89.9K 7:32 PM - Feb 5, 2020

46.3K people are talking about this

Trump Sr. criticized Romney on Twitter after midnight:



The lead House manager celebrated Romney's decision:



**Adam Schiff** ✓  
@RepAdamSchiff



Having proven Trump guilty, I asked if there was just one Republican Senator who would say “enough”

Who would stand up against this dangerously immoral president

Who would display moral courage

Who would do impartial justice as their oath required and convict

And there is. [twitter.com/nytimes/status...](https://twitter.com/nytimes/status...)

**The New York Times** ✓ @nytimes

Breaking News: "The case was made." Mitt Romney will vote to convict President Trump of abuse of power, the first Republican to support removing him from office in the impeachment trial. [nyti.ms/31uKxgO](https://nyti.ms/31uKxgO)

♥ 112K 7:29 PM - Feb 5, 2020



💬 31.4K people are talking about this



Former Republican senator Jeff Flake (Ariz.) praised Romney:



**Jeff Flake** ✓  
@JeffFlake



I have long admired Mitt Romney, but never more than today. What an honorable man.

[washingtonpost.com/politics/with-...](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/with-...)



**Romney to vote to convict Trump on charge of abus...**

The Utah senator calls Trump's offenses "egregious" and says the president defense did not persuade him otherwise.

[washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com)

♡ 67.8K 8:28 PM - Feb 5, 2020



💬 13.4K people are talking about this



Many Senate Democrats said they were deeply moved, including this lawmaker from Connecticut:



The president's embattled personal attorney celebrated:



After his acquittal, Trump recirculated this meme that suggests he'd love to be president for life:



**Donald J. Trump** ✓  
@realDonaldTrump



♥ 349K 9:49 PM - Feb 5, 2020



💬 154K people are talking about this



McConnell's former chief of staff celebrated Trump's triumph:



**Josh Holmes** ✓  
@Holmesjosh



Good morning, sunshine.



♡ 671 1:29 PM - Feb 6, 2020



💬 192 people are talking about this



Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), up for reelection, ripped up the articles of impeachment as a spoof of Pelosi ripping up the State of the Union:

 **Thom Tillis**   
@ThomTillis 

Two can play this game, @SpeakerPelosi. Glad to finally put impeachment in the rear view mirror so we can get back to work for the people of North Carolina.



 33.9K  10:05 PM - Feb 5, 2020 

 15K people are talking about this 

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** “He shredded the truth, so I shredded his speech,” Pelosi told House Democrats at a closed-door meeting. (Politico)

**VIDEOS OF THE DAY:**

Stephen Colbert paid tribute to Romney:





Seth Meyers said this hasn't been a banner week for U.S. politics:



Samantha Bee delivered her own assessment of the state of our union:



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: A reluctant Romney tried to give Trump an out on impeachment. The White House wouldn't take it.  
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# The Daily 202

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**A reluctant Romney tried to give Trump an out on impeachment. The White House wouldn't take it.**



Sen. Mitt Romney's full speech announcing he will vote to convict Trump



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaró*

**THE BIG IDEA: Mitt Romney wants you to know that voting to remove President Trump from office on an abuse-of-power charge was “the most difficult decision” he’s ever made.**

As he became the first senator [in U.S. history](#) to vote for removing a president of his own party from office, even though he knew it wouldn’t change the outcome, the GOP’s 2012 standard-bearer emphasized his reluctance to do so and highlighted the off-ramps he sought.

Romney revealed that he contacted the White House counsel’s office, through a fellow senator, asking if it would provide sworn affidavits from officials such as former national security adviser John Bolton or acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, but it was to no avail.

“I sought to hear testimony from John Bolton not only because I believed he could add context to the charges, but also because I hoped that what he said might raise reasonable doubt and thus remove from me the awful obligation to vote for impeachment,” Romney said in [an emotional speech](#) on the Senate floor.

The 1975 graduate of Harvard Law School said he also hoped Trump’s defense team would persuade him to [acquit](#) the president during the trial. He found their arguments that a president can only be impeached for violating a specific statute “absurd on its face.”

“I was hoping beyond hope that the defense would present evidence, exculpatory evidence, that would remove from me the responsibility to vote where my conscience was telling me I had to vote,” Romney [told The Washington Post’s Dan Balz](#). “When Nancy Pelosi indicated we’re now going to pursue impeachment, my heart sank in dread.”

Ultimately, Romney chose to split the difference – as Maine Rep. Jared Golden, a freshman Democrat from a conservative district, [did in December](#) – by voting for the article of impeachment on abuse of power but against the article related to obstruction of Congress. His reasoning was that “the House did not take the time to go to the courts” and exhaust all the legal possibilities for compelling testimony and documents from administration officials with firsthand knowledge who could speak to Trump’s role in the alleged effort to coerce Ukraine’s government to announce an investigation of Joe Biden in exchange for delivering military aid.

But Romney emphasized that he does not approve of the White House’s stonewalling, and his comments underscored the extent to

which Trump and his administration did not cooperate with congressional efforts to conduct oversight of the executive branch.

**-- Without tipping off GOP leadership or the White House in advance, Romney explained his agonizing deliberations in half a dozen media interviews that were embargoed until he announced his decision on the Senate floor.** “There has not been a morning since this process began that I've slept beyond 4 a.m.,” Romney told Chris Wallace on [Fox News](#). “I have looked at the testimony in detail. I have attempted to get every piece of information I could.”

**-- The senator told [the Deseret News](#) that some nights he would lean toward acquittal and, on others, he felt less certain.** He took 54 pages of detailed notes in a legal pad. He recalled heading back to his office after the trial wrapped up each night to debrief his staff, sometimes for hours, on what he learned. He told the oldest paper in the state he represents that he spoke with his wife, Ann, every night and discussed his final decision with their five sons and daughters-in-law.

**Romney said he he’s “never experienced ... as much angst” about a decision.** He received texts, emails and calls from people he “hadn’t heard from in a long time” urging him to support the president. “And let me tell you, I’d love to stand with the team,” Romney told the [Deseret News’s](#) Matthew Brown. “But if you stand with the team in contravention of your conscience and the duty you’ve made before God, I would have to endure the censure of my own conscience, as well as the disdain of history.”



President Trump holds up the print edition of today's Washington Post at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington. (Evan Vucci/AP)

-- Romney expressed “regret” for making decisions throughout his career that have been influenced “in some cases by political benefit,” but he said this time is different because he swore an oath to render impartial justice. “I don’t want to be the skunk at the garden party, and I don’t want the disdain of Republicans across the country,” he told [the New York Times’s Mark Leibovich](#). “I have found, in business in particular but also in politics, that when something is in your personal best interests, the ability of the mind to rationalize that that’s the right thing is really quite extraordinary. I have seen it in others, and I have seen it in myself.”

-- **A devout Mormon**, Romney told [the Atlantic](#) that he closely consulted Scripture and the Federalist Papers. He said he read Federalist No. 65 “multiple, multiple times” when trying to assess

whether what the president did warranted removal from office.

Throughout the trial, he told McKay Coppins, he was guided by his father's favorite verse of Mormon scripture: "Search diligently, pray always, and be believing, and all things shall work together for your good."

"I have gone through a process of very thorough analysis and searching, and I have prayed through this process," Romney said. "But I don't pretend that God told me what to do."

**-- At the National Prayer Breakfast this morning, Trump seemed to take a dig at Romney over the references to his Mormon faith, as well as Speaker Nancy Pelosi over her recent comments that she prays for the president regularly.** "I don't like people who use their faith as justification for doing what they know is wrong," he told a bipartisan crowd of 3,000 people in Washington. "Nor do I like people who say, 'I pray for you,' when they know that that's not so. So many people have been hurt, and we can't let that go on." Trump added: "They have done everything possible to destroy us and, by so doing, very badly hurt our nation."

"He then delivered a 20-minute address that sounded like a campaign speech, spending a good portion of it decrying the impeachment process, which he said was led by some 'very dishonest and corrupt people,'" [Michelle Boorstein and Sarah Pulliam Bailey report](#).

**-- In another interview yesterday, Romney was adamant that his decision had nothing to do with the harsh attacks that Trump has leveled at him since he refused to endorse his candidacy in 2016.** "I don't hate the president," Romney told [the Salt Lake Tribune's](#)



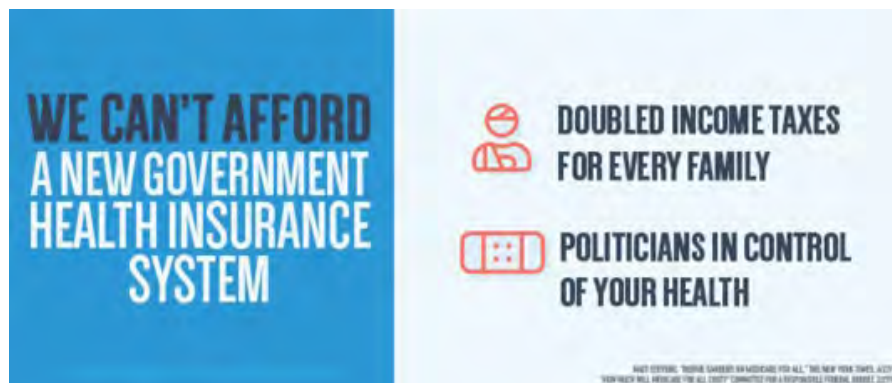
**Thomas Burr.** “So he shoots a tweet at me now and then. Really? You think I would endure the consequence of the vote I'm going to take for, you know, trying to get even with a tweet? I mean, is there anybody that petty?”

Romney pointed out that score cards show he’s voted with Trump 80 percent of the time over the past year. He said he agrees with many of his policies. He even predicted that Trump will get reelected because of the strong economy in 2020, even if he won’t vote for him. “I can give you a 100% commitment that 72-year-old Mitt Romney is never, ever going to run for president,” Romney told the Tribune. “I did that twice. I'm not doing it again.”

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Content from [Partnership for America’s Health Care Future](#)

### **American families can’t afford Medicare for All.**



Studies confirm that Medicare for All would force Americans to pay more for worse care. Economists agree, there’s “no way to pay for Medicare for All without tax increases.”

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Pro-Trump media reacts to Romney's vote against Trump

-- **Trump's allies on Fox News reacted exactly as Romney predicted.** Laura Ingraham threatened to move to Utah to run against Romney in 2024 if he seeks a second term: "He's the ultimate selfish, preening, self-centered politician."

Lou Dobbs said Romney will be "associated with Judas, Brutus [and] Benedict Arnold forever."

Tucker Carlson refused to say Romney's name: "That senator shall go unnamed on this show on the grounds that silly moral preening should not be rewarded with the publicity that it's designed to garner."

Sean Hannity gave Romney a new nickname: "Pierre Defecto," a play on his Twitter lurker alias, "Pierre Delecto," which became public last October. ([Allyson Chiu rounds up more vitriol here.](#))

The [lead item on Breitbart](#) this morning was titled "Mitt Romney stabbed American workers in the back long before he stabbed

Trump."

-- **"Whether the thirst for vengeance against Romney is sustained will hinge on Trump,"** [Josh Dawsey reports](#). "Party and campaign officials said privately that they hoped Trump wouldn't obsess over the lone defection and move on from impeachment, basking in his acquittal instead of engaging in a days-long tiff with Romney. The president has firm control of the party and could dictate a strategy that is more aggressive, advisers said, if his pique at Romney flares. ... Trump allies could ... push operatives or donors not to support or work for him. White House officials could block policy or budget priorities that Romney wants, according to aides ... A senior Trump campaign official said the longer the Romney news cycle drags on, the worse it is for the president, because it focuses attention on his impeachment."

-- **Senate Republicans appear to have little appetite for retaliation.** Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.) pronounced himself "surprised and disappointed" with Romney's vote. When asked how long Romney will be in the doghouse, though, he told reporters: "We don't have any doghouses here. The most important vote is the next vote."



Senate acquits Trump on both articles of impeachment

-- **Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) says many of his Republican colleagues believe privately what Romney said publicly about Trump's conduct.** "For the stay-in-office-at-all-cost representatives and senators, fear is the motivator," Brown writes in [an op-ed](#) for today's Times. "They are afraid that Mr. Trump might give them a nickname like 'Low Energy Jeb' and 'Lyin' Ted,' or that he might tweet about their disloyalty. Or — worst of all — that he might come to their state to campaign against them in the Republican primary. They worry: 'Will the hosts on Fox attack me?' 'Will the mouthpieces on talk radio go after me?' 'Will the Twitter trolls turn their followers against me?' ...

"There's an old Russian proverb: The tallest blade of grass is the first cut by the scythe. In private, many of my colleagues agree that the president is reckless and unfit. They admit his lies. And they acknowledge what he did was wrong. They know this president has

done things Richard Nixon never did. And they know that more damning evidence is likely to come out. ... I have asked some of them, 'If the Senate votes to acquit, what will you do to keep this president from getting worse?' Their responses have been shrugs and sheepish looks."

**-- In the end, every Senate Democrat from a red state voted to convict.** In some ways, Alabama's Doug Jones, who [voted for both articles](#), was politically braver than Romney since Jones is on the ballot this November in a state Trump carried by 28 points in 2016. Romney doesn't face voters again until 2024.

The White House thought Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) was its best chance at getting a bipartisan acquittal. Manchin tried to drum up support for a censure resolution, but neither side would go for it. "Despite the false claim that a president can do no wrong, the president is not entitled to act with blatant disregard for an equal branch of government or use the superpower status of the United States to condition our support of democracy and our allies on any political favor," Manchin said.

**-- Commentary from the opinion page:**

- [Marie Yovanovitch](#): "These are turbulent times. But we will persist and prevail."
- [The seven House impeachment managers](#): "Trump won't be vindicated. The Senate won't be, either."
- [George Conway](#): "I believe the president, and in the president."
- [The Post's Editorial Board](#): "It's not over. Congress

- must continue to hold Trump accountable.”
- **Dana Milbank:** “Romney’s act of bravery changed nothing and changed everything.”
  - **Karen Tumulty:** “What Romney learned from his father.”
  - **Helaine Olen:** “Mitt Romney and John McCain both defied Trump. That’s not a coincidence.”
  - **Jennifer Rubin:** “Romney shows us all is not lost.”
  - **Max Boot:** “Was impeachment worth it?”
  - **Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.):** “If my father could help a criminal, I can pray for Donald Trump.”
  - **John Podesta:** “The country needs the House’s oversight now more than ever.”
  - **Marc Thiessen:** “Democrats threw everything they had at Trump. He’s still standing.”
  - **Alexandra Petri:** “The important thing about impeachment is we all had fun and learned a lesson.”



**WHAT'S NEXT?**

**-- Democrats find themselves at a crossroads after the president's acquittal, torn between continuing investigations and a desire to concentrate on health care and other pocketbook issues.** [Rachael Bade and Paul Kane explore the tension](#): "One of the first decisions they face is whether to subpoena [Bolton] ... On Wednesday, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) suggested that it was a matter of time before the chamber would call Bolton. 'When you have a lawless president, you have to bring that to the fore. You have to spotlight that,' Nadler told reporters. ... But other Democrats cautioned that no decision has been made about Bolton and expressed a desire to move on. 'We also have to have our own idea and vision. We can't win the next election just being against Trump,' said Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.). 'We have to be for something.'"

Lead House impeachment manager Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) [told](#) MSNBC's Rachel Maddow last night that, after the Senate voted not to hear witnesses, his team approach Bolton's lawyer and asked if he would submit an affidavit under oath describing what he observed of the president's conduct toward Ukraine. Bolton refused, Schiff said.

**-- Moments after Trump's acquittal, Republican Sens. Chuck Grassley (Iowa) and Ron Johnson (Wis.) announced they would launch a probe of Hunter Biden.** [Colby Itkowitz reports](#): "In a letter sent Wednesday to the head of the Secret Service, the senators write that they are 'reviewing potential conflicts of interest posed by the business activities of Hunter Biden and his associates during the Obama administration, particularly with respect to his business activities in Ukraine and China.' Specifically, they are seeking from the

Secret Service any instances when Hunter Biden traveled with protective security detail during the time his father ... was vice president, as well as when he flew on government planes.”

**-- The Justice Department said it has begun reviewing a 10-month-old allegation by the House Intelligence Committee that Trump ally Erik Prince, the brother of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, repeatedly misled lawmakers during the panel’s investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election.** [Politico reports](#) on a Feb. 4 letter to Schiff, the committee chairman, from Assistant Attorney General Stephen Boyd. “We apologize for the delay in responding to your letter,” Boyd wrote. “... The Department acknowledges receipt of your letter and will refer your request for investigation to the proper investigative agency or component for review.” In his referral, sent last April, Schiff highlighted six instances in which information revealed about Prince in Bob Mueller’s report diverged from Prince’s testimony before the committee in November 2017. “He homed in on Prince’s meeting, in the Seychelles in January 2017, with a Russian banker who is reportedly close to President Vladimir Putin of Russia, an encounter Prince later told congressional officials took place purely by chance,” per Kyle Cheney.

**-- FBI Director Chris Wray defended the bureau during a House Judiciary Committee hearing in which Republicans repeatedly accused the law enforcement agency of violating the civil rights of former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page in 2016.** This was Wray’s first congressional testimony since the DOJ’s inspector general released his highly critical December report on the FBI’s omissions and errors in Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court applications



authorizing wiretaps on Page. “In the wake of that report, Wray announced a number of changes to FBI policy and procedures, including more training for FBI personnel about how to ensure accuracy when applying for such warrants,” [Devlin Barrett reports](#). **“A court-appointed adviser, David Kris, has said Wray’s proposed changes do not go far enough to ensure that the highly secretive court, which handles national security cases involving espionage or terrorism, does not violate Americans’ civil rights.** In his testimony, the FBI director tried to draw a distinction between the specifics of Page’s case and what he said was the broader need for the law which keeps the United States safe.”

**During the hearing, Democrats unsuccessfully pressed Wray to tell them whether Attorney General Bill Barr had asked him to investigate Joe Biden or John Bolton.** “I have assured the Congress, and I can assure the Congress today, that the FBI will only open an investigation based on the facts and the law and proper predication,” Wray said in response to Nadler, the committee chairman. Pressed to be more specific, Wray added, “No one has asked me to open an investigation based on anything other than the facts, the law and proper predication.”

**-- Any new investigations of the 2020 candidates must be cleared by top DOJ officials, [per the NYT](#):** “Barr issued new restrictions on Wednesday over the opening of politically sensitive investigations, an effort meant to avoid upending the presidential election as the F.B.I. inadvertently did in 2016 when its campaign inquiries shaped the outcome of the race. ... The memo said that the F.B.I. and all other divisions under the department’s purview must get Mr. Barr’s approval

before investigating any of the 2020 presidential candidates.”

**-- Pentagon officials were stunned by the White House decision to block aid to Ukraine, new emails show.** [From CNN](#): “Days before the July 2019 call between [Trump] and his Ukrainian counterpart, US officials were still working to expedite the delivery of Javelin anti-tank missiles to the country, according to emails and other internal documents. ... The decision reverberated across the government for weeks. Officials grew so concerned over the deferrals by the Office of Management and Budget that they noted the aid was at ‘serious risk,’ and questioned if the move was illegal.”



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Biden calls Iowa caucus results a 'gut punch'

## **2020 WATCH:**

**-- Greetings from Concord, N.H., where I will be camped out through Tuesday's primary.**

**-- Bernie Sanders announced this morning he raised \$25 million in January, making it his best fundraising month so far.** More than 648,000 people contributed — including 219,000 new donors. The campaign announced plans to spend more than \$5.5 million in television and digital commercials across eight new states that vote on Super Tuesday, and it will increase its advertising in California and Texas, which also vote March 3. ([Sean Sullivan and Michelle Ye Hee Lee](#))

**-- Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren acknowledged their growing difficulties following disappointing results in Iowa, and both are recalibrating to improve their chances here.** [Cleve Wootson](#), [Matt](#)

[Viser, Michael Scherer and Annie Linskey capture the state of play](#): After admitting that his fourth-place finish was a “gut punch,” Biden attacked Sanders and Pete Buttigieg. “I am not going to sugarcoat it,” he told a standing-room-only crowd at a VFW hall in Somersworth, N.H.

**Warren pulled nearly \$500,000 worth of TV ads scheduled to run in Nevada and South Carolina after her third-place Iowa finish failed to provide the fundraising bump on which her campaign had counted.** “I just always want to be careful about how we spend our money,” Warren told reporters after a rally in Keene, N.H. (Linskey has [more details here](#) on the Warren clawback.)

**With 97 percent of the Iowa precincts finally reporting, Buttigieg held 26.2 percent of the state delegate equivalents, followed closely by Sanders with 26.1 percent. Sanders maintained a narrow popular vote lead.** Warren had 18.2 percent of the delegates, and Biden trailed with 15.8 percent. Amy Klobuchar garnered 12.2 percent.

**Shake-up watch: Biden’s Iowa state director, Jake Braun, is not expected to continue as a full-time campaign employee.** Braun, who served as national deputy field director for Barack Obama’s 2008 campaign, had been hired in May to oversee Biden’s operation in Iowa. The campaign also will not retain [Adrienne Bogen](#), who was overseeing the Iowa field operations.

**Warren’s campaign manager accused Buttigieg’s strategist of using Twitter to signal to a supportive super PAC where to spend money:** Buttigieg adviser Michael Halle [tweeted](#) that messages about

the former mayor's military experience work "especially" well in Nevada, "where it's critical they see this on the air through the caucus." Warren manager Roger Lau [replied](#), "Did you mean to tweet out this instruction to your super PAC?" The super PAC in question, VoteVets, issued a statement saying its officials "independently decide" their ad strategy.

**Biden criticized Buttigieg for trying to link him to the dysfunction in Washington, where he's been a fixture since 1973:** "Mayor Pete ... calls me part of the old, failed Washington," Biden said. "Is he really saying the Obama-Biden administration was a failure? Pete, just say it out loud." Buttigieg responded on MSNBC that Obama deserves more credit than Biden. "If you look at what President Obama was able to do in two terms, it was extraordinary," Buttigieg said. "But I think the bulk of the credit for the achievements of the Obama administration belong with President Obama."

**-- This back-and-forth foreshadows a heated debate tomorrow night in New Hampshire. It will air on ABC. Seven candidates have qualified:** Biden, Buttigieg, Sanders, Warren, Klobuchar, Tom Steyer and Andrew Yang are all in. That's everyone from last month's debate, plus Yang. The four remaining contenders — Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (Hawaii), Sen. Michael Bennet (Colo.), Mike Bloomberg and former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick — have one day to meet the criteria. Gabbard is the closest. ([Kevin Schaul](#))

**-- In precincts around Iowa, Buttigieg benefited from being people's second choice.** "Tallying losses and gains across the field, Buttigieg gained the most support as a second pick, followed by Klobuchar," [Philip Bump reports](#), based on a review of the data that's

been released. “Yang saw the biggest erosion of support — and didn’t gain much support as a second pick.” (Columnists [Stephen Stromberg](#) and [E.J. Dionne Jr.](#) both have takes on how Buttigieg broke through in the Hawkeye State.)

-- **Mike Bloomberg**, “in an interview in Detroit, said he does not name his Democratic rivals during his speeches because that would only help them,” [Paul Schwartzman reports](#). “‘Why give them the courtesy?’ he asked. ‘I’m running against Donald Trump. To the extent these people are running against me, my polls are going up while theirs are going down.’”





An aircraft chartered by the State Department to evacuate Americans from the Chinese city of Wuhan arrives at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego. (Denis Poroy/Reuters)

## **THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

**-- Americans evacuated from Wuhan face 14 days of quarantine in hotels on military bases in California as authorities wait to see whether anyone has coronavirus. [Siobhán O'Grady](#), [Lenny Bernstein](#), [Anna Fifield](#) and [William Wan](#) report:** "The airport was a 16-hour overnight vigil of lines and paperwork and stress and delays, of squawking children and the worried well, all trying to board the same two planes. Ningxi Xu's name was on the list. But until the converted cargo plane was rising into the sky over Wuhan, China, she couldn't be certain she would be one of the lucky Americans to escape the center of the coronavirus outbreak and make it back home. ... One flight delivered 178 people to Travis Air Force Base outside

Sacramento. The other landed there, then went on to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego, where about 170 people exited. Two more flights are leaving Wuhan and arriving in the United States on Thursday. An additional 195 people who arrived Jan. 28 are quarantined at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, Calif. ...

**“A patient in Wisconsin tested positive for it, bringing the total in the United States to 12 as the global toll grew to 563 people dead and more than 27,000 ill in the health crisis spreading out of China.** The extended confinement is unwelcome, passengers said, but people seem to be taking it in stride. ‘Most people were just glad to be getting out of there,’ Xu said from her hotel room at Miramar. ... **Each flight appeared to have at least one sick person aboard.** On [one] plane, officials said, a small child with a fever was isolated in the rear of the craft in an area blocked off with plastic sheeting. Xu said she saw a woman in a similar place on her flight. The woman did not appear to be aboard for the final leg to Miramar. ... **This is the first quarantine ordered by federal health officials in more than 50 years,** and the CDC is having to improvise. Each family has a private room but is being told to keep some distance — at least six feet — from other families. The children will be told not to share toys.”

**-- A U.S. plane will evacuate a “few dozen” Canadians in Wuhan.** More than 300 Canadians have asked for government assistance to leave the city, but the flight chartered by the Canadian government has room for only 211 of them. ([Amanda Coletta](#))

**-- Several lawmakers confronted Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and other officials about the Trump administration’s response to the virus.** [Erica Werner and Yasmeen](#)



[Abutaleb report](#): “In a closed-door briefing with senators, the two Democratic senators from Hawaii were particularly irate. They complained their state health officials had not been notified in advance that their airport would be one of 11 to receive and quarantine U.S. citizens arriving from China’s Hubei province, the epicenter of the virus. Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) challenged Azar about the communication breakdown and Azar grew defensive, although he later apologized to Schatz for the tenor of their conversation. ... The lack of coordination was acute in Hawaii. Both of the state’s Democratic senators, Schatz and Mazie Hirono, unloaded on the administration, with Schatz describing the administration’s handling of the virus as ‘keystone cops.’”

**-- A 30-hour-old infant became the youngest person diagnosed with coronavirus.** The baby was born in Wuhan to a mother who’d tested positive for the disease before she gave birth. It’s unclear how the disease was transmitted – in the womb, or after birth. ([BBC](#))

**-- Africa has 1.2 billion people, but only six labs there can test for coronavirus.** [Danielle Paquette, Max Bearak and Lenny Bernstein report](#): “No cases have been confirmed so far in any of Africa’s 54 countries, but the risk of an outbreak is high, World Health Organization leaders say. Africa is home to 1.2 billion people, including an estimated 1 million Chinese nationals ... Flights from the Asian power bring at least 1,000 travelers to the continent each day. ... To address that concern, medical teams from 15 African nations are convening in Dakar on Thursday for an emergency workshop on the first layer of readiness: diagnosing the new virus. WHO officials said 24 countries, encompassing most of Africa’s population, will

receive the material needed to conduct the tests by the end of the week.”

**-- China’s conspicuously absent leader reemerged amid the coronavirus crisis — but only for an audience with a friendly autocrat.** [Anna Fifield reports](#): “On Wednesday night, a full week after his last appearance in the state media, Xi [Jinping] reemerged. Not to console quarantined patients in Wuhan or thank the tireless doctors treating them, but for an audience with Cambodia’s autocratic leader, Hun Sen. Xi’s usually ubiquitous face had been pictured in state media only one time in the previous 12 days: a week before, when the director-general of the World Health Organization came to Beijing and praised the Chinese government’s response to the crisis in ways more often associated with party propagandists. ... Although the state media said he was ‘personally directing’ and ‘personally planning’ the response to the crisis, there were no photos of a man who has styled himself as the ‘People’s Leader’ actually mingling with hoi polloi to fight what is being framed as a ‘People’s War.’ He was not in scrubs and a face mask meeting the health-care workers on the front lines. It was Premier Li Keqiang who got that assignment. And there is no footage of him inspecting the pop-up hospitals erected in Wuhan. Vice Premier Sun Chunlan was dispatched for that task. This vacuum was filled — as vacuums are wont to be — with baseless rumors that Xi had experienced a stroke or been overthrown.”

**-- The world’s oceans are speeding up, and, yes, this is another mega-scale consequence of climate change.** [Chris Mooney reports](#): “Three-quarters of the world’s ocean waters have sped up their pace in recent decades, scientists reported Wednesday, a

massive development that was not expected to occur until climate warming became much more advanced. The change is being driven by faster winds, which are adding more energy to the surface of the ocean. That, in turn, produces faster currents and an acceleration of ocean circulation. ... The new research found that 76 percent of the global ocean is speeding up, when the top 2,000 meters of the ocean are taken into account. The increase in speed is most intense in tropical oceans and especially the vast Pacific. Scientists aren't certain of all the consequences of this speedup yet. But they may include impacts in key regions along the eastern coasts of continents, where several currents have intensified. The result in some cases has been damaging ocean hotspots that have upended marine life."

**-- Astronaut Christina Koch has returned to Earth after a record-breaking stay on the International Space Station.** Koch spent 328 days in space, the longest single spaceflight by a woman. ([Christian Davenport](#))

**-- At least 38 people were killed, including rescue workers, in two avalanches in Turkey.** [Kareem Fahim reports](#): "Five people were killed in the first avalanche, which blanketed a highway in Bahcesaray, a mountainous district in eastern Van province at about 5 p.m. Tuesday, trapping vehicles including a minibus, local media reported. Dozens of rescue workers searched the area for additional survivors until about 1 a.m., then resumed the search on Wednesday morning in near-blizzard conditions. At about noon Wednesday, a second avalanche trapped the rescue teams, killing 33 people, the disaster agency said."

**-- A plane skidded off the runway and broke apart at Istanbul's**

**Sabiha International Airport, killing three and injuring scores of other passengers. ([Fahim](#))**



Trump greets Venezuela's Guaidó at White House

**-- Trump met with Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó for the first time, but his interest in the country's presidential crisis has waned. [Karen DeYoung, Anthony Faiola and Anne Gearan report](#): "But the fact that the meeting took place, following Guaidó's appearance as Trump's guest at Tuesday night's State of the Union address, may have been enough to serve their shared goal of demonstrating administration support for Guaidó's interim government. ... It has now been more than a year since Trump promised that he would 'use the full weight of United States economic and diplomatic power' to drive [Nicolás] Maduro from office. Despite U.S. efforts to starve his government of resources with sanctions and the recognition of Guaidó by about 60 countries, Maduro remains. Trump's public interest in the issue has waned, and he has mentioned**

the young opposition figure less and less frequently as the months have gone by. The president's apparent ambivalence has hurt Guaidó's credibility at home, where public dissatisfaction with the anti-Maduro opposition is rising."

**-- The surprises at Trump's State of the Union were carefully planned.** [Ashley Parker and Josh Dawsey report](#): "Late Tuesday afternoon, as President Trump's team readied for an evening of dramatic reveals and made-for-TV twists at his State of the Union address, they hit a momentary snafu. Aides involved in the planning told the House sergeant at arms that they wanted to have a surprise guest enter the chamber in the middle of the president's speech. He resisted, citing protocol and security concerns. But **the White House held firm: If the sergeant at arms wouldn't open the door, then first lady Melania Trump would get up and do it herself.** ... In the end, Trump got the reality-show moment he wanted. As he introduced Amy Williams — a military spouse from Fort Bragg, N.C., whose husband was serving on his fourth deployment to the Middle East — and her two young children, he paused to build suspense for the big reveal. ... The moment was one of several theatrical flourishes orchestrated by the president and his aides that brought a reality-TV or game-show feel to the usually staid annual address to Congress, thrilling Trump's supporters and angering critics who said he was cheapening the event."

**Trump took great pains to keep Guaidó's attendance a secret until the last minute, "despite Guaidó's clear interest in recent weeks for a public sign of support from Trump.** ... One senior administration official said the president did not want [to meet Guaidó](#)

in Florida over the weekend, partially to maintain the surprise and add to the drama of the moment. Administration officials also asked the Venezuelans not to tell anyone that Guaidó would be attending the speech. ...

**“Another beneficiary of Trump’s stagecraft was Janiyah Davis, the fourth-grader.** She and her mother were invited to the House chamber to represent thousands of children on waiting lists for taxpayer-supported private school scholarships. ... [Trump offered] help to Janiyah, who was stuck on the waiting list. ... ‘I can proudly announce tonight that an Opportunity Scholarship has become available, and it’s going to you,’ [he said]. ... As it turns out, the scholarship had ‘become available’ thanks to Trump’s own education secretary. On Wednesday, **a spokeswoman for [Betsy DeVos] said that Janiyah’s tuition was being paid for by DeVos personally.**”

**-- Despite the flare, the speech received poor TV ratings.** [From the Times](#): “Roughly 37.2 million Americans tuned in for Mr. Trump’s speech, Nielsen said on Wednesday, the smallest live-TV audience for a presidential address to Congress since Barack Obama’s valedictory State of the Union in 2016. The viewership on Tuesday was a 20 percent decline from Mr. Trump’s State of the Union last year, and well below the audience for his speeches in 2017 and 2018.”



U.S. Border Patrol agents Joe Curran and Daniel Hernandez inspect border fence construction in the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Lukeville, Ariz. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

**-- Long-term maintenance for Trump's border wall could cost billions, but the administration won't say how much it expects to spend in the coming decades on the structure. [Nick Miroff reports](#): "Department of Homeland Security officials and Trump supporters have mostly waved off such concerns, describing the project as 'enduring infrastructure' that will last far into the future. But lawmakers and congressional staffers from both parties said they lack information about the projected maintenance costs."**

**-- The Trump administration will no longer allow New York residents to enroll in Global Entry or other Trusted Traveler**

**programs, citing new “sanctuary” policies that limit federal access to state driver’s license data, acting homeland security secretary Chad Wolf announced last night on Fox News. Miroff reports:** “Wolf told host Tucker Carlson that he sent a letter to the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles informing the agency that the state’s new limits on information-sharing with U.S. Customs and Border Protection made it impossible for federal authorities to process travelers’ applications for Global Entry and other programs. The measure appears to be one of the Trump administration’s most significant retaliatory moves against ‘sanctuary cities’ and other jurisdictions that limit local cooperation with federal immigration authorities. ... An official with the Department of Homeland Security ... said ... the move would affect the approximately 150,000 New York state residents who apply to the traveler programs each year. Travelers currently enrolled in Global Entry and programs such as SENTRI and NEXUS would not lose their status, but they will not be able to renew.”

**-- A 32-year-old U.S. citizen died while in Border Patrol custody in Texas.** Officials didn’t identify the man but alleged that he was a suspect in a human smuggling incident. (AP)

**-- The White House threatened to veto a \$4.7 billion earthquake aid package for Puerto Rico ahead of a House vote scheduled for Friday. Erica Werner reports:** “The aid package was unlikely to pass the Senate in its current form. In its veto message, the White House Office of Management and Budget called the House legislation ‘misguided.’”

**-- Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie defended his abrupt**



**firing of his deputy secretary, calling the dismissal a “simple business decision.”** [Lisa Rein reports](#): “Wilkie’s firing of James Byrne on Monday has unsettled the veterans community inside and outside VA, and Wilkie provided few answers to why he dismissed a popular leader. ‘There’s nothing personal’ about Byrne’s firing, Wilkie said at a previously scheduled appearance at the National Press Club, ‘but we have so many things going on. ... It’s been my goal to ensure that everyone who works for us performs to the utmost.’ He tied Byrne’s firing to an effort across the Department of Veterans Affairs to hold poor performers accountable.”

**-- In West Palm Beach, Fla., Trump’s name has disappeared from the skyline.** [David Fahrenthold reports](#): “Trump’s name adorned the tops of two tall condo buildings in West Palm Beach for more than two decades — but now it’s gone and won’t be returning, the Palm Beach Post reported Tuesday. The buildings once bore large signs reading ‘Trump Plaza,’ although they haven’t been affiliated with Trump’s company since 1991. The signs came down in late 2017 for cleaning, and the Palm Beach Post reported that residents voted 178-20 to not put them back. ... The condos in West Palm Beach will still be called ‘Trump Plaza,’ and there will still be ground-level signs bearing Trump’s name. The question of whether to remove those will be left to a later vote, the Palm Beach Post reported.”

**-- Bernie Madoff, king of the Ponzi scheme, is seeking a medical release from prison.** [Justin George reports](#): “Madoff said he is in the end stages of kidney disease, must use a wheelchair and is in need of round-the-clock help. At 81, he is too old for a transplant, and he has been moved to palliative care within the Federal Medical Center

prison in Butner, N.C. He is asking for compassionate release so he can die at home. ... Madoff expressed remorse for his massive fraud, in which he swindled investors out of billions, and said his dying wish is to salvage relationships with his grandchildren. He has served 11 years of the 150-year sentence he was given in 2009, after pleading guilty to 11 criminal counts, including fraud and money laundering.”

**-- The last accuser to testify against Harvey Weinstein in his rape and sexual assault case took the witness stand to speak of an alleged attack at the Montage hotel in Beverly Hills in**

**2013. [Shayna Jacobs reports](#):** “Lauren Marie Young’s testimony will be the last the jury will hear from an accuser in Weinstein’s criminal trial in New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan, which nears its end after a month. Young, a 30-year-old model and actress who lives in Pennsylvania, said she, Weinstein and a Mexican model she knew, Claudia Salinas, were in a business meeting in the hotel lounge on Feb. 19, 2013, when Weinstein said they needed to move to his suite so he could get ready for an awards event he was attending with Quentin Tarantino. Young said she resisted every physical advance that was made on her after Salinas left her alone with Weinstein in the bathroom of the suite. She testified that she had been backed into a corner when Weinstein, already naked, pulled her dress down and started masturbating while groping her. ... Up until the February encounter, Weinstein and Salinas talked with Young about the possibility of her appearing on ‘America’s Next Top Model.’”

**-- A drug-sniffing dog picked up a scent inside a sedan during a routine traffic stop in Florida, which led officials to two bags marked “Bag Full of Drugs.” You can probably guess where this**

**is going.** [Tom Jackman reports](#): Inside the bags, police found “75 grams (2.6 ounces) of methamphetamine, more than a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of the date-rape drug GHB, 3.6 grams (0.12 ounces) of fentanyl, plus ecstasy, cocaine and assorted paraphernalia. The driver and passenger were both booked on multiple felony drug charges, according to the Florida Highway Patrol, with a hand from [deputy K-9] Prince of the Santa Rosa County Sheriff’s Office. ‘They don’t always make it that easy for us,’ Lt. W. Robert Cannon of the Florida Highway Patrol said. ‘If it weren’t for the fact that we’re talking about date rape drugs, fentanyl, which we all know can be deadly, cocaine and the other drugs, it would be humorous.’”

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Social media was dominated by impassioned reactions to Romney's vote. Rick Gorka, Romney's traveling press secretary during the 2012 campaign and now a communications director at the Republican National Committee, lit into his old boss:



The RNC chairwoman, who is Romney's niece, was gentler:



A screenshot of a tweet from Ronna McDaniel (@GOPChairwoman). The tweet text reads: "This is not the first time I have disagreed with Mitt, and I imagine it will not be the last. The bottom line is President Trump did nothing wrong, and the Republican Party is more united than ever behind him. I, along with the @GOP, stand with President Trump." The tweet has 28.7K likes and was posted at 7:34 PM on Feb 5, 2020. Below the tweet, it says "16.2K people are talking about this".

**Ronna McDaniel**   
@GOPChairwoman

This is not the first time I have disagreed with Mitt, and I imagine it will not be the last.

The bottom line is President Trump did nothing wrong, and the Republican Party is more united than ever behind him.

I, along with the @GOP, stand with President Trump.

28.7K 7:34 PM - Feb 5, 2020

16.2K people are talking about this

The president's son called for Romney to be expelled from the party:



A screenshot of a tweet from Donald Trump Jr. (@DonaldJTrumpjr). The tweet text reads: "Mitt Romney is forever bitter that he will never be POTUS. He was too weak to beat the Democrats then so he's joining them now. He's now officially a member of the resistance & should be expelled from the @GOP." The tweet has 89.9K likes and was posted at 7:32 PM on Feb 5, 2020. Below the tweet, it says "46.3K people are talking about this".

**Donald Trump Jr.**   
@DonaldJTrumpjr

Mitt Romney is forever bitter that he will never be POTUS. He was too weak to beat the Democrats then so he's joining them now.

He's now officially a member of the resistance & should be expelled from the @GOP.

89.9K 7:32 PM - Feb 5, 2020

46.3K people are talking about this

Trump Sr. criticized Romney on Twitter after midnight:



The lead House manager celebrated Romney's decision:



**Adam Schiff** ✓  
@RepAdamSchiff



Having proven Trump guilty, I asked if there was just one Republican Senator who would say “enough”

Who would stand up against this dangerously immoral president

Who would display moral courage

Who would do impartial justice as their oath required and convict

And there is. [twitter.com/nytimes/status...](https://twitter.com/nytimes/status...)

**The New York Times** ✓ @nytimes

Breaking News: "The case was made." Mitt Romney will vote to convict President Trump of abuse of power, the first Republican to support removing him from office in the impeachment trial. [nyti.ms/31uKxgO](https://nyti.ms/31uKxgO)

♥ 112K 7:29 PM - Feb 5, 2020



💬 31.4K people are talking about this



Former Republican senator Jeff Flake (Ariz.) praised Romney:



**Jeff Flake** ✓  
@JeffFlake



I have long admired Mitt Romney, but never more than today. What an honorable man.

[washingtonpost.com/politics/with-...](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/with-...)



**Romney to vote to convict Trump on charge of abus...**

The Utah senator calls Trump's offenses "egregious" and says the president defense did not persuade him otherwise.

[washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com)

♡ 67.8K 8:28 PM - Feb 5, 2020



💬 13.4K people are talking about this



Many Senate Democrats said they were deeply moved, including this lawmaker from Connecticut:



The president's embattled personal attorney celebrated:



After his acquittal, Trump recirculated this meme that suggests he'd love to be president for life:





**Donald J. Trump** ✓  
@realDonaldTrump



♥ 349K 9:49 PM - Feb 5, 2020



💬 154K people are talking about this



McConnell's former chief of staff celebrated Trump's triumph:



**Josh Holmes** ✓  
@Holmesjosh



Good morning, sunshine.



♡ 671 1:29 PM - Feb 6, 2020



💬 192 people are talking about this



Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), up for reelection, ripped up the articles of impeachment as a spoof of Pelosi ripping up the State of the Union:



**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "He shredded the truth, so I shredded his speech," Pelosi told House Democrats at a closed-door meeting. (Politico)

### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert paid tribute to Romney:



Seth Meyers said this hasn't been a banner week for U.S. politics:



Samantha Bee delivered her own assessment of the state of our union:



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# The Daily 202

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**Pete Buttigieg is emerging as a unity candidate in New Hampshire – with a bounce from Iowa**



Pete Buttigieg holds a town hall on Thursday at American Legion Post 98 in Merrimack, N.H. (Joseph Prezioso/AFP/Getty Images)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

## **THE BIG IDEA:**

**MERRIMACK, N.H. – An Air Force veteran asked Pete Buttigieg at the American Legion hall here whether he learned any special lessons during his deployment to Afghanistan as a Naval reservist.**

“Being in charge is not about being exalted,” answered the 38-year-old Democratic presidential candidate. “I was a pretty junior officer. I was just a lieutenant. But I recognized that the most important thing I could do was to do right by the enlisted people who were calling me

‘sir.’ It’s that basic principle that officers eat last when you’re at chow. And I wish that we had a president who understood that the position at the top of the org chart should also be the position of greatest humility about your need to do right by everybody around you.”

Buttigieg’s nod to the virtue of modesty was the single biggest applause line during his Thursday afternoon town hall meeting, which filled the venue to capacity. It offered a stark contrast to the anything-but-humble victory lap that President Trump took at the White House earlier in the afternoon to celebrate being acquitted by the Senate.

A dozen different voters I interviewed after Buttigieg’s event brought up the moment – including people who are torn between him and Joe Biden, him and Bernie Sanders, him and Elizabeth Warren, as well as him and Amy Klobuchar. These conversations offered a window into Buttigieg’s emergence, ahead of next Tuesday’s New Hampshire primary, as the kind of unity candidate who defies the conventional lanes that pundits try to force candidates into.

Polling shows that Buttigieg has been surging here since his better-than-expected finish in the Iowa caucuses, where he’s neck-and-neck with Sanders and an official winner has not been declared.

A nightly tracking poll of likely Democratic voters in New Hampshire by Suffolk University, in partnership with [the Boston Globe](#) and WBZ-TV, has shown the former mayor of South Bend, Ind., gaining ground here every night since Monday. Sanders led last night with 24 percent, followed by Buttigieg with 23 percent (up four points from the night before). The pollsters say Buttigieg’s gains are coming from Biden and Warren. Warren garnered 13 percent and Biden got 11 percent in the



latest poll. Everyone else was in single digits. The margin of error is 4.4 percent.

A [Monmouth University poll](#) released Thursday puts Sanders in the lead with 24 percent among likely primary voters, followed by Buttigieg at 20 percent, Biden at 17 percent, Warren at 13 percent and Klobuchar at 9 percent. Half of all respondents said they're not firmly decided and could still change their minds. The margin of error is also 4.4 percent.

William Voss, an independent who lives here and voted for Hillary Clinton in the primary four years ago, saw Biden on Tuesday, Warren on Wednesday and Buttigieg on Thursday. He said he'll watch the Democratic debate on Friday night in Manchester before making a final decision over the weekend. "Pete hadn't really been on my list until he greatly surprised me in Iowa," Voss said. "Before Iowa, I perceived him as competing for vice president. Now I'm paying attention to him."



Buttigieg fields a voter's question in Merrimack. (Eric Thayer/Reuters)

Steve Shaw, 76, is a liberal who backed Sanders four years ago when he beat Clinton in the state's Democratic primary by 22 points. He's been trying to decide between supporting the independent senator from Vermont again or breaking for Warren, who represents the neighboring state of Massachusetts in the Senate. But Buttigieg has now entered the mix. "Iowa makes him more credible," said Shaw, a retired state employee who lives in Concord. "He's got a lot of courage in having a husband, too."

Shaw said he wants to support a candidate who feels empathy for the less fortunate, who does not condescend to regular people and who can think quickly on their feet. After the town hall, Shaw gave Buttigieg high marks for all three criteria and said the comments about eating only after his subordinates were "especially terrific."

“In that iconic painting by Edvard Munch called ‘The Scream,’ there are two theories as to what the figure is doing,” he explained. “Is she screaming for herself? Or is she screaming because she hears someone else screaming? In politics, you’re either showing empathy or you’re showing selfishness. There’s far too much selfishness and greed, especially from a president who is Robespierre with a comb-over. That’s why we’re so badly in need of empathy.”

Independents can cast ballots in the Democratic primary in New Hampshire. Without a real contest on the Republican side, that means there will likely be many more moderate-minded voters than four years ago. Bill Mauser, 77, is an independent who voted for John Kasich, the-then Ohio governor, in the GOP primary four years ago. He backed Clinton in the general, although he said it was so tough to decide between her and Trump that he didn’t make up his mind until he was standing in the voting booth. Now he’s trying to decide between Buttigieg and Klobuchar, the three-term senior senator from Minnesota.

“Amy is experienced, coming as she does from the Washington milieu, so she’s got the chops and she’s shown she’s strong enough to stand up to the opposition for what she believes in,” said Mauser, who lives in Merrimack and now enjoys bowling after a career in software development. He served four years on active duty in the Navy and 23 more in the reserves. “Pete is bright, articulate and a veteran, which is very good. The thing is that whoever wins is going to end up in a pit, and then in a brawl, with Donald J. Trump. He’s a no-holds-barred eye-gouger, so we need to pick someone with that in mind.”

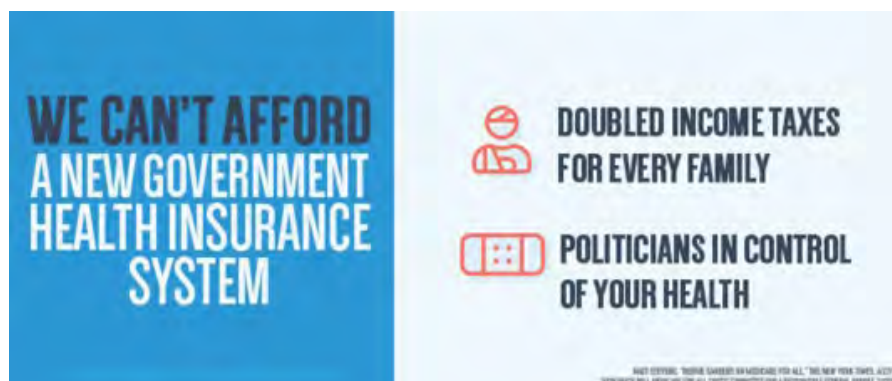
In Iowa, promising generational change without an ideological edge, Buttigieg demonstrated an ability to build a broad coalition that transcends the traditional moderate vs. liberal “lanes” that pundits try to force candidates into. Preliminary [entrance polls](#) there showed that he tied for first among self-identified moderates (with Biden) and finished second among self-identified liberals (behind Sanders). He led among women and finished a close second among men. He was second among 17-to-29 and 30-to-44-year-olds, and he won among 45-to-64-year-olds. He fared just as well in rural parts of the state as the suburbs and cities over 50,000. Buttigieg even managed to get almost the same level of support among non-college graduates as those who earned degrees.

To be sure, Buttigieg continues to struggle to make inroads with black voters. This remains a challenge to his campaign in South Carolina and across the Southern states that vote on Super Tuesday. Biden is counting on black voters to offer a firewall, and the former vice president has leaned in on the argument that he’s the candidate most likely to defeat Trump in November.

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Content from [Partnership for America’s Health Care Future](#)

### **American families can’t afford Medicare for All.**



Studies confirm that Medicare for All would force Americans to pay more for worse care. Economists agree, there's "no way to pay for Medicare for All without tax increases."

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Buttigieg speaks in Merrimack. (Eric Thayer/Reuters)

Dave and Alicia Hennessey, of Pelham, went to see Biden in Nashua on Tuesday and Buttigieg in Merrimack on Thursday. They both supported Clinton four years ago. Alicia, who retired from teaching at a computer training school, has decided to go for Buttigieg over Biden. "He's just so reasonable: on health care, on student debt, on the environment," the 70-year-old said. "I knocked on a lot of doors for Hillary. Bernie and Elizabeth are just too radical. ... I think Amy would have done a lot better if Pete wasn't in it."

Dave, a Vietnam veteran who retired last year from the real estate business, remains torn between Biden and Buttigieg. "The big issue is

electability,” he said. “We’ve got to get Trump out of there. That’s priority one. While I like Pete – he’s smart and articulate – Joe is familiar, like an old pair of shoes. But he’s nowhere near the speaker that Pete is. And I’m concerned about his age. I’m 73, and I’ve lost a step or two. ... But I’m still concerned about so many morons out there being bigoted [about Buttigieg’s sexuality]. ... Electability is job one. ... I think it’s impressive he was able to do well, but I think the Iowa caucuses are so stupid and dumb.”

Biden’s struggles in Iowa have eroded his electability pitch somewhat, a point Buttigieg has been eager to make during a media blitz in recent days. Yesterday alone, Buttigieg appeared on ABC’s “[The View](#),” CBS’s “[Late Show with Stephen Colbert](#)” and finished the night with [a CNN town hall](#) moderated by Chris Cuomo. He even [talked to TMZ](#). “If your focus is on electability,” Buttigieg told the gossip site, “the best way, I think, to demonstrate you’re a candidate who can win is to go win.” In another sign that Buttigieg has arrived, the Trump campaign sent out an email attacking him last night.

Tonight’s debate on ABC looms as a pivotal test for Buttigieg. Because he’s rising, he faces almost certain attacks from all directions. Biden has telegraphed a few hits in recent days. Klobuchar did little during a previous debate to hide her resentment that Buttigieg is doing better than she. Warren’s manager accused one of Buttigieg’s strategists of coordinating in plain sight with an allied super PAC, something that the campaign and the group deny. She’s said that a woman with his same background would not have gotten as far.

Buttigieg was widely viewed as [a winner of the November debate](#), but he stumbled badly in the December debate as he struggled to

respond to criticism over raising money in a Napa Valley wine cave. He took a hit in the polls after that.

The former mayor, who has shifted more toward the middle over the last year, benefitted during the January debate from the squabbling between Sanders and Warren on the left over whether the Vermont senator told his Massachusetts colleague during a private dinner that a woman cannot win the presidency. Sanders vigorously denied it. Interviews on the ground over the last few weeks suggest that some men who had been intrigued by Warren and attracted to her detailed plans were turned off by what they perceived as her playing the gender card.

A few weeks ago, Warren was pitching herself for this role of unity candidate. Her team hoped she'd come out of Iowa stronger than she did, counting on [a much-ballyhooed field program](#) that didn't deliver as promised. They thought she could then sell herself in New Hampshire as both the more pragmatic alternative to Sanders and the more progressive alternative to Biden. Instead, after Warren's distant third-place finish, Buttigieg is slipping into that sweet spot.

Buttigieg said in Merrimack that his campaign had been "absolutely electrified ... by the extraordinary validation of this campaign's vision that we had in Iowa on Monday." He announced yesterday that he's raised \$2.73 million and attracted 22,636 donors since caucus night, with an average of \$42. "I'm also mindful and humbled by the fact that New Hampshire is New Hampshire," he concluded. "And New Hampshire is not the kind of place to let Iowa or anybody else tell you what to do!"



Bernie Sanders speaks Friday morning at the "Politics and Eggs" breakfast at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H. (Justin Lane/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

## **WHAT ELSE YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT 2020:**

**-- The latest on the Iowa mess: The state Democratic Party last night said it has now released all the results, showing the tightest of races between Buttigieg and Sanders.** With 100 percent of precincts reporting, Buttigieg held a narrow lead of 26.2 percent in state delegate equivalents, the traditional metric by which an Iowa winner has been determined. Sanders had 26.1 percent. With continuing confusion and questions about the technical issues, no official winner has been declared by the party or news outlets like the Associated Press. Sanders led in the popular vote by roughly 6,000 votes in the first round and about 2,500 in the second round.

**Sanders declared victory** in a news conference at his New



### **Hampshire headquarters in Manchester on Thursday afternoon.**

“When 6,000 more people come out for you in an election than your nearest opponent, we here in northern New England call that a victory,” he said. “Who inches ahead in the end is meaningless,” Sanders added, referring to the delegate count.

### **His comments came less than an hour after Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez [called](#) for a canvass of the results from the caucuses.**

“The state party gave no indication it planned to honor Perez’s demand, instead issuing a statement noting that it is the campaigns that are entitled to request a canvass. None has so far made such a request, and Sanders and Buttigieg indicated Thursday they would not,” Isaac Stanley-Becker reports. “A canvass would mean a hand audit of the math worksheets and reporting forms that are completed on caucus night at each of the more than 1,750 precincts across the state. It would differ from a full recount, which involves a hand count of each of the ‘presidential preference cards’ completed by caucus-goers.”

### **-- Why Buttigieg decided to declare victory on Monday night:**

“Unlike a typical election, where ballot choices are secret, the various campaigns received real-time reports of turnout and preference from the state’s 1,681 precincts. The numbers they reported back to Buttigieg in his suite at a downtown Des Moines Marriott cheered everyone in the room,” [Michael Scherer, Holly Bailey, Sean Sullivan and Annie Linskey report](#) in a meaty new ticktock. “The political wordsmith with degrees from Oxford and Harvard needed a win in Iowa to propel his campaign forward, so he decided to play a word game: He would declare himself ‘victorious’ without defining what

victory meant. His staff uniformly agreed, even though they knew he still might not finish first in the delegate count. ‘It means victorious over a lot of things — victorious because a year ago, it was just four staffers, victorious in terms of overperforming the expectations, and victorious in that we beat a crop of senators and a former vice president,’ said one of the advisers in the room.”

**-- Joe Walsh, the former Illinois congressman who has been waging a primary challenge to Trump from his right, ended his long-shot bid for the Republican nomination during [an interview on CNN](#) this morning. ([Amy Wang](#))**

**-- Just five days before the New Hampshire primary, Biden's bus was parked in front of the castle-themed Radisson hotel where he's been staying in Nashua. But the candidate was nowhere to be found. [Matt Viser, Cleve Wootson and Michael Scherer report](#):**

“Biden spent Thursday gathered with his top advisers at his home in Wilmington, Del., seeking a reset and perhaps a last-ditch effort to save his candidacy, beginning with a debate Friday night. He held no public events. ... In one troublesome sign for the financially strapped campaign, it canceled nearly \$150,000 in television ads in South Carolina, which votes Feb. 29, and moved the spending to Nevada, whose Feb. 22 contest follows New Hampshire’s. The move seemed to acknowledge that Biden’s campaign cannot sustain a continued run of bad news. ... Some of Biden’s supporters were growing agitated with the campaign, struggling to point to any one piece of it that has been successful. His organizing operation struggled in Iowa, his fundraising numbers have never been impressive, and his message is often muddled.

**“One person close to the campaign ... expects a dramatic reshuffling of his operation if Biden does not show improvement in New Hampshire.** Biden has rarely fired staffers during his decades-long career, so any changes would probably mean internal shifting of responsibilities. Even before then, disputes have emerged among some of his top advisers, who have generally split between an older group that has been with Biden for decades, and a younger group that, while loyal, has joined his staff more recently. There have been disagreements since the start of the campaign over how much to focus on the middle-class economic message that has defined much of Biden’s career and how much to center his message on President Trump.”

-- **Dan Balz’s take:** “Joe Biden’s campaign has a problem, and it begins with the candidate.”

-- **Andrew Yang fired dozens of staffers after his abysmal finish in Iowa.** [From Politico:](#) “Among those dismissed were the national political and policy directors of the campaign, as well as the deputy national political director — all senior level positions. The people who were fired worked across Yang’s organization, from his headquarters in New York to the now-disbanded Iowa operation. ... According to FEC reports released last week, the Yang campaign had more than 230 people on staff.”

-- **A half-dozen women of color left Warren’s Nevada campaign, weeks before the state’s caucuses, complaining of a toxic work environment in which minorities felt tokenized.** [From Politico:](#) “‘There was definitely something wrong with the culture,’ said Megan Lewis, a field organizer who joined the campaign in May and departed

in December. 'I filed a complaint with HR, but the follow-up I received left me feeling as though I needed to make myself smaller or change who I was to fit into the office culture.' Another recently departed staffer, also a field organizer, granted anonymity because she feared reprisal, echoed that sentiment. 'I felt like a problem — like I was there to literally bring color into the space but not the knowledge and voice that comes with it,' she said in an interview. ... [Warren] has spent just 12 days there, another factor that dispirited the state's staff. This week, her campaign also scaled back its television ads in the state by about \$140,000."

**-- Warren's newest ad, airing in heavy rotation on TV here, features an old clip of Barack Obama praising her in the Rose Garden for her work creating the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.** Biden is also running a commercial with old footage of Obama talking him up. The former president has not endorsed his running mate. ([Watch here.](#))

**-- Montana Gov. Steve Bullock (D) met privately with Obama as the deadline for him to file for Senate looms.** The former presidential candidate is a sought-after recruit to challenge Republican Sen. Steve Daines. ([Politico](#))

**-- "Mike Bloomberg's presidential campaign plagiarized portions of its plans for maternal health, LGBTQ equality, the economy, tax policy, infrastructure, and mental health from research publications, media outlets, and a number of nonprofit, educational, and policy groups,"** [the Intercept](#) reports. "[E]xact passages from at least eight Bloomberg plans or accompanying fact sheets were direct copies of material from media outlets including

CNN, Time, and CBS, a research center at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, the American Medical Association, Everytown for Gun Safety, Building America's Future Educational Fund, and other organizations. The plagiarized sections ranged in length from entire paragraphs to individual sentences and fragments in documents that were between five and 14 pages long. ... By Thursday morning [after a press inquiry], one of the plans was completely taken down, while others were changed. ... The Bloomberg campaign did not deny the plagiarism. In a statement, the campaign said, 'Much of what you flagged were fact sheets that went out via MailChimp' — an online newsletter service — 'which doesn't support footnote formatting.'"



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Republicans say Trump learned a lesson. Trump maintains he did nothing wrong.

## IMPEACHMENT FALLOUT:

-- **“Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman — a National Security Council aide who testified during House Democrats’ impeachment hearings — will be informed in the coming days, likely on Friday, by administration officials that he is being reassigned to a position at the Defense Department, taking a key figure from the investigation out of the White House,”** [Josh Dawsey](#), [Bob Costa](#) and [Greg Miller](#) report. “Vindman had already informed senior officials at the NSC that he intended to take an early exit from his assignment and leave his post by the end of the month ... but Trump is eager to make a symbol of the Army officer soon after the Senate acquitted

him ... Trump has complained about Vindman in private, mocking the way he spoke [and] wore his uniform ... He has discussed with aides removing other national security officials who testified or cooperated with House Democrats, with Trump calling them disloyal and asking whether he should further cull his national security staff after impeachment. He remains incensed that so many people in his administration testified last year ...

“Additionally, **Trump sees it as valuable to frame previous investigations as witch hunts because he expects more probes, [informal adviser Jason] Miller and other Trump allies said, and the president has told his aides that Democrats will continue to investigate his finances, his Cabinet officials and his interactions with foreign leaders.** ... Trump has been convinced by polling and rallies in recent months that relentlessly attacking [Nancy] Pelosi is key to his reelection success, and he has shown flashes of anger when discussing her ... Republican lawmakers and Trump have also discussed ways to exact revenge on [Adam] Schiff for his leading role in the president’s impeachment...”

**-- Trump celebrated his acquittal yesterday afternoon with an angry, raw and vindictive 62-minute rant. [David Nakamura reports:](#)** “He spoke without a teleprompter. He cursed in the East Room. He called the House speaker a ‘horrible person.’ He lorded his power over a room full of deferential Republicans. He mocked a former GOP presidential nominee and his 2016 Democratic rival. He played the victim again and again. ... Trump was ... aggrieved — reflecting the id of a president who has seethed for months with rage against his enemies. This was the State of Trump. ... ‘We’ve been

going through this now for over three years,' [he said.] 'It was evil. It was corrupt. It was dirty cops. It was leakers and liars.' ...

**“Trump offered no words of regret, insisting, as he has repeatedly, that he did nothing wrong... The only apology he offered was to his own family, for the ‘phony, rotten’ ordeal that they were put through ... Instead, Trump vented ... ‘You could be George Washington, you could have just won the war, and they’d say, ‘Let’s get him out of office,’’ Trump said of his Democratic rivals. ‘They’re vicious as hell.’ ... At one point, he held up a copy of Thursday’s Washington Post with the headline, ‘Trump acquitted,’ and said he might have it framed. ... He was rewarded with a kiss from the first lady and a hug from his eldest daughter, Ivanka, a senior White House adviser. ...**

“The White House opened the East Room event to the press corps, and scores of reporters crammed into tight spaces behind the seats for the guests. **About an hour before the president was due to start speaking, aides scrambled to rearrange the lectern placement to allow Trump to enter from Cross Hall — producing a dramatic television shot that has traditionally lent gravitas and a presidential air to official statements.** (President Barack Obama used that angle to announce the killing of Osama bin Laden in 2011.) ... ‘It’s all bullshit,’ the president said of the 17-month special-counsel investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and his campaign’s contacts with Russian operatives.”

**-- Trump also took aim at Hunter Biden,** calling him “a son that made no money [and] got thrown out of the military” before launching into an attack on the younger Biden’s business activities in Ukraine,



China and elsewhere. ([Felicia Sonmez](#))

**-- The president's people at the Treasury Department quickly responded to requests from GOP senators for highly sensitive and closely held financial records about Hunter Biden and his associates, as part of the newly launched Republican inquiry into his business affairs.** The Treasury Department still refuses to turn over the president's tax returns, which Congress is legally entitled to review. ([Yahoo News](#))

**-- Meanwhile, Ukraine complained the Trump administration is still holding up \$30 million of arms and ammunition.** Officials said they haven't been able to get any answers from the U.S. government about why the deals haven't been approved in more than a year. ([BuzzFeed News](#))

**-- Trump's company charges the Secret Service for the rooms agents use while protecting him at his luxury properties — billing U.S. taxpayers at rates as high as \$650 per night, according to federal records and people who have seen receipts.** [David Fahrenthold, Jonathan O'Connell, Carol D. Leonnig and Josh Dawsey report](#): “Those charges, compiled here for the first time, show that Trump has an unprecedented — and largely hidden — business relationship with his own government. When Trump visits his clubs in Palm Beach, Fla., and Bedminster, N.J., the service needs space to post guards and store equipment. Trump's company says it charges only minimal fees. But Secret Service records do not show that. At Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club, the Secret Service was charged the \$650 rate dozens of times in 2017, and a different rate, \$396.15, dozens more times in 2018, according to documents from Trump's visits.

**“And at the Trump National Golf Club Bedminster, the Secret Service was charged \$17,000 a month to use a three-bedroom cottage on the property, an unusually high rent for homes in that area,** according to receipts from 2017. Trump’s company billed the government even for days when Trump wasn’t there. These payments appear to contradict the Trump Organization’s own statements about what it charges members of his government entourage.”

**-- Pelosi chided Trump for his behavior, as she defended her decision to tear up a copy of his State of the Union address.**

[Toluse Olorunnipa and Mike DeBonis report:](#) “During a day that began with the National Prayer Breakfast, Trump questioned the religious sincerity of Pelosi and Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah), who voted Wednesday to convict the president on a charge of abuse of power. Pelosi, a Catholic, responded by saying Trump was ignorant about religion. ... Despite the negativity, both Trump and Pelosi used their remarks to make brief nods to the idea of working on bipartisan issues like infrastructure and health care. But such olive branches were dwarfed by a forest of vindictiveness, and continued political battle appeared to be the more likely path forward. ... 'He’s impeached forever, no matter what he says,’ Pelosi said. ‘You’re never getting rid of that scar.’”

**-- A Utah state representative called for a vote to censure Romney after he voted to convict the president on abuse of power.** The sponsor of the bill, GOP Rep. Phil Lyman, said he didn’t want Utah’s relationship with Trump to be “damaged” by Romney’s actions. ([KSL](#))

**-- Trump's trial may be over, but he and Chief Justice John Roberts aren't done with each other. [Robert Barnes reports](#):**

“Currently, the chief justice is either writing or reviewing the Supreme Court's decision on whether Trump acted within his power to end the program protecting young immigrant ‘dreamers’ from deportation. A decision could come at any time before the court's term concludes at the end of June. Next month, Roberts will call the court to order to consider whether Trump may shield his personal financial information from a congressional committee and a New York prosecutor each investigating matters beyond the president's impeachment.”

**-- Commentary from The Post's opinion page:**

- [Dana Milbank](#): “Meet the new Trump, same as the old Trump.”
- [Catherine Rampell](#): “Worried Trump might weaponize the presidency? He already has, many times.”
- [Michael Gerson](#): “Trump's politicization of the National Prayer Breakfast is unholy and immoral.”
- [Henry Olsen](#): “Trump's address on his acquittal showcases why people hate him. And love him.”
- [Max Boot](#): “The contrast between Romney and [Marco] Rubio shows how low the GOP has sunk.”

**-- A bipartisan report released by the Senate Intelligence Committee says the Obama administration mounted an insufficient response to Russia's election interference in 2016. But it concludes these failures were “understandable” because the government lacked information and had limited policy options at the time. [Karoun Demirjian and Devlin Barrett report](#): “The**

panel recommended that the government develop specific responses to foreign influence campaigns to better safeguard against future incursions and integrate those efforts across agencies and with the governments of other countries contending with Russian aggression. Its report also said the president must be more direct with the American public about the nature of such threats, and ‘separate himself or herself from political considerations’ when handling these issues. ...

**“Political concerns, the report found, played an influential role in the Obama administration’s ‘tempered’ response to the Russian threat,** as officials’ fears about stoking a politically charged election season with vocal alerts about Russia’s activity created a snowball effect, ultimately allowing the Russian campaign to proliferate relatively unchecked. ... Internally, officials recalled, there was little or no discussion about a ‘pre-election response,’ as the government was ‘concerned about escalation’ with Moscow. Officials ‘did not know the full range of Moscow’s capabilities and were fearful that the Russians might attempt to affect electoral infrastructure,’ the report states. So the response stuck mostly to warnings of largely unspecified ‘consequences,’ communicated by President Obama to Russian President Vladimir Putin...” ([Read the full 54-page report here.](#))



Li Wenliang, who was silenced by police for trying to share news about the coronavirus, shared this photo of himself in January on his Weibo account. That's the Chinese version of Twitter. He died on Thursday. (Li Wenliang/Weibo)

## **THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

-- **“A Chinese doctor who was silenced by police for trying to share news about the new coronavirus long before Chinese health authorities disclosed its full threat died after coming down with the illness, a hospital statement said, triggering an outpouring of anger online toward the ruling Communist Party,”** Gerry Shih [reports from Hangzhou, China](#): “Li Wenliang, a 34-year-old ophthalmologist at Wuhan Central Hospital, became a national hero and symbol of the Chinese government’s systemic failings last month. Li had tried to warn his medical school classmates Dec. 30 about the existence of a contagious new virus that resembled the deadly severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Word began to spread in China thanks to Li, but his posts were censored, and he was detained Jan. 1 for ‘rumor-mongering.’ ...

**“Li was released from detention Jan. 3 after signing a police document admitting that he committed an illegal act by making ‘untrue statements’ on social media and promising that he would ‘earnestly reflect’ on his mistakes.** After they detained Li, Wuhan police appeared on Chinese state television to warn the public about the dangers of spreading rumors. In a coordinated state media push that day, they urged Internet users across the country to not believe online rumors and help build a ‘clear and bright cyberspace.’

**“Days after he was released the first week of January, Li returned to work receiving patients who were beginning to flood into Wuhan’s hospitals. He began coughing Jan. 10,** he later recalled. This past Saturday, three weeks after he checked himself into his hospital, he told his social media followers that he had finally been tested: He was indeed infected by the coronavirus. As he spent his

final days in Wuhan Central's intensive-care unit, Li began publicly sharing how he sought to warn friends about the new virus, his ordeal with the police and his fight with the illness.

**“He revealed that he lived with a pregnant wife and young child,** and had quickly quarantined himself as soon as he suspected he was infected. His mother and father were now hospitalized for fever, he said without disclosing whether they — or his wife and child — contracted the coronavirus. ... As word of Li's death trickled out Thursday night, his followers left messages on his Weibo account [their version of Twitter] pleading in vain for him to post one last update. Hours after his death was confirmed, Chinese users began repeating a literary verse to express their gratitude for a man they felt their country did not deserve. ‘He who holds the firewood for the masses,’ they wrote, ‘is the one who freezes to death in wind and snow.’”

**-- Sadly, the regime in Beijing has not learned its lesson: After Li's death, Communist Party leaders are starting to censor the outpouring of condolences on social media.** [CNBC reports](#) that the government appears to be cracking down on posts that call Li a “hero” and others that reference the lyrics from "Les Miserables" song “Do You Hear the People Sing?” Weibo is also blocking posts that include the hashtag #IWantFreedomOfSpeech.

**-- Luckily, we live in a country where I can write this: Li is a hero.** He did exactly what a good doctor is supposed to do. His pregnant wife, young child and his parents – and frankly all Chinese people who want the freedom of speech we so often take for granted – will be in my prayers this weekend.

-- There are now more than 31,000 confirmed cases of coronavirus in mainland China. More than 630 of Li's countrymen have now died from the coronavirus, and the number could be far higher. More foreigners continue being evacuated from the area where the outbreak began. Two U.S. planes carrying more than 300 passengers flew out of Wuhan last night. (Simon Denyer, Karin Brulliard, Adam Taylor, Marisa Iati, Carol Morello)



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Onboard a government plane evacuating Americans from the coronavirus epicenter



**-- U.S. evacuees quarantined on military bases are resorting to Zumba, stairwell races and accounting classes to try and keep some sense of normalcy.** [William Wan, Lena H. Sun and Neena Satija report](#): “Twice a day, the evacuees have their temperatures checked by medical staff in protective gear. They are forbidden to stray from a small patch of land on a base filled with armed military personnel. So they have found creative ways of filling the days. ‘When people hear quarantine, they think of the zombie apocalypse, movies like ‘World War Z,’” said Matthew McCoy, 55, another evacuee. ‘But the reality is it’s what you make of it.’”

**-- The number of visitors coming to the U.S. from China could drop by as much as 28 percent this year, according to a new report examining the virus’s impact on the country’s tourism industry.** ([Lori Aratani](#))

**-- Another 41 people tested positive for coronavirus on board a quarantined cruise ship off the coast of Japan.** A total of 61 passengers and crew have been diagnosed with the virus. Only 273 of the 3,711 people aboard have been tested so far. ([Denyer and Akiko Kashiwagi](#))

**-- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told his nation’s parliament that the Olympic Games will go on as planned this summer despite the virus.** ([Taylor](#))

**-- The National Symphony Orchestra canceled its tour to China,** the homeland of its principal clarinetist. ([Peggy McGlone](#))

**-- The virus will likely acquire a new, more easily communicated**

**name in the coming days.** It could be a variant of SARS, which scientists have described as a “cousin” of the virus. ([Joel Achenbach](#))

**-- The extended shutdown of Chinese factories from the outbreak is already upending supply chains, as manufacturers begin to feel the squeeze from shortages of material and travel**

**restrictions on staff.** [Michael Tatarski reports:](#) “New restrictions within China could further stress production lines. This week, officials in Zhejiang province announced that only one person per household would be allowed to leave home every two days for necessities. This includes three districts of the city of Hangzhou, home to e-commerce giant Alibaba. ... Although China has largely weathered Trump’s trade war, many economists expect its annual growth to slump to below 4 percent for the first quarter as services halt and consumers avoid going out due to contagion fears.”

**-- A federal judge ordered the administration to end visa processing delays for hundreds of Afghan and Iraqi nationals who worked for American war-fighters.** [Spencer S. Hsu reports:](#)

“The ruling Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan of Washington, D.C., granted class-action status to all applicants whose visa requests have been pending for more than nine months — a deadline set by statute — and followed a September opinion in which the judge called the government’s justification for delays ‘tortured and untenable.’”

**-- Venezuelan authorities rounded up U.S. oil executives held under house arrest in Caracas and moved them to a prison after Trump invited opposition leader Juan Guaidó to the White House.** The six Citgo employees have been detained since 2017

without a trial. ([WSJ](#))

**-- Russia is the clear winner from the U.S. embargo on Venezuelan oil.** [Anthony Faiola and Karen DeYoung report](#): “In the year since the Trump administration declared what amounted to economic war against the Venezuelan government of President Nicolás Maduro — an oil embargo that cut it off from its biggest petroleum buyer, the United States — the move has yielded some clear losers, including U.S. investors now shut out of the market. ... U.S. officials, oil industry insiders and analysts say secret deals between Moscow and Caracas to produce, transport and sell oil to other markets have become a cash cow for Russia that is earning its state-controlled enterprises an estimated \$120 million a month.”

**-- Canada’s oil bust left thousands of abandoned wells behind, and there’s not enough money for a cleanup.** ([Amanda Coletta](#))

**-- Someone filled an Indian town’s well with alcohol, and now beer is pouring out of people’s taps.** ([CNN](#))



A German bumblebee searches for nectar in a still flowering basil plant. (Ulrich Perrey/picture-alliance/dpa/AP)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERSHADOWED:**

**-- Bumblebee populations in North America and Europe have plummeted as a result of extreme temperatures.** [Chris Mooney reports on a new study in the journal Science](#): “The number of areas populated by bumblebees has fallen 46 percent in North America and 17 percent in Europe, and the new research found that regions with sharp bee declines also experienced strong variations in climate — and especially higher temperatures and worse heat waves. It’s yet another major piece of bad news for bee populations. Declining colonies of commercial honeybees have been blamed on a strange phenomenon called Colony Collapse Disorder but also probably spring from a bevy of other causes. Now, the new research suggests that bumblebees in the wild are suffering, too. ‘Where temperatures

are getting more extreme, bees tend to be disappearing more often,' said Peter Soroye, a researcher at the University of Ottawa and one of the study's authors.

**“The loss of bumblebee populations is alarming because they play a central role in pollinating many plants, including key crops such as tomatoes and cranberries.** ... The study, which Soroye conducted with colleagues from the University of Ottawa and University College London, compared the observed locations for 66 species of bumblebees between 1901 and 1974 with places where they could be found between 2000 and 2014. They found that nearly half of all regions in North America where bumblebees had been recorded in the earlier period no longer registered bees in the later period.

**“It’s unclear whether the bees might recover.** Franklin’s bumblebee is a species once found in a narrow region where California and Oregon meet. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently proposed an endangered-species listing for the bee but noted that the listing may not actually happen because it’s unclear whether there are any bees left to protect. ... Unlike many other insects, bumblebees are especially sensitive to temperature. Their large, hair-covered bodies give them an ability to internally heat up by flapping their wings at different speeds. But that also makes them vulnerable in hot weather.”

**-- Another red flag: “Just days after the earth saw its warmest January on record, Antarctica has broken its warmest temperature ever recorded,”** [Matthew Cappucci reports](#). “A reading of 65 degrees was taken at Esperanza Base along Antarctica’s Trinity Peninsula on Thursday, making it the ordinarily frigid continent’s

highest measured temperature in history.”

**-- Trump will auction the right to drill and graze in areas of southern Utah that were previously protected as two national monuments.** [Sarah Kaplan and Juliet Eilperin report](#): “The decision comes more than two years after Trump [dramatically cut](#) the size of the monuments, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, and is likely to intensify a legal fight over the contested sites. The expanses of wind-swept badlands, narrow slot canyons and towering rock formations are sacred to several Native American nations and prized by scientists and outdoor enthusiasts. Bears Ears contains tens of thousands of cultural artifacts and rare rock art. In the rock layers of Grand Staircase, researchers have unearthed 75 million-year-old dinosaur fossils. But the lands also harbor significant amounts of oil, gas and coal that the administration [hopes to develop](#), as well as grazing land valued by local ranchers. The earliest the government could approve new mining claims and other kinds of development is Oct. 1, because of language Congress adopted in a spending bill.”

**-- Trump kept a controversial pesticide on the market. Now its biggest manufacturer is discontinuing it.** [Brady Dennis and Juliet Eilperin report](#): “The main manufacturer of a pesticide used for decades on a wide array of crops, including strawberries, corn and citrus, said Thursday it will stop making the product, which some scientists have said is linked to neurological problems in children. Corteva Agriscience, the nation’s largest producer of chlorpyrifos, said the decision was driven by financial considerations, not safety concerns. ... The Trump administration has refused to ban the pesticide, arguing that the science linking chlorpyrifos to health

problems, such as neurological impacts in children and respiratory problems in adults, remains unresolved and in need of further study.”

-- **“The U.S. economy added 225,000 jobs in January, a surprising sign of continued strength for the economy,”** [Eli Rosenberg and Heather Long report](#). “The unemployment rate ticked up slightly to 3.6 percent, mostly due to more people rejoining the labor force. The jobless rate remains near a 50-year low.”

-- **“GOP senators are facing a new loyalty test: Whether to approve Trump’s controversial Federal Reserve nominee Judy Shelton.”** ([Heather Long and Erica Werner](#))

-- **The House passed a bill to rewrite labor laws and strengthen unions.** [Eli Rosenberg reports](#): “The Protecting the Right to Organize Act, known as the PRO Act, would amend some of the country’s decades-old labor laws to give workers more power during disputes at work, add penalties for companies that retaliate against workers who organize and grant some hundreds of thousands of workers collective-bargaining rights they don’t currently have. It would also weaken ‘right-to-work’ laws in 27 states that allow employees to forgo participating in and paying dues to unions.”

-- **Virginia will probably become the first Southern state to ban LGBT discrimination.** [Laura Vozzella reports](#): “Sweeping LGBT rights legislation that bans discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations sailed out of the Virginia Senate and House on bipartisan votes Thursday. ... The Senate and House bills have to cross over to the opposite chamber and win passage again before Gov. Ralph Northam (D), who requested the legislation, can sign them

into law. But those steps were seen as technicalities by advocates cheering what they regard as landmark human rights legislation.”

**-- Trump is ramping up border-wall construction ahead of the 2020 election.** [Nick Miroff and Adrian Blanco report](#): The Post “has obtained detailed U.S. government data about Trump’s border-wall project, its construction progress and contracts for each segment of the structure. The data shows the Trump administration is far from delivering on the president’s promise to finish more than 500 miles of new barriers by early next year. ... [Still], the Trump administration is installing a structure far more formidable than anything previously in place along the border. The new structure has steel bollards, anchored in concrete, that reach 18 to 30 feet in height and will have lighting, cameras, sensors and improved roads to allow U.S. agents to respond quickly along an expanded ‘enforcement zone.’

**“Nearly all of the new fencing the Trump administration has built so far is considered ‘replacement’ fencing, swapping out smaller, older vehicle barriers for a more elaborate — and costly — ‘border wall system.’** The administration has been slower to build new barriers where none currently exist, primarily because those spans require the acquisition of private land. Even with the slated construction goals, most of the southern border will not have a man-made barrier. ... Department of Homeland Security officials have tried to lower expectations, saying they will have 450 miles completed or ‘under construction’ by the end of the year.”

**-- Patrick Crusius, the 21-year-old accused of killing 22 people and injuring dozens more during a rampage at an El Paso Walmart last August, was indicted on 90 federal charges,**



including dozens of counts of hate crimes. (Robert Moore and Mark Berman)

### SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

Trump used a curse word while giving a nationally televised post-impeachment speech in the East Room, and only one network actually used the word in the closed captions:



Here's how many times that word has been used in the White House:



**Carrie Dann**   
@CarrieNBCNews



A search of the American Presidency Project finds 6 records of "bullshit" in the 132,480 records in the White House document archive

1 was songwriter Diane Warren

1 was Kanye

Rest are Trump.

**RESULTS** 1 - 6 of 6 records found

| Date         | Related         | Document Title   |
|--------------|-----------------|--|
| Mar 16, 2016 | Michelle Obama  | Remarks by the First Lady in a Keynote Discussion at South by Southwest Featuring Missy Elliott, Queen Latifah, Sophia Bush, and Diane Warren in Austin, Texas<br>because it's all -- can I say <b>bullshit</b> ? (Laughter.) I was trying ... |
| Oct 11, 2018 | Donald J. Trump | Remarks in a Meeting With Musician Kanye O. West and Former National Football League Player Jim Brown and an Exchange With Reporters<br>Industry guys--nonpolitical, no <b>bullshit</b> --put the beep on it, however ...                      |
| Mar 02, 2019 | Donald J. Trump | Remarks at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Oxon Hill, Maryland<br>trying to take you out with <b>bullshit</b> . Okay? [ Laughter ] With <b>bullshit</b> . Now, Robert Mueller never ...  |
| May 17, 2019 | Donald J. Trump | Remarks at the National Association of REALTORS Legislative Meetings and Trade Expo  |
| Jun 30, 2019 | Donald J. Trump | Remarks to United States Troops at Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, South Korea<br>the internet and gives more <b>bullshit</b> over the internet than ISIS ...   |
| Jul 17, 2019 | Donald J. Trump | Remarks at a "Keep America Great" Rally in Greenville, North Carolina<br>"If we didn't have the <b>bullshit</b> ," (cheers and applause ...  |

♡ 67 5:43 PM - Feb 6, 2020



💬 76 people are talking about this



No media outlet has called a winner in Iowa, but Yang credited Sanders over Buttigieg:



And Stephen Colbert began questioning all of Iowa's claims:



### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Colbert thinks Trump may have missed the part of the National Prayer Breakfast where they said "love your enemy":



Seth Meyers broke down Trump's post-impeachment rant:



Our video team made a side-by-side comparison of what Trump said yesterday with what Bill Clinton said after his acquittal by the Senate in 1999. Clinton said he was "profoundly sorry." Trump said "it was all bullshit." Trump spoke for an hour and two minutes. Clinton spoke for one minute and 36 seconds:



A side-by-side look at Clinton and Trump's post-acquittal speeches

And Trevor Noah turned Trump's State of the Union into a telenovela:



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## PowerPost

# The Daily 202

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## Pete Buttigieg is emerging as a unity candidate in New Hampshire – with a bounce from Iowa



Pete Buttigieg holds a town hall on Thursday at American Legion Post 98 in Merrimack, N.H. (Joseph Prezioso/AFP/Getty Images)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

## **THE BIG IDEA:**

**MERRIMACK, N.H. – An Air Force veteran asked Pete Buttigieg at the American Legion hall here whether he learned any special lessons during his deployment to Afghanistan as a Naval reservist.**

“Being in charge is not about being exalted,” answered the 38-year-old Democratic presidential candidate. “I was a pretty junior officer. I was just a lieutenant. But I recognized that the most important thing I could do was to do right by the enlisted people who were calling me



‘sir.’ It’s that basic principle that officers eat last when you’re at chow. And I wish that we had a president who understood that the position at the top of the org chart should also be the position of greatest humility about your need to do right by everybody around you.”

Buttigieg’s nod to the virtue of modesty was the single biggest applause line during his Thursday afternoon town hall meeting, which filled the venue to capacity. It offered a stark contrast to the anything-but-humble victory lap that President Trump took at the White House earlier in the afternoon to celebrate being acquitted by the Senate.

A dozen different voters I interviewed after Buttigieg’s event brought up the moment – including people who are torn between him and Joe Biden, him and Bernie Sanders, him and Elizabeth Warren, as well as him and Amy Klobuchar. These conversations offered a window into Buttigieg’s emergence, ahead of next Tuesday’s New Hampshire primary, as the kind of unity candidate who defies the conventional lanes that pundits try to force candidates into.

Polling shows that Buttigieg has been surging here since his better-than-expected finish in the Iowa caucuses, where he’s neck-and-neck with Sanders and an official winner has not been declared.

A nightly tracking poll of likely Democratic voters in New Hampshire by Suffolk University, in partnership with [the Boston Globe](#) and WBZ-TV, has shown the former mayor of South Bend, Ind., gaining ground here every night since Monday. Sanders led last night with 24 percent, followed by Buttigieg with 23 percent (up four points from the night before). The pollsters say Buttigieg’s gains are coming from Biden and Warren. Warren garnered 13 percent and Biden got 11 percent in the

latest poll. Everyone else was in single digits. The margin of error is 4.4 percent.

A [Monmouth University poll](#) released Thursday puts Sanders in the lead with 24 percent among likely primary voters, followed by Buttigieg at 20 percent, Biden at 17 percent, Warren at 13 percent and Klobuchar at 9 percent. Half of all respondents said they're not firmly decided and could still change their minds. The margin of error is also 4.4 percent.

William Voss, an independent who lives here and voted for Hillary Clinton in the primary four years ago, saw Biden on Tuesday, Warren on Wednesday and Buttigieg on Thursday. He said he'll watch the Democratic debate on Friday night in Manchester before making a final decision over the weekend. "Pete hadn't really been on my list until he greatly surprised me in Iowa," Voss said. "Before Iowa, I perceived him as competing for vice president. Now I'm paying attention to him."



Buttigieg fields a voter's question in Merrimack. (Eric Thayer/Reuters)

Steve Shaw, 76, is a liberal who backed Sanders four years ago when he beat Clinton in the state's Democratic primary by 22 points. He's been trying to decide between supporting the independent senator from Vermont again or breaking for Warren, who represents the neighboring state of Massachusetts in the Senate. But Buttigieg has now entered the mix. "Iowa makes him more credible," said Shaw, a retired state employee who lives in Concord. "He's got a lot of courage in having a husband, too."

Shaw said he wants to support a candidate who feels empathy for the less fortunate, who does not condescend to regular people and who can think quickly on their feet. After the town hall, Shaw gave Buttigieg high marks for all three criteria and said the comments about eating only after his subordinates were "especially terrific."

“In that iconic painting by Edvard Munch called ‘The Scream,’ there are two theories as to what the figure is doing,” he explained. “Is she screaming for herself? Or is she screaming because she hears someone else screaming? In politics, you’re either showing empathy or you’re showing selfishness. There’s far too much selfishness and greed, especially from a president who is Robespierre with a comb-over. That’s why we’re so badly in need of empathy.”

Independents can cast ballots in the Democratic primary in New Hampshire. Without a real contest on the Republican side, that means there will likely be many more moderate-minded voters than four years ago. Bill Mauser, 77, is an independent who voted for John Kasich, the-then Ohio governor, in the GOP primary four years ago. He backed Clinton in the general, although he said it was so tough to decide between her and Trump that he didn’t make up his mind until he was standing in the voting booth. Now he’s trying to decide between Buttigieg and Klobuchar, the three-term senior senator from Minnesota.

“Amy is experienced, coming as she does from the Washington milieu, so she’s got the chops and she’s shown she’s strong enough to stand up to the opposition for what she believes in,” said Mauser, who lives in Merrimack and now enjoys bowling after a career in software development. He served four years on active duty in the Navy and 23 more in the reserves. “Pete is bright, articulate and a veteran, which is very good. The thing is that whoever wins is going to end up in a pit, and then in a brawl, with Donald J. Trump. He’s a no-holds-barred eye-gouger, so we need to pick someone with that in mind.”

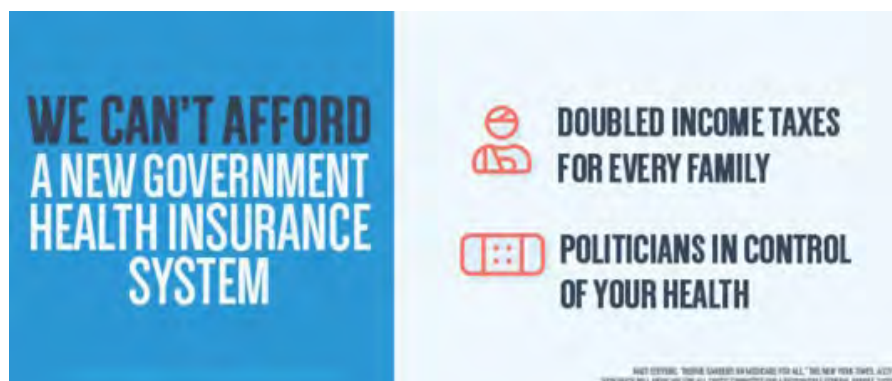
In Iowa, promising generational change without an ideological edge, Buttigieg demonstrated an ability to build a broad coalition that transcends the traditional moderate vs. liberal “lanes” that pundits try to force candidates into. Preliminary [entrance polls](#) there showed that he tied for first among self-identified moderates (with Biden) and finished second among self-identified liberals (behind Sanders). He led among women and finished a close second among men. He was second among 17-to-29 and 30-to-44-year-olds, and he won among 45-to-64-year-olds. He fared just as well in rural parts of the state as the suburbs and cities over 50,000. Buttigieg even managed to get almost the same level of support among non-college graduates as those who earned degrees.

To be sure, Buttigieg continues to struggle to make inroads with black voters. This remains a challenge to his campaign in South Carolina and across the Southern states that vote on Super Tuesday. Biden is counting on black voters to offer a firewall, and the former vice president has leaned in on the argument that he’s the candidate most likely to defeat Trump in November.

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Content from [Partnership for America’s Health Care Future](#)

### **American families can’t afford Medicare for All.**



Studies confirm that Medicare for All would force Americans to pay more for worse care. Economists agree, there's "no way to pay for Medicare for All without tax increases."

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Buttigieg speaks in Merrimack. (Eric Thayer/Reuters)

Dave and Alicia Hennessey, of Pelham, went to see Biden in Nashua on Tuesday and Buttigieg in Merrimack on Thursday. They both supported Clinton four years ago. Alicia, who retired from teaching at a computer training school, has decided to go for Buttigieg over Biden. "He's just so reasonable: on health care, on student debt, on the environment," the 70-year-old said. "I knocked on a lot of doors for Hillary. Bernie and Elizabeth are just too radical. ... I think Amy would have done a lot better if Pete wasn't in it."

Dave, a Vietnam veteran who retired last year from the real estate business, remains torn between Biden and Buttigieg. "The big issue is

electability,” he said. “We’ve got to get Trump out of there. That’s priority one. While I like Pete – he’s smart and articulate – Joe is familiar, like an old pair of shoes. But he’s nowhere near the speaker that Pete is. And I’m concerned about his age. I’m 73, and I’ve lost a step or two. ... But I’m still concerned about so many morons out there being bigoted [about Buttigieg’s sexuality]. ... Electability is job one. ... I think it’s impressive he was able to do well, but I think the Iowa caucuses are so stupid and dumb.”

Biden’s struggles in Iowa have eroded his electability pitch somewhat, a point Buttigieg has been eager to make during a media blitz in recent days. Yesterday alone, Buttigieg appeared on ABC’s “[The View](#),” CBS’s “[Late Show with Stephen Colbert](#)” and finished the night with [a CNN town hall](#) moderated by Chris Cuomo. He even [talked to TMZ](#). “If your focus is on electability,” Buttigieg told the gossip site, “the best way, I think, to demonstrate you’re a candidate who can win is to go win.” In another sign that Buttigieg has arrived, the Trump campaign sent out an email attacking him last night.

Tonight’s debate on ABC looms as a pivotal test for Buttigieg. Because he’s rising, he faces almost certain attacks from all directions. Biden has telegraphed a few hits in recent days. Klobuchar did little during a previous debate to hide her resentment that Buttigieg is doing better than she. Warren’s manager accused one of Buttigieg’s strategists of coordinating in plain sight with an allied super PAC, something that the campaign and the group deny. She’s said that a woman with his same background would not have gotten as far.

Buttigieg was widely viewed as [a winner of the November debate](#), but he stumbled badly in the December debate as he struggled to

respond to criticism over raising money in a Napa Valley wine cave. He took a hit in the polls after that.

The former mayor, who has shifted more toward the middle over the last year, benefitted during the January debate from the squabbling between Sanders and Warren on the left over whether the Vermont senator told his Massachusetts colleague during a private dinner that a woman cannot win the presidency. Sanders vigorously denied it. Interviews on the ground over the last few weeks suggest that some men who had been intrigued by Warren and attracted to her detailed plans were turned off by what they perceived as her playing the gender card.

A few weeks ago, Warren was pitching herself for this role of unity candidate. Her team hoped she'd come out of Iowa stronger than she did, counting on [a much-ballyhooed field program](#) that didn't deliver as promised. They thought she could then sell herself in New Hampshire as both the more pragmatic alternative to Sanders and the more progressive alternative to Biden. Instead, after Warren's distant third-place finish, Buttigieg is slipping into that sweet spot.

Buttigieg said in Merrimack that his campaign had been "absolutely electrified ... by the extraordinary validation of this campaign's vision that we had in Iowa on Monday." He announced yesterday that he's raised \$2.73 million and attracted 22,636 donors since caucus night, with an average of \$42. "I'm also mindful and humbled by the fact that New Hampshire is New Hampshire," he concluded. "And New Hampshire is not the kind of place to let Iowa or anybody else tell you what to do!"





Bernie Sanders speaks Friday morning at the "Politics and Eggs" breakfast at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H. (Justin Lane/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

## **WHAT ELSE YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT 2020:**

**-- The latest on the Iowa mess: The state Democratic Party last night said it has now released all the results, showing the tightest of races between Buttigieg and Sanders.** With 100 percent of precincts reporting, Buttigieg held a narrow lead of 26.2 percent in state delegate equivalents, the traditional metric by which an Iowa winner has been determined. Sanders had 26.1 percent. With continuing confusion and questions about the technical issues, no official winner has been declared by the party or news outlets like the Associated Press. Sanders led in the popular vote by roughly 6,000 votes in the first round and about 2,500 in the second round.

**Sanders declared victory** in a news conference at his New

### **Hampshire headquarters in Manchester on Thursday afternoon.**

“When 6,000 more people come out for you in an election than your nearest opponent, we here in northern New England call that a victory,” he said. “Who inches ahead in the end is meaningless,” Sanders added, referring to the delegate count.

### **His comments came less than an hour after Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez [called](#) for a canvass of the results from the caucuses.**

“The state party gave no indication it planned to honor Perez’s demand, instead issuing a statement noting that it is the campaigns that are entitled to request a canvass. None has so far made such a request, and Sanders and Buttigieg indicated Thursday they would not,” Isaac Stanley-Becker reports. “A canvass would mean a hand audit of the math worksheets and reporting forms that are completed on caucus night at each of the more than 1,750 precincts across the state. It would differ from a full recount, which involves a hand count of each of the ‘presidential preference cards’ completed by caucus-goers.”

### **-- Why Buttigieg decided to declare victory on Monday night:**

“Unlike a typical election, where ballot choices are secret, the various campaigns received real-time reports of turnout and preference from the state’s 1,681 precincts. The numbers they reported back to Buttigieg in his suite at a downtown Des Moines Marriott cheered everyone in the room,” [Michael Scherer, Holly Bailey, Sean Sullivan and Annie Linskey report](#) in a meaty new ticktock. “The political wordsmith with degrees from Oxford and Harvard needed a win in Iowa to propel his campaign forward, so he decided to play a word game: He would declare himself ‘victorious’ without defining what

victory meant. His staff uniformly agreed, even though they knew he still might not finish first in the delegate count. ‘It means victorious over a lot of things — victorious because a year ago, it was just four staffers, victorious in terms of overperforming the expectations, and victorious in that we beat a crop of senators and a former vice president,’ said one of the advisers in the room.”

**-- Joe Walsh, the former Illinois congressman who has been waging a primary challenge to Trump from his right, ended his long-shot bid for the Republican nomination during [an interview on CNN](#) this morning. ([Amy Wang](#))**

**-- Just five days before the New Hampshire primary, Biden's bus was parked in front of the castle-themed Radisson hotel where he's been staying in Nashua. But the candidate was nowhere to be found. [Matt Viser, Cleve Wootson and Michael Scherer report](#):**

“Biden spent Thursday gathered with his top advisers at his home in Wilmington, Del., seeking a reset and perhaps a last-ditch effort to save his candidacy, beginning with a debate Friday night. He held no public events. ... In one troublesome sign for the financially strapped campaign, it canceled nearly \$150,000 in television ads in South Carolina, which votes Feb. 29, and moved the spending to Nevada, whose Feb. 22 contest follows New Hampshire’s. The move seemed to acknowledge that Biden’s campaign cannot sustain a continued run of bad news. ... Some of Biden’s supporters were growing agitated with the campaign, struggling to point to any one piece of it that has been successful. His organizing operation struggled in Iowa, his fundraising numbers have never been impressive, and his message is often muddled.

**“One person close to the campaign ... expects a dramatic reshuffling of his operation if Biden does not show improvement in New Hampshire.** Biden has rarely fired staffers during his decades-long career, so any changes would probably mean internal shifting of responsibilities. Even before then, disputes have emerged among some of his top advisers, who have generally split between an older group that has been with Biden for decades, and a younger group that, while loyal, has joined his staff more recently. There have been disagreements since the start of the campaign over how much to focus on the middle-class economic message that has defined much of Biden’s career and how much to center his message on President Trump.”

-- **Dan Balz’s take:** “Joe Biden’s campaign has a problem, and it begins with the candidate.”

-- **Andrew Yang fired dozens of staffers after his abysmal finish in Iowa.** [From Politico:](#) “Among those dismissed were the national political and policy directors of the campaign, as well as the deputy national political director — all senior level positions. The people who were fired worked across Yang’s organization, from his headquarters in New York to the now-disbanded Iowa operation. ... According to FEC reports released last week, the Yang campaign had more than 230 people on staff.”

-- **A half-dozen women of color left Warren’s Nevada campaign, weeks before the state’s caucuses, complaining of a toxic work environment in which minorities felt tokenized.** [From Politico:](#) “‘There was definitely something wrong with the culture,’ said Megan Lewis, a field organizer who joined the campaign in May and departed

in December. 'I filed a complaint with HR, but the follow-up I received left me feeling as though I needed to make myself smaller or change who I was to fit into the office culture.' Another recently departed staffer, also a field organizer, granted anonymity because she feared reprisal, echoed that sentiment. 'I felt like a problem — like I was there to literally bring color into the space but not the knowledge and voice that comes with it,' she said in an interview. ... [Warren] has spent just 12 days there, another factor that dispirited the state's staff. This week, her campaign also scaled back its television ads in the state by about \$140,000."

-- **Warren's newest ad, airing in heavy rotation on TV here, features an old clip of Barack Obama praising her in the Rose Garden for her work creating the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.** Biden is also running a commercial with old footage of Obama talking him up. The former president has not endorsed his running mate. ([Watch here.](#))

-- **Montana Gov. Steve Bullock (D) met privately with Obama as the deadline for him to file for Senate looms.** The former presidential candidate is a sought-after recruit to challenge Republican Sen. Steve Daines. ([Politico](#))

-- **"Mike Bloomberg's presidential campaign plagiarized portions of its plans for maternal health, LGBTQ equality, the economy, tax policy, infrastructure, and mental health from research publications, media outlets, and a number of nonprofit, educational, and policy groups,"** [the Intercept](#) reports. "[E]xact passages from at least eight Bloomberg plans or accompanying fact sheets were direct copies of material from media outlets including

CNN, Time, and CBS, a research center at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, the American Medical Association, Everytown for Gun Safety, Building America's Future Educational Fund, and other organizations. The plagiarized sections ranged in length from entire paragraphs to individual sentences and fragments in documents that were between five and 14 pages long. ... By Thursday morning [after a press inquiry], one of the plans was completely taken down, while others were changed. ... The Bloomberg campaign did not deny the plagiarism. In a statement, the campaign said, 'Much of what you flagged were fact sheets that went out via MailChimp' — an online newsletter service — 'which doesn't support footnote formatting.'"



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Republicans say Trump learned a lesson. Trump maintains he did nothing wrong.

## IMPEACHMENT FALLOUT:

-- **“Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman — a National Security Council aide who testified during House Democrats’ impeachment hearings — will be informed in the coming days, likely on Friday, by administration officials that he is being reassigned to a position at the Defense Department, taking a key figure from the investigation out of the White House,”** [Josh Dawsey](#), [Bob Costa](#) and [Greg Miller](#) report. “Vindman had already informed senior officials at the NSC that he intended to take an early exit from his assignment and leave his post by the end of the month ... but Trump is eager to make a symbol of the Army officer soon after the Senate acquitted

him ... Trump has complained about Vindman in private, mocking the way he spoke [and] wore his uniform ... He has discussed with aides removing other national security officials who testified or cooperated with House Democrats, with Trump calling them disloyal and asking whether he should further cull his national security staff after impeachment. He remains incensed that so many people in his administration testified last year ...

“Additionally, **Trump sees it as valuable to frame previous investigations as witch hunts because he expects more probes, [informal adviser Jason] Miller and other Trump allies said, and the president has told his aides that Democrats will continue to investigate his finances, his Cabinet officials and his interactions with foreign leaders.** ... Trump has been convinced by polling and rallies in recent months that relentlessly attacking [Nancy] Pelosi is key to his reelection success, and he has shown flashes of anger when discussing her ... Republican lawmakers and Trump have also discussed ways to exact revenge on [Adam] Schiff for his leading role in the president’s impeachment...”

**-- Trump celebrated his acquittal yesterday afternoon with an angry, raw and vindictive 62-minute rant. [David Nakamura reports:](#)** “He spoke without a teleprompter. He cursed in the East Room. He called the House speaker a ‘horrible person.’ He lorded his power over a room full of deferential Republicans. He mocked a former GOP presidential nominee and his 2016 Democratic rival. He played the victim again and again. ... Trump was ... aggrieved — reflecting the id of a president who has seethed for months with rage against his enemies. This was the State of Trump. ... ‘We’ve been



going through this now for over three years,' [he said.] 'It was evil. It was corrupt. It was dirty cops. It was leakers and liars.' ...

**“Trump offered no words of regret, insisting, as he has repeatedly, that he did nothing wrong... The only apology he offered was to his own family, for the ‘phony, rotten’ ordeal that they were put through ... Instead, Trump vented ... ‘You could be George Washington, you could have just won the war, and they’d say, ‘Let’s get him out of office,’”** Trump said of his Democratic rivals. ‘They’re vicious as hell.’ ... At one point, he held up a copy of Thursday’s Washington Post with the headline, ‘Trump acquitted,’ and said he might have it framed. ... He was rewarded with a kiss from the first lady and a hug from his eldest daughter, Ivanka, a senior White House adviser. ...

“The White House opened the East Room event to the press corps, and scores of reporters crammed into tight spaces behind the seats for the guests. **About an hour before the president was due to start speaking, aides scrambled to rearrange the lectern placement to allow Trump to enter from Cross Hall — producing a dramatic television shot that has traditionally lent gravitas and a presidential air to official statements.** (President Barack Obama used that angle to announce the killing of Osama bin Laden in 2011.) ... ‘It’s all bullshit,’ the president said of the 17-month special-counsel investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and his campaign’s contacts with Russian operatives.”

**-- Trump also took aim at Hunter Biden,** calling him “a son that made no money [and] got thrown out of the military” before launching into an attack on the younger Biden’s business activities in Ukraine,

China and elsewhere. ([Felicia Sonmez](#))

**-- The president's people at the Treasury Department quickly responded to requests from GOP senators for highly sensitive and closely held financial records about Hunter Biden and his associates, as part of the newly launched Republican inquiry into his business affairs.** The Treasury Department still refuses to turn over the president's tax returns, which Congress is legally entitled to review. ([Yahoo News](#))

**-- Meanwhile, Ukraine complained the Trump administration is still holding up \$30 million of arms and ammunition.** Officials said they haven't been able to get any answers from the U.S. government about why the deals haven't been approved in more than a year. ([BuzzFeed News](#))

**-- Trump's company charges the Secret Service for the rooms agents use while protecting him at his luxury properties — billing U.S. taxpayers at rates as high as \$650 per night, according to federal records and people who have seen receipts.** [David Fahrenthold, Jonathan O'Connell, Carol D. Leonnig and Josh Dawsey report](#): “Those charges, compiled here for the first time, show that Trump has an unprecedented — and largely hidden — business relationship with his own government. When Trump visits his clubs in Palm Beach, Fla., and Bedminster, N.J., the service needs space to post guards and store equipment. Trump's company says it charges only minimal fees. But Secret Service records do not show that. At Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club, the Secret Service was charged the \$650 rate dozens of times in 2017, and a different rate, \$396.15, dozens more times in 2018, according to documents from Trump's visits.

**“And at the Trump National Golf Club Bedminster, the Secret Service was charged \$17,000 a month to use a three-bedroom cottage on the property, an unusually high rent for homes in that area,** according to receipts from 2017. Trump’s company billed the government even for days when Trump wasn’t there. These payments appear to contradict the Trump Organization’s own statements about what it charges members of his government entourage.”

**-- Pelosi chided Trump for his behavior, as she defended her decision to tear up a copy of his State of the Union address.**

[Toluse Olorunnipa and Mike DeBonis report](#): “During a day that began with the National Prayer Breakfast, Trump questioned the religious sincerity of Pelosi and Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah), who voted Wednesday to convict the president on a charge of abuse of power. Pelosi, a Catholic, responded by saying Trump was ignorant about religion. ... Despite the negativity, both Trump and Pelosi used their remarks to make brief nods to the idea of working on bipartisan issues like infrastructure and health care. But such olive branches were dwarfed by a forest of vindictiveness, and continued political battle appeared to be the more likely path forward. ... ‘He’s impeached forever, no matter what he says,’ Pelosi said. ‘You’re never getting rid of that scar.’”

**-- A Utah state representative called for a vote to censure Romney after he voted to convict the president on abuse of power.** The sponsor of the bill, GOP Rep. Phil Lyman, said he didn’t want Utah’s relationship with Trump to be “damaged” by Romney’s actions. ([KSL](#))

**-- Trump's trial may be over, but he and Chief Justice John Roberts aren't done with each other. [Robert Barnes reports](#):**

“Currently, the chief justice is either writing or reviewing the Supreme Court's decision on whether Trump acted within his power to end the program protecting young immigrant ‘dreamers’ from deportation. A decision could come at any time before the court's term concludes at the end of June. Next month, Roberts will call the court to order to consider whether Trump may shield his personal financial information from a congressional committee and a New York prosecutor each investigating matters beyond the president's impeachment.”

**-- Commentary from The Post's opinion page:**

- [Dana Milbank](#): “Meet the new Trump, same as the old Trump.”
- [Catherine Rampell](#): “Worried Trump might weaponize the presidency? He already has, many times.”
- [Michael Gerson](#): “Trump's politicization of the National Prayer Breakfast is unholy and immoral.”
- [Henry Olsen](#): “Trump's address on his acquittal showcases why people hate him. And love him.”
- [Max Boot](#): “The contrast between Romney and [Marco] Rubio shows how low the GOP has sunk.”

**-- A bipartisan report released by the Senate Intelligence Committee says the Obama administration mounted an insufficient response to Russia's election interference in 2016. But it concludes these failures were “understandable” because the government lacked information and had limited policy options at the time. [Karoun Demirjian and Devlin Barrett report](#): “The**

panel recommended that the government develop specific responses to foreign influence campaigns to better safeguard against future incursions and integrate those efforts across agencies and with the governments of other countries contending with Russian aggression. Its report also said the president must be more direct with the American public about the nature of such threats, and ‘separate himself or herself from political considerations’ when handling these issues. ...

**“Political concerns, the report found, played an influential role in the Obama administration’s ‘tempered’ response to the Russian threat,** as officials’ fears about stoking a politically charged election season with vocal alerts about Russia’s activity created a snowball effect, ultimately allowing the Russian campaign to proliferate relatively unchecked. ... Internally, officials recalled, there was little or no discussion about a ‘pre-election response,’ as the government was ‘concerned about escalation’ with Moscow. Officials ‘did not know the full range of Moscow’s capabilities and were fearful that the Russians might attempt to affect electoral infrastructure,’ the report states. So the response stuck mostly to warnings of largely unspecified ‘consequences,’ communicated by President Obama to Russian President Vladimir Putin...” ([Read the full 54-page report here.](#))



Li Wenliang, who was silenced by police for trying to share news about the coronavirus, shared this photo of himself in January on his Weibo account. That's the Chinese version of Twitter. He died on Thursday. (Li Wenliang/Weibo)

**THE NEW WORLD ORDER:**

-- **“A Chinese doctor who was silenced by police for trying to share news about the new coronavirus long before Chinese health authorities disclosed its full threat died after coming down with the illness, a hospital statement said, triggering an outpouring of anger online toward the ruling Communist Party,”** Gerry Shih [reports from Hangzhou, China](#): “Li Wenliang, a 34-year-old ophthalmologist at Wuhan Central Hospital, became a national hero and symbol of the Chinese government’s systemic failings last month. Li had tried to warn his medical school classmates Dec. 30 about the existence of a contagious new virus that resembled the deadly severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Word began to spread in China thanks to Li, but his posts were censored, and he was detained Jan. 1 for ‘rumor-mongering.’ ...

**“Li was released from detention Jan. 3 after signing a police document admitting that he committed an illegal act by making ‘untrue statements’ on social media and promising that he would ‘earnestly reflect’ on his mistakes.** After they detained Li, Wuhan police appeared on Chinese state television to warn the public about the dangers of spreading rumors. In a coordinated state media push that day, they urged Internet users across the country to not believe online rumors and help build a ‘clear and bright cyberspace.’

**“Days after he was released the first week of January, Li returned to work receiving patients who were beginning to flood into Wuhan’s hospitals. He began coughing Jan. 10,** he later recalled. This past Saturday, three weeks after he checked himself into his hospital, he told his social media followers that he had finally been tested: He was indeed infected by the coronavirus. As he spent his

final days in Wuhan Central's intensive-care unit, Li began publicly sharing how he sought to warn friends about the new virus, his ordeal with the police and his fight with the illness.

**“He revealed that he lived with a pregnant wife and young child,** and had quickly quarantined himself as soon as he suspected he was infected. His mother and father were now hospitalized for fever, he said without disclosing whether they — or his wife and child — contracted the coronavirus. ... As word of Li's death trickled out Thursday night, his followers left messages on his Weibo account [their version of Twitter] pleading in vain for him to post one last update. Hours after his death was confirmed, Chinese users began repeating a literary verse to express their gratitude for a man they felt their country did not deserve. ‘He who holds the firewood for the masses,’ they wrote, ‘is the one who freezes to death in wind and snow.’”

**-- Sadly, the regime in Beijing has not learned its lesson: After Li's death, Communist Party leaders are starting to censor the outpouring of condolences on social media.** [CNBC reports](#) that the government appears to be cracking down on posts that call Li a “hero” and others that reference the lyrics from "Les Miserables" song “Do You Hear the People Sing?” Weibo is also blocking posts that include the hashtag #IWantFreedomOfSpeech.

**-- Luckily, we live in a country where I can write this: Li is a hero.** He did exactly what a good doctor is supposed to do. His pregnant wife, young child and his parents – and frankly all Chinese people who want the freedom of speech we so often take for granted – will be in my prayers this weekend.



-- There are now more than 31,000 confirmed cases of coronavirus in mainland China. More than 630 of Li's countrymen have now died from the coronavirus, and the number could be far higher. More foreigners continue being evacuated from the area where the outbreak began. Two U.S. planes carrying more than 300 passengers flew out of Wuhan last night. (Simon Denyer, Karin Brulliard, Adam Taylor, Marisa Iati, Carol Morello)



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Onboard a government plane evacuating Americans from the coronavirus epicenter

**-- U.S. evacuees quarantined on military bases are resorting to Zumba, stairwell races and accounting classes to try and keep some sense of normalcy.** [William Wan, Lena H. Sun and Neena Satija report](#): “Twice a day, the evacuees have their temperatures checked by medical staff in protective gear. They are forbidden to stray from a small patch of land on a base filled with armed military personnel. So they have found creative ways of filling the days. ‘When people hear quarantine, they think of the zombie apocalypse, movies like ‘World War Z,’” said Matthew McCoy, 55, another evacuee. ‘But the reality is it’s what you make of it.’”

**-- The number of visitors coming to the U.S. from China could drop by as much as 28 percent this year, according to a new report examining the virus’s impact on the country’s tourism industry.** ([Lori Aratani](#))

**-- Another 41 people tested positive for coronavirus on board a quarantined cruise ship off the coast of Japan.** A total of 61 passengers and crew have been diagnosed with the virus. Only 273 of the 3,711 people aboard have been tested so far. ([Denyer and Akiko Kashiwagi](#))

**-- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told his nation’s parliament that the Olympic Games will go on as planned this summer despite the virus.** ([Taylor](#))

**-- The National Symphony Orchestra canceled its tour to China,** the homeland of its principal clarinetist. ([Peggy McGlone](#))

**-- The virus will likely acquire a new, more easily communicated**

**name in the coming days.** It could be a variant of SARS, which scientists have described as a “cousin” of the virus. ([Joel Achenbach](#))

**-- The extended shutdown of Chinese factories from the outbreak is already upending supply chains, as manufacturers begin to feel the squeeze from shortages of material and travel restrictions on staff.** [Michael Tatarski reports](#): “New restrictions within China could further stress production lines. This week, officials in Zhejiang province announced that only one person per household would be allowed to leave home every two days for necessities. This includes three districts of the city of Hangzhou, home to e-commerce giant Alibaba. ... Although China has largely weathered Trump’s trade war, many economists expect its annual growth to slump to below 4 percent for the first quarter as services halt and consumers avoid going out due to contagion fears.”

**-- A federal judge ordered the administration to end visa processing delays for hundreds of Afghan and Iraqi nationals who worked for American war-fighters.** [Spencer S. Hsu reports](#): “The ruling Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan of Washington, D.C., granted class-action status to all applicants whose visa requests have been pending for more than nine months — a deadline set by statute — and followed a September opinion in which the judge called the government’s justification for delays ‘tortured and untenable.’”

**-- Venezuelan authorities rounded up U.S. oil executives held under house arrest in Caracas and moved them to a prison after Trump invited opposition leader Juan Guaidó to the White House.** The six Citgo employees have been detained since 2017

without a trial. ([WSJ](#))

**-- Russia is the clear winner from the U.S. embargo on Venezuelan oil.** [Anthony Faiola and Karen DeYoung report](#): “In the year since the Trump administration declared what amounted to economic war against the Venezuelan government of President Nicolás Maduro — an oil embargo that cut it off from its biggest petroleum buyer, the United States — the move has yielded some clear losers, including U.S. investors now shut out of the market. ... U.S. officials, oil industry insiders and analysts say secret deals between Moscow and Caracas to produce, transport and sell oil to other markets have become a cash cow for Russia that is earning its state-controlled enterprises an estimated \$120 million a month.”

**-- Canada’s oil bust left thousands of abandoned wells behind, and there’s not enough money for a cleanup.** ([Amanda Coletta](#))

**-- Someone filled an Indian town’s well with alcohol, and now beer is pouring out of people’s taps.** ([CNN](#))



A German bumblebee searches for nectar in a still flowering basil plant. (Ulrich Perrey/picture-alliance/dpa/AP)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERSHADOWED:**

**-- Bumblebee populations in North America and Europe have plummeted as a result of extreme temperatures. [Chris Mooney reports on a new study in the journal Science](#): “The number of areas populated by bumblebees has fallen 46 percent in North America and 17 percent in Europe, and the new research found that regions with sharp bee declines also experienced strong variations in climate — and especially higher temperatures and worse heat waves. It’s yet another major piece of bad news for bee populations. Declining colonies of commercial honeybees have been blamed on a strange phenomenon called Colony Collapse Disorder but also probably spring from a bevy of other causes. Now, the new research suggests that bumblebees in the wild are suffering, too. ‘Where temperatures**

are getting more extreme, bees tend to be disappearing more often,' said Peter Soroye, a researcher at the University of Ottawa and one of the study's authors.

**“The loss of bumblebee populations is alarming because they play a central role in pollinating many plants, including key crops such as tomatoes and cranberries.** ... The study, which Soroye conducted with colleagues from the University of Ottawa and University College London, compared the observed locations for 66 species of bumblebees between 1901 and 1974 with places where they could be found between 2000 and 2014. They found that nearly half of all regions in North America where bumblebees had been recorded in the earlier period no longer registered bees in the later period.

**“It’s unclear whether the bees might recover.** Franklin’s bumblebee is a species once found in a narrow region where California and Oregon meet. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently proposed an endangered-species listing for the bee but noted that the listing may not actually happen because it’s unclear whether there are any bees left to protect. ... Unlike many other insects, bumblebees are especially sensitive to temperature. Their large, hair-covered bodies give them an ability to internally heat up by flapping their wings at different speeds. But that also makes them vulnerable in hot weather.”

**-- Another red flag: “Just days after the earth saw its warmest January on record, Antarctica has broken its warmest temperature ever recorded,”** [Matthew Cappucci reports](#). “A reading of 65 degrees was taken at Esperanza Base along Antarctica’s Trinity Peninsula on Thursday, making it the ordinarily frigid continent’s

highest measured temperature in history.”

**-- Trump will auction the right to drill and graze in areas of southern Utah that were previously protected as two national monuments.** [Sarah Kaplan and Juliet Eilperin report](#): “The decision comes more than two years after Trump [dramatically cut](#) the size of the monuments, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, and is likely to intensify a legal fight over the contested sites. The expanses of wind-swept badlands, narrow slot canyons and towering rock formations are sacred to several Native American nations and prized by scientists and outdoor enthusiasts. Bears Ears contains tens of thousands of cultural artifacts and rare rock art. In the rock layers of Grand Staircase, researchers have unearthed 75 million-year-old dinosaur fossils. But the lands also harbor significant amounts of oil, gas and coal that the administration [hopes to develop](#), as well as grazing land valued by local ranchers. The earliest the government could approve new mining claims and other kinds of development is Oct. 1, because of language Congress adopted in a spending bill.”

**-- Trump kept a controversial pesticide on the market. Now its biggest manufacturer is discontinuing it.** [Brady Dennis and Juliet Eilperin report](#): “The main manufacturer of a pesticide used for decades on a wide array of crops, including strawberries, corn and citrus, said Thursday it will stop making the product, which some scientists have said is linked to neurological problems in children. Corteva Agriscience, the nation’s largest producer of chlorpyrifos, said the decision was driven by financial considerations, not safety concerns. ... The Trump administration has refused to ban the pesticide, arguing that the science linking chlorpyrifos to health

problems, such as neurological impacts in children and respiratory problems in adults, remains unresolved and in need of further study.”

-- **“The U.S. economy added 225,000 jobs in January, a surprising sign of continued strength for the economy,”** [Eli Rosenberg and Heather Long report](#). “The unemployment rate ticked up slightly to 3.6 percent, mostly due to more people rejoining the labor force. The jobless rate remains near a 50-year low.”

-- **GOP senators are facing a new loyalty test: Whether to approve Trump’s controversial Federal Reserve nominee Judy Shelton.** ([Heather Long and Erica Werner](#))

-- **The House passed a bill to rewrite labor laws and strengthen unions.** [Eli Rosenberg reports](#): “The Protecting the Right to Organize Act, known as the PRO Act, would amend some of the country’s decades-old labor laws to give workers more power during disputes at work, add penalties for companies that retaliate against workers who organize and grant some hundreds of thousands of workers collective-bargaining rights they don’t currently have. It would also weaken ‘right-to-work’ laws in 27 states that allow employees to forgo participating in and paying dues to unions.”

-- **Virginia will probably become the first Southern state to ban LGBT discrimination.** [Laura Vozzella reports](#): “Sweeping LGBT rights legislation that bans discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations sailed out of the Virginia Senate and House on bipartisan votes Thursday. ... The Senate and House bills have to cross over to the opposite chamber and win passage again before Gov. Ralph Northam (D), who requested the legislation, can sign them



into law. But those steps were seen as technicalities by advocates cheering what they regard as landmark human rights legislation.”

**-- Trump is ramping up border-wall construction ahead of the 2020 election.** [Nick Miroff and Adrian Blanco report](#): The Post “has obtained detailed U.S. government data about Trump’s border-wall project, its construction progress and contracts for each segment of the structure. The data shows the Trump administration is far from delivering on the president’s promise to finish more than 500 miles of new barriers by early next year. ... [Still], the Trump administration is installing a structure far more formidable than anything previously in place along the border. The new structure has steel bollards, anchored in concrete, that reach 18 to 30 feet in height and will have lighting, cameras, sensors and improved roads to allow U.S. agents to respond quickly along an expanded ‘enforcement zone.’

**“Nearly all of the new fencing the Trump administration has built so far is considered ‘replacement’ fencing, swapping out smaller, older vehicle barriers for a more elaborate — and costly — ‘border wall system.’** The administration has been slower to build new barriers where none currently exist, primarily because those spans require the acquisition of private land. Even with the slated construction goals, most of the southern border will not have a man-made barrier. ... Department of Homeland Security officials have tried to lower expectations, saying they will have 450 miles completed or ‘under construction’ by the end of the year.”

**-- Patrick Crusius, the 21-year-old accused of killing 22 people and injuring dozens more during a rampage at an El Paso Walmart last August, was indicted on 90 federal charges,**

including dozens of counts of hate crimes. (Robert Moore and Mark Berman)

### SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

Trump used a curse word while giving a nationally televised post-impeachment speech in the East Room, and only one network actually used the word in the closed captions:



Here's how many times that word has been used in the White House:



**Carrie Dann**   
@CarrieNBCNews



A search of the American Presidency Project finds 6 records of "bullshit" in the 132,480 records in the White House document archive

1 was songwriter Diane Warren

1 was Kanye

Rest are Trump.

**RESULTS** 1 - 6 of 6 records found

| Date         | Related         | Document Title   |
|--------------|-----------------|--|
| Mar 16, 2016 | Michelle Obama  | Remarks by the First Lady in a Keynote Discussion at South by Southwest Featuring Missy Elliott, Queen Latifah, Sophia Bush, and Diane Warren in Austin, Texas<br>because it's all -- can I say <b>bullshit</b> ? (Laughter.) I was trying ... |
| Oct 11, 2018 | Donald J. Trump | Remarks in a Meeting With Musician Kanye O. West and Former National Football League Player Jim Brown and an Exchange With Reporters<br>Industry guys--nonpolitical, no <b>bullshit</b> --put the beep on it, however ...                      |
| Mar 02, 2019 | Donald J. Trump | Remarks at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Oxon Hill, Maryland<br>trying to take you out with <b>bullshit</b> . Okay? [ Laughter ] With <b>bullshit</b> . Now, Robert Mueller never ...  |
| May 17, 2019 | Donald J. Trump | Remarks at the National Association of REALTORS Legislative Meetings and Trade Expo  |
| Jun 30, 2019 | Donald J. Trump | Remarks to United States Troops at Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, South Korea<br>the internet and gives more <b>bullshit</b> over the internet than ISIS ...   |
| Jul 17, 2019 | Donald J. Trump | Remarks at a "Keep America Great" Rally in Greenville, North Carolina<br>"If we didn't have the <b>bullshit</b> ," (cheers and applause ...  |

♡ 67 5:43 PM - Feb 6, 2020



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No media outlet has called a winner in Iowa, but Yang credited Sanders over Buttigieg:



And Stephen Colbert began questioning all of Iowa's claims:



### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Colbert thinks Trump may have missed the part of the National Prayer Breakfast where they said "love your enemy":



Seth Meyers broke down Trump's post-impeachment rant:



Our video team made a side-by-side comparison of what Trump said yesterday with what Bill Clinton said after his acquittal by the Senate in 1999. Clinton said he was "profoundly sorry." Trump said "it was all bullshit." Trump spoke for an hour and two minutes. Clinton spoke for one minute and 36 seconds:



A side-by-side look at Clinton and Trump's post-acquittal speeches

And Trevor Noah turned Trump's State of the Union into a telenovela:



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Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Bernie Sanders is the man to beat in New Hampshire, as the anti-Sanders vote splinters  
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# The Daily 202

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## Bernie Sanders is the man to beat in New Hampshire, as the anti-Sanders vote splinters





Joe Biden holds a town hall meeting in the gym of Alvirne High School in Hudson, N.H., on Sunday night. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

### **THE BIG IDEA:**

**HUDSON, N.H. – Karen Forleo thinks it would be a debacle if Democrats nominate Bernie Sanders. On the eve of the New Hampshire primary, the retired dental hygienist remains undecided between four of his rivals. She loves Pete Buttigieg’s youthful vigor, Joe Biden’s experience, Elizabeth Warren’s plans and Amy Klobuchar’s grit. But the 62-year-old isn’t sure who is the best bet to stop Sanders.**

“I know he appeases the young students who have no money. Well,

somebody has to pay for everything he wants,” Forleo said Sunday night after watching Biden speak for 90 minutes in a high school gymnasium here. She plans to attend rallies this afternoon for Klobuchar in Exeter and Warren in Portsmouth.

The Democrat from Lyndeborough, who supported Hillary Clinton in the 2016 primary, remains frustrated that Sanders didn’t do more to help her that fall. “If Bernie leads the ticket, I don’t think the American people are going to be ready for that. I don’t think he can beat Donald Trump,” she said. “And if Donald Trump thought he could, Trump would be all over him like he is with Joe Biden.”

**The splintering among moderates like Forleo is an important part of the explanation for why Sanders, the independent senator from neighboring Vermont, is the favorite to win Tuesday’s contest.** This is my sixth day on the ground here, and I’ve watched all the Democratic contenders interact with voters. Based on dozens of interviews and public polling, there’s a very fluid and incredibly tight [three-way battle](#) for third place.

Buttigieg has surged since the Iowa caucuses a week ago into a solid second-place position, [prompting attacks](#) from all directions that appear to have slowed his momentum a bit.

Biden has been tanking in the polls since finishing fourth in Iowa, prompting many people who had planned to vote for him because they perceived him as the most electable option to check out others. Klobuchar has been [rising](#), drawing her biggest crowds of the campaign this weekend and reporting her best fundraising days yet after Friday night’s debate.

Warren, who represents neighboring Massachusetts and led in polls of this state last summer, seems to be losing altitude here on the ground, even though she finished ahead of Klobuchar in Iowa. About a third of the people at her rally at a middle school in Concord on Sunday afternoon streamed out before she finished talking.



Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) holds a town hall at the opera house in Rochester, N.H., on Saturday. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**A brew of other factors is also working to Sanders's advantage on the eve of the first-in-the-nation primary.** Most Democrats don't want Sanders to be their nominee, but they cannot agree on who to rally behind instead. Despite rumbling concerns of the establishment, there's no organized Stop Sanders or Never Bernie movement. In fact, Democrats who don't support Sanders still hold largely favorable views of him. Unlike in Iowa, where he faced nearly a million dollars in attack ads, no one is on the air here with anti-Sanders commercials.

**Sanders expanded his lead Sunday night in the final day of the Boston Globe-WBZ-Suffolk tracking poll.** He garnered 27 percent among likely Democratic presidential primary voters, up from 24 to 25 percent in the previous six polls. Buttigieg, who briefly eclipsed Sanders in the poll one day last week, got 19 percent in the latest survey, followed by Klobuchar at 14 percent. Biden and Warren tied at 12 points. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.4 percent.

**You should take all the polling with a grain of salt because this contest is so in flux, but two other surveys published Sunday also showcased Sanders's relative strength among likely voters.**

A University of New Hampshire poll [for CNN](#) put Sanders at 28 percent, with Buttigieg at 21 percent, Biden at 12 percent and everyone else in single digits. Buttigieg led among voters who identify themselves as moderate or conservative, while Sanders led by more than 25 points among self-identified liberals. Asked whom they expect to win, regardless of whom they're supporting, 57 percent in the CNN picked Sanders. Interestingly, Sanders also took a seven-point lead over Biden on the question of which candidate has the best chance to defeat Trump in November, a reversal since Iowa.

A YouGov poll [for CBS](#) pegged Sanders at 29 percent, up two points compared to last month, with Buttigieg at 25 percent. Most of Buttigieg's double-digit gains in that survey come at the expense of Biden, who fell to 12 percent, trailing Warren. Only 39 percent of likely voters in the CBS poll said they've definitely made their final decision, and only six in 10 said they're enthusiastic about the candidate they're leaning toward. Sanders's supporters were the most enthusiastic.

They compete for **different kinds** of voters, but Sanders has been attacking Buttigieg partly out of a desire to prevent him from **coalescing moderate support** and thereby overtaking him in this must-win state.

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Bernie Sanders waves to supporters on Saturday night at the New Hampshire Democratic Party's McIntyre-Shaheen Dinner in the SNHU Arena in Manchester, N.H. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Sanders could benefit from a similar dynamic to what allowed Trump to amass an unsurpassable delegate lead during the 2016 Republican primaries, even as most GOP voters opposed him.** The odds, at least initially, are that all the top contenders will stay in the race beyond New Hampshire, continuing to divide up support going into the next two early states. Mike Bloomberg is waiting in the wings, spending literally hundreds of millions of dollars in states that vote on March 3, also known as Super Tuesday, when a third of all pledged delegates to the convention are awarded.

Four years ago, Sanders struggled with nonwhite voters and hit a wall because of Latinos in Nevada and African Americans in South Carolina, the next two states to vote. The senator has worked hard to

make inroads with communities of color ever since, and Biden's fade could boost Sanders in the Palmetto State by dividing up the black vote.

**The Sanders campaign, which has invested heavily in organization, said that volunteers knocked on more than 150,000 doors on Saturday alone.** Sanders's field program is focused more on mobilization of known supporters than persuasion of the undecided, a contrast to the late-surging campaigns like Klobuchar's and Buttigieg's who are still trying to identify potential backers. The campaign said 1,981 people attended Sanders's rally last night in Keene. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) will join Sanders tonight for a massive concert the campaign is putting on in Durham, home to the University of New Hampshire, featuring The Strokes and Sunflower Bean.

**The Sanders campaign slogan is "Us, not me." But his stump speech increasingly sounds like "Us versus Them." And the "Them" is the party establishment.** He's added a little more pitchfork to his populist tone in the recent days. "We're taking on not only the whole Republican political establishment and Trump," Sanders said this weekend. "We're taking on the Democratic establishment." His supporters from four years ago remain angry at the system and feel let down by both parties. The undercurrent of anti-elite frustration that helped propel Trump still exists in 2020, despite strong top-line economic indicators.



Voters listen to Sanders speak during a town hall at the Rochester Opera House on Saturday. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Nick Landry, 27 of Somersworth, said he has tried hard to keep an open mind since supporting Sanders four years ago.** He considered Warren “very strongly.” He heard out entrepreneur Andrew Yang, who was intriguing, but he found his plan to give everyone a thousand bucks a month “kind of gimmicky.” After watching the Democratic debate on Friday night, he decided he’ll probably back Sanders again.

**“We lost in 2016 by trying to play to the middle. As a liberal, I believe we should swing for the fences. And if we’re not going to win, let’s at least go down pushing for progressive ideals,”** Landry said at a Sanders rally in the packed-to-capacity Opera House in Rochester. “Biden represents the establishment, and I think Pete and Amy are part of the establishment.”



**The data analyst for an insurance company supports Medicare-for-all and badly wants stricter gun laws so that his kids will be safer at school.** Landry said he totally understands why some Democrats fixate on electability, but he said Trump and Senate Republicans have shown themselves to be such “cartoonish villains” that he doesn’t believe the opposition should pander to win back the kinds of voters who supported Barack Obama in 2012 but Trump in 2016. “They’re keeping kids in cages,” Landry said. “I don’t want to necessarily be shaping our political platform around trying to appeal to people who aren’t bothered by that.”



Joe Biden speaks in Hudson. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post)



**Meanwhile, moderate voters express growing concern about what they see as a collective action problem.** Siobhan Brace, 62, was the first person to ask Biden a question during his town hall meeting on Sunday night. “I love you a lot, but I am undecided,” she said. “I thought everybody did a great job in the debate, but I am afraid of that one of you cannot beat [Trump], but I think all of you could. Is there some way that you guys could put a dream team together and present that to the American people? And just say, like, Amy is going to be vice president and we’ll put Andrew [Yang] in charge of Commerce?”

The crowd cheered. Biden laughed. “There’s two ways to be on the dream team: run it or be picked,” he replied. “I promise that you my administration will look like the country. It will be made up of women and blacks and browns and people who represent the diversity of the country. There are at least six women I can think of at the top of my head who I wouldn’t have a moment’s hesitation in asking to be my vice president. I can say the same thing for at least four leading African Americans that I know.”

**Reflecting the degree to which voters still believe he's in contention, Biden was asked again half an hour later who he might pick for vice president. Biden said he didn't want to be presumptuous, but then he hinted that he might select Buttigieg.**

The 77-year-old said he could promise that he would not pick anyone who is older than him to be his No. 2, which would take out the 78-year-old Sanders. Biden added that he cannot imagine picking someone to be vice president who supports Medicare-for-all, a knock against Sanders. "But there are at least four people running that are, in fact, simpatico with where I am, starting with Indiana," he said, a reference to Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Ind.

**Brace, who asked the first question to Biden, said in an interview afterward that she's "terrified" Trump will win. "Bernie's too way over there," she said, pointing with her left arm to the other side of the room.** "The Republicans that are on the fence are going to come with a moderate. We need to get some of the Republicans who do know that Trump is crazy to come over to our side, and they're only going to do it with a moderate. So we've got to find a moderate."

**Independents could have outsized influence in tomorrow's open Democratic primary because there's not a competitive race on the Republican side.** Though Trump is flying up here to hold a rally in Manchester tonight, he faces no competitive GOP primary. Polls show the incumbent president getting more than 90 percent against former Massachusetts governor William Weld. New Hampshire has 416,000 "unaffiliated" voters, who get to pick which primary to participate in.



A supporter carries a poster of Bernie Sanders's head in in Manchester. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

Sanders defeated Clinton by 22 points in New Hampshire four years ago, garnering 60 percent, or 152,000 votes. Polls and interviews make clear that most of the people who backed him as the anti-Clinton candidate four years ago will not support him again this time. That said, **I encountered a few people at the Sanders rally in Rochester who backed Clinton in the primary four years ago and are giving Sanders a close look.**

“We need grass-roots change, and it may be more than some of the traditional establishment is willing to go, unfortunately,” said Colleen Hartnett, 57, of Windham, a software engineer who remains undecided. “I think I’m leaning more toward the progressive side rather than the moderate part of the party at this point. ... Because Republicans have gone so far, the contrast is just striking. I feel like

the pendulum can't just go for a moderate swing."

**Sanders knows he needs to win this neighboring state, which is why he doesn't hesitate to confidently predict victory. There's no apparent effort to manage expectations.** "I am absolutely confident that, with the volunteer support we have, we are going to win in New Hampshire," Sanders said Saturday night in Manchester. He said his 2016 victory in New Hampshire was critical to winning 22 more states in the months that followed, and he said winning the primary helped put some of his ideas that were called radical four years ago into the mainstream. "We need to complete the revolution we started four years ago in New Hampshire," he said.

**Warren losing altitude in New Hampshire also likely works to Sanders's advantage.** She drew only a modest crowd Sunday afternoon to a middle school near the state capitol. "Our democracy hangs in the balance, and it is up to you, Massachusetts, to decide what to do," she said at the end of her speech, after more than a hundred people had left, many to go watch other candidates.

"New Hampshire," people in the audience yelled.

"And to the people of New Hampshire," she added, correcting herself with a laugh.

The crowd applauded. "Thank you," she said, appreciatively. "It is a hard time."

Warren brushed aside a question afterward about the people who left, calling it an "enthusiastic" crowd. "It looks like it is going to be a long battle to the nomination," she told reporters. "There are 55 more

states and territories after this. ... I'm in it for the long haul.”

**Other candidates who struggle to get covered are trying more colorfully to contrast themselves with Sanders.** James Carville, the Democratic strategist who helped elect Bill Clinton in 1992, stumped late Saturday afternoon for Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) in Manchester. He emphasized that Sanders would be a problem for down-ballot Democrats, especially in competitive Senate and House races. “They’ll run away from Bernie Sanders like the devil running away from holy water,” Carville said. “If Michael Bennet is the nominee, Mitch McConnell’s going to look like he crapped a pineapple.”



Democrats trade attacks ahead of New Hampshire primary

### **MORE ON 2020:**

**-- The Iowa Democratic Party announced last night that Buttigieg would probably receive 14 delegates to the national presidential**

**nominating convention from the chaotic caucuses, while Sanders would receive 12. But the number may not be final.** [Isaac Stanley-Becker reports](#): “Late Sunday, Sanders adviser Jeff Weaver said the campaign will seek a partial recanvass — a process he said would put the senator from Vermont on top in the delegate count. Sanders won the popular vote, netting support from about 6,000 more caucus-goers on the first expression of preferences, known as an alignment, than Buttigieg. But the delegate allocation is based on projected support for each candidate at the state convention, known as state delegate equivalents or SDEs, which is traditionally the metric used to declare a winner of the caucuses. ... Weaver said the campaign believes seven SDEs are at issue in the precincts they have identified, which is more than the 2.77 that separate the two Democrats. ... Chris Meagher, a spokesman for Buttigieg, said, ‘We’re focused on New Hampshire.’

**“The Iowa party also said that eight delegates would go to [Warren] and six would go to [Biden].** ... The update from the state party reflected its review of 55 precincts, making up about 3 percent of the total 1,765. But the review involved only rectifying discrepancies between numbers reported on math worksheets completed by caucus leaders and publicly reported data. That left untouched errors tainting the actual worksheets, where volunteer leaders had entered complex calculations based on multiple counts of caucus-night preferences — and, in some cases, made mistakes. An attorney for the state party said officials were not authorized to alter the worksheets because they represented legal documents, according to an email Troy Price, the state party chairman, sent to members of the state party’s central committee.”

-- **"Democratic leaders have edged toward the brink of open war with one another in recent days,"** [Michael Scherer and Sean Sullivan report](#): "Advisers to the two men most responsible for overseeing the disastrous Iowa caucuses, national chairman Tom Perez and Iowa chairman Troy Price, have been privately deflecting blame onto each other, as the relationship between the two has become tense, advisers say. Price has refused to join Perez in calling for a canvass of voting records in the state, after finding out about Perez's demand from a deputy a few minutes before it was tweeted ... Price allies blame Perez for the botched caucus count, pointing to new party rules he implemented around transparency and accessibility that increased the burdens on the state. ..."

**"At the start of the campaign, Sanders advisers repeatedly praised Perez ... But that tone shifted in recent weeks,** as Sanders surrogates, supporters and staff have criticized Perez for changing the debate rules and for the appointees he has placed on the various convention committees ... Weaver has tried to strike a less aggressive tone, saying that the Sanders campaign still believes Perez has tried to be evenhanded. 'Of course, given our experience, we are ever vigilant,' he said."

-- **Democrats fear a repeat of the Iowa chaos in Nevada.** While some top party leaders call for the end of caucuses, top Nevada Democratic Party officials are trying to assure nervous voters that their fears are overblown. This includes former Senate majority leader Harry Reid, who has been working to soothe candidate concerns about potential caucus drama. ([Holly Bailey](#))



**-- Sanders and Biden continued sparring about the role each played 18 years ago during the run-up to the Iraq War. [Michael Kranish reports](#):** “In explaining their actions to voters, however, they have both left out key details that present a more complicated picture of how they handled what both now say is one of the worst foreign policy mistakes in American history. Biden not only played a key role in helping [George W.] Bush win passage of the measure, but he also privately assured the president that ‘I think you’re doing it the exact right way,’ according to notes taken at a meeting by White House press secretary Ari Fleischer. In that meeting, Bush told Biden that though he would attempt to use diplomacy, he would use the authority to invade if he believed it was necessary, according to Fleischer’s notes. Sanders, meanwhile, agreed at the time with much of what Bush said about Iraq, including the view that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.”

**-- In New Hampshire’s poorest city, there are few indications of Trump’s “blue-collar boom.” [Griff Witte reports](#):** “The unemployment rate, which was touching double digits 10 years ago as Berlin weathered the collapse of its signature mill, is down to 3 percent. The local paper is stuffed with help-wanted ads. Property values are climbing as newcomers move in. But Berlin — which thrived through most of the 20th century before the bottom fell out in the early 2000s — hardly feels like a city on the mend. More than a decade into the longest economic expansion America has ever known, residents say just about the only jobs available pay minimum wage with no benefits as out-of-pocket health-care costs surge. The last elementary school shuttered last year, capping a long-term exodus of young families. The once-bustling downtown is so scarred by closures, demolitions

and fires that it looks, according to the city's mayor, 'like a bomb was dropped in the middle of it.'"



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Highlights from the 2020 Oscars: 'Parasite' wins best picture and makes history

## **ABOUT LAST NIGHT:**

-- **“Parasite” became the first foreign-language film to win the Oscar for best picture during last night’s Academy Awards.** [Emily Yahr](#), [Sonia Rao](#), [Travis Andrews](#), [Bethonie Butler](#) and [Elahe Izadi](#) report: “In addition to making history in the night’s most prestigious category, the darkly comedic thriller is the first South Korean film to ever be nominated for an Oscar. Filmmaker Bong Joon-ho also won in the international feature and original screenplay categories, as well as best director -- triumphing over ‘1917’ front-runner Sam Mendes, whose film didn’t wind up with quite as many awards as expected. (The World War I epic, made to look like it was filmed in one shot, did land cinematographer Roger Deakins his second win.)”

**All four acting trophies wound up with the artists who dominated this awards season:** Joaquin Phoenix and Renée Zellweger won for "Joker" and "Judy," and supporting actors Brad Pitt and Laura Dern for

"Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" and "Marriage Story." In an emotional roller coaster of a speech, Phoenix called for unity. "I've been thinking a lot about some of the distressing issues that we are facing collectively, and I think at times we feel or we're made to feel that we champion different causes," he said. "But for me, I see commonality. I think whether we're talking about gender inequality or racism or queer rights or indigenous rights or animal rights, we're talking about the right against injustice."

**-- Other notable winners included:**

- Elton John and Bernie Taupin won best original song for "(I'm Gonna) Love Me Again," from "Rocketman."
- "American Factory," produced by Barack and Michelle Obama, won best documentary feature.
- Taika Waititi won best adapted screenplay for "Jojo Rabbit," becoming the first indigenous director to ever win an Oscar.
- Find a complete list [here](#).

**-- Commentary from The Post's cultural critics:**

- [Ann Hornaday](#): "'Parasite' upset means progress. But is it a revolution?"
- [Hank Stuever](#): "A decent show, if you like your Oscar nights fully automated."
- [Elahe Izadi](#): "The Oscars nominated 'Parasite' but looked right past its all-Asian cast. It's part of a pattern."
- [Robin Givhan](#): "The Oscars red carpet was diverse,

even if the nominees weren't.”

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** “I’m ready to drink tonight,” said Bong, speaking English for the first time onstage that night, as he accepted the Oscar for best international feature. Later, after winning the night’s top award, Bong didn’t take the microphone, allowing Miky Lee, the mogul who built South Korea’s first movie multiplex, to speak instead.



Acting director of the Office of Management and Budget Russ Vought presses the button that starts the machine that will print copies of President Trump's proposed budget for the 2021 fiscal year at the Government Publishing Office. (Samuel Corum/Getty Images)

### **THE PRESIDENT REVEALS HIS PRIORITIES:**

-- **The White House will propose a \$4.8 trillion budget that would fail to eliminate the federal deficit over the next 10 years.** “Instead, White House officials plan to say their budget proposal would close the deficit by 2035,” [Jeff Stein and Erica Werner report](#). “During President Trump’s first year in office, his advisers said their budget

plan would eliminate the deficit by around 2028. This new budget will mark the third consecutive time that they abandon that 10-year goal and instead suggest a 15-year target. This new trend shows how little progress the White House is making in dealing with ballooning government debt, something GOP party leaders had made a top goal during the Obama administration.

**“Trump’s first budget projected the deficit in 2021 would be \$456 billion. Instead, it is projected to be more than double that amount.** ... As a presidential candidate, Trump said he would eliminate not just the annual federal deficit but all debt held by the United States after eight years in office. ... The federal debt has already grown by about \$3 trillion under Trump. ... The \$4.8 trillion budget for 2021 would represent a \$700 billion surge over levels from 2018. ... It would also propose extending tax cuts for families and individuals that are set to expire at the end of 2025. Budget experts have projected that extending those tax cuts would reduce revenue by roughly \$1 trillion. ...

**“The Wall Street Journal first reported the budget aims to cut spending on safety-net programs such as Medicaid and food stamps** ... The budget is expected to propose 5 percent net cuts in domestic discretionary spending, which is expected to include cutting the budget of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, the part of CDC funding that deals with fighting the coronavirus will remain unchanged. ...

**“At the same time, the budget will maintain Pentagon spending at around its current level, or boost it if increases in a so-called overseas contingency account are included.** As in past budgets,

this one will cut heavily into programs targeting low-income communities, including slashing community development block grants and home heating assistance. **The Education Department will be cut by \$6 billion** ... The proposed budgets for nondefense domestic agencies, programs that deal with housing, environmental protection and agriculture, will fall well below spending caps that lawmakers and the administration already agreed to in a bipartisan budget deal for 2021. That all but ensures the budget will face bipartisan opposition on Capitol Hill.”

-- **Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) said the Justice Department is vetting information that Trump’s personal attorney Rudy Giuliani delivered regarding Hunter Biden’s work on the board of a Ukrainian energy company.** [Paul Kane reports](#): “Graham, citing an early-morning conversation with Attorney General William P. Barr, said [Giuliani] is giving his information to national security experts and that he would back off his own plans to use the Senate Judiciary Committee as a vehicle to investigate the Biden family. ‘The Department of Justice is receiving information coming out of the Ukraine from Rudy to see — he told me that they have created a process that Rudy could give information and they would see if it’s verified,’ [Graham] said on CBS’s ‘Face the Nation.’ He warned that Giuliani might be getting bad information from his trips to Ukraine as part of a disinformation campaign by Russian security experts, citing their effort to disrupt the 2016 presidential campaign. ...

**“Graham said he called Barr and Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, on Sunday morning after hearing about Giuliani’s interview Saturday night**

**on Fox News's 'Watters' World.'** During the interview, the former New York City mayor made various claims about the information he has cobbled together from Ukrainian sources and said Graham should use his committee to investigate the Bidens. ... 'I have what I used to call when I was U.S. attorney, a smoking gun,' Giuliani said. ... Then, just as 'Face the Nation' started Sunday morning, Trump sent out a tweet urging Graham to launch an undefined investigations. ... Graham appeared to back away from his assertions in recent weeks that he would lead a probe into [Joe Biden's] time overseeing Ukraine policy while his son served on the board of Burisma."

**-- The chairman of the group that runs the Conservative Political Action Conference warned that he would be afraid for the physical safety of Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) were he to attend the annual convention.** Matt Schlapp ripped the 2012 GOP nominee, who announced he was dropping out of the 2008 Republican nominating contest at CPAC. ([HuffPost](#))

**-- While Romney is being vilified by Trump and his allies inside the Beltway, many of his conservative constituents back home in Utah still have his back.** [From NBC News:](#) "[We] spoke with dozens of voters in Utah in the days immediately following the Senate's vote to acquit the president. Most identified themselves as Republicans who had supported Romney in 2018 and said that regardless of their opinion of the president, Romney's decision to go against his party was one that they understood and respected for its honesty. Many said they would not hold it against the first-term senator when he faces re-election in 2024. ... 'I feel like [Romney] stands up and says, 'This is what I think' and you have the right to accept or reject that,'



said Meralee Stallings, 62, who works for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 'I think we are getting away from that, too. It's like if you don't agree with my opinion, then you're wrong.' Stallings, who voted third-party for president in 2016 and supported Romney in 2018, said she is leaning toward voting for Romney again. 'I don't agree with everything that Romney has done,' she said, 'but if you're going to be true to what you think is correct, then that's fine with me.'"

**-- Sacred Native American burial sites are being blown up for Trump's border wall, an Arizona congressman and other advocates allege. [Paulina Firozi reports](#):** "The Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is an internationally recognized biosphere reserve ... It includes about 330,000 acres of designated wilderness and is home to ancestral grounds sacred to the Tohono O'odham Nation, one of at least a dozen Native American groups that claim connections to grounds within the monument. Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), whose district includes the reservation, said crews this week began blasting through parts of Monument Hill, which includes a burial site for the Tohono O'odham Nation ... Grijalva, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, visited the location ahead of the construction and described the site in a video posted to social media. Monument Hill, where he said explosions are now occurring, is a site where members of the Tohono O'odham Nation have buried members of opposing tribes."

**-- Trump used a Philadelphia girl's story to attack public schools and promote the school-choice movement. But the girl was already studying at one of the city's most desired charters.** Janiyah Davis is a student at a recently opened charter

school so popular that it received 6,500 applications for 100 seats. How she landed in the audience during Trump's State of the Union – and with a scholarship to attend private school financed by Betsy DeVos – remains a bit of a mystery even to her mother, [who told the Philadelphia Enquirer](#) that she had no idea Janiyah would be mentioned during the speech.

**-- A gunman wounded two NYPD officers in separate attacks that police believe were attempted assassinations.** [Katie Mettler reports](#): “One officer was shot in the neck and chin Saturday night when the suspected gunman fired several rounds into a marked police van and then fled, authorities said. At 7 a.m. Sunday morning, police say, the same man walked into the Bronx precinct headquarters and opened fire again, striking a lieutenant in the arm and surrendering after his 9mm handgun ran out of bullets. The man, who is in police custody but has not been identified, has a ‘lengthy violent criminal history,’ Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said at a news conference on Sunday. ... **[Trump] weighed in, using the shootings to admonish [Mayor Bill] de Blasio and [Gov. Andrew] Cuomo, who are both Democrats and critics of the president.** ‘I grew up in New York City and, over many years, got to watch how GREAT NYC’s ‘Finest’ are,’ Trump tweeted. ‘Now, because of weak leadership at Governor & Mayor, stand away (water thrown at them) regulations, and lack of support, our wonderful NYC police are under assault. Stop this now!’”

**-- A man was arrested in Florida on charges of driving a van into a tent full of Trump supporters.** [Katie Mettler and Hannah Knowles report](#): “The Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office has arrested Gregory William

Loel Timm, 27, on two counts of aggravated assault on a person older than 65 and one count each of criminal mischief and driving with a suspended license. No one was hurt in the incident. ... As word spread and Republican Party leaders and elected officials weighed in, **Trump issued a warning on Twitter. 'Be careful tough guys who you play with!' he wrote** alongside a statement from GOP Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel. She called the incident an 'unprovoked, senseless' attack and said 'these disgusting acts will only make us work harder to win in November.'"



The coronavirus is forcing cruise ships to take drastic measures

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- **The number of people infected and killed by the coronavirus continues to climb worldwide, but the vast majority are still concentrated in the original outbreak zone of Wuhan.** [Gerry Shih, Alex Horton and Marisa Iati report](#): "The [global death toll](#) from the novel coronavirus reached more than 900 ... after previously

surpassing the 774 fatalities attributed to the outbreak of the SARS coronavirus in 2002 and 2003. Among the dead was the first American, a 60-year-old woman who died Thursday in Wuhan. ... An international team lead by the World Health Organization left for China to conduct an investigation of the coronavirus. ... As infections overwhelm the afflicted province, the rest of China might be seeing the effects of [strict quarantine measures](#), Chinese health officials said Sunday. In all parts of China outside Hubei, the daily number of new infections dropped from nearly 900 on Feb. 3 to 509 on Saturday ... [WHO] officials also said they had seen the number of new cases taper in recent days. ... The Chinese Ambassador to the United States [pushed back](#) Sunday on the suggestion by Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) that the coronavirus may have come from China's biological weapons program. Appearing on CBS' 'Face the Nation' on Sunday, Ambassador Cui Tiankai acknowledged that much about the virus remains unknown, but he said spreading unsubstantiated theories could cause panic and amplify racial discrimination."

**-- Infections aboard a quarantined cruise ship off the coast of Japan have surged, bringing to 136 the number of people who are known to have been infected on the vessel.** There are a total of 3,700 passengers and crew aboard.

**-- Toilet paper is growing scarce in Hong Kong. So is trust in the government.** [Shibani Mahtani reports](#): "With coronavirus fears gripping the city, a rumor of impending shortages circulating on social media had apparently spooked consumers, and pack after pack of toilet paper was flying off the shelves. Shoppers could barely carry the number of rolls they were snatching. By evening, not a single roll was

left. The panic stretched through the weekend. No more green tea-scented toilet rolls, no more quilted plush rolls, no more jumbo rolls promising 'clean comfort' and an inviting picture of a [fat Labrador puppy](#). Such scenes have played out citywide, documented in videos [showcasing the frenzy](#). ... Some are resorting to dramatic and costly measures to procure necessities. ... As one Bloomberg columnist put it: The semiautonomous financial hub, once known as a bastion of global trade and capitalism, is now [showing signs of a failed state](#)."

**-- A Chinese lawyer and journalist whose Wuhan dispatches offered a chilling glimpse inside the coronavirus hot spot has been missing since Thursday, his relatives said. [Derek Hawkins reports](#):** "Chen Qiushi slipped into the city of 11 million on Jan. 24, just after a citywide lockdown took effect, and spent days interviewing people about the outbreak and filming what he saw. On Thursday, after several of his reports circulated around the world, Chen stopped responding to calls and messages, setting off an online campaign to track him down. The 34-year-old knew he would be a likely target for law enforcement, so he gave select friends access to his accounts, instructing them to change the passwords if they went more than 12 hours without hearing from him. According to Chen's friends, authorities told his family over the weekend that he had been forcibly quarantined in an undisclosed location. Xu Xiaodong, a well-known mixed martial artist and friend of Chen's, said in a [YouTube live stream](#) that Qingdao public security officers and state security officers told his parents he had been 'detained in the name of quarantine.'"

**-- Afghanistan claims the Islamic State was "obliterated." But**

**fighters who managed to get away could stage a resurgence.** [Susannah George, Siobhán O'Grady and Sharif Hassan report](#): "It has now become clear that military operations also scattered many fighters they aimed to defeat: The group's senior leadership fled further into the Spin Ghar mountains, crossing into Pakistan or pushing north into Konar province's more rugged terrain. Others simply went into hiding. Afghan officials estimate that hundreds of Islamic State fighters continue to operate across the country, raising the dangerous potential for a resurgence. Interviews with Afghan and U.S. officials and seven self-described Islamic State members now in Afghan custody paint a picture of a group that has a history of persevering despite territorial and leadership losses, thanks in part to a sophisticated recruitment system and the use of extreme violence to control civilian populations."

**-- Two U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers were killed and six U.S. troops were wounded after a gunman opened fire in an eastern Afghanistan compound this weekend.** Some Afghan officials said the attacker was a member of the Afghan security forces. ([Susannah George and Sharif Hassan](#))

**-- The Trump administration is considering suspending humanitarian assistance to Yemen as part of an international response to new restrictions imposed by Iranian-linked Houthi rebels.** [Missy Ryan and John Hudson report](#): "That one of Yemen's biggest donors is considering such a move, which, if implemented, could worsen already dire conditions, underscores the challenge of managing aid operations in areas controlled by a rebel movement that is hostile to the West. A senior State Department official said the

United States has not made a final decision but was coordinating with other donor nations and aid organizations on possible responses to a 2 percent 'tax' on assistance projects and other new measures in swaths of Yemen administered by the Houthis."

**-- German Chancellor Angela Merkel's would-be successor is expected to resign today following a rocky year as party leader.** [Loveday Morris and Luisa Beck report](#): "Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, the leader of Merkel's Christian Democrats, said she will not run for chancellor in next year's elections, German news agency DPA reported, citing a party spokesperson. She will step aside as party leader when a successor is found. Kramp-Karrenbauer, also known by her initials AKK, announced the news in a meeting with party officials on Monday morning ... A protege of Merkel, AKK beat out party rivals to take over the reins of the conservative Christian Democrats in late 2018. However, she has failed to rally the party behind her and there was widespread speculation that she would be ousted before the annual party conference in November."

**-- Heavily armed police and soldiers forced their way into El Salvador's Congress, under the president's command, demanding the approval of a \$109 million loan to better equip themselves.** [From Reuters](#): "President Nayib Bukele and a group of soldiers armed with automatic weapons briefly occupied El Salvador's Congress on Sunday, stepping up a pressure campaign to force lawmakers to back a crime-fighting plan. Watched by soldiers in full battle uniform, Bukele, 38, sat in the seat reserved for the president of Congress and cupped his hands together to pray, he said, for patience with lawmakers, few of whom turned up at the special

session. 'If those shameless people don't approve the plan of territorial control, we'll summon you here again (next) Sunday,' he told supporters in a fiery speech outside, as he left the building."

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Former presidential candidate Marianne Williamson took a shot at Buttigieg, who talks a great deal about creating a culture of belonging:



Michael Bennet and his family took a road trip to the North Country of New Hampshire to meet with voters:







**Michael Bennet** ✓  
@MichaelBennet

We're in Dixville Notch, home of the #FITN primary where residents cast votes at midnight. My family & I are deeply grateful to them for sitting down with us today.

New Hampshire is central to my campaign because of traditions like this—where face-to-face conversations matter.



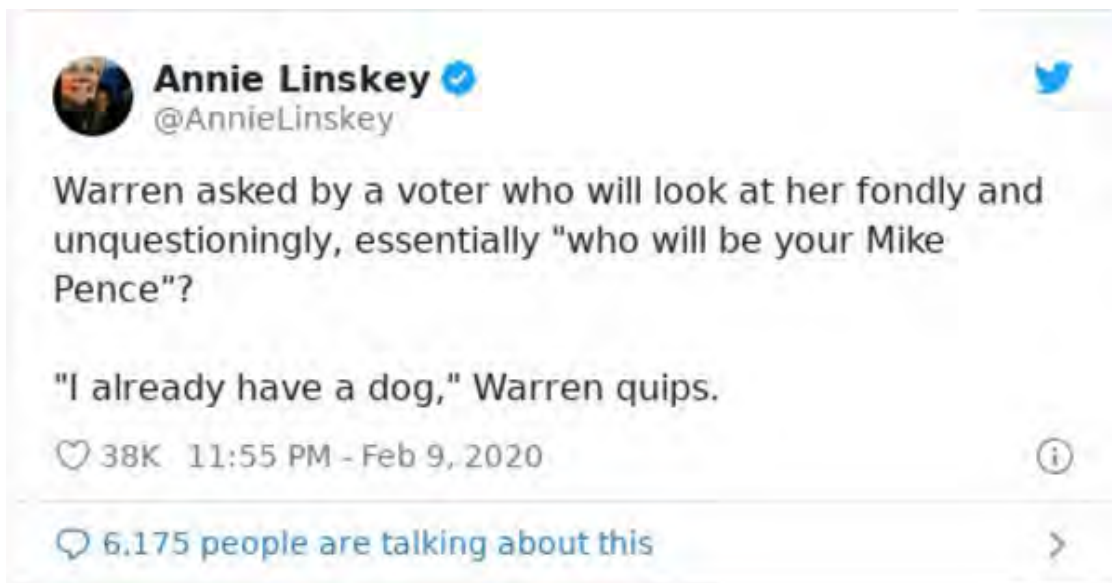
♡ 94 12:41 AM - Feb 10, 2020



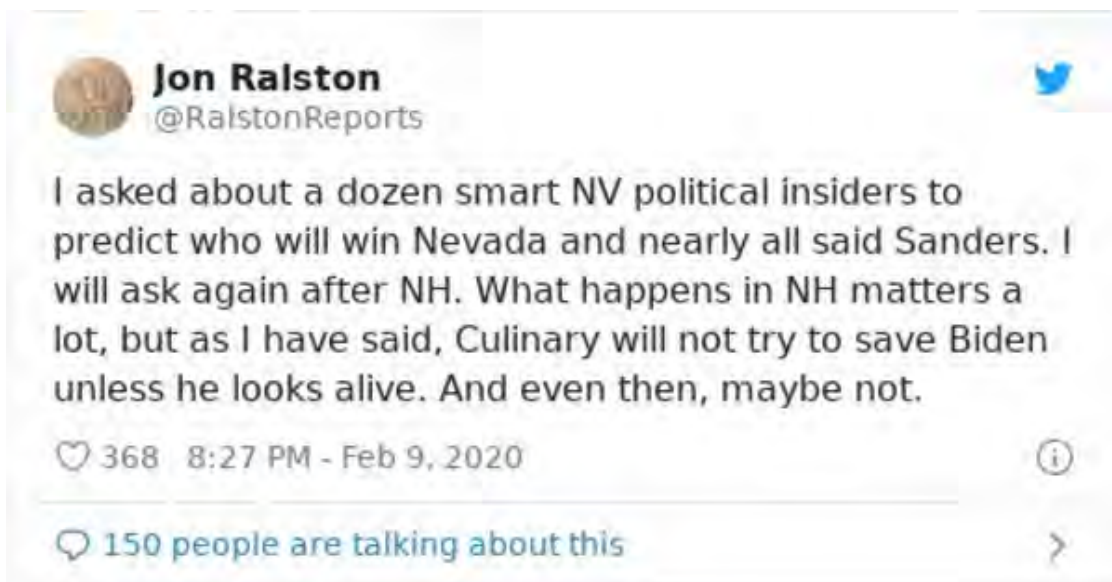
💬 21 people are talking about this



Another scene from the trail:



From a plugged-in political reporter in Nevada:



Amy Klobuchar's face during a particularly tense moment in last Friday's debate resonated among some viewers:



**Shannon Watts** ✓  
@shannonrwatts



What's it's like to be a woman on Twitter.



♥ 37.2K 10:44 PM - Feb 8, 2020



💬 5,068 people are talking about this



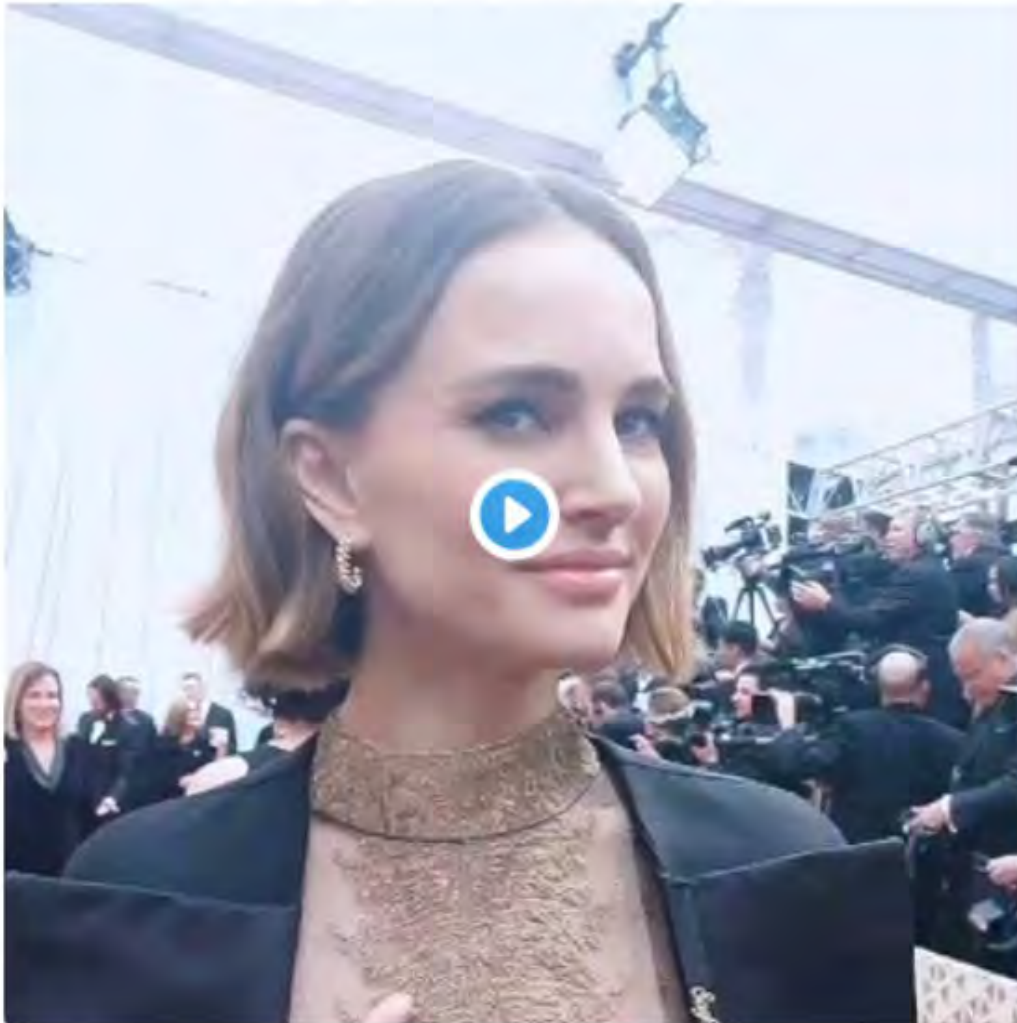
Actress Natalie Portman's Oscar outfit had a special nod to the female directors who weren't nominated for the award:



**Amy Kaufman** ✓  
@AmyKinLA



Natalie Portman embroidered her Dior cape with all of the female directors who weren't nominated for [#Oscars](#). Check out her explanation here.



♡ 323K 12:19 AM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 77.1K people are talking about this



The winner of last night's Oscar for best animated short reminded us all that it all started with a tweet:



**Matthew A. Cherry** ✓  
@MatthewACherry



Nailed it [twitter.com/matthewacherry...](https://twitter.com/matthewacherry...)

**Matthew A. Cherry** ✓ @MatthewACherry

Any 3D artists follow me? I got an Oscar worthy short film idea to go with this image. Get at me 🤪



♥ 421K 2:06 AM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 75.1K people are talking about this



And "Parasite" director Bong Joon-ho apologized to the film academy's engravers for having too many Oscars:



Bong Joon Ho apologizes to the engravers for having too many #Oscars [bit.ly/2H6fGhj](https://bit.ly/2H6fGhj)



4,443 7:12 AM - Feb 10, 2020



1,452 people are talking about this



### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

In case you missed it, our video team condensed Friday night's debate into four minutes:



The New Hampshire Democratic debate, in less than 4 minutes

“Saturday Night Live” spoofed the debate in its cold open:



And SNL also had a "local expert" talk about Trump's acquittal by the Senate:



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# The Daily 202

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**Bernie Sanders is the man to beat in New Hampshire, as the anti-Sanders vote splinters**



Joe Biden holds a town hall meeting in the gym of Alvirne High School in Hudson, N.H., on Sunday night. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

### **THE BIG IDEA:**

**HUDSON, N.H. – Karen Forleo thinks it would be a debacle if Democrats nominate Bernie Sanders. On the eve of the New Hampshire primary, the retired dental hygienist remains undecided between four of his rivals. She loves Pete Buttigieg’s youthful vigor, Joe Biden’s experience, Elizabeth Warren’s plans and Amy Klobuchar’s grit. But the 62-year-old isn’t sure who is the best bet to stop Sanders.**

“I know he appeases the young students who have no money. Well,

somebody has to pay for everything he wants,” Forleo said Sunday night after watching Biden speak for 90 minutes in a high school gymnasium here. She plans to attend rallies this afternoon for Klobuchar in Exeter and Warren in Portsmouth.

The Democrat from Lyndeborough, who supported Hillary Clinton in the 2016 primary, remains frustrated that Sanders didn’t do more to help her that fall. “If Bernie leads the ticket, I don’t think the American people are going to be ready for that. I don’t think he can beat Donald Trump,” she said. “And if Donald Trump thought he could, Trump would be all over him like he is with Joe Biden.”

**The splintering among moderates like Forleo is an important part of the explanation for why Sanders, the independent senator from neighboring Vermont, is the favorite to win Tuesday’s contest.** This is my sixth day on the ground here, and I’ve watched all the Democratic contenders interact with voters. Based on dozens of interviews and public polling, there’s a very fluid and incredibly tight [three-way battle](#) for third place.

Buttigieg has surged since the Iowa caucuses a week ago into a solid second-place position, [prompting attacks](#) from all directions that appear to have slowed his momentum a bit.

Biden has been tanking in the polls since finishing fourth in Iowa, prompting many people who had planned to vote for him because they perceived him as the most electable option to check out others. Klobuchar has been [rising](#), drawing her biggest crowds of the campaign this weekend and reporting her best fundraising days yet after Friday night’s debate.

Warren, who represents neighboring Massachusetts and led in polls of this state last summer, seems to be losing altitude here on the ground, even though she finished ahead of Klobuchar in Iowa. About a third of the people at her rally at a middle school in Concord on Sunday afternoon streamed out before she finished talking.



Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) holds a town hall at the opera house in Rochester, N.H., on Saturday. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**A brew of other factors is also working to Sanders's advantage on the eve of the first-in-the-nation primary.** Most Democrats don't want Sanders to be their nominee, but they cannot agree on who to rally behind instead. Despite rumbling concerns of the establishment, there's no organized Stop Sanders or Never Bernie movement. In fact, Democrats who don't support Sanders still hold largely favorable views of him. Unlike in Iowa, where he faced nearly a million dollars in attack ads, no one is on the air here with anti-Sanders commercials.

**Sanders expanded his lead Sunday night in the final day of the Boston Globe-WBZ-Suffolk tracking poll.** He garnered 27 percent among likely Democratic presidential primary voters, up from 24 to 25 percent in the previous six polls. Buttigieg, who briefly eclipsed Sanders in the poll one day last week, got 19 percent in the latest survey, followed by Klobuchar at 14 percent. Biden and Warren tied at 12 points. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.4 percent.

**You should take all the polling with a grain of salt because this contest is so in flux, but two other surveys published Sunday also showcased Sanders's relative strength among likely voters.**

A University of New Hampshire poll [for CNN](#) put Sanders at 28 percent, with Buttigieg at 21 percent, Biden at 12 percent and everyone else in single digits. Buttigieg led among voters who identify themselves as moderate or conservative, while Sanders led by more than 25 points among self-identified liberals. Asked whom they expect to win, regardless of whom they're supporting, 57 percent in the CNN picked Sanders. Interestingly, Sanders also took a seven-point lead over Biden on the question of which candidate has the best chance to defeat Trump in November, a reversal since Iowa.

A YouGov poll [for CBS](#) pegged Sanders at 29 percent, up two points compared to last month, with Buttigieg at 25 percent. Most of Buttigieg's double-digit gains in that survey come at the expense of Biden, who fell to 12 percent, trailing Warren. Only 39 percent of likely voters in the CBS poll said they've definitely made their final decision, and only six in 10 said they're enthusiastic about the candidate they're leaning toward. Sanders's supporters were the most enthusiastic.

They compete for **different kinds** of voters, but Sanders has been attacking Buttigieg partly out of a desire to prevent him from **coalescing moderate support** and thereby overtaking him in this must-win state.

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Bernie Sanders waves to supporters on Saturday night at the New Hampshire Democratic Party's McIntyre-Shaheen Dinner in the SNHU Arena in Manchester, N.H. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Sanders could benefit from a similar dynamic to what allowed Trump to amass an unsurpassable delegate lead during the 2016 Republican primaries, even as most GOP voters opposed him.** The odds, at least initially, are that all the top contenders will stay in the race beyond New Hampshire, continuing to divide up support going into the next two early states. Mike Bloomberg is waiting in the wings, spending literally hundreds of millions of dollars in states that vote on March 3, also known as Super Tuesday, when a third of all pledged delegates to the convention are awarded.

Four years ago, Sanders struggled with nonwhite voters and hit a wall because of Latinos in Nevada and African Americans in South Carolina, the next two states to vote. The senator has worked hard to

make inroads with communities of color ever since, and Biden's fade could boost Sanders in the Palmetto State by dividing up the black vote.

**The Sanders campaign, which has invested heavily in organization, said that volunteers knocked on more than 150,000 doors on Saturday alone.** Sanders's field program is focused more on mobilization of known supporters than persuasion of the undecided, a contrast to the late-surging campaigns like Klobuchar's and Buttigieg's who are still trying to identify potential backers. The campaign said 1,981 people attended Sanders's rally last night in Keene. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) will join Sanders tonight for a massive concert the campaign is putting on in Durham, home to the University of New Hampshire, featuring The Strokes and Sunflower Bean.

**The Sanders campaign slogan is "Us, not me." But his stump speech increasingly sounds like "Us versus Them." And the "Them" is the party establishment.** He's added a little more pitchfork to his populist tone in the recent days. "We're taking on not only the whole Republican political establishment and Trump," Sanders said this weekend. "We're taking on the Democratic establishment." His supporters from four years ago remain angry at the system and feel let down by both parties. The undercurrent of anti-elite frustration that helped propel Trump still exists in 2020, despite strong top-line economic indicators.





Voters listen to Sanders speak during a town hall at the Rochester Opera House on Saturday. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Nick Landry, 27 of Somersworth, said he has tried hard to keep an open mind since supporting Sanders four years ago.** He considered Warren “very strongly.” He heard out entrepreneur Andrew Yang, who was intriguing, but he found his plan to give everyone a thousand bucks a month “kind of gimmicky.” After watching the Democratic debate on Friday night, he decided he’ll probably back Sanders again.

**“We lost in 2016 by trying to play to the middle. As a liberal, I believe we should swing for the fences. And if we’re not going to win, let’s at least go down pushing for progressive ideals,”** Landry said at a Sanders rally in the packed-to-capacity Opera House in Rochester. “Biden represents the establishment, and I think Pete and Amy are part of the establishment.”

**The data analyst for an insurance company supports Medicare-for-all and badly wants stricter gun laws so that his kids will be safer at school.** Landry said he totally understands why some Democrats fixate on electability, but he said Trump and Senate Republicans have shown themselves to be such “cartoonish villains” that he doesn’t believe the opposition should pander to win back the kinds of voters who supported Barack Obama in 2012 but Trump in 2016. “They’re keeping kids in cages,” Landry said. “I don’t want to necessarily be shaping our political platform around trying to appeal to people who aren’t bothered by that.”



Joe Biden speaks in Hudson. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post)



**Meanwhile, moderate voters express growing concern about what they see as a collective action problem.** Siobhan Brace, 62, was the first person to ask Biden a question during his town hall meeting on Sunday night. “I love you a lot, but I am undecided,” she said. “I thought everybody did a great job in the debate, but I am afraid of that one of you cannot beat [Trump], but I think all of you could. Is there some way that you guys could put a dream team together and present that to the American people? And just say, like, Amy is going to be vice president and we’ll put Andrew [Yang] in charge of Commerce?”

The crowd cheered. Biden laughed. “There’s two ways to be on the dream team: run it or be picked,” he replied. “I promise that you my administration will look like the country. It will be made up of women and blacks and browns and people who represent the diversity of the country. There are at least six women I can think of at the top of my head who I wouldn’t have a moment’s hesitation in asking to be my vice president. I can say the same thing for at least four leading African Americans that I know.”

**Reflecting the degree to which voters still believe he's in contention, Biden was asked again half an hour later who he might pick for vice president. Biden said he didn't want to be presumptuous, but then he hinted that he might select Buttigieg.**

The 77-year-old said he could promise that he would not pick anyone who is older than him to be his No. 2, which would take out the 78-year-old Sanders. Biden added that he cannot imagine picking someone to be vice president who supports Medicare-for-all, a knock against Sanders. "But there are at least four people running that are, in fact, simpatico with where I am, starting with Indiana," he said, a reference to Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Ind.

**Brace, who asked the first question to Biden, said in an interview afterward that she's "terrified" Trump will win. "Bernie's too way over there," she said, pointing with her left arm to the other side of the room.** "The Republicans that are on the fence are going to come with a moderate. We need to get some of the Republicans who do know that Trump is crazy to come over to our side, and they're only going to do it with a moderate. So we've got to find a moderate."

**Independents could have outsized influence in tomorrow's open Democratic primary because there's not a competitive race on the Republican side.** Though Trump is flying up here to hold a rally in Manchester tonight, he faces no competitive GOP primary. Polls show the incumbent president getting more than 90 percent against former Massachusetts governor William Weld. New Hampshire has 416,000 "unaffiliated" voters, who get to pick which primary to participate in.



A supporter carries a poster of Bernie Sanders's head in in Manchester. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

Sanders defeated Clinton by 22 points in New Hampshire four years ago, garnering 60 percent, or 152,000 votes. Polls and interviews make clear that most of the people who backed him as the anti-Clinton candidate four years ago will not support him again this time. That said, **I encountered a few people at the Sanders rally in Rochester who backed Clinton in the primary four years ago and are giving Sanders a close look.**

“We need grass-roots change, and it may be more than some of the traditional establishment is willing to go, unfortunately,” said Colleen Hartnett, 57, of Windham, a software engineer who remains undecided. “I think I’m leaning more toward the progressive side rather than the moderate part of the party at this point. ... Because Republicans have gone so far, the contrast is just striking. I feel like

the pendulum can't just go for a moderate swing."

**Sanders knows he needs to win this neighboring state, which is why he doesn't hesitate to confidently predict victory. There's no apparent effort to manage expectations.** "I am absolutely confident that, with the volunteer support we have, we are going to win in New Hampshire," Sanders said Saturday night in Manchester. He said his 2016 victory in New Hampshire was critical to winning 22 more states in the months that followed, and he said winning the primary helped put some of his ideas that were called radical four years ago into the mainstream. "We need to complete the revolution we started four years ago in New Hampshire," he said.

**Warren losing altitude in New Hampshire also likely works to Sanders's advantage.** She drew only a modest crowd Sunday afternoon to a middle school near the state capitol. "Our democracy hangs in the balance, and it is up to you, Massachusetts, to decide what to do," she said at the end of her speech, after more than a hundred people had left, many to go watch other candidates.

"New Hampshire," people in the audience yelled.

"And to the people of New Hampshire," she added, correcting herself with a laugh.

The crowd applauded. "Thank you," she said, appreciatively. "It is a hard time."

Warren brushed aside a question afterward about the people who left, calling it an "enthusiastic" crowd. "It looks like it is going to be a long battle to the nomination," she told reporters. "There are 55 more

states and territories after this. ... I'm in it for the long haul.”

**Other candidates who struggle to get covered are trying more colorfully to contrast themselves with Sanders.** James Carville, the Democratic strategist who helped elect Bill Clinton in 1992, stumped late Saturday afternoon for Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) in Manchester. He emphasized that Sanders would be a problem for down-ballot Democrats, especially in competitive Senate and House races. “They’ll run away from Bernie Sanders like the devil running away from holy water,” Carville said. “If Michael Bennet is the nominee, Mitch McConnell’s going to look like he crapped a pineapple.”



Democrats trade attacks ahead of New Hampshire primary

### **MORE ON 2020:**

**-- The Iowa Democratic Party announced last night that Buttigieg would probably receive 14 delegates to the national presidential**

**nominating convention from the chaotic caucuses, while Sanders would receive 12. But the number may not be final.** [Isaac Stanley-Becker reports](#): “Late Sunday, Sanders adviser Jeff Weaver said the campaign will seek a partial recanvass — a process he said would put the senator from Vermont on top in the delegate count. Sanders won the popular vote, netting support from about 6,000 more caucus-goers on the first expression of preferences, known as an alignment, than Buttigieg. But the delegate allocation is based on projected support for each candidate at the state convention, known as state delegate equivalents or SDEs, which is traditionally the metric used to declare a winner of the caucuses. ... Weaver said the campaign believes seven SDEs are at issue in the precincts they have identified, which is more than the 2.77 that separate the two Democrats. ... Chris Meagher, a spokesman for Buttigieg, said, ‘We’re focused on New Hampshire.’

**“The Iowa party also said that eight delegates would go to [Warren] and six would go to [Biden].** ... The update from the state party reflected its review of 55 precincts, making up about 3 percent of the total 1,765. But the review involved only rectifying discrepancies between numbers reported on math worksheets completed by caucus leaders and publicly reported data. That left untouched errors tainting the actual worksheets, where volunteer leaders had entered complex calculations based on multiple counts of caucus-night preferences — and, in some cases, made mistakes. An attorney for the state party said officials were not authorized to alter the worksheets because they represented legal documents, according to an email Troy Price, the state party chairman, sent to members of the state party’s central committee.”



-- **"Democratic leaders have edged toward the brink of open war with one another in recent days,"** [Michael Scherer and Sean Sullivan report](#): "Advisers to the two men most responsible for overseeing the disastrous Iowa caucuses, national chairman Tom Perez and Iowa chairman Troy Price, have been privately deflecting blame onto each other, as the relationship between the two has become tense, advisers say. Price has refused to join Perez in calling for a canvass of voting records in the state, after finding out about Perez's demand from a deputy a few minutes before it was tweeted ... Price allies blame Perez for the botched caucus count, pointing to new party rules he implemented around transparency and accessibility that increased the burdens on the state. ..."

**"At the start of the campaign, Sanders advisers repeatedly praised Perez ... But that tone shifted in recent weeks,** as Sanders surrogates, supporters and staff have criticized Perez for changing the debate rules and for the appointees he has placed on the various convention committees ... Weaver has tried to strike a less aggressive tone, saying that the Sanders campaign still believes Perez has tried to be evenhanded. 'Of course, given our experience, we are ever vigilant,' he said."

-- **Democrats fear a repeat of the Iowa chaos in Nevada.** While some top party leaders call for the end of caucuses, top Nevada Democratic Party officials are trying to assure nervous voters that their fears are overblown. This includes former Senate majority leader Harry Reid, who has been working to soothe candidate concerns about potential caucus drama. ([Holly Bailey](#))

**-- Sanders and Biden continued sparring about the role each played 18 years ago during the run-up to the Iraq War. [Michael Kranish reports](#):** “In explaining their actions to voters, however, they have both left out key details that present a more complicated picture of how they handled what both now say is one of the worst foreign policy mistakes in American history. Biden not only played a key role in helping [George W.] Bush win passage of the measure, but he also privately assured the president that ‘I think you’re doing it the exact right way,’ according to notes taken at a meeting by White House press secretary Ari Fleischer. In that meeting, Bush told Biden that though he would attempt to use diplomacy, he would use the authority to invade if he believed it was necessary, according to Fleischer’s notes. Sanders, meanwhile, agreed at the time with much of what Bush said about Iraq, including the view that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.”

**-- In New Hampshire’s poorest city, there are few indications of Trump’s “blue-collar boom.” [Griff Witte reports](#):** “The unemployment rate, which was touching double digits 10 years ago as Berlin weathered the collapse of its signature mill, is down to 3 percent. The local paper is stuffed with help-wanted ads. Property values are climbing as newcomers move in. But Berlin — which thrived through most of the 20th century before the bottom fell out in the early 2000s — hardly feels like a city on the mend. More than a decade into the longest economic expansion America has ever known, residents say just about the only jobs available pay minimum wage with no benefits as out-of-pocket health-care costs surge. The last elementary school shuttered last year, capping a long-term exodus of young families. The once-bustling downtown is so scarred by closures, demolitions

and fires that it looks, according to the city's mayor, 'like a bomb was dropped in the middle of it.'"



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Highlights from the 2020 Oscars: 'Parasite' wins best picture and makes history

### **ABOUT LAST NIGHT:**

-- **“Parasite” became the first foreign-language film to win the Oscar for best picture during last night’s Academy Awards.** [Emily Yahr](#), [Sonia Rao](#), [Travis Andrews](#), [Bethonie Butler](#) and [Elahe Izadi](#) report: “In addition to making history in the night’s most prestigious category, the darkly comedic thriller is the first South Korean film to ever be nominated for an Oscar. Filmmaker Bong Joon-ho also won in the international feature and original screenplay categories, as well as best director -- triumphing over ‘1917’ front-runner Sam Mendes, whose film didn’t wind up with quite as many awards as expected. (The World War I epic, made to look like it was filmed in one shot, did land cinematographer Roger Deakins his second win.)”

**All four acting trophies wound up with the artists who dominated this awards season:** Joaquin Phoenix and Renée Zellweger won for "Joker" and "Judy," and supporting actors Brad Pitt and Laura Dern for

"Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" and "Marriage Story." In an emotional roller coaster of a speech, Phoenix called for unity. "I've been thinking a lot about some of the distressing issues that we are facing collectively, and I think at times we feel or we're made to feel that we champion different causes," he said. "But for me, I see commonality. I think whether we're talking about gender inequality or racism or queer rights or indigenous rights or animal rights, we're talking about the right against injustice."

**-- Other notable winners included:**

- Elton John and Bernie Taupin won best original song for "(I'm Gonna) Love Me Again," from "Rocketman."
- "American Factory," produced by Barack and Michelle Obama, won best documentary feature.
- Taika Waititi won best adapted screenplay for "Jojo Rabbit," becoming the first indigenous director to ever win an Oscar.
- Find a complete list [here](#).

**-- Commentary from The Post's cultural critics:**

- [Ann Hornaday](#): "'Parasite' upset means progress. But is it a revolution?"
- [Hank Stuever](#): "A decent show, if you like your Oscar nights fully automated."
- [Elahe Izadi](#): "The Oscars nominated 'Parasite' but looked right past its all-Asian cast. It's part of a pattern."
- [Robin Givhan](#): "The Oscars red carpet was diverse,

even if the nominees weren't.”

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** “I’m ready to drink tonight,” said Bong, speaking English for the first time onstage that night, as he accepted the Oscar for best international feature. Later, after winning the night’s top award, Bong didn’t take the microphone, allowing Miky Lee, the mogul who built South Korea’s first movie multiplex, to speak instead.



Acting director of the Office of Management and Budget Russ Vought presses the button that starts the machine that will print copies of President Trump's proposed budget for the 2021 fiscal year at the Government Publishing Office. (Samuel Corum/Getty Images)

## **THE PRESIDENT REVEALS HIS PRIORITIES:**

-- **The White House will propose a \$4.8 trillion budget that would fail to eliminate the federal deficit over the next 10 years.** “Instead, White House officials plan to say their budget proposal would close the deficit by 2035,” [Jeff Stein and Erica Werner report](#). “During President Trump’s first year in office, his advisers said their budget

plan would eliminate the deficit by around 2028. This new budget will mark the third consecutive time that they abandon that 10-year goal and instead suggest a 15-year target. This new trend shows how little progress the White House is making in dealing with ballooning government debt, something GOP party leaders had made a top goal during the Obama administration.

**“Trump’s first budget projected the deficit in 2021 would be \$456 billion. Instead, it is projected to be more than double that amount.** ... As a presidential candidate, Trump said he would eliminate not just the annual federal deficit but all debt held by the United States after eight years in office. ... The federal debt has already grown by about \$3 trillion under Trump. ... The \$4.8 trillion budget for 2021 would represent a \$700 billion surge over levels from 2018. ... It would also propose extending tax cuts for families and individuals that are set to expire at the end of 2025. Budget experts have projected that extending those tax cuts would reduce revenue by roughly \$1 trillion. ...

**“The Wall Street Journal first reported the budget aims to cut spending on safety-net programs such as Medicaid and food stamps** ... The budget is expected to propose 5 percent net cuts in domestic discretionary spending, which is expected to include cutting the budget of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, the part of CDC funding that deals with fighting the coronavirus will remain unchanged. ...

**“At the same time, the budget will maintain Pentagon spending at around its current level, or boost it if increases in a so-called overseas contingency account are included.** As in past budgets,

this one will cut heavily into programs targeting low-income communities, including slashing community development block grants and home heating assistance. **The Education Department will be cut by \$6 billion** ... The proposed budgets for nondefense domestic agencies, programs that deal with housing, environmental protection and agriculture, will fall well below spending caps that lawmakers and the administration already agreed to in a bipartisan budget deal for 2021. That all but ensures the budget will face bipartisan opposition on Capitol Hill.”

-- **Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) said the Justice Department is vetting information that Trump’s personal attorney Rudy Giuliani delivered regarding Hunter Biden’s work on the board of a Ukrainian energy company.** [Paul Kane reports](#): “Graham, citing an early-morning conversation with Attorney General William P. Barr, said [Giuliani] is giving his information to national security experts and that he would back off his own plans to use the Senate Judiciary Committee as a vehicle to investigate the Biden family. ‘The Department of Justice is receiving information coming out of the Ukraine from Rudy to see — he told me that they have created a process that Rudy could give information and they would see if it’s verified,’ [Graham] said on CBS’s ‘Face the Nation.’ He warned that Giuliani might be getting bad information from his trips to Ukraine as part of a disinformation campaign by Russian security experts, citing their effort to disrupt the 2016 presidential campaign. ...

**“Graham said he called Barr and Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, on Sunday morning after hearing about Giuliani’s interview Saturday night**



**on Fox News's 'Watters' World.'** During the interview, the former New York City mayor made various claims about the information he has cobbled together from Ukrainian sources and said Graham should use his committee to investigate the Bidens. ... 'I have what I used to call when I was U.S. attorney, a smoking gun,' Giuliani said. ... Then, just as 'Face the Nation' started Sunday morning, Trump sent out a tweet urging Graham to launch an undefined investigations. ... Graham appeared to back away from his assertions in recent weeks that he would lead a probe into [Joe Biden's] time overseeing Ukraine policy while his son served on the board of Burisma."

**-- The chairman of the group that runs the Conservative Political Action Conference warned that he would be afraid for the physical safety of Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) were he to attend the annual convention.** Matt Schlapp ripped the 2012 GOP nominee, who announced he was dropping out of the 2008 Republican nominating contest at CPAC. ([HuffPost](#))

**-- While Romney is being vilified by Trump and his allies inside the Beltway, many of his conservative constituents back home in Utah still have his back.** [From NBC News:](#) "[We] spoke with dozens of voters in Utah in the days immediately following the Senate's vote to acquit the president. Most identified themselves as Republicans who had supported Romney in 2018 and said that regardless of their opinion of the president, Romney's decision to go against his party was one that they understood and respected for its honesty. Many said they would not hold it against the first-term senator when he faces re-election in 2024. ... 'I feel like [Romney] stands up and says, 'This is what I think' and you have the right to accept or reject that,'

said Meralee Stallings, 62, who works for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 'I think we are getting away from that, too. It's like if you don't agree with my opinion, then you're wrong.' Stallings, who voted third-party for president in 2016 and supported Romney in 2018, said she is leaning toward voting for Romney again. 'I don't agree with everything that Romney has done,' she said, 'but if you're going to be true to what you think is correct, then that's fine with me.'"

**-- Sacred Native American burial sites are being blown up for Trump's border wall, an Arizona congressman and other advocates allege. [Paulina Firozi reports](#):** "The Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is an internationally recognized biosphere reserve ... It includes about 330,000 acres of designated wilderness and is home to ancestral grounds sacred to the Tohono O'odham Nation, one of at least a dozen Native American groups that claim connections to grounds within the monument. Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), whose district includes the reservation, said crews this week began blasting through parts of Monument Hill, which includes a burial site for the Tohono O'odham Nation ... Grijalva, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, visited the location ahead of the construction and described the site in a video posted to social media. Monument Hill, where he said explosions are now occurring, is a site where members of the Tohono O'odham Nation have buried members of opposing tribes."

**-- Trump used a Philadelphia girl's story to attack public schools and promote the school-choice movement. But the girl was already studying at one of the city's most desired charters.** Janiyah Davis is a student at a recently opened charter

school so popular that it received 6,500 applications for 100 seats. How she landed in the audience during Trump's State of the Union – and with a scholarship to attend private school financed by Betsy DeVos – remains a bit of a mystery even to her mother, [who told the Philadelphia Enquirer](#) that she had no idea Janiyah would be mentioned during the speech.

**-- A gunman wounded two NYPD officers in separate attacks that police believe were attempted assassinations. [Katie Mettler reports](#):** “One officer was shot in the neck and chin Saturday night when the suspected gunman fired several rounds into a marked police van and then fled, authorities said. At 7 a.m. Sunday morning, police say, the same man walked into the Bronx precinct headquarters and opened fire again, striking a lieutenant in the arm and surrendering after his 9mm handgun ran out of bullets. The man, who is in police custody but has not been identified, has a ‘lengthy violent criminal history,’ Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said at a news conference on Sunday. ... **[Trump] weighed in, using the shootings to admonish [Mayor Bill] de Blasio and [Gov. Andrew] Cuomo, who are both Democrats and critics of the president.** ‘I grew up in New York City and, over many years, got to watch how GREAT NYC’s ‘Finest’ are,’ Trump tweeted. ‘Now, because of weak leadership at Governor & Mayor, stand away (water thrown at them) regulations, and lack of support, our wonderful NYC police are under assault. Stop this now!’”

**-- A man was arrested in Florida on charges of driving a van into a tent full of Trump supporters. [Katie Mettler and Hannah Knowles report](#):** “The Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office has arrested Gregory William

Loel Timm, 27, on two counts of aggravated assault on a person older than 65 and one count each of criminal mischief and driving with a suspended license. No one was hurt in the incident. ... As word spread and Republican Party leaders and elected officials weighed in, **Trump issued a warning on Twitter. ‘Be careful tough guys who you play with!’ he wrote** alongside a statement from GOP Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel. She called the incident an ‘unprovoked, senseless’ attack and said ‘these disgusting acts will only make us work harder to win in November.’”



The coronavirus is forcing cruise ships to take drastic measures

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- **The number of people infected and killed by the coronavirus continues to climb worldwide, but the vast majority are still concentrated in the original outbreak zone of Wuhan.** [Gerry Shih, Alex Horton and Marisa Iati report](#): “The [global death toll](#) from the novel coronavirus reached more than 900 ... after previously

surpassing the 774 fatalities attributed to the outbreak of the SARS coronavirus in 2002 and 2003. Among the dead was the first American, a 60-year-old woman who died Thursday in Wuhan. ... An international team lead by the World Health Organization left for China to conduct an investigation of the coronavirus. ... As infections overwhelm the afflicted province, the rest of China might be seeing the effects of [strict quarantine measures](#), Chinese health officials said Sunday. In all parts of China outside Hubei, the daily number of new infections dropped from nearly 900 on Feb. 3 to 509 on Saturday ... [WHO] officials also said they had seen the number of new cases taper in recent days. ... The Chinese Ambassador to the United States [pushed back](#) Sunday on the suggestion by Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) that the coronavirus may have come from China's biological weapons program. Appearing on CBS' 'Face the Nation' on Sunday, Ambassador Cui Tiankai acknowledged that much about the virus remains unknown, but he said spreading unsubstantiated theories could cause panic and amplify racial discrimination."

**-- Infections aboard a quarantined cruise ship off the coast of Japan have surged, bringing to 136 the number of people who are known to have been infected on the vessel.** There are a total of 3,700 passengers and crew aboard.

**-- Toilet paper is growing scarce in Hong Kong. So is trust in the government.** [Shibani Mahtani reports](#): "With coronavirus fears gripping the city, a rumor of impending shortages circulating on social media had apparently spooked consumers, and pack after pack of toilet paper was flying off the shelves. Shoppers could barely carry the number of rolls they were snatching. By evening, not a single roll was

left. The panic stretched through the weekend. No more green tea-scented toilet rolls, no more quilted plush rolls, no more jumbo rolls promising 'clean comfort' and an inviting picture of a [fat Labrador puppy](#). Such scenes have played out citywide, documented in videos [showcasing the frenzy](#). ... Some are resorting to dramatic and costly measures to procure necessities. ... As one Bloomberg columnist put it: The semiautonomous financial hub, once known as a bastion of global trade and capitalism, is now [showing signs of a failed state](#)."

**-- A Chinese lawyer and journalist whose Wuhan dispatches offered a chilling glimpse inside the coronavirus hot spot has been missing since Thursday, his relatives said. [Derek Hawkins reports](#):** "Chen Qiushi slipped into the city of 11 million on Jan. 24, just after a citywide lockdown took effect, and spent days interviewing people about the outbreak and filming what he saw. On Thursday, after several of his reports circulated around the world, Chen stopped responding to calls and messages, setting off an online campaign to track him down. The 34-year-old knew he would be a likely target for law enforcement, so he gave select friends access to his accounts, instructing them to change the passwords if they went more than 12 hours without hearing from him. According to Chen's friends, authorities told his family over the weekend that he had been forcibly quarantined in an undisclosed location. Xu Xiaodong, a well-known mixed martial artist and friend of Chen's, said in a [YouTube live stream](#) that Qingdao public security officers and state security officers told his parents he had been 'detained in the name of quarantine.'"

**-- Afghanistan claims the Islamic State was "obliterated." But**

**fighters who managed to get away could stage a resurgence.** [Susannah George, Siobhán O'Grady and Sharif Hassan report](#): "It has now become clear that military operations also scattered many fighters they aimed to defeat: The group's senior leadership fled further into the Spin Ghar mountains, crossing into Pakistan or pushing north into Konar province's more rugged terrain. Others simply went into hiding. Afghan officials estimate that hundreds of Islamic State fighters continue to operate across the country, raising the dangerous potential for a resurgence. Interviews with Afghan and U.S. officials and seven self-described Islamic State members now in Afghan custody paint a picture of a group that has a history of persevering despite territorial and leadership losses, thanks in part to a sophisticated recruitment system and the use of extreme violence to control civilian populations."

**-- Two U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers were killed and six U.S. troops were wounded after a gunman opened fire in an eastern Afghanistan compound this weekend.** Some Afghan officials said the attacker was a member of the Afghan security forces. ([Susannah George and Sharif Hassan](#))

**-- The Trump administration is considering suspending humanitarian assistance to Yemen as part of an international response to new restrictions imposed by Iranian-linked Houthi rebels.** [Missy Ryan and John Hudson report](#): "That one of Yemen's biggest donors is considering such a move, which, if implemented, could worsen already dire conditions, underscores the challenge of managing aid operations in areas controlled by a rebel movement that is hostile to the West. A senior State Department official said the

United States has not made a final decision but was coordinating with other donor nations and aid organizations on possible responses to a 2 percent 'tax' on assistance projects and other new measures in swaths of Yemen administered by the Houthis."

**-- German Chancellor Angela Merkel's would-be successor is expected to resign today following a rocky year as party leader.** [Loveday Morris and Luisa Beck report](#): "Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, the leader of Merkel's Christian Democrats, said she will not run for chancellor in next year's elections, German news agency DPA reported, citing a party spokesperson. She will step aside as party leader when a successor is found. Kramp-Karrenbauer, also known by her initials AKK, announced the news in a meeting with party officials on Monday morning ... A protege of Merkel, AKK beat out party rivals to take over the reins of the conservative Christian Democrats in late 2018. However, she has failed to rally the party behind her and there was widespread speculation that she would be ousted before the annual party conference in November."

**-- Heavily armed police and soldiers forced their way into El Salvador's Congress, under the president's command, demanding the approval of a \$109 million loan to better equip themselves.** [From Reuters](#): "President Nayib Bukele and a group of soldiers armed with automatic weapons briefly occupied El Salvador's Congress on Sunday, stepping up a pressure campaign to force lawmakers to back a crime-fighting plan. Watched by soldiers in full battle uniform, Bukele, 38, sat in the seat reserved for the president of Congress and cupped his hands together to pray, he said, for patience with lawmakers, few of whom turned up at the special



session. 'If those shameless people don't approve the plan of territorial control, we'll summon you here again (next) Sunday,' he told supporters in a fiery speech outside, as he left the building."

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Former presidential candidate Marianne Williamson took a shot at Buttigieg, who talks a great deal about creating a culture of belonging:



Michael Bennet and his family took a road trip to the North Country of New Hampshire to meet with voters:





**Michael Bennet** ✓  
@MichaelBennet

We're in Dixville Notch, home of the #FITN primary where residents cast votes at midnight. My family & I are deeply grateful to them for sitting down with us today.

New Hampshire is central to my campaign because of traditions like this—where face-to-face conversations matter.



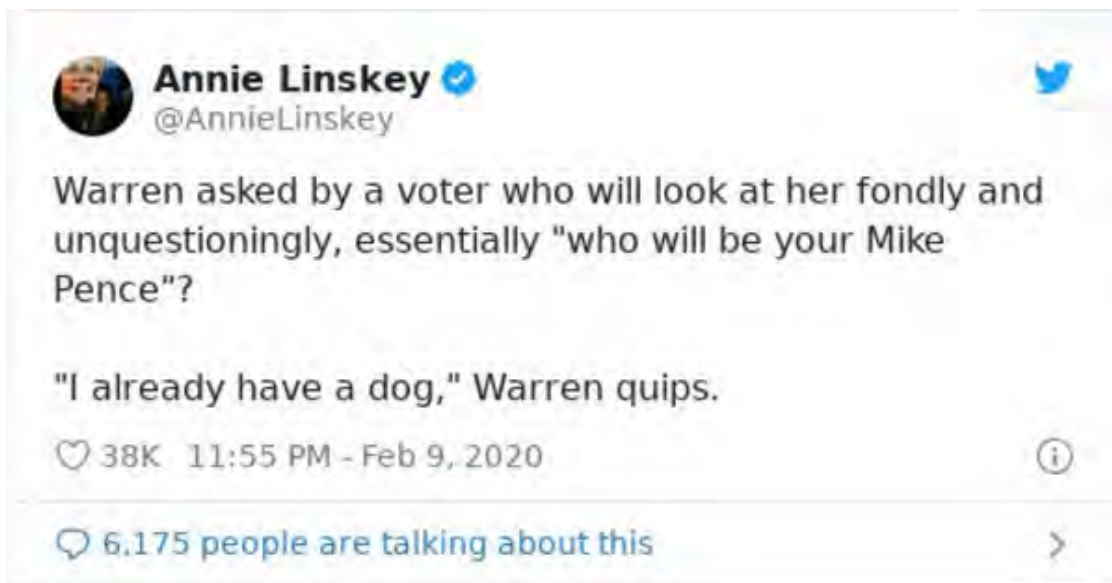
♡ 94 12:41 AM - Feb 10, 2020



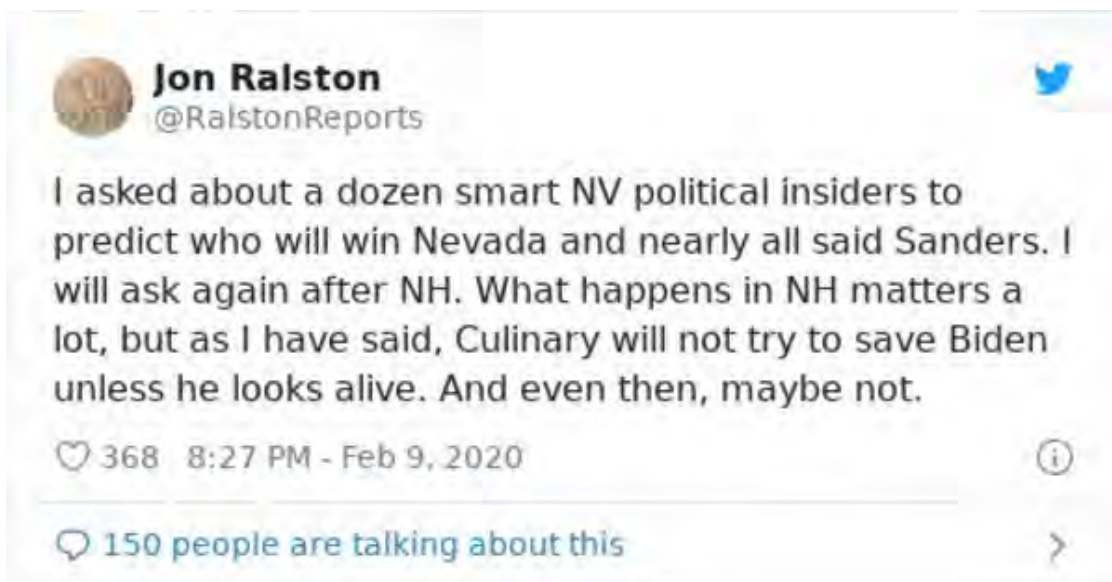
💬 21 people are talking about this



Another scene from the trail:



From a plugged-in political reporter in Nevada:



Amy Klobuchar's face during a particularly tense moment in last Friday's debate resonated among some viewers:



**Shannon Watts** ✓  
@shannonrwatts



What's it's like to be a woman on Twitter.



♥ 37.2K 10:44 PM - Feb 8, 2020



💬 5,068 people are talking about this



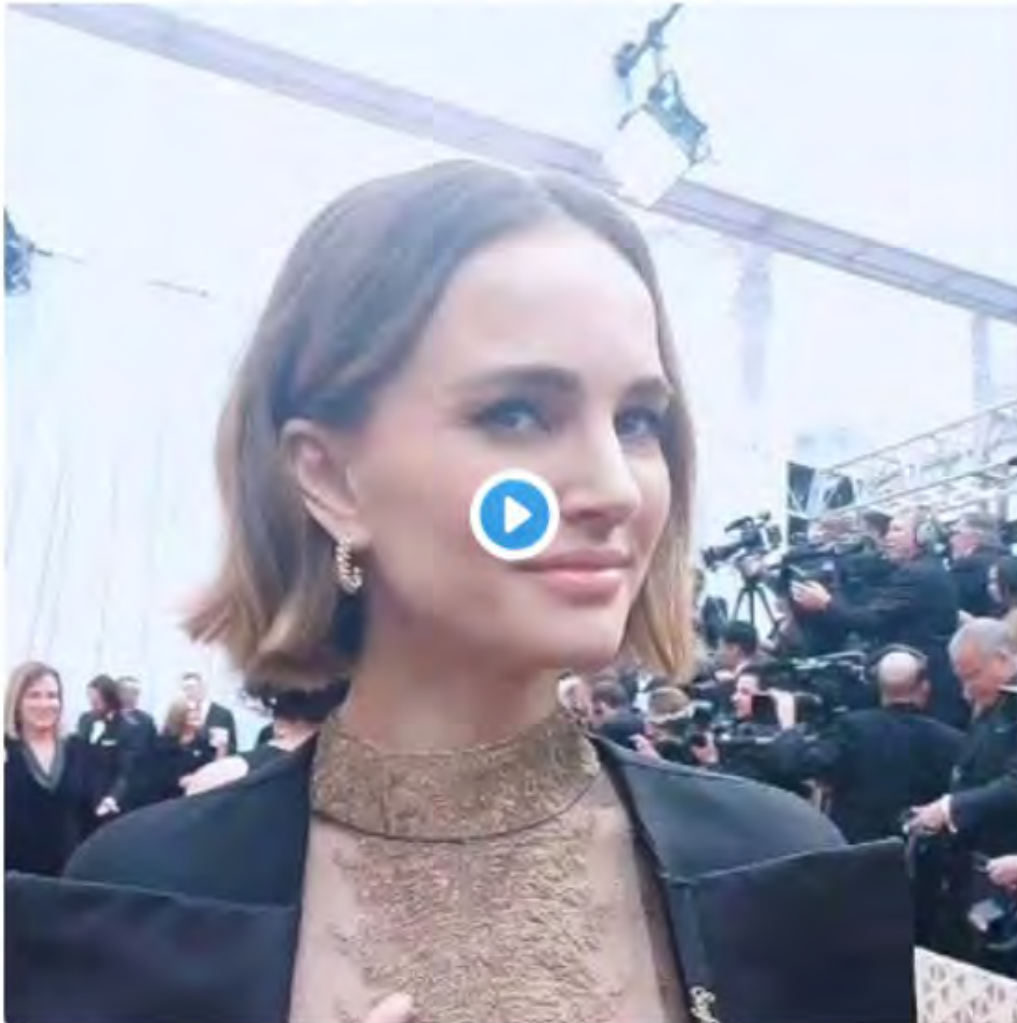
Actress Natalie Portman's Oscar outfit had a special nod to the female directors who weren't nominated for the award:



**Amy Kaufman** ✓  
@AmyKinLA



Natalie Portman embroidered her Dior cape with all of the female directors who weren't nominated for [#Oscars](#). Check out her explanation here.



♡ 323K 12:19 AM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 77.1K people are talking about this



The winner of last night's Oscar for best animated short reminded us all that it all started with a tweet:



**Matthew A. Cherry** ✓  
@MatthewACherry



Nailed it [twitter.com/matthewacherry...](https://twitter.com/matthewacherry...)

**Matthew A. Cherry** ✓ @MatthewACherry

Any 3D artists follow me? I got an Oscar worthy short film idea to go with this image. Get at me 🤪



♥ 421K 2:06 AM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 75.1K people are talking about this



And "Parasite" director Bong Joon-ho apologized to the film academy's engravers for having too many Oscars:



Bong Joon Ho apologizes to the engravers for having too many #Oscars [bit.ly/2H6fGhj](https://bit.ly/2H6fGhj)



4,443 7:12 AM - Feb 10, 2020



1,452 people are talking about this



### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

In case you missed it, our video team condensed Friday night's debate into four minutes:



The New Hampshire Democratic debate, in less than 4 minutes

“Saturday Night Live” spoofed the debate in its cold open:



And SNL also had a "local expert" talk about Trump's acquittal by the Senate:





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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: The two leading women in the Democratic field are battling for third place in New Hampshire  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020 11:07:09 AM

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

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**The two leading women in the Democratic field are battling for third place in New Hampshire**



Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) takes the stage on Monday night for a rally at South Church in downtown Portsmouth, N.H. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

## THE BIG IDEA:

**PORTSMOUTH, N.H. – Elizabeth Warren retooled her stump speech on the eve of the New Hampshire primary to make the case that she’s always been an underdog.** She emphasized her hardscrabble upbringing in Oklahoma, her battle to create the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and her victory over incumbent Republican Scott Brown to win her Senate seat. “You know what we need as president? Someone who has been winning unwinnable fights all her life,” Warren said.

The Massachusetts senator led in polls of this state last summer. Now trailing Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg, Warren is locked in a three-way battle in New Hampshire for third place against an ascendant Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and a fading Joe Biden that will determine whether she stays viable as the Democratic presidential nominating contest moves on to Nevada, South Carolina and Super Tuesday.

**Warren and Klobuchar are the last two women standing in the top tier of presidential contenders.** Four years after many voters were disappointed that Hillary Clinton didn't become the first female president, the two senators are still in the hunt. They're fighting for a bronze ticket out of this pivotal early state and the chance to take on President Trump in November. But they're taking divergent approaches that go beyond their ideological differences in an attempt to gain the upper hand.

For now, though, the odds still seem stacked against Warren or Klobuchar becoming their party's standard-bearer. Indeed, no modern Democrat has won the nomination without finishing first or second in New Hampshire.

**With a large pipe organ behind her, Warren paced the stage and seemed to draw energy from the crowd like an old-fashioned evangelist. "We're going to get knocked down," she told a capacity crowd of 785 people inside a magnificent church sanctuary that was built in the 1820s.** "We're going to find bumpy times, and we'll find hard times, and we'll find times when we think, 'Oh, this hurts.' But the thing is: People are counting on us to get this right. ... It's about getting off our back foot and getting on our front

foot.”

When her microphone cut out 47 minutes into her speech, as she talked about taking on Wall Street, Warren joked loud enough so everyone could hear: “That was the banks!” The raucous crowd rewarded her with standing ovation after standing ovation. “Don’t tell me what we can’t do,” she said. “We’ve done it.”



Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) speaks to a rally on Monday afternoon at Exeter Town Hall in Exeter, N.H. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post)

**Sixteen miles away in Exeter, a few hours earlier, Klobuchar spoke to 350 people with another 200 watching a feed in an overflow room. “As you’ve probably heard, we’re on a bit of a surge,” she said.** The Minnesotan is drawing consistently bigger crowds over the last few days than she got before her fifth-place finish in Iowa, and her campaign says she’s raised more than \$3 million

since her strong debate performance on Friday night.

**Like Warren, Klobuchar emphasized that she's been underestimated her whole life and especially throughout this campaign**, outlasting many rivals who entered the contest with national name recognition and larger donor networks. On the anniversary of her outdoor announcement amid a blizzard back home in Minnesota, she asked Granite Staters for their help to “surprise the country.”

**Klobuchar's final commercial before the primary is called “Empathy,”** and its message is that she feels your pain and sympathizes with your hardships. She talks at length in her speeches about her father's alcoholism and the struggles now to pay for his long-term care. “I know you, and I will fight for you,” she said at the close of her 40-minute speech. “I want you to know this because I need your help right now. We are on the cusp of something really great.”

**Bigger picture, though, Klobuchar is running as a pragmatic dealmaker while Warren is running as an ideological street brawler.** Klobuchar said yesterday that she was the only candidate who raised her hand during Friday night's debate when the moderator asked whether anyone on stage worries that a democratic socialist couldn't win the general election. [In fact, Steyer did as well.] She also criticized the “free college for all” and Medicare-for-all plans that Warren and Sanders advocate, and she warned voters not to fall for “bumper sticker slogans,” an apparent reference to Buttigieg.

**Warren has mostly tried to avoid taking direct shots at any of her**

rivals during these final days, hoping to emerge as a unity candidate by staying out of the crossfire between Buttigieg and Sanders. “There are a lot of folks shooting at other folks,” Warren told reporters last night. “Democrats cannot do a repeat of 2016. We can’t go into a general election divided and angry with each other.”

On a tour around the state, Warren stopped earlier Monday at the Sweet Maple Cafe in Conway. When a voter said she was considering backing a more moderate candidate, out of a desire to defeat Trump, Warren replied that she’s somewhere in the middle on a continuum between Sanders on the left and Buttigieg and Klobuchar in the middle.

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Elizabeth Warren hands out donuts outside Portsmouth Middle School on Tuesday morning. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

**Some Warren allies privately express frustration that Klobuchar got as much momentum out of Iowa as she did, but Warren did not.** The Iowa Democratic Party [announced](#) Sunday that Warren is poised to receive eight delegates from Iowa to the national convention in Milwaukee, behind the 14 for Buttigieg and 12 for Sanders, but more than the six for Biden. Klobuchar, who represents the neighboring state, received only one pledged delegate.

**Klobuchar often invokes [her endorsement](#) from the New York Times editorial board. But Warren, whom the Times also endorsed, does not bring it up.** She seems particularly cautious about doing anything that might make her look elitist. This also explains why she assiduously avoids using the H-word on the stump – Harvard – even though she was a barrier-breaking professor at the



law school there. Cambridge, Mass., is only 60 miles south of the church where Warren spoke last night. She also emphasizes her preference for Michelob Ultra over white wine.

**Warren emphasizes her gender – and the possibly historic nature of her campaign to be the first female president – far more than Klobuchar does in her stump speech.** After Warren spoke last night, before she gaggled with reporters, she posed for pictures with a line of young people. She leaned down to all the little girls and repeated the same message over a dozen times: “Hi, my name is Elizabeth, and I’m running for president, because that’s what girls do.” Then she reached out her pinkie and made pinkie promises with each little girl.

**Warren’s base of support feels more durable than the polls suggest.** She has a loyal following of college-educated, liberal women who have steadfastly supported her since last year. They love the idea that Warren could be the first female president, and they roar with approval when she talks about all the executive actions that a president can take “all by herself.”

**You should take all these surveys with a grain of salt because the race is so fluid, but [the final CNN tracking poll](#), conducted by the University of New Hampshire and released Monday, showed Sanders in the lead, with 29 percent, among likely primary voters, followed by Buttigieg at 22 percent, Biden at 11 percent, Warren at 10 percent and Klobuchar at 7 percent. But Klobuchar has unquestionable momentum going into primary day. Even on the eve of the vote, only about half of those polled said they had definitely made their final decision. **Interestingly, Warren was at the top of the list****

**of people's second choices: 20 percent said Warren is their back-up,** followed by Sanders at 15 percent and Buttigieg at 14 percent.



Amy Klobuchar jokes with supporters outside a polling place on Tuesday in Manchester, N.H. She was joined by her daughter, Abigail Bessler. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post)

**Klobuchar's calls for national reconciliation resonate with the kinds of moderate Democrats and independents who go to her events while Warren's promise to fight fired up the more liberal people who tend to support her.** Jill Baillargeon, 36 of Exeter, has children who are 7, 5 and 2-years-old. "I feel pretty good about Amy after seeing her," she said as she left Klobuchar's event, with her daughter Maeve and a miniature American flag that volunteers handed her on the way in. "I was for Bernie for a while, then Warren, then Biden and now Klobuchar."

Baillargeon, who teaches English lessons online to kids who live in China, wants an American president that she can let her kids watch on television without worrying about what they'll say. "We've got a lot going on in our life," she said. "I feel like I could breathe a little bit easier and not worry about what's going on in Washington everyday if Amy was in the Oval Office. She could bring back a sense of normalcy."

**Warren's supporters want "big, structural change." Klobuchar's audiences desire a "return to normalcy," a pitch that previously pulled many of them toward Biden.** "I really want someone who can help the country take a pause to breathe and to heal," said Susan Varn, 69, a retired consultant who lives in Exeter. "I'm less in the Elizabeth or Bernie camp because I think they want to do too much too soon when this country has been traumatized and needs to recover."

Varn has been leaning toward Biden because he's a "healing figure" who might be able to patch up the wounds of division, but she really liked what she saw from Klobuchar. She's had a Biden yard sign in front of her home for a while now, but she took a Klobuchar sign with her when she left the rally. She said the two signs will go next to each other, and she will decide whether to go with Biden or Klobuchar before heading to her polling place.

**A common refrain among Warren supporters was that, in picking her, they're following their hearts.** "Right now, we're in the primaries so you go with who you like the most," said Aaron Jule, 45 of Rye, who is in retail sales. "After Tuesday, I might have to deal with something that I have to live with."

**Klobuchar emphasizes her ability to topple Trump in a head-to-head matchup in a way that Warren does not.** During a town hall on Saturday, Klobuchar [told](#) voters that she had just been texting backstage with Cindy McCain, the widow of the 2008 GOP presidential nominee John McCain. She always highlights the inroads she's made with Republicans as a senator in Washington and during her three statewide victories in Minnesota. "I have won every red and purple, suburban and rural congressional district every single time I've run," she likes to say. "I have won every race, every place, every time all the way down to fourth grade, where my slogan that I have since abandoned was, 'All the way with Amy K.'"

It was a play on Lyndon Johnson's 1964 slogan: "All the way with LBJ."



Elizabeth Warren speaks to New Hampshire voters at Sweet Maple Cafe in Conway on Monday. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)



**“Electability” as a buzzword has become quite blasé in the aftermath of Iowa.** I interviewed more than a dozen voters at both the Klobuchar and Warren rallies. The most striking takeaway from these conversations was that several women across the ideological spectrum complained without prompting – and without me using it – about the pervasiveness of the term in the Democratic debate.

“I know that she’s polling in third, fourth or fifth in New Hampshire. I certainly hope she sticks with it,” said Warren supporter Kelly Scanlon, 44 of Dover, who works for a nonprofit organization that assists the developmentally disabled. **“The rhetoric revolving around picking a candidate who can beat Trump feels like coded language to me that means it needs to be a white male.** Because they don’t want Hillary 2.0. That rhetoric has hurt [Warren] a little bit. At one point in time, she was considered the front-runner. That’s when the talking heads started discussing ‘concerns’ about her ‘electability.’ That’s a word that comes up, obviously, a lot.”

**Warren supporter Terie Norelli, the former Democratic speaker of**

**the New Hampshire House, also complained about this.** “When I went out on the campaign trail, I kept hearing from people who would say, ‘Oh, I’m so nervous. I don’t want Donald Trump to win,’” she recalled. “They’d say the only the thing I care about is beating Donald Trump. And I was like: We don’t have a crystal ball. But we have something really important, and that’s a first-in-the-nation primary vote. So I decided that I would focus on who was going to be the best president. ... And then I realized: She can also win.”

**Sheila Kelly, 56, a fundraiser for a nonprofit organization who lives in Exeter, is torn among Klobuchar, Buttigieg and possibly entrepreneur Andrew Yang.** Outside Klobuchar’s town hall, she said she’s searched around online to research who might be strongest against Trump. **She volunteered that she really dislikes when the term “electability” gets thrown around by pundits. “I don’t like where that leads,” she said.**

Kelly believes a candidate who excites people – who makes them want to “get off the couch” – is essential to victory, and she said a simplistic focus on electability puts a premium on “milquetoast” when that’s not what historically wins. “For whatever reason, Biden’s just not exciting to me,” she explained. “Also, to be honest, I think Warren is in the rearview mirror.” But, she added, her daughter is planning to drive home on Tuesday afternoon from Brown University in Rhode Island, where she’s a student, so that she can vote – probably for Warren.



Joe Biden holds a rally on Sunday night in Hampton, N.H. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post)

## **THE BIDEN COLLAPSE CONTINUES:**

-- **“Biden’s advisers were bracing for another dismal result, with some inside his campaign saying he could finish as low as fifth, and with some early warning signs that his national polling lead — one that he pointed to just two days earlier as validation — has collapsed,”** [Matt Viser and Sean Sullivan report](#). “Much as he tried to hurry past his low finish in Iowa, Biden on Monday sought to push beyond New Hampshire even before the vote. His campaign announced that its co-chairman, Rep. Cedric L. Richmond (D-La.), will host a ‘launch party’ in South Carolina on Tuesday night at around the same time polls will be closing in New Hampshire. Biden is planning to travel to South Carolina, where he has been leading in polls ahead of the Feb. 29 vote, before heading to Nevada, which holds its caucuses

Feb. 22.”

-- **“There are two Joe Bidens. The wrong one is running for president,”** [Karen Tumulty](#) observes in a smart column: “Biden sounds like a man whose time has passed. Many in the modest-sized crowds that he draws are dismayed. After he spoke on the same stage as the other Democratic candidates at a state Democratic Party dinner on Saturday night, one undecided voter told me: ‘Joe needs to retire.’ This has become a common refrain, even among people who admire and respect Biden. But then there is the Biden you see mostly on the rope line.

**“As soon as the sound on his mic is turned off, he dives toward the area where those who remain behind are standing to shake his hand or take a selfie. At those moments, Biden is transformed.** He lingers with anyone who wants to tell him a story, even as maintenance workers start dismantling his stage and folding up chairs. People light up in his presence. Perhaps because of the personal suffering he has endured, Biden seems to have a kind of radar that draws him to people who are starving for solace and reassurance, and they to him.

**“On the stump, he is at his most compelling when he stops talking about himself and starts telling the stories of the people he has met.** Some of them have crossed Biden’s path here in New Hampshire: the security guard mourning the death of her father and fearful of the test that grief is putting on her 30 years of sobriety; the man who confided he has just lost his job and is afraid to tell his family; the woman who fled the man who beat her and ended up living on the street; the line of people standing in 22-degree temperatures at



a downtown food bank, some of them children wearing no gloves. This is the better Biden, embracing personal vulnerability over electoral invincibility. He is perhaps the most authentic tribune of empathy in public life today — and the starkest contrast imaginable from the man who sits in the Oval Office.”

**-- On the trail with Biden, this question arises: What happens when the “electability candidate” starts to lose? [Ben Terris reports](#):** “There’s a surreal feeling surrounding the Biden campaign’s efforts in New Hampshire. ... Maybe this is a strategic move by a candidate whose best play, for now, is to manage expectations. But how exactly are his people on the ground supposed to feel about that? Does anyone know what place they should be fighting for? ... ‘I’d be happy in the top three,’ said Heather Ledoux, a registered nurse who turned her house in Litchfield into a canvassing staging area. ‘Top four counts as a win,’ said Bob Mulholland, a member of the Democratic National Committee and a Biden supporter. ‘I’m not going to prognosticate,’ former secretary of state John F. Kerry said when asked what would count as a success. ‘You’ll know it, we’ll all know it, we’ll feel it.’ ...

**“When a campaign appears to be on a downward spiral, it becomes easy to see signs of doom.** ... There was Biden’s anemic cheering section at the McIntyre-Shaheen 100 Club Dinner — a raucous fundraiser held in a Manchester hockey arena — that appeared smaller even than the group that came out to support nominal presidential candidate Deval Patrick. There’s the ways in which Biden has begun acting like an underdog, attacking his opponents as too inexperienced ... or too extreme ... **Even his**

**supporters have begun talking about him like a long shot.** ‘No one ever expected Donald Trump to be elected president, either,’ said Barry Nestor, standing outside the Rex Theatre in Manchester, wearing socks on his hands to keep warm before seeing Biden speak.”

-- **“Biden is the most electable candidate, just not right here or right now,”** [columnist Alexandra Petri writes in a satire.](#)



Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) speaks during a town hall at Pierce University on Monday in Rindge, N.H. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

### **MORE ON-THE-GROUND REPORTING:**

-- **The first votes in the New Hampshire primary were cast just after midnight.** Mike Bloomberg took home an unexpected bipartisan win in Dixville Notch (with three write-in votes). Klobuchar was the popular choice in Hart's Location (where she got six votes) and

Millsfield (where she got two) – the other New Hampshire locations that cast their ballots in the wee hours. [From WMUR](#): "Bloomberg got three write-in votes, one of which was a write-in vote in the Republican primary. It's a rarity in Dixville Notch for write-in votes. [Buttigieg and Sanders] each got one vote. The local tradition in Dixville Notch was put into jeopardy this year when it was learned that not enough people in the community were registered to vote. In order for the midnight vote to take place, Dixville Notch needed a minimum of five registered voters. In January, Dixville Notch got enough residents after the man behind the redevelopment project of the Balsams Resort officially moved to town and registered to vote." The only candidate to visit Dixville Notch prior to the vote was Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), who failed to convince any of the five residents to support him.

**-- Sanders, looking for a more emphatic victory than his near-tie in the Iowa caucuses, wrapped up his New Hampshire effort last night with a rally that his campaign said drew more than 7,500 people in Durham.** A rock band called the Strokes performed, and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) warmed up the crowd at an arena on the University of New Hampshire's campus. Buttigieg's final rally was in Exeter, and actor Kevin Costner introduced him.

**-- Jill Biden helped push a heckler away from her husband during a New Hampshire event.** A man, shouting as he recorded the moment on his phone, moved toward the candidate's lectern as the former vice president spoke. Jill Biden, who was seated close by, hopped up from her chair and stopped the protester before he got too close. When asked about the incident later, she laughed and said: "I'm

a good Philly girl.” ([CNN](#))

**-- Trump, who held a campaign rally in Manchester last night, has inserted himself into the Democrats' nominating contest with a fervor that exceeds his predecessors — many of whom were reluctant to directly involve themselves in another party's political selection process.** [Robert Costa, Toluse Olorunnipa and Josh Dawsey report](#): “The Trump campaign’s effort to counter the Democratic race extended to a ‘Cops for Trump’ gathering on Monday afternoon in Portsmouth ... Pence and White House senior adviser Ivanka Trump both spoke at the event, which was attended by about 200 police officers ... The Trump campaign has been active in New Hampshire for weeks, sending legions of surrogates to the state and booking them on state-based talk radio programs and at local Republican events. For Trump and his loyalists, New Hampshire holds a particularly special place in their collective political memory: It was his first primary victory and a significant boost that pushed him toward the 2016 Republican nomination.”

**-- Health care is the top concern for the New Hampshire electorate, and it comes up more than any other issue during town halls and on rope lines.** [Amy Goldstein reports](#): “The system’s flaws come up nonstop: the expense of prescription drugs, a scarcity of mental health services, coverage gaps, and care that’s difficult to afford even for people who have private insurance. ... With one of the nation’s highest median ages and a fast-growing older population, ... people see close-up the limits of Medicare.”

**-- Nine places to watch as returns come in tonight, [per Politico](#):**

- **The bigger cities:** Manchester, “The state’s largest city is arguably also the most important — a blowout here is a solid indication of who will win”; Concord, “It’s a good spot to see where pro-establishment, middle-of-the-road voters are breaking”; Nashua, “The most diverse city in the state, only about 82% white as compared to the state’s 94% white.”
- **The Trump-Obama cities:** Claremont, “Perhaps a quintessential Obama-Trump town”; and Laconia, “The city’s brand new Democratic mayor was a heavily sought after endorsement before he finally supported [Klobuchar].”
- **The college towns:** Keene, Plymouth, Durham and Hanover. “In 2016, they represented less than seven percent of the overall vote, but Sanders won them with astonishing numbers.”

-- **Several campaigns, wary of working with the Democratic National Committee, have set up a shadow voter protection program in New Hampshire for today.** They will use a neutral boiler room helmed by former Obama adviser Quentin Palfrey to share reports of voter rights infringements from legal observers across the state. ([Politico](#))

-- **Audio from a 2015 Aspen Institute appearance purportedly features Bloomberg defending his stop-and-frisk policy.** [From Mediaite](#): Bloomberg appears to tell the audience “that cops targeted minority neighborhoods ‘because that’s where all the crime is.’ ... In the roughly minute-long excerpt, Bloomberg begins his argument

defending stop-and-frisk by saying: ‘95% of your murders — murderers and murder victims — fit one M.O. You can just take the description, Xerox it and pass it out to all the cops.’”

**-- Bloomberg doesn't want Silicon Valley's money, but he did call up hundreds of tech leaders and asked them to refer their most talented employees. [From Vox](#):** “The request made plain

Bloomberg's comfort with — and, in some ways, dependence on — the Silicon Valley companies that have been persistently criticized during the 2020 Democratic primary. ... On the Monday call, [former Foursquare CEO Jeff] Glueck said he needed the tech leaders to pitch jobs on the Bloomberg campaign to ‘your most talented friends’ and ‘send them our way,’ especially those with expertise in data science, internet marketing, advertising buying and analytics.”

**-- With five days until early voting begins in Nevada, the campaigns are still in the dark about the state's new caucus process. [From the Nevada Independent](#):** Campaigns “have been told that the Nevada State Democratic Party won't be using the same app and vendor that were in part responsible for bungling the results of Iowa's caucus last week, that the party won't be using any app at all, and that what the party does plan to use is best described as a ‘tool’ or ‘calculator.’ Beyond that, aides aren't really sure what's in store for the state's Feb. 22 Democratic caucus. They don't know how early voting, which was originally supposed to take place on an app on an iPad, is set to work. They don't know how those votes are going to flow back to early voters' home precincts to be counted alongside their neighbors preferences just as if they were there on Caucus Day. (A second app was supposed to accomplish that function.) They also

don't know how the Caucus Day results will be transmitted to the party."



#### QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"They're all going after each other. You got them all over the place. They don't know what the hell they're doing. ... They can't even count their votes," Trump said of the Democratic candidates during his rally in Manchester. (Robert Costa, Toluse Olorunnipa and Josh Dawsey)

An advertisement for a podcast. The background is blue with a subtle pattern of concentric circles. At the top, it says "The Daily 202's" in a smaller font, followed by "BIG IDEA" in a very large, white, serif font. Below this, on the left, is a white play button icon inside a circle. To the right of the icon, the text reads "Get James's insight into Washington every weekday on your smart speaker or favorite podcast player." in a white, sans-serif font.

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Barr says Justice Department will vet Giuliani evidence

## THE JUSTICE SYSTEM:

-- **Federal prosecutors said that Trump confidant Roger Stone deserves seven to nine years in prison for lying to Congress in the Russia probe.** [Spencer Hsu, Ann Marimow and Devlin Barrett report:](#) **“The sentencing filing came after days of tense debate within the U.S. attorney’s office in Washington** about the proper prison term for the sixth Trump associate convicted and last person indicted in former special counsel Robert S. Mueller III’s investigation. Front-line prosecutors, some previously with Mueller’s team, argued for a sentence on the higher end for Stone than some of their supervisors were comfortable with, according to two people familiar with the discussions. A recommendation on the higher end prevailed, with prosecutors’ filings citing federal sentencing guidelines that



ratchet up in cases involving obstruction that impedes the administration of justice. ...

**“Stone’s defense on Monday asked for a sentence of probation,** citing his age, 67, and lack of criminal history. They also noted that of seven Mueller defendants who have been sentenced, only one faces more than a six-month term: former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, who is serving 7½ years. ... Hours before the filing was due Monday, the new head of the D.C. office, interim U.S. attorney Timothy Shea — a former close adviser to Attorney General William P. Barr — had not made a final decision on Stone’s sentencing recommendation ... Disagreements among prosecutors about sentencing recommendations are not uncommon, especially when it comes to politically sensitive high-profile cases. It would have been unusual, however, for the U.S. attorney’s office to endorse a sentence below the guideline range after winning conviction at trial...”

**-- Barr acknowledged that the DOJ has created an “intake process” to vet dirt provided by Rudy Giuliani on Joe and Hunter Biden. [Matt Zaptosky and Barrett report](#):** “Barr confirmed an assertion made Sunday by Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) that the Justice Department had ‘created a process that Rudy could give information and they would see if it’s verified.’ ... ‘That is true for all information that comes to the department relating to the Ukraine, including anything Mr. Giuliani might provide,’ Barr said. He did not provide any other specifics. A Justice Department official said Giuliani had ‘recently’ shared information with federal law enforcement officials through the process described by Barr. Two people familiar with the matter said the information is being routed to the U.S. attorney’s office

in Pittsburgh. ...

**“That Giuliani would have a direct pipeline to the Justice Department for providing information on a political rival of Trump raised fears among some legal analysts that federal law enforcement was being conscripted into doing campaign work for the president. The matter is complicated, too, because Giuliani is under investigation by the Justice Department.** That case already has [produced campaign finance charges against two of his associates](#), Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, who helped in Giuliani’s Ukraine-related pursuits ... Barr said the intake process was established ‘so that any information coming in about Ukraine could be carefully scrutinized by the department and its intelligence community partners so that we could assess its provenance and its credibility.’ FBI Deputy Director David Bowdich said: ‘We’re taking information as we would in any case. We will evaluate it appropriately.’ ... Barr’s announcement angered Democrats, who questioned whether Giuliani was getting special treatment from Trump’s Justice Department. ... Giuliani has long vexed Barr and the Justice Department. ... But Giuliani has maintained access to the department and to Barr.”

**-- A federal judge last night canceled the sentencing hearing for former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn that was set for Feb. 27.** Judge Emmet Sullivan issued an order putting off the hearing indefinitely, pending a new order from him. [Martin Weil reports](#): “The move represents the latest turn in the case against Flynn, who pleaded guilty in December 2017 to lying to the FBI about his contacts with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. Federal prosecutors once suggested probation for Flynn, then shifted to

include prison time, and then said in a late January court filing that probation remained a 'reasonable sentence.' The prosecutors' Jan. 29 filing was submitted as Flynn continued his effort to withdraw his guilty plea."

**-- Barr also announced the DOJ will sue so-called "sanctuary" jurisdictions over policies he considers overly friendly to undocumented migrants.** [Zapotosky and Barrett report](#): "Barr announced the lawsuits in a speech to the National Sheriffs' Association, saying they were part of 'a significant escalation in the federal government's efforts to confront the resistance of 'sanctuary cities.'" He said he also was reviewing the practice of some state and local prosecutors who charge criminals with lesser offenses to avoid deportation, and giving non-sanctuary jurisdictions priority when it comes to awarding certain grant money." In separate federal filings, the Justice Department sought to block a New Jersey policy that limits how state and local authorities share information with federal immigration officials and to stop a county in Washington state from preventing immigration authorities from using an international airport there for deportations.

**-- Possibly suspicious grant-making decisions at the DOJ prompted a whistleblower complaint.** [From Reuters](#): The internal complaints happened "after two nonprofits were denied funding in favor of two less established groups whose applications were not recommended by career DOJ officials. The awarding of more than \$1 million total to the two groups, Hookers for Jesus in Nevada and the Lincoln Tubman Foundation in South Carolina, has triggered a whistleblower complaint filed by the Justice Department's employee

union to the department's Inspector General. An internal department memo seen by Reuters shows that as of September 12, two long-established nonprofits – the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach and Chicanos Por La Causa of Phoenix – were originally on the list of recommended grant winners after receiving high marks from outside contractors hired to review applications. The annual grants help nonprofits and local governments aid human trafficking victims.”

**-- The DOJ also charged four members of the Chinese military in connection with the hack of the credit reporting agency**

**Equifax. Barrett and Zapotosky report:** “In a [nine-count indictment](#) filed in federal court in Atlanta, federal prosecutors alleged that four members of the People's Liberation Army hacked into Equifax's systems, stealing the personal data as well as company trade secrets. [Barr] called their efforts ‘a deliberate and sweeping intrusion into the private information of the American people.’ ... **The 2017 breach gave hackers access to the personal information, including Social Security numbers and birth dates, of about 145 million people.** ... Barr said China has a ‘voracious appetite’ for Americans’ personal information, and he pointed to other intrusions that he alleged have been carried out by Beijing's actors in recent years, including hacks disclosed in 2015 of the health insurer Anthem and the federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM), as well as a 2018 hack of the hotel chain Marriott. ‘This data has economic value, and these thefts can feed China's development of artificial intelligence tools,’ Barr said.”

**-- A former Indian Health Service pediatrician was sentenced to five lifetime prison terms for sexually abusing boys. [From the](#)**

[WSJ](#): “Stanley Patrick Weber, 71, groomed and abused Native American boys as young as about 9 years old on reservations in Montana and South Dakota [between 1995 and 2011](#), according to court documents. His supervisors in the federal government buried their own suspicions about his conduct, tried to silence others who raised concerns, and transferred the doctor from one reservation to another after managers concluded he might have molested his patients ...Weber was convicted in South Dakota in September of abusing four of his patients at the IHS’s Pine Ridge hospital and his government housing unit there.”

**-- Defense witnesses at Harvey Weinstein’s trial disputed his accusers’ accounts.** [Shayna Jacobs reports](#): “One of those witness was Talita Maia, 35, who was at one point a close friend and roommate of Weinstein rape accuser Jessica Mann. Last week, Mann gave dramatic testimony in which she said the powerful movie producer forced her into intercourse on two occasions — once in New York, the incident at issue in the trial. In New York Supreme Court in Manhattan on Monday, Maia was asked to recall the first time she and Mann, 34, met Weinstein ... ‘She put her arm around him and pinched his cheek,’ Maia testified, adding that Mann said he was ‘so cute.’ ... Prosecutors say Weinstein forced sex on Mann at a DoubleTree Hotel in Manhattan on March 18, 2013. ‘Did [Weinstein] ever force her to do anything against her will?’ defense lawyer Donna Rotunno asked Maia, a Brazilian-born actress, on direct examination. ‘No,’ Maia testified. ‘She spoke very highly of him.’ ... Weinstein’s legal team also called Mexican actress and fashion influencer Claudia Salinas. Earlier in the trial, another accuser, Lauren Young, blamed Salinas for setting her up to be ‘trapped’ in a hotel suite bathroom with Weinstein.

... On Monday, Salinas denied ever walking into a hotel room with Young and Weinstein. ... Justice James Burke told jurors that summations are likely to be Thursday and that they would begin deliberating after Presidents' Day. The defense is expected to call several additional witnesses."

**-- Shattering glass: For the first time, the flagship law journals at the top 16 law schools in the country are all led by women.** [Ann Marimow reports](#): "Only one woman worked on the staff of the Harvard Law Review when Ruth Bader Ginsburg arrived on campus in 1956. It would be another two decades before a woman was elected to lead the school's prestigious legal journal. The Supreme Court justice recently addressed the current slate of editors in chief from the top 16 law schools in the country. For the first time ever, all are women. ... The event in part celebrated the statistical improbability of an all-female sweep of elections at the leading publications of legal scholarship at schools including Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Georgetown, Columbia and Duke universities. The editors in chief collaborated for the first time to publish a Women & Law journal with a series of essays from prominent female lawyers. But there was also recognition, as the women came together dressed in dark power suits, of the reality that men still dominate the ranks of law firms, the federal judiciary and academia. ...

**"In recent years, the number of women enrolling in accredited law schools has exceeded the number of men ... But women make up less than a quarter of law firm equity partners, a quarter of tenured and tenure-track law professors, and about a third of all active federal district and appeals court judges. ... Women are**

also underrepresented at oral argument at the high court. In the past five terms, 17 percent of the advocates were women ... 'There is certainly more glass yet to be shattered,' Duke Law professor Marin Levy told the crowd after ticking off the statistics. 'But I see a whole lot of hammers out there.'"



The coronavirus and other outbreaks are hard to contain. Here's why.

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- As deaths from the coronavirus topped 1,000, with more than 100 in a single day, China urged countries that have enacted travel restrictions aimed at curbing the outbreak to restore normal ties for the sake of the global economy. [Simon Denyer and Rick Noack report](#): "The comments from China's Foreign Ministry underscored the economic dangers posed by the unprecedented shutdown of much of the world's second-largest economy, as well as the Communist Party's concerns about the outbreak's capacity to fuel domestic instability. Authorities in the virus-hit city of Wuhan have

announced fresh restrictions on residents, making millions of people virtual prisoners in their own homes. Two provincial health bosses have been fired as the Communist Party struggles to contain widespread anger over the spread of the virus. ...

**“The number of confirmed infections continues to rise but the rate of growth is slowing.** ... More than a dozen ambulances are lined up alongside the Diamond Princess in Yokohama as medical staff evacuate passengers and crew confirmed as carrying the virus, after 65 more people on board the cruise ship tested positive. China is bracing for the return of some 160 million migrant workers to their cities of employment as the country’s economy sputters back to life after an extended holiday vacation following the outbreak.”

**-- A British “superspreader” may have unwittingly infected at least 11 people with the coronavirus in the course of his travels from Singapore to France to Switzerland and then to England.** Infected Britons in England, France and Spain probably caught the virus from him, health authorities and British media claim. ([Karla Adam](#))

**-- The CDC confirmed the 13th coronavirus infection in the United States.** The patient was among several hundred Americans who were evacuated last week from Wuhan and is currently being treated at the University of California San Diego Medical Center. ([Hawkins](#))

**-- Trump keeps saying that the coronavirus could “miraculously” go away this spring. Experts say that's not how diseases work.** [Hawkins reports for our live blog:](#) “Trump first raised the idea in



a [tweet](#) last week, saying the Chinese government's efforts to control the virus would succeed 'as the weather starts to warm and the virus hopefully becomes weaker, and then gone.' He made a similar prediction in a rally Monday, suggesting that the outbreak could subside 'by April.' 'You know, in theory when it gets a little warmer, it miraculously goes away, that's true,' he told an audience in New Hampshire. Experts said that's wishful thinking at best: While it's true that respiratory viruses tend to follow seasonal patterns, there's no telling what course the novel coronavirus will take. 'This virus can do anything it wants,' Allison McGeer, an infectious-disease epidemiologist at the University of Toronto, [told The Washington Post](#) last week."

**-- The virus is spreading rapidly. So is misinformation about it.** [Kim Bellware reports](#): "Since the first cases of a then-unidentified pneumonia were reported in late December, hoaxes, half-truths and flat-out lies have proliferated, mostly through social media. [BuzzFeed News for several days kept a running list](#) of misinformation, including wildly inaccurate reports that the death toll in China was 112,000 as of late January ([reality: around 80 at the time](#)); claims that Chinese people eating bats were the source of the outbreak (a viral photo of a woman biting a bat was not taken in China); and [false suggestions](#) that the virus was lab-engineered as a kind of bioweapon."

**-- A bag of tiny dead birds from China was confiscated from a passenger at Dulles Airport.** Agricultural specialists found a package with pictures of pets printed on it – similar to packages of pet treats – that had several tiny, dried birds inside. The passenger said

they were cat food but the birds were quickly confiscated because of the potential threat of avian influenza. ([Lori Aratani](#))

**-- Pangolins – the world’s most trafficked mammal – are suspected as a potential coronavirus host.** [From the NYT](#): “It is far from clear whether being identified as a viral host would be good or bad for pangolins. It could decrease the trade in the animals, or cause a backlash. It is also far from clear whether the pangolin is the animal that passed the new virus to humans. Bats are still thought to be the original host of the virus. If pangolins are involved in disease transmission, they would act as an intermediate host. The science so far is suggestive rather than conclusive, and because of the intense interest in the virus, some claims have been made public before the traditional scientific review process.”

**-- A mask-clad Xi Jinping emerged from a conspicuous absence to visit the coronavirus “front line” at a facility in Beijing.** [Rick Noack reports](#): “Photos and videos of the visit — carried by state-run news agencies and television stations — did not deviate from the usual pattern of publicity appearances by Xi and other Chinese Communist Party officials. But Xi’s appearance Monday capped a remarkably unengaged period for the Chinese leader at a critical time, during which he conspicuously avoided public attention. ... Xi left it to other Communist Party officials to calm concerns over the novel coronavirus or to celebrate tireless medical workers.... Keeping a low profile may no longer be a viable option for Xi, as **his absence has fueled speculation and as public scrutiny has increasingly turned away from local cadres’ failings and toward more systemic complaints over the ruling Communist Party in Beijing.**”

**-- The Philippines will end its military cooperation deal with the U.S.** [From the NYT](#): “The notice to terminate the pact, the Visiting Forces Agreement, comes as President Rodrigo Duterte has warmed up to China while distancing himself from the United States, the Philippines’ former colonial ruler. The move also comes as the Philippines has shown increasing reluctance to stand up to China over its territorial claims in the South China Sea. ... The agreement still remains in force, but the notice to terminate it, delivered to the American Embassy in Manila, starts a clock under which it will remain in effect for 180 days before lapsing.”

**-- The CIA, in partnership with West German intelligence, secretly owned a Swiss company that sold rigged encryption devices to more than 120 countries, which allowed it to read the coded messages of allies and adversaries for decades.** [Greg Miller reports](#): “The Swiss firm made millions of dollars selling equipment to more than 120 countries well into the 21st century. Its clients included Iran, military juntas in Latin America, nuclear rivals India and Pakistan, and even the Vatican. But what none of its customers ever knew was that Crypto AG was secretly owned by the CIA in a highly classified partnership with West German intelligence. ... The decades-long arrangement, among the most closely guarded secrets of the Cold War, is laid bare in a classified, comprehensive CIA history of the operation obtained by The Washington Post and ZDF, a German public broadcaster, in a joint reporting project.”

**-- Syria and Turkey are inching closer to war after their troops exchanged deadly fire for the second time in days.** [Kareem Fahim and Sarah Dadouch report](#): “The latest hostilities started after shelling

by Syrian forces killed five Turkish soldiers and injured five others, according to Turkey's Defense Ministry. The deaths came a week after a previous round of Syrian shelling in Idlib killed eight Turkish military personnel. Turkey's response Monday included attacks on what it said were '115 regime targets,' including mortar positions, tanks and a helicopter. One hundred and one troops loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad were killed, the Turkish Defense Ministry said."

**-- Israeli opposition leader Benny Gantz had two shots to oust Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He's now counting on the third time being the charm. [Ruth Eglash and Steve Hendrix report](#):**

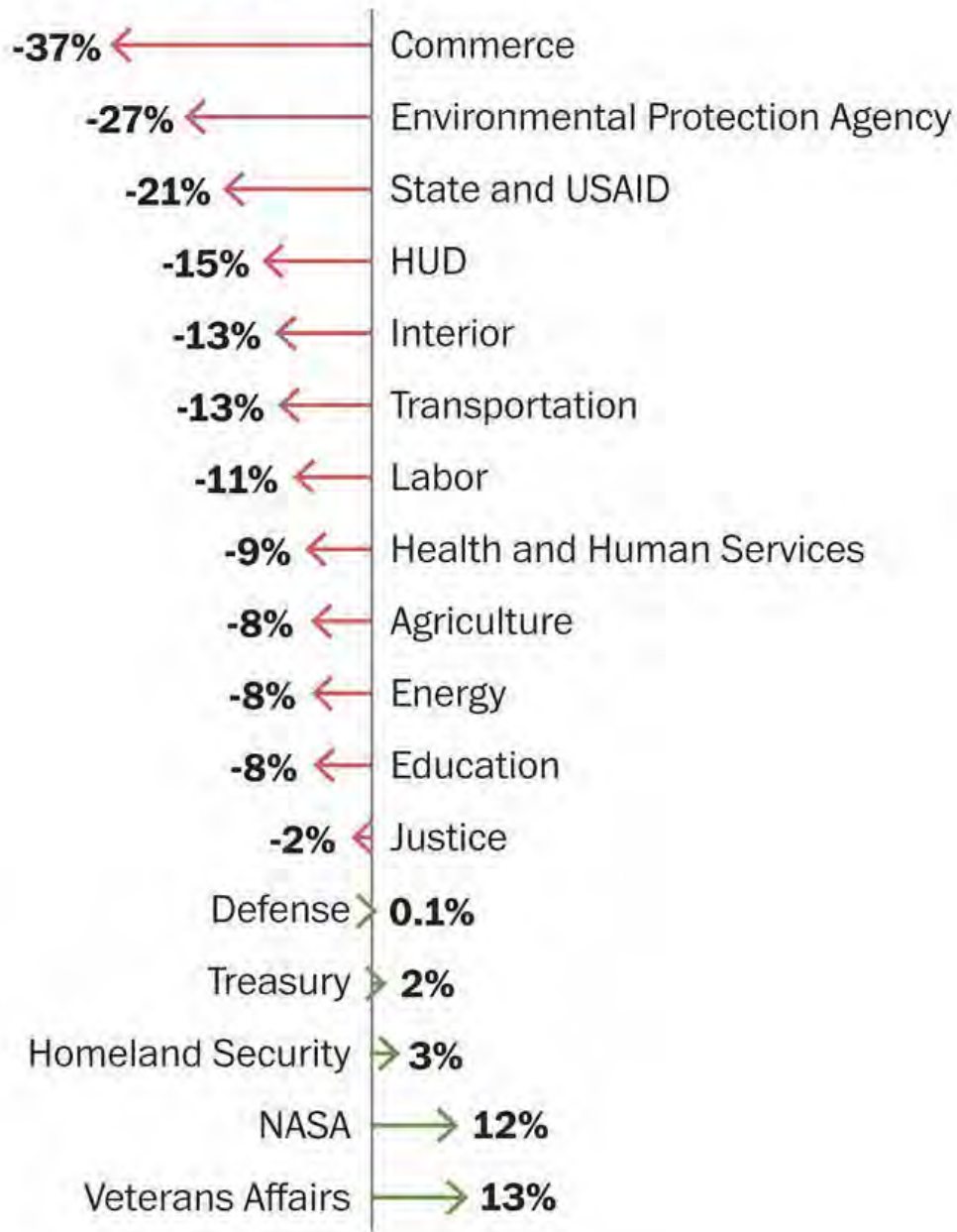
"As the sides slug their way to a third election in less than a year on March 2, political observers say the nonstop campaign has made the former army general an even more formidable opponent. ... Even after two general elections failed to produce a clear winner and the Israeli public grew increasingly apathetic, those working for Gantz's Blue and White party appear energized. That could reflect the fact that the party has an edge in the polls, which put Blue and White ahead of Netanyahu's ruling Likud party in the final weeks. That appears to continue an upward trend since the first election last April, when, as a newly formed party, Blue and White came in a close second behind Likud. ... Although he was [unable to unseat Netanyahu](#) in the previous elections — in part because of Israel's coalition-based parliamentary system — Gantz is now widely viewed as a viable successor to the longtime prime minister."

**-- More than 100 U.S. troops have now been diagnosed with brain injuries stemming from Iran's missile attack on an Iraqi base last**

month. (Reuters)

-- **A strange Russian spacecraft is shadowing a U.S. spy satellite, a U.S. military commander told Time.** This underscores “a growing threat to America’s dominance in space-based espionage and a potentially costly new chapter in Washington’s decades-long competition with Moscow. Gen. John ‘Jay’ Raymond, commander of the **newly minted U.S. Space Force**, says the Russian spacecraft began maneuvering toward the American satellite shortly after being launched into orbit in November, at times creeping within 100 miles of it. ‘We view this behavior as unusual and disturbing,’ Raymond says. ‘It has the potential to create a dangerous situation in space.’ Raymond says the U.S. government has expressed concern to Moscow through diplomatic channels.”

## Proposed changes to funding in Trump's budget



### THE PRESIDENT'S PRIORITIES:

-- Trump's \$4.8 trillion budget plan was met with disdain from Democrats, who said it would cripple low-income families. [Jeff Stein and Erica Werner report](#): "The budget plan sets up the Trump administration's policy priorities heading into the November election

and is likely to draw scrutiny in Washington and on the campaign trail. Trump has in the past not shown much interest in pursuing the budget cuts his aides have offered, and he didn't make any public comments about the plan Monday. ... [Instead], Russell Vought, acting White House budget director, touted the proposed spending increases in the budget for NASA, immigration, opioid mitigation and veterans, while saying they would not lead to benefit reductions for Medicare and Medicaid, as Democrats charged ...

**“Trump has sought spending cuts in the past, only to back down immediately during negotiations with Democrats. ...** Proposing the cuts again, on the eve of the New Hampshire Democratic primary, gave Democrats a fresh target to attack. ‘The old cliché is that a budget is a moral document,’ [Sanders] said in a statement. ‘What kind of unbelievable moral framework allowed this White House to propose \$182 billion in cuts to nutrition assistance from needy families, when nearly one in seven households with children are food insecure?’ ... Even some of Trump’s staunchest allies criticized his sharp cuts for domestic agencies, such as the Agriculture Department, which he is targeting for an 8 percent overall reduction. That was an indication that the budget will get a cold shoulder on Capitol Hill from lawmakers of both parties.”

**-- The budget would slash student loan programs and offer tax breaks for private school tuition, offering sharp contrasts to the education proposals pushed by Democratic presidential candidates.** Overall, the administration wants to cut the Education Department’s discretionary spending by 7.8 percent, replacing funding for 29 education programs – including more than \$24 billion in

spending – with a single block-grant program totaling just over \$19 billion. ([Laura Meckler and Danielle Douglas-Gabriel](#))

**-- The Trump budget would decimate the budget for foreign aid and diplomacy, a move that lawmakers predicted would be swiftly rejected by Congress.** The budget would allot \$40 billion to the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, representing a cut of about 22 percent. ([Carol Morello](#))

**-- The Department of Transportation's discretionary spending would also be cut by 13 percent, including deep reductions in spending on Amtrak and airport grants, as well as cuts of more than \$2 billion in highway infrastructure funds.** At the same time, the administration introduced what it called a “historic, 10-year, \$810 billion reauthorization of surface transportation programs,” which would cover highways, transit rail and other programs and would replace a five-year transportation bill, known as the FAST Act, which will expire later this year. ([Michael Laris](#))

**-- Trump once again called for the elimination of federal arts agencies.** Previous proposals by the president along these lines have been soundly rejected by Congress, which has instead increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. ([Peggy McGlone](#))

**-- Federal employees' retirement benefits would also be cut.** In some cases, the benefits would be reduced only for future retirees, but in other cases, those already retired would face cuts as well. The budget also proposes a 1 percent pay increase for federal employees while recommending a 3 percent raise for military personnel. ([Eric Yoder](#))



**-- And while Trump wants to grant NASA a multibillion-dollar boost to put astronauts back on the moon, his budget would cut funding for other science and health agencies.** The Health and Human Services agency would suffer a nearly 10 percent cut, while the Environmental Protection Agency would lose 26 percent of its funding – the administration is hoping to eliminate nearly 50 EPA programs. The Energy Department would get a boost in funding for safeguarding the nuclear weapons stockpile, but outside of that program it would see a 28.7 percent cut.

**The budget would cut spending at HHS by 9 percent.** Medicaid would receive nearly \$920 billion less than otherwise anticipated by 2030. Meanwhile, a “health reform vision allowance” would lower spending on Obamacare by \$844 billion over the decade. The budget request would also trim funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by 16 percent. The president’s health priorities – wiping out HIV transmission in the U.S. and battling the opioid crisis – would receive \$716 million and \$5 billion respectively. ([Joel Achenbach](#), [Laurie McGinley](#), [Amy Goldstein](#) and [Ben Guarino](#))

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

A group of Biden supporters remixed a popular '90s song to make it about him:



**Kate Hyde**  
@KateHydeNY



Watch as a chorus of Gen Zs presents a political rendition of Backstreet Boys to a Boomer.



♡ 1,706 4:05 PM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 876 people are talking about this



Warren took a walk around a snowy New Hampshire town:



**Tara Prindiville** ✓  
@taraprindiville



Before departing on our press bus this morning, we caught @ewarren on her way back from a 2.2 mile walk. It's hard to see, but she's wearing a hat that says "Make Earth Cool Again". She says her walk through a nearby neighborhood in the snow is a "good way to start the day."



♥ 1,759 3:39 PM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 461 people are talking about this



The Iowa Democratic Party's chairman was talking about the disastrous caucuses when his lectern's sign fell, prompting chatter that this was perhaps a metaphor:



**Shane Goldmacher** ✓  
@ShaneGoldmacher



This happened



♥ 5,868 9:52 PM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 1,322 people are talking about this



Turns out some people can win in Iowa:



**David Freedlander** ✓  
@freedlander



Looks like there was a big winner in Iowa last week after all [kcci.com/article/former...](https://www.kcci.com/article/former...)



**Former Gov. Vilsack claims \$150,000 Powerball prize**  
He never thought he would win, but it didn't stop him from playing.  
[kcci.com](https://www.kcci.com)

♥ 11 6:11 PM - Feb 10, 2020



[See David Freedlander's other Tweets](#)



Trump's defense budget proposed gutting the budget of Stars and Stripes, its independent newspaper. A Post reporter who used to work there questioned what it says about the Pentagon's priorities:



**Alex Horton** ✓  
@AlexHortonTX



The agency that can't pass an audit and brought you the F-35, billions in uniform waste, Fat Leonard, pallets of cash for Afghan warlords and millions paid to the NFL with no clear return want you to know it's tightening its belt for a newspaper representing a rounding error  
[twitter.com/reporterjoe/st...](https://twitter.com/reporterjoe/st...)

**Joe Gould** ✓ @reporterjoe

Acting DoD Comptroller Elaine McCusker confirms @starsandstripes' budget faces significant cuts, per DoD-wide review. "We essentially decided, coming into the modern age, that newspapers is not the way we communicate any longer."



790 8:36 PM - Feb 10, 2020



406 people are talking about this



Many former DOJ officials criticized Barr's "intake process" to assess Giuliani's information about the Bidens:



**David Laufman**  
@DavidLaufmanLaw



There is nothing normal about the Attorney General creating a special “intake process in the field” for info relating to claims advancing a White House political narrative — particularly for someone reportedly under criminal investigation [washingtonpost.com/national-secur...](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/)



**Barr acknowledges Justice Dept. has created ‘intak...**

The attorney general said officials must be cautious with information emanating from Ukraine.

[washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com)

♡ 8,604 10:46 PM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 4,173 people are talking about this



This is what the new Air Force One will look like:



**Marcus Weisgerber** ✓  
@MarcusReports



JUST IN: It's official ... This is paint job for Trump's new Air Force One, as depicted in new Pentagon budget documents



♥ 882 8:09 PM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 866 people are talking about this



And the D.C. Council tried to subtweet New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez after she said she couldn't find a good bacon, egg and cheese sandwich in the capital, but the sandwich they ended up eating looked nothing like the classic New York City rolls:





**Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** ✓  
@AOC



At this rate y'all are going to make me start a version of The Pengest Munch for breakfast sandwiches 🤑 😂  
[twitter.com/councilofdc/st...](https://twitter.com/councilofdc/st...)

**Council of DC** ✓ @councilofdc

Glad I found this tasty \$3.59 bacon, egg, and cheese close to home when I did, or else the Acela fare up to NYC would have really eaten into my planned breakfast budget



♥ 9,709 10:46 PM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 1,275 people are talking about this



## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert introduced us to the political consultant the Democrats hired to look over the New Hampshire vote:



Seth Meyers criticized Trump for retaliating against his impeachment trial witnesses:



And Trevor Noah took a look at the beef between Biden and Buttigieg:



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: The two leading women in the Democratic field are battling for third place in New Hampshire  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020 11:09:29 AM

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

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**The two leading women in the Democratic field are battling for third place in New Hampshire**



Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) takes the stage on Monday night for a rally at South Church in downtown Portsmouth, N.H. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**  
*with Mariana Alfaro*

## THE BIG IDEA:

**PORTSMOUTH, N.H. – Elizabeth Warren retooled her stump speech on the eve of the New Hampshire primary to make the case that she’s always been an underdog.** She emphasized her hardscrabble upbringing in Oklahoma, her battle to create the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and her victory over incumbent Republican Scott Brown to win her Senate seat. “You know what we need as president? Someone who has been winning unwinnable fights all her life,” Warren said.

The Massachusetts senator led in polls of this state last summer. Now trailing Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg, Warren is locked in a three-way battle in New Hampshire for third place against an ascendant Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and a fading Joe Biden that will determine whether she stays viable as the Democratic presidential nominating contest moves on to Nevada, South Carolina and Super Tuesday.

**Warren and Klobuchar are the last two women standing in the top tier of presidential contenders.** Four years after many voters were disappointed that Hillary Clinton didn't become the first female president, the two senators are still in the hunt. They're fighting for a bronze ticket out of this pivotal early state and the chance to take on President Trump in November. But they're taking divergent approaches that go beyond their ideological differences in an attempt to gain the upper hand.

For now, though, the odds still seem stacked against Warren or Klobuchar becoming their party's standard-bearer. Indeed, no modern Democrat has won the nomination without finishing first or second in New Hampshire.

**With a large pipe organ behind her, Warren paced the stage and seemed to draw energy from the crowd like an old-fashioned evangelist. "We're going to get knocked down," she told a capacity crowd of 785 people inside a magnificent church sanctuary that was built in the 1820s.** "We're going to find bumpy times, and we'll find hard times, and we'll find times when we think, 'Oh, this hurts.' But the thing is: People are counting on us to get this right. ... It's about getting off our back foot and getting on our front

foot.”

When her microphone cut out 47 minutes into her speech, as she talked about taking on Wall Street, Warren joked loud enough so everyone could hear: “That was the banks!” The raucous crowd rewarded her with standing ovation after standing ovation. “Don’t tell me what we can’t do,” she said. “We’ve done it.”



Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) speaks to a rally on Monday afternoon at Exeter Town Hall in Exeter, N.H. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post)

**Sixteen miles away in Exeter, a few hours earlier, Klobuchar spoke to 350 people with another 200 watching a feed in an overflow room. “As you’ve probably heard, we’re on a bit of a surge,” she said.** The Minnesotan is drawing consistently bigger crowds over the last few days than she got before her fifth-place finish in Iowa, and her campaign says she’s raised more than \$3 million

since her strong debate performance on Friday night.

**Like Warren, Klobuchar emphasized that she's been underestimated her whole life and especially throughout this campaign**, outlasting many rivals who entered the contest with national name recognition and larger donor networks. On the anniversary of her outdoor announcement amid a blizzard back home in Minnesota, she asked Granite Staters for their help to “surprise the country.”

**Klobuchar's final commercial before the primary is called “Empathy,”** and its message is that she feels your pain and sympathizes with your hardships. She talks at length in her speeches about her father's alcoholism and the struggles now to pay for his long-term care. “I know you, and I will fight for you,” she said at the close of her 40-minute speech. “I want you to know this because I need your help right now. We are on the cusp of something really great.”

**Bigger picture, though, Klobuchar is running as a pragmatic dealmaker while Warren is running as an ideological street brawler.** Klobuchar said yesterday that she was the only candidate who raised her hand during Friday night's debate when the moderator asked whether anyone on stage worries that a democratic socialist couldn't win the general election. [In fact, Steyer did as well.] She also criticized the “free college for all” and Medicare-for-all plans that Warren and Sanders advocate, and she warned voters not to fall for “bumper sticker slogans,” an apparent reference to Buttigieg.

**Warren has mostly tried to avoid taking direct shots at any of her**



rivals during these final days, hoping to emerge as a unity candidate by staying out of the crossfire between Buttigieg and Sanders. “There are a lot of folks shooting at other folks,” Warren told reporters last night. “Democrats cannot do a repeat of 2016. We can’t go into a general election divided and angry with each other.”

On a tour around the state, Warren stopped earlier Monday at the Sweet Maple Cafe in Conway. When a voter said she was considering backing a more moderate candidate, out of a desire to defeat Trump, Warren replied that she’s somewhere in the middle on a continuum between Sanders on the left and Buttigieg and Klobuchar in the middle.

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Elizabeth Warren hands out donuts outside Portsmouth Middle School on Tuesday morning. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

**Some Warren allies privately express frustration that Klobuchar got as much momentum out of Iowa as she did, but Warren did not.** The Iowa Democratic Party [announced](#) Sunday that Warren is poised to receive eight delegates from Iowa to the national convention in Milwaukee, behind the 14 for Buttigieg and 12 for Sanders, but more than the six for Biden. Klobuchar, who represents the neighboring state, received only one pledged delegate.

**Klobuchar often invokes [her endorsement](#) from the New York Times editorial board. But Warren, whom the Times also endorsed, does not bring it up.** She seems particularly cautious about doing anything that might make her look elitist. This also explains why she assiduously avoids using the H-word on the stump – Harvard – even though she was a barrier-breaking professor at the

law school there. Cambridge, Mass., is only 60 miles south of the church where Warren spoke last night. She also emphasizes her preference for Michelob Ultra over white wine.

**Warren emphasizes her gender – and the possibly historic nature of her campaign to be the first female president – far more than Klobuchar does in her stump speech.** After Warren spoke last night, before she gaggled with reporters, she posed for pictures with a line of young people. She leaned down to all the little girls and repeated the same message over a dozen times: “Hi, my name is Elizabeth, and I’m running for president, because that’s what girls do.” Then she reached out her pinkie and made pinkie promises with each little girl.

**Warren’s base of support feels more durable than the polls suggest.** She has a loyal following of college-educated, liberal women who have steadfastly supported her since last year. They love the idea that Warren could be the first female president, and they roar with approval when she talks about all the executive actions that a president can take “all by herself.”

**You should take all these surveys with a grain of salt because the race is so fluid, but [the final CNN tracking poll](#), conducted by the University of New Hampshire and released Monday, showed Sanders in the lead, with 29 percent, among likely primary voters, followed by Buttigieg at 22 percent, Biden at 11 percent, Warren at 10 percent and Klobuchar at 7 percent. But Klobuchar has unquestionable momentum going into primary day. Even on the eve of the vote, only about half of those polled said they had definitely made their final decision. **Interestingly, Warren was at the top of the list****

**of people's second choices: 20 percent said Warren is their back-up,** followed by Sanders at 15 percent and Buttigieg at 14 percent.



Amy Klobuchar jokes with supporters outside a polling place on Tuesday in Manchester, N.H. She was joined by her daughter, Abigail Bessler. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post)

**Klobuchar's calls for national reconciliation resonate with the kinds of moderate Democrats and independents who go to her events while Warren's promise to fight fired up the more liberal people who tend to support her.** Jill Baillargeon, 36 of Exeter, has children who are 7, 5 and 2-years-old. "I feel pretty good about Amy after seeing her," she said as she left Klobuchar's event, with her daughter Maeve and a miniature American flag that volunteers handed her on the way in. "I was for Bernie for a while, then Warren, then Biden and now Klobuchar."

Baillargeon, who teaches English lessons online to kids who live in China, wants an American president that she can let her kids watch on television without worrying about what they'll say. "We've got a lot going on in our life," she said. "I feel like I could breathe a little bit easier and not worry about what's going on in Washington everyday if Amy was in the Oval Office. She could bring back a sense of normalcy."

**Warren's supporters want "big, structural change." Klobuchar's audiences desire a "return to normalcy," a pitch that previously pulled many of them toward Biden.** "I really want someone who can help the country take a pause to breathe and to heal," said Susan Varn, 69, a retired consultant who lives in Exeter. "I'm less in the Elizabeth or Bernie camp because I think they want to do too much too soon when this country has been traumatized and needs to recover."

Varn has been leaning toward Biden because he's a "healing figure" who might be able to patch up the wounds of division, but she really liked what she saw from Klobuchar. She's had a Biden yard sign in front of her home for a while now, but she took a Klobuchar sign with her when she left the rally. She said the two signs will go next to each other, and she will decide whether to go with Biden or Klobuchar before heading to her polling place.

**A common refrain among Warren supporters was that, in picking her, they're following their hearts.** "Right now, we're in the primaries so you go with who you like the most," said Aaron Jule, 45 of Rye, who is in retail sales. "After Tuesday, I might have to deal with something that I have to live with."

**Klobuchar emphasizes her ability to topple Trump in a head-to-head matchup in a way that Warren does not.** During a town hall on Saturday, Klobuchar [told](#) voters that she had just been texting backstage with Cindy McCain, the widow of the 2008 GOP presidential nominee John McCain. She always highlights the inroads she's made with Republicans as a senator in Washington and during her three statewide victories in Minnesota. "I have won every red and purple, suburban and rural congressional district every single time I've run," she likes to say. "I have won every race, every place, every time all the way down to fourth grade, where my slogan that I have since abandoned was, 'All the way with Amy K.'"

It was a play on Lyndon Johnson's 1964 slogan: "All the way with LBJ."



Elizabeth Warren speaks to New Hampshire voters at Sweet Maple Cafe in Conway on Monday. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)



**“Electability” as a buzzword has become quite blasé in the aftermath of Iowa.** I interviewed more than a dozen voters at both the Klobuchar and Warren rallies. The most striking takeaway from these conversations was that several women across the ideological spectrum complained without prompting – and without me using it – about the pervasiveness of the term in the Democratic debate.

“I know that she’s polling in third, fourth or fifth in New Hampshire. I certainly hope she sticks with it,” said Warren supporter Kelly Scanlon, 44 of Dover, who works for a nonprofit organization that assists the developmentally disabled. **“The rhetoric revolving around picking a candidate who can beat Trump feels like coded language to me that means it needs to be a white male.** Because they don’t want Hillary 2.0. That rhetoric has hurt [Warren] a little bit. At one point in time, she was considered the front-runner. That’s when the talking heads started discussing ‘concerns’ about her ‘electability.’ That’s a word that comes up, obviously, a lot.”

**Warren supporter Terie Norelli, the former Democratic speaker of**

**the New Hampshire House, also complained about this.** “When I went out on the campaign trail, I kept hearing from people who would say, ‘Oh, I’m so nervous. I don’t want Donald Trump to win,’” she recalled. “They’d say the only the thing I care about is beating Donald Trump. And I was like: We don’t have a crystal ball. But we have something really important, and that’s a first-in-the-nation primary vote. So I decided that I would focus on who was going to be the best president. ... And then I realized: She can also win.”

**Sheila Kelly, 56, a fundraiser for a nonprofit organization who lives in Exeter, is torn among Klobuchar, Buttigieg and possibly entrepreneur Andrew Yang.** Outside Klobuchar’s town hall, she said she’s searched around online to research who might be strongest against Trump. **She volunteered that she really dislikes when the term “electability” gets thrown around by pundits. “I don’t like where that leads,” she said.**

Kelly believes a candidate who excites people – who makes them want to “get off the couch” – is essential to victory, and she said a simplistic focus on electability puts a premium on “milquetoast” when that’s not what historically wins. “For whatever reason, Biden’s just not exciting to me,” she explained. “Also, to be honest, I think Warren is in the rearview mirror.” But, she added, her daughter is planning to drive home on Tuesday afternoon from Brown University in Rhode Island, where she’s a student, so that she can vote – probably for Warren.





Joe Biden holds a rally on Sunday night in Hampton, N.H. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post)

## **THE BIDEN COLLAPSE CONTINUES:**

-- **“Biden’s advisers were bracing for another dismal result, with some inside his campaign saying he could finish as low as fifth, and with some early warning signs that his national polling lead — one that he pointed to just two days earlier as validation — has collapsed,”** [Matt Viser and Sean Sullivan report](#). “Much as he tried to hurry past his low finish in Iowa, Biden on Monday sought to push beyond New Hampshire even before the vote. His campaign announced that its co-chairman, Rep. Cedric L. Richmond (D-La.), will host a ‘launch party’ in South Carolina on Tuesday night at around the same time polls will be closing in New Hampshire. Biden is planning to travel to South Carolina, where he has been leading in polls ahead of the Feb. 29 vote, before heading to Nevada, which holds its caucuses

Feb. 22.”

-- **“There are two Joe Bidens. The wrong one is running for president,”** [Karen Tumulty](#) observes in a smart column: “Biden sounds like a man whose time has passed. Many in the modest-sized crowds that he draws are dismayed. After he spoke on the same stage as the other Democratic candidates at a state Democratic Party dinner on Saturday night, one undecided voter told me: ‘Joe needs to retire.’ This has become a common refrain, even among people who admire and respect Biden. But then there is the Biden you see mostly on the rope line.

**“As soon as the sound on his mic is turned off, he dives toward the area where those who remain behind are standing to shake his hand or take a selfie. At those moments, Biden is transformed.** He lingers with anyone who wants to tell him a story, even as maintenance workers start dismantling his stage and folding up chairs. People light up in his presence. Perhaps because of the personal suffering he has endured, Biden seems to have a kind of radar that draws him to people who are starving for solace and reassurance, and they to him.

**“On the stump, he is at his most compelling when he stops talking about himself and starts telling the stories of the people he has met.** Some of them have crossed Biden’s path here in New Hampshire: the security guard mourning the death of her father and fearful of the test that grief is putting on her 30 years of sobriety; the man who confided he has just lost his job and is afraid to tell his family; the woman who fled the man who beat her and ended up living on the street; the line of people standing in 22-degree temperatures at

a downtown food bank, some of them children wearing no gloves. This is the better Biden, embracing personal vulnerability over electoral invincibility. He is perhaps the most authentic tribune of empathy in public life today — and the starkest contrast imaginable from the man who sits in the Oval Office.”

**-- On the trail with Biden, this question arises: What happens when the “electability candidate” starts to lose? [Ben Terris](#)**

**reports:** “There’s a surreal feeling surrounding the Biden campaign’s efforts in New Hampshire. ... Maybe this is a strategic move by a candidate whose best play, for now, is to manage expectations. But how exactly are his people on the ground supposed to feel about that? Does anyone know what place they should be fighting for? ... ‘I’d be happy in the top three,’ said Heather Ledoux, a registered nurse who turned her house in Litchfield into a canvassing staging area. ‘Top four counts as a win,’ said Bob Mulholland, a member of the Democratic National Committee and a Biden supporter. ‘I’m not going to prognosticate,’ former secretary of state John F. Kerry said when asked what would count as a success. ‘You’ll know it, we’ll all know it, we’ll feel it.’ ...

**“When a campaign appears to be on a downward spiral, it becomes easy to see signs of doom. ...** There was Biden’s anemic cheering section at the McIntyre-Shaheen 100 Club Dinner — a raucous fundraiser held in a Manchester hockey arena — that appeared smaller even than the group that came out to support nominal presidential candidate Deval Patrick. There’s the ways in which Biden has begun acting like an underdog, attacking his opponents as too inexperienced ... or too extreme ... **Even his**

**supporters have begun talking about him like a long shot.** ‘No one ever expected Donald Trump to be elected president, either,’ said Barry Nestor, standing outside the Rex Theatre in Manchester, wearing socks on his hands to keep warm before seeing Biden speak.”

-- **“Biden is the most electable candidate, just not right here or right now,”** [columnist Alexandra Petri writes in a satire.](#)



Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) speaks during a town hall at Pierce University on Monday in Rindge, N.H. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

### **MORE ON-THE-GROUND REPORTING:**

-- **The first votes in the New Hampshire primary were cast just after midnight.** Mike Bloomberg took home an unexpected bipartisan win in Dixville Notch (with three write-in votes). Klobuchar was the popular choice in Hart's Location (where she got six votes) and

Millsfield (where she got two) – the other New Hampshire locations that cast their ballots in the wee hours. [From WMUR](#): "Bloomberg got three write-in votes, one of which was a write-in vote in the Republican primary. It's a rarity in Dixville Notch for write-in votes. [Buttigieg and Sanders] each got one vote. The local tradition in Dixville Notch was put into jeopardy this year when it was learned that not enough people in the community were registered to vote. In order for the midnight vote to take place, Dixville Notch needed a minimum of five registered voters. In January, Dixville Notch got enough residents after the man behind the redevelopment project of the Balsams Resort officially moved to town and registered to vote." The only candidate to visit Dixville Notch prior to the vote was Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), who failed to convince any of the five residents to support him.

**-- Sanders, looking for a more emphatic victory than his near-tie in the Iowa caucuses, wrapped up his New Hampshire effort last night with a rally that his campaign said drew more than 7,500 people in Durham.** A rock band called the Strokes performed, and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) warmed up the crowd at an arena on the University of New Hampshire's campus. Buttigieg's final rally was in Exeter, and actor Kevin Costner introduced him.

**-- Jill Biden helped push a heckler away from her husband during a New Hampshire event.** A man, shouting as he recorded the moment on his phone, moved toward the candidate's lectern as the former vice president spoke. Jill Biden, who was seated close by, hopped up from her chair and stopped the protester before he got too close. When asked about the incident later, she laughed and said: "I'm

a good Philly girl.” ([CNN](#))

**-- Trump, who held a campaign rally in Manchester last night, has inserted himself into the Democrats' nominating contest with a fervor that exceeds his predecessors — many of whom were reluctant to directly involve themselves in another party's political selection process.** [Robert Costa, Toluse Olorunnipa and Josh Dawsey report](#): “The Trump campaign’s effort to counter the Democratic race extended to a ‘Cops for Trump’ gathering on Monday afternoon in Portsmouth ... Pence and White House senior adviser Ivanka Trump both spoke at the event, which was attended by about 200 police officers ... The Trump campaign has been active in New Hampshire for weeks, sending legions of surrogates to the state and booking them on state-based talk radio programs and at local Republican events. For Trump and his loyalists, New Hampshire holds a particularly special place in their collective political memory: It was his first primary victory and a significant boost that pushed him toward the 2016 Republican nomination.”

**-- Health care is the top concern for the New Hampshire electorate, and it comes up more than any other issue during town halls and on rope lines.** [Amy Goldstein reports](#): “The system’s flaws come up nonstop: the expense of prescription drugs, a scarcity of mental health services, coverage gaps, and care that’s difficult to afford even for people who have private insurance. ... With one of the nation’s highest median ages and a fast-growing older population, ... people see close-up the limits of Medicare.”

**-- Nine places to watch as returns come in tonight, [per Politico](#):**

- **The bigger cities:** Manchester, “The state’s largest city is arguably also the most important — a blowout here is a solid indication of who will win”; Concord, “It’s a good spot to see where pro-establishment, middle-of-the-road voters are breaking”; Nashua, “The most diverse city in the state, only about 82% white as compared to the state’s 94% white.”
- **The Trump-Obama cities:** Claremont, “Perhaps a quintessential Obama-Trump town”; and Laconia, “The city’s brand new Democratic mayor was a heavily sought after endorsement before he finally supported [Klobuchar].”
- **The college towns:** Keene, Plymouth, Durham and Hanover. “In 2016, they represented less than seven percent of the overall vote, but Sanders won them with astonishing numbers.”

-- **Several campaigns, wary of working with the Democratic National Committee, have set up a shadow voter protection program in New Hampshire for today.** They will use a neutral boiler room helmed by former Obama adviser Quentin Palfrey to share reports of voter rights infringements from legal observers across the state. ([Politico](#))

-- **Audio from a 2015 Aspen Institute appearance purportedly features Bloomberg defending his stop-and-frisk policy.** [From Mediaite](#): Bloomberg appears to tell the audience “that cops targeted minority neighborhoods ‘because that’s where all the crime is.’ ... In the roughly minute-long excerpt, Bloomberg begins his argument

defending stop-and-frisk by saying: ‘95% of your murders — murderers and murder victims — fit one M.O. You can just take the description, Xerox it and pass it out to all the cops.’”

**-- Bloomberg doesn't want Silicon Valley's money, but he did call up hundreds of tech leaders and asked them to refer their most talented employees. [From Vox](#):** “The request made plain

Bloomberg's comfort with — and, in some ways, dependence on — the Silicon Valley companies that have been persistently criticized during the 2020 Democratic primary. ... On the Monday call, [former Foursquare CEO Jeff] Glueck said he needed the tech leaders to pitch jobs on the Bloomberg campaign to ‘your most talented friends’ and ‘send them our way,’ especially those with expertise in data science, internet marketing, advertising buying and analytics.”

**-- With five days until early voting begins in Nevada, the campaigns are still in the dark about the state's new caucus process. [From the Nevada Independent](#):**

Campaigns “have been told that the Nevada State Democratic Party won't be using the same app and vendor that were in part responsible for bungling the results of Iowa's caucus last week, that the party won't be using any app at all, and that what the party does plan to use is best described as a ‘tool’ or ‘calculator.’ Beyond that, aides aren't really sure what's in store for the state's Feb. 22 Democratic caucus. They don't know how early voting, which was originally supposed to take place on an app on an iPad, is set to work. They don't know how those votes are going to flow back to early voters' home precincts to be counted alongside their neighbors preferences just as if they were there on Caucus Day. (A second app was supposed to accomplish that function.) They also



don't know how the Caucus Day results will be transmitted to the party."



#### QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"They're all going after each other. You got them all over the place. They don't know what the hell they're doing. ... They can't even count their votes," Trump said of the Democratic candidates during his rally in Manchester. (Robert Costa, Toluse Olorunnipa and Josh Dawsey)

A blue rectangular advertisement for a podcast. At the top, it says "The Daily 202's" in a smaller font, followed by "BIG IDEA" in a very large, white, serif font. Below this, there is a white play button icon inside a circle, followed by the text "Get James's insight into Washington every weekday on your smart speaker or favorite podcast player." The background of the ad features faint, concentric circles.

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Barr says Justice Department will vet Giuliani evidence

## THE JUSTICE SYSTEM:

-- **Federal prosecutors said that Trump confidant Roger Stone deserves seven to nine years in prison for lying to Congress in the Russia probe.** [Spencer Hsu, Ann Marimow and Devlin Barrett report:](#) **“The sentencing filing came after days of tense debate within the U.S. attorney’s office in Washington** about the proper prison term for the sixth Trump associate convicted and last person indicted in former special counsel Robert S. Mueller III’s investigation. Front-line prosecutors, some previously with Mueller’s team, argued for a sentence on the higher end for Stone than some of their supervisors were comfortable with, according to two people familiar with the discussions. A recommendation on the higher end prevailed, with prosecutors’ filings citing federal sentencing guidelines that

ratchet up in cases involving obstruction that impedes the administration of justice. ...

**“Stone’s defense on Monday asked for a sentence of probation,** citing his age, 67, and lack of criminal history. They also noted that of seven Mueller defendants who have been sentenced, only one faces more than a six-month term: former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, who is serving 7½ years. ... Hours before the filing was due Monday, the new head of the D.C. office, interim U.S. attorney Timothy Shea — a former close adviser to Attorney General William P. Barr — had not made a final decision on Stone’s sentencing recommendation ... Disagreements among prosecutors about sentencing recommendations are not uncommon, especially when it comes to politically sensitive high-profile cases. It would have been unusual, however, for the U.S. attorney’s office to endorse a sentence below the guideline range after winning conviction at trial...”

**-- Barr acknowledged that the DOJ has created an “intake process” to vet dirt provided by Rudy Giuliani on Joe and Hunter Biden. [Matt Zapposky and Barrett report](#):** “Barr confirmed an assertion made Sunday by Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) that the Justice Department had ‘created a process that Rudy could give information and they would see if it’s verified.’ ... ‘That is true for all information that comes to the department relating to the Ukraine, including anything Mr. Giuliani might provide,’ Barr said. He did not provide any other specifics. A Justice Department official said Giuliani had ‘recently’ shared information with federal law enforcement officials through the process described by Barr. Two people familiar with the matter said the information is being routed to the U.S. attorney’s office

in Pittsburgh. ...

**“That Giuliani would have a direct pipeline to the Justice Department for providing information on a political rival of Trump raised fears among some legal analysts that federal law enforcement was being conscripted into doing campaign work for the president. The matter is complicated, too, because Giuliani is under investigation by the Justice Department.** That case already has [produced campaign finance charges against two of his associates](#), Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, who helped in Giuliani’s Ukraine-related pursuits ... Barr said the intake process was established ‘so that any information coming in about Ukraine could be carefully scrutinized by the department and its intelligence community partners so that we could assess its provenance and its credibility.’ FBI Deputy Director David Bowdich said: ‘We’re taking information as we would in any case. We will evaluate it appropriately.’ ... Barr’s announcement angered Democrats, who questioned whether Giuliani was getting special treatment from Trump’s Justice Department. ... Giuliani has long vexed Barr and the Justice Department. ... But Giuliani has maintained access to the department and to Barr.”

**-- A federal judge last night canceled the sentencing hearing for former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn that was set for Feb. 27.** Judge Emmet Sullivan issued an order putting off the hearing indefinitely, pending a new order from him. [Martin Weil reports](#): “The move represents the latest turn in the case against Flynn, who pleaded guilty in December 2017 to lying to the FBI about his contacts with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. Federal prosecutors once suggested probation for Flynn, then shifted to

include prison time, and then said in a late January court filing that probation remained a 'reasonable sentence.' The prosecutors' Jan. 29 filing was submitted as Flynn continued his effort to withdraw his guilty plea."

**-- Barr also announced the DOJ will sue so-called "sanctuary" jurisdictions over policies he considers overly friendly to undocumented migrants.** [Zapotosky and Barrett report](#): "Barr announced the lawsuits in a speech to the National Sheriffs' Association, saying they were part of 'a significant escalation in the federal government's efforts to confront the resistance of 'sanctuary cities.'" He said he also was reviewing the practice of some state and local prosecutors who charge criminals with lesser offenses to avoid deportation, and giving non-sanctuary jurisdictions priority when it comes to awarding certain grant money." In separate federal filings, the Justice Department sought to block a New Jersey policy that limits how state and local authorities share information with federal immigration officials and to stop a county in Washington state from preventing immigration authorities from using an international airport there for deportations.

**-- Possibly suspicious grant-making decisions at the DOJ prompted a whistleblower complaint.** [From Reuters](#): The internal complaints happened "after two nonprofits were denied funding in favor of two less established groups whose applications were not recommended by career DOJ officials. The awarding of more than \$1 million total to the two groups, Hookers for Jesus in Nevada and the Lincoln Tubman Foundation in South Carolina, has triggered a whistleblower complaint filed by the Justice Department's employee

union to the department's Inspector General. An internal department memo seen by Reuters shows that as of September 12, two long-established nonprofits – the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach and Chicanos Por La Causa of Phoenix – were originally on the list of recommended grant winners after receiving high marks from outside contractors hired to review applications. The annual grants help nonprofits and local governments aid human trafficking victims.”

**-- The DOJ also charged four members of the Chinese military in connection with the hack of the credit reporting agency**

**Equifax. Barrett and Zapotosky report:** “In a [nine-count indictment](#) filed in federal court in Atlanta, federal prosecutors alleged that four members of the People's Liberation Army hacked into Equifax's systems, stealing the personal data as well as company trade secrets. [Barr] called their efforts ‘a deliberate and sweeping intrusion into the private information of the American people.’ ... **The 2017 breach gave hackers access to the personal information, including Social Security numbers and birth dates, of about 145 million people.** ... Barr said China has a ‘voracious appetite’ for Americans’ personal information, and he pointed to other intrusions that he alleged have been carried out by Beijing's actors in recent years, including hacks disclosed in 2015 of the health insurer Anthem and the federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM), as well as a 2018 hack of the hotel chain Marriott. ‘This data has economic value, and these thefts can feed China's development of artificial intelligence tools,’ Barr said.”

**-- A former Indian Health Service pediatrician was sentenced to five lifetime prison terms for sexually abusing boys. [From the](#)**

[WSJ](#): “Stanley Patrick Weber, 71, groomed and abused Native American boys as young as about 9 years old on reservations in Montana and South Dakota [between 1995 and 2011](#), according to court documents. His supervisors in the federal government buried their own suspicions about his conduct, tried to silence others who raised concerns, and transferred the doctor from one reservation to another after managers concluded he might have molested his patients ...Weber was convicted in South Dakota in September of abusing four of his patients at the IHS’s Pine Ridge hospital and his government housing unit there.”

**-- Defense witnesses at Harvey Weinstein’s trial disputed his accusers’ accounts.** [Shayna Jacobs reports](#): “One of those witness was Talita Maia, 35, who was at one point a close friend and roommate of Weinstein rape accuser Jessica Mann. Last week, Mann gave dramatic testimony in which she said the powerful movie producer forced her into intercourse on two occasions — once in New York, the incident at issue in the trial. In New York Supreme Court in Manhattan on Monday, Maia was asked to recall the first time she and Mann, 34, met Weinstein ... ‘She put her arm around him and pinched his cheek,’ Maia testified, adding that Mann said he was ‘so cute.’ ... Prosecutors say Weinstein forced sex on Mann at a DoubleTree Hotel in Manhattan on March 18, 2013. ‘Did [Weinstein] ever force her to do anything against her will?’ defense lawyer Donna Rotunno asked Maia, a Brazilian-born actress, on direct examination. ‘No,’ Maia testified. ‘She spoke very highly of him.’ ... Weinstein’s legal team also called Mexican actress and fashion influencer Claudia Salinas. Earlier in the trial, another accuser, Lauren Young, blamed Salinas for setting her up to be ‘trapped’ in a hotel suite bathroom with Weinstein.

... On Monday, Salinas denied ever walking into a hotel room with Young and Weinstein. ... Justice James Burke told jurors that summations are likely to be Thursday and that they would begin deliberating after Presidents' Day. The defense is expected to call several additional witnesses."

**-- Shattering glass: For the first time, the flagship law journals at the top 16 law schools in the country are all led by women.** [Ann Marimow reports](#): "Only one woman worked on the staff of the Harvard Law Review when Ruth Bader Ginsburg arrived on campus in 1956. It would be another two decades before a woman was elected to lead the school's prestigious legal journal. The Supreme Court justice recently addressed the current slate of editors in chief from the top 16 law schools in the country. For the first time ever, all are women. ... The event in part celebrated the statistical improbability of an all-female sweep of elections at the leading publications of legal scholarship at schools including Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Georgetown, Columbia and Duke universities. The editors in chief collaborated for the first time to publish a Women & Law journal with a series of essays from prominent female lawyers. But there was also recognition, as the women came together dressed in dark power suits, of the reality that men still dominate the ranks of law firms, the federal judiciary and academia. ...

**"In recent years, the number of women enrolling in accredited law schools has exceeded the number of men ... But women make up less than a quarter of law firm equity partners, a quarter of tenured and tenure-track law professors, and about a third of all active federal district and appeals court judges. ... Women are**



also underrepresented at oral argument at the high court. In the past five terms, 17 percent of the advocates were women ... 'There is certainly more glass yet to be shattered,' Duke Law professor Marin Levy told the crowd after ticking off the statistics. 'But I see a whole lot of hammers out there.'"



The coronavirus and other outbreaks are hard to contain. Here's why.

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- As deaths from the coronavirus topped 1,000, with more than 100 in a single day, China urged countries that have enacted travel restrictions aimed at curbing the outbreak to restore normal ties for the sake of the global economy. [Simon Denyer and Rick Noack report](#): "The comments from China's Foreign Ministry underscored the economic dangers posed by the unprecedented shutdown of much of the world's second-largest economy, as well as the Communist Party's concerns about the outbreak's capacity to fuel domestic instability. Authorities in the virus-hit city of Wuhan have

announced fresh restrictions on residents, making millions of people virtual prisoners in their own homes. Two provincial health bosses have been fired as the Communist Party struggles to contain widespread anger over the spread of the virus. ...

**“The number of confirmed infections continues to rise but the rate of growth is slowing.** ... More than a dozen ambulances are lined up alongside the Diamond Princess in Yokohama as medical staff evacuate passengers and crew confirmed as carrying the virus, after 65 more people on board the cruise ship tested positive. China is bracing for the return of some 160 million migrant workers to their cities of employment as the country’s economy sputters back to life after an extended holiday vacation following the outbreak.”

**-- A British “superspreader” may have unwittingly infected at least 11 people with the coronavirus in the course of his travels from Singapore to France to Switzerland and then to England.** Infected Britons in England, France and Spain probably caught the virus from him, health authorities and British media claim. ([Karla Adam](#))

**-- The CDC confirmed the 13th coronavirus infection in the United States.** The patient was among several hundred Americans who were evacuated last week from Wuhan and is currently being treated at the University of California San Diego Medical Center. ([Hawkins](#))

**-- Trump keeps saying that the coronavirus could “miraculously” go away this spring. Experts say that's not how diseases work.** [Hawkins reports for our live blog:](#) “Trump first raised the idea in

a [tweet](#) last week, saying the Chinese government's efforts to control the virus would succeed 'as the weather starts to warm and the virus hopefully becomes weaker, and then gone.' He made a similar prediction in a rally Monday, suggesting that the outbreak could subside 'by April.' 'You know, in theory when it gets a little warmer, it miraculously goes away, that's true,' he told an audience in New Hampshire. Experts said that's wishful thinking at best: While it's true that respiratory viruses tend to follow seasonal patterns, there's no telling what course the novel coronavirus will take. 'This virus can do anything it wants,' Allison McGeer, an infectious-disease epidemiologist at the University of Toronto, [told The Washington Post](#) last week."

**-- The virus is spreading rapidly. So is misinformation about it.** [Kim Bellware reports](#): "Since the first cases of a then-unidentified pneumonia were reported in late December, hoaxes, half-truths and flat-out lies have proliferated, mostly through social media. [BuzzFeed News for several days kept a running list](#) of misinformation, including wildly inaccurate reports that the death toll in China was 112,000 as of late January ([reality: around 80 at the time](#)); claims that Chinese people eating bats were the source of the outbreak (a viral photo of a woman biting a bat was not taken in China); and [false suggestions](#) that the virus was lab-engineered as a kind of bioweapon."

**-- A bag of tiny dead birds from China was confiscated from a passenger at Dulles Airport.** Agricultural specialists found a package with pictures of pets printed on it – similar to packages of pet treats – that had several tiny, dried birds inside. The passenger said

they were cat food but the birds were quickly confiscated because of the potential threat of avian influenza. ([Lori Aratani](#))

**-- Pangolins – the world’s most trafficked mammal – are suspected as a potential coronavirus host.** [From the NYT](#): “It is far from clear whether being identified as a viral host would be good or bad for pangolins. It could decrease the trade in the animals, or cause a backlash. It is also far from clear whether the pangolin is the animal that passed the new virus to humans. Bats are still thought to be the original host of the virus. If pangolins are involved in disease transmission, they would act as an intermediate host. The science so far is suggestive rather than conclusive, and because of the intense interest in the virus, some claims have been made public before the traditional scientific review process.”

**-- A mask-clad Xi Jinping emerged from a conspicuous absence to visit the coronavirus “front line” at a facility in Beijing.** [Rick Noack reports](#): “Photos and videos of the visit — carried by state-run news agencies and television stations — did not deviate from the usual pattern of publicity appearances by Xi and other Chinese Communist Party officials. But Xi’s appearance Monday capped a remarkably unengaged period for the Chinese leader at a critical time, during which he conspicuously avoided public attention. ... Xi left it to other Communist Party officials to calm concerns over the novel coronavirus or to celebrate tireless medical workers.... Keeping a low profile may no longer be a viable option for Xi, as **his absence has fueled speculation and as public scrutiny has increasingly turned away from local cadres’ failings and toward more systemic complaints over the ruling Communist Party in Beijing.**”

**-- The Philippines will end its military cooperation deal with the U.S.** [From the NYT](#): “The notice to terminate the pact, the Visiting Forces Agreement, comes as President Rodrigo Duterte has warmed up to China while distancing himself from the United States, the Philippines’ former colonial ruler. The move also comes as the Philippines has shown increasing reluctance to stand up to China over its territorial claims in the South China Sea. ... The agreement still remains in force, but the notice to terminate it, delivered to the American Embassy in Manila, starts a clock under which it will remain in effect for 180 days before lapsing.”

**-- The CIA, in partnership with West German intelligence, secretly owned a Swiss company that sold rigged encryption devices to more than 120 countries, which allowed it to read the coded messages of allies and adversaries for decades.** [Greg Miller reports](#): “The Swiss firm made millions of dollars selling equipment to more than 120 countries well into the 21st century. Its clients included Iran, military juntas in Latin America, nuclear rivals India and Pakistan, and even the Vatican. But what none of its customers ever knew was that Crypto AG was secretly owned by the CIA in a highly classified partnership with West German intelligence. ... The decades-long arrangement, among the most closely guarded secrets of the Cold War, is laid bare in a classified, comprehensive CIA history of the operation obtained by The Washington Post and ZDF, a German public broadcaster, in a joint reporting project.”

**-- Syria and Turkey are inching closer to war after their troops exchanged deadly fire for the second time in days.** [Kareem Fahim and Sarah Dadouch report](#): “The latest hostilities started after shelling

by Syrian forces killed five Turkish soldiers and injured five others, according to Turkey's Defense Ministry. The deaths came a week after a previous round of Syrian shelling in Idlib killed eight Turkish military personnel. Turkey's response Monday included attacks on what it said were '115 regime targets,' including mortar positions, tanks and a helicopter. One hundred and one troops loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad were killed, the Turkish Defense Ministry said."

**-- Israeli opposition leader Benny Gantz had two shots to oust Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He's now counting on the third time being the charm. [Ruth Eglash and Steve Hendrix report:](#)**

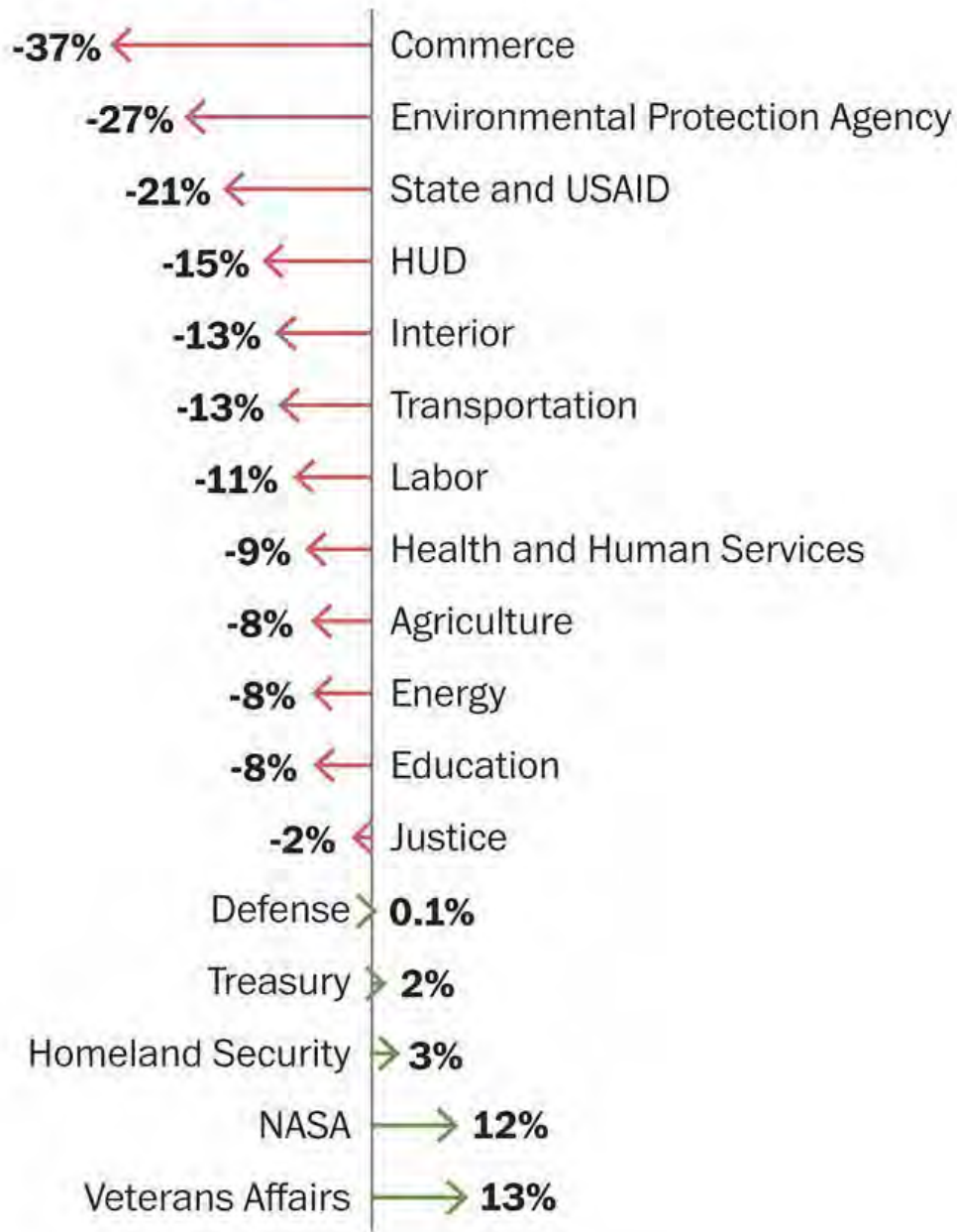
"As the sides slug their way to a third election in less than a year on March 2, political observers say the nonstop campaign has made the former army general an even more formidable opponent. ... Even after two general elections failed to produce a clear winner and the Israeli public grew increasingly apathetic, those working for Gantz's Blue and White party appear energized. That could reflect the fact that the party has an edge in the polls, which put Blue and White ahead of Netanyahu's ruling Likud party in the final weeks. That appears to continue an upward trend since the first election last April, when, as a newly formed party, Blue and White came in a close second behind Likud. ... Although he was [unable to unseat Netanyahu](#) in the previous elections — in part because of Israel's coalition-based parliamentary system — Gantz is now widely viewed as a viable successor to the longtime prime minister."

**-- More than 100 U.S. troops have now been diagnosed with brain injuries stemming from Iran's missile attack on an Iraqi base last**

month. (Reuters)

-- **A strange Russian spacecraft is shadowing a U.S. spy satellite, a U.S. military commander told Time.** This underscores “a growing threat to America’s dominance in space-based espionage and a potentially costly new chapter in Washington’s decades-long competition with Moscow. Gen. John ‘Jay’ Raymond, commander of the **newly minted U.S. Space Force**, says the Russian spacecraft began maneuvering toward the American satellite shortly after being launched into orbit in November, at times creeping within 100 miles of it. ‘We view this behavior as unusual and disturbing,’ Raymond says. ‘It has the potential to create a dangerous situation in space.’ Raymond says the U.S. government has expressed concern to Moscow through diplomatic channels.”

## Proposed changes to funding in Trump's budget



### THE PRESIDENT'S PRIORITIES:

-- Trump's \$4.8 trillion budget plan was met with disdain from Democrats, who said it would cripple low-income families. [Jeff Stein and Erica Werner report](#): "The budget plan sets up the Trump administration's policy priorities heading into the November election



and is likely to draw scrutiny in Washington and on the campaign trail. Trump has in the past not shown much interest in pursuing the budget cuts his aides have offered, and he didn't make any public comments about the plan Monday. ... [Instead], Russell Vought, acting White House budget director, touted the proposed spending increases in the budget for NASA, immigration, opioid mitigation and veterans, while saying they would not lead to benefit reductions for Medicare and Medicaid, as Democrats charged ...

**“Trump has sought spending cuts in the past, only to back down immediately during negotiations with Democrats.** ... Proposing the cuts again, on the eve of the New Hampshire Democratic primary, gave Democrats a fresh target to attack. ‘The old cliché is that a budget is a moral document,’ [Sanders] said in a statement. ‘What kind of unbelievable moral framework allowed this White House to propose \$182 billion in cuts to nutrition assistance from needy families, when nearly one in seven households with children are food insecure?’ ... Even some of Trump’s staunchest allies criticized his sharp cuts for domestic agencies, such as the Agriculture Department, which he is targeting for an 8 percent overall reduction. That was an indication that the budget will get a cold shoulder on Capitol Hill from lawmakers of both parties.”

**-- The budget would slash student loan programs and offer tax breaks for private school tuition, offering sharp contrasts to the education proposals pushed by Democratic presidential candidates.** Overall, the administration wants to cut the Education Department’s discretionary spending by 7.8 percent, replacing funding for 29 education programs – including more than \$24 billion in

spending – with a single block-grant program totaling just over \$19 billion. ([Laura Meckler and Danielle Douglas-Gabriel](#))

**-- The Trump budget would decimate the budget for foreign aid and diplomacy, a move that lawmakers predicted would be swiftly rejected by Congress.** The budget would allot \$40 billion to the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, representing a cut of about 22 percent. ([Carol Morello](#))

**-- The Department of Transportation's discretionary spending would also be cut by 13 percent, including deep reductions in spending on Amtrak and airport grants, as well as cuts of more than \$2 billion in highway infrastructure funds.** At the same time, the administration introduced what it called a “historic, 10-year, \$810 billion reauthorization of surface transportation programs,” which would cover highways, transit rail and other programs and would replace a five-year transportation bill, known as the FAST Act, which will expire later this year. ([Michael Laris](#))

**-- Trump once again called for the elimination of federal arts agencies.** Previous proposals by the president along these lines have been soundly rejected by Congress, which has instead increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. ([Peggy McGlone](#))

**-- Federal employees' retirement benefits would also be cut.** In some cases, the benefits would be reduced only for future retirees, but in other cases, those already retired would face cuts as well. The budget also proposes a 1 percent pay increase for federal employees while recommending a 3 percent raise for military personnel. ([Eric Yoder](#))

**-- And while Trump wants to grant NASA a multibillion-dollar boost to put astronauts back on the moon, his budget would cut funding for other science and health agencies.** The Health and Human Services agency would suffer a nearly 10 percent cut, while the Environmental Protection Agency would lose 26 percent of its funding – the administration is hoping to eliminate nearly 50 EPA programs. The Energy Department would get a boost in funding for safeguarding the nuclear weapons stockpile, but outside of that program it would see a 28.7 percent cut.

**The budget would cut spending at HHS by 9 percent.** Medicaid would receive nearly \$920 billion less than otherwise anticipated by 2030. Meanwhile, a “health reform vision allowance” would lower spending on Obamacare by \$844 billion over the decade. The budget request would also trim funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by 16 percent. The president’s health priorities – wiping out HIV transmission in the U.S. and battling the opioid crisis – would receive \$716 million and \$5 billion respectively. ([Joel Achenbach](#), [Laurie McGinley](#), [Amy Goldstein](#) and [Ben Guarino](#))

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

A group of Biden supporters remixed a popular '90s song to make it about him:



**Kate Hyde**  
@KateHydeNY



Watch as a chorus of Gen Zs presents a political rendition of Backstreet Boys to a Boomer.



♡ 1,706 4:05 PM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 876 people are talking about this



Warren took a walk around a snowy New Hampshire town:



**Tara Prindiville** ✓  
@taraprindiville



Before departing on our press bus this morning, we caught @ewarren on her way back from a 2.2 mile walk. It's hard to see, but she's wearing a hat that says "Make Earth Cool Again". She says her walk through a nearby neighborhood in the snow is a "good way to start the day."



♥ 1,759 3:39 PM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 461 people are talking about this



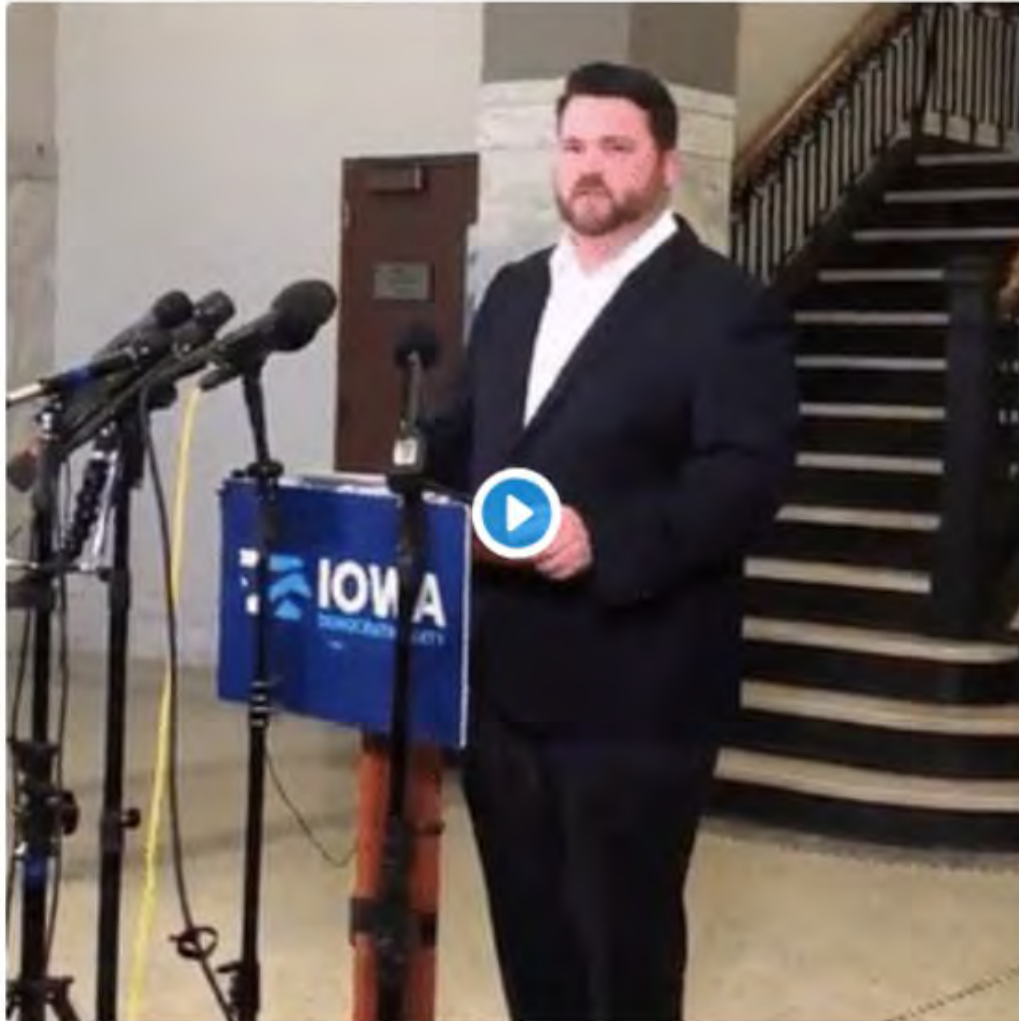
The Iowa Democratic Party's chairman was talking about the disastrous caucuses when his lectern's sign fell, prompting chatter that this was perhaps a metaphor:



**Shane Goldmacher** ✓  
@ShaneGoldmacher



This happened



♥ 5,868 9:52 PM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 1,322 people are talking about this



Turns out some people can win in Iowa:



**David Freedlander** ✓  
@freedlander



Looks like there was a big winner in Iowa last week after all [kcci.com/article/former...](https://www.kcci.com/article/former...)



**Former Gov. Vilsack claims \$150,000 Powerball prize**  
He never thought he would win, but it didn't stop him from playing.  
[kcci.com](https://www.kcci.com)

♥ 11 6:11 PM - Feb 10, 2020



[See David Freedlander's other Tweets](#)



Trump's defense budget proposed gutting the budget of Stars and Stripes, its independent newspaper. A Post reporter who used to work there questioned what it says about the Pentagon's priorities:



**Alex Horton** ✓  
@AlexHortonTX



The agency that can't pass an audit and brought you the F-35, billions in uniform waste, Fat Leonard, pallets of cash for Afghan warlords and millions paid to the NFL with no clear return want you to know it's tightening its belt for a newspaper representing a rounding error  
[twitter.com/reporterjoe/st...](https://twitter.com/reporterjoe/st...)

**Joe Gould** ✓ @reporterjoe

Acting DoD Comptroller Elaine McCusker confirms @starsandstripes' budget faces significant cuts, per DoD-wide review. "We essentially decided, coming into the modern age, that newspapers is not the way we communicate any longer."



790 8:36 PM - Feb 10, 2020



406 people are talking about this



Many former DOJ officials criticized Barr's "intake process" to assess Giuliani's information about the Bidens:





**David Laufman**  
@DavidLaufmanLaw



There is nothing normal about the Attorney General creating a special “intake process in the field” for info relating to claims advancing a White House political narrative — particularly for someone reportedly under criminal investigation [washingtonpost.com/national-secur...](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/)



**Barr acknowledges Justice Dept. has created ‘intak...**

The attorney general said officials must be cautious with information emanating from Ukraine.

[washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com)

♡ 8,604 10:46 PM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 4,173 people are talking about this



This is what the new Air Force One will look like:



**Marcus Weisgerber** ✓  
@MarcusReports



JUST IN: It's official ... This is paint job for Trump's new Air Force One, as depicted in new Pentagon budget documents



♥ 882 8:09 PM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 866 people are talking about this



And the D.C. Council tried to subtweet New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez after she said she couldn't find a good bacon, egg and cheese sandwich in the capital, but the sandwich they ended up eating looked nothing like the classic New York City rolls:



**Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** ✓  
@AOC



At this rate y'all are going to make me start a version of The Pengest Munch for breakfast sandwiches 🤑😂  
[twitter.com/councilofdc/st...](https://twitter.com/councilofdc/st...)

**Council of DC** ✓ @councilofdc

Glad I found this tasty \$3.59 bacon, egg, and cheese close to home when I did, or else the Acela fare up to NYC would have really eaten into my planned breakfast budget



♥ 9,709 10:46 PM - Feb 10, 2020



💬 1,275 people are talking about this



## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert introduced us to the political consultant the Democrats hired to look over the New Hampshire vote:



Seth Meyers criticized Trump for retaliating against his impeachment trial witnesses:



And Trevor Noah took a look at the beef between Biden and Buttigieg:



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Ten reasons Bernie Sanders should celebrate winning New Hampshire – or feel cause for concern  
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## Ten reasons Bernie Sanders should celebrate winning New Hampshire – or feel cause for concern



Sanders wins New Hampshire: The candidates' speeches in 3.5 minutes



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

### **THE BIG IDEA:**

**MANCHESTER, N.H. –** When Bernie Sanders launched his second bid for the Democratic presidential nomination a year ago, joining a large and diverse field, very few pundits thought he could win the most votes in the Iowa caucuses and repeat his 2016 triumph in the New Hampshire primary. The Vermont senator was written off again after his heart attack in October. But the 78-year-old persevered and has once again proven conventional wisdom wrong, winning here and taking the lead in the latest national polls.

“This victory here is the beginning of the end for Donald Trump,” Sanders told supporters on Tuesday night. “Bernie beats Trump,” his 1,200 supporters chanted inside the Southern New Hampshire

University field house. “Bernie beats Trump.”

By traditional metrics, Sanders would be widely considered the front-runner right now. That’s how he sees himself and how his surrogates refer to him at his rallies. The party has moved in his direction on a litany of issues. He’s built a small-dollar fundraising juggernaut. It’s not clear today that any other candidate has a greater probability of securing the nomination than he does.

**In several ways, though, the results from New Hampshire offered a mixed bag for the would-be revolutionary.** He deserves his due for winning, but there are also questions about his strength going into what could be a five-month slog to the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee this July. Here’s some of the good news, as well the bad news, for Sanders as the race moves from the Granite State to Nevada, South Carolina and Super Tuesday:

**1) A cause for concern: The victory was unexpectedly narrow.**

Sanders won with 25.8 percent of the vote, leading Pete Buttigieg by only 1.3 percentage points, or fewer than 4,000 votes.

The percentage of the vote Sanders got is the lowest for any winner of the New Hampshire primary in modern history, lagging behind Jimmy Carter’s 28.6 percent in 1976.

Sanders, who beat Hillary Clinton by 22 points here four years ago, made no effort to manage expectations that he’d win. He confidently predicted victory at every stop in the final days.

In 2016, Sanders received 152,193 votes in the two-way race. He’s



getting 74,316 votes, with [94 percent of precincts reporting](#) as of 1 p.m. on Wednesday.

Interestingly, only 30 percent of voters in [the network exit polls](#) said they supported Sanders in 2016 – even though he got 62 percent of the vote. New Hampshire allows independents to vote in either party's primary. Republicans didn't have a competitive contest, so many unaffiliated voters took Democratic ballots.

On Tuesday, the exit polling shows Sanders won 57 percent of the group that had voted for him four years before. And he picked up 12 percent of voters who said they supported Clinton in 2016. One in five voters said they voted for neither Clinton nor Sanders in the 2016 primaries. Sanders got 14 percent of that group.

**2) A reason to celebrate: Elizabeth Warren's collapse has sidelined Sanders's chief rival in the liberal lane and solidified his standing as the dominant progressive voice in the race.**

Both Sanders and Warren represent neighboring states to New Hampshire. But Warren's support tanked after Iowa, and the Massachusetts senator received 9.3 percent of the vote – not enough to receive a single delegate to the national convention. (It appears that Sanders will get nine delegates and Buttigieg will get six delegates out of New Hampshire.) If Warren cannot even get double digits here, where she's spent more time and money than any other state, what's the contest she thinks she'll be able to win?

Among the 21 percent of voters who described themselves as “very liberal” in the exit poll, half backed Sanders. Warren was second, with 19 percent. Sanders and Buttigieg tied among the 40 percent of voters

who saw themselves as “somewhat liberal,” getting 26 percent apiece. Buttigieg and Sen. Amy Klobuchar essentially tied – 28 percent to 26 percent – among the third of the electorate that identified as moderate.

**3) A cause for concern: Most Democrats do not want Sanders to be their nominee.** If you add together Buttigieg, Klobuchar and Joe Biden – the three candidates competing unabashedly in the more moderate lane – they received 52.7 percent. The self-described democratic socialist declines to formally register as a member of the Democratic Party. Democrats overwhelmingly said they’d back him over Trump, but [they worry that he would lose the election](#).



New Hampshire primary: Sanders wins, Klobuchar surges, dropouts ensue

**4) A reason to celebrate: Klobuchar’s surge is good for Sanders because it divides up the moderate lane and makes it harder for Buttigieg to consolidate support.**

She finished third, with just under 20 percent of the vote. Some Buttigieg allies apparently expressed concern at his watch party in Nashua about what they called the “Klobuchar.” The strong finish by the senior senator from Minnesota, who is going to New York today to fill her campaign coffers, denies Buttigieg the chance to claim that he’s now the moderate to beat.

Klobuchar said she can appeal to the “people in middle” at her watch party: “Donald Trump's worst nightmare is that the people in the middle, the people who have had enough of the name-calling and the mudslinging, have someone to vote for in November.”

For now, Buttigieg and Klobuchar are likely to be more focused on each other than Sanders. “I admired Senator Sanders when I was a high school student, and I want to congratulate him,” the 38-year-old former mayor said at his party last night. “I respect him greatly to this day, and I congratulate him on his strong showing tonight.”

Meanwhile, Mike Bloomberg is waiting in the wings. The former New York mayor is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to air commercials in the states that vote Super Tuesday. And he’s building support. Rep. Lucy McBath (D-Ga.) [endorsed](#) Bloomberg this morning. The three of them competing for similar voters works to Sanders’s advantage.

##### **5) A cause for concern: Late deciders didn’t break for Sanders.**

Half of voters said they decided in the last few days. Sanders only got 16 percent of this group. Among the other half of the electorate, people who made up their minds earlier, 37 percent backed Sanders, according to the exits. If large numbers of people are making up their

minds at the last minute, they're not likely to go for the Vermonter. He's a known commodity. This shows how it will be harder for him to grow his standing in the national polls than for some lesser-known rivals like Klobuchar. Another number to keep an eye on: Sanders won among men by nine points, but he finished third among women. He underperformed similarly with female voters in 2016, as well.

#### **6) A reason to celebrate: Medicare-for-all helped Sanders win the primary.**

Health care was the biggest concern of people who voted in Tuesday's Democratic primary, by far, and Sanders fared best among people who care most about the issue. Among the 37 percent who cared most about health care, Sanders led with 31 percent.

Six in 10 voters said they support replacing all private health insurance with a single government plan for everyone. Among that group, 39 percent backed Sanders. Buttigieg, who advocates "Medicare for all who want it," followed with 22 percent. Warren was third with this group, garnering 13 percent. Her tortured efforts to back away from Sanders's Medicare-for-all bill, which she had co-sponsored, helped doom her candidacy. When she was peaking in the polls, she struggled to explain how she'd pay for the program without raising taxes on the middle class. She eventually called for a multi-year transition period that left voters on both sides of the question unsatisfied.

Sanders trailed Buttigieg among voters who said climate change and foreign policy were the most important issues to them.

#### **7) A cause for concern: Sanders is not widely perceived by**

## Democrats as electable.

Voters were asked in the exit poll whether they prioritize picking a candidate who agrees with them on major issues or who can beat Trump. Of the third of voters who prized agreement over electability, Sanders won about four in 10. But he got just two in 10 of those who primarily want to beat Trump, a much bigger bloc.

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Supporters cheer as Bernie Sanders gives his victory speech on Tuesday night in Manchester. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

### **8) A reason to celebrate: Sanders has more blue-collar appeal than any of his rivals.**

He led among union members, those without college degrees and lower-income voters. He beat Buttigieg 38 percent to 17 percent among those who earn less than \$50,000-a-year and 31 percent to 24 percent among those who earn between \$50,001 and \$99,999. Buttigieg dominated with those make more than 100K, leading Klobuchar 34 percent to 20 percent, with Sanders in third.

One in five voters said income inequality is the issue they care about most. Sanders led Buttigieg among this constituency 34 percent to 20 percent. Biden enjoys saying that people like to call him “Middle Class Joe,” but he only got 6 percent of voters most concerned about

income inequality. Indeed, Sanders campaign strategists spent much of the past year fretting that Biden would cut into their blue-collar base.

**9) A reason to celebrate: Sanders continues to dominate the youth vote.**

He won half of voters between the ages of 18 to 29, followed by Buttigieg with 20 percent. Sanders also garnered 36 percent of voters age 30 to 44, according to the exit polling. Sanders was a distant third among those 45-to-64 and 65+. Indeed, among seniors, who made up a quarter of the electorate, he got only 14 percent. Klobuchar prevailed among the 65-plus crowd. Older voters historically vote at higher rates.

**10) A cause for concern: 18-to-29-year-olds made up 14 percent of the electorate on Tuesday, down from 19 percent in the 2016 primary.**

The share of young people in the electorate declined despite assiduous outreach, including the campaign hosting a concert on the University of New Hampshire campus in Durham on Monday night, that drew 7,500 attendees.

Bigger picture, Sanders is not bringing the numbers of new voters into the primary process that he promises he would be able to activate in the general election if he's the Democratic nominee. Sanders's theory of the case is premised on the idea that he can bring new people into the process. But there's little evidence so far from Iowa or New Hampshire that he would be able to deliver.

Total Democratic primary turnout in New Hampshire surpassed 2016 levels and is tracking close to the 2008 total vote count of about 288,000. Last week in Iowa, the turnout of a little more than 170,000 barely surpassed 2016 levels – and fell far short of the record-breaking 240,000 caucus-goers who came out in 2008 when Barack Obama was running. Sanders [conceded](#) that this disappointed him. “Not as high, frankly, as I would have liked to have seen,” he told reporters.



Deval Patrick greets voters outside a polling place on Tuesday in Concord, N.H. (Scott Eisen/Getty Images)

**-- New Hampshire has winnowed the field: Three candidates have ended their campaigns since polls closed last night.**

**Former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick:** “The vote in New Hampshire last night was not enough for us to create the practical



wind at the campaign's back to go on to the next round of voting," he said in a statement this afternoon, "so I have decided to suspend the campaign, effective immediately."

**Entrepreneur Andrew Yang:** "I am a numbers guy," he told Dave Weigel [in an interview](#). "In most of these [upcoming] states, I'm not going to be at a threshold where I get delegates, which makes sticking around not necessarily helpful or productive in terms of furthering the goals of this campaign." Yang added that he has not decided whether to endorse another candidate, though campaigns have reached out. He also said he would be open to becoming another candidate's running mate or joining the Cabinet.

**Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.):** "I love you, New Hampshire. Whether you knew it or not, we were having a great time together," he said at [his watch party in Concord](#), joined by Gary Hart and James Carville. "I want you to be optimistic tonight. As James Baldwin wrote at the height of the civil rights movement: This is in our hands; we have no right to assume otherwise."

#### **QUOTE OF THE DAY:**

*Joe Biden left New Hampshire before the polls closed to fly to a rally in Columbia, S.C. "This is just the beginning," he told supporters there. "We have an entire nation to vote yet."*



**-- More team coverage from the campaign trail:**

**Dan Balz:** “Democrats now face a fractured and divisive contest for the nomination.”

**Jenna Johnson:** “With a third-place finish, Klobuchar bursts to the center of the ... race.”

**Annie Linskey:** “Warren’s campaign at a crossroads as once-rising star confronts disappointing finishes.”

**Josh Dawsey:** “Biden looks to S.C. to revive faltering campaign, but success there is no longer seen as certain.”

**Michael Scherer:** “Bloomberg wins the Democratic spotlight and the derision of his rivals.”

**Amber Phillips:** “8 questions about where the Democratic primary stands after New Hampshire.”

**Cat Zakrzewski:** “Sanders is no friend of Big Tech. And he keeps winning.”

Dino Grandoni: “Climate concerns help boost Sanders and Buttigieg in New Hampshire.”

Holly Bailey and Isaac Stanley-Becker: “After scrapping a pair of apps similar to the one that caused chaos in Iowa, the Nevada State Democratic Party said it would use paper ballots and an online check-in process in its presidential caucuses, a plan unlikely to end growing concerns about the coming vote.”



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Prosecutors quit amid backtrack over Roger Stone's prison term

## **POLITICS TRUMPS THE RULE OF LAW:**

**-- All four career prosecutors handling the case against Roger Stone withdrew from the case — and one quit his job entirely — after the Justice Department signaled it planned to undercut their sentencing recommendation for Trump’s longtime friend and confidant. [Matt Zapotosky, Devlin Barrett, Ann Marimow and Spencer Hsu report](#): “The sudden and dramatic moves came after prosecutors and their superiors had argued for days over the appropriate penalty for Stone, and exposed what some career Justice Department employees say is a continuing pattern of the historically independent law enforcement institution being bent to Trump’s political will. ... The cascade of controversy began Monday, when career prosecutors handling the case recommended that a judge sentence Stone ... to between seven and nine years in federal prison. ... ‘This is a horrible and very unfair situation,’ Trump [wrote early Tuesday](#). ‘The real**

crimes were on the other side, as nothing happens to them. Cannot allow this miscarriage of justice!' Hours later, a senior Justice Department official told reporters that the agency's leadership was 'shocked' by the recommendation of a seven-to-nine-year sentence and would soon revise it. ...

"One by one, the career prosecutors, two of whom had worked on [Bob] Mueller's investigation, filed notices in court of their intention to leave the case. Though none of the prosecutors gave a reason, **their asking to do so was highly unusual and suggested they could not ethically affix their names to the government's revised position.** ... Kerri Kupec, a Justice Department spokeswoman, said that the White House did not communicate with the agency on Monday or Tuesday about the Stone case, and that the decision to reverse course was made before Trump's tweet. Trump told reporters later Tuesday, 'I have not been involved in it at all,' though in the same remarks he called the career prosecutors' initial recommendation 'an insult to our country.' ... Jonathan Kravis, one of the prosecutors on the Stone case, wrote in a court filing that he had resigned as an assistant U.S. attorney, leaving government altogether. Three others — Aaron S.J. Zelinsky, Adam Jed and Michael Marando — filed notices with the judge saying 'please notice the withdrawal' from the case. ...

**"The decision to file a new sentencing memo was made by officials in the attorney general's office and the deputy attorney general's office, according to a senior Justice Department official. The official could not point to another instance of Justice Department headquarters overruling and replacing a sentencing**

**memorandum a day after a filing** ... Hours before the [original] filing was due Monday, [Timothy] Shea, the [interim head of the D.C. U.S. attorney's office] and a former close adviser to [Attorney General Bill] Barr, had not made a final decision on Stone's sentencing recommendation ... In their Monday filing, prosecutors argued that more time should be added to Stone's sentence because of his extensive criminal conduct, which stretched over two years, and because they say he obstructed the prosecution of the case after he was charged. In a Tuesday filing from Shea, ... the government argued that those enhancements were overkill, noting that Stone's victim has asked for leniency for him and did not view the statement as an actual threat."

**-- Almost simultaneously, Trump decided to revoke the nomination to a top Treasury Department post of his former U.S. attorney in the District, Jessie Liu, who supervised the Stone case when it went to trial.** [Hsu, Dawsey and Barrett report](#): "Liu, 47, served more than two years in the politically sensitive post of top federal prosecutor in the nation's capital and was Trump's first nominee to the position, serving from September 2017 until Jan. 31. In the job, Liu oversaw late-stage court proceedings for top Trump aides and Mueller defendants, including Trump's 2016 deputy campaign chairman Rick Gates and former national security adviser Michael Flynn, as well as [Stone's] November trial and conviction. However, over the past two weeks, coinciding with Liu's departure, the U.S. attorney's office has [changed](#) its sentencing stances [in both Flynn](#) and [Stone's](#) cases, with prosecutors moving from stiffer sentencing recommendations to more lenient ones. Emerging accounts of the circumstances surrounding Liu's departure from the

administration cast those decisions in a new light. ...

**"Trump has been lobbied extensively against Liu by people who do not like her handling of the D.C. office — particularly as it relates to the Mueller probe,** an administration official said. The decision to withdraw the nomination was made Tuesday afternoon, the official said. ... A third person familiar with the situation ... said **Liu's nomination was opposed vocally by Barbara Ledeen, a conservative operative and Republican Senate staffer unhappy about [Michael] Flynn's prosecution for lying to the FBI.** ... The person said Ledeen had made little headway before the recent storm over Stone's sentencing, calling it a turning point. **Treasury officials believe Trump himself made the call to withdraw Liu because her confirmation hearing before the Senate Banking Committee was set for Thursday, and Trump was concerned she would be asked about the case** ... Liu had no role in Stone's sentencing recommendation, having left office before it was sent to supervisors for approval, several people said."

**-- The four career prosecutors who withdrew from the Stone case did so after finding out from Fox News that Barr's office planned to withdraw the sentencing recommendation,** per [the Times](#): "As is customary in prominent prosecutions, the line prosecutors on the Stone case discussed their proposed sentencing recommendation with senior officials. But they apparently came to no clear agreement before the document was filed in court, an outcome that one Justice Department official blamed on a breakdown in management."

**-- The week of Trump's acquittal was Fox News Channel's best in the ratings since the weeks when he was elected and**

inaugurated. (AP)

-- Under Barr's iron fist, "it appears no corner of the Justice Department can escape perversion," laments [columnist Dana Milbank](#): "In a new grant award, senior Justice officials rejected the recommendations of career officials and decided to deny grants to highly rated Catholic Charities in Palm Beach, Fla., and Chicanos Por La Causa in Phoenix. Instead, [Reuters reported](#), they gave more than \$1 million combined to lower-rated groups called the Lincoln Tubman Foundation and Hookers for Jesus. Why? Well, it turns out the head of the Catholic Charities affiliate had been active with Democrats and the Phoenix group had opposed President Trump's immigration policies. By contrast, Hookers for Jesus is run by a Christian conservative and the Lincoln Tubman group was launched by a relative of a Trump delegate to the 2016 convention. **That Catholic Charities has been replaced by Hookers for Jesus says much about Barr's Justice Department.** Friends of Trump are rewarded. Opponents of Trump are punished. And the nation's law enforcement apparatus becomes Trump's personal plaything."

-- As Trump escalated his campaign of retribution against his perceived enemies, Republican senators shrugged. [Philip Rucker and Paul Kane report](#): Trump railed "in the Oval Office about a decorated combat veteran who testified about the president's conduct with Ukraine and suggesting the Defense Department should consider disciplining him. 'The military can handle him any way they want,' Trump said of Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, who was ousted from his position on the National Security Council last Friday and reassigned to the Pentagon. Asked whether he was recommending the military take



disciplinary action against Vindman for his House testimony in the impeachment proceedings, Trump replied, 'They're going to certainly, I would imagine, take a look at that.' ... Republicans who control the Senate resigned themselves this week to the reality that they are unable to check or even influence Trump, even as some GOP strategists are warning that the president's actions threaten the party's Senate majority by complicating the home-state politics for a quintet of endangered incumbents.

"One of them, Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), said last week that she believed Trump had learned 'a pretty big lesson' by being impeached. But this week she said she had been so 'concerned' about Trump's desire to punish two impeachment witnesses, U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland and Vindman, that she contacted the White House. ... Asked what senators could do to rein in Trump, she replied, 'I called to try to prevent the action' ... Sens. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) said that they tried to save Sondland, a major GOP donor, from the embarrassment of being fired on the same day as Vindman. ... 'I agreed with the decision on Vindman,' Tillis said. 'I just felt like having the two have some distance would have been appropriate.'"

**-- Trump plans to ditch another official over her role in impeachment.** [From the New York Post](#): "The White House is expected to pull the nomination of Elaine McCusker to be the Pentagon's comptroller and chief financial officer in the latest staffing fallout from [Trump's] impeachment ... McCusker resisted the president's directive to stall about \$250 million in military aid to Ukraine and her emails protesting the delay were leaked in January to

the blog Just Security ahead of Trump's Senate trial. ... It's unclear if a final decision has been made on the timing of the nomination withdrawal. It's also unclear how the withdrawal would impact McCusker's current role as acting comptroller and CFO of the Pentagon."

**-- Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Utah) has emerged as a top contender to be the next director of national intelligence. He's being pushed by national security adviser Robert O'Brien. [From the Times:](#)**

"Joseph Maguire, the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, has filled in as the acting director of national intelligence since Dan Coats resigned in August. But under current law limiting the duration of postings for acting cabinet-level officials, Mr. Maguire must step down next month. ... **What is not clear, however, is whether the president sees Mr. Maguire's role in handling the anonymous whistle-blower complaint about Mr. Trump's dealings with Ukraine that helped prompt the impeachment inquiry as an asset or a liability.** Mr. Maguire followed the advice of administration lawyers and initially blocked the complaint from being sent to Congress ... But soon after, he engineered an agreement to provide the complaint to Congress. That move ... helped prompt the impeachment inquiry. ... Mr. Stewart, like other Republicans on the House Intelligence Committee, vigorously defended Mr. Trump during impeachment hearings in the fall that focused on the president's pressure campaign on Ukraine. And he has been sharply critical of the handling by the Justice Department and F.B.I. of an investigation into the Trump campaign's ties to Russian interference in the 2016 election."

-- Speaking of Utahns, Sen. Mitt Romney (R) said the Senate GOP has already moved on from his vote last week to convict Trump of abuse of power during the impeachment trial. [Paul Kane reports](#): "Signaling he wants to be a team player, Romney flew home to Salt Lake City for meetings last Thursday — a day after the Senate vote — and then to Palm Beach, Fla., for a National Republican Senatorial Committee gathering ... He said there was no awkwardness at the fundraising retreat or Tuesday's [GOP luncheon], also attended by [Mike] Pence." Things with the president, though, remain tense. At the White House yesterday, Trump called Romney a "disgrace," at the same time that the senator was voting for the president's judicial nominees.



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Coronavirus patients, medical staff exercise and dance at Wuhan hospital

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- The CDC acknowledged the patient with the latest confirmed case of coronavirus in the United States initially tested negative for the disease and was briefly allowed to leave a San Diego hospital because of a laboratory error. [Derek Hawkins and Hannah Knowles report](#): "The patient was among three evacuees from China who were placed in isolation and underwent testing at the University of California San Diego Medical Center last week after showing signs of the novel coronavirus. An initial round of tests came back negative, and the people returned to a quarantine site at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Further testing revealed, however, that one of them was infected. A CDC spokeswoman, Kristen Nordlund, said Tuesday that blood samples from the three patients were inadvertently omitted from a large test run because they were incorrectly labeled. ... On Monday, the patient returned to the hospital for treatment. Going

forward, a CDC laboratory staff member will join quarantine field teams to make sure that specimens are correctly labeled, Nordlund said.”

**-- The coronavirus death toll rose once again, with 97 deaths yesterday alone. Luckily, while the number of confirmed infections continues to rise, the rate of growth is slowing.**

[Hawkins reports](#): “Officials also said they identified more than 2,000 new cases, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 44,653. There were 49 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, 10 in Macau and 18 in Taiwan. More than 185,000 people were under medical observation in the mainland. The vast majority of the new deaths and infections remained concentrated in Hubei province, the epicenter of the outbreak, where 94 people were reported dead Tuesday. More than 4,700 people recovered from the disease, according to Chinese officials.”

**-- Thirty-nine more people tested positive for the virus aboard the cruise ship quarantined off the coast of Japan, bringing the total to 174. ([Hawkins](#))**

**-- The disease caused by the virus has a new name: covid-19.** “We had to find a name that did not refer to a geographical location, an animal, an individual, or group of people,” said World Health Organization director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. WHO also wanted a name that was “pronounceable and related to the disease,” he said. ([AP](#))

**-- American Airlines extended its cancellations of China and Hong Kong flights through April. ([Lori Aratani](#))**

**-- Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said the U.S. peace plan would make “Swiss cheese” out of Palestinian land.** [Anne Gearan reports](#): “A U.N. Security Council vote that would have been a referendum against the plan never happened, an indication that there were not votes to approve the Palestinian-backed measure. ‘This is an Israeli-American preemptive plan,’ designed to allow Israel to get what it wants while blaming Palestinians for walking away, Abbas said during a tense session of the U.N.’s main decision-making body. ... Abbas said the Trump administration plan is a dodge meant ‘to put an end to the question of Palestine.’”

**-- American and Taliban negotiators will meet again today following a conditional decision from Trump to sign a peace deal with the militants, officials said.** “Trump has endorsed the deal and said it must be signed,” the Afghan official said, explaining that when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called Afghan leaders Tuesday, he said the peace talks “deadlock” had been broken. ([Karen DeYoung and Susannah George](#))

**-- Pope Francis backed away from a major, anticipated decision on whether to allow married men to serve as priests in the Amazon.** Many had anticipated that Francis would green-light the move, because local bishops supported the changes as a way to address drastic Catholic clerical shortages in the region. ([Chico Harlan](#))

**-- Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó was met with abuse after returning to Caracas fresh off a global tour.** [Mariana Zuñiga and Anthony Faiola report](#): “He was greeted by rival groups of chanting supporters and insult-hurling pro-government demonstrators.

Confusion ensued as loyalists of President Nicolás Maduro, whom Guaidó is seeking to oust, chased after him. ... Judges loyal to Maduro issued a court order last year forbidding Guaidó to leave the country, but he is calculating that Maduro's government will not risk the international backlash of arresting him after he was embraced by Trump and other leaders. ... But Guaidó's opposition is divided on the strategy going forward. Some lawmakers are backing Maduro's call to hold parliamentary elections this year. Guaidó has focused on demanding new presidential elections."

**-- The armed showdown in El Salvador this weekend illustrated the growing role that militaries are playing in Latin American democracies. [Anne-Catherine Brigida and Mary Beth Sheridan report](#): "In a region that long suffered from military dictatorships, the assertiveness by the armed forces is raising fears that democracy is taking a step backward. ... El Salvador's standoff between the military and lawmakers has ended peacefully — for now. ... [But] the deployment of the soldiers — with the [open support of the defense minister](#) — sent tremors through El Salvador."**



The scene in March 2018 after a Tesla electric SUV crashed into a barrier on U.S. Highway 101 in Mountain View, Calif. The driver, Apple engineer Walter Huang, died. (AP)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

**-- A Tesla running on “autopilot” repeatedly veered toward the same spot where an Apple engineer later crashed and died, federal investigators said. [Michael Laris reports](#):** “Four days before Walter Huang’s Tesla veered off U.S. Highway 101 in Northern California and into a concrete barrier, killing the father of two, Huang sent a text message describing the car’s ‘Autopilot’ system making a similar error in the same spot, according to documents released Tuesday by federal investigators. ... When Huang’s Tesla SUV reached the exit ramp area in Mountain View, where he said the problems previously occurred, the car again steered out of its lane and hit a barrier at about 71 miles per hour, according to the NTSB. ... Tesla has faced sharp criticism from some lawmakers in Congress and elsewhere for calling its driver assistance features ‘Autopilot,’ which critics say is an overstatement of the system’s capabilities and can encourage customers to let their guard down.”

**-- Lax Federal Aviation Administration oversight allowed Southwest to put millions of passengers at risk aboard planes that didn’t meet U.S. standards, the Department of Transportation’s inspector general found. [Lori Aratani, Michael Laris and Ian Duncan report](#):** “The strongly worded report called the FAA’s oversight of Southwest’s safety management system ‘ineffective’ and said the agency improperly relied on Southwest’s own



conclusion that repeated problems represented a ‘low risk, rather than requiring the airline to comply with its regulatory requirements.’ ... The report found that Southwest ‘operates its fleet of aircraft with frequent weight and balance errors.’ Such incorrect information was ‘frequently communicated to pilots, which can ‘greatly affect’ a plane’s safety and performance, the report said.”

**-- Trump is closer than ever to fulfilling his promise for a U.S. with taller walls, tighter immigration laws and fewer foreigners entering the country.** [Nick Miroff connects the dots](#): In the past three years, Trump has hardened the nation’s immigration system, causing illegal border crossings to plummet and legal immigration to slump. And now, his budget proposal “would increase deportations by adding thousands of new immigration agents and expanding jail capacity.” On Monday, the DOJ announced “lawsuits against three ‘sanctuary’ jurisdictions that eschew cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. And at an evening rally in New Hampshire ahead of the state’s Democratic primary, the president dusted off one of his vintage campaign routines, reciting a dark allegory he calls ‘The Snake’ about a serpent that turns on its generous host, injecting fatal venom. ‘This is about immigration,’ he told the crowd, to raucous cheers.”

**-- U.S.-Mexico border crossings continue to drop, but unauthorized crossings by Mexican migrants are surging.** [Abigail Hauslohner reports](#): “Acting CBP Commissioner Mark Morgan said Tuesday that U.S. officials [apprehended](#) or deemed ‘inadmissible’ 36,679 migrants in January, a drop of 10 percent from December. But he said the number of [Mexican](#) adults taken into custody has climbed 32 percent from this time last year, a shift he attributed to smugglers

‘scrambling to come up with new tactics’ as overall migration numbers have fallen.”

**-- A Puerto Rican man applied for a license in Georgia. Officials then arrested and jailed him for fraud. [Brittany Shammass reports](#):**

“Kenneth Caban Gonzalez waited the required 30 days after moving to Georgia, then gathered what he needed to apply for a driver’s license. ... When Caban Gonzalez was called back to the service center a few days later ... he wasn’t given a new ID. He was arrested and taken to jail ... **He spent three days behind bars, lost construction work and faced the possibility of imprisonment before ultimately being cleared last March.** Caban Gonzalez’s ordeal was the result of a Georgia Department of Driver Services practice of treating license seekers who moved from Puerto Rico differently than those who came from U.S. states and the District of Columbia, even though they are U.S. citizens. Now, as part of a settlement in a federal discrimination lawsuit Caban Gonzalez filed in July, the state has agreed to start treating applicants from Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories the same as those from U.S. states.”

**-- New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) said a Department of Homeland Security memo on immigrant driving records is proof the administration engaged in “politically motivated retaliation” meant to punish his state. [From BuzzFeed News](#):** “The Jan. 27 memo, written by a top DHS official, James McCament, outlined potential options for acting DHS Secretary Chad Wolf to consider in their efforts to not only obtain the driver records but to punish states like New York that cut off access to the information. McCament offered up options such as using ‘friendly’ states to discreetly collect

information for federal immigration authorities that would otherwise be inaccessible by law. The plans also include retaliation measures against states that limit access to records, such as closing down local DHS offices, refusing to accept their state identification, cutting TSA PreCheck services, and potentially issuing subpoenas for driver's licenses provided to undocumented immigrants."

**-- Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell warned Congress that now would be a good time to reduce the federal budget deficit, which is expected to top \$1 trillion this year.** For now, Powell said he doesn't see signs of a recession on the horizon and said the economy is in a "very good place." He expects growth to remain solid, though he acknowledged the coronavirus remains a major unknown for the economy. ([Heather Long](#))

**-- The Federal Trade Commission will review past mergers by Facebook, Google and other Big Tech companies.** Regulators said they would look into the mergers to see whether the acquisitions of smaller rivals may have skirted federal antitrust laws. ([Tony Romm](#))

**-- Denver voted to end its 30-year ban on pit bulls.** A new law that permits but still regulates the ownership of these dogs will take effect in 90 days, pending approval from the mayor. ([Katie Mettler](#))

**-- A D.C. statehood bill will advance to the House floor and it's likely to pass for the first time in history.** That said, the bill faces almost certain death in the Senate. ([Jenna Portnoy](#))

**-- The San Francisco Chronicle requested public documents on gun ownership. Now its reporters are getting death threats.** ([Hannah Knowles](#))

**-- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said the deadline to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment has expired.** [From CNN](#): “Ginsburg, a long-time supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, suggested Monday night that the deadline to ratify the measure as a constitutional amendment has expired and that the decades long effort must start anew. ‘I would like to see a new beginning,’ Ginsburg told an audience at Georgetown University Law Center. ... Ginsburg's comments seemed to throw cold water on a recent effort by Virginia and other states who argue that after Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the amendment last month, the states had met the threshold necessary to change the Constitution. ... Ginsburg said ‘there is too much controversy about late comers,’ and she added that Virginia's move came ‘long after the deadline passed.’”

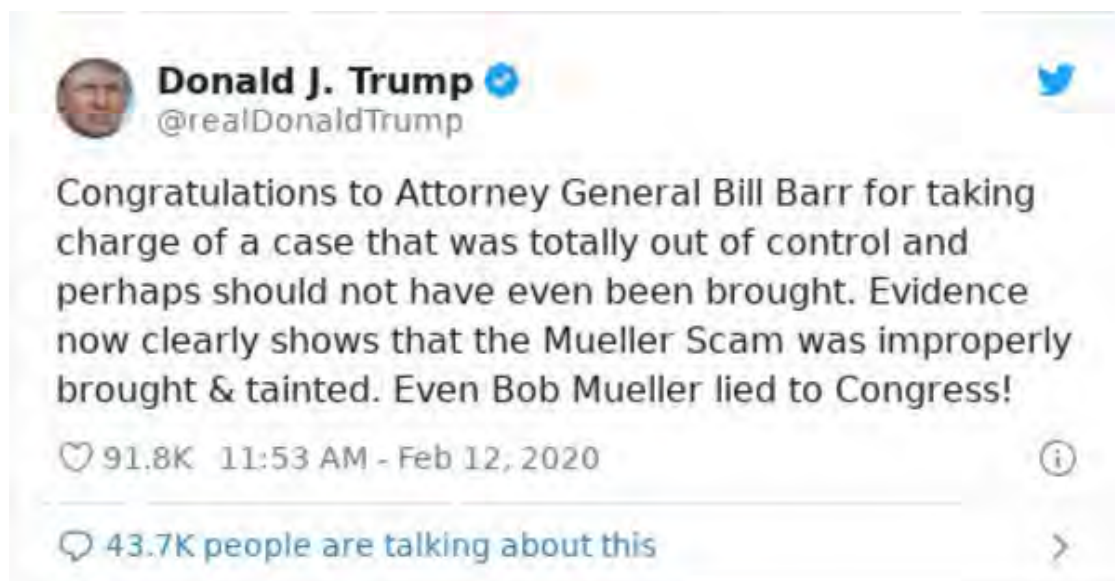
**-- Actor Jussie Smollett was indicted on new charges of filing false hate crime reports last year after he claimed to be the victim of a bigoted attack in Chicago.** [Elahe Izadi and Travis Andrews report](#): “A grand jury indicted Smollett on six counts of disorderly conduct, charging him with filing false reports of a hate crime, according to documents filed Tuesday. The development came almost a year after prosecutors made the controversial decision to drop multiple felony counts against Smollett. In June, a judge ruled that Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx mishandled the case and ordered a special prosecutor to investigate and to determine whether Smollett would be subject to new charges. Special prosecutor Dan K. Webb decided to prosecute after ‘the grand jury’s investigation revealed that Jussie Smollett planned and participated in a staged hate crime attack, and thereafter made numerous false statements to

Chicago Police Department officers on multiple occasions, reporting a heinous hate crime that he, in fact, knew had not occurred.”

-- **Longtime CNBC anchor Michelle Caruso-Cabrera launched a Democratic primary challenge against Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.).** About a dozen other candidates have filed to run for the seat, even though Ocasio-Cortez will be hard to beat. The freshman is a fundraising powerhouse, having raised over \$5.3 million last year. (CNN)

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Trump praised Barr this morning for allegedly intervening in Stone’s sentencing:



Andrew Yang channeled Arnold Schwarzenegger a few hours after dropping out of the race:

 **Andrew Yang**   
@AndrewYang 

We'll be back.

 79.8K  4:30 AM - Feb 12, 2020 

 [12.1K people are talking about this](#) 

Michael Bennet left the campaign with a message to New Hampshire:



**Dave Weigel** ✓  
@daveweigel



Michael Bennet drops out of the race. "I love you, New Hampshire. Whether you knew it or not, we were having a great time together... I think it's fitting for us to end the campaign tonight."



♡ 432 1:34 AM - Feb 12, 2020



💬 136 people are talking about this



Here's a sobering statistic about Biden's electoral record:



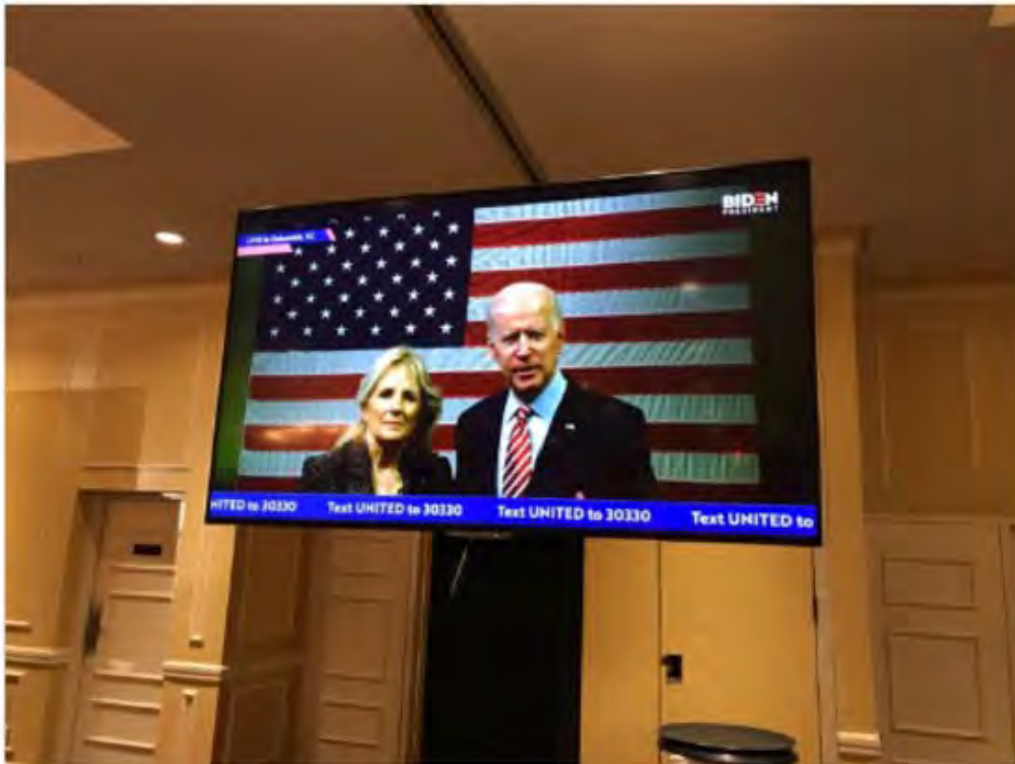
**David Dayen**  
@ddayen



Joe Biden has never finished higher than 4th in any primary or caucus in 32 years of running for president  
[twitter.com/thomaskaplan/s...](https://twitter.com/thomaskaplan/s...)

**Thomas Kaplan**  @thomaskaplan

Biden is now addressing his party via live stream



♡ 11.1K 2:09 AM - Feb 12, 2020



💬 2,655 people are talking about this



Just as Sanders finished his victory speech in New Hampshire, the most powerful union in Nevada shared a candidate sheet with a not-so-favorable review of Medicare-for-all:





**Gabriel DeBenedetti** @gdebenedetti · 4h



the very, very powerful Culinary Union in Nevada just sent these handouts out to members. See under Sanders: "End Culinary Healthcare." Pretty clear signal >

**DE WE WIN UN FAMILIES** **One. Two. Three** **NO VOTAMOS NOS GANAMOS** **Uno. Dos. Tre**

**RACIST PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON CULINARY UNION ISSUE**

| NAME               | HEALTHCARE              | WAGES/BENEFITS | PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | AFRICA | CAREERS OF LA RAZA | LABOR TRAINING | IMMIGRATION |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| <b>TRUMP</b>       | Medicare for All        | 15% raise      | Professional development | Yes    | Yes                | Yes            | Yes         |
| <b>WELD</b>        | Medicare for All        | 15% raise      | Professional development | Yes    | Yes                | Yes            | Yes         |
| <b>HAAS</b>        | Medicare for All        | 15% raise      | Professional development | Yes    | Yes                | Yes            | Yes         |
| <b>DEBENEDETTI</b> | Medicare for All        | 15% raise      | Professional development | Yes    | Yes                | Yes            | Yes         |
| <b>SANDERS</b>     | End Culinary Healthcare | 15% raise      | Professional development | Yes    | Yes                | Yes            | Yes         |

**VOTING: February 15 - 18** **CANCER DAY: SHIRAZI February 22**

**2020** **2020**



**Gabriel DeBenedetti** @gdebenedetti

when Sanders spoke to the Culinary Union members late last year, he was interrupted repeatedly by questions about how Medicare for All would hit their union-negotiated care. Big deal here in the next state to vote...

64 4:28 AM - Feb 12, 2020




24 people are talking about this



Trump reacted to the New Hampshire results:



The former acting attorney general, whom Trump fired in January 2017 when she refused to enforce his travel ban on predominantly Muslim countries, had this message for longtime DOJ staffers:

 **Sally Yates** ✓  
@SallyQYates

To the career men and women of DOJ, you are both the backbone and the heart of the Department. Your noble dedication to the rule of law is the foundation of our republic. [twitter.com/peteralexander...](https://twitter.com/peteralexander...)


**Peter Alexander** ✓ @PeterAlexander  
BREAKING: Now, all four federal prosecutors on the Stone case have asked the judge to withdraw from the case.

Michael Marando joins the rest of his team including Aaron Zelinsky, Jonathan Kravis, and Adam Jed.

52.6K 11:39 PM - Feb 11, 2020

14.8K people are talking about this

From a former DOJ inspector general:

 **Michael R. Bromwich** ✓  
@mrbromwich

Memo to all career DOJ employees

This is not what you signed up for. The four prosecutors who bailed on the Stone case have shown the way. Report all instances of improper political influence and other misdeeds to the DOJ IG, who is required to protect your identity.

32.1K 1:59 AM - Feb 12, 2020

10.4K people are talking about this

Trump criticized the federal judge overseeing Roger Stone's trial, and Hillary Clinton responded:



**Hillary Clinton**    
@HillaryClinton

Do you realize intimidating judges is the behavior of failed-state fascists? Just asking!  
[twitter.com/realDonaldTrump...](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump...)

**Donald J. Trump**  @realDonaldTrump  
Is this the Judge that put Paul Manafort in SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, something that not even mobster Al Capone had to endure? How did she treat Crooked Hillary Clinton? Just asking! [twitter.com/katiephang/sta...](https://twitter.com/katiephang/sta...)

77.2K 2:44 AM - Feb 12, 2020 

21.9K people are talking about this 

So did the speaker of the House:



**Nancy Pelosi**    
@SpeakerPelosi

By tweet [@realDonaldTrump](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump) engaged in political interference in the sentencing of Roger Stone. It is outrageous that DOJ has deeply damaged the rule of law by withdrawing its recommendation. Stepping down of prosecutors should be commended & actions of DOJ should be investigated.

64,6K 2:37 AM - Feb 12, 2020 

26.8K people are talking about this 

And the president seemed pretty proud of this discovery:

 **Jeff Mason** ✓  
@jeffmason1 

.@realDonaldTrump notes in the Oval Office proudly that Microsoft, Amazon, Google, Apple - companies that have the highest values in the stock market - spell, with their first letters, a familiar acronym: MAGA.



♡ 249 9:25 PM - Feb 11, 2020 

💬 283 people are talking about this 

### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Siba, a standard poodle, won this year's Westminster Kennel Club

Dog Show:



Westminster dog show: Fluff, fun and fur-ocious competition

"Ahead of the final decision, the beautiful black dog beamed as she took one final lap around Madison Square Garden," [writes Michael Brice-Saddler](#). "Siba performed masterfully Tuesday — even as the crowd urged judge Robert H. Slay to crown the golden retriever, a breed that has never been named best in show."

Reacting to the DOJ infighting, Stephen Colbert joked that the only difference between a banana republic and this situation is that Trump "doesn't eat fruit":



Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-Calif.) talked to Seth Meyers about the advice Trump gave him to fight fires:



Jimmy Kimmel talked to one of Trump's recently fired ambassadors:



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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Ten reasons Bernie Sanders should celebrate winning New Hampshire – or feel cause for concern  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020 11:04:26 AM

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If you're having trouble reading this, [click here](#).

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

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**Ten reasons Bernie Sanders should celebrate winning New Hampshire – or feel cause for concern**



Sanders wins New Hampshire: The candidates' speeches in 3.5 minutes



**BY JAMES HOHMANN**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

## **THE BIG IDEA:**

**MANCHESTER, N.H. –** When Bernie Sanders launched his second bid for the Democratic presidential nomination a year ago, joining a large and diverse field, very few pundits thought he could win the most votes in the Iowa caucuses and repeat his 2016 triumph in the New Hampshire primary. The Vermont senator was written off again after his heart attack in October. But the 78-year-old persevered and has once again proven conventional wisdom wrong, winning here and taking the lead in the latest national polls.

“This victory here is the beginning of the end for Donald Trump,” Sanders told supporters on Tuesday night. “Bernie beats Trump,” his 1,200 supporters chanted inside the Southern New Hampshire

University field house. “Bernie beats Trump.”

By traditional metrics, Sanders would be widely considered the front-runner right now. That’s how he sees himself and how his surrogates refer to him at his rallies. The party has moved in his direction on a litany of issues. He’s built a small-dollar fundraising juggernaut. It’s not clear today that any other candidate has a greater probability of securing the nomination than he does.

**In several ways, though, the results from New Hampshire offered a mixed bag for the would-be revolutionary.** He deserves his due for winning, but there are also questions about his strength going into what could be a five-month slog to the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee this July. Here’s some of the good news, as well the bad news, for Sanders as the race moves from the Granite State to Nevada, South Carolina and Super Tuesday:

**1) A cause for concern: The victory was unexpectedly narrow.**

Sanders won with 25.8 percent of the vote, leading Pete Buttigieg by only 1.3 percentage points, or fewer than 4,000 votes.

The percentage of the vote Sanders got is the lowest for any winner of the New Hampshire primary in modern history, lagging behind Jimmy Carter’s 28.6 percent in 1976.

Sanders, who beat Hillary Clinton by 22 points here four years ago, made no effort to manage expectations that he’d win. He confidently predicted victory at every stop in the final days.

In 2016, Sanders received 152,193 votes in the two-way race. He’s

getting 74,316 votes, with [94 percent of precincts reporting](#) as of 1 p.m. on Wednesday.

Interestingly, only 30 percent of voters in [the network exit polls](#) said they supported Sanders in 2016 – even though he got 62 percent of the vote. New Hampshire allows independents to vote in either party's primary. Republicans didn't have a competitive contest, so many unaffiliated voters took Democratic ballots.

On Tuesday, the exit polling shows Sanders won 57 percent of the group that had voted for him four years before. And he picked up 12 percent of voters who said they supported Clinton in 2016. One in five voters said they voted for neither Clinton nor Sanders in the 2016 primaries. Sanders got 14 percent of that group.

**2) A reason to celebrate: Elizabeth Warren's collapse has sidelined Sanders's chief rival in the liberal lane and solidified his standing as the dominant progressive voice in the race.**

Both Sanders and Warren represent neighboring states to New Hampshire. But Warren's support tanked after Iowa, and the Massachusetts senator received 9.3 percent of the vote – not enough to receive a single delegate to the national convention. (It appears that Sanders will get nine delegates and Buttigieg will get six delegates out of New Hampshire.) If Warren cannot even get double digits here, where she's spent more time and money than any other state, what's the contest she thinks she'll be able to win?

Among the 21 percent of voters who described themselves as “very liberal” in the exit poll, half backed Sanders. Warren was second, with 19 percent. Sanders and Buttigieg tied among the 40 percent of voters

who saw themselves as “somewhat liberal,” getting 26 percent apiece. Buttigieg and Sen. Amy Klobuchar essentially tied – 28 percent to 26 percent – among the third of the electorate that identified as moderate.

**3) A cause for concern: Most Democrats do not want Sanders to be their nominee.** If you add together Buttigieg, Klobuchar and Joe Biden – the three candidates competing unabashedly in the more moderate lane – they received 52.7 percent. The self-described democratic socialist declines to formally register as a member of the Democratic Party. Democrats overwhelmingly said they’d back him over Trump, but [they worry that he would lose the election](#).



New Hampshire primary: Sanders wins, Klobuchar surges, dropouts ensue

**4) A reason to celebrate: Klobuchar’s surge is good for Sanders because it divides up the moderate lane and makes it harder for Buttigieg to consolidate support.**

She finished third, with just under 20 percent of the vote. Some Buttigieg allies apparently expressed concern at his watch party in Nashua about what they called the “Klobuchar.” The strong finish by the senior senator from Minnesota, who is going to New York today to fill her campaign coffers, denies Buttigieg the chance to claim that he’s now the moderate to beat.

Klobuchar said she can appeal to the “people in middle” at her watch party: “Donald Trump's worst nightmare is that the people in the middle, the people who have had enough of the name-calling and the mudslinging, have someone to vote for in November.”

For now, Buttigieg and Klobuchar are likely to be more focused on each other than Sanders. “I admired Senator Sanders when I was a high school student, and I want to congratulate him,” the 38-year-old former mayor said at his party last night. “I respect him greatly to this day, and I congratulate him on his strong showing tonight.”

Meanwhile, Mike Bloomberg is waiting in the wings. The former New York mayor is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to air commercials in the states that vote Super Tuesday. And he’s building support. Rep. Lucy McBath (D-Ga.) [endorsed](#) Bloomberg this morning. The three of them competing for similar voters works to Sanders’s advantage.

##### **5) A cause for concern: Late deciders didn’t break for Sanders.**

Half of voters said they decided in the last few days. Sanders only got 16 percent of this group. Among the other half of the electorate, people who made up their minds earlier, 37 percent backed Sanders, according to the exits. If large numbers of people are making up their

minds at the last minute, they're not likely to go for the Vermonter. He's a known commodity. This shows how it will be harder for him to grow his standing in the national polls than for some lesser-known rivals like Klobuchar. Another number to keep an eye on: Sanders won among men by nine points, but he finished third among women. He underperformed similarly with female voters in 2016, as well.

#### **6) A reason to celebrate: Medicare-for-all helped Sanders win the primary.**

Health care was the biggest concern of people who voted in Tuesday's Democratic primary, by far, and Sanders fared best among people who care most about the issue. Among the 37 percent who cared most about health care, Sanders led with 31 percent.

Six in 10 voters said they support replacing all private health insurance with a single government plan for everyone. Among that group, 39 percent backed Sanders. Buttigieg, who advocates "Medicare for all who want it," followed with 22 percent. Warren was third with this group, garnering 13 percent. Her tortured efforts to back away from Sanders's Medicare-for-all bill, which she had co-sponsored, helped doom her candidacy. When she was peaking in the polls, she struggled to explain how she'd pay for the program without raising taxes on the middle class. She eventually called for a multi-year transition period that left voters on both sides of the question unsatisfied.

Sanders trailed Buttigieg among voters who said climate change and foreign policy were the most important issues to them.

#### **7) A cause for concern: Sanders is not widely perceived by**

## Democrats as electable.

Voters were asked in the exit poll whether they prioritize picking a candidate who agrees with them on major issues or who can beat Trump. Of the third of voters who prized agreement over electability, Sanders won about four in 10. But he got just two in 10 of those who primarily want to beat Trump, a much bigger bloc.

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Supporters cheer as Bernie Sanders gives his victory speech on Tuesday night in Manchester. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

### **8) A reason to celebrate: Sanders has more blue-collar appeal than any of his rivals.**

He led among union members, those without college degrees and lower-income voters. He beat Buttigieg 38 percent to 17 percent among those who earn less than \$50,000-a-year and 31 percent to 24 percent among those who earn between \$50,001 and \$99,999. Buttigieg dominated with those make more than 100K, leading Klobuchar 34 percent to 20 percent, with Sanders in third.

One in five voters said income inequality is the issue they care about most. Sanders led Buttigieg among this constituency 34 percent to 20 percent. Biden enjoys saying that people like to call him “Middle Class Joe,” but he only got 6 percent of voters most concerned about

income inequality. Indeed, Sanders campaign strategists spent much of the past year fretting that Biden would cut into their blue-collar base.

**9) A reason to celebrate: Sanders continues to dominate the youth vote.**

He won half of voters between the ages of 18 to 29, followed by Buttigieg with 20 percent. Sanders also garnered 36 percent of voters age 30 to 44, according to the exit polling. Sanders was a distant third among those 45-to-64 and 65+. Indeed, among seniors, who made up a quarter of the electorate, he got only 14 percent. Klobuchar prevailed among the 65-plus crowd. Older voters historically vote at higher rates.

**10) A cause for concern: 18-to-29-year-olds made up 14 percent of the electorate on Tuesday, down from 19 percent in the 2016 primary.**

The share of young people in the electorate declined despite assiduous outreach, including the campaign hosting a concert on the University of New Hampshire campus in Durham on Monday night, that drew 7,500 attendees.

Bigger picture, Sanders is not bringing the numbers of new voters into the primary process that he promises he would be able to activate in the general election if he's the Democratic nominee. Sanders's theory of the case is premised on the idea that he can bring new people into the process. But there's little evidence so far from Iowa or New Hampshire that he would be able to deliver.

Total Democratic primary turnout in New Hampshire surpassed 2016 levels and is tracking close to the 2008 total vote count of about 288,000. Last week in Iowa, the turnout of a little more than 170,000 barely surpassed 2016 levels – and fell far short of the record-breaking 240,000 caucus-goers who came out in 2008 when Barack Obama was running. Sanders [conceded](#) that this disappointed him. “Not as high, frankly, as I would have liked to have seen,” he told reporters.



Deval Patrick greets voters outside a polling place on Tuesday in Concord, N.H. (Scott Eisen/Getty Images)

**-- New Hampshire has winnowed the field: Three candidates have ended their campaigns since polls closed last night.**

**Former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick:** “The vote in New Hampshire last night was not enough for us to create the practical

wind at the campaign's back to go on to the next round of voting," he said in a statement this afternoon, "so I have decided to suspend the campaign, effective immediately."

**Entrepreneur Andrew Yang:** "I am a numbers guy," he told Dave Weigel [in an interview](#). "In most of these [upcoming] states, I'm not going to be at a threshold where I get delegates, which makes sticking around not necessarily helpful or productive in terms of furthering the goals of this campaign." Yang added that he has not decided whether to endorse another candidate, though campaigns have reached out. He also said he would be open to becoming another candidate's running mate or joining the Cabinet.

**Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.):** "I love you, New Hampshire. Whether you knew it or not, we were having a great time together," he said at [his watch party in Concord](#), joined by Gary Hart and James Carville. "I want you to be optimistic tonight. As James Baldwin wrote at the height of the civil rights movement: This is in our hands; we have no right to assume otherwise."

#### **QUOTE OF THE DAY:**

*Joe Biden left New Hampshire before the polls closed to fly to a rally in Columbia, S.C. "This is just the beginning," he told supporters there. "We have an entire nation to vote yet."*



**-- More team coverage from the campaign trail:**

**Dan Balz:** “Democrats now face a fractured and divisive contest for the nomination.”

**Jenna Johnson:** “With a third-place finish, Klobuchar bursts to the center of the ... race.”

**Annie Linskey:** “Warren’s campaign at a crossroads as once-rising star confronts disappointing finishes.”

**Josh Dawsey:** “Biden looks to S.C. to revive faltering campaign, but success there is no longer seen as certain.”

**Michael Scherer:** “Bloomberg wins the Democratic spotlight and the derision of his rivals.”

**Amber Phillips:** “8 questions about where the Democratic primary stands after New Hampshire.”

**Cat Zakrzewski:** “Sanders is no friend of Big Tech. And he keeps winning.”

Dino Grandoni: “Climate concerns help boost Sanders and Buttigieg in New Hampshire.”

Holly Bailey and Isaac Stanley-Becker: “After scrapping a pair of apps similar to the one that caused chaos in Iowa, the Nevada State Democratic Party said it would use paper ballots and an online check-in process in its presidential caucuses, a plan unlikely to end growing concerns about the coming vote.”



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Prosecutors quit amid backtrack over Roger Stone's prison term

## **POLITICS TRUMPS THE RULE OF LAW:**

**-- All four career prosecutors handling the case against Roger Stone withdrew from the case — and one quit his job entirely — after the Justice Department signaled it planned to undercut their sentencing recommendation for Trump’s longtime friend and confidant. [Matt Zapotosky, Devlin Barrett, Ann Marimow and Spencer Hsu report](#): “The sudden and dramatic moves came after prosecutors and their superiors had argued for days over the appropriate penalty for Stone, and exposed what some career Justice Department employees say is a continuing pattern of the historically independent law enforcement institution being bent to Trump’s political will. ... The cascade of controversy began Monday, when career prosecutors handling the case recommended that a judge sentence Stone ... to between seven and nine years in federal prison. ... ‘This is a horrible and very unfair situation,’ Trump [wrote early Tuesday](#). ‘The real**

crimes were on the other side, as nothing happens to them. Cannot allow this miscarriage of justice!' Hours later, a senior Justice Department official told reporters that the agency's leadership was 'shocked' by the recommendation of a seven-to-nine-year sentence and would soon revise it. ...

"One by one, the career prosecutors, two of whom had worked on [Bob] Mueller's investigation, filed notices in court of their intention to leave the case. Though none of the prosecutors gave a reason, **their asking to do so was highly unusual and suggested they could not ethically affix their names to the government's revised position.** ... Kerri Kupec, a Justice Department spokeswoman, said that the White House did not communicate with the agency on Monday or Tuesday about the Stone case, and that the decision to reverse course was made before Trump's tweet. Trump told reporters later Tuesday, 'I have not been involved in it at all,' though in the same remarks he called the career prosecutors' initial recommendation 'an insult to our country.' ... Jonathan Kravis, one of the prosecutors on the Stone case, wrote in a court filing that he had resigned as an assistant U.S. attorney, leaving government altogether. Three others — Aaron S.J. Zelinsky, Adam Jed and Michael Marando — filed notices with the judge saying 'please notice the withdrawal' from the case. ...

**"The decision to file a new sentencing memo was made by officials in the attorney general's office and the deputy attorney general's office, according to a senior Justice Department official. The official could not point to another instance of Justice Department headquarters overruling and replacing a sentencing**



**memorandum a day after a filing** ... Hours before the [original] filing was due Monday, [Timothy] Shea, the [interim head of the D.C. U.S. attorney's office] and a former close adviser to [Attorney General Bill] Barr, had not made a final decision on Stone's sentencing recommendation ... In their Monday filing, prosecutors argued that more time should be added to Stone's sentence because of his extensive criminal conduct, which stretched over two years, and because they say he obstructed the prosecution of the case after he was charged. In a Tuesday filing from Shea, ... the government argued that those enhancements were overkill, noting that Stone's victim has asked for leniency for him and did not view the statement as an actual threat."

**-- Almost simultaneously, Trump decided to revoke the nomination to a top Treasury Department post of his former U.S. attorney in the District, Jessie Liu, who supervised the Stone case when it went to trial. Hsu, Dawsey and Barrett report:** "Liu, 47, served more than two years in the politically sensitive post of top federal prosecutor in the nation's capital and was Trump's first nominee to the position, serving from September 2017 until Jan. 31. In the job, Liu oversaw late-stage court proceedings for top Trump aides and Mueller defendants, including Trump's 2016 deputy campaign chairman Rick Gates and former national security adviser Michael Flynn, as well as [Stone's] November trial and conviction. However, over the past two weeks, coinciding with Liu's departure, the U.S. attorney's office has **changed** its sentencing stances **in both Flynn and Stone's** cases, with prosecutors moving from stiffer sentencing recommendations to more lenient ones. Emerging accounts of the circumstances surrounding Liu's departure from the

administration cast those decisions in a new light. ...

**"Trump has been lobbied extensively against Liu by people who do not like her handling of the D.C. office — particularly as it relates to the Mueller probe,** an administration official said. The decision to withdraw the nomination was made Tuesday afternoon, the official said. ... A third person familiar with the situation ... said **Liu's nomination was opposed vocally by Barbara Ledeen, a conservative operative and Republican Senate staffer unhappy about [Michael] Flynn's prosecution for lying to the FBI.** ... The person said Ledeen had made little headway before the recent storm over Stone's sentencing, calling it a turning point. **Treasury officials believe Trump himself made the call to withdraw Liu because her confirmation hearing before the Senate Banking Committee was set for Thursday, and Trump was concerned she would be asked about the case** ... Liu had no role in Stone's sentencing recommendation, having left office before it was sent to supervisors for approval, several people said."

**-- The four career prosecutors who withdrew from the Stone case did so after finding out from Fox News that Barr's office planned to withdraw the sentencing recommendation,** per [the Times](#): "As is customary in prominent prosecutions, the line prosecutors on the Stone case discussed their proposed sentencing recommendation with senior officials. But they apparently came to no clear agreement before the document was filed in court, an outcome that one Justice Department official blamed on a breakdown in management."

**-- The week of Trump's acquittal was Fox News Channel's best in the ratings since the weeks when he was elected and**

inaugurated. (AP)

-- Under Barr's iron fist, "it appears no corner of the Justice Department can escape perversion," laments [columnist Dana Milbank](#): "In a new grant award, senior Justice officials rejected the recommendations of career officials and decided to deny grants to highly rated Catholic Charities in Palm Beach, Fla., and Chicanos Por La Causa in Phoenix. Instead, [Reuters reported](#), they gave more than \$1 million combined to lower-rated groups called the Lincoln Tubman Foundation and Hookers for Jesus. Why? Well, it turns out the head of the Catholic Charities affiliate had been active with Democrats and the Phoenix group had opposed President Trump's immigration policies. By contrast, Hookers for Jesus is run by a Christian conservative and the Lincoln Tubman group was launched by a relative of a Trump delegate to the 2016 convention. **That Catholic Charities has been replaced by Hookers for Jesus says much about Barr's Justice Department.** Friends of Trump are rewarded. Opponents of Trump are punished. And the nation's law enforcement apparatus becomes Trump's personal plaything."

-- As Trump escalated his campaign of retribution against his perceived enemies, Republican senators shrugged. [Philip Rucker and Paul Kane report](#): Trump railed "in the Oval Office about a decorated combat veteran who testified about the president's conduct with Ukraine and suggesting the Defense Department should consider disciplining him. 'The military can handle him any way they want,' Trump said of Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, who was ousted from his position on the National Security Council last Friday and reassigned to the Pentagon. Asked whether he was recommending the military take

disciplinary action against Vindman for his House testimony in the impeachment proceedings, Trump replied, 'They're going to certainly, I would imagine, take a look at that.' ... Republicans who control the Senate resigned themselves this week to the reality that they are unable to check or even influence Trump, even as some GOP strategists are warning that the president's actions threaten the party's Senate majority by complicating the home-state politics for a quintet of endangered incumbents.

"One of them, Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), said last week that she believed Trump had learned 'a pretty big lesson' by being impeached. But this week she said she had been so 'concerned' about Trump's desire to punish two impeachment witnesses, U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland and Vindman, that she contacted the White House. ... Asked what senators could do to rein in Trump, she replied, 'I called to try to prevent the action' ... Sens. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) said that they tried to save Sondland, a major GOP donor, from the embarrassment of being fired on the same day as Vindman. ... 'I agreed with the decision on Vindman,' Tillis said. 'I just felt like having the two have some distance would have been appropriate.'"

**-- Trump plans to ditch another official over her role in impeachment.** [From the New York Post](#): "The White House is expected to pull the nomination of Elaine McCusker to be the Pentagon's comptroller and chief financial officer in the latest staffing fallout from [Trump's] impeachment ... McCusker resisted the president's directive to stall about \$250 million in military aid to Ukraine and her emails protesting the delay were leaked in January to

the blog Just Security ahead of Trump's Senate trial. ... It's unclear if a final decision has been made on the timing of the nomination withdrawal. It's also unclear how the withdrawal would impact McCusker's current role as acting comptroller and CFO of the Pentagon."

**-- Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Utah) has emerged as a top contender to be the next director of national intelligence. He's being pushed by national security adviser Robert O'Brien. [From the Times:](#)**

"Joseph Maguire, the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, has filled in as the acting director of national intelligence since Dan Coats resigned in August. But under current law limiting the duration of postings for acting cabinet-level officials, Mr. Maguire must step down next month. ... **What is not clear, however, is whether the president sees Mr. Maguire's role in handling the anonymous whistle-blower complaint about Mr. Trump's dealings with Ukraine that helped prompt the impeachment inquiry as an asset or a liability.** Mr. Maguire followed the advice of administration lawyers and initially blocked the complaint from being sent to Congress ... But soon after, he engineered an agreement to provide the complaint to Congress. That move ... helped prompt the impeachment inquiry. ... Mr. Stewart, like other Republicans on the House Intelligence Committee, vigorously defended Mr. Trump during impeachment hearings in the fall that focused on the president's pressure campaign on Ukraine. And he has been sharply critical of the handling by the Justice Department and F.B.I. of an investigation into the Trump campaign's ties to Russian interference in the 2016 election."

-- Speaking of Utahns, Sen. Mitt Romney (R) said the Senate GOP has already moved on from his vote last week to convict Trump of abuse of power during the impeachment trial. [Paul Kane reports](#): "Signaling he wants to be a team player, Romney flew home to Salt Lake City for meetings last Thursday — a day after the Senate vote — and then to Palm Beach, Fla., for a National Republican Senatorial Committee gathering ... He said there was no awkwardness at the fundraising retreat or Tuesday's [GOP luncheon], also attended by [Mike] Pence." Things with the president, though, remain tense. At the White House yesterday, Trump called Romney a "disgrace," at the same time that the senator was voting for the president's judicial nominees.



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Coronavirus patients, medical staff exercise and dance at Wuhan hospital

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- The CDC acknowledged the patient with the latest confirmed case of coronavirus in the United States initially tested negative for the disease and was briefly allowed to leave a San Diego hospital because of a laboratory error. [Derek Hawkins and Hannah Knowles report](#): "The patient was among three evacuees from China who were placed in isolation and underwent testing at the University of California San Diego Medical Center last week after showing signs of the novel coronavirus. An initial round of tests came back negative, and the people returned to a quarantine site at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Further testing revealed, however, that one of them was infected. A CDC spokeswoman, Kristen Nordlund, said Tuesday that blood samples from the three patients were inadvertently omitted from a large test run because they were incorrectly labeled. ... On Monday, the patient returned to the hospital for treatment. Going

forward, a CDC laboratory staff member will join quarantine field teams to make sure that specimens are correctly labeled, Nordlund said.”

**-- The coronavirus death toll rose once again, with 97 deaths yesterday alone. Luckily, while the number of confirmed infections continues to rise, the rate of growth is slowing.**

**Hawkins reports:** “Officials also said they identified more than 2,000 new cases, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 44,653. There were 49 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, 10 in Macau and 18 in Taiwan. More than 185,000 people were under medical observation in the mainland. The vast majority of the new deaths and infections remained concentrated in Hubei province, the epicenter of the outbreak, where 94 people were reported dead Tuesday. More than 4,700 people recovered from the disease, according to Chinese officials.”

**-- Thirty-nine more people tested positive for the virus aboard the cruise ship quarantined off the coast of Japan, bringing the total to 174. (Hawkins)**

**-- The disease caused by the virus has a new name: covid-19.** “We had to find a name that did not refer to a geographical location, an animal, an individual, or group of people,” said World Health Organization director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. WHO also wanted a name that was “pronounceable and related to the disease,” he said. (AP)

**-- American Airlines extended its cancellations of China and Hong Kong flights through April. (Lori Aratani)**



**-- Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said the U.S. peace plan would make “Swiss cheese” out of Palestinian land.** [Anne Gearan reports](#): “A U.N. Security Council vote that would have been a referendum against the plan never happened, an indication that there were not votes to approve the Palestinian-backed measure. ‘This is an Israeli-American preemptive plan,’ designed to allow Israel to get what it wants while blaming Palestinians for walking away, Abbas said during a tense session of the U.N.’s main decision-making body. ... Abbas said the Trump administration plan is a dodge meant ‘to put an end to the question of Palestine.’”

**-- American and Taliban negotiators will meet again today following a conditional decision from Trump to sign a peace deal with the militants, officials said.** “Trump has endorsed the deal and said it must be signed,” the Afghan official said, explaining that when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called Afghan leaders Tuesday, he said the peace talks “deadlock” had been broken. ([Karen DeYoung and Susannah George](#))

**-- Pope Francis backed away from a major, anticipated decision on whether to allow married men to serve as priests in the Amazon.** Many had anticipated that Francis would green-light the move, because local bishops supported the changes as a way to address drastic Catholic clerical shortages in the region. ([Chico Harlan](#))

**-- Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó was met with abuse after returning to Caracas fresh off a global tour.** [Mariana Zuñiga and Anthony Faiola report](#): “He was greeted by rival groups of chanting supporters and insult-hurling pro-government demonstrators.

Confusion ensued as loyalists of President Nicolás Maduro, whom Guaidó is seeking to oust, chased after him. ... Judges loyal to Maduro issued a court order last year forbidding Guaidó to leave the country, but he is calculating that Maduro's government will not risk the international backlash of arresting him after he was embraced by Trump and other leaders. ... But Guaidó's opposition is divided on the strategy going forward. Some lawmakers are backing Maduro's call to hold parliamentary elections this year. Guaidó has focused on demanding new presidential elections."

**-- The armed showdown in El Salvador this weekend illustrated the growing role that militaries are playing in Latin American democracies. [Anne-Catherine Brigida and Mary Beth Sheridan report](#): "In a region that long suffered from military dictatorships, the assertiveness by the armed forces is raising fears that democracy is taking a step backward. ... El Salvador's standoff between the military and lawmakers has ended peacefully — for now. ... [But] the deployment of the soldiers — with the [open support of the defense minister](#) — sent tremors through El Salvador."**



The scene in March 2018 after a Tesla electric SUV crashed into a barrier on U.S. Highway 101 in Mountain View, Calif. The driver, Apple engineer Walter Huang, died. (AP)

## **DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE OVERLOOKED:**

**-- A Tesla running on “autopilot” repeatedly veered toward the same spot where an Apple engineer later crashed and died, federal investigators said. [Michael Laris reports](#):** “Four days before Walter Huang’s Tesla veered off U.S. Highway 101 in Northern California and into a concrete barrier, killing the father of two, Huang sent a text message describing the car’s ‘Autopilot’ system making a similar error in the same spot, according to documents released Tuesday by federal investigators. ... When Huang’s Tesla SUV reached the exit ramp area in Mountain View, where he said the problems previously occurred, the car again steered out of its lane and hit a barrier at about 71 miles per hour, according to the NTSB. ... Tesla has faced sharp criticism from some lawmakers in Congress and elsewhere for calling its driver assistance features ‘Autopilot,’ which critics say is an overstatement of the system’s capabilities and can encourage customers to let their guard down.”

**-- Lax Federal Aviation Administration oversight allowed Southwest to put millions of passengers at risk aboard planes that didn’t meet U.S. standards, the Department of Transportation’s inspector general found. [Lori Aratani, Michael Laris and Ian Duncan report](#):** “The strongly worded report called the FAA’s oversight of Southwest’s safety management system ‘ineffective’ and said the agency improperly relied on Southwest’s own

conclusion that repeated problems represented a 'low risk, rather than requiring the airline to comply with its regulatory requirements.' ... The report found that Southwest 'operates its fleet of aircraft with frequent weight and balance errors.' Such incorrect information was 'frequently communicated to pilots, which can 'greatly affect' a plane's safety and performance, the report said."

**-- Trump is closer than ever to fulfilling his promise for a U.S. with taller walls, tighter immigration laws and fewer foreigners entering the country.** [Nick Miroff connects the dots](#): In the past three years, Trump has hardened the nation's immigration system, causing illegal border crossings to plummet and legal immigration to slump. And now, his budget proposal "would increase deportations by adding thousands of new immigration agents and expanding jail capacity." On Monday, the DOJ announced "lawsuits against three 'sanctuary' jurisdictions that eschew cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. And at an evening rally in New Hampshire ahead of the state's Democratic primary, the president dusted off one of his vintage campaign routines, reciting a dark allegory he calls 'The Snake' about a serpent that turns on its generous host, injecting fatal venom. 'This is about immigration,' he told the crowd, to raucous cheers."

**-- U.S.-Mexico border crossings continue to drop, but unauthorized crossings by Mexican migrants are surging.** [Abigail Hauslohner reports](#): "Acting CBP Commissioner Mark Morgan said Tuesday that U.S. officials [apprehended](#) or deemed 'inadmissible' 36,679 migrants in January, a drop of 10 percent from December. But he said the number of [Mexican](#) adults taken into custody has climbed 32 percent from this time last year, a shift he attributed to smugglers

‘scrambling to come up with new tactics’ as overall migration numbers have fallen.”

**-- A Puerto Rican man applied for a license in Georgia. Officials then arrested and jailed him for fraud. [Brittany Shammass reports](#):** “Kenneth Caban Gonzalez waited the required 30 days after moving to Georgia, then gathered what he needed to apply for a driver’s license. ... When Caban Gonzalez was called back to the service center a few days later ... he wasn’t given a new ID. He was arrested and taken to jail ... **He spent three days behind bars, lost construction work and faced the possibility of imprisonment before ultimately being cleared last March.** Caban Gonzalez’s ordeal was the result of a Georgia Department of Driver Services practice of treating license seekers who moved from Puerto Rico differently than those who came from U.S. states and the District of Columbia, even though they are U.S. citizens. Now, as part of a settlement in a federal discrimination lawsuit Caban Gonzalez filed in July, the state has agreed to start treating applicants from Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories the same as those from U.S. states.”

**-- New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) said a Department of Homeland Security memo on immigrant driving records is proof the administration engaged in “politically motivated retaliation” meant to punish his state. [From BuzzFeed News](#):** “The Jan. 27 memo, written by a top DHS official, James McCament, outlined potential options for acting DHS Secretary Chad Wolf to consider in their efforts to not only obtain the driver records but to punish states like New York that cut off access to the information. McCament offered up options such as using ‘friendly’ states to discreetly collect

information for federal immigration authorities that would otherwise be inaccessible by law. The plans also include retaliation measures against states that limit access to records, such as closing down local DHS offices, refusing to accept their state identification, cutting TSA PreCheck services, and potentially issuing subpoenas for driver's licenses provided to undocumented immigrants."

**-- Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell warned Congress that now would be a good time to reduce the federal budget deficit, which is expected to top \$1 trillion this year.** For now, Powell said he doesn't see signs of a recession on the horizon and said the economy is in a "very good place." He expects growth to remain solid, though he acknowledged the coronavirus remains a major unknown for the economy. ([Heather Long](#))

**-- The Federal Trade Commission will review past mergers by Facebook, Google and other Big Tech companies.** Regulators said they would look into the mergers to see whether the acquisitions of smaller rivals may have skirted federal antitrust laws. ([Tony Romm](#))

**-- Denver voted to end its 30-year ban on pit bulls.** A new law that permits but still regulates the ownership of these dogs will take effect in 90 days, pending approval from the mayor. ([Katie Mettler](#))

**-- A D.C. statehood bill will advance to the House floor and it's likely to pass for the first time in history.** That said, the bill faces almost certain death in the Senate. ([Jenna Portnoy](#))

**-- The San Francisco Chronicle requested public documents on gun ownership. Now its reporters are getting death threats.** ([Hannah Knowles](#))

**-- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said the deadline to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment has expired.** [From CNN](#): “Ginsburg, a long-time supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, suggested Monday night that the deadline to ratify the measure as a constitutional amendment has expired and that the decades long effort must start anew. ‘I would like to see a new beginning,’ Ginsburg told an audience at Georgetown University Law Center. ... Ginsburg's comments seemed to throw cold water on a recent effort by Virginia and other states who argue that after Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the amendment last month, the states had met the threshold necessary to change the Constitution. ... Ginsburg said ‘there is too much controversy about late comers,’ and she added that Virginia's move came ‘long after the deadline passed.’”

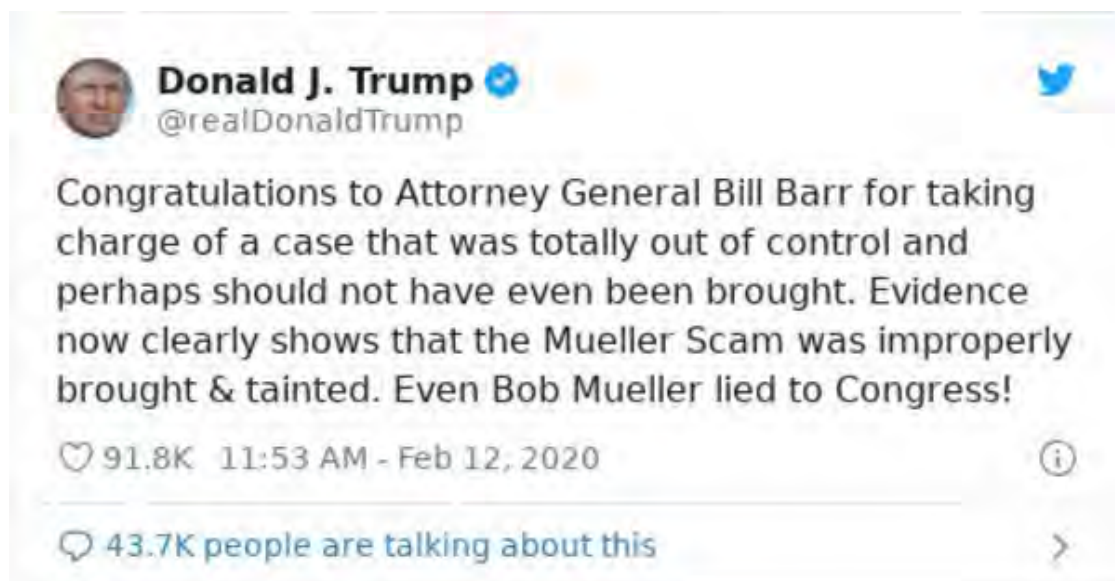
**-- Actor Jussie Smollett was indicted on new charges of filing false hate crime reports last year after he claimed to be the victim of a bigoted attack in Chicago.** [Elahe Izadi and Travis Andrews report](#): “A grand jury indicted Smollett on six counts of disorderly conduct, charging him with filing false reports of a hate crime, according to documents filed Tuesday. The development came almost a year after prosecutors made the controversial decision to drop multiple felony counts against Smollett. In June, a judge ruled that Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx mishandled the case and ordered a special prosecutor to investigate and to determine whether Smollett would be subject to new charges. Special prosecutor Dan K. Webb decided to prosecute after ‘the grand jury’s investigation revealed that Jussie Smollett planned and participated in a staged hate crime attack, and thereafter made numerous false statements to

Chicago Police Department officers on multiple occasions, reporting a heinous hate crime that he, in fact, knew had not occurred.”

-- **Longtime CNBC anchor Michelle Caruso-Cabrera launched a Democratic primary challenge against Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.).** About a dozen other candidates have filed to run for the seat, even though Ocasio-Cortez will be hard to beat. The freshman is a fundraising powerhouse, having raised over \$5.3 million last year. (CNN)

### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

Trump praised Barr this morning for allegedly intervening in Stone's sentencing:



Andrew Yang channeled Arnold Schwarzenegger a few hours after dropping out of the race:





Michael Bennet left the campaign with a message to New Hampshire:



**Dave Weigel** ✓  
@daveweigel



Michael Bennet drops out of the race. "I love you, New Hampshire. Whether you knew it or not, we were having a great time together... I think it's fitting for us to end the campaign tonight."



♡ 432 1:34 AM - Feb 12, 2020



💬 136 people are talking about this



Here's a sobering statistic about Biden's electoral record:



**David Dayen**

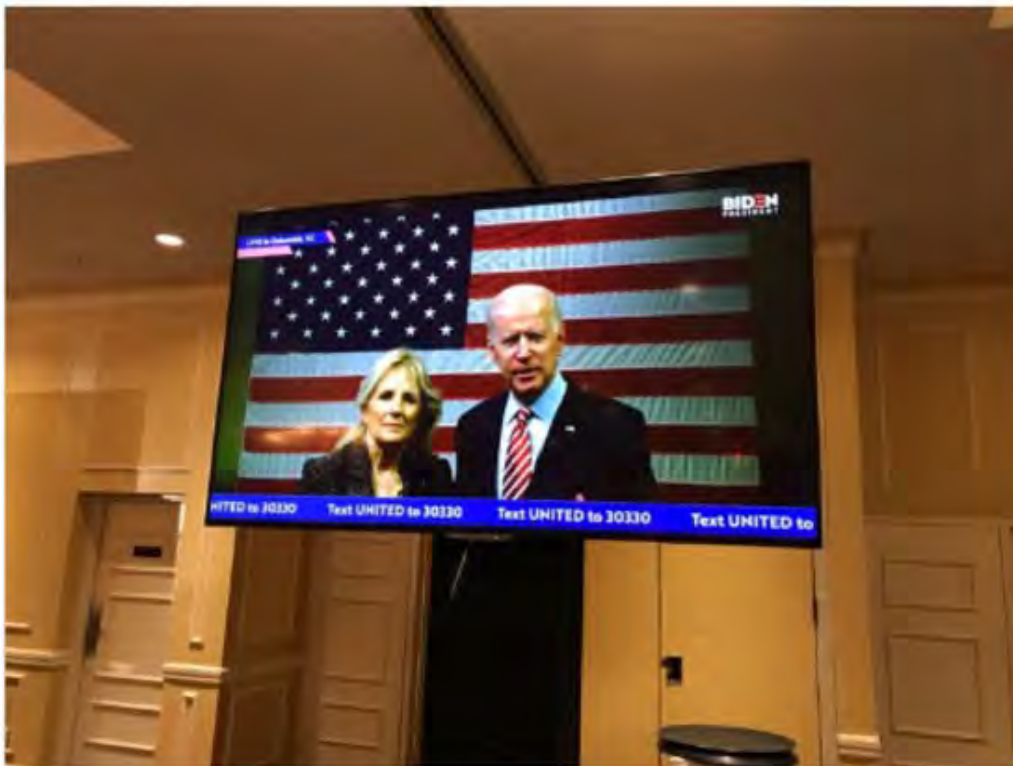
@ddayen



Joe Biden has never finished higher than 4th in any primary or caucus in 32 years of running for president  
[twitter.com/thomaskaplan/s...](https://twitter.com/thomaskaplan/s...)

**Thomas Kaplan**  @thomaskaplan

Biden is now addressing his party via live stream



11.1K 2:09 AM - Feb 12, 2020



2,655 people are talking about this



Just as Sanders finished his victory speech in New Hampshire, the most powerful union in Nevada shared a candidate sheet with a not-so-favorable review of Medicare-for-all:



**Gabriel DeBenedetti** @gdebenedetti · 4h

the very, very powerful Culinary Union in Nevada just sent these handouts out to members. See under Sanders: "End Culinary Healthcare." Pretty clear signal >

**DE WE WIN UN FAMILIES** **One. Two. Three** **NO VOTAMOS NOS GANAMOS** **Uno. Dos. Tre**

**RACIST PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON CULINARY UNION ISSUE**

| NAME               | HEALTHCARE                        | WAGES/BENEFITS                    | PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT          |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>TRUMP</b>       | ... (text partially obscured) ... | ... (text partially obscured) ... | ... (text partially obscured) ... |
| <b>WELD</b>        | ... (text partially obscured) ... | ... (text partially obscured) ... | ... (text partially obscured) ... |
| <b>ANDERSON</b>    | ... (text partially obscured) ... | ... (text partially obscured) ... | ... (text partially obscured) ... |
| <b>DEBENEDETTI</b> | ... (text partially obscured) ... | ... (text partially obscured) ... | ... (text partially obscured) ... |
| <b>SANDERS</b>     | ... (text partially obscured) ... | ... (text partially obscured) ... | ... (text partially obscured) ... |
| <b>HAAS</b>        | ... (text partially obscured) ... | ... (text partially obscured) ... | ... (text partially obscured) ... |
| <b>PERAZA</b>      | ... (text partially obscured) ... | ... (text partially obscured) ... | ... (text partially obscured) ... |

**NOTING: FEBRUARY 15 - 18 CAMPAIGN DAY: SHIRAZI FEBRUARY 22**

**2 TURNOUT: DA DE LA ELECCION ELECTORAL FEBRUARY 22**



**Gabriel DeBenedetti**

@gdebenedetti

when Sanders spoke to the Culinary Union members late last year, he was interrupted repeatedly by questions about how Medicare for All would hit their union-negotiated care. Big deal here in the next state to vote...

64 4:28 AM - Feb 12, 2020




24 people are talking about this



Trump reacted to the New Hampshire results:



The former acting attorney general, whom Trump fired in January 2017 when she refused to enforce his travel ban on predominantly Muslim countries, had this message for longtime DOJ staffers:

 **Sally Yates** ✓  
@SallyQYates

To the career men and women of DOJ, you are both the backbone and the heart of the Department. Your noble dedication to the rule of law is the foundation of our republic. [twitter.com/peteralexander...](https://twitter.com/peteralexander...)


**Peter Alexander** ✓ @PeterAlexander  
BREAKING: Now, all four federal prosecutors on the Stone case have asked the judge to withdraw from the case.

Michael Marando joins the rest of his team including Aaron Zelinsky, Jonathan Kravis, and Adam Jed.

52.6K 11:39 PM - Feb 11, 2020

14.8K people are talking about this

From a former DOJ inspector general:

 **Michael R. Bromwich** ✓  
@mrbromwich

Memo to all career DOJ employees

This is not what you signed up for. The four prosecutors who bailed on the Stone case have shown the way. Report all instances of improper political influence and other misdeeds to the DOJ IG, who is required to protect your identity.

32.1K 1:59 AM - Feb 12, 2020

10.4K people are talking about this

Trump criticized the federal judge overseeing Roger Stone's trial, and Hillary Clinton responded:



**Hillary Clinton**    
@HillaryClinton

Do you realize intimidating judges is the behavior of failed-state fascists? Just asking!  
[twitter.com/realDonaldTrump...](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump...)

**Donald J. Trump**    
@realDonaldTrump

Is this the Judge that put Paul Manafort in SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, something that not even mobster Al Capone had to endure? How did she treat Crooked Hillary Clinton? Just asking! [twitter.com/katiephang/sta...](https://twitter.com/katiephang/sta...)

77.2K 2:44 AM - Feb 12, 2020 

21.9K people are talking about this 

So did the speaker of the House:



**Nancy Pelosi**    
@SpeakerPelosi

By tweet [@realDonaldTrump](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump) engaged in political interference in the sentencing of Roger Stone. It is outrageous that DOJ has deeply damaged the rule of law by withdrawing its recommendation. Stepping down of prosecutors should be commended & actions of DOJ should be investigated.

64,6K 2:37 AM - Feb 12, 2020 

26.8K people are talking about this 

And the president seemed pretty proud of this discovery:

 **Jeff Mason** ✓  
@jeffmason1 

.@realDonaldTrump notes in the Oval Office proudly that Microsoft, Amazon, Google, Apple - companies that have the highest values in the stock market - spell, with their first letters, a familiar acronym: MAGA.



♡ 249 9:25 PM - Feb 11, 2020 

💬 283 people are talking about this 

### VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Siba, a standard poodle, won this year's Westminster Kennel Club



Dog Show:



Westminster dog show: Fluff, fun and fur-ocious competition

"Ahead of the final decision, the beautiful black dog beamed as she took one final lap around Madison Square Garden," [writes Michael Brice-Saddler](#). "Siba performed masterfully Tuesday — even as the crowd urged judge Robert H. Slay to crown the golden retriever, a breed that has never been named best in show."

Reacting to the DOJ infighting, Stephen Colbert joked that the only difference between a banana republic and this situation is that Trump "doesn't eat fruit":



Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-Calif.) talked to Seth Meyers about the advice Trump gave him to fight fires:



Jimmy Kimmel talked to one of Trump's recently fired ambassadors:



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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: New Hampshire primary results offer fresh evidence that Twitter is not real life  
**Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2020 9:10:07 AM



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# The Daily 202

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By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## New Hampshire primary results offer fresh evidence that Twitter is not real life

**CONCORD, N.H. – Just 11 percent of voters in the Democratic primary here on Tuesday said they regularly use Twitter for political news, according to the network exit poll.**

This data point from New Hampshire offers the latest reminder of the degree to which the conversation on the social media platform tends to be different than what the vast majority of voters hear in their everyday lives. A growing body of research shows that the issues discussed on Twitter

tend to be more esoteric than the pocketbook concerns that motivate most average voters.

This is especially important because so many media and political elites, including operatives on all the leading presidential campaigns, obsess over what's on Twitter, even if they try, or pretend, to ignore it. This, in turn, can indirectly influence both messaging from candidates and coverage decisions from editors. That creates an echo, or a feedback loop, that shapes public perceptions and sometimes distorts reality.



Election officials empty a ballot box on Tuesday in Londonderry, N.H. (Kate Flock/Bloomberg)

**Interestingly, the New Hampshire exit poll did not find a giant chasm in support for Democratic candidates by Twitter usage, though Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) did better among Twitter users than non-users (31 percent vs. 27 percent).** Former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) both did slightly better, by about the same margin, among the 86 percent of New Hampshire voters who said they don't use Twitter than the 11 percent who said they do. This isn't to say Twitter is representative and we should pay more attention to it, but it does suggest that its users – at least the

ones who voted in the Granite State – were not wildly unrepresentative.

**The Pew Research Center found in October that 73 percent of tweets about national politics that Americans post come from just 6 percent of the adult population.** [The study](#) found, perhaps unsurprisingly, that these super-tweeters are more polarized in terms of their ideological self-identification than those who tweet less often about the topic: 55 percent identified as either “very liberal” or “very conservative.” Among nonpolitical tweeters, only 28 percent picked those extremes. The research also found that political tweeters are far more likely to rate the political party they’re not a member of negatively.

**A more recent [Pew study](#) concluded that Americans who get most of their political news on social media display significantly less confidence in the public’s acceptance of election results,** regardless of the winner, than those who mostly get this news from more traditional platforms like cable TV or print newspapers.

**The [Hidden Tribes Project](#) found last spring that liberal-leaning voters are, by a nearly 2 to 1 margin, more outspoken on social media than more moderate, diverse and less-educated Democrats.** People in those three categories are generally less likely to post political content online. The year-long project, an initiative of a group called More in Common, built a nonpartisan representative sample of 8,000 Americans on YouGov. The Upshot, a New York Times vertical, used this data to create [some cool visualizations](#) last April comparing Democrats in “real life” to Democrats on Twitter.

Around this time four years ago, The Washington Post and ABC News [teamed up](#) with MIT’s Laboratory for Social Machines to analyze the Twitter conversation during the same days that we were in the field with a national poll. Among the most striking differences was that **foreign policy and racial issues played a far bigger role in the Twitter ecosystem while people outside of the hive focused more on the economy.** It’s also worth noting Twitter was also aggressively targeted [with disinformation](#) by [the Russians](#) during the 2016 election.

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**A national poll that the center-left think tank Third Way commissioned from David Binder, an in-house pollster for Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns, found last May that only 12 percent of likely Democratic primary voters in 2020 posted on Twitter every day.** Binder's [survey](#) found that Democrats who frequently use Twitter were typically 25 points to the left on issues like Medicare-for-all. The survey found that 64 percent of Democratic super-tweeters supported abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement, but just 29 percent of all likely primary voters did.

**“One pervasive problem of this campaign cycle is the fun-house mirror effect of Twitter on the minds of political reporters, commentators and insiders,” said Third Way co-founder Matt**

**Bennett**, an alumnus of Bill Clinton's White House. "That means the discussion that too many insiders rely on for their view of the state of the race is dominated by a tiny fraction of the most hyper-engaged of Democratic voters," he added. "Those voters have lives and views that are very different than Democrats who don't regularly post on Twitter.

**Twitter Democrats are younger, more urban, more male and a majority identify as 'democratic socialists.' And they are more doctrinaire**, with many wanting the party to move left and preferring their policy ideas over the ability to beat Trump. These are the voters that the purveyors of conventional wisdom interact with, so it's no surprise that they were surprised that moderates collectively did so well in Iowa and New Hampshire."

## **A new look!**

We're stoked to spruce up the Daily 202 as the 2020 campaign heats up. The goal of this redesign is to improve your experience as a reader. As always, we'd love feedback. You can reach me directly at [James.Hohmann@washpost.com](mailto:James.Hohmann@washpost.com). And we've created an [online form](#) to share what you like or dislike for the designers, developers and engineers who have made this happen. ([It's available here.](#))

## **The tweeter-in-chief**

**"President Trump apparently has a thing for @SexCounseling," Anne Gearan and Josh Dawsey observe.** "Trump has recently retweeted posts from a California sex therapist, Dawn Michael, whose professional Twitter home is a mix of pro-Trump material and, well, other things. The three retweets since January are emblematic of the president's habit of amplifying online praise from random or troublesome corners of the Internet. ... So far in February, Trump's retweets are outpacing his original tweets by about 2 to 1, topping 265 on Wednesday and including commentary from the likes of @HiredGun37 and @heelerhoney alongside Republican lawmakers, right-wing media figures, journalists, his sons and his campaign manager. In the same period a year ago, Trump appears to have included only 21 retweets among 92 Twitter postings ...



**“Early in his presidency, Trump would post tweets but rarely responded or looked to Twitter for information. ... But it became ‘both an entrance and an exit’ in 2018 as he would, on his own, dive through his replies to see who was praising him.**

An aide said Trump has sometimes been taken aback by backlash to his retweets. Often, a string of retweets is not some grand statement — it’s just Trump scrolling and clicking, people close to the president said. ‘If he sees it and it’s positive about him, he just posts it,’ the administration official said. ‘It would never dawn on him to check and see who the person is.’

**“Trump has mused to aides that he can mix it up on Twitter more than in real life — and ‘kind of just see how it goes,’ a former senior administration official said. ...** He has retweeted official Republican accounts alongside @RedPillReport, which posts pro-Trump material and conservative views that are sometimes racially tinged or sexually suggestive. ... Trump has sometimes retweeted posts from accounts that were later suspended, or accounts that said they were associated with the Q-Anon conspiracy group.”

## **The worsening local news crisis**

**McClatchy, one of the nation’s largest newspaper publishers, filed for bankruptcy protection this morning.** “The Chapter 11 filing will allow the Sacramento-based company to keep its 30 newspapers afloat while it reorganizes more than \$700 million in debt, 60 percent of which would be eliminated,” [Taylor Telford and Thomas Heath report](#). “If the plan wins court approval, control of the 163-year-old family publisher would be turned over to hedge fund Chatham Asset Management, its largest creditor. ... The publisher of the Miami Herald, Kansas City Star and other regional dailies has been saddled with debt since its \$4.5 billion takeover of a much bigger rival, Knight Ridder, in 2006. The combination coincided with a digital boom that disrupted the prevailing business model and changed the way news is consumed.”

**The filing foreshadows even harder times to come for the local papers that people depend on to know what’s happening in city**

**hall or at the schools their children attend.** About 20 percent of all U.S. newspapers have closed since 2004, according to [a report from PEN America](#), and the sector has shed 47 percent of its jobs. “Today, there are 225 counties across the country without a newspaper,” per Taylor and Thomas. “Half of all U.S. counties — more than 1,520 — have just one, usually a weekly. Of the nation’s remaining 7,200 newspapers, at least 1,000 are ‘ghost papers’ — meaning they have been so hobbled by cutbacks that they produce little original reporting.”

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## More on 2020



## Usually the early Democratic presidential contests shrink the field. This year, they've expanded it.

“So far, the way candidates have gained traction has been to attract a narrow slice of the electorate. [Elizabeth] Warren spent the past several weeks attempting to cast herself as a unity candidate and saw herself overtaken by Sanders, who made a forthright appeal to liberals, a more defined niche," [Matt Viser and Annie Linskey report](#). "Sanders on Wednesday didn't appear to be attempting to expand his ideological reach. When asked if there are any lessons in the fact that he and Warren received fewer votes than moderates in the party, campaign co-chairwoman Nina Turner was blunt. 'The lesson to be learned,' she said on CNN, 'is he won.'

**“Sanders already is tussling with the Culinary Union, the largest union in Nevada** and one whose members, mostly Latino and female, typically play a major role in the caucuses. The union on Tuesday distributed fliers criticizing his Medicare-for-all plan, saying it would dilute the health-care plans that it has bargained for in negotiations. The Sanders campaign countered with a statement noting he had joined unions on picket lines and saying his plan 'is as comprehensive or more so than the health care benefits union workers currently receive.' But later in the day, the union — which has yet to make a coveted endorsement —

escalated the feud by releasing a statement criticizing his supporters, who it claimed had been critical of the union and its officials on Twitter and in phone calls. ...

**“Buttigieg is doubling his Nevada staff, and his South Carolina team has swelled to 55 people.** He announced the endorsement of J.A. Moore (D), a South Carolina state representative who had previously backed Sen. Kamala D. Harris (D-Calif.). Buttigieg also has the support of Walter Clyburn Reed, the grandson of South Carolina kingmaker Rep. James E. Clyburn (D), who has not endorsed a presidential candidate. Klobuchar — who raised as much in the three hours after polls closed Tuesday as her monthly average last year — has rolled out a seven-figure ad buy in Nevada and plans to arrive in the state on Thursday.” Warren has canceled television ad reservations in Nevada and South Carolina starting next week.

**From his home in Delaware, Joe Biden and two of his top advisers asked donors on an afternoon conference call to be patient:** “They said the race was just beginning, noting a fact in which the campaign has been taking solace over the past few days: Bill Clinton won only one of the first 11 contests in 1992 before claiming the nomination. ... Biden has several fundraisers scheduled for Thursday in New York, as well as one next week in Los Angeles ...

**“Biden’s campaign is hoping to regroup in Nevada,** and amid a shake-up of its advisers has brought in a prominent Democratic consultant to help. Jen O’Malley Dillon, a top Obama campaign aide who ran the presidential campaign of former congressman Beto O’Rourke (D-Tex.) before he dropped out, is working on a volunteer basis. But some Biden advisers say privately they are hoping for even a third-place finish in the state and that his organization is unlikely to match that of his rivals in the caucus state.” Looming over South Carolina is billionaire Tom Steyer, who has spent freely to woo black voters who previously backed Biden.

**Both Steyer and Sanders received endorsements from**

## **state lawmakers on their campaign payrolls.**

“Sanders was honored to have been endorsed for the Democratic nomination by seven black members of the South Carolina legislature, he announced in a [tweet](#). One of the lawmakers, records show, owned a company that was already being paid by the Sanders campaign. Another would soon be added to the payroll as a vendor,” [the New York Times reports](#). “By the end of 2019, consulting companies operated by the two lawmakers ... had collected a combined total of almost \$150,000 from Mr. Sanders’s presidential effort. ... Federal Election Commission records showed that the Steyer campaign had paid [South Carolina Legislative Black Caucuse head Jerry] Govan more than \$40,000 since September, when Mr. Govan endorsed Mr. Steyer. The payments to a company associated with Mr. Govan, Govan Agency L.L.C., were for ‘community building services.’”

## **Iowa Democratic Party chairman Troy Price said he will step down as soon as a replacement can be found.**

“The fact is that Democrats deserved better than what happened on caucus night,” the 39-year-old said in a letter to the state party’s central committee. “As chair of this party, I am deeply sorry for what happened and bear the responsibility for any failures on behalf of the Iowa Democratic Party.”

“The Associated Press still has not called the race because of the lingering uncertainties,” [Isaac Stanley-Becker notes](#). “This year’s event, which Price once promised would be ‘the most successful caucuses in our party’s history,’ instead became a punchline, ridiculed by comedian Steve Martin at the Oscars ... Now, it’s not even clear if Iowa can hold on to its first-in-the-nation status.”

## **Rush Limbaugh said Trump would “have fun” with Buttigieg’s sexuality in a general election.**

“A gay guy, 37 years old, loves kissing his husband on debate stages. Can you see Trump have fun with that?” said the conservative radio host. Trump awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest

honor available for a civilian, during last week's State of the Union. ([Daily Beast](#))

## **Bloomberg buzz, along with scrutiny, continues to grow.**

At the height of the 2008 economic collapse, the then-New York mayor blamed the elimination of the discriminatory housing practice known as “redlining” for instigating the meltdown, the [AP notes](#).

### **Bloomberg has been picking up some key endorsements.**

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Congressional Black Caucus members Reps. Lucy McBath (Ga.), Gregory Meeks (N.Y.) and Stacey Plaskett (Virgin Islands) and former North Carolina governor Bev Perdue have all announced their backing of the former mayor. Turner plans to help launch Bloomberg’s newest initiative – Mike for Black America – a move that comes days after an audio recording of Bloomberg defending “stop and frisk” policies in 2015 was made public. ([CBS News](#))

### **Bloomberg’s campaign is also pushing sponsored content across popular Instagram meme pages. ([NYT](#))**

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## **The Trump presidency**



**John Kelly laid out his misgivings with Trump.**

**Speaking last night at Drew University in New Jersey, the former White House chief of staff defended Army Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman**, the ousted National Security Council aide who testified against Trump during the impeachment inquiry and has been ejected from the White House. “Kelly, a retired Marine Corps general, said that Vindman is blameless and simply followed the training he’d received as a soldier, migrants are ‘overwhelmingly good people’ and ‘not all rapists’; and Trump’s decision to condition military aid to Ukraine on an investigation into [Biden] upended longstanding U.S. policy,” [Peter](#)

[Nicholas reports in the Atlantic](#). “Vindman was rightly disturbed by Trump’s phone call to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in July, Kelly suggested. Having seen something ‘questionable,’ Vindman properly notified his superiors, Kelly said. ... ‘He did exactly what we teach them to do from cradle to grave,’ Kelly told the audience at the Mayo Performing Arts Center. ‘He went and told his boss what he just heard.’ ...

**“Responding to questions from the audience, Kelly faulted Trump for intervening in the case of Eddie Gallagher,** a Navy Seal who was convicted last year of posing with the corpse of an ISIS fighter. Trump reversed a Navy decision to oust Gallagher, in a chain of events that led to the resignation of Navy Secretary Richard Spencer. ‘The idea that the commander-in-chief intervened there, in my opinion, was exactly the wrong thing to do,’ Kelly said. ‘Had I been there, I think I could have prevented it.’ The audience applauded. When a woman in the crowd said that Trump had ‘elevated’ Gallagher, Kelly looked out at the crowd. ‘Yep,’ he said.”

### **Trump seeks to bend the executive branch as part of his impeachment vendetta.**

“In the span of 48 hours this week, the president has sought to protect his friends and punish his foes, even at the risk of compromising the Justice Department’s independence and integrity — a stance that his defenders see as entirely justified,” [Philip Rucker, Robert Costa and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Trump complained publicly about federal prosecutors’ recommended prison sentence for [Roger Stone]. ... Next Trump [sought to intimidate the federal judge](#) in the Stone case, badgering her on Twitter for previous rulings ... Then Trump floated the possibility of a presidential pardon for Stone...

**“Some of Trump’s top aides have counseled him against speaking out on legal matters,** warning him that doing so could wrongly influence proceedings because officials at the Justice Department or elsewhere would then know they needed to please him or risk his wrath. **Trump has often responded, ‘I have a right to say whatever I**



**want,**’ according to a former senior administration official ... Trump insisted Wednesday that he did nothing improper in the Stone case. ‘I didn’t speak to them, by the way, just so you understand,’ the president told reporters, referring to Justice Department officials. ‘They saw the horribleness.’ ... Still, a chorus of former U.S. attorneys and former Justice Department leaders condemned Trump for what they consider improper political pressure in a criminal prosecution.”

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## Quote of the day

*“He’s trying to delegitimize anyone appointed by someone other than him and say that the only people who can be trusted are Trump judges,” retired federal judge Nancy Gertner said of Trump’s attacks on Judge Amy Berman Jackson, who will determine Stone’s sentence. ([Ann Marimow](#))*

## Bill Barr faces growing scrutiny over his intervention in the Stone case.

Trump put the attorney general squarely in the middle of the controversy over the Justice Department’s reduced sentencing recommendation for the president’s longtime friend, as he publicly praised Barr for seizing command of the case from career prosecutors. “A Justice Department spokeswoman declined to comment on the president’s statements,” [Matt Zapposky and Devlin Barrett report](#). “Some current and former Justice Department officials have long feared that Barr is willing to risk the institution’s historic independence to serve an irascible president. The top Democrat in the Senate called for the Justice Department inspector general to investigate the Stone episode, and the House Judiciary Committee announced Wednesday it would have Barr testify March 31 to address that case and other recent incidents that it said ‘raise grave questions’ about Barr’s leadership.”

## Even Barr’s former boss criticized him.

“With Bill Barr, on an amazing number of occasions ... you can be almost 100 percent certain that there’s something improper going on,” Donald Ayer, the deputy attorney general under George H.W. Bush, told [Politico](#).

## **To career federal prosecutors across the country, Barr's meddling raises fears that the worst is yet to come.**

“Until now, according to conversations with more than a dozen career lawyers in some of the 93 U.S. attorney’s offices, they had watched other divisions in the Justice Department execute significant shifts in response to Mr. Trump while the work of prosecuting crimes was largely unaffected by the politics of the moment,” [the Times reports](#). “Now career prosecutors said they worried they might face more pressure.”

## **More resignations could still come.**

[CNN reports](#) that additional prosecutors who work in the U.S. attorney’s office for the District of Columbia have discussed resigning in the coming days over the Stone imbroglio.

## **Congressional Republicans showed no signs that they would move to check Trump in this case.**

“It doesn’t bother me at all, as long as the judge has the final decision,” said Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), the former Senate Judiciary Committee chairman who sharply criticized the Obama administration for alleged politicization of the Justice Department.

This left Democrats “largely alone to fume about the evaporation of another norm of American governance,” [Mike DeBonis reports](#). “Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) seized on the demise of the nomination of Jessie K. Liu to serve as undersecretary of the Treasury Department for terrorism and financial crimes as proof that Trump is ‘on a retribution tour.’”

## **The Senate, though, is primed to pass a measure that would restrict Trump's ability to start a war with Iran.**

“Eight Republicans voted Wednesday to advance legislation invoking

Congress's war powers, a move intended to prevent the president from engaging in hostilities against Tehran without explicit authorization from the legislative branch — except in cases of clear self-defense," [Karoun Demirjian reports](#). "The vote reflects the frustration with Trump's decision to kill a top Iranian commander, Qasem Soleimani, without first consulting lawmakers ... 'No president has the authority to commit our military to a sustained conflict,' Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) told reporters, reiterating her support for the measure.

**“Collins joined Sens. Rand Paul (Ky.), Mike Lee (Utah) and Todd C. Young (Ind.) as the earliest Republicans to commit their support to the measure drafted by Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.).**

They did so only after Kaine agreed to strike references to Trump that appeared in his original draft. But the legislation — which, as a war powers measure, was guaranteed a vote — languished for the past several weeks while the Senate was singularly focused on Trump's impeachment trial. **In that time, additional Republicans have indicated they'll back the resolution, including Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.). Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) also voted to advance the legislation on Wednesday; it is not yet clear if all three will back the resolution on its final vote. Even with their support, however, the legislation will still lack the votes to overcome a near-guaranteed veto.”**

**While tensions have cooled for the moment, the Pentagon is still feeling out whether Iran will retaliate again, and how.** In the standoff with Tehran after Soleimani was killed, U.S. sailors said the threat level was unlike anything they'd seen. “I have spent 26 years in this Navy not hoping for war, but preparing for war so that we can keep our nation safe,” Navy Capt. Christopher D. Stone told [Dan Lamothe](#) in an interview aboard the Normandy, his warship, near the Persian Gulf. “I would say overwhelmingly, the response I saw was a crew that was very focused.”

**Trump ally Jim Jordan accused of “begging” a former Ohio State wrestler not to validate reports of sexual**

## **abuse.**

The Ohio Republican congressman allegedly asked the wrestler not to corroborate accounts made against the university's wrestling team doctor that occurred while he was a coach, [Colby Itkowitz reports](#): “Adam DiSabato — the brother of Mike DiSabato, the whistleblower who exposed the abuse by Richard Strauss — testified Wednesday during a public hearing in the state legislature that when the story came out in July 2018, he received a phone call from a tearful Jordan. ‘[He] called me crying, crying, groveling, on the Fourth of July, begging me to go against my brother, begging me, crying for half an hour,’ Adam DiSabato said, according to video of his testimony. ... Jordan’s spokesman said DiSabato’s account was untrue. ‘Another lie,’ said Ian Fury, Jordan’s communications director. ‘Congressman Jordan never saw or heard of any abuse, and if he had, he would have dealt with it.’”

## **House Democrats asked the Secret Service for details about payments to Trump’s company.**

This request came after [David Fahrenthold and Jonathan O’Connell](#) revealed that the agency had been charged as much as \$650 per night for a room at Trump’s clubs, where agents go to protect the president.

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## **The coronavirus crisis**



## **The number of cases jumped dramatically after China expanded its diagnostic criteria.**

The official death toll of the virus – now known as covid-19 – has risen to roughly 1,360, nearly all in China. The total confirmed cases worldwide surpassed 60,000. “China’s Hubei province, the epicenter of the outbreak, reported an uptick of 14,840 confirmed coronavirus cases Thursday as health officials expanded the type of cases that it includes in its count,” [Marisa Iati and Gerry Shih report](#). “China’s state-run Xinhua News Agency announced Thursday that national health authorities issued revised guidelines to consider ‘clinically diagnosed’ coronavirus cases in the confirmed total. Chinese officials previously only counted cases confirmed by nucleic acid tests, which critics said were faulty and greatly underestimated the true magnitude of the epidemic. ... The dramatic jump in cases in Hubei essentially confirms longtime suspicions that China was for weeks vastly undercounting cases of the virus.” **A death announced in Japan this morning became the second fatality from the disease reported outside China.**

**Most cases are actually mild, which is good news, but this complicates the response.**

“So far, about 82 percent of the cases — including all 14 in the United

States — have been mild, with symptoms that require little or no medical intervention. And that proportion may be an undercount. Health authorities managing the outbreak [are trying to understand what that critical fact portends,](#) [Lenny Bernstein and Carolyn Johnson report.](#) “The fact that there are so many mild cases is a real hallmark of this disease and makes it so different from SARS,’ said Jennifer Nuzzo, an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health’s Center for Health Security. ‘It’s also really challenging. Most of our surveillance is oriented around finding people who require medical intervention.’”

### **The CDC has found no coronavirus cases since airport screening began a month ago.**

More than 30,000 travelers from China have been screened, and no confirmed cases have been identified, per [Lena Sun.](#)

As a precaution, though, United Airlines extended its suspension of flights to China until April 24. “Overall, international flights to China have fallen by 67 percent since Jan. 30,” [per Miriam Berger.](#)

### **China’s Uighur Muslim minority fears the virus will spread to the camps where they’re being held.**

Chinese state media give no major cause for concern that the outbreak will reach the northeastern region of Xinjiang where the Uighurs live, since it’s far from the epicenter. Still, [AFP reports,](#) representatives of the diaspora worry that, because the virus spreads from person to person through sneezing or coughing, the confinement of large groups of people could cause an outbreak.

### **China’s Communist Party ousted two high-level officials in Hubei province, the center of the outbreak.**

The ruling party fired Jiang Chaoliang, a former banker who had been party secretary of Hubei province since 2016, and Ma Guoqiang, the party boss overseeing Wuhan, as the country’s leadership looks to tighten control over its epidemic response. ([Gerry Shih](#))

## **Most workers in China were supposed to get back to work this week. But business is not as usual in Beijing.**

“Worried about the toll the epidemic will take on China’s growth rate, which the government has been toiling to keep at 6 percent, officials have told businesses across the country to return to work,” [Anna Fifield reports](#). “But in the capital Beijing, a city of 22 million people that has 352 confirmed cases of coronavirus, the streets and office buildings and stores were remarkably empty Wednesday. Sanlitun, a glitzy shopping area usually jampacked with people at lunchtime, was a concrete wasteland. The Apple store was closed. Uniqlo and Starbucks each had only one door open, and staff were constantly disinfecting the handle. The H&M was as empty as Gucci in a recession.”


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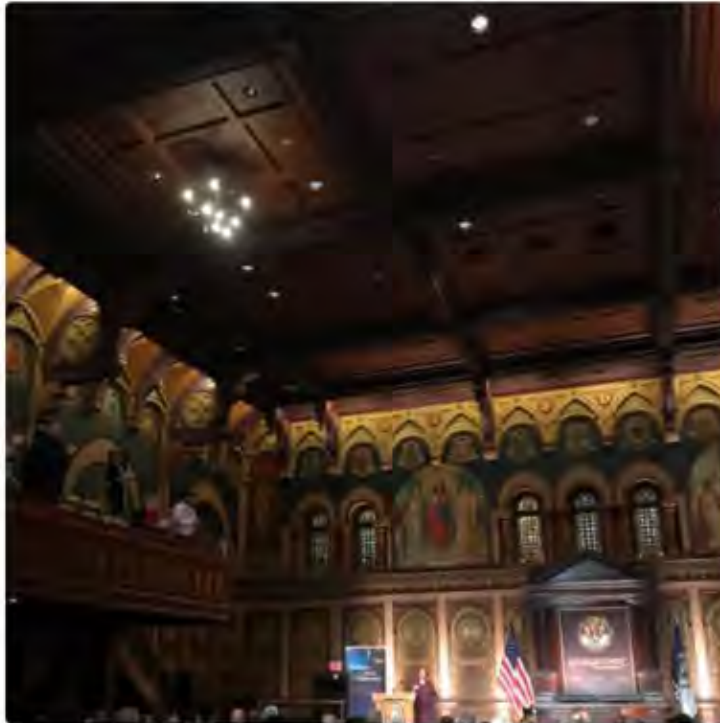
## **Social media speed read**

Marie Yovanovitch, the ousted U.S. ambassador to Ukraine who allegedly lost her job because of Rudy Giuliani's pressure campaign, still encourages students to join the Foreign Service:



**Julia Ioffe**  @juliaioffe · 8h

Marie Yovanovitch gets a loooooong standing ovation at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service 



**Julia Ioffe**  @juliaioffe

Yovanovitch, addressing the students at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service: "To those of you who haven't \*yet\* decided to go to work for the American people, I hope tonight I can convince you."

Even after all of that, she's encouraging young people to become diplomats.

 3,636 10:11 PM - Feb 12, 2020 

 687 people are talking about this 

**A group of migrant families with sick children asked for asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border under a medical exemption:**






**Zolan Kanno-Youngs**   
@KannoYoungs



They were denied entry and told to return to Matamoros.  
[twitter.com/kannoyoungs/st...](https://twitter.com/kannoyoungs/st...)


**Zolan Kanno-Youngs**  @KannoYoungs

Migrant families wait to see if they will be admitted into the US. One child has epilepsy, another autism and one has lissencephaly. Lawyers here are arguing they should have qualified for the medical exemption of MPP. Instead they've waited in Matamoros for months.



♥ 9 12:07 AM - Feb 13, 2020



 [See Zolan Kanno-Youngs's other Tweets](#)



The president telephoned the Republican challenger to Michigan Sen. Gary Peters (D), a reflection of how important the Wolverine State is in 2020:



**John James** ✓

@JohnjamesMI



The President of the United States of America just called to wish MY SON a happy birthday! 🥳

Thank you for the well wishes @realdonaldtrump! I look forward to continued conversation!



♥ 22.6K 1:10 AM - Feb 13, 2020



💬 4,941 people are talking about this



An editor at the Cook Political Report pointed out that moderates, not Sanders supporters, drove the rise in New Hampshire turnout:



**Dave Wasserman**

@Redistrict



By my calc, NH Dem turnout (vs. '16) in towns won by...

Buttigieg: +26.5%

Klobuchar: +25.2%

Sanders: +12.0%

Takeaway: most of Dems' turnout increase was attributable to Kasich/Rubio types crossing over from '16 GOP primary - not heightened progressive/Sanders base enthusiasm.

4,010 9:42 PM - Feb 12, 2020



1,617 people are talking about this



An Afghan karate coach's dog was shot dead by a group of men who told her a woman couldn't own a dog. She is now planning on fleeing the country, per the BBC:



**Khaama Press (KP)** ✓

@khaama



ورزش کار افغان پس از قتل سگش توسط تفنگداران ناشناس، کشور  
را برای همیشه ترک میکند... [khaama.com/persian/archiv...](https://khaama.com/persian/archiv...)



♥ 27 1:54 PM - Feb 9, 2020



[See Khaama Press \(KP\)'s other Tweets](#)



## Videos of the day

Our Max Bearak traveled to southern Ethiopia, which is facing its worst locust outbreak in generations after an uncommon weather pattern in the Indian Ocean caused relentless rains across East Africa:



Stephen Colbert took a look at the remaining Democratic candidates:



Seth Meyers thinks Trump's actions this week have shown that the stakes for the Democratic race couldn't be higher:



And Samantha Bee said the president is on a “revenge tour”:



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**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: New Hampshire primary results offer fresh evidence that Twitter is not real life  
**Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2020 9:10:30 AM



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By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## New Hampshire primary results offer fresh evidence that Twitter is not real life

**CONCORD, N.H. – Just 11 percent of voters in the Democratic primary here on Tuesday said they regularly use Twitter for political news, according to the network exit poll.**

This data point from New Hampshire offers the latest reminder of the degree to which the conversation on the social media platform tends to be different than what the vast majority of voters hear in their everyday lives. A growing body of research shows that the issues discussed on Twitter



tend to be more esoteric than the pocketbook concerns that motivate most average voters.

This is especially important because so many media and political elites, including operatives on all the leading presidential campaigns, obsess over what's on Twitter, even if they try, or pretend, to ignore it. This, in turn, can indirectly influence both messaging from candidates and coverage decisions from editors. That creates an echo, or a feedback loop, that shapes public perceptions and sometimes distorts reality.



Election officials empty a ballot box on Tuesday in Londonderry, N.H. (Kate Flock/Bloomberg)

**Interestingly, the New Hampshire exit poll did not find a giant chasm in support for Democratic candidates by Twitter usage, though Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) did better among Twitter users than non-users (31 percent vs. 27 percent).** Former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) both did slightly better, by about the same margin, among the 86 percent of New Hampshire voters who said they don't use Twitter than the 11 percent who said they do. This isn't to say Twitter is representative and we should pay more attention to it, but it does suggest that its users – at least the

ones who voted in the Granite State – were not wildly unrepresentative.

**The Pew Research Center found in October that 73 percent of tweets about national politics that Americans post come from just 6 percent of the adult population.** [The study](#) found, perhaps unsurprisingly, that these super-tweeters are more polarized in terms of their ideological self-identification than those who tweet less often about the topic: 55 percent identified as either “very liberal” or “very conservative.” Among nonpolitical tweeters, only 28 percent picked those extremes. The research also found that political tweeters are far more likely to rate the political party they’re not a member of negatively.

**A more recent [Pew study](#) concluded that Americans who get most of their political news on social media display significantly less confidence in the public’s acceptance of election results,** regardless of the winner, than those who mostly get this news from more traditional platforms like cable TV or print newspapers.

**The [Hidden Tribes Project](#) found last spring that liberal-leaning voters are, by a nearly 2 to 1 margin, more outspoken on social media than more moderate, diverse and less-educated Democrats.** People in those three categories are generally less likely to post political content online. The year-long project, an initiative of a group called More in Common, built a nonpartisan representative sample of 8,000 Americans on YouGov. The Upshot, a New York Times vertical, used this data to create [some cool visualizations](#) last April comparing Democrats in “real life” to Democrats on Twitter.

Around this time four years ago, The Washington Post and ABC News [teamed up](#) with MIT’s Laboratory for Social Machines to analyze the Twitter conversation during the same days that we were in the field with a national poll. Among the most striking differences was that **foreign policy and racial issues played a far bigger role in the Twitter ecosystem while people outside of the hive focused more on the economy.** It’s also worth noting Twitter was also aggressively targeted [with disinformation](#) by [the Russians](#) during the 2016 election.

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**A national poll that the center-left think tank Third Way commissioned from David Binder, an in-house pollster for Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns, found last May that only 12 percent of likely Democratic primary voters in 2020 posted on Twitter every day.** Binder's [survey](#) found that Democrats who frequently use Twitter were typically 25 points to the left on issues like Medicare-for-all. The survey found that 64 percent of Democratic super-tweeters supported abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement, but just 29 percent of all likely primary voters did.

**“One pervasive problem of this campaign cycle is the fun-house mirror effect of Twitter on the minds of political reporters, commentators and insiders,” said Third Way co-founder Matt**

**Bennett**, an alumnus of Bill Clinton's White House. "That means the discussion that too many insiders rely on for their view of the state of the race is dominated by a tiny fraction of the most hyper-engaged of Democratic voters," he added. "Those voters have lives and views that are very different than Democrats who don't regularly post on Twitter.

**Twitter Democrats are younger, more urban, more male and a majority identify as 'democratic socialists.' And they are more doctrinaire**, with many wanting the party to move left and preferring their policy ideas over the ability to beat Trump. These are the voters that the purveyors of conventional wisdom interact with, so it's no surprise that they were surprised that moderates collectively did so well in Iowa and New Hampshire."

## **A new look!**

We're stoked to spruce up the Daily 202 as the 2020 campaign heats up. The goal of this redesign is to improve your experience as a reader. As always, we'd love feedback. You can reach me directly at [James.Hohmann@washpost.com](mailto:James.Hohmann@washpost.com). And we've created an [online form](#) to share what you like or dislike for the designers, developers and engineers who have made this happen. ([It's available here.](#))

## **The tweeter-in-chief**

**"President Trump apparently has a thing for @SexCounseling," Anne Gearan and Josh Dawsey observe.** "Trump has recently retweeted posts from a California sex therapist, Dawn Michael, whose professional Twitter home is a mix of pro-Trump material and, well, other things. The three retweets since January are emblematic of the president's habit of amplifying online praise from random or troublesome corners of the Internet. ... So far in February, Trump's retweets are outpacing his original tweets by about 2 to 1, topping 265 on Wednesday and including commentary from the likes of @HiredGun37 and @heelerhoney alongside Republican lawmakers, right-wing media figures, journalists, his sons and his campaign manager. In the same period a year ago, Trump appears to have included only 21 retweets among 92 Twitter postings ...

**“Early in his presidency, Trump would post tweets but rarely responded or looked to Twitter for information. ... But it became ‘both an entrance and an exit’ in 2018 as he would, on his own, dive through his replies to see who was praising him.**

An aide said Trump has sometimes been taken aback by backlash to his retweets. Often, a string of retweets is not some grand statement — it’s just Trump scrolling and clicking, people close to the president said. ‘If he sees it and it’s positive about him, he just posts it,’ the administration official said. ‘It would never dawn on him to check and see who the person is.’

**“Trump has mused to aides that he can mix it up on Twitter more than in real life — and ‘kind of just see how it goes,’ a former senior administration official said. ...** He has retweeted official Republican accounts alongside @RedPillReport, which posts pro-Trump material and conservative views that are sometimes racially tinged or sexually suggestive. ... Trump has sometimes retweeted posts from accounts that were later suspended, or accounts that said they were associated with the Q-Anon conspiracy group.”

## **The worsening local news crisis**

**McClatchy, one of the nation’s largest newspaper publishers, filed for bankruptcy protection this morning.** “The Chapter 11 filing will allow the Sacramento-based company to keep its 30 newspapers afloat while it reorganizes more than \$700 million in debt, 60 percent of which would be eliminated,” [Taylor Telford and Thomas Heath report](#). “If the plan wins court approval, control of the 163-year-old family publisher would be turned over to hedge fund Chatham Asset Management, its largest creditor. ... The publisher of the Miami Herald, Kansas City Star and other regional dailies has been saddled with debt since its \$4.5 billion takeover of a much bigger rival, Knight Ridder, in 2006. The combination coincided with a digital boom that disrupted the prevailing business model and changed the way news is consumed.”

**The filing foreshadows even harder times to come for the local papers that people depend on to know what’s happening in city**

**hall or at the schools their children attend.** About 20 percent of all U.S. newspapers have closed since 2004, according to [a report from PEN America](#), and the sector has shed 47 percent of its jobs. “Today, there are 225 counties across the country without a newspaper,” per Taylor and Thomas. “Half of all U.S. counties — more than 1,520 — have just one, usually a weekly. Of the nation’s remaining 7,200 newspapers, at least 1,000 are ‘ghost papers’ — meaning they have been so hobbled by cutbacks that they produce little original reporting.”

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## More on 2020



## Usually the early Democratic presidential contests shrink the field. This year, they've expanded it.

“So far, the way candidates have gained traction has been to attract a narrow slice of the electorate. [Elizabeth] Warren spent the past several weeks attempting to cast herself as a unity candidate and saw herself overtaken by Sanders, who made a forthright appeal to liberals, a more defined niche," [Matt Viser and Annie Linskey report](#). "Sanders on Wednesday didn't appear to be attempting to expand his ideological reach. When asked if there are any lessons in the fact that he and Warren received fewer votes than moderates in the party, campaign co-chairwoman Nina Turner was blunt. 'The lesson to be learned,' she said on CNN, 'is he won.'

**“Sanders already is tussling with the Culinary Union, the largest union in Nevada** and one whose members, mostly Latino and female, typically play a major role in the caucuses. The union on Tuesday distributed fliers criticizing his Medicare-for-all plan, saying it would dilute the health-care plans that it has bargained for in negotiations. The Sanders campaign countered with a statement noting he had joined unions on picket lines and saying his plan 'is as comprehensive or more so than the health care benefits union workers currently receive.' But later in the day, the union — which has yet to make a coveted endorsement —

escalated the feud by releasing a statement criticizing his supporters, who it claimed had been critical of the union and its officials on Twitter and in phone calls. ...

**“Buttigieg is doubling his Nevada staff, and his South Carolina team has swelled to 55 people.** He announced the endorsement of J.A. Moore (D), a South Carolina state representative who had previously backed Sen. Kamala D. Harris (D-Calif.). Buttigieg also has the support of Walter Clyburn Reed, the grandson of South Carolina kingmaker Rep. James E. Clyburn (D), who has not endorsed a presidential candidate. Klobuchar — who raised as much in the three hours after polls closed Tuesday as her monthly average last year — has rolled out a seven-figure ad buy in Nevada and plans to arrive in the state on Thursday.” Warren has canceled television ad reservations in Nevada and South Carolina starting next week.

**From his home in Delaware, Joe Biden and two of his top advisers asked donors on an afternoon conference call to be patient:** “They said the race was just beginning, noting a fact in which the campaign has been taking solace over the past few days: Bill Clinton won only one of the first 11 contests in 1992 before claiming the nomination. ... Biden has several fundraisers scheduled for Thursday in New York, as well as one next week in Los Angeles ...

**“Biden’s campaign is hoping to regroup in Nevada,** and amid a shake-up of its advisers has brought in a prominent Democratic consultant to help. Jen O’Malley Dillon, a top Obama campaign aide who ran the presidential campaign of former congressman Beto O’Rourke (D-Tex.) before he dropped out, is working on a volunteer basis. But some Biden advisers say privately they are hoping for even a third-place finish in the state and that his organization is unlikely to match that of his rivals in the caucus state.” Looming over South Carolina is billionaire Tom Steyer, who has spent freely to woo black voters who previously backed Biden.

**Both Steyer and Sanders received endorsements from**



## **state lawmakers on their campaign payrolls.**

“Sanders was honored to have been endorsed for the Democratic nomination by seven black members of the South Carolina legislature, he announced in a [tweet](#). One of the lawmakers, records show, owned a company that was already being paid by the Sanders campaign. Another would soon be added to the payroll as a vendor,” [the New York Times reports](#). “By the end of 2019, consulting companies operated by the two lawmakers ... had collected a combined total of almost \$150,000 from Mr. Sanders’s presidential effort. ... Federal Election Commission records showed that the Steyer campaign had paid [South Carolina Legislative Black Caucuse head Jerry] Govan more than \$40,000 since September, when Mr. Govan endorsed Mr. Steyer. The payments to a company associated with Mr. Govan, Govan Agency L.L.C., were for ‘community building services.’”

## **Iowa Democratic Party chairman Troy Price said he will step down as soon as a replacement can be found.**

“The fact is that Democrats deserved better than what happened on caucus night,” the 39-year-old said in a letter to the state party’s central committee. “As chair of this party, I am deeply sorry for what happened and bear the responsibility for any failures on behalf of the Iowa Democratic Party.”

“The Associated Press still has not called the race because of the lingering uncertainties,” [Isaac Stanley-Becker notes](#). “This year’s event, which Price once promised would be ‘the most successful caucuses in our party’s history,’ instead became a punchline, ridiculed by comedian Steve Martin at the Oscars ... Now, it’s not even clear if Iowa can hold on to its first-in-the-nation status.”

## **Rush Limbaugh said Trump would “have fun” with Buttigieg’s sexuality in a general election.**

“A gay guy, 37 years old, loves kissing his husband on debate stages. Can you see Trump have fun with that?” said the conservative radio host. Trump awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest

honor available for a civilian, during last week's State of the Union. ([Daily Beast](#))

## **Bloomberg buzz, along with scrutiny, continues to grow.**

At the height of the 2008 economic collapse, the then-New York mayor blamed the elimination of the discriminatory housing practice known as “redlining” for instigating the meltdown, the [AP notes](#).

### **Bloomberg has been picking up some key endorsements.**

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Congressional Black Caucus members Reps. Lucy McBath (Ga.), Gregory Meeks (N.Y.) and Stacey Plaskett (Virgin Islands) and former North Carolina governor Bev Perdue have all announced their backing of the former mayor. Turner plans to help launch Bloomberg’s newest initiative – Mike for Black America – a move that comes days after an audio recording of Bloomberg defending “stop and frisk” policies in 2015 was made public. ([CBS News](#))

### **Bloomberg’s campaign is also pushing sponsored content across popular Instagram meme pages. ([NYT](#))**

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## **The Trump presidency**



**John Kelly laid out his misgivings with Trump.**

**Speaking last night at Drew University in New Jersey, the former White House chief of staff defended Army Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, the ousted National Security Council aide who testified against Trump during the impeachment inquiry and has been ejected from the White House. “Kelly, a retired Marine Corps general, said that Vindman is blameless and simply followed the training he’d received as a soldier, migrants are ‘overwhelmingly good people’ and ‘not all rapists’; and Trump’s decision to condition military aid to Ukraine on an investigation into [Biden] upended longstanding U.S. policy,”** [Peter](#)

[Nicholas reports in the Atlantic](#). “Vindman was rightly disturbed by Trump’s phone call to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in July, Kelly suggested. Having seen something ‘questionable,’ Vindman properly notified his superiors, Kelly said. ... ‘He did exactly what we teach them to do from cradle to grave,’ Kelly told the audience at the Mayo Performing Arts Center. ‘He went and told his boss what he just heard.’ ...

**“Responding to questions from the audience, Kelly faulted Trump for intervening in the case of Eddie Gallagher,** a Navy Seal who was convicted last year of posing with the corpse of an ISIS fighter. Trump reversed a Navy decision to oust Gallagher, in a chain of events that led to the resignation of Navy Secretary Richard Spencer. ‘The idea that the commander-in-chief intervened there, in my opinion, was exactly the wrong thing to do,’ Kelly said. ‘Had I been there, I think I could have prevented it.’ The audience applauded. When a woman in the crowd said that Trump had ‘elevated’ Gallagher, Kelly looked out at the crowd. ‘Yep,’ he said.”

### **Trump seeks to bend the executive branch as part of his impeachment vendetta.**

“In the span of 48 hours this week, the president has sought to protect his friends and punish his foes, even at the risk of compromising the Justice Department’s independence and integrity — a stance that his defenders see as entirely justified,” [Philip Rucker, Robert Costa and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Trump complained publicly about federal prosecutors’ recommended prison sentence for [Roger Stone]. ... Next Trump [sought to intimidate the federal judge](#) in the Stone case, badgering her on Twitter for previous rulings ... Then Trump floated the possibility of a presidential pardon for Stone...

**“Some of Trump’s top aides have counseled him against speaking out on legal matters,** warning him that doing so could wrongly influence proceedings because officials at the Justice Department or elsewhere would then know they needed to please him or risk his wrath. **Trump has often responded, ‘I have a right to say whatever I**

**want,**’ according to a former senior administration official ... Trump insisted Wednesday that he did nothing improper in the Stone case. ‘I didn’t speak to them, by the way, just so you understand,’ the president told reporters, referring to Justice Department officials. ‘They saw the horribleness.’ ... Still, a chorus of former U.S. attorneys and former Justice Department leaders condemned Trump for what they consider improper political pressure in a criminal prosecution.”

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## Quote of the day

*“He’s trying to delegitimize anyone appointed by someone other than him and say that the only people who can be trusted are Trump judges,” retired federal judge Nancy Gertner said of Trump’s attacks on Judge Amy Berman Jackson, who will determine Stone’s sentence. ([Ann Marimow](#))*

## Bill Barr faces growing scrutiny over his intervention in the Stone case.

Trump put the attorney general squarely in the middle of the controversy over the Justice Department’s reduced sentencing recommendation for the president’s longtime friend, as he publicly praised Barr for seizing command of the case from career prosecutors. “A Justice Department spokeswoman declined to comment on the president’s statements,” [Matt Zapposky and Devlin Barrett report](#). “Some current and former Justice Department officials have long feared that Barr is willing to risk the institution’s historic independence to serve an irascible president. The top Democrat in the Senate called for the Justice Department inspector general to investigate the Stone episode, and the House Judiciary Committee announced Wednesday it would have Barr testify March 31 to address that case and other recent incidents that it said ‘raise grave questions’ about Barr’s leadership.”

## Even Barr’s former boss criticized him.

“With Bill Barr, on an amazing number of occasions ... you can be almost 100 percent certain that there’s something improper going on,” Donald Ayer, the deputy attorney general under George H.W. Bush, told [Politico](#).

## **To career federal prosecutors across the country, Barr's meddling raises fears that the worst is yet to come.**

“Until now, according to conversations with more than a dozen career lawyers in some of the 93 U.S. attorney’s offices, they had watched other divisions in the Justice Department execute significant shifts in response to Mr. Trump while the work of prosecuting crimes was largely unaffected by the politics of the moment,” [the Times reports](#). “Now career prosecutors said they worried they might face more pressure.”

## **More resignations could still come.**

[CNN reports](#) that additional prosecutors who work in the U.S. attorney’s office for the District of Columbia have discussed resigning in the coming days over the Stone imbroglio.

## **Congressional Republicans showed no signs that they would move to check Trump in this case.**

“It doesn’t bother me at all, as long as the judge has the final decision,” said Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), the former Senate Judiciary Committee chairman who sharply criticized the Obama administration for alleged politicization of the Justice Department.

This left Democrats “largely alone to fume about the evaporation of another norm of American governance,” [Mike DeBonis reports](#). “Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) seized on the demise of the nomination of Jessie K. Liu to serve as undersecretary of the Treasury Department for terrorism and financial crimes as proof that Trump is ‘on a retribution tour.’”

## **The Senate, though, is primed to pass a measure that would restrict Trump's ability to start a war with Iran.**

“Eight Republicans voted Wednesday to advance legislation invoking

Congress's war powers, a move intended to prevent the president from engaging in hostilities against Tehran without explicit authorization from the legislative branch — except in cases of clear self-defense," [Karoun Demirjian reports](#). "The vote reflects the frustration with Trump's decision to kill a top Iranian commander, Qasem Soleimani, without first consulting lawmakers ... 'No president has the authority to commit our military to a sustained conflict,' Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) told reporters, reiterating her support for the measure.

**“Collins joined Sens. Rand Paul (Ky.), Mike Lee (Utah) and Todd C. Young (Ind.) as the earliest Republicans to commit their support to the measure drafted by Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.).**

They did so only after Kaine agreed to strike references to Trump that appeared in his original draft. But the legislation — which, as a war powers measure, was guaranteed a vote — languished for the past several weeks while the Senate was singularly focused on Trump's impeachment trial. **In that time, additional Republicans have indicated they'll back the resolution, including Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.). Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) also voted to advance the legislation on Wednesday; it is not yet clear if all three will back the resolution on its final vote. Even with their support, however, the legislation will still lack the votes to overcome a near-guaranteed veto.”**

**While tensions have cooled for the moment, the Pentagon is still feeling out whether Iran will retaliate again, and how.** In the standoff with Tehran after Soleimani was killed, U.S. sailors said the threat level was unlike anything they'd seen. “I have spent 26 years in this Navy not hoping for war, but preparing for war so that we can keep our nation safe,” Navy Capt. Christopher D. Stone told [Dan Lamothe](#) in an interview aboard the Normandy, his warship, near the Persian Gulf. “I would say overwhelmingly, the response I saw was a crew that was very focused.”

**Trump ally Jim Jordan accused of “begging” a former Ohio State wrestler not to validate reports of sexual**

## **abuse.**

The Ohio Republican congressman allegedly asked the wrestler not to corroborate accounts made against the university's wrestling team doctor that occurred while he was a coach, [Colby Itkowitz reports](#): “Adam DiSabato — the brother of Mike DiSabato, the whistleblower who exposed the abuse by Richard Strauss — testified Wednesday during a public hearing in the state legislature that when the story came out in July 2018, he received a phone call from a tearful Jordan. ‘[He] called me crying, crying, groveling, on the Fourth of July, begging me to go against my brother, begging me, crying for half an hour,’ Adam DiSabato said, according to video of his testimony. ... Jordan’s spokesman said DiSabato’s account was untrue. ‘Another lie,’ said Ian Fury, Jordan’s communications director. ‘Congressman Jordan never saw or heard of any abuse, and if he had, he would have dealt with it.’”

## **House Democrats asked the Secret Service for details about payments to Trump’s company.**

This request came after [David Fahrenthold and Jonathan O’Connell](#) revealed that the agency had been charged as much as \$650 per night for a room at Trump’s clubs, where agents go to protect the president.

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## **The coronavirus crisis**





## **The number of cases jumped dramatically after China expanded its diagnostic criteria.**

The official death toll of the virus – now known as covid-19 – has risen to roughly 1,360, nearly all in China. The total confirmed cases worldwide surpassed 60,000. “China’s Hubei province, the epicenter of the outbreak, reported an uptick of 14,840 confirmed coronavirus cases Thursday as health officials expanded the type of cases that it includes in its count,” [Marisa Iati and Gerry Shih report](#). “China’s state-run Xinhua News Agency announced Thursday that national health authorities issued revised guidelines to consider ‘clinically diagnosed’ coronavirus cases in the confirmed total. Chinese officials previously only counted cases confirmed by nucleic acid tests, which critics said were faulty and greatly underestimated the true magnitude of the epidemic. ... The dramatic jump in cases in Hubei essentially confirms longtime suspicions that China was for weeks vastly undercounting cases of the virus.” **A death announced in Japan this morning became the second fatality from the disease reported outside China.**

**Most cases are actually mild, which is good news, but this complicates the response.**

“So far, about 82 percent of the cases — including all 14 in the United

States — have been mild, with symptoms that require little or no medical intervention. And that proportion may be an undercount. Health authorities managing the outbreak [are trying to understand what that critical fact portends,](#) [Lenny Bernstein and Carolyn Johnson report.](#) “The fact that there are so many mild cases is a real hallmark of this disease and makes it so different from SARS,’ said Jennifer Nuzzo, an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health’s Center for Health Security. ‘It’s also really challenging. Most of our surveillance is oriented around finding people who require medical intervention.’”

### **The CDC has found no coronavirus cases since airport screening began a month ago.**

More than 30,000 travelers from China have been screened, and no confirmed cases have been identified, per [Lena Sun.](#)

As a precaution, though, United Airlines extended its suspension of flights to China until April 24. “Overall, international flights to China have fallen by 67 percent since Jan. 30,” [per Miriam Berger.](#)

### **China’s Uighur Muslim minority fears the virus will spread to the camps where they’re being held.**

Chinese state media give no major cause for concern that the outbreak will reach the northeastern region of Xinjiang where the Uighurs live, since it’s far from the epicenter. Still, [AFP reports,](#) representatives of the diaspora worry that, because the virus spreads from person to person through sneezing or coughing, the confinement of large groups of people could cause an outbreak.

### **China’s Communist Party ousted two high-level officials in Hubei province, the center of the outbreak.**

The ruling party fired Jiang Chaoliang, a former banker who had been party secretary of Hubei province since 2016, and Ma Guoqiang, the party boss overseeing Wuhan, as the country’s leadership looks to tighten control over its epidemic response. ([Gerry Shih](#))

## **Most workers in China were supposed to get back to work this week. But business is not as usual in Beijing.**

“Worried about the toll the epidemic will take on China’s growth rate, which the government has been toiling to keep at 6 percent, officials have told businesses across the country to return to work,” [Anna Fifield reports](#). “But in the capital Beijing, a city of 22 million people that has 352 confirmed cases of coronavirus, the streets and office buildings and stores were remarkably empty Wednesday. Sanlitun, a glitzy shopping area usually jam-packed with people at lunchtime, was a concrete wasteland. The Apple store was closed. Uniqlo and Starbucks each had only one door open, and staff were constantly disinfecting the handle. The H&M was as empty as Gucci in a recession.”


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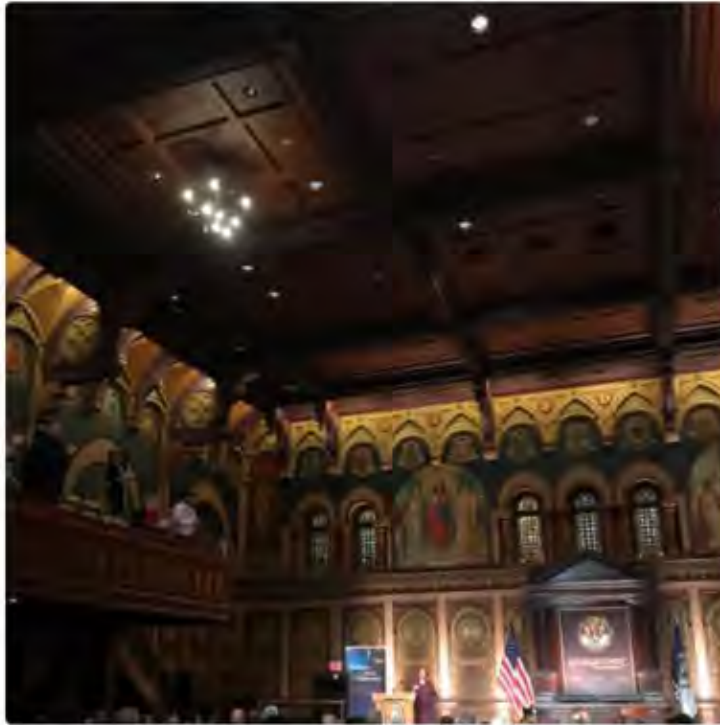
## **Social media speed read**

Marie Yovanovitch, the ousted U.S. ambassador to Ukraine who allegedly lost her job because of Rudy Giuliani's pressure campaign, still encourages students to join the Foreign Service:



**Julia Ioffe**  @juliaioffe · 8h

Marie Yovanovitch gets a loooooong standing ovation at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service 



**Julia Ioffe**  @juliaioffe

Yovanovitch, addressing the students at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service: "To those of you who haven't \*yet\* decided to go to work for the American people, I hope tonight I can convince you."

Even after all of that, she's encouraging young people to become diplomats.

 3,636 10:11 PM - Feb 12, 2020 

 687 people are talking about this 


**A group of migrant families with sick children asked for asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border under a medical exemption:**



**Zolan Kanno-Youngs**   
@KannoYoungs



They were denied entry and told to return to Matamoros.  
[twitter.com/kannoyoungs/st...](https://twitter.com/kannoyoungs/st...)


**Zolan Kanno-Youngs**  @KannoYoungs

Migrant families wait to see if they will be admitted into the US. One child has epilepsy, another autism and one has lissencephaly. Lawyers here are arguing they should have qualified for the medical exemption of MPP. Instead they've waited in Matamoros for months.



♥ 9 12:07 AM - Feb 13, 2020



 [See Zolan Kanno-Youngs's other Tweets](#)



The president telephoned the Republican challenger to Michigan Sen. Gary Peters (D), a reflection of how important the Wolverine State is in 2020:



**John James** ✓  
@JohnjamesMI



The President of the United States of America just called to wish MY SON a happy birthday! 🥳

Thank you for the well wishes @realdonaldtrump! I look forward to continued conversation!



♥ 22.6K 1:10 AM - Feb 13, 2020



💬 4,941 people are talking about this



An editor at the Cook Political Report pointed out that moderates, not Sanders supporters, drove the rise in New Hampshire turnout:



**Dave Wasserman**

@Redistrict



By my calc, NH Dem turnout (vs. '16) in towns won by...

Buttigieg: +26.5%

Klobuchar: +25.2%

Sanders: +12.0%

Takeaway: most of Dems' turnout increase was attributable to Kasich/Rubio types crossing over from '16 GOP primary - not heightened progressive/Sanders base enthusiasm.

4,010 9:42 PM - Feb 12, 2020



1,617 people are talking about this



An Afghan karate coach's dog was shot dead by a group of men who told her a woman couldn't own a dog. She is now planning on fleeing the country, per the BBC:



**Khaama Press (KP)** ✓

@khaama



ورزش کار افغان پس از قتل سگش توسط تفنگداران ناشناس، کشور  
را برای همیشه ترک میکند... [khaama.com/persian/archiv...](https://khaama.com/persian/archiv...)



♥ 27 1:54 PM - Feb 9, 2020



[See Khaama Press \(KP\)'s other Tweets](#)



## Videos of the day

Our Max Bearak traveled to southern Ethiopia, which is facing its worst locust outbreak in generations after an uncommon weather pattern in the Indian Ocean caused relentless rains across East Africa:





Stephen Colbert took a look at the remaining Democratic candidates:



Seth Meyers thinks Trump's actions this week have shown that the stakes for the Democratic race couldn't be higher:



And Samantha Bee said the president is on a “revenge tour”:



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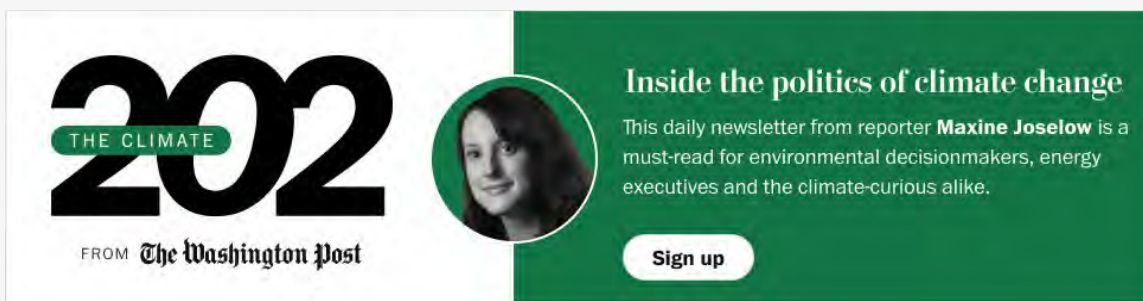
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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Book Club: Another book about election interference promises startling details -- but you'll have to wait  
**Date:** Friday, February 14, 2020 7:41:10 AM



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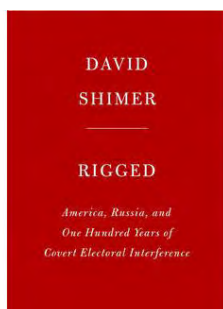
# Book Club

Reviews and recommendations from critic Ron Charles.



By **Ron Charles**

 Email



Knopf released this placeholder cover for "Rigged," by David Shimer; U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Presidential Palace in Finland on July 16, 2018 (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais); author David Shimer (Courtesy of PRH).

**While former National Security Advisor John Bolton tries to pry his unpublished memoir from Donald Trump's short fingers, here comes word of another upcoming book about election interference.** Yesterday, in an unusually weighty press release, Penguin Random House announced that David Shimer, a former intern on

Hillary Clinton's campaign who graduated from Yale in 2018, will publish "Rigged: America, Russia, and One Hundred Years of Covert Electoral Interference." Described as a "sweeping story" of KGB and CIA meddling around the world, the book also promises "startling new details" about Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election and "the definitive account of Barack Obama's secret struggle against Vladimir Putin." Shimer, who looks just old enough to vote, reportedly interviewed scores of power players, including Hillary Clinton, Steve Bannon, David Petraeus, Leon Panetta, John Brennan, Susan Rice and H.R. McMaster. "Rigged" is scheduled for release on June 9, which in Trump Years is like 83 scandals from now. Is it just me, or are we all tired of waiting for crucial information about the collapse of our democracy until a profitable book can be produced?

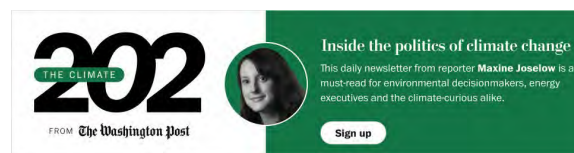


Just lion around: The New York Public Library's mascot peruses the list of 125 Books We Love. (Jonathan Blanc/NYPL)

**We ♥ books.** The New York Public Library is celebrating Valentine's Day by releasing a list of "125 Books We Love." The list, which spans genres and forms, includes such classics as Toni Morrison's novel "Beloved," Ron Chernow's biography "Alexander Hamilton" and Tracy K. Smith's poetry collection "Life on Mars." Starting today, you can pick up a printed copy of the list at any NYPL branch or [click here](#). Having drawn up many lists of the "best" books of the year, I shudder to imagine how hard it must have

been to select favorites published since 1895 when the library was incorporated. A team of NYPL librarians spent about a year on this project trying to choose exciting and enlightening books that have survived the test of time. They took into account “literary merit” and “popularity” — the Scylla and Charybdis of all such lists — and they aimed to include “diverse voices.” They only allowed one title (or series) per author, and only titles for adults were considered, except “Harry Potter,” which, they claim, “transcends age categories.” (Having nothing nice to say about that judgment, I shall say nothing at all.) Tonight’s romantic plans up in the air? **Tickets are still available** to the NYPL’s Valentine’s Day party — “the city’s most cerebral happy hour.” Among the activities: “dramatic readings of love poems,” “librarian-led book matchmaking” and “a one-night-only special-collections display of our most amorous items.” *Yikes!* 21 and older; ID required. Yes, seriously.

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Brothers With Books co-founders Kevin Isabelle-Peete and Isaac Cudjoe. (Courtesy of Brothers With Books)

**The young men behind Brothers With Books are two of the most inspiring people I’ve met.** In less than a year, co-founders Isaac Cudjoe and Kevin Isabelle-Peete have distributed more than 17,000 books

to children around Montgomery County, outside Washington, D.C. Their literacy organization — an ad hoc enterprise operated out of their homes — encourages kids to read by giving them books to keep. In a school system that has too few African American male teachers, Cudjoe and Isabelle-Peete also serve as great role models, proof that reading is cool and fun. Cudjoe, a doctoral student in public policy and administration, tells me the idea for Brothers With Books came to them after they were stopped and harassed by police officers while driving home. Afterwards, they considered how to respond. “I’m a fan of us doing something that is actionable for the community with the tools that we have,” Cudjoe says. He and Isabelle-Peete realized that kids need far better access to books, especially to books by and about people of color. Starting with 150 titles from the **Maryland Book Bank**, they contacted a local teacher and asked if they could give some books away. Since then, they’ve relied mostly on individual donations, which have poured in. “It’s been wonderful. Schools have been very receptive and so positive,” says Isabelle-Peete, who’s completing a degree in elementary and special education. Recently, Brothers With Books has also begun offering \$250 scholarships to students nominated by their teachers. “People undervalue how much a little bit can do for somebody,” Cudjoe says. “If you think \$250 is too small for a scholarship, go ahead and donate.” Indeed. If you’d like to make a cash donation or you have new or lightly used books for kids 8 through 12, contact **brothers.w.books@gmail.com**. “People do want to serve their community,” Cudjoe says. “They just often don’t know how.” These two men do.



President Donald Trump's budget request for fiscal year 2021 arrives at the House Budget Committee on Capitol Hill, where Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer immediately called it a "blueprint for destroying America," Feb. 10, 2020. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

**The Tweeter-in-Chief has launched his annual assault on our federal arts agencies.** President Trump's **proposed budget**, announced Monday, proposes eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. His plan also calls for shutting down the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. (Sorry, Elmo, but tax money for all the president's golf trips has to come from *somewhere*.) Fortunately, Trump's dreams of cultural vandalism are no more likely to succeed this year than they have in the past. As Washington Post reporter Peggy McGlone writes, "Previous budget proposals by President Trump along these lines have been soundly rejected by Congress, which has increased funding in each of the past three years for the NEA and the NEH" (**full story**). Just hours after the president's penurious budget proposal was released, NEH Chairman Jon Parrish Peede – who was appointed by Trump – issued **a surprisingly bold press release** touting his agency's crucial support for teachers, authors, veterans, libraries and museums throughout the country (i.e. in every congressional district). "NEH grants have helped preserve and increase access to the essential records of American history," the statement said, "including the papers of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and other presidents, as well as those of significant writers, thinkers, and entrepreneurs such as



Willa Cather, Ernest Hemingway, Martin Luther King Jr., and Thomas Edison.” *Fore!*

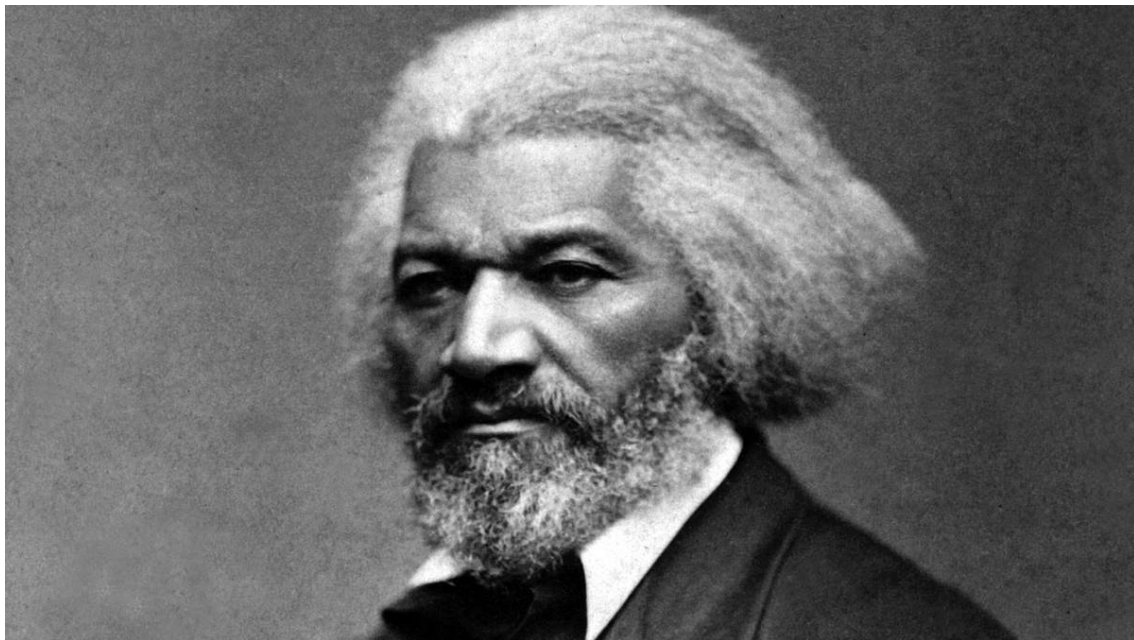


(Courtesy of PEN America)

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**PEN America is gearing up for its massive annual awards ceremony, which will be hosted by Seth Meyers because book nerds are crazy for the aura of TV personalities.** This week, in preparation for the ceremony on March 2 in New York, the foundation announced the winners of several lifetime achievement prizes, including Tom Stoppard, Tanya Barfield, M. NourbeSe Philip and Rigoberto González. (Incidentally, check out [González’s review](#) of Jeanine Cummins’s controversial novel “American Dirt” in the LA Times.) At the ceremony, many more winners will be announced across **a number of categories** spanning fiction, nonfiction, poetry, biography, essay, science writing and translation — more than \$330,000 in prizes all told. The most curious prize is the \$75,000 PEN/Jean Stein Award for a book in any genre “which has broken new ground by reshaping the boundaries of its form and signaling strong potential for lasting influence.” Here are the five wildly diverse finalists:

- “The Undying,” by Anne Boyer, is a memoir about surviving cancer and its treatment.
- “Deaf Republic,” by Ilya Kaminsky, is a collection of poems set in a town under military occupation ([review](#)).
- “Where Reasons End,” by Yiyun Li, is a novel that imagines the interaction between a mother and her son who committed suicide.
- “The World Doesn’t Require You,” by Rion Amilcar Scott, is a story collection about present-day life in a Maryland town founded by the survivors of a successful slave revolt ([review](#)).
- “Rusty Brown,” by Chris Ware, is a graphic novel about six people on a single Midwestern day ([one of The Post’s top 10 graphic novels of 2019](#)).



Frederick Douglass, ca. 1879. (Frank W. Legg/National Archives)

**“I have no accurate knowledge of my age,” Frederick Douglass wrote at the opening of his 1845 autobiography.** “It is the wish of most masters within my knowledge to keep their slaves thus ignorant.” Douglass, who spent his life combating slavery and ignorance, eventually chose to observe his birthday on Feb. 14. Tomorrow, there will be [a celebration](#) of Douglass’s 202nd birthday and the centennial of the 19th Amendment at the [Frederick Douglass National Historic House](#) in Washington where the great writer lived from 1877-1895. Earlier this

week, life-size bronze statues of Douglass and fellow abolitionist Harriet Tubman were unveiled in the Maryland State House ([story](#)). And last night in New York, Amy Murrell Taylor accepted the annual \$25,000 **Frederick Douglass Book Prize** for “Embattled Freedom: Journeys through the Civil War’s Slave Refugee Camps.” A special achievement award was also given to Julius S. Scott for “The Common Wind: Afro-American Currents in the Age of the Haitian Revolution.”



**“My Name Is Lucy Barton,” starring Laura Linney, will close on Broadway at the end of this month.** The one-woman play, based on Elizabeth Strout’s novel, has been tremendously popular ([review](#)). A few **tickets** starting at \$195 remain, but there’s another way that involves far less money and no travel: Linney has released an audiobook version of her stage performance ([listen to a sample](#)). If you’re interested in buying this or checking it out from the library, make sure you search for the version adapted by Rona Munro with Linney as narrator; Kimberly Farr released a traditional audiobook of the novel back in 2016.



Novelist Silvia Moreno-Garcia has just published “Untamed Shore” (Agora).

**I knew her when.** Years ago, I was the Books editor at the Christian Science Monitor, and I also supervised the paper’s interns. In 2001, one of those interns was a student at Endicott College named Silvia Moreno-Garcia. Now jump ahead almost 20 years: My editor here at The Post told me a new **fantasy and science fiction reviewer** was dropping by the office, but I had a lunch meeting, so I missed her. Only later that day did I realize it was my old friend **Silvia Moreno-Garcia**, who’s now a publisher and celebrated writer! This week she has released her fifth novel, a thriller called “Untamed Shore.” It’s about a young Mexican woman in Baja California who gets hired to be the assistant for a wealthy American arriving with his glamorous wife and dissipated brother. The situation is immediately ominous, and when one of them dies, things really heat up. And did I mention there are sharks?

**Incidentally, Moreno-Garcia is an expert on H.P. Lovecraft.** That reminds me that Brown University, which holds the world’s largest collection of **Lovecraft materials**, is offering a fellowship for scholars researching science fiction and horror (\$2,500/month). Applications are due by March 13. **[More information here.](#)**



**Daniel Mendelsohn is a brilliant critic and translator, but more importantly, he's the creator of #classicalValentines on Twitter.**

"A few years ago I was doing a stint as a writer-in-residence at a university out West," he tells me. "It was Valentine's Day, and I had nothing to do, and I started fooling around with some rhymes. I've always loved doggerel and 'occasional verse,' and I thought, why not flood the twittersphere with something amusing?" Go, Cupid! Tuesday, he started posting this year's batch. They're a delightfully zany mix of madcap antics and classical allusions, as you might expect from a writer whose most recent book was "Ecstasy and Terror: From the Greeks to Game of Thrones" ([review](#)). It helps if, like Mendelsohn, you know Homer in the original Greek, but you don't have to be Odysseus to figure out these gags. "My favorites are rhymes across languages," he says, "especially when they're a bit slanty: Who doesn't love *cup/schtup*?"

Penelope, my tricky lady—  
yes, you're every bit as shady  
as I! (Ok, I'm bonking Circe—  
but she's a goddess: please have mercy!)



Center: A three-handled palace Style Mycenaean amphora, 15th c. B.C., in the National Archeological Museum, Athens, Greece. (Ron Charles/The Washington Post)

**Mary Szybist won a National Book Award for her second book of poetry, “Incarnadine,” in 2013.** “The Lushness of It” is my favorite poem from that remarkable collection – and my all-time favorite poem about octopus love. Szybist revised the poem slightly after reading “Other Minds: The Octopus, the Sea, and the Deep Origins of Consciousness,” by Peter Godfrey-Smith. That updated version appears here.

### **The Lushness of It**

It’s not that the octopus wouldn’t love you—  
not that it wouldn’t reach for you  
with each of its tapering arms.

You’d be as good as anyone, I think,  
to an octopus. And the creatures of the sea,  
unlike the sea, might think

about themselves, or you. Keep on floating there,  
cradled, unable to burn. Abandon  
yourself to the sway, the ruffled eddies, abandon

your heavy legs to the floating meadows  
of seaweed and feel  
the bloom of phytoplankton, spindrift, sea

spray, barnacles. In the dark benthic realm, the slippery nekton  
glide over the abyssal plains and as you float you can feel  
that upwelling of cold, deep water touch  
the skin stretched over  
your spine. No, it's not that the octopus  
wouldn't love you. If it touched,  
if it tasted you, each of its three  
hearts would turn red.

Will theologians of any confession refute me?  
Not the bluecap salmon. Not its dotted head.

*From "Incarnadine," by Mary Szybist (Graywolf Press, 2013). Reprinted  
by permission of the author.*

**Enjoy the long weekend – from Valentine's Day through  
Presidents Day.** If you have any questions or comments about The  
Post's book coverage, contact me at [ron.charles@washpost.com](mailto:ron.charles@washpost.com). And  
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**The juicy details of Jessica Simpson's memoir  
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**How 12 authors turned their book dedications  
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## Stationery stores are in trouble, but our love for Valentine's Day cards burns hotter than ever

By Ron Charles • [Read more »](#)

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## First published in 1924, 'Still She Wished for Company' makes for a delicious, if bittersweet, Valentine's Day treat

Review • By Michael Dirda • [Read more »](#)

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## The appeal of 'And I Do Not Forgive You' is hard to articulate but impossible to resist

Review • By John Domini • [Read more »](#)



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## Joe Ide draws on his love of Sherlock Holmes in his complex crime tale 'Hi Five'

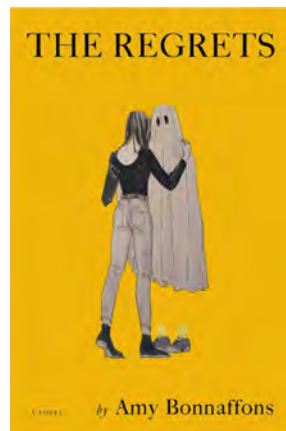
Review • By Maureen Corrigan • [Read more »](#)

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## Amy Bonnaffons's 'The Regrets' puts an otherworldly spin on the breakup novel

Review • By Bethanne Patrick • [Read more »](#)





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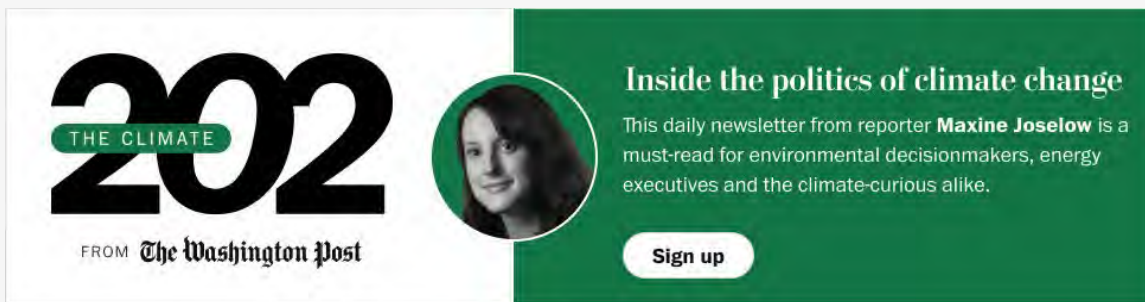
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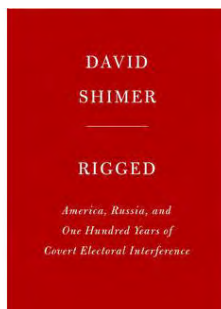
# Book Club

Reviews and recommendations from critic Ron Charles.



By **Ron Charles**

 Email



Knopf released this placeholder cover for "Rigged," by David Shimer; U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Presidential Palace in Finland on July 16, 2018 (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais); author David Shimer (Courtesy of PRH).

**While former National Security Advisor John Bolton tries to pry his unpublished memoir from Donald Trump's short fingers, here comes word of another upcoming book about election interference.** Yesterday, in an unusually weighty press release, Penguin Random House announced that David Shimer, a former intern on

Hillary Clinton's campaign who graduated from Yale in 2018, will publish "Rigged: America, Russia, and One Hundred Years of Covert Electoral Interference." Described as a "sweeping story" of KGB and CIA meddling around the world, the book also promises "startling new details" about Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election and "the definitive account of Barack Obama's secret struggle against Vladimir Putin." Shimer, who looks just old enough to vote, reportedly interviewed scores of power players, including Hillary Clinton, Steve Bannon, David Petraeus, Leon Panetta, John Brennan, Susan Rice and H.R. McMaster. "Rigged" is scheduled for release on June 9, which in Trump Years is like 83 scandals from now. Is it just me, or are we all tired of waiting for crucial information about the collapse of our democracy until a profitable book can be produced?

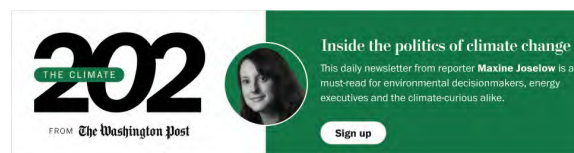


Just lion around: The New York Public Library's mascot peruses the list of 125 Books We Love. (Jonathan Blanc/NYPL)

**We ♥ books.** The New York Public Library is celebrating Valentine's Day by releasing a list of "125 Books We Love." The list, which spans genres and forms, includes such classics as Toni Morrison's novel "Beloved," Ron Chernow's biography "Alexander Hamilton" and Tracy K. Smith's poetry collection "Life on Mars." Starting today, you can pick up a printed copy of the list at any NYPL branch or [click here](#). Having drawn up many lists of the "best" books of the year, I shudder to imagine how hard it must have

been to select favorites published since 1895 when the library was incorporated. A team of NYPL librarians spent about a year on this project trying to choose exciting and enlightening books that have survived the test of time. They took into account “literary merit” and “popularity” — the Scylla and Charybdis of all such lists — and they aimed to include “diverse voices.” They only allowed one title (or series) per author, and only titles for adults were considered, except “Harry Potter,” which, they claim, “transcends age categories.” (Having nothing nice to say about that judgment, I shall say nothing at all.) Tonight’s romantic plans up in the air? **Tickets are still available** to the NYPL’s Valentine’s Day party — “the city’s most cerebral happy hour.” Among the activities: “dramatic readings of love poems,” “librarian-led book matchmaking” and “a one-night-only special-collections display of our most amorous items.” *Yikes!* 21 and older; ID required. Yes, seriously.

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Brothers With Books co-founders Kevin Isabelle-Peete and Isaac Cudjoe. (Courtesy of Brothers With Books)

**The young men behind Brothers With Books are two of the most inspiring people I’ve met.** In less than a year, co-founders Isaac Cudjoe and Kevin Isabelle-Peete have distributed more than 17,000 books

to children around Montgomery County, outside Washington, D.C. Their literacy organization — an ad hoc enterprise operated out of their homes — encourages kids to read by giving them books to keep. In a school system that has too few African American male teachers, Cudjoe and Isabelle-Peete also serve as great role models, proof that reading is cool and fun. Cudjoe, a doctoral student in public policy and administration, tells me the idea for Brothers With Books came to them after they were stopped and harassed by police officers while driving home. Afterwards, they considered how to respond. “I’m a fan of us doing something that is actionable for the community with the tools that we have,” Cudjoe says. He and Isabelle-Peete realized that kids need far better access to books, especially to books by and about people of color. Starting with 150 titles from the **Maryland Book Bank**, they contacted a local teacher and asked if they could give some books away. Since then, they’ve relied mostly on individual donations, which have poured in. “It’s been wonderful. Schools have been very receptive and so positive,” says Isabelle-Peete, who’s completing a degree in elementary and special education. Recently, Brothers With Books has also begun offering \$250 scholarships to students nominated by their teachers. “People undervalue how much a little bit can do for somebody,” Cudjoe says. “If you think \$250 is too small for a scholarship, go ahead and donate.” Indeed. If you’d like to make a cash donation or you have new or lightly used books for kids 8 through 12, contact **brothers.w.books@gmail.com**. “People do want to serve their community,” Cudjoe says. “They just often don’t know how.” These two men do.



President Donald Trump's budget request for fiscal year 2021 arrives at the House Budget Committee on Capitol Hill, where Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer immediately called it a "blueprint for destroying America," Feb. 10, 2020. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

**The Tweeter-in-Chief has launched his annual assault on our federal arts agencies.** President Trump's **proposed budget**, announced Monday, proposes eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. His plan also calls for shutting down the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. (Sorry, Elmo, but tax money for all the president's golf trips has to come from *somewhere*.) Fortunately, Trump's dreams of cultural vandalism are no more likely to succeed this year than they have in the past. As Washington Post reporter Peggy McGlone writes, "Previous budget proposals by President Trump along these lines have been soundly rejected by Congress, which has increased funding in each of the past three years for the NEA and the NEH" (**full story**). Just hours after the president's penurious budget proposal was released, NEH Chairman Jon Parrish Peede – who was appointed by Trump – issued **a surprisingly bold press release** touting his agency's crucial support for teachers, authors, veterans, libraries and museums throughout the country (i.e. in every congressional district). "NEH grants have helped preserve and increase access to the essential records of American history," the statement said, "including the papers of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and other presidents, as well as those of significant writers, thinkers, and entrepreneurs such as

Willa Cather, Ernest Hemingway, Martin Luther King Jr., and Thomas Edison.” *Fore!*

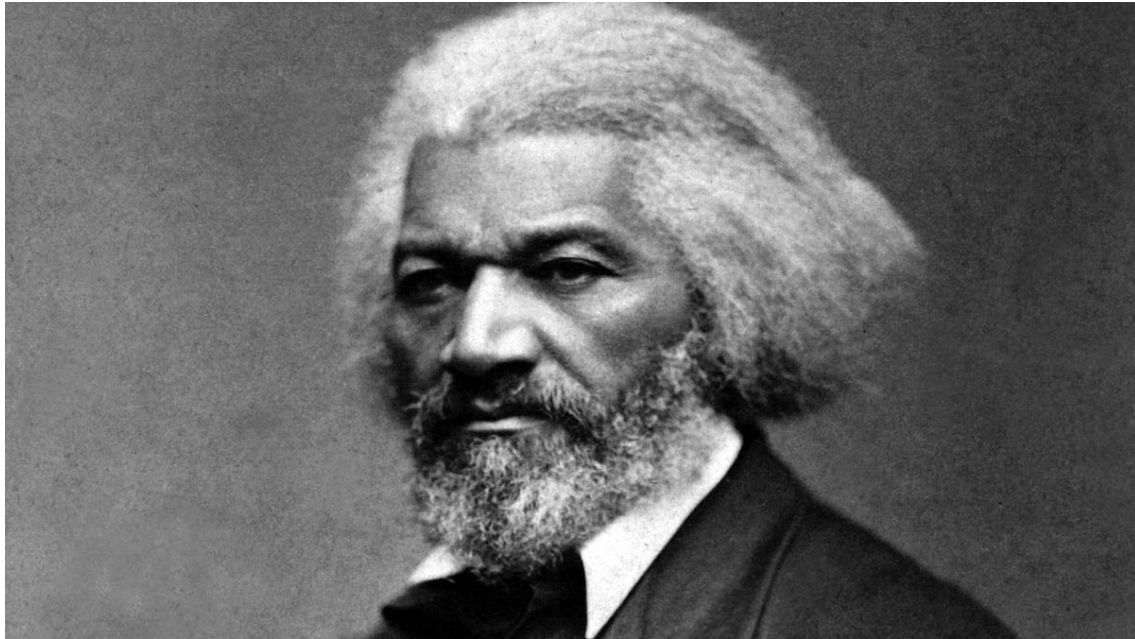


(Courtesy of PEN America)

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**PEN America is gearing up for its massive annual awards ceremony, which will be hosted by Seth Meyers because book nerds are crazy for the aura of TV personalities.** This week, in preparation for the ceremony on March 2 in New York, the foundation announced the winners of several lifetime achievement prizes, including Tom Stoppard, Tanya Barfield, M. NourbeSe Philip and Rigoberto González. (Incidentally, check out [González’s review](#) of Jeanine Cummins’s controversial novel “American Dirt” in the LA Times.) At the ceremony, many more winners will be announced across **a number of categories** spanning fiction, nonfiction, poetry, biography, essay, science writing and translation — more than \$330,000 in prizes all told. The most curious prize is the \$75,000 PEN/Jean Stein Award for a book in any genre “which has broken new ground by reshaping the boundaries of its form and signaling strong potential for lasting influence.” Here are the five wildly diverse finalists:

- “The Undying,” by Anne Boyer, is a memoir about surviving cancer and its treatment.
- “Deaf Republic,” by Ilya Kaminsky, is a collection of poems set in a town under military occupation ([review](#)).
- “Where Reasons End,” by Yiyun Li, is a novel that imagines the interaction between a mother and her son who committed suicide.
- “The World Doesn’t Require You,” by Rion Amilcar Scott, is a story collection about present-day life in a Maryland town founded by the survivors of a successful slave revolt ([review](#)).
- “Rusty Brown,” by Chris Ware, is a graphic novel about six people on a single Midwestern day ([one of The Post’s top 10 graphic novels of 2019](#)).



Frederick Douglass, ca. 1879. (Frank W. Legg/National Archives)

**“I have no accurate knowledge of my age,” Frederick Douglass wrote at the opening of his 1845 autobiography.** “It is the wish of most masters within my knowledge to keep their slaves thus ignorant.” Douglass, who spent his life combating slavery and ignorance, eventually chose to observe his birthday on Feb. 14. Tomorrow, there will be [a celebration](#) of Douglass’s 202nd birthday and the centennial of the 19th Amendment at the [Frederick Douglass National Historic House](#) in Washington where the great writer lived from 1877-1895. Earlier this



week, life-size bronze statues of Douglass and fellow abolitionist Harriet Tubman were unveiled in the Maryland State House ([story](#)). And last night in New York, Amy Murrell Taylor accepted the annual \$25,000 **Frederick Douglass Book Prize** for “Embattled Freedom: Journeys through the Civil War’s Slave Refugee Camps.” A special achievement award was also given to Julius S. Scott for “The Common Wind: Afro-American Currents in the Age of the Haitian Revolution.”



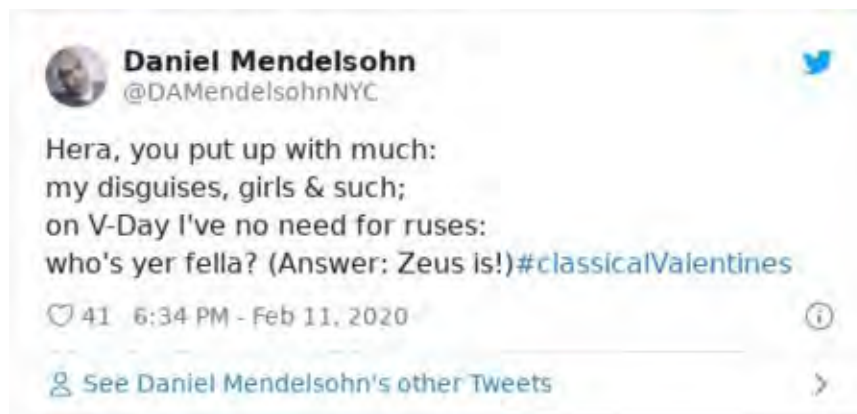
**“My Name Is Lucy Barton,” starring Laura Linney, will close on Broadway at the end of this month.** The one-woman play, based on Elizabeth Strout’s novel, has been tremendously popular ([review](#)). A few **tickets** starting at \$195 remain, but there’s another way that involves far less money and no travel: Linney has released an audiobook version of her stage performance ([listen to a sample](#)). If you’re interested in buying this or checking it out from the library, make sure you search for the version adapted by Rona Munro with Linney as narrator; Kimberly Farr released a traditional audiobook of the novel back in 2016.



Novelist Silvia Moreno-Garcia has just published “Untamed Shore” (Agora).

**I knew her when.** Years ago, I was the Books editor at the Christian Science Monitor, and I also supervised the paper’s interns. In 2001, one of those interns was a student at Endicott College named Silvia Moreno-Garcia. Now jump ahead almost 20 years: My editor here at The Post told me a new **fantasy and science fiction reviewer** was dropping by the office, but I had a lunch meeting, so I missed her. Only later that day did I realize it was my old friend **Silvia Moreno-Garcia**, who’s now a publisher and celebrated writer! This week she has released her fifth novel, a thriller called “Untamed Shore.” It’s about a young Mexican woman in Baja California who gets hired to be the assistant for a wealthy American arriving with his glamorous wife and dissipated brother. The situation is immediately ominous, and when one of them dies, things really heat up. And did I mention there are sharks?

**Incidentally, Moreno-Garcia is an expert on H.P. Lovecraft.** That reminds me that Brown University, which holds the world’s largest collection of **Lovecraft materials**, is offering a fellowship for scholars researching science fiction and horror (\$2,500/month). Applications are due by March 13. **[More information here.](#)**



**Daniel Mendelsohn is a brilliant critic and translator, but more importantly, he's the creator of #classicalValentines on Twitter.**

"A few years ago I was doing a stint as a writer-in-residence at a university out West," he tells me. "It was Valentine's Day, and I had nothing to do, and I started fooling around with some rhymes. I've always loved doggerel and 'occasional verse,' and I thought, why not flood the twittersphere with something amusing?" Go, Cupid! Tuesday, he started posting this year's batch. They're a delightfully zany mix of madcap antics and classical allusions, as you might expect from a writer whose most recent book was "Ecstasy and Terror: From the Greeks to Game of Thrones" ([review](#)). It helps if, like Mendelsohn, you know Homer in the original Greek, but you don't have to be Odysseus to figure out these gags. "My favorites are rhymes across languages," he says, "especially when they're a bit slanty: Who doesn't love *cup/schtup*?"

Penelope, my tricky lady—  
yes, you're every bit as shady  
as I! (Ok, I'm bonking Circe—  
but she's a goddess: please have mercy!)



Center: A three-handled palace Style Mycenaean amphora, 15th c. B.C., in the National Archeological Museum, Athens, Greece. (Ron Charles/The Washington Post)

**Mary Szybist won a National Book Award for her second book of poetry, “Incarnadine,” in 2013.** “The Lushness of It” is my favorite poem from that remarkable collection – and my all-time favorite poem about octopus love. Szybist revised the poem slightly after reading “Other Minds: The Octopus, the Sea, and the Deep Origins of Consciousness,” by Peter Godfrey-Smith. That updated version appears here.

### **The Lushness of It**

It’s not that the octopus wouldn’t love you—  
not that it wouldn’t reach for you  
with each of its tapering arms.

You’d be as good as anyone, I think,  
to an octopus. And the creatures of the sea,  
unlike the sea, might think

about themselves, or you. Keep on floating there,  
cradled, unable to burn. Abandon  
yourself to the sway, the ruffled eddies, abandon

your heavy legs to the floating meadows  
of seaweed and feel  
the bloom of phytoplankton, spindrift, sea

spray, barnacles. In the dark benthic realm, the slippery nekton glide over the abyssal plains and as you float you can feel that upwelling of cold, deep water touch the skin stretched over your spine. No, it's not that the octopus wouldn't love you. If it touched, if it tasted you, each of its three hearts would turn red.

Will theologians of any confession refute me?  
Not the bluecap salmon. Not its dotted head.

*From "Incarnadine," by Mary Szybist (Graywolf Press, 2013). Reprinted by permission of the author.*

**Enjoy the long weekend – from Valentine's Day through Presidents Day.** If you have any questions or comments about The Post's book coverage, contact me at [ron.charles@washpost.com](mailto:ron.charles@washpost.com). And if you know someone who would enjoy this newsletter, please forward it to them. **To subscribe, click here.**

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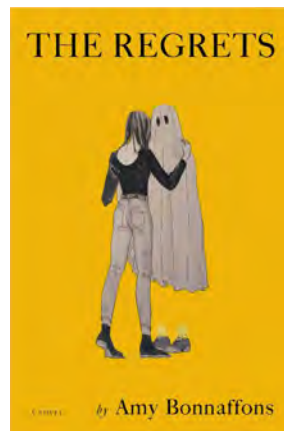
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## Donald Trump, the Houston Astros and the fear of the asterisk

Former White House communications director Hope Hicks told [the FBI](#) that President Trump viewed the intelligence community's assessment that Russia interfered on his behalf in the 2016 election as his "Achilles heel" because, even if it had no impact on the outcome of the election, people would think Russia helped him win.

Hicks, who will soon rejoin the White House, is one of multiple senior people quoted in former special counsel Bob Mueller's 2019 [report](#) to



make the point that Trump was deeply concerned that acknowledging Russian interference would pock his electoral college triumph with an asterisk.\*

Sean Spicer, Trump's first White House press secretary, said "the president thought the Russia story was developed to undermine the legitimacy of his election," according to Mueller. Former deputy campaign chairman Rick Gates said, "the president viewed the Russia investigation as an attack on the legitimacy of his win." And former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus recalled, "when the intelligence assessment came out, the president-elect was concerned people would question the legitimacy of his win."

**Trump's enduring fear of the asterisk came to mind on Thursday in West Palm Beach, Fla., as the owner of the Houston Astros and his players insisted adamantly that they would have still won the World Series in 2017 without knowing in advance what pitches the opposing team was going to throw when playing at home.**



Alex Bregman and Jose Altuve of the Houston Astros look on as owner Jim Crane reads a prepared statement during a news conference on Thursday in West Palm Beach, Fla. (Michael Reaves/Getty

Images)

As pitchers and catchers reported for spring training, the 10 remaining players of the 2017 Astros appeared for a news conference at their Florida ballpark, which they share with the Washington Nationals and happens to be 10 miles from the president's Mar-a-Lago club.

Astros owner Jim Crane fired manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow last month after Major League Baseball released a report detailing its investigation into the electronic sign-stealing scheme the Astros were found to have used in 2017 and 2018. But Crane got defensive when asked whether what the team did amounted to cheating. "We broke the rules. You can phrase that any way you want," he told reporters.

"Our opinion is that this didn't impact the game," the owner [added](#). "We had a good team. We won the World Series, and we'll leave it at that." Asked whether he should have been held accountable himself as the team's top official, Crane said: "No, I don't think I should be held accountable." When asked whether players should have been disciplined for knowingly participating in the scheme, he said: "Our players should not be punished. These are a great group of guys who did not receive proper guidance from their leaders."

"Crane's absolution of everyone except those who already have paid for the Astros' sins underscored the glaring limits of the apologies offered Thursday. The lack of specifics and the lack of introspection made it sometimes seem as if the Astros were reading from a list of talking points," [Dave Sheinin reports](#). "They would admit what they did — stealing signs from opposing catchers using a center field camera and a video monitor — was wrong. Some would even acknowledge they gained an advantage through it. But they would accept no insinuation that their 2017 championship was in any way tainted."

Outfielder Josh Reddick, for example, would not admit that sign-stealing gave him an edge — "I can't really say it did [or] it didn't," he said — and said he felt no need to reach out to teams the Astros beat along the way. "I think it goes back to it not being a tainted championship. We were still a

good team. [The scheme] wasn't the necessary point of us winning. We still won on the road as well."

What Reddick didn't say was that, in fact, Houston went 8-1 at Minute Maid Park that postseason. That's the stadium where they used an illegal camera to decipher the signs being used by opposing teams to relay them to batters by banging [on a garbage can](#).



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**Trump's fear of the asterisk helps explain why he has continued to suggest, against all evidence to the contrary, that the Russians may not actually have done what an overwhelming mountain of evidence makes clear they did.** "I don't believe they interfered," Trump [told](#) Time magazine in December 2016. "That became a laughing point, not a talking point, a laughing point. Any time I do something, they say 'oh, Russia interfered.'"

"This Russia thing with Trump and Russia is a made-up story," Trump [told](#) NBC in May 2017 after firing Jim Comey as FBI director. "It's an excuse by the Democrats for having lost an election that they should've won."

After meeting with Vladimir Putin in November 2017, Trump [said](#) he believed the Russian president's denials: "Every time he sees me, he says, 'I didn't do that.' And I really believe that, when he tells me that, he means it."

Mueller wrote in his report that Trump's fixation on the perceived legitimacy of his victory influenced some of his behavior, including the termination of Michael Flynn as national security adviser after The Washington Post broke the story about his conversation with the Russian ambassador regarding sanctions.

The impeachment inquiry, along with the rough transcript of Trump's July 25 phone call with his Ukrainian counterpart, also established that part of Trump's interest in that country was trying [to cast doubt on the story line](#) that Russia actually interfered in 2016.

**In contrast to the Houston baseball team, the president has never apologized for anything related to Russia. He's not expressed regret for his own team's contacts in 2016 with Russians nor his false public statements about his knowledge of them.**

As Mueller outlined 10 possible instances of obstruction of justice by Trump, he offered this analysis: “In this investigation, the evidence does not establish that the President was involved in an underlying crime related to Russian election interference. But the evidence does point to a range of other possible personal motives animating the President's conduct. These include concerns that continued investigation would call into question the legitimacy of his election and potential uncertainty about whether certain events, such as advance notice of WikiLeaks's release of hacked information or the June 9, 2016 meeting between senior campaign officials and Russians, could be seen as criminal activity by the President, his campaign, or his family.”

The Mueller report concluded that the Trump campaign expected to “benefit electorally” from information stolen and released by Russia. Don't forget, Trump even expressed this sentiment publicly. On July 27, 2016, he said at a campaign event: “Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing.” Hours later, according to Mueller, Russian military intelligence attempted to hack Hillary Clinton's private email server for the first time.



**Trump's asterisk fears weren't entirely misplaced.** In the fourth year of his presidency, some of the president's critics continue to cite

Russian interference to speculate that he would have lost the election had it not been for a boost from the Kremlin.

“There’s no doubt that the Russians did interfere in the election, and I think the interference, although not yet quantified, if fully investigated would show that Trump didn’t actually win the election in 2016,” former president Jimmy Carter said [last summer](#). “He lost the election, and he was put into office because the Russians interfered on his behalf.” Asked by historian Jon Meacham whether he considers Trump to be “an illegitimate president,” Carter replied: “Based on what I just said, which I can’t retract.”

Clinton herself dismissed Trump as an “illegitimate president” in September, suggesting that “he knows” he stole the 2016 election from her. “I believe he understands that the many varying tactics they used, from voter suppression and voter purging to hacking to the false stories — he knows that — there were just a bunch of different reasons why the election turned out like it did,” the former secretary of state said [on CBS](#). “There were many funny things that happened in my election that will not happen again.”

A definitive answer is unknowable because so many other factors were at play in the election, including the FBI reopening – and then closing – the Clinton email investigation in the final weeks. But that won’t stop people from arguing about it [for generations](#).

Trump continues to attack the Russia probe, nearly a year after its conclusion. “The Mueller investigation was a shakedown and a disgrace,” he told Geraldo Rivera for his “Roadkill” podcast [on Thursday](#). “It probably should be expunged.”



**Like how Clinton and Democrats remain embittered toward Trump, teams and players who lost to the Astros in 2017 will also always feel wronged.**

Crane's assertion that his team's sign-stealing did not affect the outcome of games, and therefore did not taint the World Series, perturbed Houston's rivals. "Clearly, on what level did it impact things, I guess we'll never know, and that's for people to draw their own conclusions on," Yankees Manager Aaron Boone told reporters. "But clearly when we're talking about some of the things that went on, those things have an effect on games, clearly."

Just like with the question of whether Russian involvement changed the outcome of the election, no one will ever be able to definitively prove either way that the Astros would have lost the American League Championship Series or the World Series in 2017 had they not stolen signs.

New York Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman said that he believes the Astros' cheating cost them the 2017 World Series because the Astros beat the Yankees in Game Seven in the ALCS. "It was very close, and everything, all the details that come out, I think it was the extra edge that allowed them to move on," Chapman [told Adam Kilgore](#).

Brett Anderson, who competed against the Astros with the A's in the American League West the past two seasons, responded to Crane's assertion with a GIF of Will Ferrell's "Anchorman" character Ron Burgundy saying, "I don't believe you."



And Texas Rangers outfielder Willie Calhoun quipped:



Kurt Suzuki, the Nationals catcher who gave complex signs this past October when Washington defeated the Astros to win the World Series, told Thomas Boswell that he thinks Houston was still cheating through the end of the 2019 season. "Oh, yeah, no question," he said. "We could hear it from their dugout. We heard their whistling. What are you going to do?"

"Nats reliever Sean Doolittle recalled two of his blown saves against the Astros in 2017 on homers by George Springer and José Altuve when he pitched for Oakland," Boswell reports. "I was wondering what that did to



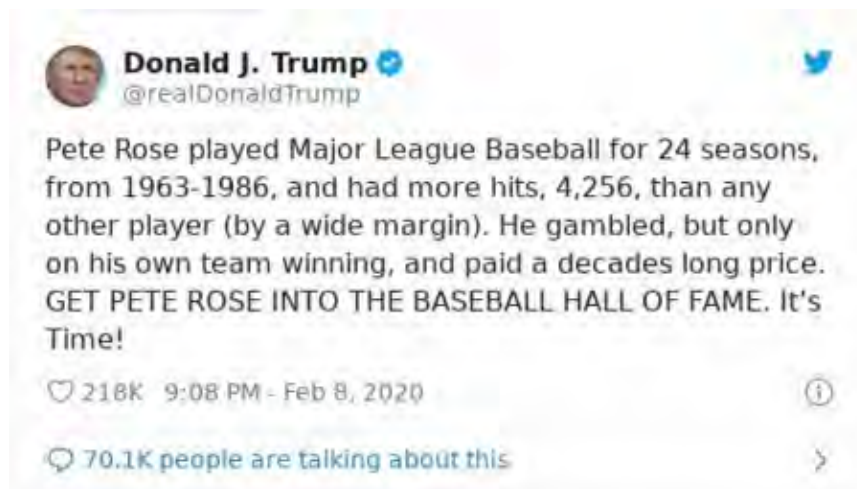
my trade value. ... I got hit around a bunch by the Astros,' said Doolittle, who was soon traded to the Nats, along with Ryan Madson. ... 'I landed on my feet. I ended up in a great spot. But for some guys, their bad outings, that was the end of the road for them. They got sent down. They never got called back up again. I think about those guys a lot.'"



President Trump watches the Nationals play the Astros in Game 5 of the 2019 World Series in Washington. (John McDonnell/The Washington Post)

### **Tying these story lines together: The president shows grace for gamblers.**

**Trump endorsed Pete Rose's appeal to end his lifetime ban.** The president, a former casino owner, tweeted over the weekend that the all-time leader in hits "paid a decades long price" for gambling on games in which his team was playing. Rose submitted a [petition](#) for reinstatement to Major League Baseball last week, citing the fact that Houston's players were not punished for sign-stealing to argue that his punishment was "[disproportionate.](#)"



**Meanwhile, the White House announced Thursday that Trump's former body man John McEntee will take over as the head of the office of presidential personnel.** "McEntee lost his White House job in March 2018 because an investigation found he was a frequent gambler whose habit posed a security risk," [Josh Dawsey reports](#). "A background investigation found that McEntee bet tens of thousands of dollars at a time, making him unsuitable for a sensitive position close to the president ... There was no indication his gambling was illegal, but there was concern that he could be vulnerable to outside influence ... McEntee will replace Sean Doocey, who some aides, including deputy chief of staff Emma Doyle, tried to keep from losing his job. But Trump is infuriated over what he believes are so many people around him who are not loyal, and that some 2016 campaign aides have not been able to get

jobs, that he replaced Doocey with McEntee, according to two administration officials."

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### Programming note

In honor of Presidents' Day, there will be no 202 on Monday. We're also excited about our redesigned format. Thanks to everyone who sent feedback yesterday. We really want to make this email as useful and readable as possible for you. Let me know what you think at [James.Hohmann@washpost.com](mailto:James.Hohmann@washpost.com) or [submit a form here](#) to let our engineering team know what you like or don't like.

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### All the president's men



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## Quote of the day

*“I think it’s time to stop the tweeting about Department of Justice criminal cases,” Attorney General Bill Barr said [in an interview with ABC News](#), adding that such statements “make it impossible for me to do my job and to assure the courts and the prosecutors and the department that we’re doing our work with integrity.” He added: “I cannot do my job here at the department with a constant background commentary that undercuts me.”*

### Why the attorney general *really* rebuked the president

While the coverage has focused on Roger Stone’s sentencing, the president’s rage stems more from the fact that his appointees at the Justice Department have not been more aggressive about trying to prosecute his perceived enemies. “People close to Barr said that in recent months he has become increasingly frustrated with Trump’s tweets about the Justice Department,” [Devlin Barrett, Matt Zapposky and Josh Dawsey report](#):

**“Behind that public fight ... is a deeper tension between Trump and Barr’s Justice Department over the lack of criminal charges against [Jim Comey] and those close to him. ...** Trump has repeatedly complained about FBI Director Christopher A. Wray in recent months, saying that Wray has not done enough to ... purge the bureau of people who are disloyal to him ... Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz referred Comey’s handling of the memos [about his conversations with the president] to prosecutors for possible criminal prosecution, but lawyers quickly determined it was not a close call and did not seek to build a case. That sent Trump into a rage ... He complained so loudly and swore so frequently in the Oval Office that some of his aides discussed it for days ... Trump repeatedly said that Comey deserved to be charged ... ‘Can you [expletive] believe they didn’t charge him?’ Trump said on the night of the decision ...

**“Trump has also wanted charges filed against Comey’s former deputy, Andrew McCabe.** A separate inspector general investigation concluded that McCabe lied to investigators about his role in authorizing disclosures for a Wall Street Journal story in October 2016 about internal FBI tensions over an investigation of the Clinton Foundation. A grand jury in Washington seemed poised to make a decision on the case last year before fizzling into inaction.

**“Trump’s anger over the lack of charges against FBI personnel flared again in January, prompted by two unrelated developments** ... First, prosecutors updated their position in the case of former national security adviser Michael Flynn, saying a sentence of some prison time would be appropriate. Around the same time, The Washington Post reported that U.S. Attorney John Huber in Utah — tapped years earlier to reinvestigate several issues related to vague allegations of corruption against Hillary Clinton — had quietly wound down his work after finding nothing of consequence. ... In the president’s mind, it is unacceptable that people such as Comey and McCabe have not been charged, particularly if people such as Stone and Flynn are going to be treated harshly ...

**“The president’s anger has focused increasingly on Jessie Liu,** the former U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, whose office has been handling many of the cases related to Comey and other former FBI officials. That office has recently conducted interviews in a leak inquiry, eyeing senior FBI officials over news stories in 2017 that discussed a top-secret Russian intelligence document that influenced Comey’s decision-making in 2016. Many of investigators’ questions have seemed focused on the former FBI director.

“Separately, Barr tapped U.S. Attorney John Durham in Connecticut to investigate whether any crimes were committed by FBI and CIA officials in the pursuit of allegations in 2016 that Russia interfered in the election to benefit Trump’s campaign. **After learning that the Huber investigation is not likely to produce charges, Trump has**

**become more insistent that Durham finish his work soon ... [Trump] wants to be able to use whatever Durham finds as a cudgel in his reelection campaign."**

## **Investigators keep fishing for a pretext to charge Obama-era intelligence officials.**

Questions being asked by Durham suggest he may be “pursuing a theory that the C.I.A., under its former director John O. Brennan, had a preconceived notion about Russia or was trying to get to a particular result — and was nefariously trying to keep other agencies from seeing the full picture lest they interfere with that goal,” [the New York Times reports](#).

## **The White House’s muted response prompted theories that Barr’s comments were choreographed.**

“Barr, while complaining about the impact of the tweets on the department’s mission, didn’t take issue with the substance of Trump’s comments, including one suggesting that the judge in Stone’s case was biased,” [Fred Barbash and Allyson Chiu report](#). “And Barr’s comments didn’t elicit the expected flurry of backlash from Trump and his allies. Instead, White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham issued a statement saying, ‘The President wasn’t bothered by the comments at all.’ She added that Trump ‘has full faith and confidence in Attorney General Barr to do his job and uphold the law.’”

“There were plenty of plausible and practical reasons for Barr’s comments and their timing. The chief judge of the U.S. District Court in Washington has expressed concern about judges being pressured in the wake of Trump’s tweets and Barr’s statement allows government lawyers to disown the president’s comments when they appear in court. Barr is also facing unrest from lawyers within and outside of the department, including from the New York City bar, over the handling of the Stone case.”

“Barr isn’t objecting to Trump’s political interference with the Justice Department to undermine the rule of law,” observed Rep. Don Beyer (D-

Va.). “He’s saying Trump shouldn’t tell everyone about it.”

## **Trump admits he sent Rudy Giuliani to find dirt on Joe Biden.**

Geraldo Rivera, [in a podcast interview](#), asked Trump, “Was it strange to send Rudy Giuliani to Ukraine, your personal lawyer? Are you sorry you did that?” Trump responded, “No, not at all.” He then praised the former New York mayor, who remains under investigation, as a “crime fighter.”



Judy Shelton, Trump's nominee to be a governor of the Federal Reserve, is sworn in for her confirmation hearing before the Senate Banking Committee on Thursday. (Andrew Harrer/Bloomberg News)

## **Trump's latest nominee to the Federal Reserve could be in trouble.**

Three GOP senators on the Senate Banking Committee said last night they are undecided about whether to support Judy Shelton after sitting through her confirmation hearing: Pat Toomey (Pa.), Dick Shelby (Ala.) and John Neely Kennedy (La.). Any one of them could torpedo her nomination since Republicans only have a one-seat advantage on the panel. Toomey said he “didn’t know” if Shelton would uphold the Fed’s independence. Shelby said Shelton sounded like she “could be an outlier” whose views are

outside the mainstream. "I'm undecided," Kennedy said after the hearing, adding "nobody wants anybody on the Federal Reserve that has a fatal attraction to nutty ideas."

Shelton "is known as an outspoken critic of the Federal Reserve and for advocating that the United States return to something akin to the gold standard, which the nation fully abandoned in 1971," [Heather Long reports](#). "She has alarmed many in the financial world by calling for more coordination between the Fed and the White House. She has also altered some of her views to appear more in line with Trump's aggressive push for lower interest rates ... The White House said it stands fully behind Shelton, who said several times during her confirmation hearing she would bring 'intellectual diversity' to the Fed. ...

"Trump's prior two picks — businessman Herman Cain and conservative pundit Stephen Moore — both had to withdraw because of dicey personal issues. ... Two of Trump's other Fed nominees were also passed over. ... Trump has made no secret he regrets picking Jerome H. Powell to be Fed chair, and there's concern that Trump would quickly elevate Shelton to the top job at the central bank when Powell's term expires in early 2022."

## **The Senate passed a resolution to limit Trump's power to start a war with Iran.**

Trump plans to veto the measure once it passes the House, and neither chamber of Congress has the votes to override that veto. But eight Republicans joined all Democrats in voting 55 to 45 for the measure, "despite sharp [warnings from Trump that](#) challenging his war powers would 'show weakness' and send 'a very bad signal' to Tehran," [Karoun Demirjian reports](#).

## **Mitch McConnell [told Fox News](#) he would fill a Supreme Court vacancy if one opens this year.**

If you were alive in 2016, you will recall this was the excuse the Senate majority leader used to deny giving Merrick Garland a hearing. The Kentucky senator said back then it would be totally inappropriate for the



Senate to put someone on the Supreme Court in an election year. But that was when his party didn't control the White House.

Meanwhile, Garland yesterday formally stepped down from his role as chief judge of the D.C. Circuit, the second most powerful court in the country. He passed the gavel to Sri Srinivasan, the first person of South Asian descent to lead a federal circuit court. Garland will continue to serve on the court he joined three decades ago, [per Ann Marimow](#).

### **Ignoring the will of Congress, Trump diverted \$3.8 billion more from the Pentagon to his border wall.**

In a letter to Congress, the administration said money appropriated for the purchase of aircraft will instead be spent on wall construction. “The Pentagon is moving the money using a counternarcotics law that allows the Defense Department to build fencing for other federal, state and local agencies in known drug-smuggling corridors,” [Paul Sonne and Nick Miroff report](#).

### **During the State of the Union, Trump touted a veteran’s comeback story. It was not true.**

“Tony Rankins, a formerly homeless, drug-addicted Army veteran, got a standing ovation at the [speech] after [Trump] described how he turned his life around thanks to a construction job at a company using the administration’s ‘Opportunity Zone’ tax breaks targeting poor neighborhoods,” [the Associated Press scoops](#). “Rankins, who indeed moved out of his car and into an apartment since landing a job refurbishing a Nashville hotel two years ago, doesn’t work at a site taking advantage of the breaks and never has done so. In fact, he started that job four months before the Treasury Department published its final list of neighborhoods eligible for the breaks. And the hotel where he worked couldn’t benefit even now because it’s an area that didn’t make the cut.”

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## **2020 watch**



Pete Buttigieg looks at his husband Chasten at his New Hampshire primary night rally in Nashua on Tuesday. (Brendan Mcdermid/Reuters)

## **Trump allies are starting to focus attention on Pete Buttigieg's sexual orientation.**

Rush Limbaugh, a week after receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom, questioned whether Americans are ready for a gay candidate who kisses his husband onstage. The Federalist, a conservative web site, defended Limbaugh. On his own radio show Wednesday, Seb Gorka, a former deputy assistant to the president and a Trump campaign surrogate, questioned “what right” Buttigieg had to talk about abortion rights if he’s never going to impregnate a woman. “Why is a homosexual man lecturing us about the sanctity of life in the womb? Just a little curious there. Strange, strange,” Gorka said. Conservative radio host Ben Ferguson seemed to imply Buttigieg is less masculine because he is gay. A video that went viral last week showed an Iowa woman who caucused for Buttigieg asking whether she could change her vote after finding out he’s gay. “He’d better read the Bible,” the woman said.

“The attacks are prompting blunt responses from Buttigieg’s allies and even his Democratic rivals, who call the remarks inappropriate and

offensive,” [Amy B Wang and Chelsea Janes report](#). Pro-LGBTQ "Victory Fund staffers deliberated internally on whether to respond to the comments since they did not want amplify them. But given Limbaugh's high profile, the group decided it needed to respond. 'The real question is who wants to kiss Rush Limbaugh,' the group tweeted Thursday. ...

“Previous candidates have sometimes decided to confront identity issues directly: Barack Obama delivered a highly personal talk on race in 2008, and John F. Kennedy gave a major speech about his Catholicism in 1960 to a group of Protestant ministers. So far the Buttigieg campaign has evidently concluded that ignoring the remarks is the best course, but that could change if the attacks become louder and more frequent, or show signs of resonating more widely. ...

“Since Buttigieg's strong performances in Iowa and New Hampshire, journalists have begun raising the issue of his sexuality more frequently, prompting responses like his recent comment [to People magazine](#) that he was excited to start a family 'soon' with his husband Chasten. 'No matter what happens, I think the next chapter in our personal lives is going to be about kids,' Buttigieg said.”

### **“The Benefits of Being Joe Biden's Brother.”**

That's the headline of a new [ProPublica review](#) of the relationship between Jim Biden's business ventures and the former vice president's political capital: Jim often “turned to Joe's political network for the kind of assistance that would have been almost unimaginable for someone with a different last name. Campaign donors helped him face a series of financial problems, including a series of IRS liens totaling more than \$1 million that made it harder to get bank financing. ... [O]n occasion, as Jim pursued opportunities, Joe met with his potential clients or partners, at Jim's request.”

### **Nevada's most powerful union won't endorse before next week's caucuses.**

“The Culinary Union, which represents 60,000 hotel and casino workers

across Nevada and is considered an organizing behemoth in Democratic politics here, said it would instead flex its power to get its members out to vote in the caucuses,” [report Holly Bailey and Felicia Sonmez](#). “The decision came after months of aggressive courting from candidates eager to win the support of the politically powerful group, whose endorsement has long been viewed as a major advantage in mobilizing Latinos and women, who make up most of its membership and have been a decisive political force in the state.” The decision comes after the union claimed Bernie Sanders followers “viciously attacked” it for standing against Medicare-for-all. In response to that kerfuffle, Sanders released a statement condemning online harassment and urging supporters of all campaigns “not to engage in bullying or personal attacks.”

### **Nevada Democrats are trying to clarify how their caucuses will work as concerns grow.**

“The Nevada State Democratic Party announced Thursday that it will use a Web-based calculator designed to complete caucus math and report results on an iPad,” [report Elise Viebeck and Isaac Stanley-Becker](#).

“Precinct chairs will receive preconfigured iPads, purchased by the party, and will access the calculator through a ‘secure Google web form,’ the state party said in a memo to presidential campaigns. Results will be transmitted through a secure hotline and verified either through the online calculator or with paper reporting sheets.”

### **Elizabeth Warren said she's raised \$6 million since Iowa.**

“Hours later, during a raucous evening rally at a high school gym in Washington’s Virginia suburbs, Warren didn’t seem like a candidate worried about leaving the race,” [the AP reports](#). The \$6 million, though respectable, pales in comparison to Sanders, who raised more than \$25 million in January.

For his part, **Trump will headline a \$580,600-per-couple fundraiser in Palm Beach on Saturday**, per [Dawsey and Michelle Ye Hee Lee](#).

## More candidates are stepping up attacks against a rising Mike Bloomberg.

“Struggling to recover from poor showings in the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary, [Warren] and [Biden] took the lead in attacking Bloomberg. [Biden] said on ABC’s ‘The View’ that ‘I don’t think you can buy an election,’ while Warren took Bloomberg to task for his 2008 comments that ending redlining, a discriminatory housing practice helped trigger the economic meltdown,” [the AP reports](#).

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## The coronavirus crisis



A man wears a gas mask as he holds a bouquet of flowers on Friday in Hong Kong. (Tyrone Siu/Reuters)

## The economic fallout is growing around the world.

Singapore’s leader warned of a possible recession as the virus and travel curbs slam the regional economy. Asian and European auto plants are running short of parts, Chinese tourists are staying home and American companies are bracing for unpredictable turbulence. And that’s just the start. The financial hangover will linger for months, even if the illness is

soon brought under control.

“The Chinese epidemic’s aftereffects will probably cause the global economy to shrink this quarter for the first time since the depths of the 2009 financial crisis, according to Capital Economics in London,” [David Lynch reports](#). “Caterpillar this week said most of its Chinese suppliers have returned to work. But Foxconn, a major electronics producer for Apple, said it will be the end of the month before even half of its facilities are operating. ... The ripple effects of China’s shutdown are spreading, with the auto industry especially hard-hit. Nissan temporarily closed one of its factories in Japan after running short of Chinese components, one week after Hyundai in South Korea did the same. Fiat Chrysler warned that it may shutter one of its European plants. Some U.S. manufacturers could face parts shortages in one to two weeks.”

### **One corner of China’s economy has been particularly hard-hit: Flower sellers.**

“Forget red roses. Broccoli, cauliflower, masks and hand sanitizer are now the way to prove you love your partner this Valentine’s Day in China,” [Wang Yuan reports](#). “Flower delivery platforms are reporting a massive drop in online flower sales, as health fears dissuade people from ordering anything online or picking up deliveries. Zhong’ai Flower, an online flower delivery platform based in Wuhan, the epicenter of coronavirus outbreak, reported a sales drop of 90 percent. Ma Yingzi, a flower supplier in Beijing, also estimated a 95 percent drop in flower sales this Valentine’s Day.”

### **Another 5,000 cases of coronavirus were reported, bringing the count in mainland China past 63,000.**

“More places in Hubei province, the epicenter of the outbreak, are enacting ‘wartime’ measures, such as sealing off residential complexes and only allowing essential vehicles on the roads. Authorities in Yunmeng county, where the new steps kicked in on Friday morning, said that anyone attempting to breach the lockdown ‘at compounds, buildings or road connections’ would be detained,” [Shibani Mahtani and Miriam](#)

[Berger report](#). “Apps are being used to track citizens who must provide their information before entering and exiting key Chinese cities, allowing authorities to collect a huge amount of data. ... China’s National Health Commission said more than 1,700 medical workers have been infected with coronavirus, six of whom have died, citing the latest available figures as of Feb. 11.”

### **Japan said 10 people were evacuated from the quarantined cruise ship in serious condition.**

Eight were confirmed to have the virus, [Simon Denyer reports](#). “Amid persistent criticism of its approach, the government said it would start allowing some people who have tested negative for the virus to disembark from the ship early and finish their quarantine at a facility on land. Priority will be given to passengers over the age of 80 and those with existing medical problems, as well as people in windowless cabins, health minister Katsunobu Kato said. So far, 218 people on board the ship have tested positive for the virus.”

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## **Social media speed read**

Trump attacked Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-N.Y.) before a White House meeting to discuss the state’s feud with federal immigration authorities, hinting the Empire State should drop lawsuits against him to get what it wants from the federal government. The lead House impeachment manager likened these hardball tactics to the alleged scheme to coerce Ukraine that got him impeached:



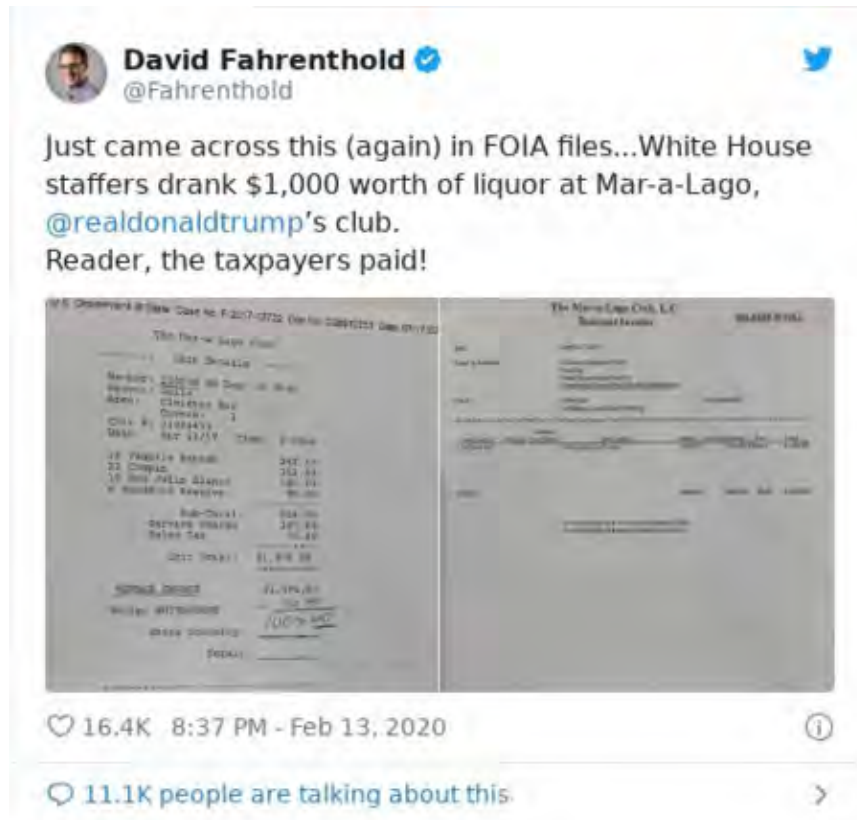
Trump attacked his former chief of staff after he spoke out against the president's retaliation against Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman:



You picked up the tab for the president's staffers drinking at Trump's



private club:



A former federal prosecutor shined a light on why so many DOJ alumni are disgusted with Trump meddling in the cases of Stone and others:



## Videos of the day

It may still be a couple of weeks away, but Stephen Colbert is already excited for the South Carolina primary:



Seth Meyers said Trump is turning the Department of Justice into a political weapon:





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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Donald Trump, the Houston Astros and the fear of the asterisk  
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By **James Hohmann**

with *Mariana Alfaro*

Email

## Donald Trump, the Houston Astros and the fear of the asterisk

Former White House communications director Hope Hicks told [the FBI](#) that President Trump viewed the intelligence community's assessment that Russia interfered on his behalf in the 2016 election as his "Achilles heel" because, even if it had no impact on the outcome of the election, people would think Russia helped him win.

Hicks, who will soon rejoin the White House, is one of multiple senior people quoted in former special counsel Bob Mueller's 2019 [report](#) to

make the point that Trump was deeply concerned that acknowledging Russian interference would pock his electoral college triumph with an asterisk.\*

Sean Spicer, Trump's first White House press secretary, said "the president thought the Russia story was developed to undermine the legitimacy of his election," according to Mueller. Former deputy campaign chairman Rick Gates said, "the president viewed the Russia investigation as an attack on the legitimacy of his win." And former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus recalled, "when the intelligence assessment came out, the president-elect was concerned people would question the legitimacy of his win."

**Trump's enduring fear of the asterisk came to mind on Thursday in West Palm Beach, Fla., as the owner of the Houston Astros and his players insisted adamantly that they would have still won the World Series in 2017 without knowing in advance what pitches the opposing team was going to throw when playing at home.**



Alex Bregman and Jose Altuve of the Houston Astros look on as owner Jim Crane reads a prepared statement during a news conference on Thursday in West Palm Beach, Fla. (Michael Reaves/Getty)

As pitchers and catchers reported for spring training, the 10 remaining players of the 2017 Astros appeared for a news conference at their Florida ballpark, which they share with the Washington Nationals and happens to be 10 miles from the president's Mar-a-Lago club.

Astros owner Jim Crane fired manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow last month after Major League Baseball released a report detailing its investigation into the electronic sign-stealing scheme the Astros were found to have used in 2017 and 2018. But Crane got defensive when asked whether what the team did amounted to cheating. "We broke the rules. You can phrase that any way you want," he told reporters.

"Our opinion is that this didn't impact the game," the owner [added](#). "We had a good team. We won the World Series, and we'll leave it at that." Asked whether he should have been held accountable himself as the team's top official, Crane said: "No, I don't think I should be held accountable." When asked whether players should have been disciplined for knowingly participating in the scheme, he said: "Our players should not be punished. These are a great group of guys who did not receive proper guidance from their leaders."

"Crane's absolution of everyone except those who already have paid for the Astros' sins underscored the glaring limits of the apologies offered Thursday. The lack of specifics and the lack of introspection made it sometimes seem as if the Astros were reading from a list of talking points," [Dave Sheinin reports](#). "They would admit what they did — stealing signs from opposing catchers using a center field camera and a video monitor — was wrong. Some would even acknowledge they gained an advantage through it. But they would accept no insinuation that their 2017 championship was in any way tainted."

Outfielder Josh Reddick, for example, would not admit that sign-stealing gave him an edge — "I can't really say it did [or] it didn't," he said — and said he felt no need to reach out to teams the Astros beat along the way. "I think it goes back to it not being a tainted championship. We were still a

good team. [The scheme] wasn't the necessary point of us winning. We still won on the road as well."

What Reddick didn't say was that, in fact, Houston went 8-1 at Minute Maid Park that postseason. That's the stadium where they used an illegal camera to decipher the signs being used by opposing teams to relay them to batters by banging [on a garbage can](#).



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**Trump's fear of the asterisk helps explain why he has continued to suggest, against all evidence to the contrary, that the Russians may not actually have done what an overwhelming mountain of evidence makes clear they did.** "I don't believe they interfered," Trump [told](#) Time magazine in December 2016. "That became a laughing point, not a talking point, a laughing point. Any time I do something, they say 'oh, Russia interfered.'"

"This Russia thing with Trump and Russia is a made-up story," Trump [told](#) NBC in May 2017 after firing Jim Comey as FBI director. "It's an excuse by the Democrats for having lost an election that they should've won."

After meeting with Vladimir Putin in November 2017, Trump [said](#) he believed the Russian president's denials: "Every time he sees me, he says, 'I didn't do that.' And I really believe that, when he tells me that, he means it."

Mueller wrote in his report that Trump's fixation on the perceived legitimacy of his victory influenced some of his behavior, including the termination of Michael Flynn as national security adviser after The Washington Post broke the story about his conversation with the Russian ambassador regarding sanctions.

The impeachment inquiry, along with the rough transcript of Trump's July 25 phone call with his Ukrainian counterpart, also established that part of Trump's interest in that country was trying [to cast doubt on the story line](#) that Russia actually interfered in 2016.

**In contrast to the Houston baseball team, the president has never apologized for anything related to Russia. He's not expressed regret for his own team's contacts in 2016 with Russians nor his false public statements about his knowledge of them.**



As Mueller outlined 10 possible instances of obstruction of justice by Trump, he offered this analysis: “In this investigation, the evidence does not establish that the President was involved in an underlying crime related to Russian election interference. But the evidence does point to a range of other possible personal motives animating the President's conduct. These include concerns that continued investigation would call into question the legitimacy of his election and potential uncertainty about whether certain events, such as advance notice of WikiLeaks's release of hacked information or the June 9, 2016 meeting between senior campaign officials and Russians, could be seen as criminal activity by the President, his campaign, or his family.”

The Mueller report concluded that the Trump campaign expected to “benefit electorally” from information stolen and released by Russia. Don't forget, Trump even expressed this sentiment publicly. On July 27, 2016, he said at a campaign event: “Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing.” Hours later, according to Mueller, Russian military intelligence attempted to hack Hillary Clinton's private email server for the first time.



**Trump's asterisk fears weren't entirely misplaced.** In the fourth year of his presidency, some of the president's critics continue to cite

Russian interference to speculate that he would have lost the election had it not been for a boost from the Kremlin.

“There’s no doubt that the Russians did interfere in the election, and I think the interference, although not yet quantified, if fully investigated would show that Trump didn’t actually win the election in 2016,” former president Jimmy Carter said [last summer](#). “He lost the election, and he was put into office because the Russians interfered on his behalf.” Asked by historian Jon Meacham whether he considers Trump to be “an illegitimate president,” Carter replied: “Based on what I just said, which I can’t retract.”

Clinton herself dismissed Trump as an “illegitimate president” in September, suggesting that “he knows” he stole the 2016 election from her. “I believe he understands that the many varying tactics they used, from voter suppression and voter purging to hacking to the false stories — he knows that — there were just a bunch of different reasons why the election turned out like it did,” the former secretary of state said [on CBS](#). “There were many funny things that happened in my election that will not happen again.”

A definitive answer is unknowable because so many other factors were at play in the election, including the FBI reopening – and then closing – the Clinton email investigation in the final weeks. But that won’t stop people from arguing about it [for generations](#).

Trump continues to attack the Russia probe, nearly a year after its conclusion. “The Mueller investigation was a shakedown and a disgrace,” he told Geraldo Rivera for his “Roadkill” podcast [on Thursday](#). “It probably should be expunged.”



**Like how Clinton and Democrats remain embittered toward Trump, teams and players who lost to the Astros in 2017 will also always feel wronged.**

Crane's assertion that his team's sign-stealing did not affect the outcome of games, and therefore did not taint the World Series, perturbed Houston's rivals. "Clearly, on what level did it impact things, I guess we'll never know, and that's for people to draw their own conclusions on," Yankees Manager Aaron Boone told reporters. "But clearly when we're talking about some of the things that went on, those things have an effect on games, clearly."

Just like with the question of whether Russian involvement changed the outcome of the election, no one will ever be able to definitively prove either way that the Astros would have lost the American League Championship Series or the World Series in 2017 had they not stolen signs.

New York Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman said that he believes the Astros' cheating cost them the 2017 World Series because the Astros beat the Yankees in Game Seven in the ALCS. "It was very close, and everything, all the details that come out, I think it was the extra edge that allowed them to move on," Chapman [told Adam Kilgore](#).

Brett Anderson, who competed against the Astros with the A's in the American League West the past two seasons, responded to Crane's assertion with a GIF of Will Ferrell's "Anchorman" character Ron Burgundy saying, "I don't believe you."



And Texas Rangers outfielder Willie Calhoun quipped:



Kurt Suzuki, the Nationals catcher who gave complex signs this past October when Washington defeated the Astros to win the World Series, told Thomas Boswell that he thinks Houston was still cheating through the end of the 2019 season. "Oh, yeah, no question," he said. "We could hear it from their dugout. We heard their whistling. What are you going to do?"

"Nats reliever Sean Doolittle recalled two of his blown saves against the Astros in 2017 on homers by George Springer and José Altuve when he pitched for Oakland," Boswell reports. "I was wondering what that did to

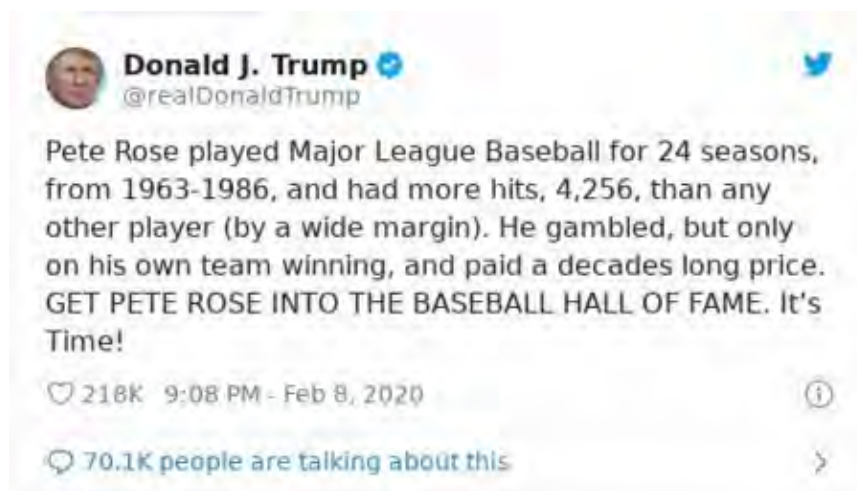
my trade value. ... I got hit around a bunch by the Astros,' said Doolittle, who was soon traded to the Nats, along with Ryan Madson. ... 'I landed on my feet. I ended up in a great spot. But for some guys, their bad outings, that was the end of the road for them. They got sent down. They never got called back up again. I think about those guys a lot.'"



President Trump watches the Nationals play the Astros in Game 5 of the 2019 World Series in Washington. (John McDonnell/The Washington Post)

### **Tying these story lines together: The president shows grace for gamblers.**

**Trump endorsed Pete Rose's appeal to end his lifetime ban.** The president, a former casino owner, tweeted over the weekend that the all-time leader in hits "paid a decades long price" for gambling on games in which his team was playing. Rose submitted a [petition](#) for reinstatement to Major League Baseball last week, citing the fact that Houston's players were not punished for sign-stealing to argue that his punishment was "[disproportionate.](#)"



**Meanwhile, the White House announced Thursday that Trump’s former body man John McEntee will take over as the head of the office of presidential personnel.** “McEntee lost his White House job in March 2018 because an investigation found he was a frequent gambler whose habit posed a security risk,” [Josh Dawsey reports](#). “A background investigation found that McEntee bet tens of thousands of dollars at a time, making him unsuitable for a sensitive position close to the president ... There was no indication his gambling was illegal, but there was concern that he could be vulnerable to outside influence ... McEntee will replace Sean Doocey, who some aides, including deputy chief of staff Emma Doyle, tried to keep from losing his job. But Trump is infuriated over what he believes are so many people around him who are not loyal, and that some 2016 campaign aides have not been able to get

jobs, that he replaced Doocey with McEntee, according to two administration officials."

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## Programming note

In honor of Presidents' Day, there will be no 202 on Monday. We're also excited about our redesigned format. Thanks to everyone who sent feedback yesterday. We really want to make this email as useful and readable as possible for you. Let me know what you think at [James.Hohmann@washpost.com](mailto:James.Hohmann@washpost.com) or [submit a form here](#) to let our engineering team know what you like or don't like.

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## All the president's men



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## Quote of the day

*“I think it’s time to stop the tweeting about Department of Justice criminal cases,” Attorney General Bill Barr said [in an interview with ABC News](#), adding that such statements “make it impossible for me to do my job and to assure the courts and the prosecutors and the department that we’re doing our work with integrity.” He added: “I cannot do my job here at the department with a constant background commentary that undercuts me.”*

### Why the attorney general *really* rebuked the president

While the coverage has focused on Roger Stone’s sentencing, the president’s rage stems more from the fact that his appointees at the Justice Department have not been more aggressive about trying to prosecute his perceived enemies. “People close to Barr said that in recent months he has become increasingly frustrated with Trump’s tweets about the Justice Department,” [Devlin Barrett, Matt Zapposky and Josh Dawsey report](#):

**“Behind that public fight ... is a deeper tension between Trump and Barr’s Justice Department over the lack of criminal charges against [Jim Comey] and those close to him. ...** Trump has repeatedly complained about FBI Director Christopher A. Wray in recent months, saying that Wray has not done enough to ... purge the bureau of people who are disloyal to him ... Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz referred Comey’s handling of the memos [about his conversations with the president] to prosecutors for possible criminal prosecution, but lawyers quickly determined it was not a close call and did not seek to build a case. That sent Trump into a rage ... He complained so loudly and swore so frequently in the Oval Office that some of his aides discussed it for days ... Trump repeatedly said that Comey deserved to be charged ... ‘Can you [expletive] believe they didn’t charge him?’ Trump said on the night of the decision ...



**“Trump has also wanted charges filed against Comey’s former deputy, Andrew McCabe.** A separate inspector general investigation concluded that McCabe lied to investigators about his role in authorizing disclosures for a Wall Street Journal story in October 2016 about internal FBI tensions over an investigation of the Clinton Foundation. A grand jury in Washington seemed poised to make a decision on the case last year before fizzling into inaction.

**“Trump’s anger over the lack of charges against FBI personnel flared again in January, prompted by two unrelated developments** ... First, prosecutors updated their position in the case of former national security adviser Michael Flynn, saying a sentence of some prison time would be appropriate. Around the same time, The Washington Post reported that U.S. Attorney John Huber in Utah — tapped years earlier to reinvestigate several issues related to vague allegations of corruption against Hillary Clinton — had quietly wound down his work after finding nothing of consequence. ... In the president’s mind, it is unacceptable that people such as Comey and McCabe have not been charged, particularly if people such as Stone and Flynn are going to be treated harshly ...

**“The president’s anger has focused increasingly on Jessie Liu,** the former U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, whose office has been handling many of the cases related to Comey and other former FBI officials. That office has recently conducted interviews in a leak inquiry, eyeing senior FBI officials over news stories in 2017 that discussed a top-secret Russian intelligence document that influenced Comey’s decision-making in 2016. Many of investigators’ questions have seemed focused on the former FBI director.

“Separately, Barr tapped U.S. Attorney John Durham in Connecticut to investigate whether any crimes were committed by FBI and CIA officials in the pursuit of allegations in 2016 that Russia interfered in the election to benefit Trump’s campaign. **After learning that the Huber investigation is not likely to produce charges, Trump has**

**become more insistent that Durham finish his work soon ... [Trump] wants to be able to use whatever Durham finds as a cudgel in his reelection campaign."**

## **Investigators keep fishing for a pretext to charge Obama-era intelligence officials.**

Questions being asked by Durham suggest he may be “pursuing a theory that the C.I.A., under its former director John O. Brennan, had a preconceived notion about Russia or was trying to get to a particular result — and was nefariously trying to keep other agencies from seeing the full picture lest they interfere with that goal,” [the New York Times reports](#).

## **The White House’s muted response prompted theories that Barr’s comments were choreographed.**

“Barr, while complaining about the impact of the tweets on the department’s mission, didn’t take issue with the substance of Trump’s comments, including one suggesting that the judge in Stone’s case was biased,” [Fred Barbash and Allyson Chiu report](#). “And Barr’s comments didn’t elicit the expected flurry of backlash from Trump and his allies. Instead, White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham issued a statement saying, ‘The President wasn’t bothered by the comments at all.’ She added that Trump ‘has full faith and confidence in Attorney General Barr to do his job and uphold the law.’”

“There were plenty of plausible and practical reasons for Barr’s comments and their timing. The chief judge of the U.S. District Court in Washington has expressed concern about judges being pressured in the wake of Trump’s tweets and Barr’s statement allows government lawyers to disown the president’s comments when they appear in court. Barr is also facing unrest from lawyers within and outside of the department, including from the New York City bar, over the handling of the Stone case.”

“Barr isn’t objecting to Trump’s political interference with the Justice Department to undermine the rule of law,” observed Rep. Don Beyer (D-

Va.). “He’s saying Trump shouldn’t tell everyone about it.”

## **Trump admits he sent Rudy Giuliani to find dirt on Joe Biden.**

Geraldo Rivera, [in a podcast interview](#), asked Trump, “Was it strange to send Rudy Giuliani to Ukraine, your personal lawyer? Are you sorry you did that?” Trump responded, “No, not at all.” He then praised the former New York mayor, who remains under investigation, as a “crime fighter.”



Judy Shelton, Trump's nominee to be a governor of the Federal Reserve, is sworn in for her confirmation hearing before the Senate Banking Committee on Thursday. (Andrew Harrer/Bloomberg News)

## **Trump's latest nominee to the Federal Reserve could be in trouble.**

Three GOP senators on the Senate Banking Committee said last night they are undecided about whether to support Judy Shelton after sitting through her confirmation hearing: Pat Toomey (Pa.), Dick Shelby (Ala.) and John Neely Kennedy (La.). Any one of them could torpedo her nomination since Republicans only have a one-seat advantage on the panel. Toomey said he “didn’t know” if Shelton would uphold the Fed’s independence. Shelby said Shelton sounded like she “could be an outlier” whose views are

outside the mainstream. "I'm undecided," Kennedy said after the hearing, adding "nobody wants anybody on the Federal Reserve that has a fatal attraction to nutty ideas."

Shelton "is known as an outspoken critic of the Federal Reserve and for advocating that the United States return to something akin to the gold standard, which the nation fully abandoned in 1971," [Heather Long reports](#). "She has alarmed many in the financial world by calling for more coordination between the Fed and the White House. She has also altered some of her views to appear more in line with Trump's aggressive push for lower interest rates ... The White House said it stands fully behind Shelton, who said several times during her confirmation hearing she would bring 'intellectual diversity' to the Fed. ...

"Trump's prior two picks — businessman Herman Cain and conservative pundit Stephen Moore — both had to withdraw because of dicey personal issues. ... Two of Trump's other Fed nominees were also passed over. ... Trump has made no secret he regrets picking Jerome H. Powell to be Fed chair, and there's concern that Trump would quickly elevate Shelton to the top job at the central bank when Powell's term expires in early 2022."

## **The Senate passed a resolution to limit Trump's power to start a war with Iran.**

Trump plans to veto the measure once it passes the House, and neither chamber of Congress has the votes to override that veto. But eight Republicans joined all Democrats in voting 55 to 45 for the measure, "despite sharp [warnings from Trump that](#) challenging his war powers would 'show weakness' and send 'a very bad signal' to Tehran," [Karoun Demirjian reports](#).

## **Mitch McConnell [told Fox News](#) he would fill a Supreme Court vacancy if one opens this year.**

If you were alive in 2016, you will recall this was the excuse the Senate majority leader used to deny giving Merrick Garland a hearing. The Kentucky senator said back then it would be totally inappropriate for the

Senate to put someone on the Supreme Court in an election year. But that was when his party didn't control the White House.

Meanwhile, Garland yesterday formally stepped down from his role as chief judge of the D.C. Circuit, the second most powerful court in the country. He passed the gavel to Sri Srinivasan, the first person of South Asian descent to lead a federal circuit court. Garland will continue to serve on the court he joined three decades ago, [per Ann Marimow](#).

### **Ignoring the will of Congress, Trump diverted \$3.8 billion more from the Pentagon to his border wall.**

In a letter to Congress, the administration said money appropriated for the purchase of aircraft will instead be spent on wall construction. “The Pentagon is moving the money using a counternarcotics law that allows the Defense Department to build fencing for other federal, state and local agencies in known drug-smuggling corridors,” [Paul Sonne and Nick Miroff report](#).

### **During the State of the Union, Trump touted a veteran’s comeback story. It was not true.**

“Tony Rankins, a formerly homeless, drug-addicted Army veteran, got a standing ovation at the [speech] after [Trump] described how he turned his life around thanks to a construction job at a company using the administration’s ‘Opportunity Zone’ tax breaks targeting poor neighborhoods,” [the Associated Press scoops](#). “Rankins, who indeed moved out of his car and into an apartment since landing a job refurbishing a Nashville hotel two years ago, doesn’t work at a site taking advantage of the breaks and never has done so. In fact, he started that job four months before the Treasury Department published its final list of neighborhoods eligible for the breaks. And the hotel where he worked couldn’t benefit even now because it’s an area that didn’t make the cut.”

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**2020 watch**



Pete Buttigieg looks at his husband Chasten at his New Hampshire primary night rally in Nashua on Tuesday. (Brendan Mcdermid/Reuters)

## **Trump allies are starting to focus attention on Pete Buttigieg's sexual orientation.**

Rush Limbaugh, a week after receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom, questioned whether Americans are ready for a gay candidate who kisses his husband onstage. The Federalist, a conservative web site, defended Limbaugh. On his own radio show Wednesday, Seb Gorka, a former deputy assistant to the president and a Trump campaign surrogate, questioned “what right” Buttigieg had to talk about abortion rights if he’s never going to impregnate a woman. “Why is a homosexual man lecturing us about the sanctity of life in the womb? Just a little curious there. Strange, strange,” Gorka said. Conservative radio host Ben Ferguson seemed to imply Buttigieg is less masculine because he is gay. A video that went viral last week showed an Iowa woman who caucused for Buttigieg asking whether she could change her vote after finding out he’s gay. “He’d better read the Bible,” the woman said.

“The attacks are prompting blunt responses from Buttigieg’s allies and even his Democratic rivals, who call the remarks inappropriate and

offensive,” [Amy B Wang and Chelsea Janes report](#). Pro-LGBTQ "Victory Fund staffers deliberated internally on whether to respond to the comments since they did not want amplify them. But given Limbaugh's high profile, the group decided it needed to respond. 'The real question is who wants to kiss Rush Limbaugh,' the group tweeted Thursday. ...

“Previous candidates have sometimes decided to confront identity issues directly: Barack Obama delivered a highly personal talk on race in 2008, and John F. Kennedy gave a major speech about his Catholicism in 1960 to a group of Protestant ministers. So far the Buttigieg campaign has evidently concluded that ignoring the remarks is the best course, but that could change if the attacks become louder and more frequent, or show signs of resonating more widely. ...

“Since Buttigieg's strong performances in Iowa and New Hampshire, journalists have begun raising the issue of his sexuality more frequently, prompting responses like his recent comment [to People magazine](#) that he was excited to start a family 'soon' with his husband Chasten. 'No matter what happens, I think the next chapter in our personal lives is going to be about kids,' Buttigieg said.”

### **“The Benefits of Being Joe Biden's Brother.”**

That's the headline of a new [ProPublica review](#) of the relationship between Jim Biden's business ventures and the former vice president's political capital: Jim often “turned to Joe's political network for the kind of assistance that would have been almost unimaginable for someone with a different last name. Campaign donors helped him face a series of financial problems, including a series of IRS liens totaling more than \$1 million that made it harder to get bank financing. ... [O]n occasion, as Jim pursued opportunities, Joe met with his potential clients or partners, at Jim's request.”

### **Nevada's most powerful union won't endorse before next week's caucuses.**

“The Culinary Union, which represents 60,000 hotel and casino workers

across Nevada and is considered an organizing behemoth in Democratic politics here, said it would instead flex its power to get its members out to vote in the caucuses,” [report Holly Bailey and Felicia Sonmez](#). “The decision came after months of aggressive courting from candidates eager to win the support of the politically powerful group, whose endorsement has long been viewed as a major advantage in mobilizing Latinos and women, who make up most of its membership and have been a decisive political force in the state.” The decision comes after the union claimed Bernie Sanders followers “viciously attacked” it for standing against Medicare-for-all. In response to that kerfuffle, Sanders released a statement condemning online harassment and urging supporters of all campaigns “not to engage in bullying or personal attacks.”

### **Nevada Democrats are trying to clarify how their caucuses will work as concerns grow.**

“The Nevada State Democratic Party announced Thursday that it will use a Web-based calculator designed to complete caucus math and report results on an iPad,” [report Elise Viebeck and Isaac Stanley-Becker](#).

“Precinct chairs will receive preconfigured iPads, purchased by the party, and will access the calculator through a ‘secure Google web form,’ the state party said in a memo to presidential campaigns. Results will be transmitted through a secure hotline and verified either through the online calculator or with paper reporting sheets.”

### **Elizabeth Warren said she's raised \$6 million since Iowa.**

“Hours later, during a raucous evening rally at a high school gym in Washington’s Virginia suburbs, Warren didn’t seem like a candidate worried about leaving the race,” [the AP reports](#). The \$6 million, though respectable, pales in comparison to Sanders, who raised more than \$25 million in January.

For his part, **Trump will headline a \$580,600-per-couple fundraiser in Palm Beach on Saturday**, per [Dawsey and Michelle Ye Hee Lee](#).



## More candidates are stepping up attacks against a rising Mike Bloomberg.

“Struggling to recover from poor showings in the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary, [Warren] and [Biden] took the lead in attacking Bloomberg. [Biden] said on ABC’s ‘The View’ that ‘I don’t think you can buy an election,’ while Warren took Bloomberg to task for his 2008 comments that ending redlining, a discriminatory housing practice helped trigger the economic meltdown,” [the AP reports](#).

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## The coronavirus crisis



A man wears a gas mask as he holds a bouquet of flowers on Friday in Hong Kong. (Tyrone Siu/Reuters)

## The economic fallout is growing around the world.

Singapore’s leader warned of a possible recession as the virus and travel curbs slam the regional economy. Asian and European auto plants are running short of parts, Chinese tourists are staying home and American companies are bracing for unpredictable turbulence. And that’s just the start. The financial hangover will linger for months, even if the illness is

soon brought under control.

“The Chinese epidemic’s aftereffects will probably cause the global economy to shrink this quarter for the first time since the depths of the 2009 financial crisis, according to Capital Economics in London,” [David Lynch reports](#). “Caterpillar this week said most of its Chinese suppliers have returned to work. But Foxconn, a major electronics producer for Apple, said it will be the end of the month before even half of its facilities are operating. ... The ripple effects of China’s shutdown are spreading, with the auto industry especially hard-hit. Nissan temporarily closed one of its factories in Japan after running short of Chinese components, one week after Hyundai in South Korea did the same. Fiat Chrysler warned that it may shutter one of its European plants. Some U.S. manufacturers could face parts shortages in one to two weeks.”

### **One corner of China’s economy has been particularly hard-hit: Flower sellers.**

“Forget red roses. Broccoli, cauliflower, masks and hand sanitizer are now the way to prove you love your partner this Valentine’s Day in China,” [Wang Yuan reports](#). “Flower delivery platforms are reporting a massive drop in online flower sales, as health fears dissuade people from ordering anything online or picking up deliveries. Zhong’ai Flower, an online flower delivery platform based in Wuhan, the epicenter of coronavirus outbreak, reported a sales drop of 90 percent. Ma Yingzi, a flower supplier in Beijing, also estimated a 95 percent drop in flower sales this Valentine’s Day.”

### **Another 5,000 cases of coronavirus were reported, bringing the count in mainland China past 63,000.**

“More places in Hubei province, the epicenter of the outbreak, are enacting ‘wartime’ measures, such as sealing off residential complexes and only allowing essential vehicles on the roads. Authorities in Yunmeng county, where the new steps kicked in on Friday morning, said that anyone attempting to breach the lockdown ‘at compounds, buildings or road connections’ would be detained,” [Shibani Mahtani and Miriam](#)

[Berger report](#). “Apps are being used to track citizens who must provide their information before entering and exiting key Chinese cities, allowing authorities to collect a huge amount of data. ... China’s National Health Commission said more than 1,700 medical workers have been infected with coronavirus, six of whom have died, citing the latest available figures as of Feb. 11.”

### **Japan said 10 people were evacuated from the quarantined cruise ship in serious condition.**

Eight were confirmed to have the virus, [Simon Denyer reports](#). “Amid persistent criticism of its approach, the government said it would start allowing some people who have tested negative for the virus to disembark from the ship early and finish their quarantine at a facility on land. Priority will be given to passengers over the age of 80 and those with existing medical problems, as well as people in windowless cabins, health minister Katsunobu Kato said. So far, 218 people on board the ship have tested positive for the virus.”

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## **Social media speed read**

Trump attacked Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-N.Y.) before a White House meeting to discuss the state’s feud with federal immigration authorities, hinting the Empire State should drop lawsuits against him to get what it wants from the federal government. The lead House impeachment manager likened these hardball tactics to the alleged scheme to coerce Ukraine that got him impeached:

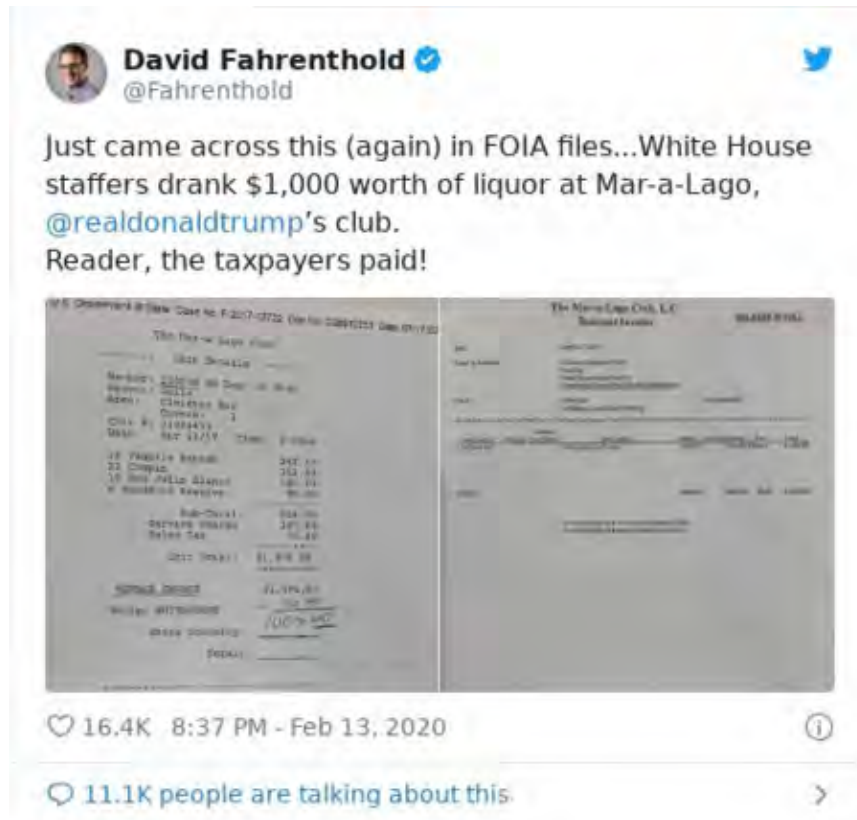


Trump attacked his former chief of staff after he spoke out against the president's retaliation against Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman:



You picked up the tab for the president's staffers drinking at Trump's

private club:



A former federal prosecutor shined a light on why so many DOJ alumni are disgusted with Trump meddling in the cases of Stone and others:



## Videos of the day

It may still be a couple of weeks away, but Stephen Colbert is already excited for the South Carolina primary:



Seth Meyers said Trump is turning the Department of Justice into a political weapon:





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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Donald Trump, the Houston Astros and the fear of the asterisk  
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Email

## Donald Trump, the Houston Astros and the fear of the asterisk

Former White House communications director Hope Hicks told [the FBI](#) that President Trump viewed the intelligence community's assessment that Russia interfered on his behalf in the 2016 election as his "Achilles heel" because, even if it had no impact on the outcome of the election, people would think Russia helped him win.

Hicks, who will soon rejoin the White House, is one of multiple senior people quoted in former special counsel Bob Mueller's 2019 [report](#) to



make the point that Trump was deeply concerned that acknowledging Russian interference would pock his electoral college triumph with an asterisk.\*

Sean Spicer, Trump's first White House press secretary, said "the president thought the Russia story was developed to undermine the legitimacy of his election," according to Mueller. Former deputy campaign chairman Rick Gates said, "the president viewed the Russia investigation as an attack on the legitimacy of his win." And former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus recalled, "when the intelligence assessment came out, the president-elect was concerned people would question the legitimacy of his win."

**Trump's enduring fear of the asterisk came to mind on Thursday in West Palm Beach, Fla., as the owner of the Houston Astros and his players insisted adamantly that they would have still won the World Series in 2017 without knowing in advance what pitches the opposing team was going to throw when playing at home.**



Alex Bregman and Jose Altuve of the Houston Astros look on as owner Jim Crane reads a prepared statement during a news conference on Thursday in West Palm Beach, Fla. (Michael Reaves/Getty)

As pitchers and catchers reported for spring training, the 10 remaining players of the 2017 Astros appeared for a news conference at their Florida ballpark, which they share with the Washington Nationals and happens to be 10 miles from the president's Mar-a-Lago club.

Astros owner Jim Crane fired manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow last month after Major League Baseball released a report detailing its investigation into the electronic sign-stealing scheme the Astros were found to have used in 2017 and 2018. But Crane got defensive when asked whether what the team did amounted to cheating. "We broke the rules. You can phrase that any way you want," he told reporters.

"Our opinion is that this didn't impact the game," the owner [added](#). "We had a good team. We won the World Series, and we'll leave it at that." Asked whether he should have been held accountable himself as the team's top official, Crane said: "No, I don't think I should be held accountable." When asked whether players should have been disciplined for knowingly participating in the scheme, he said: "Our players should not be punished. These are a great group of guys who did not receive proper guidance from their leaders."

"Crane's absolution of everyone except those who already have paid for the Astros' sins underscored the glaring limits of the apologies offered Thursday. The lack of specifics and the lack of introspection made it sometimes seem as if the Astros were reading from a list of talking points," [Dave Sheinin reports](#). "They would admit what they did — stealing signs from opposing catchers using a center field camera and a video monitor — was wrong. Some would even acknowledge they gained an advantage through it. But they would accept no insinuation that their 2017 championship was in any way tainted."

Outfielder Josh Reddick, for example, would not admit that sign-stealing gave him an edge — "I can't really say it did [or] it didn't," he said — and said he felt no need to reach out to teams the Astros beat along the way. "I think it goes back to it not being a tainted championship. We were still a

good team. [The scheme] wasn't the necessary point of us winning. We still won on the road as well."

What Reddick didn't say was that, in fact, Houston went 8-1 at Minute Maid Park that postseason. That's the stadium where they used an illegal camera to decipher the signs being used by opposing teams to relay them to batters by banging [on a garbage can](#).



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**Trump's fear of the asterisk helps explain why he has continued to suggest, against all evidence to the contrary, that the Russians may not actually have done what an overwhelming mountain of evidence makes clear they did.** "I don't believe they interfered," Trump [told](#) Time magazine in December 2016. "That became a laughing point, not a talking point, a laughing point. Any time I do something, they say 'oh, Russia interfered.'"

"This Russia thing with Trump and Russia is a made-up story," Trump [told](#) NBC in May 2017 after firing Jim Comey as FBI director. "It's an excuse by the Democrats for having lost an election that they should've won."

After meeting with Vladimir Putin in November 2017, Trump [said](#) he believed the Russian president's denials: "Every time he sees me, he says, 'I didn't do that.' And I really believe that, when he tells me that, he means it."

Mueller wrote in his report that Trump's fixation on the perceived legitimacy of his victory influenced some of his behavior, including the termination of Michael Flynn as national security adviser after The Washington Post broke the story about his conversation with the Russian ambassador regarding sanctions.

The impeachment inquiry, along with the rough transcript of Trump's July 25 phone call with his Ukrainian counterpart, also established that part of Trump's interest in that country was trying [to cast doubt on the story line](#) that Russia actually interfered in 2016.

**In contrast to the Houston baseball team, the president has never apologized for anything related to Russia. He's not expressed regret for his own team's contacts in 2016 with Russians nor his false public statements about his knowledge of them.**

As Mueller outlined 10 possible instances of obstruction of justice by Trump, he offered this analysis: “In this investigation, the evidence does not establish that the President was involved in an underlying crime related to Russian election interference. But the evidence does point to a range of other possible personal motives animating the President's conduct. These include concerns that continued investigation would call into question the legitimacy of his election and potential uncertainty about whether certain events, such as advance notice of WikiLeaks's release of hacked information or the June 9, 2016 meeting between senior campaign officials and Russians, could be seen as criminal activity by the President, his campaign, or his family.”

The Mueller report concluded that the Trump campaign expected to “benefit electorally” from information stolen and released by Russia. Don't forget, Trump even expressed this sentiment publicly. On July 27, 2016, he said at a campaign event: “Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing.” Hours later, according to Mueller, Russian military intelligence attempted to hack Hillary Clinton's private email server for the first time.



**Trump's asterisk fears weren't entirely misplaced.** In the fourth year of his presidency, some of the president's critics continue to cite

Russian interference to speculate that he would have lost the election had it not been for a boost from the Kremlin.

“There’s no doubt that the Russians did interfere in the election, and I think the interference, although not yet quantified, if fully investigated would show that Trump didn’t actually win the election in 2016,” former president Jimmy Carter said [last summer](#). “He lost the election, and he was put into office because the Russians interfered on his behalf.” Asked by historian Jon Meacham whether he considers Trump to be “an illegitimate president,” Carter replied: “Based on what I just said, which I can’t retract.”

Clinton herself dismissed Trump as an “illegitimate president” in September, suggesting that “he knows” he stole the 2016 election from her. “I believe he understands that the many varying tactics they used, from voter suppression and voter purging to hacking to the false stories — he knows that — there were just a bunch of different reasons why the election turned out like it did,” the former secretary of state said [on CBS](#). “There were many funny things that happened in my election that will not happen again.”

A definitive answer is unknowable because so many other factors were at play in the election, including the FBI reopening – and then closing – the Clinton email investigation in the final weeks. But that won’t stop people from arguing about it [for generations](#).

Trump continues to attack the Russia probe, nearly a year after its conclusion. “The Mueller investigation was a shakedown and a disgrace,” he told Geraldo Rivera for his “Roadkill” podcast [on Thursday](#). “It probably should be expunged.”



**Like how Clinton and Democrats remain embittered toward Trump, teams and players who lost to the Astros in 2017 will also always feel wronged.**

Crane's assertion that his team's sign-stealing did not affect the outcome of games, and therefore did not taint the World Series, perturbed Houston's rivals. "Clearly, on what level did it impact things, I guess we'll never know, and that's for people to draw their own conclusions on," Yankees Manager Aaron Boone told reporters. "But clearly when we're talking about some of the things that went on, those things have an effect on games, clearly."

Just like with the question of whether Russian involvement changed the outcome of the election, no one will ever be able to definitively prove either way that the Astros would have lost the American League Championship Series or the World Series in 2017 had they not stolen signs.

New York Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman said that he believes the Astros' cheating cost them the 2017 World Series because the Astros beat the Yankees in Game Seven in the ALCS. "It was very close, and everything, all the details that come out, I think it was the extra edge that allowed them to move on," Chapman [told Adam Kilgore](#).

Brett Anderson, who competed against the Astros with the A's in the American League West the past two seasons, responded to Crane's assertion with a GIF of Will Ferrell's "Anchorman" character Ron Burgundy saying, "I don't believe you."



And Texas Rangers outfielder Willie Calhoun quipped:



Kurt Suzuki, the Nationals catcher who gave complex signs this past October when Washington defeated the Astros to win the World Series, told Thomas Boswell that he thinks Houston was still cheating through the end of the 2019 season. "Oh, yeah, no question," he said. "We could hear it from their dugout. We heard their whistling. What are you going to do?"

"Nats reliever Sean Doolittle recalled two of his blown saves against the Astros in 2017 on homers by George Springer and José Altuve when he pitched for Oakland," Boswell reports. "I was wondering what that did to



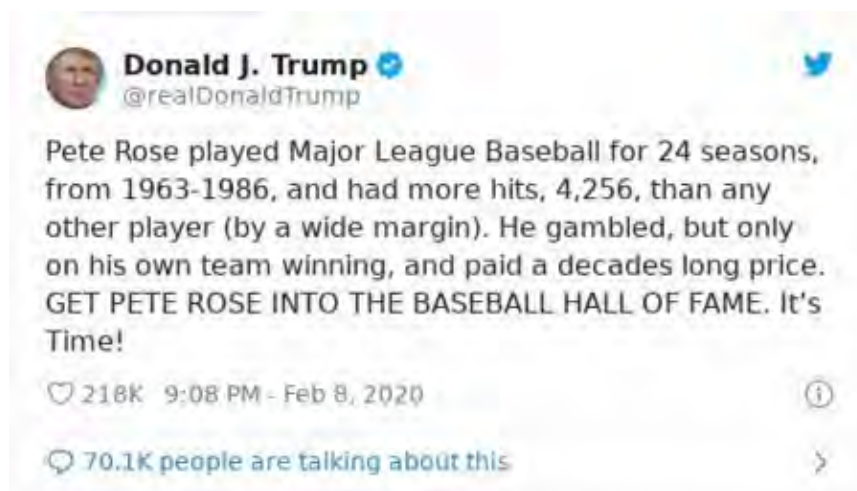
my trade value. ... I got hit around a bunch by the Astros,' said Doolittle, who was soon traded to the Nats, along with Ryan Madson. ... 'I landed on my feet. I ended up in a great spot. But for some guys, their bad outings, that was the end of the road for them. They got sent down. They never got called back up again. I think about those guys a lot.'"



President Trump watches the Nationals play the Astros in Game 5 of the 2019 World Series in Washington. (John McDonnell/The Washington Post)

### **Tying these story lines together: The president shows grace for gamblers.**

**Trump endorsed Pete Rose's appeal to end his lifetime ban.** The president, a former casino owner, tweeted over the weekend that the all-time leader in hits "paid a decades long price" for gambling on games in which his team was playing. Rose submitted a [petition](#) for reinstatement to Major League Baseball last week, citing the fact that Houston's players were not punished for sign-stealing to argue that his punishment was "[disproportionate.](#)"



**Meanwhile, the White House announced Thursday that Trump’s former body man John McEntee will take over as the head of the office of presidential personnel.** “McEntee lost his White House job in March 2018 because an investigation found he was a frequent gambler whose habit posed a security risk,” [Josh Dawsey reports](#). “A background investigation found that McEntee bet tens of thousands of dollars at a time, making him unsuitable for a sensitive position close to the president ... There was no indication his gambling was illegal, but there was concern that he could be vulnerable to outside influence ... McEntee will replace Sean Doocey, who some aides, including deputy chief of staff Emma Doyle, tried to keep from losing his job. But Trump is infuriated over what he believes are so many people around him who are not loyal, and that some 2016 campaign aides have not been able to get

jobs, that he replaced Doocey with McEntee, according to two administration officials."

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## Programming note

In honor of Presidents' Day, there will be no 202 on Monday. We're also excited about our redesigned format. Thanks to everyone who sent feedback yesterday. We really want to make this email as useful and readable as possible for you. Let me know what you think at [James.Hohmann@washpost.com](mailto:James.Hohmann@washpost.com) or [submit a form here](#) to let our engineering team know what you like or don't like.

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## All the president's men



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## Quote of the day

*“I think it’s time to stop the tweeting about Department of Justice criminal cases,” Attorney General Bill Barr said [in an interview with ABC News](#), adding that such statements “make it impossible for me to do my job and to assure the courts and the prosecutors and the department that we’re doing our work with integrity.” He added: “I cannot do my job here at the department with a constant background commentary that undercuts me.”*

### Why the attorney general *really* rebuked the president

While the coverage has focused on Roger Stone’s sentencing, the president’s rage stems more from the fact that his appointees at the Justice Department have not been more aggressive about trying to prosecute his perceived enemies. “People close to Barr said that in recent months he has become increasingly frustrated with Trump’s tweets about the Justice Department,” [Devlin Barrett, Matt Zapposky and Josh Dawsey report](#):

**“Behind that public fight ... is a deeper tension between Trump and Barr’s Justice Department over the lack of criminal charges against [Jim Comey] and those close to him. ...** Trump has repeatedly complained about FBI Director Christopher A. Wray in recent months, saying that Wray has not done enough to ... purge the bureau of people who are disloyal to him ... Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz referred Comey’s handling of the memos [about his conversations with the president] to prosecutors for possible criminal prosecution, but lawyers quickly determined it was not a close call and did not seek to build a case. That sent Trump into a rage ... He complained so loudly and swore so frequently in the Oval Office that some of his aides discussed it for days ... Trump repeatedly said that Comey deserved to be charged ... ‘Can you [expletive] believe they didn’t charge him?’ Trump said on the night of the decision ...

**“Trump has also wanted charges filed against Comey’s former deputy, Andrew McCabe.** A separate inspector general investigation concluded that McCabe lied to investigators about his role in authorizing disclosures for a Wall Street Journal story in October 2016 about internal FBI tensions over an investigation of the Clinton Foundation. A grand jury in Washington seemed poised to make a decision on the case last year before fizzling into inaction.

**“Trump’s anger over the lack of charges against FBI personnel flared again in January, prompted by two unrelated developments** ... First, prosecutors updated their position in the case of former national security adviser Michael Flynn, saying a sentence of some prison time would be appropriate. Around the same time, The Washington Post reported that U.S. Attorney John Huber in Utah — tapped years earlier to reinvestigate several issues related to vague allegations of corruption against Hillary Clinton — had quietly wound down his work after finding nothing of consequence. ... In the president’s mind, it is unacceptable that people such as Comey and McCabe have not been charged, particularly if people such as Stone and Flynn are going to be treated harshly ...

**“The president’s anger has focused increasingly on Jessie Liu,** the former U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, whose office has been handling many of the cases related to Comey and other former FBI officials. That office has recently conducted interviews in a leak inquiry, eyeing senior FBI officials over news stories in 2017 that discussed a top-secret Russian intelligence document that influenced Comey’s decision-making in 2016. Many of investigators’ questions have seemed focused on the former FBI director.

“Separately, Barr tapped U.S. Attorney John Durham in Connecticut to investigate whether any crimes were committed by FBI and CIA officials in the pursuit of allegations in 2016 that Russia interfered in the election to benefit Trump’s campaign. **After learning that the Huber investigation is not likely to produce charges, Trump has**

**become more insistent that Durham finish his work soon ... [Trump] wants to be able to use whatever Durham finds as a cudgel in his reelection campaign."**

## **Investigators keep fishing for a pretext to charge Obama-era intelligence officials.**

Questions being asked by Durham suggest he may be “pursuing a theory that the C.I.A., under its former director John O. Brennan, had a preconceived notion about Russia or was trying to get to a particular result — and was nefariously trying to keep other agencies from seeing the full picture lest they interfere with that goal,” [the New York Times reports](#).

## **The White House’s muted response prompted theories that Barr’s comments were choreographed.**

“Barr, while complaining about the impact of the tweets on the department’s mission, didn’t take issue with the substance of Trump’s comments, including one suggesting that the judge in Stone’s case was biased,” [Fred Barbash and Allyson Chiu report](#). “And Barr’s comments didn’t elicit the expected flurry of backlash from Trump and his allies. Instead, White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham issued a statement saying, ‘The President wasn’t bothered by the comments at all.’ She added that Trump ‘has full faith and confidence in Attorney General Barr to do his job and uphold the law.’”

“There were plenty of plausible and practical reasons for Barr’s comments and their timing. The chief judge of the U.S. District Court in Washington has expressed concern about judges being pressured in the wake of Trump’s tweets and Barr’s statement allows government lawyers to disown the president’s comments when they appear in court. Barr is also facing unrest from lawyers within and outside of the department, including from the New York City bar, over the handling of the Stone case.”

“Barr isn’t objecting to Trump’s political interference with the Justice Department to undermine the rule of law,” observed Rep. Don Beyer (D-

Va.). “He’s saying Trump shouldn’t tell everyone about it.”

## **Trump admits he sent Rudy Giuliani to find dirt on Joe Biden.**

Geraldo Rivera, [in a podcast interview](#), asked Trump, “Was it strange to send Rudy Giuliani to Ukraine, your personal lawyer? Are you sorry you did that?” Trump responded, “No, not at all.” He then praised the former New York mayor, who remains under investigation, as a “crime fighter.”



Judy Shelton, Trump's nominee to be a governor of the Federal Reserve, is sworn in for her confirmation hearing before the Senate Banking Committee on Thursday. (Andrew Harrer/Bloomberg News)

## **Trump's latest nominee to the Federal Reserve could be in trouble.**

Three GOP senators on the Senate Banking Committee said last night they are undecided about whether to support Judy Shelton after sitting through her confirmation hearing: Pat Toomey (Pa.), Dick Shelby (Ala.) and John Neely Kennedy (La.). Any one of them could torpedo her nomination since Republicans only have a one-seat advantage on the panel. Toomey said he “didn’t know” if Shelton would uphold the Fed’s independence. Shelby said Shelton sounded like she “could be an outlier” whose views are

outside the mainstream. "I'm undecided," Kennedy said after the hearing, adding "nobody wants anybody on the Federal Reserve that has a fatal attraction to nutty ideas."

Shelton "is known as an outspoken critic of the Federal Reserve and for advocating that the United States return to something akin to the gold standard, which the nation fully abandoned in 1971," [Heather Long reports](#). "She has alarmed many in the financial world by calling for more coordination between the Fed and the White House. She has also altered some of her views to appear more in line with Trump's aggressive push for lower interest rates ... The White House said it stands fully behind Shelton, who said several times during her confirmation hearing she would bring 'intellectual diversity' to the Fed. ...

"Trump's prior two picks — businessman Herman Cain and conservative pundit Stephen Moore — both had to withdraw because of dicey personal issues. ... Two of Trump's other Fed nominees were also passed over. ... Trump has made no secret he regrets picking Jerome H. Powell to be Fed chair, and there's concern that Trump would quickly elevate Shelton to the top job at the central bank when Powell's term expires in early 2022."

## **The Senate passed a resolution to limit Trump's power to start a war with Iran.**

Trump plans to veto the measure once it passes the House, and neither chamber of Congress has the votes to override that veto. But eight Republicans joined all Democrats in voting 55 to 45 for the measure, "despite sharp [warnings from Trump that](#) challenging his war powers would 'show weakness' and send 'a very bad signal' to Tehran," [Karoun Demirjian reports](#).

## **Mitch McConnell [told Fox News](#) he would fill a Supreme Court vacancy if one opens this year.**

If you were alive in 2016, you will recall this was the excuse the Senate majority leader used to deny giving Merrick Garland a hearing. The Kentucky senator said back then it would be totally inappropriate for the



Senate to put someone on the Supreme Court in an election year. But that was when his party didn't control the White House.

Meanwhile, Garland yesterday formally stepped down from his role as chief judge of the D.C. Circuit, the second most powerful court in the country. He passed the gavel to Sri Srinivasan, the first person of South Asian descent to lead a federal circuit court. Garland will continue to serve on the court he joined three decades ago, [per Ann Marimow](#).

### **Ignoring the will of Congress, Trump diverted \$3.8 billion more from the Pentagon to his border wall.**

In a letter to Congress, the administration said money appropriated for the purchase of aircraft will instead be spent on wall construction. “The Pentagon is moving the money using a counternarcotics law that allows the Defense Department to build fencing for other federal, state and local agencies in known drug-smuggling corridors,” [Paul Sonne and Nick Miroff report](#).

### **During the State of the Union, Trump touted a veteran’s comeback story. It was not true.**

“Tony Rankins, a formerly homeless, drug-addicted Army veteran, got a standing ovation at the [speech] after [Trump] described how he turned his life around thanks to a construction job at a company using the administration’s ‘Opportunity Zone’ tax breaks targeting poor neighborhoods,” [the Associated Press scoops](#). “Rankins, who indeed moved out of his car and into an apartment since landing a job refurbishing a Nashville hotel two years ago, doesn’t work at a site taking advantage of the breaks and never has done so. In fact, he started that job four months before the Treasury Department published its final list of neighborhoods eligible for the breaks. And the hotel where he worked couldn’t benefit even now because it’s an area that didn’t make the cut.”

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## **2020 watch**



Pete Buttigieg looks at his husband Chasten at his New Hampshire primary night rally in Nashua on Tuesday. (Brendan Mcdermid/Reuters)

## **Trump allies are starting to focus attention on Pete Buttigieg's sexual orientation.**

Rush Limbaugh, a week after receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom, questioned whether Americans are ready for a gay candidate who kisses his husband onstage. The Federalist, a conservative web site, defended Limbaugh. On his own radio show Wednesday, Seb Gorka, a former deputy assistant to the president and a Trump campaign surrogate, questioned "what right" Buttigieg had to talk about abortion rights if he's never going to impregnate a woman. "Why is a homosexual man lecturing us about the sanctity of life in the womb? Just a little curious there. Strange, strange," Gorka said. Conservative radio host Ben Ferguson seemed to imply Buttigieg is less masculine because he is gay. A video that went viral last week showed an Iowa woman who caucused for Buttigieg asking whether she could change her vote after finding out he's gay. "He'd better read the Bible," the woman said.

"The attacks are prompting blunt responses from Buttigieg's allies and even his Democratic rivals, who call the remarks inappropriate and

offensive,” [Amy B Wang and Chelsea Janes report](#). Pro-LGBTQ "Victory Fund staffers deliberated internally on whether to respond to the comments since they did not want amplify them. But given Limbaugh's high profile, the group decided it needed to respond. 'The real question is who wants to kiss Rush Limbaugh,' the group tweeted Thursday. ...

“Previous candidates have sometimes decided to confront identity issues directly: Barack Obama delivered a highly personal talk on race in 2008, and John F. Kennedy gave a major speech about his Catholicism in 1960 to a group of Protestant ministers. So far the Buttigieg campaign has evidently concluded that ignoring the remarks is the best course, but that could change if the attacks become louder and more frequent, or show signs of resonating more widely. ...

“Since Buttigieg's strong performances in Iowa and New Hampshire, journalists have begun raising the issue of his sexuality more frequently, prompting responses like his recent comment [to People magazine](#) that he was excited to start a family 'soon' with his husband Chasten. 'No matter what happens, I think the next chapter in our personal lives is going to be about kids,' Buttigieg said.”

### **“The Benefits of Being Joe Biden's Brother.”**

That's the headline of a new [ProPublica review](#) of the relationship between Jim Biden's business ventures and the former vice president's political capital: Jim often “turned to Joe's political network for the kind of assistance that would have been almost unimaginable for someone with a different last name. Campaign donors helped him face a series of financial problems, including a series of IRS liens totaling more than \$1 million that made it harder to get bank financing. ... [O]n occasion, as Jim pursued opportunities, Joe met with his potential clients or partners, at Jim's request.”

### **Nevada's most powerful union won't endorse before next week's caucuses.**

“The Culinary Union, which represents 60,000 hotel and casino workers

across Nevada and is considered an organizing behemoth in Democratic politics here, said it would instead flex its power to get its members out to vote in the caucuses,” [report Holly Bailey and Felicia Sonmez](#). “The decision came after months of aggressive courting from candidates eager to win the support of the politically powerful group, whose endorsement has long been viewed as a major advantage in mobilizing Latinos and women, who make up most of its membership and have been a decisive political force in the state.” The decision comes after the union claimed Bernie Sanders followers “viciously attacked” it for standing against Medicare-for-all. In response to that kerfuffle, Sanders released a statement condemning online harassment and urging supporters of all campaigns “not to engage in bullying or personal attacks.”

### **Nevada Democrats are trying to clarify how their caucuses will work as concerns grow.**

“The Nevada State Democratic Party announced Thursday that it will use a Web-based calculator designed to complete caucus math and report results on an iPad,” [report Elise Viebeck and Isaac Stanley-Becker](#).

“Precinct chairs will receive preconfigured iPads, purchased by the party, and will access the calculator through a ‘secure Google web form,’ the state party said in a memo to presidential campaigns. Results will be transmitted through a secure hotline and verified either through the online calculator or with paper reporting sheets.”

### **Elizabeth Warren said she's raised \$6 million since Iowa.**

“Hours later, during a raucous evening rally at a high school gym in Washington’s Virginia suburbs, Warren didn’t seem like a candidate worried about leaving the race,” [the AP reports](#). The \$6 million, though respectable, pales in comparison to Sanders, who raised more than \$25 million in January.

For his part, **Trump will headline a \$580,600-per-couple fundraiser in Palm Beach on Saturday**, per [Dawsey and Michelle Ye Hee Lee](#).

## More candidates are stepping up attacks against a rising Mike Bloomberg.

“Struggling to recover from poor showings in the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary, [Warren] and [Biden] took the lead in attacking Bloomberg. [Biden] said on ABC’s ‘The View’ that ‘I don’t think you can buy an election,’ while Warren took Bloomberg to task for his 2008 comments that ending redlining, a discriminatory housing practice helped trigger the economic meltdown,” [the AP reports](#).

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## The coronavirus crisis



A man wears a gas mask as he holds a bouquet of flowers on Friday in Hong Kong. (Tyrone Siu/Reuters)

## The economic fallout is growing around the world.

Singapore’s leader warned of a possible recession as the virus and travel curbs slam the regional economy. Asian and European auto plants are running short of parts, Chinese tourists are staying home and American companies are bracing for unpredictable turbulence. And that’s just the start. The financial hangover will linger for months, even if the illness is

soon brought under control.

“The Chinese epidemic’s aftereffects will probably cause the global economy to shrink this quarter for the first time since the depths of the 2009 financial crisis, according to Capital Economics in London,” [David Lynch reports](#). “Caterpillar this week said most of its Chinese suppliers have returned to work. But Foxconn, a major electronics producer for Apple, said it will be the end of the month before even half of its facilities are operating. ... The ripple effects of China’s shutdown are spreading, with the auto industry especially hard-hit. Nissan temporarily closed one of its factories in Japan after running short of Chinese components, one week after Hyundai in South Korea did the same. Fiat Chrysler warned that it may shutter one of its European plants. Some U.S. manufacturers could face parts shortages in one to two weeks.”

### **One corner of China’s economy has been particularly hard-hit: Flower sellers.**

“Forget red roses. Broccoli, cauliflower, masks and hand sanitizer are now the way to prove you love your partner this Valentine’s Day in China,” [Wang Yuan reports](#). “Flower delivery platforms are reporting a massive drop in online flower sales, as health fears dissuade people from ordering anything online or picking up deliveries. Zhong’ai Flower, an online flower delivery platform based in Wuhan, the epicenter of coronavirus outbreak, reported a sales drop of 90 percent. Ma Yingzi, a flower supplier in Beijing, also estimated a 95 percent drop in flower sales this Valentine’s Day.”

### **Another 5,000 cases of coronavirus were reported, bringing the count in mainland China past 63,000.**

“More places in Hubei province, the epicenter of the outbreak, are enacting ‘wartime’ measures, such as sealing off residential complexes and only allowing essential vehicles on the roads. Authorities in Yunmeng county, where the new steps kicked in on Friday morning, said that anyone attempting to breach the lockdown ‘at compounds, buildings or road connections’ would be detained,” [Shibani Mahtani and Miriam](#)

[Berger report](#). “Apps are being used to track citizens who must provide their information before entering and exiting key Chinese cities, allowing authorities to collect a huge amount of data. ... China’s National Health Commission said more than 1,700 medical workers have been infected with coronavirus, six of whom have died, citing the latest available figures as of Feb. 11.”

### **Japan said 10 people were evacuated from the quarantined cruise ship in serious condition.**

Eight were confirmed to have the virus, [Simon Denyer reports](#). “Amid persistent criticism of its approach, the government said it would start allowing some people who have tested negative for the virus to disembark from the ship early and finish their quarantine at a facility on land. Priority will be given to passengers over the age of 80 and those with existing medical problems, as well as people in windowless cabins, health minister Katsunobu Kato said. So far, 218 people on board the ship have tested positive for the virus.”

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## **Social media speed read**

Trump attacked Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-N.Y.) before a White House meeting to discuss the state’s feud with federal immigration authorities, hinting the Empire State should drop lawsuits against him to get what it wants from the federal government. The lead House impeachment manager likened these hardball tactics to the alleged scheme to coerce Ukraine that got him impeached:



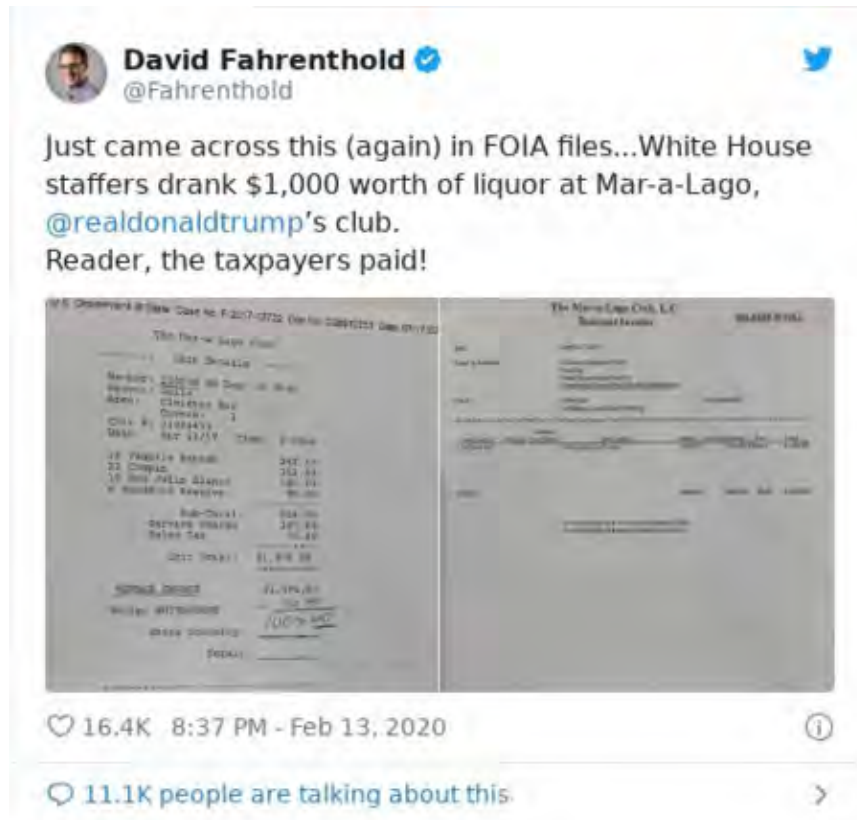
Trump attacked his former chief of staff after he spoke out against the president's retaliation against Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman:



You picked up the tab for the president's staffers drinking at Trump's



private club:



A former federal prosecutor shined a light on why so many DOJ alumni are disgusted with Trump meddling in the cases of Stone and others:



## Videos of the day

It may still be a couple of weeks away, but Stephen Colbert is already excited for the South Carolina primary:



Seth Meyers said Trump is turning the Department of Justice into a political weapon:





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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Conservative intellectuals launch a new group to challenge free-market 'fundamentalism' on the right  
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By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Conservative intellectuals launch a new group to challenge free-market 'fundamentalism' on the right

Oren Cass believes conservatives have blundered by outsourcing GOP economic policymaking to libertarian “fundamentalists” who see the free market as an end unto itself, rather than as a means for improving quality of life to strengthen families and communities. The former domestic policy director on Mitt Romney’s 2012 presidential campaign quit his job as a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute to launch a new group called

American Compass that aims to reorient the right. He previewed their plans in an exclusive interview on Monday afternoon.

Joining him on the board of directors will be Sen. Marco Rubio's chief of staff Mike Needham, the former chief executive of [Heritage Action for America](#); Julius Krein, the editor of American Affairs, a quarterly political journal; and David Azerrad, a Hillsdale College professor who was formerly a fellow at the Heritage Foundation. Wells King will be the research director. Until last week, the former McKinsey consultant was a policy adviser to Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) on the Joint Economic Committee.

### **Cass compares President Trump to an earthquake.**

Running as a populist, Trump challenged Republican orthodoxy on free trade and tapped into the disaffection of blue-collar workers in the heartland who have been left behind by the growing, but uneven, economy. For the most part, however, he said conservative elites in the think tank world have not followed suit.



President Trump speaks at the White House on Friday. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

“The goal, long term, is to think about what the post-Trump right-of-center is going to be,” said Cass. “One of the reasons we think this is such an important project is that, even four-plus years after Trump emerged on the scene, there really has been very little new and interesting ferment in the right of center. It’s pretty much the same set of institutions and publications and so forth. ... By and large, the establishment is what it was. And it seems to be keeping its head down and sort of hoping that everything can just go back post-Trump to the way that it was pre-Trump. To the extent that the future should sound different, and certainly I think it should, now is the time to start building the institutions and efforts that are going to make that a reality.”

Cass acknowledges the problems animating populism are very real, but he argues that they won’t be solved by the governing ideologies he blames for creating the crisis, nor by the populism itself, “which has demonstrated no ability to formulate or implement a coherent response.”

“An earthquake clears a lot of space for rebuilding, but an earthquake does not rebuild,” Cass explained. “And there are a lot of people who want to rush right back in and build what you already had after the earthquake. But something an earthquake shows you is which of the things that you'd already built were really not built very thoughtfully. It’s important to learn lessons from this disruption that has occurred. It's important to go back to first principles and ask: What do we actually believe and why? What do we care about and why?”

Inside the GOP coalition, Cass argues, traditional economic conservatives ceded economic policy to libertarians as part of a “bargain” to win the Cold War. Ronald Reagan called it a three-legged stool: economic libertarians, social conservatives and national security hawks. Cass believes this “fusionism” worked well – in the past. “When you had a situation where the free market was delivering the social outcomes that conservatives most prized, libertarians and conservatives tended to agree,” he said. “What we've seen more recently is a growing understanding that the market does not necessarily in all cases deliver a set of social outcomes that conservatives prize.”



Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) leaves a luncheon with fellow GOP senators at the Capitol earlier this month. He's retrofitted his approach to economics since losing to Trump in 2016. (Amanda Voisard for The Washington Post)

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Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

## We Can't Afford Medicare for All

A graphic with a blue background on the left and a light blue background on the right. The text on the left reads "WE CAN'T AFFORD A NEW GOVERNMENT HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM". The text on the right reads "DOUBLED INCOME TAXES FOR EVERY FAMILY" and "POLITICIANS IN CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH". There are icons of a pill and a hand holding a pill, and a pillbox icon. At the bottom right, there is small text: "BASED UPON: 'TRUMP SUPPORTER ON MEDICARE FOR ALL,' THE NEW YORK TIMES, APRIL 11, 2019; 'NEW YORK BILL WOULD END UP BEING COMMITTED FOR A RESPONSIBLE FUTURE,' MARCH 2019."

American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

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**A society's vitality, of course, cannot be judged solely**

## **by its gross domestic product.**

Markets are good, Cass explained, but life is about so much more than markets. He said American conservatism historically had a richer conception of the role of government beyond maximizing returns, such as strengthening domestic industry. He lamented the growing concentration of wealth, geographically on the coasts and in the big cities, as well as in a handful of industries, which has accelerated income inequality.

“When you zoom out, you can have a rising GDP, but if it's in the context of collapsing families and people no longer getting married and declining fertility rates and so on and so forth, you haven't necessarily enhanced well-being,” said Cass. “Likewise, if you are generating growth by trading off the non-market work that people historically performed within their households for a model where everyone goes to work and then they pay each other for the things they used to do in their own household, that's not great either. Obviously, there are times when disruption, even if unfortunate, is necessary, but it's important to recognize that, alongside the value that the hyper-efficient conglomerate brings, there is also an awful lot of value that the locally-owned small business brings.”

Cass said American Compass will “think differently” about labor vs. capital than Republicans have in recent generations. “A big component of the market fundamentalism – in many cases, held entirely in good faith; in some cases, more as a matter of political convenience – is the argument that whatever policies are best for shareholders in the short run are the best policies and will eventually be good for everyone else also,” he said. “That is something that's not actually part of real economics, and it's certainly not a conservative way of thinking about how a society operates. ... We need to recognize that sometimes we should feel just as comfortable saying, ‘What's good for workers is going to be good for shareholders in the long run.’”





Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) arrives at the Capitol for the impeachment trial last month. (Erin Scott/Reuters)

## **Two GOP senators have been championing this sort of an approach.**

Freshman Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) has [talked a great deal over the last year](#) about the need for new policies that make it easier for people to stay in their hometowns if they want to, among other things. Rubio, the senior senator from Florida, has [retrofitted his approach](#) to economic policy since losing to Trump in the 2016 primaries. He's [challenged shareholder primacy theory](#) and even [embraced Catholic social doctrine](#) as a way to respond to capitalism's inevitable failures.

“As you look across the Republican conference, you've got Rubio and Hawley who are furthest out in front, but then right behind them is a very interesting group of folks who are really thoughtful and heterodox on these issues,” said Cass. He named Lee as part of that contingent, along with Sens. Tom Cotton (Ark.), Tim Scott (S.C.), [Ben Sasse](#) (Neb.) and [Romney](#) (Utah).

“In terms of how it fits ideologically, I think there are certainly

components of it that sound more Trumpian,” Cass said. “For instance, an actual conservative economics would be much more skeptical of free trade than is libertarian economics. But this is not an effort to codify and carry forward Trumpism.”

Cass, 36, graduated from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the law review, after working as a management consultant at Bain, Romney’s former firm, in the firm’s Boston and New Delhi offices. He emphasized that American Compass, the new initiative, is “not an exercise in starting from scratch.” He said the mission is really about “going back and finding things that always were part of the American tradition that have been important to conservative thinkers, but that seem to have gotten lost in in the more market fundamentalist mode of especially the last 20 to 30 years.”

“I think there is just tremendous intellectual energy ... that's working on and discussing and hashing these things out, but there aren't really any institutional trappings of it yet,” he said. “There is not really even a vocabulary for it. If you said, ‘Who are the people working on this stuff?,’ it's hard to know where to look. We want to provide that base. We'll just be one entity in the flotilla or the armada or the fleet. I don't know the difference between those three things. But hopefully one that has some prominent people on board and can facilitate communication and can bring people together and ... help focus attacks when there are fights to be had.”

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## 2020 watch



Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-Tex.) holds up a border map as he speaks during a meeting with lawmakers on immigration policy at the White House in 2018. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

### **Scoop: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce will endorse Democratic Rep. Henry Cuellar in Texas.**

The seven-term congressman is facing a vigorous challenge on his left from Jessica Cisneros in a March 3 primary. Cisneros, a 26-year-old

immigration attorney, has endorsements from women’s groups like EMILY’s List, environmental groups like the Sierra Club and national liberal leaders like Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. The U.S. Chamber joins the Koch-backed group Libre Initiative Action, which endorsed Cuellar on Friday.

“At a time when the country continues to be polarized, it’s important to elect centrist candidates who aim to find common ground on common sense solutions to better serve Americans and strengthen communities,” said Scott Reed, the U.S. Chamber’s chief political strategist. He praised Cuellar for his early work on the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, as well as business-friendly efforts to protect Texas’s auto industry from tariffs and fighting for the oil and gas industry. “Cuellar has consistently stepped up to the plate,” said Reed.

Meanwhile, in Massachusetts, Sen. Edward Markey will square off tonight in the first televised debate with his Democratic primary challenger, Rep. Joe Kennedy III. ([Karen Weintraub has a preview.](#))



Mike Bloomberg campaigns last Wednesday in Chattanooga, Tenn. (Doug Strickland/Reuters)

## **Mike Bloomberg has qualified for Wednesday's Democratic debate.**

A new [NPR-PBS-Marist](#) poll showed him in second place with the support of 19 percent of Democratic primary voters nationally, trailing Bernie Sanders at 31 percent. Bloomberg has leapfrogged Joe Biden by spending more than \$300 million on television in states that vote on Super Tuesday and beyond. Biden has fallen to third place with 15 percent, followed by Elizabeth Warren at 12 percent, Amy Klobuchar at 9 percent and Pete Buttigieg at 8 percent. Sanders and Bloomberg are tied at 22 percent in Virginia, [according to a new Monmouth University poll](#) that also came out this morning. Biden comes in third in the commonwealth, pulling in 18 percent.

## **Bloomberg has been preparing for the debate on the assumption he'd qualify.**

“Top Bloomberg lieutenants and policy experts have been preparing him for what would be the most unscripted event yet of his three-month-old campaign,” [Politico reports](#). “Howard Wolfson, the veteran Democratic strategist who joined Bloomberg’s orbit in 2009 after working on Hillary Clinton’s 2008 presidential race, is playing the role of Sanders; Julie Wood, Bloomberg’s national press secretary, is depicting [Warren]; and senior advisers Marc La Vorgna and Marcia Hale are stand-ins for [Buttigieg and Klobuchar], respectively. Wolfson joked that his inspiration for Sanders came from watching ‘Statler and Waldorf,’ the cantankerous elderly Muppets who lob critiques from their balcony seats. Asked about rivals trying to get under Bloomberg’s own skin, he quipped, ‘Haters gonna hate. Bring it on.’

“Bloomberg is trying to hone a crisp and energetic appeal to voters that will contrast with Biden— another white, male septuagenarian on stage, according to advisers. ... Other potential pitfalls for Bloomberg are his tendency to use dated language — words like ‘bawdy,’ for instance — to dismiss concerns about his financial news service’s work culture for female employees. Bloomberg has a history of losing his cool in public. He once grew visibly annoyed at a reporter in a wheelchair who interrupted

his press conference when he dropped a recording device. More recently, he urged a reporter to 'get on with it' when he was pressed about his controversial stop-and-frisk policing tactic. Snapping at other candidates or a moderator could undermine his efforts to convey empathy and contrition."

## **The former New York City mayor is making inroads with black voters who backed Biden.**

"Bloomberg has pummeled the airwaves in South Carolina, Nevada and Super Tuesday states with ads, so much so that a questioner at a Tennessee news conference thanked him for a \$3.5 million buy at his media station before proceeding," [Cleve Wootson, Bob Costa and Michael Scherer report](#). "Biden's unsteady turn — a fourth-place finish in Iowa preceded his decline in New Hampshire — has given an opening to rivals to make their own arguments to black and Latino voters. ... Rosemary Lawrence, a 75-year-old black woman who leads the political ministry at Charlotte's mostly black Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, ... supported Biden when he entered the race in April, laying out the argument for anyone who asked that he was the candidate most likely to defeat Trump. ... 'I love Joe Biden,' she said. ... 'I really wanted to support him, but what I've seen recently is he doesn't seem to be as energized and focused and alert as he was, say, eight years ago even. And now his funding is drying up. The bottom line is I want to find somebody who can beat Donald Trump.' Early voting has already started in North Carolina. Next week, Lawrence plans to cast a ballot for Bloomberg."

To be sure, Bloomberg has his own problems with stop-and-frisk, among other things. "While his crowds, even in southern states, are often affluent and white, he is regularly introduced by black leaders who testify to Bloomberg's understanding of the history of racism in the country and his commitment to nonwhite voters. Bloomberg has been endorsed by more than 100 mayors, many of them black. He has proposed a plan, named 'the Greenwood Initiative' for a black Tulsa community destroyed in a 1921 racial massacre, that sets a goal of helping 1 million black families buy a home, double the number of black-owned businesses and triple the

net worth of a typical black family.”

## **Bloomberg launched his first attack against Sanders. Others followed.**

In a web video, Bloomberg compared Sanders’s campaign tactics to Trump’s. Sanders replied by comparing Bloomberg to Trump. Biden called on Sanders to disavow “Trump-like” attacks by some of his supporters on officials at the Nevada culinary workers union, per [the Times](#). Elizabeth Warren also jumped into the fray, saying Sanders “has a lot of questions to answer” about his supporters’ behavior. “I am particularly worried about what happened in the attacks on members of the culinary union,” Warren said, per [NBC](#). “That is not how we build an inclusive Democratic Party. ... We do not build on a foundation of hate.”

## **Biden's campaign is counting on at least a second-place finish in Nevada.**

“First would be wonderful, but us getting a second place I think does the work that we need to do to win South Carolina,” Biden campaign manager Greg Schultz told supporters on a conference call. “We win South Carolina, we’re going to have ended the first four contests likely with a delegate advantage. ... I think the Democratic Party will sigh a collective sigh of relief when we finish second or better in Nevada.” ([NYT](#))

## **The Afghanistan war shattered Biden’s faith in American military power.**

“Biden talks about America in grand, almost Reaganesque, terms,” [writes Greg Jaffe](#) in the latest installment of our Pursuits series. “But inside the Obama administration Biden was a consistent voice of caution. The mismatch is a product of an approach to foreign policy that is guided largely by impulse and feeling rather than abiding philosophy. And it reflects a decades-long career in which Biden has been all over the map on the biggest questions of war and peace. ... In the 1990s, Biden had made an impassioned argument that U.S. credibility and the country’s moral standing demanded that it use military force to stop a slaughter in the Balkans. In Afghanistan, Biden rejected the notion that America had any

moral obligation to improve the lives of Afghans or prevent civil wars. ‘He had that empathy for the people in the Balkans. He even had it for people in Iraq,’ said a senior Obama administration official... ‘I never saw it in Afghanistan.’”

Speaking of Afghanistan: **Results released today, nearly five months after the election, show that President Ashraf Ghani has won a second term.** “The announcement comes after months of political uncertainty and just days after U.S. and Taliban negotiators announced they had reached a conditional peace deal that could be signed as soon as the end of the month,” Sayed Salahuddin and Sharif Hassan [report](#).



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## The coronavirus





## **The number of coronavirus cases in the U.S. is now 29.**

“Fourteen Americans who tested positive for coronavirus were among the hundreds of U.S. citizens evacuated from a cruise ship off Japan to U.S. facilities over the holiday weekend, the result of a chaotic chain of events that put virus-stricken passengers on flights with other evacuees,” [Anna Fifield, Alex Horton and Abha Bhattacharai report](#). “Their return almost doubles the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States ... The 14 U.S. passengers tested positive for the virus after disembarking from the Diamond Princess, a cruise liner carrying 2,666 passengers and 1,045 crew members that had been quarantined for two weeks off the Japanese port of Yokohama. But by the time their test results arrived, they were already on a fleet of buses that took 328 asymptomatic passengers from the ship to two charter planes bound for U.S. military bases in Texas and California ...

"It was a wrench in a coordinated effort. While the buses sat on the tarmac, health experts mulled whether to put the 14 on the flights or divert them to hospitals in Japan ... The planes each included a sealed-off section of 18 seats in the back, and part of the plan was to isolate passengers there if they developed symptoms midflight ... Health authorities deemed the 14 'fit to fly' because they were not showing symptoms, the State Department and the Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement

Monday. They were cordoned off from the other passengers during the flights.” The Diamond Princess quarantine will end as scheduled on Wednesday, Japan’s health minister said today, as 88 more cases were discovered, bringing the total linked to the ship to 542. A total of 35 Filipino crew members on the cruise ship have tested positive for the coronavirus.

### **Apple said the virus will cause it to miss revenue targets.**

Apple warned that “it expects to fall short of revenue goals in the current quarter because of the coronavirus outbreak, underscoring the far-reaching effects of the public health crisis on the global economy,” [Derek Hawkins and Reed Albergotti report](#). “In a [statement](#) to investors, Apple said that while factories in China were reopening, iPhone production in the country was ramping up more slowly than expected. ... Demand for Apple products has also [dampened in China](#), where all the company’s stores and many of its partner stores have shuttered...”

### **The virus killed the director of Wuhan’s main hospital.**

“A respected neurologist who was the director of Wuchang Hospital in Wuhan died Tuesday after contracting the novel coronavirus,” [Anna Fifield and Rick Noack report](#). Liu Zhiming, who was 51, passed away despite a “full effort rescue,” according to a statement from Wuhan’s municipal health commission. Zhiming “became the most prominent victim of the outbreak since another doctor, whistleblower Li Wenliang died Feb. 7, sparking an outpouring of public anger and grief. Liu’s death follows that last week of a nurse, Liu Fan, from the same hospital. A total of eight front-line health care workers have now died, while as many as 3,000 have been infected with the coronavirus. ...

“Officials have been sounding a more upbeat note in recent days about the prospects for containing the virus. But a renowned Chinese pulmonologist who predicted a peak this month clarified his remarks to say that the peak may be followed by a plateau, rather than an outright fall in cases. ... China reported 1,886 new coronavirus cases and 98 more deaths in its

daily update on the outbreak Tuesday, bringing the death toll in mainland China to 1,868, with 72,436 confirmed cases. The overwhelming majority have been in Hubei province.”

## **In China, 200 million kids are back in school – thanks to the Internet.**

“They didn’t stand in front of a flagpole and sing the national anthem. They watched it on screens. In some parts of the country, so many kids were watching at the same time that Internet speeds ground to a halt,” [Fifield reports](#). “One middle school boy, sitting with his computer at his front door in Beijing, was asked what he was studying. He responded: physical education. Chinese authorities have taken extreme measures to try to contain the coronavirus, which has spread nationwide. More than half the country’s 1.4 billion people are now restricted from leaving their homes in some way. Public gatherings are banned, including those in schoolyards.”

## **Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) keeps repeating a debunked conspiracy theory.**

“Cotton referenced a laboratory in the city, the Wuhan National Biosafety Laboratory, in an [interview](#) on Fox News’s ‘Sunday Morning Futures.’ He said the lab was near a market some scientists initially thought was a starting point for the virus’s spread,” [Paulina Firozi reports](#). “‘We don’t know where it originated, and we have to get to the bottom of that,’ Cotton said. ‘We also know that just a few miles away from that food market is China’s only biosafety level 4 super laboratory that researches human infectious diseases.’ Yet Cotton acknowledged there is no evidence that the disease originated at the lab. Instead, he suggested it’s necessary to ask Chinese authorities about the possibility, fanning the embers of a conspiracy theory that has been repeatedly debunked by experts.”

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## **Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



## **A Guatemalan family separated by the Trump administration has now been apart over two years.**

“When her teacher, or her social worker, or her best friend Ashley asks, Adelaida sounds it out — one of the first words she learned in English. “They *separated* us,” [Kevin Sieff reports](#). “Adelaida Reynoso and her mother, María, were among the first migrant families broken up by the Trump administration, on July 31, 2017, long before the government acknowledged it was separating parents and children at the border. They haven’t seen each other since. Adelaida is now 9, a third-grader in southwest Florida, one of the top students in her class, carrying a thick English dictionary in a purple backpack. María, now 31, was deported alone to rural Guatemala. She has met with lawyers and smugglers and priests about reuniting with her daughter. Nothing has worked.”

## **The administration will waive federal contracting laws to speed border wall construction.**

The Department of Homeland Security said waiving 10 regulations would allow for 177 miles of wall to be built quickly in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. ([AP](#))

## **The Boy Scouts of America filed for bankruptcy, facing a wave of lawsuits over allegations of sexual abuse.**

“The long-anticipated Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing will allow the Boy Scouts to keep operating as it reorganizes its finances and handles claims from hundreds of potential victims,” [Samantha Schmidt reports](#). “It will also give alleged victims a limited amount of time to come forward before being barred indefinitely from seeking compensation. ... Lawyers throughout the country have begun representing hundreds of clients and have filed lawsuits in states such as New York and Pennsylvania. ‘In a way, this is an acknowledgment finally on the part of the Boy Scouts that they had this enormous problem and the problem is so large that they can’t deal with it themselves,’ said Michael Pfau, a lawyer who said he represents about 300 victims. ...

“A key question will be whether the Boy Scouts of America will be able to protect the assets of the local councils, which own camps and properties in prime real estate throughout the country. The local councils are incorporated separately but hold 70 percent of the Boy Scouts’ wealth, [\[per the WSJ\]](#). ... Many of these institutions could be implicated in the claims, making for an even more complicated bankruptcy case, said Pfau.”

### **Cardinal McCarrick quietly gave nearly \$1 million to a group led by a cleric accused of sexual misconduct.**

“From 2004 to 2017, [Theodore] McCarrick sent the Institute of the Incarnate Word dozens of checks — some as large as \$50,000 — from a charitable account he controlled at the Archdiocese of Washington,” [according to ledgers obtained by Shawn Boburg and Robert O’Harrow Jr.](#) “During those years, Carlos Buela, who founded the group decades ago in Argentina, repeatedly defied Vatican sanctions for alleged sexual misconduct with seminarians, according to a confidential Vatican order. ... Six current and former members of Incarnate Word said McCarrick was celebrated internally for using his influence to protect the group. They said multiple members had warned church officials about alleged sexual encounters between Buela and seminarians. They also complained to church officials that institute leaders stifled internal criticism and punished dissenters.”

## **The EPA is about to change a rule cutting mercury pollution. The industry doesn't even want it.**

“Exelon, one of the nation’s largest utilities, told the EPA that its effort to change a rule that has cut emissions of mercury and other toxins is ‘an action that is entirely unnecessary, unreasonable, and universally opposed by the power generation sector,’” [Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis report](#). “Despite a chorus of opposition from unions, business groups and electric utilities, the EPA is on the verge of finalizing its proposal as part of a broader effort to overhaul how the government calculates the health benefits of cleaner air. The agency plans to declare that it is not ‘appropriate and necessary’ for the government to limit harmful pollutants from power plants, even though every utility in America has complied with standards put in place in 2011 ...

“While it will technically keep existing restrictions on mercury in place, it means the government would not be able to count collateral benefits — such as reducing soot and smog — when it sets limits on toxic air pollutants. It’s a rollback that industry officials argue could open the door to new legal fights, prompt some plants to turn off their pollution controls and ultimately sicken more Americans — all so that the administration can rewire how the government weighs the costs of regulation. The changes could give a boost to struggling coal companies, while hamstringing future efforts to limit mercury emissions from the nation’s power plants. The rule in question, known as the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS), targets a powerful neurotoxin that can affect the IQ and motor skills of children, even in utero. Between 2006, when states began to curb mercury from coal plants, and 2016, when the Obama-era rule took full effect, emissions have declined 85 percent.”

## **Jeff Bezos will give \$10 billion to fight climate change.**

Through the Bezos Earth Fund, the Amazon founder and Washington Post owner will “provide \$10 billion in grants to scientists and activists to fund their efforts to fight climate change,” [Kimberly Kindy reports](#). “[Bezos] said the grants, which will be issued this summer, will go to individuals and organizations from around the globe, adding that the effort will ‘take

collective action from big companies, small companies, nation states, global organizations, and individuals.”

## **The Virginia ban on assault weapons sales didn't make it through a state Senate committee.**

The failed vote handed Gov. Ralph Northam (D) a big defeat as he attempts to push a package of eight gun-control measures, [Laura Vozzella reports](#). “The House has passed all eight of Northam’s bills, but a handful of Democrats in the less liberal Senate have quashed three of them amid fears that the newly empowered party might overplay its hand. The same tension has been playing out on other fronts, with the Senate taking a more cautious approach on issues such as the minimum wage, collective bargaining and state budgeting.”

## **A college accredited by an Education Department-sanctioned group doesn't actually exist.**

“Reagan National University was supposed to be a place of higher learning, but it was unclear how it awarded degrees. By all appearances, at present, it has no students, no faculty and no classrooms. An agency meant to serve as a gatekeeper for federal money gave the university approval to operate anyway,” [USA Today reports](#). The Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges & Schools “exists mainly because it was saved by the Education Department in 2018.”

## **More than 2,000 Justice Department alumni are calling on Bill Barr to resign.**

The nonpartisan group Protect Democracy wrote that “political interference in the conduct of a criminal prosecution is anathema to the Department's core mission and to its sacred obligation to ensure equal justice under the law,” [according to ABC News](#). The former officials also said it is “outrageous” the way Barr interfered in the Roger Stone case. “Although there are times when political leadership appropriately weighs in on individual prosecutions, it is unheard of for the Department's top leaders to overrule line prosecutors, who are following established policies, in order to give preferential treatment to a close associate of the

President, as Attorney General Barr did in the Stone case," they wrote.

## **An association of federal judges called an emergency meeting.**

“Philadelphia U.S. District Judge Cynthia Rufe, who heads the independent Federal Judges Association, said the group ‘could not wait’ until its spring conference to weigh in on a deepening crisis that has enveloped the Justice Department and [Barr],” [USA Today reports](#). Rufe “said the group of more than 1,000 federal jurists called for the meeting last week after Trump criticized prosecutors’ initial sentencing recommendation for Stone and the Department of Justice overruled them.”

## **Peter Navarro – Trump’s top trade adviser – has a side project: Hunting for “Anonymous.”**

“Since at least the time of the impeachment process against Trump, Navarro—whom the president affectionately calls ‘my Peter’—began conducting his own private investigation into the identity of Anonymous,” [reports the Daily Beast](#). “One of those sources described Navarro’s investigative efforts as partially an in-depth analysis of the language and phrases used in Anonymous’ book and other public writings. The process ... mimics forensic linguistic profiling, and the goal is to cross-reference Navarro’s ‘profile’ with a list of potential suspects.”

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## **Quote of the day**

*“In my view, to pursue the right policies for America I was willing to put up with a lot. I’m not asking for martyrdom because of that,” said John Bolton, describing his work for the Trump administration. “I knew – think I knew what I was getting into. I did it for 17 months. I did the best I could. You can judge the results by what the policies are.”* ([The Atlantic](#))

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## **Social media speed read**

After Bloomberg's campaign called Sanders Trump's new "bro," the Vermont senator replied with this picture:



**Bernie Sanders** ✓

@BernieSanders



[twitter.com/sahilkapur/sta...](https://twitter.com/sahilkapur/sta...)



**Sahil Kapur** ✓ @sahilkapur

Mike Bloomberg's campaign manager Kevin Sheekey releases a statement responding to attacks from Sanders.

Subject line: "BERNIE'S NEW BRO... DONALD TRUMP"



### **BERNIE'S NEW BRO... DONALD TRUMP**

**NEW YORK** — In response to the repeated attacks by Bernie Sanders, his spokespeople and supporters, today Mike Bloomberg 2020 responded against baseless charges espoused online, in print, and on TV.

"It's a shameful turn of events to see Bernie

♥ 148K 10:01 PM - Feb 17, 2020



💬 41.1K people are talking about this



**Cher endorsed Joe Biden:**



**Biden offered to meet up in Vegas:**



**Amy Klobuchar played along with an Internet joke about her branding strategy:**



**Amy Klobuchar** ✓

@amyklobuchar



Busted.... [twitter.com/shanajocreus/s...](https://twitter.com/shanajocreus/s...)

**Shana Jo Crews** @ShanaJoCrews

Just realized that @amyklobuchar's campaign colors are the same as Hidden Valley Ranch and now I desperately hope this was all part of her master plan to win the Midwest and unite the country #Election2020



♥ 60.2K 5:07 PM - Feb 17, 2020



🗨 5,524 people are talking about this



**Pete Buttigieg got some sun:**



**Chuck Kennedy** ✓

@ChuckKennedyDC



The desert sun. Las Vegas, NV on Feb. 16, 2020.



♥ 1,109 7:33 PM - Feb 17, 2020



💬 157 people are talking about this



**A former presidential candidate made dinner for her husband:**



**Douglas Emhoff** ✓

@douglasemhoff



Meanwhile, @KamalaHarris is home for the weekend and... 🍷🔥❤️😊



♥️ 13.2K 8:59 PM - Feb 17, 2020



💬 876 people are talking about this



Barack Obama highlighted the anniversary of the Recovery Act:



**Barack Obama** ✓

@BarackObama



Eleven years ago today, near the bottom of the worst recession in generations, I signed the Recovery Act, paving the way for more than a decade of economic growth and the longest streak of job creation in American history.



613K 3:46 PM - Feb 17, 2020



147K people are talking about this



And his successor seemed to respond:



**Donald J. Trump** ✓ @realDonaldTrump · 7h



Did you hear the latest con job? President Obama is now trying to take credit for the Economic Boom taking place under the Trump Administration. He had the WEAKEST recovery since the Great Depression, despite Zero Fed Rate & MASSIVE quantitative easing. NOW, best jobs numbers....



**Donald J. Trump** ✓

@realDonaldTrump

...ever. Had to rebuild our military, which was totally depleted. Fed Rate UP, taxes and regulations WAY DOWN. If Dems won in 2016, the USA would be in big economic (Depression?) & military trouble right now. THE BEST IS YET TO COME. KEEP AMERICA GREAT!

80.9K 11:40 PM - Feb 17, 2020



31K people are talking about this



Ivanka Trump's trip to the United Arab Emirates over the weekend drew attention to another conflict of interest:

 **Anna Massoglia**   
@annalecta 

Ivanka Trump's United Arab Emirates trip comes days before the 3 year anniversary celebration of Trump's Dubai golf club that opened weeks after President Trump's inauguration & doubled its income his 2nd year in the White House, raking in \$43M+ since 2017  
[crp.org/trfi](http://crp.org/trfi) [twitter.com/ivankatrump/st...](https://twitter.com/ivankatrump/st...)

 **World of Influence: A guide to Trump...**  
Two years into his presidency, Donald Trump continues to make money from properties and licensing deals in nearly two  
[opensecrets.org](http://opensecrets.org)

**Ivanka Trump**  @IvankaTrump

Magical evening in Dubai with H.H. Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prime Minister May, David Malpass and Kristalina Georgieva. ✨



♥ 1,736 6:48 PM - Feb 17, 2020 · Washington, DC 

💬 1,606 people are talking about this 

And Stephen Miller, Trump's domestic policy adviser who oversees immigration policy, married Katie Waldman, Vice President Pence's press secretary, at the Trump hotel in D.C. on Sunday. The president attended – as did an Elvis impersonator:





**Katie Rose Miller**

@katiewaldman



The most perfect day, the most perfect man surrounded with more love than we both could have ever dreamed.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Miller

2.16.20



8,516 8:07 PM - Feb 17, 2020 · Trump® International Hotel Washington, D.C.



4,489 people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

John Oliver is back, and, in a very timely fashion, he talked about Medicare-for-all:



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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Conservative intellectuals launch a new group to challenge free-market 'fundamentalism' on the right  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 7:42:35 AM



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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
✉ Email

## Conservative intellectuals launch a new group to challenge free-market 'fundamentalism' on the right

Oren Cass believes conservatives have blundered by outsourcing GOP economic policymaking to libertarian "fundamentalists" who see the free market as an end unto itself, rather than as a means for improving quality of life to strengthen families and communities. The former domestic policy director on Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign quit his job as a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute to launch a new group called

American Compass that aims to reorient the right. He previewed their plans in an exclusive interview on Monday afternoon.

Joining him on the board of directors will be Sen. Marco Rubio's chief of staff Mike Needham, the former chief executive of [Heritage Action for America](#); Julius Krein, the editor of American Affairs, a quarterly political journal; and David Azerrad, a Hillsdale College professor who was formerly a fellow at the Heritage Foundation. Wells King will be the research director. Until last week, the former McKinsey consultant was a policy adviser to Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) on the Joint Economic Committee.

### **Cass compares President Trump to an earthquake.**

Running as a populist, Trump challenged Republican orthodoxy on free trade and tapped into the disaffection of blue-collar workers in the heartland who have been left behind by the growing, but uneven, economy. For the most part, however, he said conservative elites in the think tank world have not followed suit.



President Trump speaks at the White House on Friday. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

“The goal, long term, is to think about what the post-Trump right-of-center is going to be,” said Cass. “One of the reasons we think this is such an important project is that, even four-plus years after Trump emerged on the scene, there really has been very little new and interesting ferment in the right of center. It’s pretty much the same set of institutions and publications and so forth. ... By and large, the establishment is what it was. And it seems to be keeping its head down and sort of hoping that everything can just go back post-Trump to the way that it was pre-Trump. To the extent that the future should sound different, and certainly I think it should, now is the time to start building the institutions and efforts that are going to make that a reality.”

Cass acknowledges the problems animating populism are very real, but he argues that they won’t be solved by the governing ideologies he blames for creating the crisis, nor by the populism itself, “which has demonstrated no ability to formulate or implement a coherent response.”

“An earthquake clears a lot of space for rebuilding, but an earthquake does not rebuild,” Cass explained. “And there are a lot of people who want to rush right back in and build what you already had after the earthquake. But something an earthquake shows you is which of the things that you'd already built were really not built very thoughtfully. It’s important to learn lessons from this disruption that has occurred. It's important to go back to first principles and ask: What do we actually believe and why? What do we care about and why?”

Inside the GOP coalition, Cass argues, traditional economic conservatives ceded economic policy to libertarians as part of a “bargain” to win the Cold War. Ronald Reagan called it a three-legged stool: economic libertarians, social conservatives and national security hawks. Cass believes this “fusionism” worked well – in the past. “When you had a situation where the free market was delivering the social outcomes that conservatives most prized, libertarians and conservatives tended to agree,” he said. “What we've seen more recently is a growing understanding that the market does not necessarily in all cases deliver a set of social outcomes that conservatives prize.”



Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) leaves a luncheon with fellow GOP senators at the Capitol earlier this month. He's retrofitted his approach to economics since losing to Trump in 2016. (Amanda Voisard for The Washington Post)

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Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

## We Can't Afford Medicare for All



American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

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**A society's vitality, of course, cannot be judged solely**

## **by its gross domestic product.**

Markets are good, Cass explained, but life is about so much more than markets. He said American conservatism historically had a richer conception of the role of government beyond maximizing returns, such as strengthening domestic industry. He lamented the growing concentration of wealth, geographically on the coasts and in the big cities, as well as in a handful of industries, which has accelerated income inequality.

“When you zoom out, you can have a rising GDP, but if it's in the context of collapsing families and people no longer getting married and declining fertility rates and so on and so forth, you haven't necessarily enhanced well-being,” said Cass. “Likewise, if you are generating growth by trading off the non-market work that people historically performed within their households for a model where everyone goes to work and then they pay each other for the things they used to do in their own household, that's not great either. Obviously, there are times when disruption, even if unfortunate, is necessary, but it's important to recognize that, alongside the value that the hyper-efficient conglomerate brings, there is also an awful lot of value that the locally-owned small business brings.”

Cass said American Compass will “think differently” about labor vs. capital than Republicans have in recent generations. “A big component of the market fundamentalism – in many cases, held entirely in good faith; in some cases, more as a matter of political convenience – is the argument that whatever policies are best for shareholders in the short run are the best policies and will eventually be good for everyone else also,” he said. “That is something that's not actually part of real economics, and it's certainly not a conservative way of thinking about how a society operates. ... We need to recognize that sometimes we should feel just as comfortable saying, ‘What's good for workers is going to be good for shareholders in the long run.’”



Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) arrives at the Capitol for the impeachment trial last month. (Erin Scott/Reuters)

## Two GOP senators have been championing this sort of an approach.

Freshman Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) has [talked a great deal over the last year](#) about the need for new policies that make it easier for people to stay in their hometowns if they want to, among other things. Rubio, the senior senator from Florida, has [retrofitted his approach](#) to economic policy since losing to Trump in the 2016 primaries. He's [challenged shareholder primacy theory](#) and even [embraced Catholic social doctrine](#) as a way to respond to capitalism's inevitable failures.

“As you look across the Republican conference, you've got Rubio and Hawley who are furthest out in front, but then right behind them is a very interesting group of folks who are really thoughtful and heterodox on these issues,” said Cass. He named Lee as part of that contingent, along with Sens. Tom Cotton (Ark.), Tim Scott (S.C.), [Ben Sasse](#) (Neb.) and [Romney](#) (Utah).

“In terms of how it fits ideologically, I think there are certainly



components of it that sound more Trumpian,” Cass said. “For instance, an actual conservative economics would be much more skeptical of free trade than is libertarian economics. But this is not an effort to codify and carry forward Trumpism.”

Cass, 36, graduated from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the law review, after working as a management consultant at Bain, Romney’s former firm, in the firm’s Boston and New Delhi offices. He emphasized that American Compass, the new initiative, is “not an exercise in starting from scratch.” He said the mission is really about “going back and finding things that always were part of the American tradition that have been important to conservative thinkers, but that seem to have gotten lost in in the more market fundamentalist mode of especially the last 20 to 30 years.”

“I think there is just tremendous intellectual energy ... that's working on and discussing and hashing these things out, but there aren't really any institutional trappings of it yet,” he said. “There is not really even a vocabulary for it. If you said, ‘Who are the people working on this stuff?,’ it's hard to know where to look. We want to provide that base. We'll just be one entity in the flotilla or the armada or the fleet. I don't know the difference between those three things. But hopefully one that has some prominent people on board and can facilitate communication and can bring people together and ... help focus attacks when there are fights to be had.”

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## 2020 watch



Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-Tex.) holds up a border map as he speaks during a meeting with lawmakers on immigration policy at the White House in 2018. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

### **Scoop: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce will endorse Democratic Rep. Henry Cuellar in Texas.**

The seven-term congressman is facing a vigorous challenge on his left from Jessica Cisneros in a March 3 primary. Cisneros, a 26-year-old

immigration attorney, has endorsements from women’s groups like EMILY’s List, environmental groups like the Sierra Club and national liberal leaders like Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. The U.S. Chamber joins the Koch-backed group Libre Initiative Action, which endorsed Cuellar on Friday.

“At a time when the country continues to be polarized, it’s important to elect centrist candidates who aim to find common ground on common sense solutions to better serve Americans and strengthen communities,” said Scott Reed, the U.S. Chamber’s chief political strategist. He praised Cuellar for his early work on the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, as well as business-friendly efforts to protect Texas’s auto industry from tariffs and fighting for the oil and gas industry. “Cuellar has consistently stepped up to the plate,” said Reed.

Meanwhile, in Massachusetts, Sen. Edward Markey will square off tonight in the first televised debate with his Democratic primary challenger, Rep. Joe Kennedy III. ([Karen Weintraub has a preview.](#))



Mike Bloomberg campaigns last Wednesday in Chattanooga, Tenn. (Doug Strickland/Reuters)

## **Mike Bloomberg has qualified for Wednesday's Democratic debate.**

A new [NPR-PBS-Marist](#) poll showed him in second place with the support of 19 percent of Democratic primary voters nationally, trailing Bernie Sanders at 31 percent. Bloomberg has leapfrogged Joe Biden by spending more than \$300 million on television in states that vote on Super Tuesday and beyond. Biden has fallen to third place with 15 percent, followed by Elizabeth Warren at 12 percent, Amy Klobuchar at 9 percent and Pete Buttigieg at 8 percent. Sanders and Bloomberg are tied at 22 percent in Virginia, [according to a new Monmouth University poll](#) that also came out this morning. Biden comes in third in the commonwealth, pulling in 18 percent.

## **Bloomberg has been preparing for the debate on the assumption he'd qualify.**

“Top Bloomberg lieutenants and policy experts have been preparing him for what would be the most unscripted event yet of his three-month-old campaign,” [Politico reports](#). “Howard Wolfson, the veteran Democratic strategist who joined Bloomberg’s orbit in 2009 after working on Hillary Clinton’s 2008 presidential race, is playing the role of Sanders; Julie Wood, Bloomberg’s national press secretary, is depicting [Warren]; and senior advisers Marc La Vorgna and Marcia Hale are stand-ins for [Buttigieg and Klobuchar], respectively. Wolfson joked that his inspiration for Sanders came from watching ‘Statler and Waldorf,’ the cantankerous elderly Muppets who lob critiques from their balcony seats. Asked about rivals trying to get under Bloomberg’s own skin, he quipped, ‘Haters gonna hate. Bring it on.’”

“Bloomberg is trying to hone a crisp and energetic appeal to voters that will contrast with Biden— another white, male septuagenarian on stage, according to advisers. ... Other potential pitfalls for Bloomberg are his tendency to use dated language — words like ‘bawdy,’ for instance — to dismiss concerns about his financial news service’s work culture for female employees. Bloomberg has a history of losing his cool in public. He once grew visibly annoyed at a reporter in a wheelchair who interrupted

his press conference when he dropped a recording device. More recently, he urged a reporter to 'get on with it' when he was pressed about his controversial stop-and-frisk policing tactic. Snapping at other candidates or a moderator could undermine his efforts to convey empathy and contrition."

## **The former New York City mayor is making inroads with black voters who backed Biden.**

"Bloomberg has pummeled the airwaves in South Carolina, Nevada and Super Tuesday states with ads, so much so that a questioner at a Tennessee news conference thanked him for a \$3.5 million buy at his media station before proceeding," [Cleve Wootson, Bob Costa and Michael Scherer report](#). "Biden's unsteady turn — a fourth-place finish in Iowa preceded his decline in New Hampshire — has given an opening to rivals to make their own arguments to black and Latino voters. ... Rosemary Lawrence, a 75-year-old black woman who leads the political ministry at Charlotte's mostly black Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, ... supported Biden when he entered the race in April, laying out the argument for anyone who asked that he was the candidate most likely to defeat Trump. ... 'I love Joe Biden,' she said. ... 'I really wanted to support him, but what I've seen recently is he doesn't seem to be as energized and focused and alert as he was, say, eight years ago even. And now his funding is drying up. The bottom line is I want to find somebody who can beat Donald Trump.' Early voting has already started in North Carolina. Next week, Lawrence plans to cast a ballot for Bloomberg."

To be sure, Bloomberg has his own problems with stop-and-frisk, among other things. "While his crowds, even in southern states, are often affluent and white, he is regularly introduced by black leaders who testify to Bloomberg's understanding of the history of racism in the country and his commitment to nonwhite voters. Bloomberg has been endorsed by more than 100 mayors, many of them black. He has proposed a plan, named 'the Greenwood Initiative' for a black Tulsa community destroyed in a 1921 racial massacre, that sets a goal of helping 1 million black families buy a home, double the number of black-owned businesses and triple the

net worth of a typical black family.”

## **Bloomberg launched his first attack against Sanders. Others followed.**

In a web video, Bloomberg compared Sanders’s campaign tactics to Trump’s. Sanders replied by comparing Bloomberg to Trump. Biden called on Sanders to disavow “Trump-like” attacks by some of his supporters on officials at the Nevada culinary workers union, per [the Times](#). Elizabeth Warren also jumped into the fray, saying Sanders “has a lot of questions to answer” about his supporters’ behavior. “I am particularly worried about what happened in the attacks on members of the culinary union,” Warren said, per [NBC](#). “That is not how we build an inclusive Democratic Party. ... We do not build on a foundation of hate.”

## **Biden's campaign is counting on at least a second-place finish in Nevada.**

“First would be wonderful, but us getting a second place I think does the work that we need to do to win South Carolina,” Biden campaign manager Greg Schultz told supporters on a conference call. “We win South Carolina, we’re going to have ended the first four contests likely with a delegate advantage. ... I think the Democratic Party will sigh a collective sigh of relief when we finish second or better in Nevada.” ([NYT](#))

## **The Afghanistan war shattered Biden’s faith in American military power.**

“Biden talks about America in grand, almost Reaganesque, terms,” [writes Greg Jaffe](#) in the latest installment of our Pursuits series. “But inside the Obama administration Biden was a consistent voice of caution. The mismatch is a product of an approach to foreign policy that is guided largely by impulse and feeling rather than abiding philosophy. And it reflects a decades-long career in which Biden has been all over the map on the biggest questions of war and peace. ... In the 1990s, Biden had made an impassioned argument that U.S. credibility and the country’s moral standing demanded that it use military force to stop a slaughter in the Balkans. In Afghanistan, Biden rejected the notion that America had any

moral obligation to improve the lives of Afghans or prevent civil wars. ‘He had that empathy for the people in the Balkans. He even had it for people in Iraq,’ said a senior Obama administration official... ‘I never saw it in Afghanistan.’”

Speaking of Afghanistan: **Results released today, nearly five months after the election, show that President Ashraf Ghani has won a second term.** “The announcement comes after months of political uncertainty and just days after U.S. and Taliban negotiators announced they had reached a conditional peace deal that could be signed as soon as the end of the month,” Sayed Salahuddin and Sharif Hassan [report](#).



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## The coronavirus



## **The number of coronavirus cases in the U.S. is now 29.**

“Fourteen Americans who tested positive for coronavirus were among the hundreds of U.S. citizens evacuated from a cruise ship off Japan to U.S. facilities over the holiday weekend, the result of a chaotic chain of events that put virus-stricken passengers on flights with other evacuees,” [Anna Fifield, Alex Horton and Abha Bhattacharai report](#). “Their return almost doubles the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States ... The 14 U.S. passengers tested positive for the virus after disembarking from the Diamond Princess, a cruise liner carrying 2,666 passengers and 1,045 crew members that had been quarantined for two weeks off the Japanese port of Yokohama. But by the time their test results arrived, they were already on a fleet of buses that took 328 asymptomatic passengers from the ship to two charter planes bound for U.S. military bases in Texas and California ...

"It was a wrench in a coordinated effort. While the buses sat on the tarmac, health experts mulled whether to put the 14 on the flights or divert them to hospitals in Japan ... The planes each included a sealed-off section of 18 seats in the back, and part of the plan was to isolate passengers there if they developed symptoms midflight ... Health authorities deemed the 14 'fit to fly' because they were not showing symptoms, the State Department and the Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement



Monday. They were cordoned off from the other passengers during the flights.” The Diamond Princess quarantine will end as scheduled on Wednesday, Japan’s health minister said today, as 88 more cases were discovered, bringing the total linked to the ship to 542. A total of 35 Filipino crew members on the cruise ship have tested positive for the coronavirus.

### **Apple said the virus will cause it to miss revenue targets.**

Apple warned that “it expects to fall short of revenue goals in the current quarter because of the coronavirus outbreak, underscoring the far-reaching effects of the public health crisis on the global economy,” [Derek Hawkins and Reed Albergotti report](#). “In a [statement](#) to investors, Apple said that while factories in China were reopening, iPhone production in the country was ramping up more slowly than expected. ... Demand for Apple products has also [dampened in China](#), where all the company’s stores and many of its partner stores have shuttered...”

### **The virus killed the director of Wuhan’s main hospital.**

“A respected neurologist who was the director of Wuchang Hospital in Wuhan died Tuesday after contracting the novel coronavirus,” [Anna Fifield and Rick Noack report](#). Liu Zhiming, who was 51, passed away despite a “full effort rescue,” according to a statement from Wuhan’s municipal health commission. Zhiming “became the most prominent victim of the outbreak since another doctor, whistleblower Li Wenliang died Feb. 7, sparking an outpouring of public anger and grief. Liu’s death follows that last week of a nurse, Liu Fan, from the same hospital. A total of eight front-line health care workers have now died, while as many as 3,000 have been infected with the coronavirus. ...

“Officials have been sounding a more upbeat note in recent days about the prospects for containing the virus. But a renowned Chinese pulmonologist who predicted a peak this month clarified his remarks to say that the peak may be followed by a plateau, rather than an outright fall in cases. ... China reported 1,886 new coronavirus cases and 98 more deaths in its

daily update on the outbreak Tuesday, bringing the death toll in mainland China to 1,868, with 72,436 confirmed cases. The overwhelming majority have been in Hubei province.”

## **In China, 200 million kids are back in school – thanks to the Internet.**

“They didn’t stand in front of a flagpole and sing the national anthem. They watched it on screens. In some parts of the country, so many kids were watching at the same time that Internet speeds ground to a halt,” [Fifield reports](#). “One middle school boy, sitting with his computer at his front door in Beijing, was asked what he was studying. He responded: physical education. Chinese authorities have taken extreme measures to try to contain the coronavirus, which has spread nationwide. More than half the country’s 1.4 billion people are now restricted from leaving their homes in some way. Public gatherings are banned, including those in schoolyards.”

## **Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) keeps repeating a debunked conspiracy theory.**

“Cotton referenced a laboratory in the city, the Wuhan National Biosafety Laboratory, in an [interview](#) on Fox News’s ‘Sunday Morning Futures.’ He said the lab was near a market some scientists initially thought was a starting point for the virus’s spread,” [Paulina Firozi reports](#). “‘We don’t know where it originated, and we have to get to the bottom of that,’ Cotton said. ‘We also know that just a few miles away from that food market is China’s only biosafety level 4 super laboratory that researches human infectious diseases.’ Yet Cotton acknowledged there is no evidence that the disease originated at the lab. Instead, he suggested it’s necessary to ask Chinese authorities about the possibility, fanning the embers of a conspiracy theory that has been repeatedly debunked by experts.”

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## **Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



## **A Guatemalan family separated by the Trump administration has now been apart over two years.**

“When her teacher, or her social worker, or her best friend Ashley asks, Adelaida sounds it out — one of the first words she learned in English. “They *separated* us,” [Kevin Sieff reports](#). “Adelaida Reynoso and her mother, María, were among the first migrant families broken up by the Trump administration, on July 31, 2017, long before the government acknowledged it was separating parents and children at the border. They haven’t seen each other since. Adelaida is now 9, a third-grader in southwest Florida, one of the top students in her class, carrying a thick English dictionary in a purple backpack. María, now 31, was deported alone to rural Guatemala. She has met with lawyers and smugglers and priests about reuniting with her daughter. Nothing has worked.”

## **The administration will waive federal contracting laws to speed border wall construction.**

The Department of Homeland Security said waiving 10 regulations would allow for 177 miles of wall to be built quickly in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. ([AP](#))

## **The Boy Scouts of America filed for bankruptcy, facing a wave of lawsuits over allegations of sexual abuse.**

“The long-anticipated Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing will allow the Boy Scouts to keep operating as it reorganizes its finances and handles claims from hundreds of potential victims,” [Samantha Schmidt reports](#). “It will also give alleged victims a limited amount of time to come forward before being barred indefinitely from seeking compensation. ... Lawyers throughout the country have begun representing hundreds of clients and have filed lawsuits in states such as New York and Pennsylvania. ‘In a way, this is an acknowledgment finally on the part of the Boy Scouts that they had this enormous problem and the problem is so large that they can’t deal with it themselves,’ said Michael Pfau, a lawyer who said he represents about 300 victims. ...

“A key question will be whether the Boy Scouts of America will be able to protect the assets of the local councils, which own camps and properties in prime real estate throughout the country. The local councils are incorporated separately but hold 70 percent of the Boy Scouts’ wealth, [\[per the WSJ\]](#). ... Many of these institutions could be implicated in the claims, making for an even more complicated bankruptcy case, said Pfau.”

### **Cardinal McCarrick quietly gave nearly \$1 million to a group led by a cleric accused of sexual misconduct.**

“From 2004 to 2017, [Theodore] McCarrick sent the Institute of the Incarnate Word dozens of checks — some as large as \$50,000 — from a charitable account he controlled at the Archdiocese of Washington,” [according to ledgers obtained by Shawn Boburg and Robert O’Harrow Jr.](#) “During those years, Carlos Buela, who founded the group decades ago in Argentina, repeatedly defied Vatican sanctions for alleged sexual misconduct with seminarians, according to a confidential Vatican order. ... Six current and former members of Incarnate Word said McCarrick was celebrated internally for using his influence to protect the group. They said multiple members had warned church officials about alleged sexual encounters between Buela and seminarians. They also complained to church officials that institute leaders stifled internal criticism and punished dissenters.”

## **The EPA is about to change a rule cutting mercury pollution. The industry doesn't even want it.**

“Exelon, one of the nation’s largest utilities, told the EPA that its effort to change a rule that has cut emissions of mercury and other toxins is ‘an action that is entirely unnecessary, unreasonable, and universally opposed by the power generation sector,’” [Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis report](#). “Despite a chorus of opposition from unions, business groups and electric utilities, the EPA is on the verge of finalizing its proposal as part of a broader effort to overhaul how the government calculates the health benefits of cleaner air. The agency plans to declare that it is not ‘appropriate and necessary’ for the government to limit harmful pollutants from power plants, even though every utility in America has complied with standards put in place in 2011 ...

“While it will technically keep existing restrictions on mercury in place, it means the government would not be able to count collateral benefits — such as reducing soot and smog — when it sets limits on toxic air pollutants. It’s a rollback that industry officials argue could open the door to new legal fights, prompt some plants to turn off their pollution controls and ultimately sicken more Americans — all so that the administration can rewire how the government weighs the costs of regulation. The changes could give a boost to struggling coal companies, while hamstringing future efforts to limit mercury emissions from the nation’s power plants. The rule in question, known as the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS), targets a powerful neurotoxin that can affect the IQ and motor skills of children, even in utero. Between 2006, when states began to curb mercury from coal plants, and 2016, when the Obama-era rule took full effect, emissions have declined 85 percent.”

## **Jeff Bezos will give \$10 billion to fight climate change.**

Through the Bezos Earth Fund, the Amazon founder and Washington Post owner will “provide \$10 billion in grants to scientists and activists to fund their efforts to fight climate change,” [Kimberly Kindy reports](#). “[Bezos] said the grants, which will be issued this summer, will go to individuals and organizations from around the globe, adding that the effort will ‘take

collective action from big companies, small companies, nation states, global organizations, and individuals.”

## **The Virginia ban on assault weapons sales didn't make it through a state Senate committee.**

The failed vote handed Gov. Ralph Northam (D) a big defeat as he attempts to push a package of eight gun-control measures, [Laura Vozzella reports](#). “The House has passed all eight of Northam’s bills, but a handful of Democrats in the less liberal Senate have quashed three of them amid fears that the newly empowered party might overplay its hand. The same tension has been playing out on other fronts, with the Senate taking a more cautious approach on issues such as the minimum wage, collective bargaining and state budgeting.”

## **A college accredited by an Education Department-sanctioned group doesn't actually exist.**

“Reagan National University was supposed to be a place of higher learning, but it was unclear how it awarded degrees. By all appearances, at present, it has no students, no faculty and no classrooms. An agency meant to serve as a gatekeeper for federal money gave the university approval to operate anyway,” [USA Today reports](#). The Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges & Schools “exists mainly because it was saved by the Education Department in 2018.”

## **More than 2,000 Justice Department alumni are calling on Bill Barr to resign.**

The nonpartisan group Protect Democracy wrote that “political interference in the conduct of a criminal prosecution is anathema to the Department's core mission and to its sacred obligation to ensure equal justice under the law,” [according to ABC News](#). The former officials also said it is “outrageous” the way Barr interfered in the Roger Stone case. “Although there are times when political leadership appropriately weighs in on individual prosecutions, it is unheard of for the Department's top leaders to overrule line prosecutors, who are following established policies, in order to give preferential treatment to a close associate of the

President, as Attorney General Barr did in the Stone case," they wrote.

## **An association of federal judges called an emergency meeting.**

“Philadelphia U.S. District Judge Cynthia Rufe, who heads the independent Federal Judges Association, said the group ‘could not wait’ until its spring conference to weigh in on a deepening crisis that has enveloped the Justice Department and [Barr],” [USA Today reports](#). Rufe “said the group of more than 1,000 federal jurists called for the meeting last week after Trump criticized prosecutors’ initial sentencing recommendation for Stone and the Department of Justice overruled them.”

## **Peter Navarro – Trump’s top trade adviser – has a side project: Hunting for “Anonymous.”**

“Since at least the time of the impeachment process against Trump, Navarro—whom the president affectionately calls ‘my Peter’—began conducting his own private investigation into the identity of Anonymous,” [reports the Daily Beast](#). “One of those sources described Navarro’s investigative efforts as partially an in-depth analysis of the language and phrases used in Anonymous’ book and other public writings. The process ... mimics forensic linguistic profiling, and the goal is to cross-reference Navarro’s ‘profile’ with a list of potential suspects.”

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## **Quote of the day**

*“In my view, to pursue the right policies for America I was willing to put up with a lot. I’m not asking for martyrdom because of that,” said John Bolton, describing his work for the Trump administration. “I knew – think I knew what I was getting into. I did it for 17 months. I did the best I could. You can judge the results by what the policies are.”* ([The Atlantic](#))

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## **Social media speed read**

After Bloomberg's campaign called Sanders Trump's new "bro," the Vermont senator replied with this picture:





**Bernie Sanders** ✓

@BernieSanders



[twitter.com/sahilkapur/sta...](https://twitter.com/sahilkapur/sta...)



**Sahil Kapur** ✓ @sahilkapur

Mike Bloomberg's campaign manager Kevin Sheekey releases a statement responding to attacks from Sanders.

Subject line: "BERNIE'S NEW BRO... DONALD TRUMP"



### **BERNIE'S NEW BRO... DONALD TRUMP**

**NEW YORK** — In response to the repeated attacks by Bernie Sanders, his spokespeople and supporters, today Mike Bloomberg 2020 responded against baseless charges espoused online, in print, and on TV.

"It's a shameful turn of events to see Bernie

♥ 148K 10:01 PM - Feb 17, 2020



💬 41.1K people are talking about this



**Cher endorsed Joe Biden:**



**Biden offered to meet up in Vegas:**



**Amy Klobuchar played along with an Internet joke about her branding strategy:**



**Amy Klobuchar** ✓  
@amyklobuchar



Busted.... [twitter.com/shanajocrewws/s...](https://twitter.com/shanajocrewws/s...)

**Shana Jo Crews** @ShanaJoCrews

Just realized that @amyklobuchar's campaign colors are the same as Hidden Valley Ranch and now I desperately hope this was all part of her master plan to win the Midwest and unite the country #Election2020



♥ 60.2K 5:07 PM - Feb 17, 2020



🗨 5,524 people are talking about this



**Pete Buttigieg got some sun:**



**Chuck Kennedy** ✓  
@ChuckKennedyDC



The desert sun. Las Vegas, NV on Feb. 16, 2020.



♥ 1,109 7:33 PM - Feb 17, 2020



💬 157 people are talking about this



**A former presidential candidate made dinner for her husband:**



**Douglas Emhoff** ✓

@douglasemhoff



Meanwhile, @KamalaHarris is home for the weekend and... 🍷🔥❤️😊



♥️ 13.2K 8:59 PM - Feb 17, 2020



💬 876 people are talking about this



Barack Obama highlighted the anniversary of the Recovery Act:



**Barack Obama** ✓

@BarackObama



Eleven years ago today, near the bottom of the worst recession in generations, I signed the Recovery Act, paving the way for more than a decade of economic growth and the longest streak of job creation in American history.



613K 3:46 PM - Feb 17, 2020



147K people are talking about this



And his successor seemed to respond:



**Donald J. Trump** ✓ @realDonaldTrump · 7h



Did you hear the latest con job? President Obama is now trying to take credit for the Economic Boom taking place under the Trump Administration. He had the WEAKEST recovery since the Great Depression, despite Zero Fed Rate & MASSIVE quantitative easing. NOW, best jobs numbers....



**Donald J. Trump** ✓

@realDonaldTrump

...ever. Had to rebuild our military, which was totally depleted. Fed Rate UP, taxes and regulations WAY DOWN. If Dems won in 2016, the USA would be in big economic (Depression?) & military trouble right now. THE BEST IS YET TO COME. KEEP AMERICA GREAT!

80.9K 11:40 PM - Feb 17, 2020



31K people are talking about this



Ivanka Trump's trip to the United Arab Emirates over the weekend drew attention to another conflict of interest:



**Anna Massoglia** [@annalecta](#)

Ivanka Trump's United Arab Emirates trip comes days before the 3 year anniversary celebration of Trump's Dubai golf club that opened weeks after President Trump's inauguration & doubled its income his 2nd year in the White House, raking in \$43M+ since 2017  
[crp.org/trfi](http://crp.org/trfi) [twitter.com/ivankatrump/st...](https://twitter.com/ivankatrump/st...)

**World of Influence: A guide to Trump...**  
Two years into his presidency, Donald Trump continues to make money from properties and licensing deals in nearly two  
[opensecrets.org](http://opensecrets.org)

**Ivanka Trump** [@IvankaTrump](#)

Magical evening in Dubai with H.H. Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prime Minister May, David Malpass and Kristalina Georgieva. ✨



1,736 6:48 PM - Feb 17, 2020 · Washington, DC

1,606 people are talking about this

And Stephen Miller, Trump's domestic policy adviser who oversees immigration policy, married Katie Waldman, Vice President Pence's press secretary, at the Trump hotel in D.C. on Sunday. The president attended – as did an Elvis impersonator:



**Katie Rose Miller**  
@katiewaldman



The most perfect day, the most perfect man surrounded with more love than we both could have ever dreamed.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Miller

2.16.20



♥ 8,516 8:07 PM - Feb 17, 2020 · Trump® International Hotel Washington, D.C.



💬 4,489 people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

John Oliver is back, and, in a very timely fashion, he talked about Medicare-for-all:





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**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Conservative intellectuals launch a new group to challenge free-market 'fundamentalism' on the right  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 7:42:35 AM



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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

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By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Conservative intellectuals launch a new group to challenge free-market 'fundamentalism' on the right

Oren Cass believes conservatives have blundered by outsourcing GOP economic policymaking to libertarian “fundamentalists” who see the free market as an end unto itself, rather than as a means for improving quality of life to strengthen families and communities. The former domestic policy director on Mitt Romney’s 2012 presidential campaign quit his job as a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute to launch a new group called

American Compass that aims to reorient the right. He previewed their plans in an exclusive interview on Monday afternoon.

Joining him on the board of directors will be Sen. Marco Rubio's chief of staff Mike Needham, the former chief executive of [Heritage Action for America](#); Julius Krein, the editor of American Affairs, a quarterly political journal; and David Azerrad, a Hillsdale College professor who was formerly a fellow at the Heritage Foundation. Wells King will be the research director. Until last week, the former McKinsey consultant was a policy adviser to Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) on the Joint Economic Committee.

### **Cass compares President Trump to an earthquake.**

Running as a populist, Trump challenged Republican orthodoxy on free trade and tapped into the disaffection of blue-collar workers in the heartland who have been left behind by the growing, but uneven, economy. For the most part, however, he said conservative elites in the think tank world have not followed suit.



President Trump speaks at the White House on Friday. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

“The goal, long term, is to think about what the post-Trump right-of-center is going to be,” said Cass. “One of the reasons we think this is such an important project is that, even four-plus years after Trump emerged on the scene, there really has been very little new and interesting ferment in the right of center. It’s pretty much the same set of institutions and publications and so forth. ... By and large, the establishment is what it was. And it seems to be keeping its head down and sort of hoping that everything can just go back post-Trump to the way that it was pre-Trump. To the extent that the future should sound different, and certainly I think it should, now is the time to start building the institutions and efforts that are going to make that a reality.”

Cass acknowledges the problems animating populism are very real, but he argues that they won’t be solved by the governing ideologies he blames for creating the crisis, nor by the populism itself, “which has demonstrated no ability to formulate or implement a coherent response.”

“An earthquake clears a lot of space for rebuilding, but an earthquake does not rebuild,” Cass explained. “And there are a lot of people who want to rush right back in and build what you already had after the earthquake. But something an earthquake shows you is which of the things that you'd already built were really not built very thoughtfully. It’s important to learn lessons from this disruption that has occurred. It's important to go back to first principles and ask: What do we actually believe and why? What do we care about and why?”

Inside the GOP coalition, Cass argues, traditional economic conservatives ceded economic policy to libertarians as part of a “bargain” to win the Cold War. Ronald Reagan called it a three-legged stool: economic libertarians, social conservatives and national security hawks. Cass believes this “fusionism” worked well – in the past. “When you had a situation where the free market was delivering the social outcomes that conservatives most prized, libertarians and conservatives tended to agree,” he said. “What we've seen more recently is a growing understanding that the market does not necessarily in all cases deliver a set of social outcomes that conservatives prize.”



Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) leaves a luncheon with fellow GOP senators at the Capitol earlier this month. He's retrofitted his approach to economics since losing to Trump in 2016. (Amanda Voisard for The Washington Post)

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Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

## We Can't Afford Medicare for All

A graphic with a blue background on the left and a light blue background on the right. The text on the left reads "WE CAN'T AFFORD A NEW GOVERNMENT HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM". The text on the right reads "DOUBLED INCOME TAXES FOR EVERY FAMILY" and "POLITICIANS IN CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH". There are icons of a pill and a hand holding a pill next to the text. At the bottom right, there is small text: "BUILT OFFERING: 'TRUMP SAVES!' ON MEDICARE FOR ALL," THE NEW YORK TIMES, APRIL 11, 2019. "YOUR NEW BILL WOULD BE THE 'ALL COUNTRY' COMMITTEE FOR A RESPONSIBLE FUTURE, MARCH 2019."

American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

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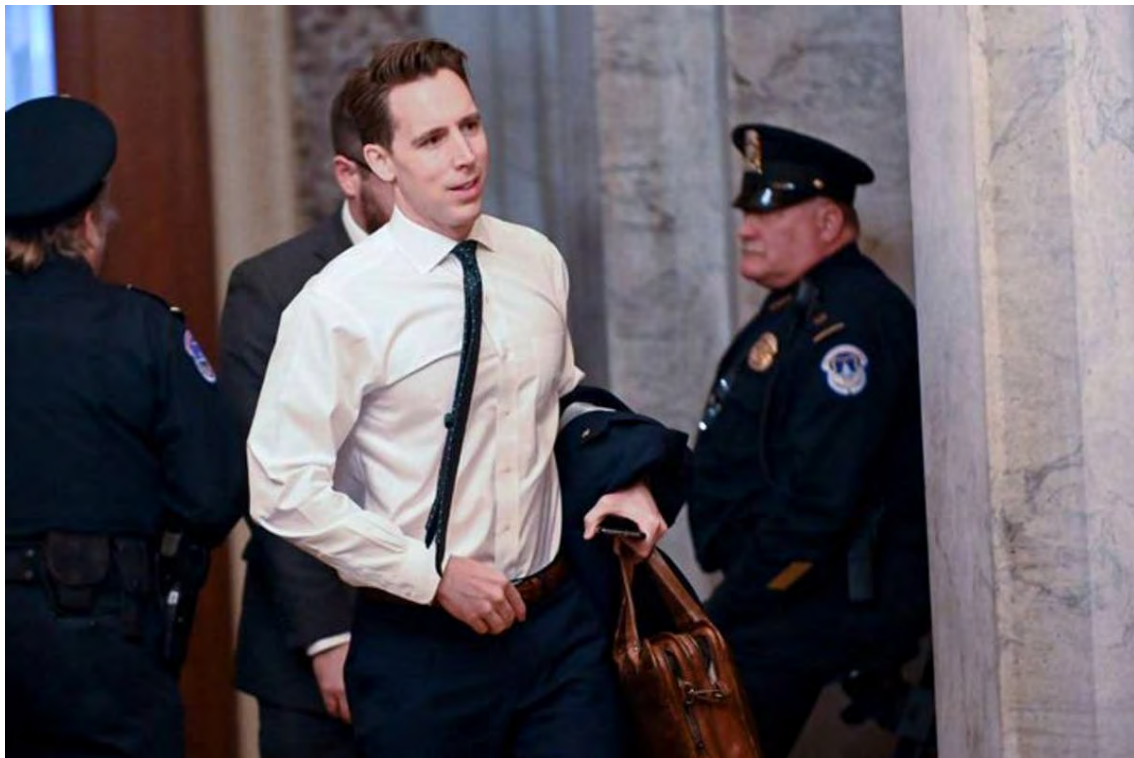
**A society's vitality, of course, cannot be judged solely**

## **by its gross domestic product.**

Markets are good, Cass explained, but life is about so much more than markets. He said American conservatism historically had a richer conception of the role of government beyond maximizing returns, such as strengthening domestic industry. He lamented the growing concentration of wealth, geographically on the coasts and in the big cities, as well as in a handful of industries, which has accelerated income inequality.

“When you zoom out, you can have a rising GDP, but if it's in the context of collapsing families and people no longer getting married and declining fertility rates and so on and so forth, you haven't necessarily enhanced well-being,” said Cass. “Likewise, if you are generating growth by trading off the non-market work that people historically performed within their households for a model where everyone goes to work and then they pay each other for the things they used to do in their own household, that's not great either. Obviously, there are times when disruption, even if unfortunate, is necessary, but it's important to recognize that, alongside the value that the hyper-efficient conglomerate brings, there is also an awful lot of value that the locally-owned small business brings.”

Cass said American Compass will “think differently” about labor vs. capital than Republicans have in recent generations. “A big component of the market fundamentalism – in many cases, held entirely in good faith; in some cases, more as a matter of political convenience – is the argument that whatever policies are best for shareholders in the short run are the best policies and will eventually be good for everyone else also,” he said. “That is something that's not actually part of real economics, and it's certainly not a conservative way of thinking about how a society operates. ... We need to recognize that sometimes we should feel just as comfortable saying, ‘What's good for workers is going to be good for shareholders in the long run.’”



Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) arrives at the Capitol for the impeachment trial last month. (Erin Scott/Reuters)

## Two GOP senators have been championing this sort of an approach.

Freshman Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) has [talked a great deal over the last year](#) about the need for new policies that make it easier for people to stay in their hometowns if they want to, among other things. Rubio, the senior senator from Florida, has [retrofitted his approach](#) to economic policy since losing to Trump in the 2016 primaries. He's [challenged shareholder primacy theory](#) and even [embraced Catholic social doctrine](#) as a way to respond to capitalism's inevitable failures.

“As you look across the Republican conference, you've got Rubio and Hawley who are furthest out in front, but then right behind them is a very interesting group of folks who are really thoughtful and heterodox on these issues,” said Cass. He named Lee as part of that contingent, along with Sens. Tom Cotton (Ark.), Tim Scott (S.C.), [Ben Sasse](#) (Neb.) and [Romney](#) (Utah).

“In terms of how it fits ideologically, I think there are certainly

components of it that sound more Trumpian,” Cass said. “For instance, an actual conservative economics would be much more skeptical of free trade than is libertarian economics. But this is not an effort to codify and carry forward Trumpism.”

Cass, 36, graduated from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the law review, after working as a management consultant at Bain, Romney’s former firm, in the firm’s Boston and New Delhi offices. He emphasized that American Compass, the new initiative, is “not an exercise in starting from scratch.” He said the mission is really about “going back and finding things that always were part of the American tradition that have been important to conservative thinkers, but that seem to have gotten lost in in the more market fundamentalist mode of especially the last 20 to 30 years.”

“I think there is just tremendous intellectual energy ... that's working on and discussing and hashing these things out, but there aren't really any institutional trappings of it yet,” he said. “There is not really even a vocabulary for it. If you said, ‘Who are the people working on this stuff?,’ it's hard to know where to look. We want to provide that base. We'll just be one entity in the flotilla or the armada or the fleet. I don't know the difference between those three things. But hopefully one that has some prominent people on board and can facilitate communication and can bring people together and ... help focus attacks when there are fights to be had.”

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## 2020 watch



Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-Tex.) holds up a border map as he speaks during a meeting with lawmakers on immigration policy at the White House in 2018. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

### **Scoop: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce will endorse Democratic Rep. Henry Cuellar in Texas.**

The seven-term congressman is facing a vigorous challenge on his left from Jessica Cisneros in a March 3 primary. Cisneros, a 26-year-old

immigration attorney, has endorsements from women's groups like EMILY's List, environmental groups like the Sierra Club and national liberal leaders like Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. The U.S. Chamber joins the Koch-backed group Libre Initiative Action, which endorsed Cuellar on Friday.

“At a time when the country continues to be polarized, it's important to elect centrist candidates who aim to find common ground on common sense solutions to better serve Americans and strengthen communities,” said Scott Reed, the U.S. Chamber's chief political strategist. He praised Cuellar for his early work on the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, as well as business-friendly efforts to protect Texas's auto industry from tariffs and fighting for the oil and gas industry. “Cuellar has consistently stepped up to the plate,” said Reed.

Meanwhile, in Massachusetts, Sen. Edward Markey will square off tonight in the first televised debate with his Democratic primary challenger, Rep. Joe Kennedy III. ([Karen Weintraub has a preview.](#))



Mike Bloomberg campaigns last Wednesday in Chattanooga, Tenn. (Doug Strickland/Reuters)

## **Mike Bloomberg has qualified for Wednesday's Democratic debate.**

A new [NPR-PBS-Marist](#) poll showed him in second place with the support of 19 percent of Democratic primary voters nationally, trailing Bernie Sanders at 31 percent. Bloomberg has leapfrogged Joe Biden by spending more than \$300 million on television in states that vote on Super Tuesday and beyond. Biden has fallen to third place with 15 percent, followed by Elizabeth Warren at 12 percent, Amy Klobuchar at 9 percent and Pete Buttigieg at 8 percent. Sanders and Bloomberg are tied at 22 percent in Virginia, [according to a new Monmouth University poll](#) that also came out this morning. Biden comes in third in the commonwealth, pulling in 18 percent.

## **Bloomberg has been preparing for the debate on the assumption he'd qualify.**

“Top Bloomberg lieutenants and policy experts have been preparing him for what would be the most unscripted event yet of his three-month-old campaign,” [Politico reports](#). “Howard Wolfson, the veteran Democratic strategist who joined Bloomberg’s orbit in 2009 after working on Hillary Clinton’s 2008 presidential race, is playing the role of Sanders; Julie Wood, Bloomberg’s national press secretary, is depicting [Warren]; and senior advisers Marc La Vorgna and Marcia Hale are stand-ins for [Buttigieg and Klobuchar], respectively. Wolfson joked that his inspiration for Sanders came from watching ‘Statler and Waldorf,’ the cantankerous elderly Muppets who lob critiques from their balcony seats. Asked about rivals trying to get under Bloomberg’s own skin, he quipped, ‘Haters gonna hate. Bring it on.’

“Bloomberg is trying to hone a crisp and energetic appeal to voters that will contrast with Biden— another white, male septuagenarian on stage, according to advisers. ... Other potential pitfalls for Bloomberg are his tendency to use dated language — words like ‘bawdy,’ for instance — to dismiss concerns about his financial news service’s work culture for female employees. Bloomberg has a history of losing his cool in public. He once grew visibly annoyed at a reporter in a wheelchair who interrupted

his press conference when he dropped a recording device. More recently, he urged a reporter to 'get on with it' when he was pressed about his controversial stop-and-frisk policing tactic. Snapping at other candidates or a moderator could undermine his efforts to convey empathy and contrition."

## **The former New York City mayor is making inroads with black voters who backed Biden.**

"Bloomberg has pummeled the airwaves in South Carolina, Nevada and Super Tuesday states with ads, so much so that a questioner at a Tennessee news conference thanked him for a \$3.5 million buy at his media station before proceeding," [Cleve Wootson, Bob Costa and Michael Scherer report](#). "Biden's unsteady turn — a fourth-place finish in Iowa preceded his decline in New Hampshire — has given an opening to rivals to make their own arguments to black and Latino voters. ... Rosemary Lawrence, a 75-year-old black woman who leads the political ministry at Charlotte's mostly black Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, ... supported Biden when he entered the race in April, laying out the argument for anyone who asked that he was the candidate most likely to defeat Trump. ... 'I love Joe Biden,' she said. ... 'I really wanted to support him, but what I've seen recently is he doesn't seem to be as energized and focused and alert as he was, say, eight years ago even. And now his funding is drying up. The bottom line is I want to find somebody who can beat Donald Trump.' Early voting has already started in North Carolina. Next week, Lawrence plans to cast a ballot for Bloomberg."

To be sure, Bloomberg has his own problems with stop-and-frisk, among other things. "While his crowds, even in southern states, are often affluent and white, he is regularly introduced by black leaders who testify to Bloomberg's understanding of the history of racism in the country and his commitment to nonwhite voters. Bloomberg has been endorsed by more than 100 mayors, many of them black. He has proposed a plan, named 'the Greenwood Initiative' for a black Tulsa community destroyed in a 1921 racial massacre, that sets a goal of helping 1 million black families buy a home, double the number of black-owned businesses and triple the

net worth of a typical black family.”

## **Bloomberg launched his first attack against Sanders. Others followed.**

In a web video, Bloomberg compared Sanders’s campaign tactics to Trump’s. Sanders replied by comparing Bloomberg to Trump. Biden called on Sanders to disavow “Trump-like” attacks by some of his supporters on officials at the Nevada culinary workers union, per [the Times](#). Elizabeth Warren also jumped into the fray, saying Sanders “has a lot of questions to answer” about his supporters’ behavior. “I am particularly worried about what happened in the attacks on members of the culinary union,” Warren said, per [NBC](#). “That is not how we build an inclusive Democratic Party. ... We do not build on a foundation of hate.”

## **Biden's campaign is counting on at least a second-place finish in Nevada.**

“First would be wonderful, but us getting a second place I think does the work that we need to do to win South Carolina,” Biden campaign manager Greg Schultz told supporters on a conference call. “We win South Carolina, we’re going to have ended the first four contests likely with a delegate advantage. ... I think the Democratic Party will sigh a collective sigh of relief when we finish second or better in Nevada.” ([NYT](#))

## **The Afghanistan war shattered Biden’s faith in American military power.**

“Biden talks about America in grand, almost Reaganesque, terms,” [writes Greg Jaffe](#) in the latest installment of our Pursuits series. “But inside the Obama administration Biden was a consistent voice of caution. The mismatch is a product of an approach to foreign policy that is guided largely by impulse and feeling rather than abiding philosophy. And it reflects a decades-long career in which Biden has been all over the map on the biggest questions of war and peace. ... In the 1990s, Biden had made an impassioned argument that U.S. credibility and the country’s moral standing demanded that it use military force to stop a slaughter in the Balkans. In Afghanistan, Biden rejected the notion that America had any

moral obligation to improve the lives of Afghans or prevent civil wars. ‘He had that empathy for the people in the Balkans. He even had it for people in Iraq,’ said a senior Obama administration official... ‘I never saw it in Afghanistan.’”

Speaking of Afghanistan: **Results released today, nearly five months after the election, show that President Ashraf Ghani has won a second term.** “The announcement comes after months of political uncertainty and just days after U.S. and Taliban negotiators announced they had reached a conditional peace deal that could be signed as soon as the end of the month,” Sayed Salahuddin and Sharif Hassan [report](#).



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## The coronavirus



## **The number of coronavirus cases in the U.S. is now 29.**

“Fourteen Americans who tested positive for coronavirus were among the hundreds of U.S. citizens evacuated from a cruise ship off Japan to U.S. facilities over the holiday weekend, the result of a chaotic chain of events that put virus-stricken passengers on flights with other evacuees,” [Anna Fifield, Alex Horton and Abha Bhattarai report](#). “Their return almost doubles the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States ... The 14 U.S. passengers tested positive for the virus after disembarking from the Diamond Princess, a cruise liner carrying 2,666 passengers and 1,045 crew members that had been quarantined for two weeks off the Japanese port of Yokohama. But by the time their test results arrived, they were already on a fleet of buses that took 328 asymptomatic passengers from the ship to two charter planes bound for U.S. military bases in Texas and California ...

"It was a wrench in a coordinated effort. While the buses sat on the tarmac, health experts mulled whether to put the 14 on the flights or divert them to hospitals in Japan ... The planes each included a sealed-off section of 18 seats in the back, and part of the plan was to isolate passengers there if they developed symptoms midflight ... Health authorities deemed the 14 'fit to fly' because they were not showing symptoms, the State Department and the Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement

Monday. They were cordoned off from the other passengers during the flights.” The Diamond Princess quarantine will end as scheduled on Wednesday, Japan’s health minister said today, as 88 more cases were discovered, bringing the total linked to the ship to 542. A total of 35 Filipino crew members on the cruise ship have tested positive for the coronavirus.

### **Apple said the virus will cause it to miss revenue targets.**

Apple warned that “it expects to fall short of revenue goals in the current quarter because of the coronavirus outbreak, underscoring the far-reaching effects of the public health crisis on the global economy,” [Derek Hawkins and Reed Albergotti report](#). “In a [statement](#) to investors, Apple said that while factories in China were reopening, iPhone production in the country was ramping up more slowly than expected. ... Demand for Apple products has also [dampened in China](#), where all the company’s stores and many of its partner stores have shuttered...”

### **The virus killed the director of Wuhan’s main hospital.**

“A respected neurologist who was the director of Wuchang Hospital in Wuhan died Tuesday after contracting the novel coronavirus,” [Anna Fifield and Rick Noack report](#). Liu Zhiming, who was 51, passed away despite a “full effort rescue,” according to a statement from Wuhan’s municipal health commission. Zhiming “became the most prominent victim of the outbreak since another doctor, whistleblower Li Wenliang died Feb. 7, sparking an outpouring of public anger and grief. Liu’s death follows that last week of a nurse, Liu Fan, from the same hospital. A total of eight front-line health care workers have now died, while as many as 3,000 have been infected with the coronavirus. ...

“Officials have been sounding a more upbeat note in recent days about the prospects for containing the virus. But a renowned Chinese pulmonologist who predicted a peak this month clarified his remarks to say that the peak may be followed by a plateau, rather than an outright fall in cases. ... China reported 1,886 new coronavirus cases and 98 more deaths in its



daily update on the outbreak Tuesday, bringing the death toll in mainland China to 1,868, with 72,436 confirmed cases. The overwhelming majority have been in Hubei province.”

## **In China, 200 million kids are back in school – thanks to the Internet.**

“They didn’t stand in front of a flagpole and sing the national anthem. They watched it on screens. In some parts of the country, so many kids were watching at the same time that Internet speeds ground to a halt,” [Fifield reports](#). “One middle school boy, sitting with his computer at his front door in Beijing, was asked what he was studying. He responded: physical education. Chinese authorities have taken extreme measures to try to contain the coronavirus, which has spread nationwide. More than half the country’s 1.4 billion people are now restricted from leaving their homes in some way. Public gatherings are banned, including those in schoolyards.”

## **Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) keeps repeating a debunked conspiracy theory.**

“Cotton referenced a laboratory in the city, the Wuhan National Biosafety Laboratory, in an [interview](#) on Fox News’s ‘Sunday Morning Futures.’ He said the lab was near a market some scientists initially thought was a starting point for the virus’s spread,” [Paulina Firozi reports](#). “‘We don’t know where it originated, and we have to get to the bottom of that,’ Cotton said. ‘We also know that just a few miles away from that food market is China’s only biosafety level 4 super laboratory that researches human infectious diseases.’ Yet Cotton acknowledged there is no evidence that the disease originated at the lab. Instead, he suggested it’s necessary to ask Chinese authorities about the possibility, fanning the embers of a conspiracy theory that has been repeatedly debunked by experts.”

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## **Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



## **A Guatemalan family separated by the Trump administration has now been apart over two years.**

“When her teacher, or her social worker, or her best friend Ashley asks, Adelaida sounds it out — one of the first words she learned in English. “They *separated* us,” [Kevin Sieff reports](#). “Adelaida Reynoso and her mother, María, were among the first migrant families broken up by the Trump administration, on July 31, 2017, long before the government acknowledged it was separating parents and children at the border. They haven’t seen each other since. Adelaida is now 9, a third-grader in southwest Florida, one of the top students in her class, carrying a thick English dictionary in a purple backpack. María, now 31, was deported alone to rural Guatemala. She has met with lawyers and smugglers and priests about reuniting with her daughter. Nothing has worked.”

## **The administration will waive federal contracting laws to speed border wall construction.**

The Department of Homeland Security said waiving 10 regulations would allow for 177 miles of wall to be built quickly in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. ([AP](#))

## **The Boy Scouts of America filed for bankruptcy, facing a wave of lawsuits over allegations of sexual abuse.**

“The long-anticipated Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing will allow the Boy Scouts to keep operating as it reorganizes its finances and handles claims from hundreds of potential victims,” [Samantha Schmidt reports](#). “It will also give alleged victims a limited amount of time to come forward before being barred indefinitely from seeking compensation. ... Lawyers throughout the country have begun representing hundreds of clients and have filed lawsuits in states such as New York and Pennsylvania. ‘In a way, this is an acknowledgment finally on the part of the Boy Scouts that they had this enormous problem and the problem is so large that they can’t deal with it themselves,’ said Michael Pfau, a lawyer who said he represents about 300 victims. ...

“A key question will be whether the Boy Scouts of America will be able to protect the assets of the local councils, which own camps and properties in prime real estate throughout the country. The local councils are incorporated separately but hold 70 percent of the Boy Scouts’ wealth, [\[per the WSJ\]](#). ... Many of these institutions could be implicated in the claims, making for an even more complicated bankruptcy case, said Pfau.”

### **Cardinal McCarrick quietly gave nearly \$1 million to a group led by a cleric accused of sexual misconduct.**

“From 2004 to 2017, [Theodore] McCarrick sent the Institute of the Incarnate Word dozens of checks — some as large as \$50,000 — from a charitable account he controlled at the Archdiocese of Washington,” [according to ledgers obtained by Shawn Boburg and Robert O’Harrow Jr.](#) “During those years, Carlos Buela, who founded the group decades ago in Argentina, repeatedly defied Vatican sanctions for alleged sexual misconduct with seminarians, according to a confidential Vatican order. ... Six current and former members of Incarnate Word said McCarrick was celebrated internally for using his influence to protect the group. They said multiple members had warned church officials about alleged sexual encounters between Buela and seminarians. They also complained to church officials that institute leaders stifled internal criticism and punished dissenters.”

## **The EPA is about to change a rule cutting mercury pollution. The industry doesn't even want it.**

“Exelon, one of the nation’s largest utilities, told the EPA that its effort to change a rule that has cut emissions of mercury and other toxins is ‘an action that is entirely unnecessary, unreasonable, and universally opposed by the power generation sector,’” [Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis report](#). “Despite a chorus of opposition from unions, business groups and electric utilities, the EPA is on the verge of finalizing its proposal as part of a broader effort to overhaul how the government calculates the health benefits of cleaner air. The agency plans to declare that it is not ‘appropriate and necessary’ for the government to limit harmful pollutants from power plants, even though every utility in America has complied with standards put in place in 2011 ...

“While it will technically keep existing restrictions on mercury in place, it means the government would not be able to count collateral benefits — such as reducing soot and smog — when it sets limits on toxic air pollutants. It’s a rollback that industry officials argue could open the door to new legal fights, prompt some plants to turn off their pollution controls and ultimately sicken more Americans — all so that the administration can rewire how the government weighs the costs of regulation. The changes could give a boost to struggling coal companies, while hamstringing future efforts to limit mercury emissions from the nation’s power plants. The rule in question, known as the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS), targets a powerful neurotoxin that can affect the IQ and motor skills of children, even in utero. Between 2006, when states began to curb mercury from coal plants, and 2016, when the Obama-era rule took full effect, emissions have declined 85 percent.”

## **Jeff Bezos will give \$10 billion to fight climate change.**

Through the Bezos Earth Fund, the Amazon founder and Washington Post owner will “provide \$10 billion in grants to scientists and activists to fund their efforts to fight climate change,” [Kimberly Kindy reports](#). “[Bezos] said the grants, which will be issued this summer, will go to individuals and organizations from around the globe, adding that the effort will ‘take

collective action from big companies, small companies, nation states, global organizations, and individuals.”

## **The Virginia ban on assault weapons sales didn't make it through a state Senate committee.**

The failed vote handed Gov. Ralph Northam (D) a big defeat as he attempts to push a package of eight gun-control measures, [Laura Vozzella reports](#). “The House has passed all eight of Northam’s bills, but a handful of Democrats in the less liberal Senate have quashed three of them amid fears that the newly empowered party might overplay its hand. The same tension has been playing out on other fronts, with the Senate taking a more cautious approach on issues such as the minimum wage, collective bargaining and state budgeting.”

## **A college accredited by an Education Department-sanctioned group doesn't actually exist.**

“Reagan National University was supposed to be a place of higher learning, but it was unclear how it awarded degrees. By all appearances, at present, it has no students, no faculty and no classrooms. An agency meant to serve as a gatekeeper for federal money gave the university approval to operate anyway,” [USA Today reports](#). The Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges & Schools “exists mainly because it was saved by the Education Department in 2018.”

## **More than 2,000 Justice Department alumni are calling on Bill Barr to resign.**

The nonpartisan group Protect Democracy wrote that “political interference in the conduct of a criminal prosecution is anathema to the Department's core mission and to its sacred obligation to ensure equal justice under the law,” [according to ABC News](#). The former officials also said it is “outrageous” the way Barr interfered in the Roger Stone case. “Although there are times when political leadership appropriately weighs in on individual prosecutions, it is unheard of for the Department's top leaders to overrule line prosecutors, who are following established policies, in order to give preferential treatment to a close associate of the

President, as Attorney General Barr did in the Stone case," they wrote.

## **An association of federal judges called an emergency meeting.**

“Philadelphia U.S. District Judge Cynthia Rufe, who heads the independent Federal Judges Association, said the group ‘could not wait’ until its spring conference to weigh in on a deepening crisis that has enveloped the Justice Department and [Barr],” [USA Today reports](#). Rufe “said the group of more than 1,000 federal jurists called for the meeting last week after Trump criticized prosecutors’ initial sentencing recommendation for Stone and the Department of Justice overruled them.”

## **Peter Navarro – Trump’s top trade adviser – has a side project: Hunting for “Anonymous.”**

“Since at least the time of the impeachment process against Trump, Navarro—whom the president affectionately calls ‘my Peter’—began conducting his own private investigation into the identity of Anonymous,” [reports the Daily Beast](#). “One of those sources described Navarro’s investigative efforts as partially an in-depth analysis of the language and phrases used in Anonymous’ book and other public writings. The process ... mimics forensic linguistic profiling, and the goal is to cross-reference Navarro’s ‘profile’ with a list of potential suspects.”

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## **Quote of the day**

*“In my view, to pursue the right policies for America I was willing to put up with a lot. I’m not asking for martyrdom because of that,” said John Bolton, describing his work for the Trump administration. “I knew – think I knew what I was getting into. I did it for 17 months. I did the best I could. You can judge the results by what the policies are.”* ([The Atlantic](#))

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## **Social media speed read**

After Bloomberg's campaign called Sanders Trump's new "bro," the Vermont senator replied with this picture:



**Bernie Sanders** ✓

@BernieSanders



[twitter.com/sahilkapur/sta...](https://twitter.com/sahilkapur/sta...)



**Sahil Kapur** ✓ @sahilkapur

Mike Bloomberg's campaign manager Kevin Sheekey releases a statement responding to attacks from Sanders.

Subject line: "BERNIE'S NEW BRO... DONALD TRUMP"



### **BERNIE'S NEW BRO... DONALD TRUMP**

**NEW YORK** — In response to the repeated attacks by Bernie Sanders, his spokespeople and supporters, today Mike Bloomberg 2020 responded against baseless charges espoused online, in print, and on TV.

"It's a shameful turn of events to see Bernie

♥ 148K 10:01 PM - Feb 17, 2020



💬 41.1K people are talking about this





**Cher endorsed Joe Biden:**



**Biden offered to meet up in Vegas:**



**Amy Klobuchar played along with an Internet joke about her branding strategy:**



**Amy Klobuchar** ✓

@amyklobuchar



Busted.... [twitter.com/shanajocrewws/s...](https://twitter.com/shanajocrewws/s...)

**Shana Jo Crews** @ShanaJoCrews

Just realized that @amyklobuchar's campaign colors are the same as Hidden Valley Ranch and now I desperately hope this was all part of her master plan to win the Midwest and unite the country #Election2020



♥ 60.2K 5:07 PM - Feb 17, 2020



🗨 5,524 people are talking about this



**Pete Buttigieg got some sun:**



**Chuck Kennedy** ✓

@ChuckKennedyDC



The desert sun. Las Vegas, NV on Feb. 16, 2020.



♥ 1,109 7:33 PM - Feb 17, 2020



💬 157 people are talking about this



**A former presidential candidate made dinner for her husband:**



**Douglas Emhoff** ✓

@douglasemhoff



Meanwhile, @KamalaHarris is home for the weekend and... 🍷🔥❤️😊



♥️ 13.2K 8:59 PM - Feb 17, 2020



💬 876 people are talking about this



Barack Obama highlighted the anniversary of the Recovery Act:



**Barack Obama** ✓

@BarackObama



Eleven years ago today, near the bottom of the worst recession in generations, I signed the Recovery Act, paving the way for more than a decade of economic growth and the longest streak of job creation in American history.



613K 3:46 PM - Feb 17, 2020



147K people are talking about this



And his successor seemed to respond:



**Donald J. Trump** ✓ @realDonaldTrump · 7h



Did you hear the latest con job? President Obama is now trying to take credit for the Economic Boom taking place under the Trump Administration. He had the WEAKEST recovery since the Great Depression, despite Zero Fed Rate & MASSIVE quantitative easing. NOW, best jobs numbers....



**Donald J. Trump** ✓

@realDonaldTrump

...ever. Had to rebuild our military, which was totally depleted. Fed Rate UP, taxes and regulations WAY DOWN. If Dems won in 2016, the USA would be in big economic (Depression?) & military trouble right now. THE BEST IS YET TO COME. KEEP AMERICA GREAT!

80.9K 11:40 PM - Feb 17, 2020



31K people are talking about this



Ivanka Trump's trip to the United Arab Emirates over the weekend drew attention to another conflict of interest:



**Anna Massoglia**  [@annalecta](#)

Ivanka Trump's United Arab Emirates trip comes days before the 3 year anniversary celebration of Trump's Dubai golf club that opened weeks after President Trump's inauguration & doubled its income his 2nd year in the White House, raking in \$43M+ since 2017 [crp.org/trfi](http://crp.org/trfi) [twitter.com/ivankatrump/st...](https://twitter.com/ivankatrump/st...)

**World of Influence: A guide to Trump...**  
Two years into his presidency, Donald Trump continues to make money from properties and licensing deals in nearly two [opensecrets.org](http://opensecrets.org)

**Ivanka Trump**  [@IvankaTrump](#)

Magical evening in Dubai with H.H. Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prime Minister May, David Malpass and Kristalina Georgieva. ✨



♥ 1,736 6:48 PM - Feb 17, 2020 · Washington, DC 

💬 1,606 people are talking about this 

And Stephen Miller, Trump's domestic policy adviser who oversees immigration policy, married Katie Waldman, Vice President Pence's press secretary, at the Trump hotel in D.C. on Sunday. The president attended – as did an Elvis impersonator:



**Katie Rose Miller**

@katiewaldman



The most perfect day, the most perfect man surrounded with more love than we both could have ever dreamed.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Miller

2.16.20



♥ 8,516 8:07 PM - Feb 17, 2020 · Trump® International Hotel Washington, D.C.



💬 4,489 people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

John Oliver is back, and, in a very timely fashion, he talked about Medicare-for-all:



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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
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## Conservative intellectuals launch a new group to challenge free-market 'fundamentalism' on the right

Oren Cass believes conservatives have blundered by outsourcing GOP economic policymaking to libertarian "fundamentalists" who see the free market as an end unto itself, rather than as a means for improving quality of life to strengthen families and communities. The former domestic policy director on Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign quit his job as a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute to launch a new group called

American Compass that aims to reorient the right. He previewed their plans in an exclusive interview on Monday afternoon.

Joining him on the board of directors will be Sen. Marco Rubio's chief of staff Mike Needham, the former chief executive of [Heritage Action for America](#); Julius Krein, the editor of American Affairs, a quarterly political journal; and David Azerrad, a Hillsdale College professor who was formerly a fellow at the Heritage Foundation. Wells King will be the research director. Until last week, the former McKinsey consultant was a policy adviser to Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) on the Joint Economic Committee.

### **Cass compares President Trump to an earthquake.**

Running as a populist, Trump challenged Republican orthodoxy on free trade and tapped into the disaffection of blue-collar workers in the heartland who have been left behind by the growing, but uneven, economy. For the most part, however, he said conservative elites in the think tank world have not followed suit.



President Trump speaks at the White House on Friday. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

“The goal, long term, is to think about what the post-Trump right-of-center is going to be,” said Cass. “One of the reasons we think this is such an important project is that, even four-plus years after Trump emerged on the scene, there really has been very little new and interesting ferment in the right of center. It’s pretty much the same set of institutions and publications and so forth. ... By and large, the establishment is what it was. And it seems to be keeping its head down and sort of hoping that everything can just go back post-Trump to the way that it was pre-Trump. To the extent that the future should sound different, and certainly I think it should, now is the time to start building the institutions and efforts that are going to make that a reality.”

Cass acknowledges the problems animating populism are very real, but he argues that they won’t be solved by the governing ideologies he blames for creating the crisis, nor by the populism itself, “which has demonstrated no ability to formulate or implement a coherent response.”

“An earthquake clears a lot of space for rebuilding, but an earthquake does not rebuild,” Cass explained. “And there are a lot of people who want to rush right back in and build what you already had after the earthquake. But something an earthquake shows you is which of the things that you'd already built were really not built very thoughtfully. It’s important to learn lessons from this disruption that has occurred. It's important to go back to first principles and ask: What do we actually believe and why? What do we care about and why?”

Inside the GOP coalition, Cass argues, traditional economic conservatives ceded economic policy to libertarians as part of a “bargain” to win the Cold War. Ronald Reagan called it a three-legged stool: economic libertarians, social conservatives and national security hawks. Cass believes this “fusionism” worked well – in the past. “When you had a situation where the free market was delivering the social outcomes that conservatives most prized, libertarians and conservatives tended to agree,” he said. “What we've seen more recently is a growing understanding that the market does not necessarily in all cases deliver a set of social outcomes that conservatives prize.”



Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) leaves a luncheon with fellow GOP senators at the Capitol earlier this month. He's retrofitted his approach to economics since losing to Trump in 2016. (Amanda Voisard for The Washington Post)

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Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

## We Can't Afford Medicare for All

A graphic with a blue background on the left and a light blue background on the right. The text on the left reads "WE CAN'T AFFORD A NEW GOVERNMENT HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM". The text on the right reads "DOUBLED INCOME TAXES FOR EVERY FAMILY" and "POLITICIANS IN CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH". There are icons of a pill and a hand holding a pill next to the text. At the bottom right, there is small text: "BUILT OFFERING: 'TRUMP SAVES!' ON MEDICARE FOR ALL," THE NEW YORK TIMES, APRIL 11, 2019. "YOUR NEW BILL WOULD BE THE 'ALL COUNTRY' COMMITTEE FOR A RESPONSIBLE FUTURE, MARCH 2019."

American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

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**A society's vitality, of course, cannot be judged solely**

## **by its gross domestic product.**

Markets are good, Cass explained, but life is about so much more than markets. He said American conservatism historically had a richer conception of the role of government beyond maximizing returns, such as strengthening domestic industry. He lamented the growing concentration of wealth, geographically on the coasts and in the big cities, as well as in a handful of industries, which has accelerated income inequality.

“When you zoom out, you can have a rising GDP, but if it's in the context of collapsing families and people no longer getting married and declining fertility rates and so on and so forth, you haven't necessarily enhanced well-being,” said Cass. “Likewise, if you are generating growth by trading off the non-market work that people historically performed within their households for a model where everyone goes to work and then they pay each other for the things they used to do in their own household, that's not great either. Obviously, there are times when disruption, even if unfortunate, is necessary, but it's important to recognize that, alongside the value that the hyper-efficient conglomerate brings, there is also an awful lot of value that the locally-owned small business brings.”

Cass said American Compass will “think differently” about labor vs. capital than Republicans have in recent generations. “A big component of the market fundamentalism – in many cases, held entirely in good faith; in some cases, more as a matter of political convenience – is the argument that whatever policies are best for shareholders in the short run are the best policies and will eventually be good for everyone else also,” he said. “That is something that's not actually part of real economics, and it's certainly not a conservative way of thinking about how a society operates. ... We need to recognize that sometimes we should feel just as comfortable saying, ‘What's good for workers is going to be good for shareholders in the long run.’”



Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) arrives at the Capitol for the impeachment trial last month. (Erin Scott/Reuters)

## Two GOP senators have been championing this sort of an approach.

Freshman Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) has [talked a great deal over the last year](#) about the need for new policies that make it easier for people to stay in their hometowns if they want to, among other things. Rubio, the senior senator from Florida, has [retrofitted his approach](#) to economic policy since losing to Trump in the 2016 primaries. He's [challenged shareholder primacy theory](#) and even [embraced Catholic social doctrine](#) as a way to respond to capitalism's inevitable failures.

“As you look across the Republican conference, you've got Rubio and Hawley who are furthest out in front, but then right behind them is a very interesting group of folks who are really thoughtful and heterodox on these issues,” said Cass. He named Lee as part of that contingent, along with Sens. Tom Cotton (Ark.), Tim Scott (S.C.), [Ben Sasse](#) (Neb.) and [Romney](#) (Utah).

“In terms of how it fits ideologically, I think there are certainly

components of it that sound more Trumpian,” Cass said. “For instance, an actual conservative economics would be much more skeptical of free trade than is libertarian economics. But this is not an effort to codify and carry forward Trumpism.”

Cass, 36, graduated from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the law review, after working as a management consultant at Bain, Romney’s former firm, in the firm’s Boston and New Delhi offices. He emphasized that American Compass, the new initiative, is “not an exercise in starting from scratch.” He said the mission is really about “going back and finding things that always were part of the American tradition that have been important to conservative thinkers, but that seem to have gotten lost in in the more market fundamentalist mode of especially the last 20 to 30 years.”

“I think there is just tremendous intellectual energy ... that's working on and discussing and hashing these things out, but there aren't really any institutional trappings of it yet,” he said. “There is not really even a vocabulary for it. If you said, ‘Who are the people working on this stuff?,’ it's hard to know where to look. We want to provide that base. We'll just be one entity in the flotilla or the armada or the fleet. I don't know the difference between those three things. But hopefully one that has some prominent people on board and can facilitate communication and can bring people together and ... help focus attacks when there are fights to be had.”

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## 2020 watch



Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-Tex.) holds up a border map as he speaks during a meeting with lawmakers on immigration policy at the White House in 2018. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

### **Scoop: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce will endorse Democratic Rep. Henry Cuellar in Texas.**

The seven-term congressman is facing a vigorous challenge on his left from Jessica Cisneros in a March 3 primary. Cisneros, a 26-year-old



immigration attorney, has endorsements from women’s groups like EMILY’s List, environmental groups like the Sierra Club and national liberal leaders like Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. The U.S. Chamber joins the Koch-backed group Libre Initiative Action, which endorsed Cuellar on Friday.

“At a time when the country continues to be polarized, it’s important to elect centrist candidates who aim to find common ground on common sense solutions to better serve Americans and strengthen communities,” said Scott Reed, the U.S. Chamber’s chief political strategist. He praised Cuellar for his early work on the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, as well as business-friendly efforts to protect Texas’s auto industry from tariffs and fighting for the oil and gas industry. “Cuellar has consistently stepped up to the plate,” said Reed.

Meanwhile, in Massachusetts, Sen. Edward Markey will square off tonight in the first televised debate with his Democratic primary challenger, Rep. Joe Kennedy III. ([Karen Weintraub has a preview.](#))



Mike Bloomberg campaigns last Wednesday in Chattanooga, Tenn. (Doug Strickland/Reuters)

## **Mike Bloomberg has qualified for Wednesday's Democratic debate.**

A new [NPR-PBS-Marist](#) poll showed him in second place with the support of 19 percent of Democratic primary voters nationally, trailing Bernie Sanders at 31 percent. Bloomberg has leapfrogged Joe Biden by spending more than \$300 million on television in states that vote on Super Tuesday and beyond. Biden has fallen to third place with 15 percent, followed by Elizabeth Warren at 12 percent, Amy Klobuchar at 9 percent and Pete Buttigieg at 8 percent. Sanders and Bloomberg are tied at 22 percent in Virginia, [according to a new Monmouth University poll](#) that also came out this morning. Biden comes in third in the commonwealth, pulling in 18 percent.

## **Bloomberg has been preparing for the debate on the assumption he'd qualify.**

“Top Bloomberg lieutenants and policy experts have been preparing him for what would be the most unscripted event yet of his three-month-old campaign,” [Politico reports](#). “Howard Wolfson, the veteran Democratic strategist who joined Bloomberg’s orbit in 2009 after working on Hillary Clinton’s 2008 presidential race, is playing the role of Sanders; Julie Wood, Bloomberg’s national press secretary, is depicting [Warren]; and senior advisers Marc La Vorgna and Marcia Hale are stand-ins for [Buttigieg and Klobuchar], respectively. Wolfson joked that his inspiration for Sanders came from watching ‘Statler and Waldorf,’ the cantankerous elderly Muppets who lob critiques from their balcony seats. Asked about rivals trying to get under Bloomberg’s own skin, he quipped, ‘Haters gonna hate. Bring it on.’”

“Bloomberg is trying to hone a crisp and energetic appeal to voters that will contrast with Biden— another white, male septuagenarian on stage, according to advisers. ... Other potential pitfalls for Bloomberg are his tendency to use dated language — words like ‘bawdy,’ for instance — to dismiss concerns about his financial news service’s work culture for female employees. Bloomberg has a history of losing his cool in public. He once grew visibly annoyed at a reporter in a wheelchair who interrupted

his press conference when he dropped a recording device. More recently, he urged a reporter to 'get on with it' when he was pressed about his controversial stop-and-frisk policing tactic. Snapping at other candidates or a moderator could undermine his efforts to convey empathy and contrition."

## **The former New York City mayor is making inroads with black voters who backed Biden.**

"Bloomberg has pummeled the airwaves in South Carolina, Nevada and Super Tuesday states with ads, so much so that a questioner at a Tennessee news conference thanked him for a \$3.5 million buy at his media station before proceeding," [Cleve Wootson, Bob Costa and Michael Scherer report](#). "Biden's unsteady turn — a fourth-place finish in Iowa preceded his decline in New Hampshire — has given an opening to rivals to make their own arguments to black and Latino voters. ... Rosemary Lawrence, a 75-year-old black woman who leads the political ministry at Charlotte's mostly black Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, ... supported Biden when he entered the race in April, laying out the argument for anyone who asked that he was the candidate most likely to defeat Trump. ... 'I love Joe Biden,' she said. ... 'I really wanted to support him, but what I've seen recently is he doesn't seem to be as energized and focused and alert as he was, say, eight years ago even. And now his funding is drying up. The bottom line is I want to find somebody who can beat Donald Trump.' Early voting has already started in North Carolina. Next week, Lawrence plans to cast a ballot for Bloomberg."

To be sure, Bloomberg has his own problems with stop-and-frisk, among other things. "While his crowds, even in southern states, are often affluent and white, he is regularly introduced by black leaders who testify to Bloomberg's understanding of the history of racism in the country and his commitment to nonwhite voters. Bloomberg has been endorsed by more than 100 mayors, many of them black. He has proposed a plan, named 'the Greenwood Initiative' for a black Tulsa community destroyed in a 1921 racial massacre, that sets a goal of helping 1 million black families buy a home, double the number of black-owned businesses and triple the

net worth of a typical black family.”

## **Bloomberg launched his first attack against Sanders. Others followed.**

In a web video, Bloomberg compared Sanders’s campaign tactics to Trump’s. Sanders replied by comparing Bloomberg to Trump. Biden called on Sanders to disavow “Trump-like” attacks by some of his supporters on officials at the Nevada culinary workers union, per [the Times](#). Elizabeth Warren also jumped into the fray, saying Sanders “has a lot of questions to answer” about his supporters’ behavior. “I am particularly worried about what happened in the attacks on members of the culinary union,” Warren said, per [NBC](#). “That is not how we build an inclusive Democratic Party. ... We do not build on a foundation of hate.”

## **Biden's campaign is counting on at least a second-place finish in Nevada.**

“First would be wonderful, but us getting a second place I think does the work that we need to do to win South Carolina,” Biden campaign manager Greg Schultz told supporters on a conference call. “We win South Carolina, we’re going to have ended the first four contests likely with a delegate advantage. ... I think the Democratic Party will sigh a collective sigh of relief when we finish second or better in Nevada.” ([NYT](#))

## **The Afghanistan war shattered Biden’s faith in American military power.**

“Biden talks about America in grand, almost Reaganesque, terms,” [writes Greg Jaffe](#) in the latest installment of our Pursuits series. “But inside the Obama administration Biden was a consistent voice of caution. The mismatch is a product of an approach to foreign policy that is guided largely by impulse and feeling rather than abiding philosophy. And it reflects a decades-long career in which Biden has been all over the map on the biggest questions of war and peace. ... In the 1990s, Biden had made an impassioned argument that U.S. credibility and the country’s moral standing demanded that it use military force to stop a slaughter in the Balkans. In Afghanistan, Biden rejected the notion that America had any

moral obligation to improve the lives of Afghans or prevent civil wars. ‘He had that empathy for the people in the Balkans. He even had it for people in Iraq,’ said a senior Obama administration official... ‘I never saw it in Afghanistan.’”

Speaking of Afghanistan: **Results released today, nearly five months after the election, show that President Ashraf Ghani has won a second term.** “The announcement comes after months of political uncertainty and just days after U.S. and Taliban negotiators announced they had reached a conditional peace deal that could be signed as soon as the end of the month,” Sayed Salahuddin and Sharif Hassan [report](#).



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## The coronavirus



## **The number of coronavirus cases in the U.S. is now 29.**

“Fourteen Americans who tested positive for coronavirus were among the hundreds of U.S. citizens evacuated from a cruise ship off Japan to U.S. facilities over the holiday weekend, the result of a chaotic chain of events that put virus-stricken passengers on flights with other evacuees,” [Anna Fifield, Alex Horton and Abha Bhattacharai report](#). “Their return almost doubles the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States ... The 14 U.S. passengers tested positive for the virus after disembarking from the Diamond Princess, a cruise liner carrying 2,666 passengers and 1,045 crew members that had been quarantined for two weeks off the Japanese port of Yokohama. But by the time their test results arrived, they were already on a fleet of buses that took 328 asymptomatic passengers from the ship to two charter planes bound for U.S. military bases in Texas and California ...

"It was a wrench in a coordinated effort. While the buses sat on the tarmac, health experts mulled whether to put the 14 on the flights or divert them to hospitals in Japan ... The planes each included a sealed-off section of 18 seats in the back, and part of the plan was to isolate passengers there if they developed symptoms midflight ... Health authorities deemed the 14 'fit to fly' because they were not showing symptoms, the State Department and the Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement

Monday. They were cordoned off from the other passengers during the flights.” The Diamond Princess quarantine will end as scheduled on Wednesday, Japan’s health minister said today, as 88 more cases were discovered, bringing the total linked to the ship to 542. A total of 35 Filipino crew members on the cruise ship have tested positive for the coronavirus.

### **Apple said the virus will cause it to miss revenue targets.**

Apple warned that “it expects to fall short of revenue goals in the current quarter because of the coronavirus outbreak, underscoring the far-reaching effects of the public health crisis on the global economy,” [Derek Hawkins and Reed Albergotti report](#). “In a [statement](#) to investors, Apple said that while factories in China were reopening, iPhone production in the country was ramping up more slowly than expected. ... Demand for Apple products has also [dampened in China](#), where all the company’s stores and many of its partner stores have shuttered...”

### **The virus killed the director of Wuhan’s main hospital.**

“A respected neurologist who was the director of Wuchang Hospital in Wuhan died Tuesday after contracting the novel coronavirus,” [Anna Fifield and Rick Noack report](#). Liu Zhiming, who was 51, passed away despite a “full effort rescue,” according to a statement from Wuhan’s municipal health commission. Zhiming “became the most prominent victim of the outbreak since another doctor, whistleblower Li Wenliang died Feb. 7, sparking an outpouring of public anger and grief. Liu’s death follows that last week of a nurse, Liu Fan, from the same hospital. A total of eight front-line health care workers have now died, while as many as 3,000 have been infected with the coronavirus. ...

“Officials have been sounding a more upbeat note in recent days about the prospects for containing the virus. But a renowned Chinese pulmonologist who predicted a peak this month clarified his remarks to say that the peak may be followed by a plateau, rather than an outright fall in cases. ... China reported 1,886 new coronavirus cases and 98 more deaths in its

daily update on the outbreak Tuesday, bringing the death toll in mainland China to 1,868, with 72,436 confirmed cases. The overwhelming majority have been in Hubei province.”

## **In China, 200 million kids are back in school – thanks to the Internet.**

“They didn’t stand in front of a flagpole and sing the national anthem. They watched it on screens. In some parts of the country, so many kids were watching at the same time that Internet speeds ground to a halt,” [Fifield reports](#). “One middle school boy, sitting with his computer at his front door in Beijing, was asked what he was studying. He responded: physical education. Chinese authorities have taken extreme measures to try to contain the coronavirus, which has spread nationwide. More than half the country’s 1.4 billion people are now restricted from leaving their homes in some way. Public gatherings are banned, including those in schoolyards.”

## **Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) keeps repeating a debunked conspiracy theory.**

“Cotton referenced a laboratory in the city, the Wuhan National Biosafety Laboratory, in an [interview](#) on Fox News’s ‘Sunday Morning Futures.’ He said the lab was near a market some scientists initially thought was a starting point for the virus’s spread,” [Paulina Firozi reports](#). “‘We don’t know where it originated, and we have to get to the bottom of that,’ Cotton said. ‘We also know that just a few miles away from that food market is China’s only biosafety level 4 super laboratory that researches human infectious diseases.’ Yet Cotton acknowledged there is no evidence that the disease originated at the lab. Instead, he suggested it’s necessary to ask Chinese authorities about the possibility, fanning the embers of a conspiracy theory that has been repeatedly debunked by experts.”

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## **Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked**





## **A Guatemalan family separated by the Trump administration has now been apart over two years.**

“When her teacher, or her social worker, or her best friend Ashley asks, Adelaida sounds it out — one of the first words she learned in English. “They *separated* us,” [Kevin Sieff reports](#). “Adelaida Reynoso and her mother, María, were among the first migrant families broken up by the Trump administration, on July 31, 2017, long before the government acknowledged it was separating parents and children at the border. They haven’t seen each other since. Adelaida is now 9, a third-grader in southwest Florida, one of the top students in her class, carrying a thick English dictionary in a purple backpack. María, now 31, was deported alone to rural Guatemala. She has met with lawyers and smugglers and priests about reuniting with her daughter. Nothing has worked.”

## **The administration will waive federal contracting laws to speed border wall construction.**

The Department of Homeland Security said waiving 10 regulations would allow for 177 miles of wall to be built quickly in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. ([AP](#))

## **The Boy Scouts of America filed for bankruptcy, facing a wave of lawsuits over allegations of sexual abuse.**

“The long-anticipated Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing will allow the Boy Scouts to keep operating as it reorganizes its finances and handles claims from hundreds of potential victims,” [Samantha Schmidt reports](#). “It will also give alleged victims a limited amount of time to come forward before being barred indefinitely from seeking compensation. ... Lawyers throughout the country have begun representing hundreds of clients and have filed lawsuits in states such as New York and Pennsylvania. ‘In a way, this is an acknowledgment finally on the part of the Boy Scouts that they had this enormous problem and the problem is so large that they can’t deal with it themselves,’ said Michael Pfau, a lawyer who said he represents about 300 victims. ...

“A key question will be whether the Boy Scouts of America will be able to protect the assets of the local councils, which own camps and properties in prime real estate throughout the country. The local councils are incorporated separately but hold 70 percent of the Boy Scouts’ wealth, [\[per the WSJ\]](#). ... Many of these institutions could be implicated in the claims, making for an even more complicated bankruptcy case, said Pfau.”

### **Cardinal McCarrick quietly gave nearly \$1 million to a group led by a cleric accused of sexual misconduct.**

“From 2004 to 2017, [Theodore] McCarrick sent the Institute of the Incarnate Word dozens of checks — some as large as \$50,000 — from a charitable account he controlled at the Archdiocese of Washington,” [according to ledgers obtained by Shawn Boburg and Robert O’Harrow Jr.](#) “During those years, Carlos Buela, who founded the group decades ago in Argentina, repeatedly defied Vatican sanctions for alleged sexual misconduct with seminarians, according to a confidential Vatican order. ... Six current and former members of Incarnate Word said McCarrick was celebrated internally for using his influence to protect the group. They said multiple members had warned church officials about alleged sexual encounters between Buela and seminarians. They also complained to church officials that institute leaders stifled internal criticism and punished dissenters.”

## **The EPA is about to change a rule cutting mercury pollution. The industry doesn't even want it.**

“Exelon, one of the nation’s largest utilities, told the EPA that its effort to change a rule that has cut emissions of mercury and other toxins is ‘an action that is entirely unnecessary, unreasonable, and universally opposed by the power generation sector,’” [Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis report](#). “Despite a chorus of opposition from unions, business groups and electric utilities, the EPA is on the verge of finalizing its proposal as part of a broader effort to overhaul how the government calculates the health benefits of cleaner air. The agency plans to declare that it is not ‘appropriate and necessary’ for the government to limit harmful pollutants from power plants, even though every utility in America has complied with standards put in place in 2011 ...

“While it will technically keep existing restrictions on mercury in place, it means the government would not be able to count collateral benefits — such as reducing soot and smog — when it sets limits on toxic air pollutants. It’s a rollback that industry officials argue could open the door to new legal fights, prompt some plants to turn off their pollution controls and ultimately sicken more Americans — all so that the administration can rewire how the government weighs the costs of regulation. The changes could give a boost to struggling coal companies, while hamstringing future efforts to limit mercury emissions from the nation’s power plants. The rule in question, known as the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS), targets a powerful neurotoxin that can affect the IQ and motor skills of children, even in utero. Between 2006, when states began to curb mercury from coal plants, and 2016, when the Obama-era rule took full effect, emissions have declined 85 percent.”

## **Jeff Bezos will give \$10 billion to fight climate change.**

Through the Bezos Earth Fund, the Amazon founder and Washington Post owner will “provide \$10 billion in grants to scientists and activists to fund their efforts to fight climate change,” [Kimberly Kindy reports](#). “[Bezos] said the grants, which will be issued this summer, will go to individuals and organizations from around the globe, adding that the effort will ‘take

collective action from big companies, small companies, nation states, global organizations, and individuals.”

## **The Virginia ban on assault weapons sales didn't make it through a state Senate committee.**

The failed vote handed Gov. Ralph Northam (D) a big defeat as he attempts to push a package of eight gun-control measures, [Laura Vozzella reports](#). “The House has passed all eight of Northam’s bills, but a handful of Democrats in the less liberal Senate have quashed three of them amid fears that the newly empowered party might overplay its hand. The same tension has been playing out on other fronts, with the Senate taking a more cautious approach on issues such as the minimum wage, collective bargaining and state budgeting.”

## **A college accredited by an Education Department-sanctioned group doesn't actually exist.**

“Reagan National University was supposed to be a place of higher learning, but it was unclear how it awarded degrees. By all appearances, at present, it has no students, no faculty and no classrooms. An agency meant to serve as a gatekeeper for federal money gave the university approval to operate anyway,” [USA Today reports](#). The Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges & Schools “exists mainly because it was saved by the Education Department in 2018.”

## **More than 2,000 Justice Department alumni are calling on Bill Barr to resign.**

The nonpartisan group Protect Democracy wrote that “political interference in the conduct of a criminal prosecution is anathema to the Department's core mission and to its sacred obligation to ensure equal justice under the law,” [according to ABC News](#). The former officials also said it is “outrageous” the way Barr interfered in the Roger Stone case. “Although there are times when political leadership appropriately weighs in on individual prosecutions, it is unheard of for the Department's top leaders to overrule line prosecutors, who are following established policies, in order to give preferential treatment to a close associate of the

President, as Attorney General Barr did in the Stone case," they wrote.

## **An association of federal judges called an emergency meeting.**

“Philadelphia U.S. District Judge Cynthia Rufe, who heads the independent Federal Judges Association, said the group ‘could not wait’ until its spring conference to weigh in on a deepening crisis that has enveloped the Justice Department and [Barr],” [USA Today reports](#). Rufe “said the group of more than 1,000 federal jurists called for the meeting last week after Trump criticized prosecutors’ initial sentencing recommendation for Stone and the Department of Justice overruled them.”

## **Peter Navarro – Trump’s top trade adviser – has a side project: Hunting for “Anonymous.”**

“Since at least the time of the impeachment process against Trump, Navarro—whom the president affectionately calls ‘my Peter’—began conducting his own private investigation into the identity of Anonymous,” [reports the Daily Beast](#). “One of those sources described Navarro’s investigative efforts as partially an in-depth analysis of the language and phrases used in Anonymous’ book and other public writings. The process ... mimics forensic linguistic profiling, and the goal is to cross-reference Navarro’s ‘profile’ with a list of potential suspects.”

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## **Quote of the day**

*“In my view, to pursue the right policies for America I was willing to put up with a lot. I’m not asking for martyrdom because of that,” said John Bolton, describing his work for the Trump administration. “I knew – think I knew what I was getting into. I did it for 17 months. I did the best I could. You can judge the results by what the policies are.”* ([The Atlantic](#))

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## **Social media speed read**

After Bloomberg's campaign called Sanders Trump's new "bro," the Vermont senator replied with this picture:



**Bernie Sanders** ✓

@BernieSanders



[twitter.com/sahilkapur/sta...](https://twitter.com/sahilkapur/sta...)



**Sahil Kapur** ✓ @sahilkapur

Mike Bloomberg's campaign manager Kevin Sheekey releases a statement responding to attacks from Sanders.

Subject line: "BERNIE'S NEW BRO... DONALD TRUMP"



### **BERNIE'S NEW BRO... DONALD TRUMP**

**NEW YORK** — In response to the repeated attacks by Bernie Sanders, his spokespeople and supporters, today Mike Bloomberg 2020 responded against baseless charges espoused online, in print, and on TV.

"It's a shameful turn of events to see Bernie

♥ 148K 10:01 PM - Feb 17, 2020



💬 41.1K people are talking about this



**Cher endorsed Joe Biden:**



**Biden offered to meet up in Vegas:**



**Amy Klobuchar played along with an Internet joke about her branding strategy:**





**Amy Klobuchar** ✓

@amyklobuchar



Busted.... [twitter.com/shanajocrews/s...](https://twitter.com/shanajocrews/s...)

**Shana Jo Crews** @ShanaJoCrews

Just realized that @amyklobuchar's campaign colors are the same as Hidden Valley Ranch and now I desperately hope this was all part of her master plan to win the Midwest and unite the country #Election2020



♥ 60.2K 5:07 PM - Feb 17, 2020



🗨 5,524 people are talking about this



**Pete Buttigieg got some sun:**



**Chuck Kennedy** ✓  
@ChuckKennedyDC



The desert sun. Las Vegas, NV on Feb. 16, 2020.



♥ 1,109 7:33 PM - Feb 17, 2020



💬 157 people are talking about this



**A former presidential candidate made dinner for her husband:**



**Douglas Emhoff** ✓

@douglasemhoff



Meanwhile, @KamalaHarris is home for the weekend and... 🍷🔥❤️😊



♥️ 13.2K 8:59 PM - Feb 17, 2020



💬 876 people are talking about this



Barack Obama highlighted the anniversary of the Recovery Act:



**Barack Obama** ✓

@BarackObama



Eleven years ago today, near the bottom of the worst recession in generations, I signed the Recovery Act, paving the way for more than a decade of economic growth and the longest streak of job creation in American history.



613K 3:46 PM - Feb 17, 2020



147K people are talking about this



And his successor seemed to respond:



**Donald J. Trump** ✓ @realDonaldTrump · 7h



Did you hear the latest con job? President Obama is now trying to take credit for the Economic Boom taking place under the Trump Administration. He had the WEAKEST recovery since the Great Depression, despite Zero Fed Rate & MASSIVE quantitative easing. NOW, best jobs numbers....



**Donald J. Trump** ✓

@realDonaldTrump

...ever. Had to rebuild our military, which was totally depleted. Fed Rate UP, taxes and regulations WAY DOWN. If Dems won in 2016, the USA would be in big economic (Depression?) & military trouble right now. THE BEST IS YET TO COME. KEEP AMERICA GREAT!

80.9K 11:40 PM - Feb 17, 2020



31K people are talking about this



Ivanka Trump's trip to the United Arab Emirates over the weekend drew attention to another conflict of interest:



**Anna Massoglia**  [@annalecta](#)

Ivanka Trump's United Arab Emirates trip comes days before the 3 year anniversary celebration of Trump's Dubai golf club that opened weeks after President Trump's inauguration & doubled its income his 2nd year in the White House, raking in \$43M+ since 2017 [crp.org/trfi](http://crp.org/trfi) [twitter.com/ivankatrump/st...](https://twitter.com/ivankatrump/st...)

**World of Influence: A guide to Trump...**  
Two years into his presidency, Donald Trump continues to make money from properties and licensing deals in nearly two [opensecrets.org](http://opensecrets.org)

**Ivanka Trump**  [@IvankaTrump](#)

Magical evening in Dubai with H.H. Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prime Minister May, David Malpass and Kristalina Georgieva. ✨



1,736 6:48 PM - Feb 17, 2020 · Washington, DC

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And Stephen Miller, Trump's domestic policy adviser who oversees immigration policy, married Katie Waldman, Vice President Pence's press secretary, at the Trump hotel in D.C. on Sunday. The president attended – as did an Elvis impersonator:



**Katie Rose Miller**  
@katiewaldman



The most perfect day, the most perfect man surrounded with more love than we both could have ever dreamed.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Miller

2.16.20



♥ 8,516 8:07 PM - Feb 17, 2020 · Trump® International Hotel Washington, D.C.



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## Videos of the day

John Oliver is back, and, in a very timely fashion, he talked about Medicare-for-all:



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### 23. EPA:

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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Trump's clemency spree shows white-collar felons it's more about who you know than what you did  
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# The Daily 202

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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Trump's clemency spree shows white-collar felons it's more about who you know than what you did

Billionaire investor Nelson Peltz hosted a fundraiser at his \$95 million home in Florida on Saturday night that raised \$10 million for President Trump's reelection campaign. On Tuesday, the White House listed Peltz in a news release as one of the people supporting Trump's pardon of Michael Milken.

Milken, “the junk bond king” who **inspired** Gordon Gekko’s “greed is good” character in the movie “Wall Street,” served two years in prison after pleading guilty in 1990 to six felony counts, including securities fraud, mail fraud and aiding in the filing of a false tax return.

Other megadonors, including casino mogul Sheldon Adelson, were also on **the White House’s list of individuals** supporting the Milken pardon. So was the president’s personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, as well as Fox Business host Maria Bartiromo and Fox News owner Rupert Murdoch. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, who is married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) were among the 33 names listed. Steven Mnuchin was not on the list, but the Wall Street Journal **notes** that Milken has cultivated a friendship with the Treasury secretary and even flew him from Washington to California last year on his private jet.

“You know, oftentimes — pretty much all the time — I really rely on the recommendations of people that know them,” Trump told reporters as he prepared to board Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews. He was explaining why, and how, he’d just issued seven pardons and four commutations.



The big-name endorsements rolled out by the White House press office

gave the distinct impression that these presidential decisions to show mercy were driven as much by whom the convicted felons know as what they were convicted for.

The head of the Justice Department's pardon office during the first two years of the Trump administration [told The Washington Post](#) recently that he quit last year because the White House largely ignored the formal process in favor of taking recommendations from celebrities, political allies and Fox News.

Ariel Friedler is one of the least famous beneficiaries of Trump's [Tuesday pardons](#). The former chief executive of Simplicity pleaded guilty in 2014 to [conspiring to hack](#) into the computer systems of two competitors to improve his company's software development and sales strategy. Chris Christie, who advises the president, also takes on legal clients. Friedler is one of them. Records show Friedler never even applied to the pardon office at the Justice Department. But the White House listed the former New Jersey governor as someone supporting Trump's full pardon.

Edward DeBartolo Jr., the billionaire former owner of the San Francisco 49ers, pleaded guilty in 1998 for failing to tell authorities when ex-Louisiana governor Edwin Edwards (D) sought a bribe for a riverboat casino license. On the White House's list of individuals advocating for his pardon were New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. Both of them gave [a million bucks](#) to Trump's inaugural committee.



Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

## We Can't Afford Medicare for All



American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

The president also pardoned David Safavian, a senior official in the George W. Bush administration who was convicted of obstructing a federal investigation and making false statements related to his dealings with the lobbyist Jack Abramoff. Abramoff [took him](#) on a luxury golf trip to Scotland and London, and Safavian helped him with business before the General Services Administration. Safavian now works for the

American Conservative Union Foundation and frequently tweets support for the president. His list of endorsers includes Republican lobbyist Matt Schlapp, who chairs the American Conservative Union, and his wife Mercedes Schlapp, who works on the president's reelection campaign and spent nearly two years as the director of strategic communications in the Trump White House.

Former New York police commissioner Bernie Kerik went to prison for tax fraud and lying to White House officials when George W. Bush was preparing to nominate him to be secretary of homeland security. Kerik would later withdraw. His pardon was pushed for by Giuliani, who was Kerik's boss as mayor of New York. Fox News personalities Andrew Napolitano and Geraldo Rivera were also named by the White House as advocates. So was attorney Sidney Powell, who represents former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn.

The president seems to have something of a soft spot for white-collar criminals. For someone who has spent months professing to be so profoundly concerned about corruption in Ukraine, Trump signaled with these pardons and commutations that he's far less worried about taking a hard line against corruption here at home.

Here are four other takeaways from Trump's latest announcements:

### **1) Fox News remains immensely influential.**

As he explained why he commuted former Democratic Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich's sentence, Trump told reporters: "I watched his wife on television."

Patti Blagojevich made at least **seven** appearances over the past two years on Fox News, appearing on the shows of Tucker Carlson, Laura Ingraham and Jeanine Pirro, to praise the president and plead for his mercy. (Blagojevich was also a contestant on Trump's show "The Celebrity Apprentice" in 2010.)

Kerik, a frequent Mar-a-Lago guest, appeared on Fox News as recently as

Monday night.

Angela Stanton was pardoned for her role in a car-stealing ring. The former “Real Housewives of Atlanta” star has previously appeared on Fox News, where she’s praised the president.



Former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich arrives at his home in Chicago early Wednesday morning after Trump ordered his release from a Colorado prison. (Paul Beaty/AP)

## **2) The perceived enemy of Trump’s enemy is his friend.**

The president said the 14-year prison sentence for Blagojevich, who was caught on a wiretap talking about trying to sell Barack Obama’s vacated Senate seat to the highest bidder, was “ridiculous.”

“It was a prosecution by the same people – Comey, Fitzpatrick – the same group,” Trump told reporters on Tuesday. Last year, Trump also falsely blamed Blagojevich’s treatment on “the Comey gang and all these sleazebags.”

In fact, however, former FBI director James Comey was in the private sector during Blagojevich’s prosecution. And “Fitzpatrick” seems to be a mistaken reference to Patrick Fitzgerald, who as U.S. attorney in Chicago

did prosecute Blagojevich and is indeed good friends with Comey.

### **3) Trump is clearly not going to let up his attacks on the Justice Department.**

Trump is deeply animated by his sense of grievance and victimhood. He told reporters on Tuesday as he discussed the pardons that he partially agreed with Attorney General Bill Barr that his tweets about active criminal cases do make his job more difficult. But he said that won't stop him. "Social media, for me, has been very important because it gives me a voice," said Trump, who as president controls the biggest bully pulpit in the world and has an enormous press corps that hangs on his every word.

Trump doesn't appear to see himself as "above the law." Instead, he seems to believe he *is* the law. "I'm allowed to be totally involved," he told reporters, as he defended his tweets about the case of his longtime adviser Roger Stone. "I'm actually, I guess, the chief law enforcement officer of the country. But I've chosen not to be involved."

The president clearly feels emboldened by the Senate's vote to acquit him. "The pardons and commutations followed Trump's moves to punish witnesses in his impeachment trial, publicly intervene in a pending legal case to urge leniency for a friend, attack a federal judge, accuse a juror of bias and threaten to sue his own government for investigating him,"

[Toluse Olorunnipa and Beth Reinhard report.](#)





**Barr has told people close to Trump — both inside and outside the White House — that he is considering quitting over Trump’s tweets about Justice Department investigations**, three administration officials [told Matt Zapposky, Josh Dawsey, John Wagner and Rachel Weiner](#): “So far, Trump has defied Barr’s requests, both public and private, to keep quiet on matters of federal law enforcement. It was not immediately clear Tuesday whether Barr had made his posture known directly to Trump. The administration officials said Barr seemed to be sharing his position with advisers in hopes the president would get the message that he should stop weighing in publicly on the Justice Department’s ongoing criminal investigations. ‘He has his limits,’ said one person familiar with Barr’s thinking ...

“The standoff between Trump and Barr intensified Tuesday when Trump declared in a string of early morning tweets that he might sue those involved in the special counsel investigation into his 2016 campaign and suggested that [Stone], his friend convicted of lying to Congress in that probe, deserved a new trial. Hours later, a Justice Department official said prosecutors had filed a sealed motion in court arguing the opposite and that they had Barr’s personal approval to do so. Barr had a previously scheduled lunch with the White House counsel Tuesday and was still the attorney general by day’s end — indicating that the president’s moves that

day were not enough to push him to resign.”

#### 4) Follow the money.

“Paul Pogue, a construction company owner who pleaded guilty to underpaying his taxes by \$473,000 and received three years probation, was issued a full pardon and clemency by the president,” [the Daily Beast notes](#). “According to FEC filings, Pogue’s family has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in direct contributions and in-kind air travel to the Trump Victory Committee. Beginning in August 2019, Ben Pogue—CEO of Pogue Construction and son of Paul Pogue—and his wife Ashleigh made over \$200,000 in contributions to the campaign.

“In August alone, Ben Pogue donated \$85,000 to Trump Victory while Ashleigh Pogue contributed \$50,000 that month. The following month, Ben Pogue made an in-kind air travel contribution of \$75,404.40. The couple also made several large donations to the Republican National Committee and each donated \$5,600 to Donald Trump for President Inc. On the day of their first donation to the Trump campaign, Ashleigh posted an Instagram photo of her and her husband posing with Donald Trump Jr. and his girlfriend, Kimberly Guilfoyle, at the Hamptons.





“Prior to the Pogues’ sudden significant donating spree to Trump and the Republicans, the couple was not seen as big campaign spenders, having donated a few thousand dollars for Paul Ryan’s congressional campaign in 2017 and \$5,400 for former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum’s 2016 Republican presidential run. Notably, one of the advocates for Pogue’s clemency: Santorum, who is now a CNN contributor.”

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## 2020 watch



## A new Washington Post-ABC News poll shows Bernie Sanders opening a significant national lead.

“Joe Biden, who led Sanders in a Post-ABC national poll in January, has seen a sharp drop in his support after finishing fourth in the Iowa caucuses and fifth in the New Hampshire primary,” [Dan Balz and Scott](#)

**Clement report.** Biden is now in a battle for second place with Mike Bloomberg and Elizabeth Warren. Pete Buttigieg is in single digits nationally, roughly even with Amy Klobuchar.

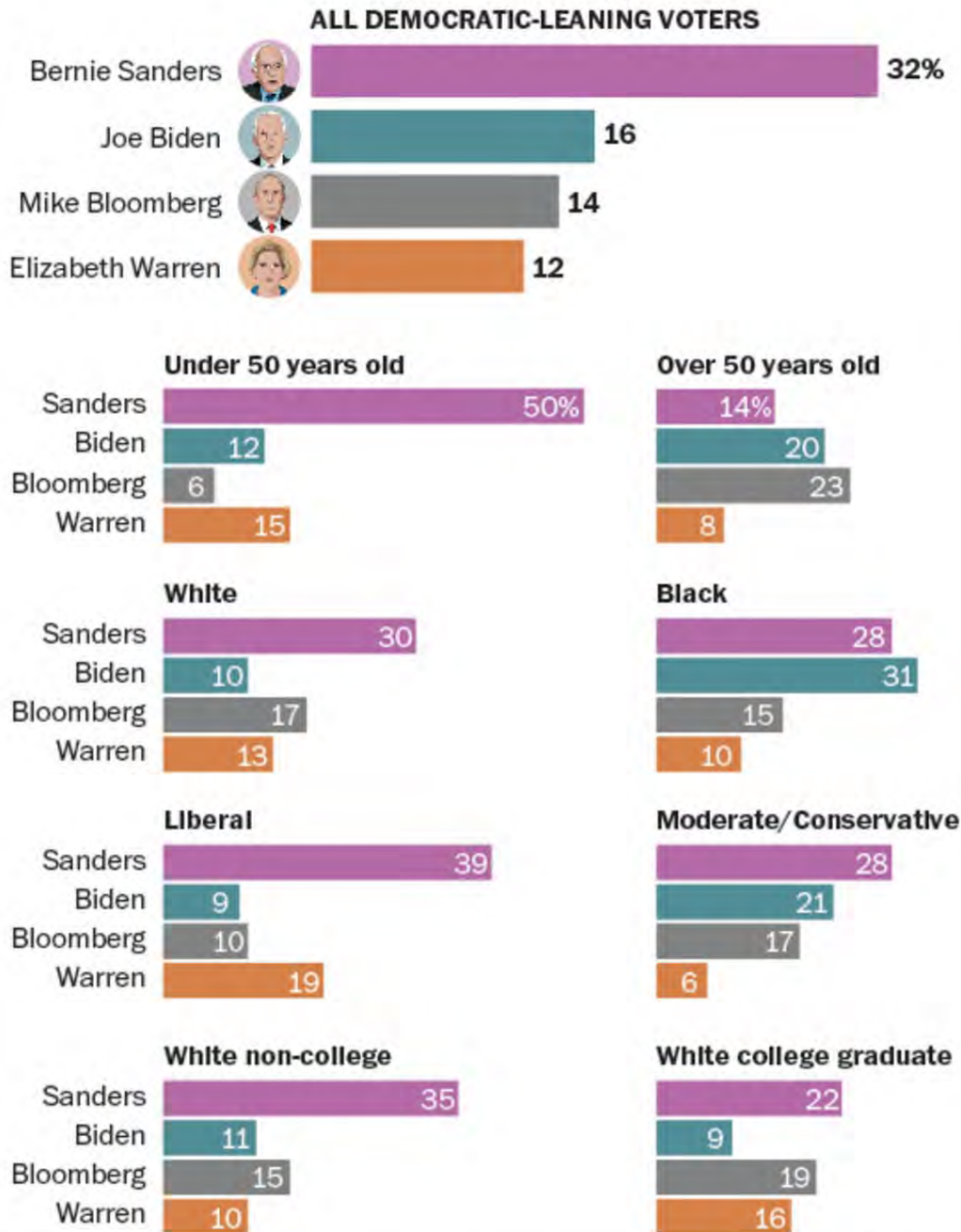
**“By a wide margin, 58 percent to 38 percent, Democrats say they would rather nominate a candidate who can defeat Trump than one who agrees with them on major issues.** ... In the new poll, Sanders is seen as the most electable, cited by 30 percent of Democratic leaners as best situated to beat Trump. Bloomberg is cited by 18 percent on this question, with no other Democrat close to double digits. ... In the past month, Biden has lost support among three key constituency groups: African Americans, older voters and whites without college degrees, previously the bulwarks of his campaign. ...

**“Sanders has seen a big jump in support among voters under age 50 and is now backed by 50 percent of that group,** up from 34 percent in January. He holds a 3-to-1 lead over his rivals among these voters. Sanders also has more than doubled his support among black voters and has gained among whites without college degrees. ... Bloomberg’s growth was fueled by more support among older voters and among white voters with college degrees. Buttigieg, Warren and Klobuchar saw no significant shifts in their coalitions. ...

**“In a measure of how Democrats see Sanders as a candidate against Trump, 72 percent say they believe he would defeat the president.** Among Democrats, 69 percent think Bloomberg would win against Trump, and 68 percent say that of Biden. ... If he were to become the nominee, about half of all Americans say it makes no difference in their vote that Sanders is a socialist, including about 7 in 10 Democrats. But nearly 4 in 10 adults say that fact makes them more likely to oppose him, including 37 percent of independents and 79 percent of Republicans. Just under 1 in 10 adults say it makes them more likely to support him. ... The president’s approval rating stands at 43 percent, with 53 percent disapproving, showing no real change in the past month.”

# Young voters are Sanders's base, but he is competitive across racial, ideological and educational groups

Q: Please tell me whom you'd vote for in the primary or caucus in your state. Which candidate would you lean toward? (Among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independent registered voters)



Note: Candidates with 10% or less overall support and “no opinion” not shown.

Source: Feb. 14-17, 2020, Washington Post-ABC News poll of 408 Democratic and Democratic-leaning registered voters, with an error margin of +/- 6 percentage points.

BRITTANY RENEE MAYES/THE WASHINGTON POST

## **Tonight's debate requires Bloomberg to step out of his expensive comfort zone.**

“When he steps onto the debate stage in Las Vegas for his first hostile and uncontrolled campaign test [at 9 p.m. Eastern on NBC and MSNBC], there will be no management decisions to make, teleprompters to lean on or endless ad budgets to filter his image with focus-grouped messaging,” [Michael Scherer reports](#). “In preparation, his advisers have spent much of the past week drilling him for the big jump, which could make or break the momentum he has generated with his extravagant spending. In debate prep sessions, they have armed him with comebacks for the inevitable attacks on his enormous wealth and past record, while also coaching him to move beyond his sometimes distant, wonky and diffidently logical public persona. ...

**"Wary of Bloomberg's rise in the polls, his rivals, with far more debate experience and Democratic longevity, have made clear that they will not go easy on the newcomer.** [Sanders] spent Tuesday in Reno, Nev., denouncing Bloomberg's campaign as an example of 'oligarchy, not democracy.' [Biden] has been boasting for days about his desire to confront Bloomberg in person because he cannot compete with the billionaire's advertising budget. 'At least now primary voters curious about how each candidate will take on Donald Trump can get a live demonstration of how we each take on an egomaniac billionaire,' [Warren] warned...

**"Bloomberg's rise in polling comes as he faces a barrage of negative news coverage, some of it promoted by rival campaigns.** He has had to again address [allegations that he made vulgar and sexist comments](#), his past defense of targeting stop-and-frisk police policies to black and Latino neighborhoods in New York, and [an interview](#)

in which he blamed the 2008 financial crisis on politicians who had pushed to end racially discriminatory mortgage-lending policies known as 'redlining.' Bloomberg's past political leanings — he re-registered as a Democrat only in 2018 — and his refusal to file a financial disclosure or release his tax returns before the debate, even as he is self-financing his campaign, also could come into play Wednesday. A spokesman for his campaign said the financial disclosure would be filed by March 20, and Howard Wolfson, a senior adviser to the campaign, has previously said Bloomberg would release his tax returns, though no date has been set.”

**Senior Bloomberg campaign adviser Timothy O'Brien said the billionaire will sell his business, Bloomberg LP, if he wins the presidency.** “There will be no confusion about any of his financial holdings,” [O'Brien told CNN](#). “We will be 180 degrees away from where Donald Trump is on these issues because Donald Trump is a walking financial conflict of interest.”

**Retired ABC News anchor Sam Donaldson's endorsement of Bloomberg annoyed practicing journalists.**

“Donaldson’s open partisanship has few precedents among leading national TV news figures, and raises several journalistic questions: Does a journalist’s vow of objectivity (or at least neutrality and balance) extend beyond his or her working years? Is a retired journalist subject to the same kinds of ethical restraints as a working one, such as *not* endorsing candidates and *not* contributing to political causes and campaigns?” [writes Paul Farhi](#). “Donaldson, 85, says no. Since he no longer has any role in reporting or shaping the news, he believes he’s entitled to express his opinions about, well, everything.”

**Sanders said he won't release any more medical records.**

“We have released ... quite as much as any other candidate has,” [Sanders said last night during a CNN town hall](#). “I think we have released a detailed report and I'm comfortable with what we have done. And, by the



way, if you think I'm not in good health, come out with me on the campaign trail and I'll let you introduce me to the three or four rallies a day that we do.”

### **He also rejected a potential health-care compromise.**

Sanders distanced himself from Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s “recent suggestion that compromising on health care would be acceptable, arguing that his Medicare-for-all plan is ‘already a compromise,’” [Sean Sullivan reports](#). Last week, Ocasio-Cortez [told HuffPost](#) that some flexibility on the proposal was possible. “A president can’t wave a magic wand and pass any legislation they want,” she said. “The worst-case scenario? We compromise deeply and we end up getting a public option. Is that a nightmare? I don’t think so.”

### **And the Sanders camp plans to request a partial recount of the Iowa caucuses.**

“The announcement came as the results further narrowed on Tuesday, following a recanvass of a small subset of precincts,” [Isaac Stanley-Becker reports](#). “The revised figures did not change the allocation of delegates to the national convention. Still, they just barely shifted projected support at the state convention, which is typically the metric used to name a winner. The [Iowa Democratic Party](#) said [Buttigieg] would claim 563.207 state delegate equivalents, or SDEs, while Sanders (I-Vt.) would claim 563.127. What had been a difference of 2.774 shrank to 0.08.”

### **Klobuchar is scrambling to turn her moment into something more.**

“Her staffers spent hours over the weekend hashing out a strategy for Super Tuesday, debating whether it’s worthwhile to compete in big, delegate-rich states like Texas and California,” [Annie Linskey, Jenna Johnson and Holly Bailey report](#). “Some advisers want her to focus instead on independent-minded states that aren’t overly liberal, like Maine and Tennessee, because they might be receptive to her centrist message. But those states, of course, yield much fewer delegates. ... Klobuchar’s home state votes on Super Tuesday. She is adding staff in Minnesota as she

battles with Buttigieg and Warren for the white, college-educated voters who fuel their campaigns.” As one adviser put it: “We’re putting the airplane together as we’re flying it.”

## **Buttigieg clapped back at Rush Limbaugh's homophobic attacks.**

During his own town hall on CNN last night, Buttigieg offered “some of his most fiery responses yet to Limbaugh's assertion that President Trump told him not to apologize for saying that Americans wouldn't elect ‘a gay guy kissing his husband on the debate stage,’” [Chelsea Janes reports](#). “Limbaugh, whom Trump recently awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, doubled down on those comments Monday when he told listeners ‘Hell, the president even called me about this! He said, “Rush, I just got to tell you something. Never apologize. Don’t ever apologize.”’ Trump recently said he would have no trouble voting for a gay candidate. Buttigieg said he can’t take Trump at his word. ‘Not if he’s sending out his supporters to talk in this way. Look, the idea of the likes of Rush Limbaugh or Donald Trump lecturing anybody on family values,’ Buttigieg said. ‘Sorry, but one thing about my marriage is it’s never involved me having to send hush money to a porn star after cheating on my spouse.’”

## **A watchdog group claims Buttigieg and a super PAC improperly coordinated.**

“[In the complaint, filed Tuesday](#) with the Federal Election Commission, the Campaign Legal Center alleged that Buttigieg’s campaign improperly accepted more than \$639,000 in contributions, in violation of federal rules barring candidates from coordinating with independent groups that can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money,” [Michelle Ye Hee Lee reports](#). “The complaint centers on a tweet by Buttigieg senior strategist Michael Halle analyzing the strengths of a particular campaign message in Nevada, and a subsequent ad campaign in that state by VoteVets that appeared to follow the strategy outlined in the tweet.”

## **Buttigieg was forced to clarify that comedian Keegan-**

## **Michael Key hasn't endorsed him.**

“Key [appeared with Buttigieg](#) on Saturday to drum up voter support at his Henderson, Nev., field office. The gaffe did not attract much attention. However, it was not the first time the Buttigieg campaign [overstated having a tie with](#) a prominent African American figure, or black business,” [ABC News reports](#).

## **As Super Tuesday looms, rural California's delegate gold mine is suddenly a big deal.**

“Buttigieg landed in this small Central Valley city of 74,000, addressing an excited crowd of 700 Stanislaus County Democrats ... Many said [they] couldn't believe their luck, not after decades of presidential candidates ignoring California's inland areas. ‘I've lived in California my whole life, and I've never seen a presidential candidate,’ said Kathy Causey, a [lifelong Democrat],” [Politico reports](#). “Buttigieg's road trip into the region John Steinbeck once described as ‘America's Breadbasket’ underscores how candidates are going to far-flung regions of the state to mine for delegate gold in a competitive Democratic primary. ... California's primary rules award delegates proportionally by congressional district, meaning that candidates know they must essentially run their ground game ... ‘in 53 different states,’ the number of congressional districts in California.”

## **The Trump campaign hired a Cambridge Analytica alum.**

The move is “likely to raise alarms among Trump critics and data privacy advocates who worry the president will push the technological envelope to get reelected in 2020,” [Politico reports](#). “Matt Oczkowski, who served as head of product at Cambridge before it went bankrupt and shut down in 2018, is helping oversee the Trump campaign's data program ... People familiar with the hire say he will devote his time to data-focused projects like determining where Trump and surrogates ought to campaign in person, figuring out which states are the best targets on Trump's path to victory, and targeting media buys. Oczkowski has privately said he plans on using traditional data modeling rather than psychographics, the

targeting of voters based upon their personality or behavior.”

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## **The new world order**

**More than 2,000 have died of the coronavirus in China, but the nation is growing optimistic.**

“Chinese leader Xi Jinping is striking an increasingly confident note that the country can control the coronavirus outbreak and manage the [economic](#) and [social fallout](#) as some Chinese health experts predict a peak in infections by the end of the month,” [Gerry Shih reports](#). “Chinese leaders, eager to kick-start economic activity, have dismantled some highway checkpoints while businesses have begun to reopen. As of Wednesday, restrictions on personal mobility remained tight, suggesting wariness about rising infections. ...

“China on Wednesday reported new case numbers continuing to decline, but international experts, including U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Anthony Fauci, say they are wary of declaring that the pace of worldwide infections is slowing. ... China tallied a total of 1,749 new infections and 136 deaths through the end of Tuesday, making the cumulative total 74,185 infections and 2,004 deaths — the overwhelming majority still occurring in central Hubei province. Hong Kong reported its second death, a 70-year-old man.”



A machine sprays disinfectant at the entrance of a pork meat hall inside a wholesale market for agricultural products in Beijing. (Tingshu Wang/Reuters)

## **China expelled three Wall Street Journal reporters, blaming an opinion column.**

“Deputy Bureau Chief Josh Chin and reporter Chao Deng, both American citizens, as well as reporter Philip Wen, an Australian national, have been ordered to leave the country within five days,” [Anna Fifield reports](#). The Foreign Ministry has been criticizing the Journal since it published a coronavirus-related column on Feb. 3 by Walter Russell Mead, a professor at Bard College, under the headline “[China Is the Real Sick Man of Asia.](#)”

## **The move came after the U.S. designated major Chinese media outlets as government entities.**

The Xinhua News Agency, China Global Television Network, China Radio International, China Daily and the People’s Daily will now be treated as diplomatic outposts of the Chinese government, subject to the same constraints. The move is the latest in a series of U.S. efforts to tackle China’s influence in the United States. ([Fifield, Carol Morello and Emily Rauhala](#))

## **The Trump administration accused a Russian company of helping Venezuela export oil.**

“The Trump administration directed its ‘maximum pressure’ campaign in Venezuela toward Russia on Tuesday, announcing sanctions against the trading and marketing arm of Rosneft, the state-controlled Russian oil giant that has taken over an increasing share of Venezuela’s own state-owned oil industry and reaped huge profits from exporting its crude,” [Karen DeYoung and Anthony Faiola report](#). “Swiss-registered Rosneft Trading has ‘propped up the [Venezuelan] oil sector and actively tried to evade’ existing U.S. sanctions against those doing business with the Venezuelan government of Nicolás Maduro, according to [an administration official] ... The measures do not cover the parent company, Rosneft Oil. Its chairman, Igor Sechin, is a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin ... But U.S. officials said the steps would have a global effect. Although the sanctions directly target only property and interests held in the United States by the trading subsidiary and its chairman, Didier Casimiro, ‘most banks, whether U.S.-based or not,’ look to the U.S. measures ‘to guide their risk appetite,’ one of the officials said.”

## **The death of a young girl in Mexico sparked new outrage in a nation plagued by femicide.**

Seven-year-old Fátima Aldrighett "disappeared Feb. 11 in the Mexico City neighborhood of Xochimilco, where she was waiting to be picked up from school. Four days later, her body was found naked in a plastic bag," [Kevin Sieff reports](#). “Fátima’s killing is the latest in a string of brutal crimes against girls and women stirring enormous public outrage directed at Mexico’s president and other top officials. Last week, Ingrid Escamilla, 25, was found stabbed to death and partially skinned. That crime prompted a wave of protests in Mexico City; President Andrés Manuel López Obrador was accused of brushing them off. In the midst of a [fundraising campaign linked to the sale of the presidential plane](#), he chastised a reporter who asked him about the attacks on women: ‘I don’t want femicides to distract from the raffle.’”

## **An immigration judge granted a Venezuelan father**

## **entrance to the U.S. but sent his teen daughter to Mexico.**

Officials “denied her claims that she was fleeing political repression and violence, even after they accepted the same claims from her father,” [the AP reports](#). “The teenager, who is being identified by only her first name, Branyerly, is living alone in Matamoros, Mexico, across from Brownsville. U.S. border agents on Monday denied her request not to be sent back under the Trump administration’s so-called ‘Remain in Mexico’ program for migrants. ... ‘I already lived one nightmare in Venezuela and another here,’ Branyerly said.”

## **Boeing found debris in the fuel tanks of undelivered 737 Max jets.**

This is a “potential safety hazard and yet another problem for the company as it tries to get the planes airborne again after two deadly crashes,” [Ian Duncan reports](#). Debris “often includes tools or parts left behind when planes leave the production line. [A] Boeing spokesman said dealing with the debris is not likely to further delay the work of getting the planes off the ground.”

## **In Canada, anti-pipeline protesters have paralyzed the nation’s rail system.**

“Demonstrators across the country have joined the blockades in support of the hereditary chiefs of the Wet’suwet’en Nation in British Columbia, who oppose the construction of a natural gas pipeline through their territory. They’ve brought most freight and passenger rail service to a standstill,” [Amanda Coletta reports](#). Underlying the dispute are long-standing questions over land title, and who speaks for Canada’s indigenous people. In response, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called for “dialogue and mutual respect.”

## **A storm brought mass flooding to the U.K. Brits asked, “Where’s Boris?”**

“The Met Office called the thing Dennis, and [the second-strongest](#) ‘bomb

cyclone' on record in the North Atlantic wreaked havoc across Britain," [William Booth reports](#). "And with flood warnings still pinging on the telly like traffic alerts during a London rush hour, the storm is now raining on Prime Minister Boris Johnson, too, who is facing a torrent of criticism for his government's response. 'Where the bloody hell is Boris?' the Sun newspaper asked in a front-page headline. ... The hashtag #wheresBoris was trending in Britain on Twitter. The flooding begot by Storm Dennis is responsible for at least three deaths so far, as the waters continue to rise. ... The Labour Party said Johnson's decision not to visit the hard-hit areas or hold a cabinet-level emergency meeting was 'a disgrace.' ... It didn't help that when Storm Dennis hit, Johnson was spending the weekend at the 115-room lakeside mansion in Kent known as Chevening."

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## Quote of the day

*"It's dangerous not to talk to your enemies." – Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) on [why he met with Iran's foreign minister \(Michael Brice-Saddler and Reis Thebault\)](#)*

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## Social media speed read

A video showed Bloomberg describing transgender people as "he, she, or it," upsetting many activists on the left:



**Charlotte Clymer** 🏳️‍🌈 🇺🇸 @cmclymer · 5h  
I am heartbroken and infuriated that @MikeBloomberg felt it appropriate to refer to trans people as "it" and trans women as "men in dresses". His remarks are cruel, inexcusable and enable violence and discrimination against trans + non-binary folks.  
(1/6)[buzzfeednews.com/article/domini...](https://buzzfeednews.com/article/domini...)



**Mike Bloomberg Referred To Transgender Peo...**  
Bloomberg suggested transgender rights would sink Democratic campaigns in comments recorded last  
[buzzfeednews.com](https://buzzfeednews.com)

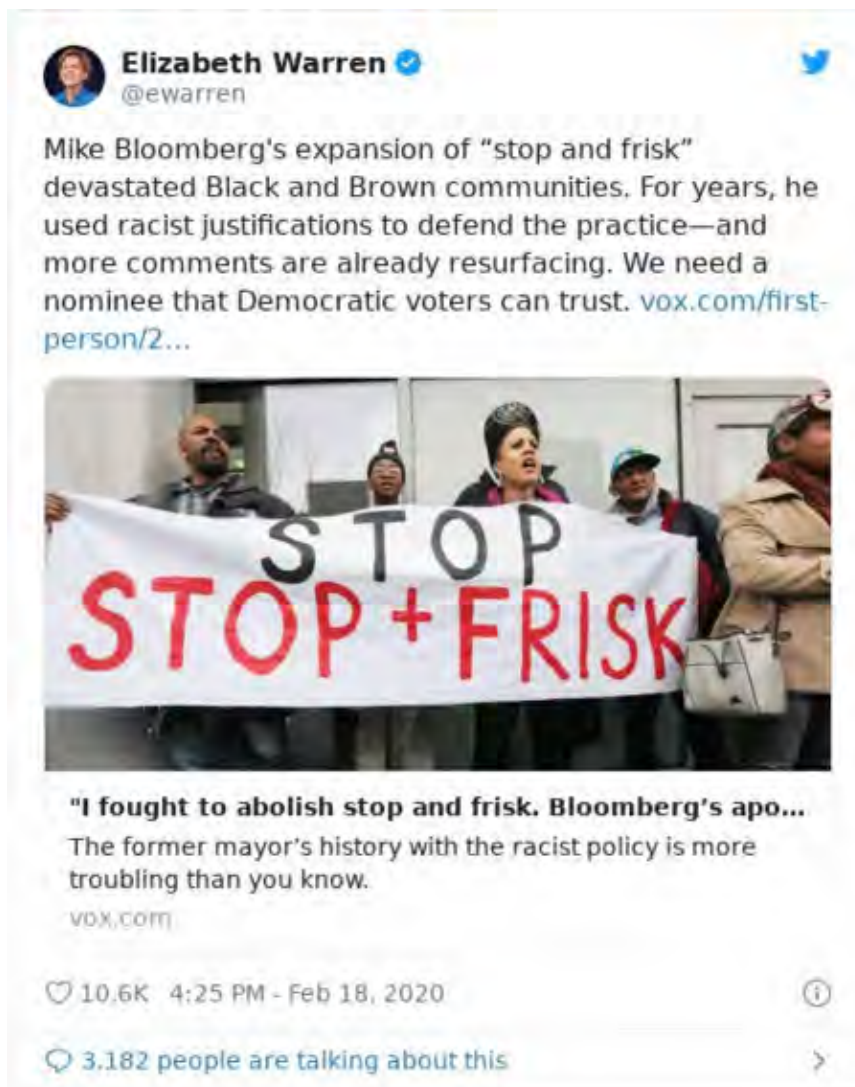
**Charlotte Clymer** 🏳️‍🌈 🇺🇸 @cmclymer

This comes two weeks after @MikeBloomberg was found to have made similar remarks in 2016. These latest comments were less than a year ago. It is disturbing that a leading Democratic presidential candidate would casually dehumanize trans people and degrade our existence.

👍 924 1:32 AM - Feb 19, 2020

💬 100 people are talking about this

Previewing a possible flashpoint in tonight's debate, Warren accused Bloomberg of using "racist justifications" to defend "stop and frisk":



**Bloomberg's campaign manager kept his focus on Sanders:**



**Ted Cruz made fun of a Bloomberg News headline about Bloomberg:**



**Ted Cruz**   
@tedcruz



It's almost as if he owns the media.  
[twitter.com/yashar/status/...](https://twitter.com/yashar/status/...)

**Yashar Ali**  @yashar

Bloomberg campaign says it's a two-man race for the nomination per Bloomberg the news organization owned and controlled by Bloomberg



**Bloomberg**

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Politics

## Bloomberg Campaign Says It's a Two-Man Race for the Nomination

By [Mark Niquette](#)

February 18, 2020, 4:14 PM EST

- ▶ Aide makes prediction before candidate has appeared on ballot
- ▶ Bloomberg to fight for first votes on Super Tuesday, March 3

 15.9K 12:03 AM - Feb 19, 2020



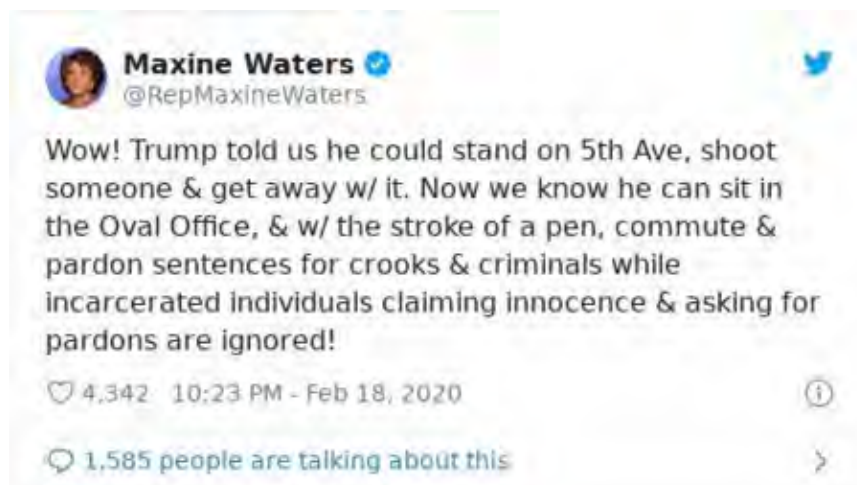
 5.283 people are talking about this



An NBC reporter noted quite a paradox in the new NBC-WSJ poll:



**Congressional Democrats blasted Trump's pardons and commutations:**





**And the liberal uncle of the just-married Stephen Miller, the White House adviser who oversees immigration policy, directed his wedding present to an organization that works with refugees:**



## Videos of the day

Trump effusively praised Bloomberg seven years ago:

 **JM Rieger**   
@RiegerReport 

Donald Trump on Mike Bloomberg on March 25, 2013:

"He's made a tremendous fortune, he's a brilliant guy ... he's got some, you know, really amazing ideas, he's done a very, very good job as the mayor of New York"



 6  12:03 AM - Feb 19, 2020 

 [See JM Rieger's other Tweets](#) 

James Corden previewed the Democratic debate:



 Bernie Goes After Bloomberg Ahead Of Vega... 







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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Trump's clemency spree shows white-collar felons it's more about who you know than what you did  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:46:33 AM



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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Trump's clemency spree shows white-collar felons it's more about who you know than what you did

Billionaire investor Nelson Peltz hosted a fundraiser at his \$95 million home in Florida on Saturday night that raised \$10 million for President Trump's reelection campaign. On Tuesday, the White House listed Peltz in a news release as one of the people supporting Trump's pardon of Michael Milken.

Milken, “the junk bond king” who **inspired** Gordon Gekko’s “greed is good” character in the movie “Wall Street,” served two years in prison after pleading guilty in 1990 to six felony counts, including securities fraud, mail fraud and aiding in the filing of a false tax return.

Other megadonors, including casino mogul Sheldon Adelson, were also on **the White House’s list of individuals** supporting the Milken pardon. So was the president’s personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, as well as Fox Business host Maria Bartiromo and Fox News owner Rupert Murdoch. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, who is married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) were among the 33 names listed. Steven Mnuchin was not on the list, but the Wall Street Journal **notes** that Milken has cultivated a friendship with the Treasury secretary and even flew him from Washington to California last year on his private jet.

“You know, oftentimes — pretty much all the time — I really rely on the recommendations of people that know them,” Trump told reporters as he prepared to board Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews. He was explaining why, and how, he’d just issued seven pardons and four commutations.



The big-name endorsements rolled out by the White House press office

gave the distinct impression that these presidential decisions to show mercy were driven as much by whom the convicted felons know as what they were convicted for.

The head of the Justice Department's pardon office during the first two years of the Trump administration [told The Washington Post](#) recently that he quit last year because the White House largely ignored the formal process in favor of taking recommendations from celebrities, political allies and Fox News.

Ariel Friedler is one of the least famous beneficiaries of Trump's [Tuesday pardons](#). The former chief executive of Simplicity pleaded guilty in 2014 to [conspiring to hack](#) into the computer systems of two competitors to improve his company's software development and sales strategy. Chris Christie, who advises the president, also takes on legal clients. Friedler is one of them. Records show Friedler never even applied to the pardon office at the Justice Department. But the White House listed the former New Jersey governor as someone supporting Trump's full pardon.

Edward DeBartolo Jr., the billionaire former owner of the San Francisco 49ers, pleaded guilty in 1998 for failing to tell authorities when ex-Louisiana governor Edwin Edwards (D) sought a bribe for a riverboat casino license. On the White House's list of individuals advocating for his pardon were New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. Both of them gave [a million bucks](#) to Trump's inaugural committee.



Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

## We Can't Afford Medicare for All



American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

The president also pardoned David Safavian, a senior official in the George W. Bush administration who was convicted of obstructing a federal investigation and making false statements related to his dealings with the lobbyist Jack Abramoff. Abramoff [took him](#) on a luxury golf trip to Scotland and London, and Safavian helped him with business before the General Services Administration. Safavian now works for the

American Conservative Union Foundation and frequently tweets support for the president. His list of endorsers includes Republican lobbyist Matt Schlapp, who chairs the American Conservative Union, and his wife Mercedes Schlapp, who works on the president's reelection campaign and spent nearly two years as the director of strategic communications in the Trump White House.

Former New York police commissioner Bernie Kerik went to prison for tax fraud and lying to White House officials when George W. Bush was preparing to nominate him to be secretary of homeland security. Kerik would later withdraw. His pardon was pushed for by Giuliani, who was Kerik's boss as mayor of New York. Fox News personalities Andrew Napolitano and Geraldo Rivera were also named by the White House as advocates. So was attorney Sidney Powell, who represents former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn.

The president seems to have something of a soft spot for white-collar criminals. For someone who has spent months professing to be so profoundly concerned about corruption in Ukraine, Trump signaled with these pardons and commutations that he's far less worried about taking a hard line against corruption here at home.

Here are four other takeaways from Trump's latest announcements:

### **1) Fox News remains immensely influential.**

As he explained why he commuted former Democratic Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich's sentence, Trump told reporters: "I watched his wife on television."

Patti Blagojevich made at least **seven** appearances over the past two years on Fox News, appearing on the shows of Tucker Carlson, Laura Ingraham and Jeanine Pirro, to praise the president and plead for his mercy. (Blagojevich was also a contestant on Trump's show "The Celebrity Apprentice" in 2010.)

Kerik, a frequent Mar-a-Lago guest, appeared on Fox News as recently as

Monday night.

Angela Stanton was pardoned for her role in a car-stealing ring. The former “Real Housewives of Atlanta” star has previously appeared on Fox News, where she’s praised the president.



Former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich arrives at his home in Chicago early Wednesday morning after Trump ordered his release from a Colorado prison. (Paul Beaty/AP)

## **2) The perceived enemy of Trump’s enemy is his friend.**

The president said the 14-year prison sentence for Blagojevich, who was caught on a wiretap talking about trying to sell Barack Obama’s vacated Senate seat to the highest bidder, was “ridiculous.”

“It was a prosecution by the same people – Comey, Fitzpatrick – the same group,” Trump told reporters on Tuesday. Last year, Trump also falsely blamed Blagojevich’s treatment on “the Comey gang and all these sleazebags.”

In fact, however, former FBI director James Comey was in the private sector during Blagojevich’s prosecution. And “Fitzpatrick” seems to be a mistaken reference to Patrick Fitzgerald, who as U.S. attorney in Chicago

did prosecute Blagojevich and is indeed good friends with Comey.

### **3) Trump is clearly not going to let up his attacks on the Justice Department.**

Trump is deeply animated by his sense of grievance and victimhood. He told reporters on Tuesday as he discussed the pardons that he partially agreed with Attorney General Bill Barr that his tweets about active criminal cases do make his job more difficult. But he said that won't stop him. "Social media, for me, has been very important because it gives me a voice," said Trump, who as president controls the biggest bully pulpit in the world and has an enormous press corps that hangs on his every word.

Trump doesn't appear to see himself as "above the law." Instead, he seems to believe he *is* the law. "I'm allowed to be totally involved," he told reporters, as he defended his tweets about the case of his longtime adviser Roger Stone. "I'm actually, I guess, the chief law enforcement officer of the country. But I've chosen not to be involved."

The president clearly feels emboldened by the Senate's vote to acquit him. "The pardons and commutations followed Trump's moves to punish witnesses in his impeachment trial, publicly intervene in a pending legal case to urge leniency for a friend, attack a federal judge, accuse a juror of bias and threaten to sue his own government for investigating him,"

[Toluse Olorunnipa and Beth Reinhard report.](#)



**Barr has told people close to Trump — both inside and outside the White House — that he is considering quitting over Trump’s tweets about Justice Department investigations**, three administration officials [told Matt Zapposky, Josh Dawsey, John Wagner and Rachel Weiner](#): “So far, Trump has defied Barr’s requests, both public and private, to keep quiet on matters of federal law enforcement. It was not immediately clear Tuesday whether Barr had made his posture known directly to Trump. The administration officials said Barr seemed to be sharing his position with advisers in hopes the president would get the message that he should stop weighing in publicly on the Justice Department’s ongoing criminal investigations. ‘He has his limits,’ said one person familiar with Barr’s thinking ...

“The standoff between Trump and Barr intensified Tuesday when Trump declared in a string of early morning tweets that he might sue those involved in the special counsel investigation into his 2016 campaign and suggested that [Stone], his friend convicted of lying to Congress in that probe, deserved a new trial. Hours later, a Justice Department official said prosecutors had filed a sealed motion in court arguing the opposite and that they had Barr’s personal approval to do so. Barr had a previously scheduled lunch with the White House counsel Tuesday and was still the attorney general by day’s end — indicating that the president’s moves that



day were not enough to push him to resign.”

#### 4) Follow the money.

“Paul Pogue, a construction company owner who pleaded guilty to underpaying his taxes by \$473,000 and received three years probation, was issued a full pardon and clemency by the president,” [the Daily Beast notes](#). “According to FEC filings, Pogue’s family has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in direct contributions and in-kind air travel to the Trump Victory Committee. Beginning in August 2019, Ben Pogue—CEO of Pogue Construction and son of Paul Pogue—and his wife Ashleigh made over \$200,000 in contributions to the campaign.

“In August alone, Ben Pogue donated \$85,000 to Trump Victory while Ashleigh Pogue contributed \$50,000 that month. The following month, Ben Pogue made an in-kind air travel contribution of \$75,404.40. The couple also made several large donations to the Republican National Committee and each donated \$5,600 to Donald Trump for President Inc. On the day of their first donation to the Trump campaign, Ashleigh posted an Instagram photo of her and her husband posing with Donald Trump Jr. and his girlfriend, Kimberly Guilfoyle, at the Hamptons.





“Prior to the Pogues’ sudden significant donating spree to Trump and the Republicans, the couple was not seen as big campaign spenders, having donated a few thousand dollars for Paul Ryan’s congressional campaign in 2017 and \$5,400 for former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum’s 2016 Republican presidential run. Notably, one of the advocates for Pogue’s clemency: Santorum, who is now a CNN contributor.”

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## 2020 watch



### **A new Washington Post-ABC News poll shows Bernie Sanders opening a significant national lead.**

“Joe Biden, who led Sanders in a Post-ABC national poll in January, has seen a sharp drop in his support after finishing fourth in the Iowa caucuses and fifth in the New Hampshire primary,” [Dan Balz and Scott Clement report](#). Biden is now in a battle for second place with Mike

Bloomberg and Elizabeth Warren. Pete Buttigieg is in single digits nationally, roughly even with Amy Klobuchar.

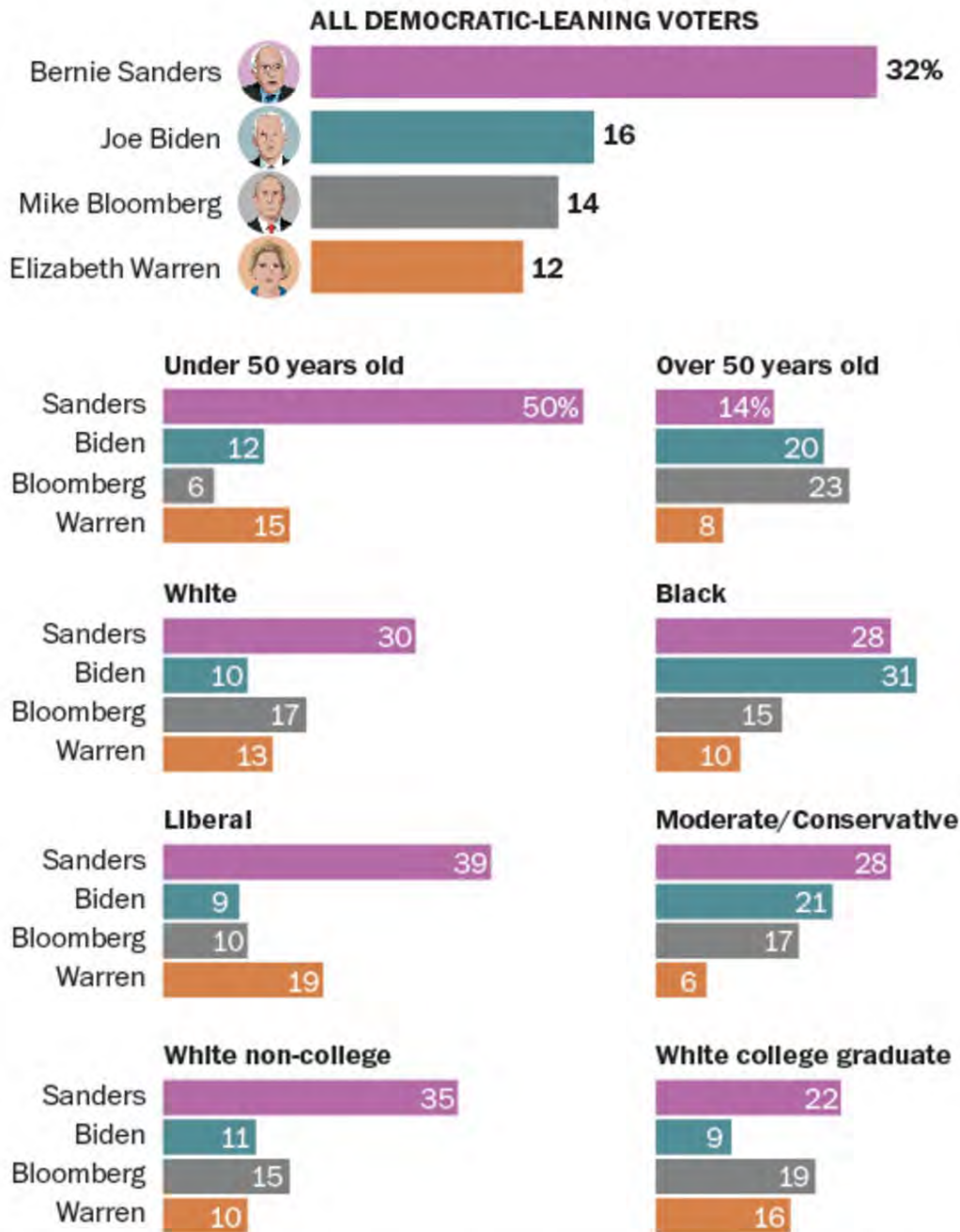
**“By a wide margin, 58 percent to 38 percent, Democrats say they would rather nominate a candidate who can defeat Trump than one who agrees with them on major issues.** ... In the new poll, Sanders is seen as the most electable, cited by 30 percent of Democratic leaners as best situated to beat Trump. Bloomberg is cited by 18 percent on this question, with no other Democrat close to double digits. ... In the past month, Biden has lost support among three key constituency groups: African Americans, older voters and whites without college degrees, previously the bulwarks of his campaign. ...

**“Sanders has seen a big jump in support among voters under age 50 and is now backed by 50 percent of that group,** up from 34 percent in January. He holds a 3-to-1 lead over his rivals among these voters. Sanders also has more than doubled his support among black voters and has gained among whites without college degrees. ... Bloomberg’s growth was fueled by more support among older voters and among white voters with college degrees. Buttigieg, Warren and Klobuchar saw no significant shifts in their coalitions. ...

**“In a measure of how Democrats see Sanders as a candidate against Trump, 72 percent say they believe he would defeat the president.** Among Democrats, 69 percent think Bloomberg would win against Trump, and 68 percent say that of Biden. ... If he were to become the nominee, about half of all Americans say it makes no difference in their vote that Sanders is a socialist, including about 7 in 10 Democrats. But nearly 4 in 10 adults say that fact makes them more likely to oppose him, including 37 percent of independents and 79 percent of Republicans. Just under 1 in 10 adults say it makes them more likely to support him. ... The president’s approval rating stands at 43 percent, with 53 percent disapproving, showing no real change in the past month.”

# Young voters are Sanders's base, but he is competitive across racial, ideological and educational groups

Q: Please tell me whom you'd vote for in the primary or caucus in your state. Which candidate would you lean toward? (Among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independent registered voters)



Note: Candidates with 10% or less overall support and "no opinion" not shown.

Source: Feb. 14-17, 2020, Washington Post-ABC News poll of 408 Democratic and Democratic-leaning registered voters, with an error margin of +/- 6 percentage points.

BRITTANY RENEE MAYES/THE WASHINGTON POST

## **Tonight's debate requires Bloomberg to step out of his expensive comfort zone.**

“When he steps onto the debate stage in Las Vegas for his first hostile and uncontrolled campaign test [at 9 p.m. Eastern on NBC and MSNBC], there will be no management decisions to make, teleprompters to lean on or endless ad budgets to filter his image with focus-grouped messaging,” [Michael Scherer reports](#). “In preparation, his advisers have spent much of the past week drilling him for the big jump, which could make or break the momentum he has generated with his extravagant spending. In debate prep sessions, they have armed him with comebacks for the inevitable attacks on his enormous wealth and past record, while also coaching him to move beyond his sometimes distant, wonky and diffidently logical public persona. ...

**"Wary of Bloomberg's rise in the polls, his rivals, with far more debate experience and Democratic longevity, have made clear that they will not go easy on the newcomer.** [Sanders] spent Tuesday in Reno, Nev., denouncing Bloomberg's campaign as an example of 'oligarchy, not democracy.' [Biden] has been boasting for days about his desire to confront Bloomberg in person because he cannot compete with the billionaire's advertising budget. 'At least now primary voters curious about how each candidate will take on Donald Trump can get a live demonstration of how we each take on an egomaniac billionaire,' [Warren] warned...

**"Bloomberg's rise in polling comes as he faces a barrage of negative news coverage, some of it promoted by rival campaigns.** He has had to again address [allegations that he made vulgar and sexist comments](#), his past defense of targeting stop-and-frisk police policies to black and Latino neighborhoods in New York, and [an interview](#) in which he blamed the 2008 financial crisis on politicians who had

pushed to end racially discriminatory mortgage-lending policies known as 'redlining.' Bloomberg's past political leanings — he re-registered as a Democrat only in 2018 — and his refusal to file a financial disclosure or release his tax returns before the debate, even as he is self-financing his campaign, also could come into play Wednesday. A spokesman for his campaign said the financial disclosure would be filed by March 20, and Howard Wolfson, a senior adviser to the campaign, has previously said Bloomberg would release his tax returns, though no date has been set.”

**Senior Bloomberg campaign adviser Timothy O'Brien said the billionaire will sell his business, Bloomberg LP, if he wins the presidency.** “There will be no confusion about any of his financial holdings,” [O'Brien told CNN](#). “We will be 180 degrees away from where Donald Trump is on these issues because Donald Trump is a walking financial conflict of interest.”

**Retired ABC News anchor Sam Donaldson's endorsement of Bloomberg annoyed practicing journalists.**

“Donaldson’s open partisanship has few precedents among leading national TV news figures, and raises several journalistic questions: Does a journalist’s vow of objectivity (or at least neutrality and balance) extend beyond his or her working years? Is a retired journalist subject to the same kinds of ethical restraints as a working one, such as *not* endorsing candidates and *not* contributing to political causes and campaigns?” [writes Paul Farhi](#). “Donaldson, 85, says no. Since he no longer has any role in reporting or shaping the news, he believes he’s entitled to express his opinions about, well, everything.”

**Sanders said he won't release any more medical records.**

“We have released ... quite as much as any other candidate has,” [Sanders said last night during a CNN town hall](#). “I think we have released a detailed report and I'm comfortable with what we have done. And, by the way, if you think I'm not in good health, come out with me on the

campaign trail and I'll let you introduce me to the three or four rallies a day that we do.”

### **He also rejected a potential health-care compromise.**

Sanders distanced himself from Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s “recent suggestion that compromising on health care would be acceptable, arguing that his Medicare-for-all plan is ‘already a compromise,’” [Sean Sullivan reports](#). Last week, Ocasio-Cortez [told HuffPost](#) that some flexibility on the proposal was possible. “A president can’t wave a magic wand and pass any legislation they want,” she said. “The worst-case scenario? We compromise deeply and we end up getting a public option. Is that a nightmare? I don’t think so.”

### **And the Sanders camp plans to request a partial recount of the Iowa caucuses.**

“The announcement came as the results further narrowed on Tuesday, following a canvass of a small subset of precincts,” [Isaac Stanley-Becker reports](#). “The revised figures did not change the allocation of delegates to the national convention. Still, they just barely shifted projected support at the state convention, which is typically the metric used to name a winner. The [Iowa Democratic Party](#) said [Buttigieg] would claim 563.207 state delegate equivalents, or SDEs, while Sanders (I-Vt.) would claim 563.127. What had been a difference of 2.774 shrank to 0.08.”

### **Klobuchar is scrambling to turn her moment into something more.**

“Her staffers spent hours over the weekend hashing out a strategy for Super Tuesday, debating whether it’s worthwhile to compete in big, delegate-rich states like Texas and California,” [Annie Linskey, Jenna Johnson and Holly Bailey report](#). “Some advisers want her to focus instead on independent-minded states that aren’t overly liberal, like Maine and Tennessee, because they might be receptive to her centrist message. But those states, of course, yield much fewer delegates. ... Klobuchar’s home state votes on Super Tuesday. She is adding staff in Minnesota as she battles with Buttigieg and Warren for the white, college-educated voters



who fuel their campaigns.” As one adviser put it: “We’re putting the airplane together as we’re flying it.”

## **Buttigieg clapped back at Rush Limbaugh's homophobic attacks.**

During his own town hall on CNN last night, Buttigieg offered “some of his most fiery responses yet to Limbaugh's assertion that President Trump told him not to apologize for saying that Americans wouldn't elect ‘a gay guy kissing his husband on the debate stage,’” [Chelsea Janes reports](#). “Limbaugh, whom Trump recently awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, doubled down on those comments Monday when he told listeners ‘Hell, the president even called me about this! He said, “Rush, I just got to tell you something. Never apologize. Don’t ever apologize.”’ Trump recently said he would have no trouble voting for a gay candidate. Buttigieg said he can’t take Trump at his word. ‘Not if he’s sending out his supporters to talk in this way. Look, the idea of the likes of Rush Limbaugh or Donald Trump lecturing anybody on family values,’ Buttigieg said. ‘Sorry, but one thing about my marriage is it’s never involved me having to send hush money to a porn star after cheating on my spouse.’”

## **A watchdog group claims Buttigieg and a super PAC improperly coordinated.**

“[In the complaint, filed Tuesday](#) with the Federal Election Commission, the Campaign Legal Center alleged that Buttigieg’s campaign improperly accepted more than \$639,000 in contributions, in violation of federal rules barring candidates from coordinating with independent groups that can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money,” [Michelle Ye Hee Lee reports](#). “The complaint centers on a tweet by Buttigieg senior strategist Michael Halle analyzing the strengths of a particular campaign message in Nevada, and a subsequent ad campaign in that state by VoteVets that appeared to follow the strategy outlined in the tweet.”

## **Buttigieg was forced to clarify that comedian Keegan-Michael Key hasn’t endorsed him.**

“Key [appeared with Buttigieg](#) on Saturday to drum up voter support at his

Henderson, Nev., field office. The gaffe did not attract much attention. However, it was not the first time the Buttigieg campaign [overstated having a tie with](#) a prominent African American figure, or black business,” [ABC News reports](#).

## **As Super Tuesday looms, rural California’s delegate gold mine is suddenly a big deal.**

“Buttigieg landed in this small Central Valley city of 74,000, addressing an excited crowd of 700 Stanislaus County Democrats ... Many said [they] couldn’t believe their luck, not after decades of presidential candidates ignoring California’s inland areas. ‘I’ve lived in California my whole life, and I’ve never seen a presidential candidate,’ said Kathy Causey, a [lifelong Democrat],” [Politico reports](#). “Buttigieg’s road trip into the region John Steinbeck once described as ‘America’s Breadbasket’ underscores how candidates are going to far-flung regions of the state to mine for delegate gold in a competitive Democratic primary. ... California’s primary rules award delegates proportionally by congressional district, meaning that candidates know they must essentially run their ground game ... ‘in 53 different states,’ the number of congressional districts in California.”

## **The Trump campaign hired a Cambridge Analytica alum.**

The move is “likely to raise alarms among Trump critics and data privacy advocates who worry the president will push the technological envelope to get reelected in 2020,” [Politico reports](#). “Matt Oczkowski, who served as head of product at Cambridge before it went bankrupt and shut down in 2018, is helping oversee the Trump campaign’s data program ... People familiar with the hire say he will devote his time to data-focused projects like determining where Trump and surrogates ought to campaign in person, figuring out which states are the best targets on Trump’s path to victory, and targeting media buys. Oczkowski has privately said he plans on using traditional data modeling rather than psychographics, the targeting of voters based upon their personality or behavior.”

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## The new world order

**More than 2,000 have died of the coronavirus in China, but the nation is growing optimistic.**

“Chinese leader Xi Jinping is striking an increasingly confident note that the country can control the coronavirus outbreak and manage the [economic](#) and [social fallout](#) as some Chinese health experts predict a peak in infections by the end of the month,” [Gerry Shih reports](#). “Chinese leaders, eager to kick-start economic activity, have dismantled some highway checkpoints while businesses have begun to reopen. As of Wednesday, restrictions on personal mobility remained tight, suggesting wariness about rising infections. ...

“China on Wednesday reported new case numbers continuing to decline, but international experts, including U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Anthony Fauci, say they are wary of declaring that the pace of worldwide infections is slowing. ... China tallied a total of 1,749 new infections and 136 deaths through the end of Tuesday, making the cumulative total 74,185 infections and 2,004 deaths — the overwhelming majority still occurring in central Hubei province. Hong Kong reported its second death, a 70-year-old man.”



A machine sprays disinfectant at the entrance of a pork meat hall inside a wholesale market for agricultural products in Beijing. (Tingshu Wang/Reuters)

## **China expelled three Wall Street Journal reporters, blaming an opinion column.**

“Deputy Bureau Chief Josh Chin and reporter Chao Deng, both American citizens, as well as reporter Philip Wen, an Australian national, have been ordered to leave the country within five days,” [Anna Fifield reports](#). The Foreign Ministry has been criticizing the Journal since it published a coronavirus-related column on Feb. 3 by Walter Russell Mead, a professor at Bard College, under the headline “[China Is the Real Sick Man of Asia.](#)”

## **The move came after the U.S. designated major Chinese media outlets as government entities.**

The Xinhua News Agency, China Global Television Network, China Radio International, China Daily and the People’s Daily will now be treated as diplomatic outposts of the Chinese government, subject to the same constraints. The move is the latest in a series of U.S. efforts to tackle China’s influence in the United States. ([Fifield, Carol Morello and Emily Rauhala](#))

## **The Trump administration accused a Russian company of helping Venezuela export oil.**

“The Trump administration directed its ‘maximum pressure’ campaign in Venezuela toward Russia on Tuesday, announcing sanctions against the trading and marketing arm of Rosneft, the state-controlled Russian oil giant that has taken over an increasing share of Venezuela’s own state-owned oil industry and reaped huge profits from exporting its crude,” [Karen DeYoung and Anthony Faiola report](#). “Swiss-registered Rosneft Trading has ‘propped up the [Venezuelan] oil sector and actively tried to evade’ existing U.S. sanctions against those doing business with the Venezuelan government of Nicolás Maduro, according to [an administration official] ... The measures do not cover the parent company, Rosneft Oil. Its chairman, Igor Sechin, is a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin ... But U.S. officials said the steps would have a global effect. Although the sanctions directly target only property and interests held in the United States by the trading subsidiary and its chairman, Didier Casimiro, ‘most banks, whether U.S.-based or not,’ look to the U.S. measures ‘to guide their risk appetite,’ one of the officials said.”

## **The death of a young girl in Mexico sparked new outrage in a nation plagued by femicide.**

Seven-year-old Fátima Aldrighett "disappeared Feb. 11 in the Mexico City neighborhood of Xochimilco, where she was waiting to be picked up from school. Four days later, her body was found naked in a plastic bag," [Kevin Sieff reports](#). “Fátima’s killing is the latest in a string of brutal crimes against girls and women stirring enormous public outrage directed at Mexico’s president and other top officials. Last week, Ingrid Escamilla, 25, was found stabbed to death and partially skinned. That crime prompted a wave of protests in Mexico City; President Andrés Manuel López Obrador was accused of brushing them off. In the midst of a [fundraising campaign linked to the sale of the presidential plane](#), he chastised a reporter who asked him about the attacks on women: ‘I don’t want femicides to distract from the raffle.’”

## **An immigration judge granted a Venezuelan father**

## **entrance to the U.S. but sent his teen daughter to Mexico.**

Officials “denied her claims that she was fleeing political repression and violence, even after they accepted the same claims from her father,” [the AP reports](#). “The teenager, who is being identified by only her first name, Branyerly, is living alone in Matamoros, Mexico, across from Brownsville. U.S. border agents on Monday denied her request not to be sent back under the Trump administration’s so-called ‘Remain in Mexico’ program for migrants. ... ‘I already lived one nightmare in Venezuela and another here,’ Branyerly said.”

## **Boeing found debris in the fuel tanks of undelivered 737 Max jets.**

This is a “potential safety hazard and yet another problem for the company as it tries to get the planes airborne again after two deadly crashes,” [Ian Duncan reports](#). Debris “often includes tools or parts left behind when planes leave the production line. [A] Boeing spokesman said dealing with the debris is not likely to further delay the work of getting the planes off the ground.”

## **In Canada, anti-pipeline protesters have paralyzed the nation’s rail system.**

“Demonstrators across the country have joined the blockades in support of the hereditary chiefs of the Wet’suwet’en Nation in British Columbia, who oppose the construction of a natural gas pipeline through their territory. They’ve brought most freight and passenger rail service to a standstill,” [Amanda Coletta reports](#). Underlying the dispute are long-standing questions over land title, and who speaks for Canada’s indigenous people. In response, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called for “dialogue and mutual respect.”

## **A storm brought mass flooding to the U.K. Brits asked, “Where’s Boris?”**

“The Met Office called the thing Dennis, and [the second-strongest](#) ‘bomb

cyclone' on record in the North Atlantic wreaked havoc across Britain," [William Booth reports](#). "And with flood warnings still pinging on the telly like traffic alerts during a London rush hour, the storm is now raining on Prime Minister Boris Johnson, too, who is facing a torrent of criticism for his government's response. 'Where the bloody hell is Boris?' the Sun newspaper asked in a front-page headline. ... The hashtag #wheresBoris was trending in Britain on Twitter. The flooding begot by Storm Dennis is responsible for at least three deaths so far, as the waters continue to rise. ... The Labour Party said Johnson's decision not to visit the hard-hit areas or hold a cabinet-level emergency meeting was 'a disgrace.'... It didn't help that when Storm Dennis hit, Johnson was spending the weekend at the 115-room lakeside mansion in Kent known as Chevening."

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## Quote of the day

*"It's dangerous not to talk to your enemies." – Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) on [why he met with Iran's foreign minister \(Michael Brice-Saddler and Reis Thebault\)](#)*

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## Social media speed read

A video showed Bloomberg describing transgender people as "he, she, or it," upsetting many activists on the left:

**Charlotte Clymer** 🏳️‍🌈 🗳️ @cmclymer · 5h  
I am heartbroken and infuriated that @MikeBloomberg felt it appropriate to refer to trans people as "it" and trans women as "men in dresses". His remarks are cruel, inexcusable and enable violence and discrimination against trans + non-binary folks.  
(1/6)[buzzfeednews.com/article/domini...](https://buzzfeednews.com/article/domini...)



**Mike Bloomberg Referred To Transgender Peo...**  
Bloomberg suggested transgender rights would sink Democratic campaigns in comments recorded last  
[buzzfeednews.com](https://buzzfeednews.com)

**Charlotte Clymer** 🏳️‍🌈 🗳️  
@cmclymer

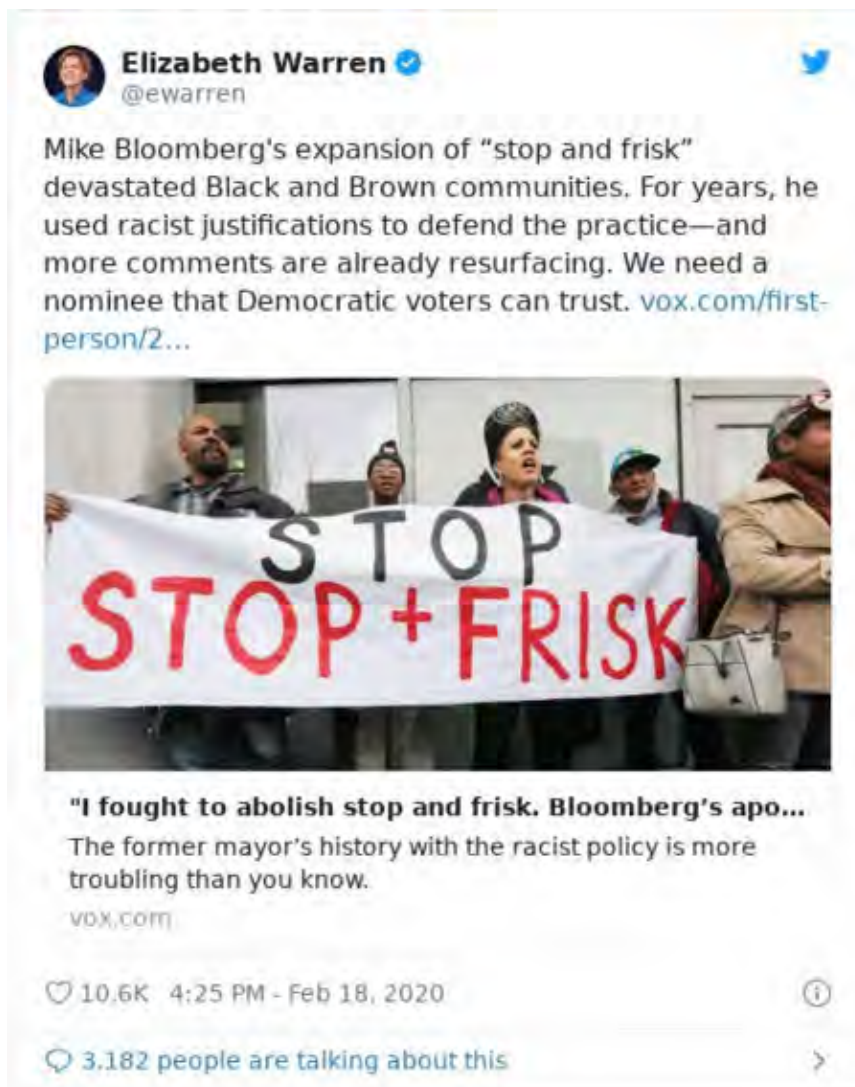
This comes two weeks after @MikeBloomberg was found to have made similar remarks in 2016. These latest comments were less than a year ago. It is disturbing that a leading Democratic presidential candidate would casually dehumanize trans people and degrade our existence.

👍 924 1:32 AM - Feb 19, 2020

💬 100 people are talking about this

Previewing a possible flashpoint in tonight's debate, Warren accused Bloomberg of using "racist justifications" to defend "stop and frisk":





Bloomberg's campaign manager kept his focus on Sanders:



Ted Cruz made fun of a Bloomberg News headline about Bloomberg:



**Ted Cruz**   
@tedcruz



It's almost as if he owns the media.  
[twitter.com/yashar/status/...](https://twitter.com/yashar/status/...)

**Yashar Ali**  @yashar

Bloomberg campaign says it's a two-man race for the nomination per Bloomberg the news organization owned and controlled by Bloomberg



**Bloomberg**

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Politics

## Bloomberg Campaign Says It's a Two-Man Race for the Nomination

By [Mark Niquette](#)

February 18, 2020, 4:14 PM EST

- ▶ Aide makes prediction before candidate has appeared on ballot
- ▶ Bloomberg to fight for first votes on Super Tuesday, March 3

 15.9K 12:03 AM - Feb 19, 2020



 5.283 people are talking about this



An NBC reporter noted quite a paradox in the new NBC-WSJ poll:



**Ali Vitali**   
@allvitali



The top 3 unpopular qualities for a presidential candidate all apply to the very candidate leading this same poll (Sanders). What a world. [twitter.com/mmurraypolitic...](https://twitter.com/mmurraypolitics)

**Mark Murray**   
@mmurraypolitics

Replying to @mmurraypolitics

Most unpopular qualities for a prez candidate in the new NBC/WSJ poll (combined reservations + very uncomfortable):

Socialist: 67%  
Heart attack in past year: 57%  
75+: 53%  
Self-funder: 41%  
Under 40: 40%  
Gay/lesbian: 27%  
Woman: 14%

Feb 14-17, RVs, MOE +/- 3.3%

 213 10:10 PM - Feb 18, 2020



 155 people are talking about this



**Congressional Democrats blasted Trump's pardons and commutations:**



**Maxine Waters**   
@RepMaxineWaters



Wow! Trump told us he could stand on 5th Ave, shoot someone & get away w/ it. Now we know he can sit in the Oval Office, & w/ the stroke of a pen, commute & pardon sentences for crooks & criminals while incarcerated individuals claiming innocence & asking for pardons are ignored!

 4,342 10:23 PM - Feb 18, 2020



 1,585 people are talking about this





**And the liberal uncle of the just-married Stephen Miller, the White House adviser who oversees immigration policy, directed his wedding present to an organization that works with refugees:**



## Videos of the day

Trump effusively praised Bloomberg seven years ago:

 **JM Rieger**   
@RiegerReport 

Donald Trump on Mike Bloomberg on March 25, 2013:

"He's made a tremendous fortune, he's a brilliant guy ... he's got some, you know, really amazing ideas, he's done a very, very good job as the mayor of New York"



 6  12:03 AM - Feb 19, 2020 

 [See JM Rieger's other Tweets](#) 

James Corden previewed the Democratic debate:



 Bernie Goes After Bloomberg Ahead Of Vega... 







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**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Trump's clemency spree shows white-collar felons it's more about who you know than what you did  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:47:52 AM



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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Trump's clemency spree shows white-collar felons it's more about who you know than what you did

Billionaire investor Nelson Peltz hosted a fundraiser at his \$95 million home in Florida on Saturday night that raised \$10 million for President Trump's reelection campaign. On Tuesday, the White House listed Peltz in a news release as one of the people supporting Trump's pardon of Michael Milken.



Milken, “the junk bond king” who [inspired](#) Gordon Gekko’s “greed is good” character in the movie “Wall Street,” served two years in prison after pleading guilty in 1990 to six felony counts, including securities fraud, mail fraud and aiding in the filing of a false tax return.

Other megadonors, including casino mogul Sheldon Adelson, were also on [the White House’s list of individuals](#) supporting the Milken pardon. So was the president’s personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, as well as Fox Business host Maria Bartiromo and Fox News owner Rupert Murdoch. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, who is married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) were among the 33 names listed. Steven Mnuchin was not on the list, but the Wall Street Journal [notes](#) that Milken has cultivated a friendship with the Treasury secretary and even flew him from Washington to California last year on his private jet.

“You know, oftentimes — pretty much all the time — I really rely on the recommendations of people that know them,” Trump told reporters as he prepared to board Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews. He was explaining why, and how, he’d just issued seven pardons and four commutations.



The big-name endorsements rolled out by the White House press office

gave the distinct impression that these presidential decisions to show mercy were driven as much by whom the convicted felons know as what they were convicted for.

The head of the Justice Department's pardon office during the first two years of the Trump administration [told The Washington Post](#) recently that he quit last year because the White House largely ignored the formal process in favor of taking recommendations from celebrities, political allies and Fox News.

Ariel Friedler is one of the least famous beneficiaries of Trump's [Tuesday pardons](#). The former chief executive of Simplicity pleaded guilty in 2014 to [conspiring to hack](#) into the computer systems of two competitors to improve his company's software development and sales strategy. Chris Christie, who advises the president, also takes on legal clients. Friedler is one of them. Records show Friedler never even applied to the pardon office at the Justice Department. But the White House listed the former New Jersey governor as someone supporting Trump's full pardon.

Edward DeBartolo Jr., the billionaire former owner of the San Francisco 49ers, pleaded guilty in 1998 for failing to tell authorities when ex-Louisiana governor Edwin Edwards (D) sought a bribe for a riverboat casino license. On the White House's list of individuals advocating for his pardon were New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. Both of them gave [a million bucks](#) to Trump's inaugural committee.



Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

## We Can't Afford Medicare for All



American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

The president also pardoned David Safavian, a senior official in the George W. Bush administration who was convicted of obstructing a federal investigation and making false statements related to his dealings with the lobbyist Jack Abramoff. Abramoff [took him](#) on a luxury golf trip to Scotland and London, and Safavian helped him with business before the General Services Administration. Safavian now works for the

American Conservative Union Foundation and frequently tweets support for the president. His list of endorsers includes Republican lobbyist Matt Schlapp, who chairs the American Conservative Union, and his wife Mercedes Schlapp, who works on the president's reelection campaign and spent nearly two years as the director of strategic communications in the Trump White House.

Former New York police commissioner Bernie Kerik went to prison for tax fraud and lying to White House officials when George W. Bush was preparing to nominate him to be secretary of homeland security. Kerik would later withdraw. His pardon was pushed for by Giuliani, who was Kerik's boss as mayor of New York. Fox News personalities Andrew Napolitano and Geraldo Rivera were also named by the White House as advocates. So was attorney Sidney Powell, who represents former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn.

The president seems to have something of a soft spot for white-collar criminals. For someone who has spent months professing to be so profoundly concerned about corruption in Ukraine, Trump signaled with these pardons and commutations that he's far less worried about taking a hard line against corruption here at home.

Here are four other takeaways from Trump's latest announcements:

### **1) Fox News remains immensely influential.**

As he explained why he commuted former Democratic Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich's sentence, Trump told reporters: "I watched his wife on television."

Patti Blagojevich made at least **seven** appearances over the past two years on Fox News, appearing on the shows of Tucker Carlson, Laura Ingraham and Jeanine Pirro, to praise the president and plead for his mercy. (Blagojevich was also a contestant on Trump's show "The Celebrity Apprentice" in 2010.)

Kerik, a frequent Mar-a-Lago guest, appeared on Fox News as recently as

Monday night.

Angela Stanton was pardoned for her role in a car-stealing ring. The former “Real Housewives of Atlanta” star has previously appeared on Fox News, where she’s praised the president.



Former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich arrives at his home in Chicago early Wednesday morning after Trump ordered his release from a Colorado prison. (Paul Beaty/AP)

## **2) The perceived enemy of Trump’s enemy is his friend.**

The president said the 14-year prison sentence for Blagojevich, who was caught on a wiretap talking about trying to sell Barack Obama’s vacated Senate seat to the highest bidder, was “ridiculous.”

“It was a prosecution by the same people – Comey, Fitzpatrick – the same group,” Trump told reporters on Tuesday. Last year, Trump also falsely blamed Blagojevich’s treatment on “the Comey gang and all these sleazebags.”

In fact, however, former FBI director James Comey was in the private sector during Blagojevich’s prosecution. And “Fitzpatrick” seems to be a mistaken reference to Patrick Fitzgerald, who as U.S. attorney in Chicago

did prosecute Blagojevich and is indeed good friends with Comey.

### **3) Trump is clearly not going to let up his attacks on the Justice Department.**

Trump is deeply animated by his sense of grievance and victimhood. He told reporters on Tuesday as he discussed the pardons that he partially agreed with Attorney General Bill Barr that his tweets about active criminal cases do make his job more difficult. But he said that won't stop him. "Social media, for me, has been very important because it gives me a voice," said Trump, who as president controls the biggest bully pulpit in the world and has an enormous press corps that hangs on his every word.

Trump doesn't appear to see himself as "above the law." Instead, he seems to believe he *is* the law. "I'm allowed to be totally involved," he told reporters, as he defended his tweets about the case of his longtime adviser Roger Stone. "I'm actually, I guess, the chief law enforcement officer of the country. But I've chosen not to be involved."

The president clearly feels emboldened by the Senate's vote to acquit him. "The pardons and commutations followed Trump's moves to punish witnesses in his impeachment trial, publicly intervene in a pending legal case to urge leniency for a friend, attack a federal judge, accuse a juror of bias and threaten to sue his own government for investigating him,"

[Toluse Olorunnipa and Beth Reinhard report.](#)



**Barr has told people close to Trump — both inside and outside the White House — that he is considering quitting over Trump’s tweets about Justice Department investigations**, three administration officials [told Matt Zapposky, Josh Dawsey, John Wagner and Rachel Weiner](#): “So far, Trump has defied Barr’s requests, both public and private, to keep quiet on matters of federal law enforcement. It was not immediately clear Tuesday whether Barr had made his posture known directly to Trump. The administration officials said Barr seemed to be sharing his position with advisers in hopes the president would get the message that he should stop weighing in publicly on the Justice Department’s ongoing criminal investigations. ‘He has his limits,’ said one person familiar with Barr’s thinking ...

“The standoff between Trump and Barr intensified Tuesday when Trump declared in a string of early morning tweets that he might sue those involved in the special counsel investigation into his 2016 campaign and suggested that [Stone], his friend convicted of lying to Congress in that probe, deserved a new trial. Hours later, a Justice Department official said prosecutors had filed a sealed motion in court arguing the opposite and that they had Barr’s personal approval to do so. Barr had a previously scheduled lunch with the White House counsel Tuesday and was still the attorney general by day’s end — indicating that the president’s moves that

day were not enough to push him to resign.”

#### 4) Follow the money.

“Paul Pogue, a construction company owner who pleaded guilty to underpaying his taxes by \$473,000 and received three years probation, was issued a full pardon and clemency by the president,” [the Daily Beast notes](#). “According to FEC filings, Pogue’s family has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in direct contributions and in-kind air travel to the Trump Victory Committee. Beginning in August 2019, Ben Pogue—CEO of Pogue Construction and son of Paul Pogue—and his wife Ashleigh made over \$200,000 in contributions to the campaign.

“In August alone, Ben Pogue donated \$85,000 to Trump Victory while Ashleigh Pogue contributed \$50,000 that month. The following month, Ben Pogue made an in-kind air travel contribution of \$75,404.40. The couple also made several large donations to the Republican National Committee and each donated \$5,600 to Donald Trump for President Inc. On the day of their first donation to the Trump campaign, Ashleigh posted an Instagram photo of her and her husband posing with Donald Trump Jr. and his girlfriend, Kimberly Guilfoyle, at the Hamptons.







“Prior to the Pogues’ sudden significant donating spree to Trump and the Republicans, the couple was not seen as big campaign spenders, having donated a few thousand dollars for Paul Ryan’s congressional campaign in 2017 and \$5,400 for former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum’s 2016 Republican presidential run. Notably, one of the advocates for Pogue’s clemency: Santorum, who is now a CNN contributor.”

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## 2020 watch



### **A new Washington Post-ABC News poll shows Bernie Sanders opening a significant national lead.**

“Joe Biden, who led Sanders in a Post-ABC national poll in January, has seen a sharp drop in his support after finishing fourth in the Iowa caucuses and fifth in the New Hampshire primary,” [Dan Balz and Scott](#)

**Clement report.** Biden is now in a battle for second place with Mike Bloomberg and Elizabeth Warren. Pete Buttigieg is in single digits nationally, roughly even with Amy Klobuchar.

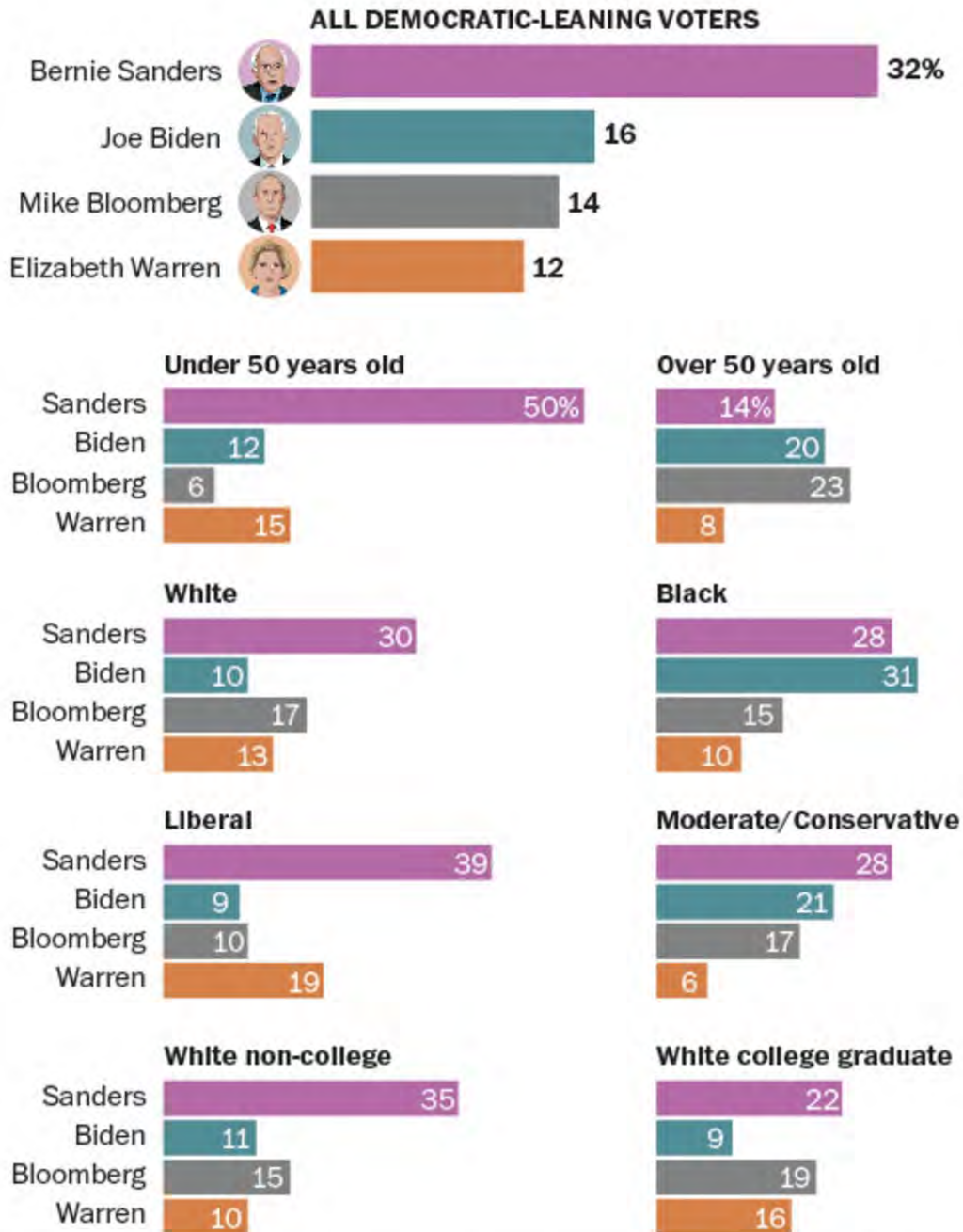
**“By a wide margin, 58 percent to 38 percent, Democrats say they would rather nominate a candidate who can defeat Trump than one who agrees with them on major issues.** ... In the new poll, Sanders is seen as the most electable, cited by 30 percent of Democratic leaners as best situated to beat Trump. Bloomberg is cited by 18 percent on this question, with no other Democrat close to double digits. ... In the past month, Biden has lost support among three key constituency groups: African Americans, older voters and whites without college degrees, previously the bulwarks of his campaign. ...

**“Sanders has seen a big jump in support among voters under age 50 and is now backed by 50 percent of that group,** up from 34 percent in January. He holds a 3-to-1 lead over his rivals among these voters. Sanders also has more than doubled his support among black voters and has gained among whites without college degrees. ... Bloomberg’s growth was fueled by more support among older voters and among white voters with college degrees. Buttigieg, Warren and Klobuchar saw no significant shifts in their coalitions. ...

**“In a measure of how Democrats see Sanders as a candidate against Trump, 72 percent say they believe he would defeat the president.** Among Democrats, 69 percent think Bloomberg would win against Trump, and 68 percent say that of Biden. ... If he were to become the nominee, about half of all Americans say it makes no difference in their vote that Sanders is a socialist, including about 7 in 10 Democrats. But nearly 4 in 10 adults say that fact makes them more likely to oppose him, including 37 percent of independents and 79 percent of Republicans. Just under 1 in 10 adults say it makes them more likely to support him. ... The president’s approval rating stands at 43 percent, with 53 percent disapproving, showing no real change in the past month.”

# Young voters are Sanders's base, but he is competitive across racial, ideological and educational groups

Q: Please tell me whom you'd vote for in the primary or caucus in your state. Which candidate would you lean toward? (Among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independent registered voters)



Note: Candidates with 10% or less overall support and “no opinion” not shown.

Source: Feb. 14-17, 2020, Washington Post-ABC News poll of 408 Democratic and Democratic-leaning registered voters, with an error margin of +/- 6 percentage points.

BRITTANY RENEE MAYES/THE WASHINGTON POST

## **Tonight's debate requires Bloomberg to step out of his expensive comfort zone.**

“When he steps onto the debate stage in Las Vegas for his first hostile and uncontrolled campaign test [at 9 p.m. Eastern on NBC and MSNBC], there will be no management decisions to make, teleprompters to lean on or endless ad budgets to filter his image with focus-grouped messaging,” [Michael Scherer reports](#). “In preparation, his advisers have spent much of the past week drilling him for the big jump, which could make or break the momentum he has generated with his extravagant spending. In debate prep sessions, they have armed him with comebacks for the inevitable attacks on his enormous wealth and past record, while also coaching him to move beyond his sometimes distant, wonky and diffidently logical public persona. ...

**"Wary of Bloomberg's rise in the polls, his rivals, with far more debate experience and Democratic longevity, have made clear that they will not go easy on the newcomer.** [Sanders] spent Tuesday in Reno, Nev., denouncing Bloomberg's campaign as an example of 'oligarchy, not democracy.' [Biden] has been boasting for days about his desire to confront Bloomberg in person because he cannot compete with the billionaire's advertising budget. 'At least now primary voters curious about how each candidate will take on Donald Trump can get a live demonstration of how we each take on an egomaniac billionaire,' [Warren] warned...

**"Bloomberg's rise in polling comes as he faces a barrage of negative news coverage, some of it promoted by rival campaigns.** He has had to again address [allegations that he made vulgar and sexist comments](#), his past defense of targeting stop-and-frisk police policies to black and Latino neighborhoods in New York, and [an interview](#)

in which he blamed the 2008 financial crisis on politicians who had pushed to end racially discriminatory mortgage-lending policies known as 'redlining.' Bloomberg's past political leanings — he re-registered as a Democrat only in 2018 — and his refusal to file a financial disclosure or release his tax returns before the debate, even as he is self-financing his campaign, also could come into play Wednesday. A spokesman for his campaign said the financial disclosure would be filed by March 20, and Howard Wolfson, a senior adviser to the campaign, has previously said Bloomberg would release his tax returns, though no date has been set.”

**Senior Bloomberg campaign adviser Timothy O'Brien said the billionaire will sell his business, Bloomberg LP, if he wins the presidency.** “There will be no confusion about any of his financial holdings,” [O'Brien told CNN](#). “We will be 180 degrees away from where Donald Trump is on these issues because Donald Trump is a walking financial conflict of interest.”

**Retired ABC News anchor Sam Donaldson's endorsement of Bloomberg annoyed practicing journalists.**

“Donaldson’s open partisanship has few precedents among leading national TV news figures, and raises several journalistic questions: Does a journalist’s vow of objectivity (or at least neutrality and balance) extend beyond his or her working years? Is a retired journalist subject to the same kinds of ethical restraints as a working one, such as *not* endorsing candidates and *not* contributing to political causes and campaigns?” [writes Paul Farhi](#). “Donaldson, 85, says no. Since he no longer has any role in reporting or shaping the news, he believes he’s entitled to express his opinions about, well, everything.”

**Sanders said he won't release any more medical records.**

“We have released ... quite as much as any other candidate has,” [Sanders said last night during a CNN town hall](#). “I think we have released a detailed report and I'm comfortable with what we have done. And, by the

way, if you think I'm not in good health, come out with me on the campaign trail and I'll let you introduce me to the three or four rallies a day that we do.”

### **He also rejected a potential health-care compromise.**

Sanders distanced himself from Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s “recent suggestion that compromising on health care would be acceptable, arguing that his Medicare-for-all plan is ‘already a compromise,’” [Sean Sullivan reports](#). Last week, Ocasio-Cortez [told HuffPost](#) that some flexibility on the proposal was possible. “A president can’t wave a magic wand and pass any legislation they want,” she said. “The worst-case scenario? We compromise deeply and we end up getting a public option. Is that a nightmare? I don’t think so.”

### **And the Sanders camp plans to request a partial recount of the Iowa caucuses.**

“The announcement came as the results further narrowed on Tuesday, following a recanvass of a small subset of precincts,” [Isaac Stanley-Becker reports](#). “The revised figures did not change the allocation of delegates to the national convention. Still, they just barely shifted projected support at the state convention, which is typically the metric used to name a winner. The [Iowa Democratic Party](#) said [Buttigieg] would claim 563.207 state delegate equivalents, or SDEs, while Sanders (I-Vt.) would claim 563.127. What had been a difference of 2.774 shrank to 0.08.”

### **Klobuchar is scrambling to turn her moment into something more.**

“Her staffers spent hours over the weekend hashing out a strategy for Super Tuesday, debating whether it’s worthwhile to compete in big, delegate-rich states like Texas and California,” [Annie Linskey, Jenna Johnson and Holly Bailey report](#). “Some advisers want her to focus instead on independent-minded states that aren’t overly liberal, like Maine and Tennessee, because they might be receptive to her centrist message. But those states, of course, yield much fewer delegates. ... Klobuchar’s home state votes on Super Tuesday. She is adding staff in Minnesota as she

battles with Buttigieg and Warren for the white, college-educated voters who fuel their campaigns.” As one adviser put it: “We’re putting the airplane together as we’re flying it.”

## **Buttigieg clapped back at Rush Limbaugh's homophobic attacks.**

During his own town hall on CNN last night, Buttigieg offered “some of his most fiery responses yet to Limbaugh's assertion that President Trump told him not to apologize for saying that Americans wouldn't elect ‘a gay guy kissing his husband on the debate stage,’” [Chelsea Janes reports](#). “Limbaugh, whom Trump recently awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, doubled down on those comments Monday when he told listeners ‘Hell, the president even called me about this! He said, “Rush, I just got to tell you something. Never apologize. Don’t ever apologize.”’ Trump recently said he would have no trouble voting for a gay candidate. Buttigieg said he can’t take Trump at his word. ‘Not if he’s sending out his supporters to talk in this way. Look, the idea of the likes of Rush Limbaugh or Donald Trump lecturing anybody on family values,’ Buttigieg said. ‘Sorry, but one thing about my marriage is it’s never involved me having to send hush money to a porn star after cheating on my spouse.’”

## **A watchdog group claims Buttigieg and a super PAC improperly coordinated.**

“[In the complaint, filed Tuesday](#) with the Federal Election Commission, the Campaign Legal Center alleged that Buttigieg’s campaign improperly accepted more than \$639,000 in contributions, in violation of federal rules barring candidates from coordinating with independent groups that can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money,” [Michelle Ye Hee Lee reports](#). “The complaint centers on a tweet by Buttigieg senior strategist Michael Halle analyzing the strengths of a particular campaign message in Nevada, and a subsequent ad campaign in that state by VoteVets that appeared to follow the strategy outlined in the tweet.”

## **Buttigieg was forced to clarify that comedian Keegan-**



## **Michael Key hasn't endorsed him.**

“Key [appeared with Buttigieg](#) on Saturday to drum up voter support at his Henderson, Nev., field office. The gaffe did not attract much attention. However, it was not the first time the Buttigieg campaign [overstated having a tie with](#) a prominent African American figure, or black business,” [ABC News reports](#).

## **As Super Tuesday looms, rural California's delegate gold mine is suddenly a big deal.**

“Buttigieg landed in this small Central Valley city of 74,000, addressing an excited crowd of 700 Stanislaus County Democrats ... Many said [they] couldn't believe their luck, not after decades of presidential candidates ignoring California's inland areas. ‘I've lived in California my whole life, and I've never seen a presidential candidate,’ said Kathy Causey, a [lifelong Democrat],” [Politico reports](#). “Buttigieg's road trip into the region John Steinbeck once described as ‘America's Breadbasket’ underscores how candidates are going to far-flung regions of the state to mine for delegate gold in a competitive Democratic primary. ... California's primary rules award delegates proportionally by congressional district, meaning that candidates know they must essentially run their ground game ... ‘in 53 different states,’ the number of congressional districts in California.”

## **The Trump campaign hired a Cambridge Analytica alum.**

The move is “likely to raise alarms among Trump critics and data privacy advocates who worry the president will push the technological envelope to get reelected in 2020,” [Politico reports](#). “Matt Oczkowski, who served as head of product at Cambridge before it went bankrupt and shut down in 2018, is helping oversee the Trump campaign's data program ... People familiar with the hire say he will devote his time to data-focused projects like determining where Trump and surrogates ought to campaign in person, figuring out which states are the best targets on Trump's path to victory, and targeting media buys. Oczkowski has privately said he plans on using traditional data modeling rather than psychographics, the

targeting of voters based upon their personality or behavior.”

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## **The new world order**

**More than 2,000 have died of the coronavirus in China, but the nation is growing optimistic.**

“Chinese leader Xi Jinping is striking an increasingly confident note that the country can control the coronavirus outbreak and manage the [economic](#) and [social fallout](#) as some Chinese health experts predict a peak in infections by the end of the month,” [Gerry Shih reports](#). “Chinese leaders, eager to kick-start economic activity, have dismantled some highway checkpoints while businesses have begun to reopen. As of Wednesday, restrictions on personal mobility remained tight, suggesting wariness about rising infections. ...

“China on Wednesday reported new case numbers continuing to decline, but international experts, including U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Anthony Fauci, say they are wary of declaring that the pace of worldwide infections is slowing. ... China tallied a total of 1,749 new infections and 136 deaths through the end of Tuesday, making the cumulative total 74,185 infections and 2,004 deaths — the overwhelming majority still occurring in central Hubei province. Hong Kong reported its second death, a 70-year-old man.”



A machine sprays disinfectant at the entrance of a pork meat hall inside a wholesale market for agricultural products in Beijing. (Tingshu Wang/Reuters)

## **China expelled three Wall Street Journal reporters, blaming an opinion column.**

“Deputy Bureau Chief Josh Chin and reporter Chao Deng, both American citizens, as well as reporter Philip Wen, an Australian national, have been ordered to leave the country within five days,” [Anna Fifield reports](#). The Foreign Ministry has been criticizing the Journal since it published a coronavirus-related column on Feb. 3 by Walter Russell Mead, a professor at Bard College, under the headline “[China Is the Real Sick Man of Asia.](#)”

## **The move came after the U.S. designated major Chinese media outlets as government entities.**

The Xinhua News Agency, China Global Television Network, China Radio International, China Daily and the People’s Daily will now be treated as diplomatic outposts of the Chinese government, subject to the same constraints. The move is the latest in a series of U.S. efforts to tackle China’s influence in the United States. ([Fifield, Carol Morello and Emily Rauhala](#))

## **The Trump administration accused a Russian company of helping Venezuela export oil.**

“The Trump administration directed its ‘maximum pressure’ campaign in Venezuela toward Russia on Tuesday, announcing sanctions against the trading and marketing arm of Rosneft, the state-controlled Russian oil giant that has taken over an increasing share of Venezuela’s own state-owned oil industry and reaped huge profits from exporting its crude,” [Karen DeYoung and Anthony Faiola report](#). “Swiss-registered Rosneft Trading has ‘propped up the [Venezuelan] oil sector and actively tried to evade’ existing U.S. sanctions against those doing business with the Venezuelan government of Nicolás Maduro, according to [an administration official] ... The measures do not cover the parent company, Rosneft Oil. Its chairman, Igor Sechin, is a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin ... But U.S. officials said the steps would have a global effect. Although the sanctions directly target only property and interests held in the United States by the trading subsidiary and its chairman, Didier Casimiro, ‘most banks, whether U.S.-based or not,’ look to the U.S. measures ‘to guide their risk appetite,’ one of the officials said.”

## **The death of a young girl in Mexico sparked new outrage in a nation plagued by femicide.**

Seven-year-old Fátima Aldrighett "disappeared Feb. 11 in the Mexico City neighborhood of Xochimilco, where she was waiting to be picked up from school. Four days later, her body was found naked in a plastic bag," [Kevin Sieff reports](#). “Fátima’s killing is the latest in a string of brutal crimes against girls and women stirring enormous public outrage directed at Mexico’s president and other top officials. Last week, Ingrid Escamilla, 25, was found stabbed to death and partially skinned. That crime prompted a wave of protests in Mexico City; President Andrés Manuel López Obrador was accused of brushing them off. In the midst of a [fundraising campaign linked to the sale of the presidential plane](#), he chastised a reporter who asked him about the attacks on women: ‘I don’t want femicides to distract from the raffle.’”

## **An immigration judge granted a Venezuelan father**

## **entrance to the U.S. but sent his teen daughter to Mexico.**

Officials “denied her claims that she was fleeing political repression and violence, even after they accepted the same claims from her father,” [the AP reports](#). “The teenager, who is being identified by only her first name, Branyerly, is living alone in Matamoros, Mexico, across from Brownsville. U.S. border agents on Monday denied her request not to be sent back under the Trump administration’s so-called ‘Remain in Mexico’ program for migrants. ... ‘I already lived one nightmare in Venezuela and another here,’ Branyerly said.”

## **Boeing found debris in the fuel tanks of undelivered 737 Max jets.**

This is a “potential safety hazard and yet another problem for the company as it tries to get the planes airborne again after two deadly crashes,” [Ian Duncan reports](#). Debris “often includes tools or parts left behind when planes leave the production line. [A] Boeing spokesman said dealing with the debris is not likely to further delay the work of getting the planes off the ground.”

## **In Canada, anti-pipeline protesters have paralyzed the nation’s rail system.**

“Demonstrators across the country have joined the blockades in support of the hereditary chiefs of the Wet’suwet’en Nation in British Columbia, who oppose the construction of a natural gas pipeline through their territory. They’ve brought most freight and passenger rail service to a standstill,” [Amanda Coletta reports](#). Underlying the dispute are long-standing questions over land title, and who speaks for Canada’s indigenous people. In response, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called for “dialogue and mutual respect.”

## **A storm brought mass flooding to the U.K. Brits asked, “Where’s Boris?”**

“The Met Office called the thing Dennis, and [the second-strongest](#) ‘bomb

cyclone' on record in the North Atlantic wreaked havoc across Britain," [William Booth reports](#). "And with flood warnings still pinging on the telly like traffic alerts during a London rush hour, the storm is now raining on Prime Minister Boris Johnson, too, who is facing a torrent of criticism for his government's response. 'Where the bloody hell is Boris?' the Sun newspaper asked in a front-page headline. ... The hashtag #wheresBoris was trending in Britain on Twitter. The flooding begot by Storm Dennis is responsible for at least three deaths so far, as the waters continue to rise. ... The Labour Party said Johnson's decision not to visit the hard-hit areas or hold a cabinet-level emergency meeting was 'a disgrace.' ... It didn't help that when Storm Dennis hit, Johnson was spending the weekend at the 115-room lakeside mansion in Kent known as Chevening."

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## Quote of the day

*"It's dangerous not to talk to your enemies." – Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) on [why he met with Iran's foreign minister \(Michael Brice-Saddler and Reis Thebault\)](#)*

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## Social media speed read

A video showed Bloomberg describing transgender people as "he, she, or it," upsetting many activists on the left:

**Charlotte Clymer** 🏳️‍🌈 🇺🇸 @cmclymer · 5h  
I am heartbroken and infuriated that @MikeBloomberg felt it appropriate to refer to trans people as "it" and trans women as "men in dresses". His remarks are cruel, inexcusable and enable violence and discrimination against trans + non-binary folks.  
(1/6)[buzzfeednews.com/article/domini...](https://buzzfeednews.com/article/domini...)



**Mike Bloomberg Referred To Transgender Peo...**  
Bloomberg suggested transgender rights would sink Democratic campaigns in comments recorded last  
[buzzfeednews.com](https://buzzfeednews.com)

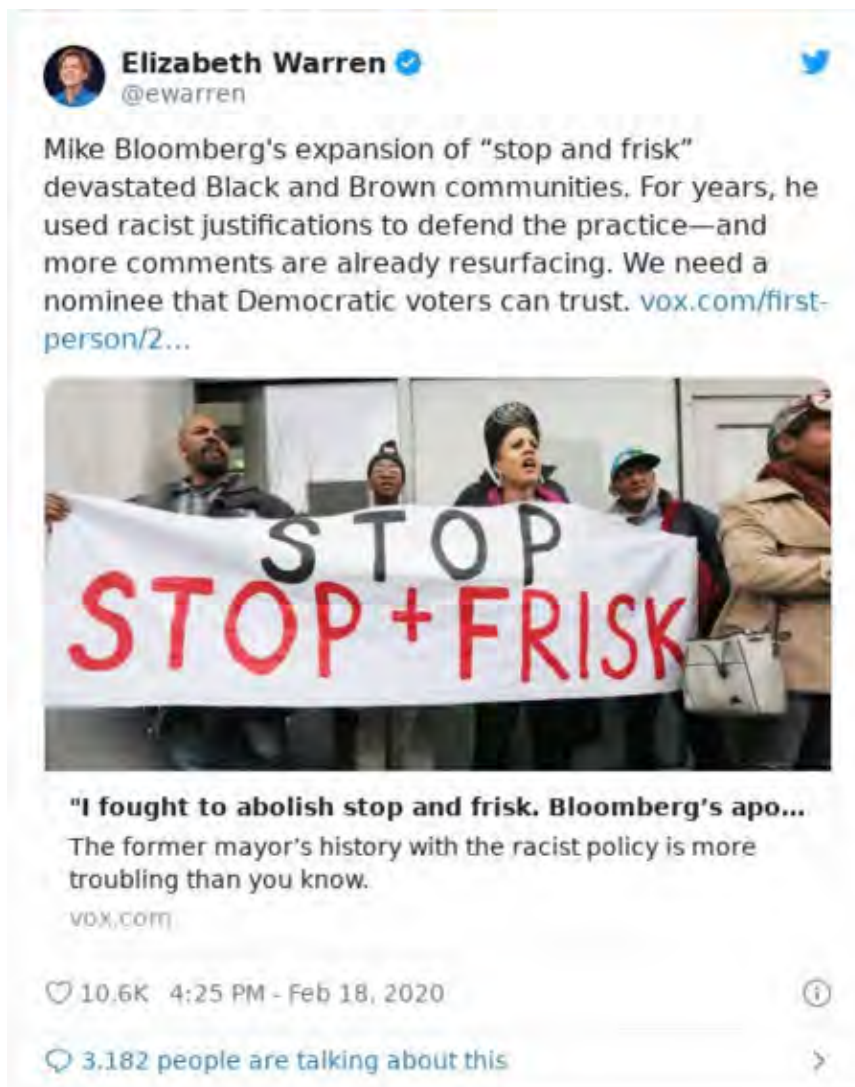
**Charlotte Clymer** 🏳️‍🌈 🇺🇸 @cmclymer

This comes two weeks after @MikeBloomberg was found to have made similar remarks in 2016. These latest comments were less than a year ago. It is disturbing that a leading Democratic presidential candidate would casually dehumanize trans people and degrade our existence.

👍 924 1:32 AM - Feb 19, 2020

💬 100 people are talking about this

Previewing a possible flashpoint in tonight's debate, Warren accused Bloomberg of using "racist justifications" to defend "stop and frisk":



**Bloomberg's campaign manager kept his focus on Sanders:**



**Ted Cruz made fun of a Bloomberg News headline about Bloomberg:**





**Ted Cruz**   
@tedcruz



It's almost as if he owns the media.  
[twitter.com/yashar/status/...](https://twitter.com/yashar/status/...)

**Yashar Ali**  @yashar

Bloomberg campaign says it's a two-man race for the nomination per Bloomberg the news organization owned and controlled by Bloomberg



**Bloomberg**

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Politics

## Bloomberg Campaign Says It's a Two-Man Race for the Nomination

By [Mark Niquette](#)

February 18, 2020, 4:14 PM EST

- ▶ Aide makes prediction before candidate has appeared on ballot
- ▶ Bloomberg to fight for first votes on Super Tuesday, March 3

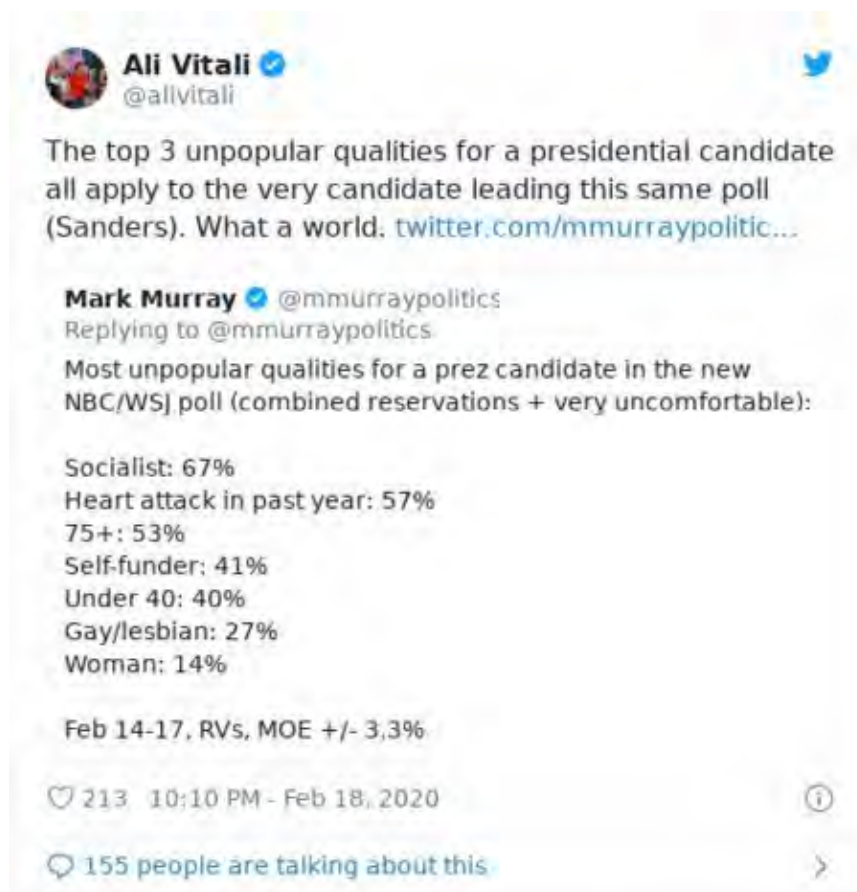
 15.9K 12:03 AM - Feb 19, 2020



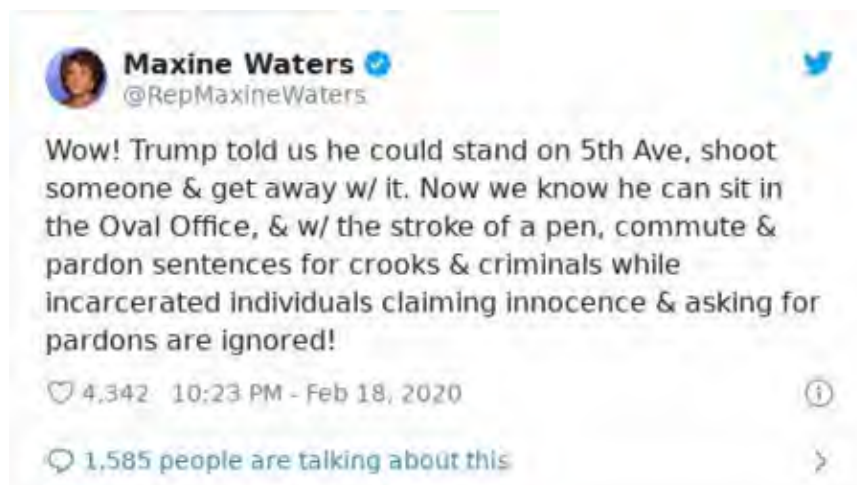
 5.283 people are talking about this



An NBC reporter noted quite a paradox in the new NBC-WSJ poll:



**Congressional Democrats blasted Trump's pardons and commutations:**





**And the liberal uncle of the just-married Stephen Miller, the White House adviser who oversees immigration policy, directed his wedding present to an organization that works with refugees:**



## Videos of the day

Trump effusively praised Bloomberg seven years ago:

 **JM Rieger**   
@RiegerReport 

Donald Trump on Mike Bloomberg on March 25, 2013:

"He's made a tremendous fortune, he's a brilliant guy ... he's got some, you know, really amazing ideas, he's done a very, very good job as the mayor of New York"



 6  12:03 AM - Feb 19, 2020 

 [See JM Rieger's other Tweets](#) 

James Corden previewed the Democratic debate:



 Bernie Goes After Bloomberg Ahead Of Vega... 







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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Trump's clemency spree shows white-collar felons it's more about who you know than what you did  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:48:52 AM



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# The Daily 202

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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Trump's clemency spree shows white-collar felons it's more about who you know than what you did

Billionaire investor Nelson Peltz hosted a fundraiser at his \$95 million home in Florida on Saturday night that raised \$10 million for President Trump's reelection campaign. On Tuesday, the White House listed Peltz in a news release as one of the people supporting Trump's pardon of Michael Milken.

Milken, “the junk bond king” who [inspired](#) Gordon Gekko’s “greed is good” character in the movie “Wall Street,” served two years in prison after pleading guilty in 1990 to six felony counts, including securities fraud, mail fraud and aiding in the filing of a false tax return.

Other megadonors, including casino mogul Sheldon Adelson, were also on [the White House’s list of individuals](#) supporting the Milken pardon. So was the president’s personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, as well as Fox Business host Maria Bartiromo and Fox News owner Rupert Murdoch. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, who is married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) were among the 33 names listed. Steven Mnuchin was not on the list, but the Wall Street Journal [notes](#) that Milken has cultivated a friendship with the Treasury secretary and even flew him from Washington to California last year on his private jet.

“You know, oftentimes — pretty much all the time — I really rely on the recommendations of people that know them,” Trump told reporters as he prepared to board Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews. He was explaining why, and how, he’d just issued seven pardons and four commutations.



The big-name endorsements rolled out by the White House press office



gave the distinct impression that these presidential decisions to show mercy were driven as much by whom the convicted felons know as what they were convicted for.

The head of the Justice Department's pardon office during the first two years of the Trump administration [told The Washington Post](#) recently that he quit last year because the White House largely ignored the formal process in favor of taking recommendations from celebrities, political allies and Fox News.

Ariel Friedler is one of the least famous beneficiaries of Trump's [Tuesday pardons](#). The former chief executive of Simplicity pleaded guilty in 2014 to [conspiring to hack](#) into the computer systems of two competitors to improve his company's software development and sales strategy. Chris Christie, who advises the president, also takes on legal clients. Friedler is one of them. Records show Friedler never even applied to the pardon office at the Justice Department. But the White House listed the former New Jersey governor as someone supporting Trump's full pardon.

Edward DeBartolo Jr., the billionaire former owner of the San Francisco 49ers, pleaded guilty in 1998 for failing to tell authorities when ex-Louisiana governor Edwin Edwards (D) sought a bribe for a riverboat casino license. On the White House's list of individuals advocating for his pardon were New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. Both of them gave [a million bucks](#) to Trump's inaugural committee.



Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

## We Can't Afford Medicare for All



American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

The president also pardoned David Safavian, a senior official in the George W. Bush administration who was convicted of obstructing a federal investigation and making false statements related to his dealings with the lobbyist Jack Abramoff. Abramoff [took him](#) on a luxury golf trip to Scotland and London, and Safavian helped him with business before the General Services Administration. Safavian now works for the

American Conservative Union Foundation and frequently tweets support for the president. His list of endorsers includes Republican lobbyist Matt Schlapp, who chairs the American Conservative Union, and his wife Mercedes Schlapp, who works on the president's reelection campaign and spent nearly two years as the director of strategic communications in the Trump White House.

Former New York police commissioner Bernie Kerik went to prison for tax fraud and lying to White House officials when George W. Bush was preparing to nominate him to be secretary of homeland security. Kerik would later withdraw. His pardon was pushed for by Giuliani, who was Kerik's boss as mayor of New York. Fox News personalities Andrew Napolitano and Geraldo Rivera were also named by the White House as advocates. So was attorney Sidney Powell, who represents former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn.

The president seems to have something of a soft spot for white-collar criminals. For someone who has spent months professing to be so profoundly concerned about corruption in Ukraine, Trump signaled with these pardons and commutations that he's far less worried about taking a hard line against corruption here at home.

Here are four other takeaways from Trump's latest announcements:

### **1) Fox News remains immensely influential.**

As he explained why he commuted former Democratic Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich's sentence, Trump told reporters: "I watched his wife on television."

Patti Blagojevich made at least **seven** appearances over the past two years on Fox News, appearing on the shows of Tucker Carlson, Laura Ingraham and Jeanine Pirro, to praise the president and plead for his mercy. (Blagojevich was also a contestant on Trump's show "The Celebrity Apprentice" in 2010.)

Kerik, a frequent Mar-a-Lago guest, appeared on Fox News as recently as

Monday night.

Angela Stanton was pardoned for her role in a car-stealing ring. The former “Real Housewives of Atlanta” star has previously appeared on Fox News, where she’s praised the president.



Former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich arrives at his home in Chicago early Wednesday morning after Trump ordered his release from a Colorado prison. (Paul Beaty/AP)

## **2) The perceived enemy of Trump’s enemy is his friend.**

The president said the 14-year prison sentence for Blagojevich, who was caught on a wiretap talking about trying to sell Barack Obama’s vacated Senate seat to the highest bidder, was “ridiculous.”

“It was a prosecution by the same people – Comey, Fitzpatrick – the same group,” Trump told reporters on Tuesday. Last year, Trump also falsely blamed Blagojevich’s treatment on “the Comey gang and all these sleazebags.”

In fact, however, former FBI director James Comey was in the private sector during Blagojevich’s prosecution. And “Fitzpatrick” seems to be a mistaken reference to Patrick Fitzgerald, who as U.S. attorney in Chicago

did prosecute Blagojevich and is indeed good friends with Comey.

### **3) Trump is clearly not going to let up his attacks on the Justice Department.**

Trump is deeply animated by his sense of grievance and victimhood. He told reporters on Tuesday as he discussed the pardons that he partially agreed with Attorney General Bill Barr that his tweets about active criminal cases do make his job more difficult. But he said that won't stop him. "Social media, for me, has been very important because it gives me a voice," said Trump, who as president controls the biggest bully pulpit in the world and has an enormous press corps that hangs on his every word.

Trump doesn't appear to see himself as "above the law." Instead, he seems to believe he *is* the law. "I'm allowed to be totally involved," he told reporters, as he defended his tweets about the case of his longtime adviser Roger Stone. "I'm actually, I guess, the chief law enforcement officer of the country. But I've chosen not to be involved."

The president clearly feels emboldened by the Senate's vote to acquit him. "The pardons and commutations followed Trump's moves to punish witnesses in his impeachment trial, publicly intervene in a pending legal case to urge leniency for a friend, attack a federal judge, accuse a juror of bias and threaten to sue his own government for investigating him,"

[Toluse Olorunnipa and Beth Reinhard report.](#)



**Barr has told people close to Trump — both inside and outside the White House — that he is considering quitting over Trump’s tweets about Justice Department investigations**, three administration officials [told Matt Zapposky, Josh Dawsey, John Wagner and Rachel Weiner](#): “So far, Trump has defied Barr’s requests, both public and private, to keep quiet on matters of federal law enforcement. It was not immediately clear Tuesday whether Barr had made his posture known directly to Trump. The administration officials said Barr seemed to be sharing his position with advisers in hopes the president would get the message that he should stop weighing in publicly on the Justice Department’s ongoing criminal investigations. ‘He has his limits,’ said one person familiar with Barr’s thinking ...

“The standoff between Trump and Barr intensified Tuesday when Trump declared in a string of early morning tweets that he might sue those involved in the special counsel investigation into his 2016 campaign and suggested that [Stone], his friend convicted of lying to Congress in that probe, deserved a new trial. Hours later, a Justice Department official said prosecutors had filed a sealed motion in court arguing the opposite and that they had Barr’s personal approval to do so. Barr had a previously scheduled lunch with the White House counsel Tuesday and was still the attorney general by day’s end — indicating that the president’s moves that

day were not enough to push him to resign.”

#### 4) Follow the money.

“Paul Pogue, a construction company owner who pleaded guilty to underpaying his taxes by \$473,000 and received three years probation, was issued a full pardon and clemency by the president,” [the Daily Beast notes](#). “According to FEC filings, Pogue’s family has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in direct contributions and in-kind air travel to the Trump Victory Committee. Beginning in August 2019, Ben Pogue—CEO of Pogue Construction and son of Paul Pogue—and his wife Ashleigh made over \$200,000 in contributions to the campaign.

“In August alone, Ben Pogue donated \$85,000 to Trump Victory while Ashleigh Pogue contributed \$50,000 that month. The following month, Ben Pogue made an in-kind air travel contribution of \$75,404.40. The couple also made several large donations to the Republican National Committee and each donated \$5,600 to Donald Trump for President Inc. On the day of their first donation to the Trump campaign, Ashleigh posted an Instagram photo of her and her husband posing with Donald Trump Jr. and his girlfriend, Kimberly Guilfoyle, at the Hamptons.





“Prior to the Pogues’ sudden significant donating spree to Trump and the Republicans, the couple was not seen as big campaign spenders, having donated a few thousand dollars for Paul Ryan’s congressional campaign in 2017 and \$5,400 for former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum’s 2016 Republican presidential run. Notably, one of the advocates for Pogue’s clemency: Santorum, who is now a CNN contributor.”



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## 2020 watch



### **A new Washington Post-ABC News poll shows Bernie Sanders opening a significant national lead.**

“Joe Biden, who led Sanders in a Post-ABC national poll in January, has seen a sharp drop in his support after finishing fourth in the Iowa caucuses and fifth in the New Hampshire primary,” [Dan Balz and Scott Clement report](#). Biden is now in a battle for second place with Mike

Bloomberg and Elizabeth Warren. Pete Buttigieg is in single digits nationally, roughly even with Amy Klobuchar.

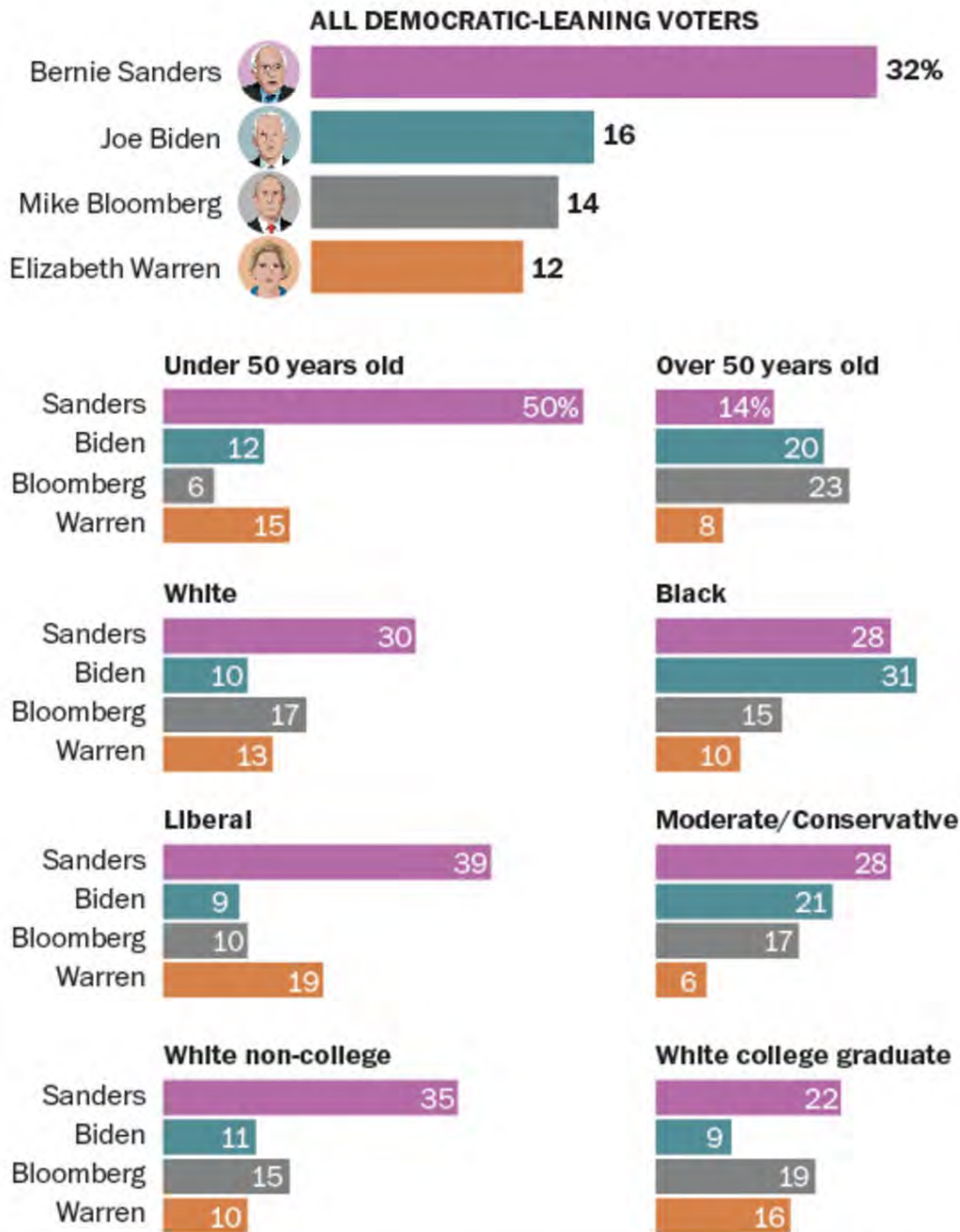
**“By a wide margin, 58 percent to 38 percent, Democrats say they would rather nominate a candidate who can defeat Trump than one who agrees with them on major issues.** ... In the new poll, Sanders is seen as the most electable, cited by 30 percent of Democratic leaners as best situated to beat Trump. Bloomberg is cited by 18 percent on this question, with no other Democrat close to double digits. ... In the past month, Biden has lost support among three key constituency groups: African Americans, older voters and whites without college degrees, previously the bulwarks of his campaign. ...

**“Sanders has seen a big jump in support among voters under age 50 and is now backed by 50 percent of that group,** up from 34 percent in January. He holds a 3-to-1 lead over his rivals among these voters. Sanders also has more than doubled his support among black voters and has gained among whites without college degrees. ... Bloomberg’s growth was fueled by more support among older voters and among white voters with college degrees. Buttigieg, Warren and Klobuchar saw no significant shifts in their coalitions. ...

**“In a measure of how Democrats see Sanders as a candidate against Trump, 72 percent say they believe he would defeat the president.** Among Democrats, 69 percent think Bloomberg would win against Trump, and 68 percent say that of Biden. ... If he were to become the nominee, about half of all Americans say it makes no difference in their vote that Sanders is a socialist, including about 7 in 10 Democrats. But nearly 4 in 10 adults say that fact makes them more likely to oppose him, including 37 percent of independents and 79 percent of Republicans. Just under 1 in 10 adults say it makes them more likely to support him. ... The president’s approval rating stands at 43 percent, with 53 percent disapproving, showing no real change in the past month.”

# Young voters are Sanders's base, but he is competitive across racial, ideological and educational groups

Q: Please tell me whom you'd vote for in the primary or caucus in your state. Which candidate would you lean toward? (Among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independent registered voters)



Note: Candidates with 10% or less overall support and "no opinion" not shown.

Source: Feb. 14-17, 2020, Washington Post-ABC News poll of 408 Democratic and Democratic-leaning registered voters, with an error margin of +/- 6 percentage points.

BRITTANY RENEE MAYES/THE WASHINGTON POST

## **Tonight's debate requires Bloomberg to step out of his expensive comfort zone.**

“When he steps onto the debate stage in Las Vegas for his first hostile and uncontrolled campaign test [at 9 p.m. Eastern on NBC and MSNBC], there will be no management decisions to make, teleprompters to lean on or endless ad budgets to filter his image with focus-grouped messaging,” [Michael Scherer reports](#). “In preparation, his advisers have spent much of the past week drilling him for the big jump, which could make or break the momentum he has generated with his extravagant spending. In debate prep sessions, they have armed him with comebacks for the inevitable attacks on his enormous wealth and past record, while also coaching him to move beyond his sometimes distant, wonky and diffidently logical public persona. ...

**"Wary of Bloomberg's rise in the polls, his rivals, with far more debate experience and Democratic longevity, have made clear that they will not go easy on the newcomer.** [Sanders] spent Tuesday in Reno, Nev., denouncing Bloomberg's campaign as an example of 'oligarchy, not democracy.' [Biden] has been boasting for days about his desire to confront Bloomberg in person because he cannot compete with the billionaire's advertising budget. 'At least now primary voters curious about how each candidate will take on Donald Trump can get a live demonstration of how we each take on an egomaniac billionaire,' [Warren] warned...

**"Bloomberg's rise in polling comes as he faces a barrage of negative news coverage, some of it promoted by rival campaigns.** He has had to again address [allegations that he made vulgar and sexist comments](#), his past defense of targeting stop-and-frisk police policies to black and Latino neighborhoods in New York, and [an interview](#) in which he blamed the 2008 financial crisis on politicians who had

pushed to end racially discriminatory mortgage-lending policies known as 'redlining.' Bloomberg's past political leanings — he re-registered as a Democrat only in 2018 — and his refusal to file a financial disclosure or release his tax returns before the debate, even as he is self-financing his campaign, also could come into play Wednesday. A spokesman for his campaign said the financial disclosure would be filed by March 20, and Howard Wolfson, a senior adviser to the campaign, has previously said Bloomberg would release his tax returns, though no date has been set.”

**Senior Bloomberg campaign adviser Timothy O'Brien said the billionaire will sell his business, Bloomberg LP, if he wins the presidency.** “There will be no confusion about any of his financial holdings,” [O'Brien told CNN](#). “We will be 180 degrees away from where Donald Trump is on these issues because Donald Trump is a walking financial conflict of interest.”

**Retired ABC News anchor Sam Donaldson's endorsement of Bloomberg annoyed practicing journalists.**

“Donaldson’s open partisanship has few precedents among leading national TV news figures, and raises several journalistic questions: Does a journalist’s vow of objectivity (or at least neutrality and balance) extend beyond his or her working years? Is a retired journalist subject to the same kinds of ethical restraints as a working one, such as *not* endorsing candidates and *not* contributing to political causes and campaigns?” [writes Paul Farhi](#). “Donaldson, 85, says no. Since he no longer has any role in reporting or shaping the news, he believes he’s entitled to express his opinions about, well, everything.”

**Sanders said he won't release any more medical records.**

“We have released ... quite as much as any other candidate has,” [Sanders said last night during a CNN town hall](#). “I think we have released a detailed report and I'm comfortable with what we have done. And, by the way, if you think I'm not in good health, come out with me on the

campaign trail and I'll let you introduce me to the three or four rallies a day that we do.”

### **He also rejected a potential health-care compromise.**

Sanders distanced himself from Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s “recent suggestion that compromising on health care would be acceptable, arguing that his Medicare-for-all plan is ‘already a compromise,’” [Sean Sullivan reports](#). Last week, Ocasio-Cortez [told HuffPost](#) that some flexibility on the proposal was possible. “A president can’t wave a magic wand and pass any legislation they want,” she said. “The worst-case scenario? We compromise deeply and we end up getting a public option. Is that a nightmare? I don’t think so.”

### **And the Sanders camp plans to request a partial recount of the Iowa caucuses.**

“The announcement came as the results further narrowed on Tuesday, following a canvass of a small subset of precincts,” [Isaac Stanley-Becker reports](#). “The revised figures did not change the allocation of delegates to the national convention. Still, they just barely shifted projected support at the state convention, which is typically the metric used to name a winner. The [Iowa Democratic Party](#) said [Buttigieg] would claim 563.207 state delegate equivalents, or SDEs, while Sanders (I-Vt.) would claim 563.127. What had been a difference of 2.774 shrank to 0.08.”

### **Klobuchar is scrambling to turn her moment into something more.**

“Her staffers spent hours over the weekend hashing out a strategy for Super Tuesday, debating whether it’s worthwhile to compete in big, delegate-rich states like Texas and California,” [Annie Linskey, Jenna Johnson and Holly Bailey report](#). “Some advisers want her to focus instead on independent-minded states that aren’t overly liberal, like Maine and Tennessee, because they might be receptive to her centrist message. But those states, of course, yield much fewer delegates. ... Klobuchar’s home state votes on Super Tuesday. She is adding staff in Minnesota as she battles with Buttigieg and Warren for the white, college-educated voters

who fuel their campaigns.” As one adviser put it: “We’re putting the airplane together as we’re flying it.”

## **Buttigieg clapped back at Rush Limbaugh's homophobic attacks.**

During his own town hall on CNN last night, Buttigieg offered “some of his most fiery responses yet to Limbaugh's assertion that President Trump told him not to apologize for saying that Americans wouldn't elect ‘a gay guy kissing his husband on the debate stage,’” [Chelsea Janes reports](#). “Limbaugh, whom Trump recently awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, doubled down on those comments Monday when he told listeners ‘Hell, the president even called me about this! He said, “Rush, I just got to tell you something. Never apologize. Don’t ever apologize.”’ Trump recently said he would have no trouble voting for a gay candidate. Buttigieg said he can’t take Trump at his word. ‘Not if he’s sending out his supporters to talk in this way. Look, the idea of the likes of Rush Limbaugh or Donald Trump lecturing anybody on family values,’ Buttigieg said. ‘Sorry, but one thing about my marriage is it’s never involved me having to send hush money to a porn star after cheating on my spouse.’”

## **A watchdog group claims Buttigieg and a super PAC improperly coordinated.**

“[In the complaint, filed Tuesday](#) with the Federal Election Commission, the Campaign Legal Center alleged that Buttigieg’s campaign improperly accepted more than \$639,000 in contributions, in violation of federal rules barring candidates from coordinating with independent groups that can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money,” [Michelle Ye Hee Lee reports](#). “The complaint centers on a tweet by Buttigieg senior strategist Michael Halle analyzing the strengths of a particular campaign message in Nevada, and a subsequent ad campaign in that state by VoteVets that appeared to follow the strategy outlined in the tweet.”

## **Buttigieg was forced to clarify that comedian Keegan-Michael Key hasn’t endorsed him.**

“Key [appeared with Buttigieg](#) on Saturday to drum up voter support at his

Henderson, Nev., field office. The gaffe did not attract much attention. However, it was not the first time the Buttigieg campaign [overstated having a tie with](#) a prominent African American figure, or black business,” [ABC News reports](#).

## **As Super Tuesday looms, rural California’s delegate gold mine is suddenly a big deal.**

“Buttigieg landed in this small Central Valley city of 74,000, addressing an excited crowd of 700 Stanislaus County Democrats ... Many said [they] couldn’t believe their luck, not after decades of presidential candidates ignoring California’s inland areas. ‘I’ve lived in California my whole life, and I’ve never seen a presidential candidate,’ said Kathy Causey, a [lifelong Democrat],” [Politico reports](#). “Buttigieg’s road trip into the region John Steinbeck once described as ‘America’s Breadbasket’ underscores how candidates are going to far-flung regions of the state to mine for delegate gold in a competitive Democratic primary. ... California’s primary rules award delegates proportionally by congressional district, meaning that candidates know they must essentially run their ground game ... ‘in 53 different states,’ the number of congressional districts in California.”

## **The Trump campaign hired a Cambridge Analytica alum.**

The move is “likely to raise alarms among Trump critics and data privacy advocates who worry the president will push the technological envelope to get reelected in 2020,” [Politico reports](#). “Matt Oczkowski, who served as head of product at Cambridge before it went bankrupt and shut down in 2018, is helping oversee the Trump campaign’s data program ... People familiar with the hire say he will devote his time to data-focused projects like determining where Trump and surrogates ought to campaign in person, figuring out which states are the best targets on Trump’s path to victory, and targeting media buys. Oczkowski has privately said he plans on using traditional data modeling rather than psychographics, the targeting of voters based upon their personality or behavior.”

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## The new world order

**More than 2,000 have died of the coronavirus in China, but the nation is growing optimistic.**

“Chinese leader Xi Jinping is striking an increasingly confident note that the country can control the coronavirus outbreak and manage the [economic](#) and [social fallout](#) as some Chinese health experts predict a peak in infections by the end of the month,” [Gerry Shih reports](#). “Chinese leaders, eager to kick-start economic activity, have dismantled some highway checkpoints while businesses have begun to reopen. As of Wednesday, restrictions on personal mobility remained tight, suggesting wariness about rising infections. ...

“China on Wednesday reported new case numbers continuing to decline, but international experts, including U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Anthony Fauci, say they are wary of declaring that the pace of worldwide infections is slowing. ... China tallied a total of 1,749 new infections and 136 deaths through the end of Tuesday, making the cumulative total 74,185 infections and 2,004 deaths — the overwhelming majority still occurring in central Hubei province. Hong Kong reported its second death, a 70-year-old man.”



A machine sprays disinfectant at the entrance of a pork meat hall inside a wholesale market for agricultural products in Beijing. (Tingshu Wang/Reuters)

## **China expelled three Wall Street Journal reporters, blaming an opinion column.**

“Deputy Bureau Chief Josh Chin and reporter Chao Deng, both American citizens, as well as reporter Philip Wen, an Australian national, have been ordered to leave the country within five days,” [Anna Fifield reports](#). The Foreign Ministry has been criticizing the Journal since it published a coronavirus-related column on Feb. 3 by Walter Russell Mead, a professor at Bard College, under the headline “[China Is the Real Sick Man of Asia.](#)”

## **The move came after the U.S. designated major Chinese media outlets as government entities.**

The Xinhua News Agency, China Global Television Network, China Radio International, China Daily and the People’s Daily will now be treated as diplomatic outposts of the Chinese government, subject to the same constraints. The move is the latest in a series of U.S. efforts to tackle China’s influence in the United States. ([Fifield, Carol Morello and Emily Rauhala](#))

## **The Trump administration accused a Russian company of helping Venezuela export oil.**

“The Trump administration directed its ‘maximum pressure’ campaign in Venezuela toward Russia on Tuesday, announcing sanctions against the trading and marketing arm of Rosneft, the state-controlled Russian oil giant that has taken over an increasing share of Venezuela’s own state-owned oil industry and reaped huge profits from exporting its crude,” [Karen DeYoung and Anthony Faiola report](#). “Swiss-registered Rosneft Trading has ‘propped up the [Venezuelan] oil sector and actively tried to evade’ existing U.S. sanctions against those doing business with the Venezuelan government of Nicolás Maduro, according to [an administration official] ... The measures do not cover the parent company, Rosneft Oil. Its chairman, Igor Sechin, is a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin ... But U.S. officials said the steps would have a global effect. Although the sanctions directly target only property and interests held in the United States by the trading subsidiary and its chairman, Didier Casimiro, ‘most banks, whether U.S.-based or not,’ look to the U.S. measures ‘to guide their risk appetite,’ one of the officials said.”

## **The death of a young girl in Mexico sparked new outrage in a nation plagued by femicide.**

Seven-year-old Fátima Aldrighett "disappeared Feb. 11 in the Mexico City neighborhood of Xochimilco, where she was waiting to be picked up from school. Four days later, her body was found naked in a plastic bag," [Kevin Sieff reports](#). “Fátima’s killing is the latest in a string of brutal crimes against girls and women stirring enormous public outrage directed at Mexico’s president and other top officials. Last week, Ingrid Escamilla, 25, was found stabbed to death and partially skinned. That crime prompted a wave of protests in Mexico City; President Andrés Manuel López Obrador was accused of brushing them off. In the midst of a [fundraising campaign linked to the sale of the presidential plane](#), he chastised a reporter who asked him about the attacks on women: ‘I don’t want femicides to distract from the raffle.’”

## **An immigration judge granted a Venezuelan father**

## **entrance to the U.S. but sent his teen daughter to Mexico.**

Officials “denied her claims that she was fleeing political repression and violence, even after they accepted the same claims from her father,” [the AP reports](#). “The teenager, who is being identified by only her first name, Branyerly, is living alone in Matamoros, Mexico, across from Brownsville. U.S. border agents on Monday denied her request not to be sent back under the Trump administration’s so-called ‘Remain in Mexico’ program for migrants. ... ‘I already lived one nightmare in Venezuela and another here,’ Branyerly said.”

## **Boeing found debris in the fuel tanks of undelivered 737 Max jets.**

This is a “potential safety hazard and yet another problem for the company as it tries to get the planes airborne again after two deadly crashes,” [Ian Duncan reports](#). Debris “often includes tools or parts left behind when planes leave the production line. [A] Boeing spokesman said dealing with the debris is not likely to further delay the work of getting the planes off the ground.”

## **In Canada, anti-pipeline protesters have paralyzed the nation’s rail system.**

“Demonstrators across the country have joined the blockades in support of the hereditary chiefs of the Wet’suwet’en Nation in British Columbia, who oppose the construction of a natural gas pipeline through their territory. They’ve brought most freight and passenger rail service to a standstill,” [Amanda Coletta reports](#). Underlying the dispute are long-standing questions over land title, and who speaks for Canada’s indigenous people. In response, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called for “dialogue and mutual respect.”

## **A storm brought mass flooding to the U.K. Brits asked, “Where’s Boris?”**

“The Met Office called the thing Dennis, and [the second-strongest](#) ‘bomb

cyclone' on record in the North Atlantic wreaked havoc across Britain," [William Booth reports](#). "And with flood warnings still pinging on the telly like traffic alerts during a London rush hour, the storm is now raining on Prime Minister Boris Johnson, too, who is facing a torrent of criticism for his government's response. 'Where the floody hell is Boris?' the Sun newspaper asked in a front-page headline. ... The hashtag #wheresBoris was trending in Britain on Twitter. The flooding begot by Storm Dennis is responsible for at least three deaths so far, as the waters continue to rise. ... The Labour Party said Johnson's decision not to visit the hard-hit areas or hold a cabinet-level emergency meeting was 'a disgrace.'... It didn't help that when Storm Dennis hit, Johnson was spending the weekend at the 115-room lakeside mansion in Kent known as Chevening."

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## Quote of the day

*"It's dangerous not to talk to your enemies." – Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) on [why he met with Iran's foreign minister \(Michael Brice-Saddler and Reis Thebault\)](#)*

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## Social media speed read

A video showed Bloomberg describing transgender people as "he, she, or it," upsetting many activists on the left:

**Charlotte Clymer** 🏳️‍🌈🇺🇸 @cmclymer · 5h  
I am heartbroken and infuriated that @MikeBloomberg felt it appropriate to refer to trans people as "it" and trans women as "men in dresses". His remarks are cruel, inexcusable and enable violence and discrimination against trans + non-binary folks.  
(1/6)[buzzfeednews.com/article/domini...](https://buzzfeednews.com/article/domini...)



**Mike Bloomberg Referred To Transgender Peo...**  
Bloomberg suggested transgender rights would sink Democratic campaigns in comments recorded last  
[buzzfeednews.com](https://buzzfeednews.com)

**Charlotte Clymer** 🏳️‍🌈🇺🇸 @cmclymer

This comes two weeks after @MikeBloomberg was found to have made similar remarks in 2016. These latest comments were less than a year ago. It is disturbing that a leading Democratic presidential candidate would casually dehumanize trans people and degrade our existence.

👍 924 1:32 AM - Feb 19, 2020

💬 100 people are talking about this

Previewing a possible flashpoint in tonight's debate, Warren accused Bloomberg of using "racist justifications" to defend "stop and frisk":



**Bloomberg's campaign manager kept his focus on Sanders:**



**Ted Cruz made fun of a Bloomberg News headline about Bloomberg:**



**Ted Cruz**   
@tedcruz



It's almost as if he owns the media.  
[twitter.com/yashar/status/...](https://twitter.com/yashar/status/...)

**Yashar Ali**  @yashar

Bloomberg campaign says it's a two-man race for the nomination per Bloomberg the news organization owned and controlled by Bloomberg



**Bloomberg**

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Politics

## **Bloomberg Campaign Says It's a Two-Man Race for the Nomination**

By [Mark Niquette](#)

February 18, 2020, 4:14 PM EST

- ▶ Aide makes prediction before candidate has appeared on ballot
- ▶ Bloomberg to fight for first votes on Super Tuesday, March 3

 15.9K 12:03 AM - Feb 19, 2020



 5.283 people are talking about this



An NBC reporter noted quite a paradox in the new NBC-WSJ poll:





**Ali Vitali**   
@allvitali



The top 3 unpopular qualities for a presidential candidate all apply to the very candidate leading this same poll (Sanders). What a world. [twitter.com/mmurraypolitic...](https://twitter.com/mmurraypolitics)

**Mark Murray**   
@mmurraypolitics

Replying to @mmurraypolitics

Most unpopular qualities for a prez candidate in the new NBC/WSJ poll (combined reservations + very uncomfortable):

Socialist: 67%  
Heart attack in past year: 57%  
75+: 53%  
Self-funder: 41%  
Under 40: 40%  
Gay/lesbian: 27%  
Woman: 14%

Feb 14-17, RVs, MOE +/- 3.3%

 213 10:10 PM - Feb 18, 2020



 155 people are talking about this



**Congressional Democrats blasted Trump's pardons and commutations:**



**Maxine Waters**   
@RepMaxineWaters



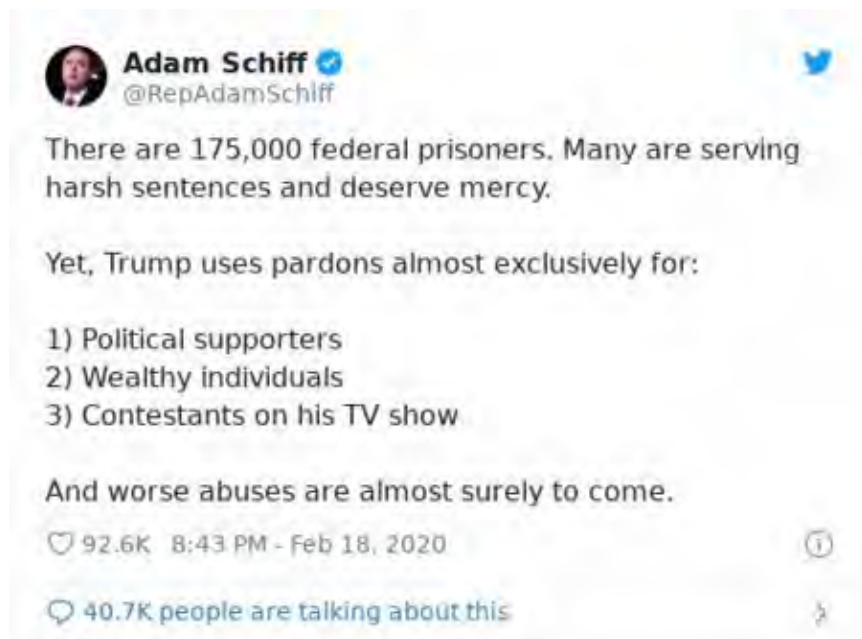
Wow! Trump told us he could stand on 5th Ave, shoot someone & get away w/ it. Now we know he can sit in the Oval Office, & w/ the stroke of a pen, commute & pardon sentences for crooks & criminals while incarcerated individuals claiming innocence & asking for pardons are ignored!

 4,342 10:23 PM - Feb 18, 2020



 1,585 people are talking about this





**And the liberal uncle of the just-married Stephen Miller, the White House adviser who oversees immigration policy, directed his wedding present to an organization that works with refugees:**



## Videos of the day

Trump effusively praised Bloomberg seven years ago:

 **JM Rieger**   
@RiegerReport 

Donald Trump on Mike Bloomberg on March 25, 2013:

"He's made a tremendous fortune, he's a brilliant guy ... he's got some, you know, really amazing ideas, he's done a very, very good job as the mayor of New York"



 6  12:03 AM - Feb 19, 2020 

 [See JM Rieger's other Tweets](#) 

James Corden previewed the Democratic debate:



 Bernie Goes After Bloomberg Ahead Of Vega... 







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AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

ENERGYWIRE — Thu., February 20, 2020

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## 1. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

### Deal emerges to bring 1st offshore wind farms to Calif.

The military has blocked the establishment of offshore wind lease areas off Southern and central California for years, holding back development across the entire state. Now, a compromise has emerged to bring the first offshore wind farms to the U.S. West Coast.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. ENERGY MARKETS:

#### Could #MOPRmadness spread to N.Y.?

### 3. CARBON CAPTURE:

#### Federal CCS guidance stirs concerns about industry's future

### 4. Q&A:

#### EV alliance founders eye trail blazed by renewable energy

## LAW

### 5. OFFSHORE DRILLING:

#### Judge blocks Trump challenge of seismic testing lawsuit

## ENERGY TRANSITIONS

### 6. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

#### Google shuts down 'moonshot' wind unit once backed by DOE

### 7. ENERGY EFFICIENCY:

#### Utilities making 'dramatic' investments to cut CO2 — report

## ELECTRICITY

### 8. UTILITIES:

#### Calif. regulator calls for strict safety oversight of PG&E

### 9. FRANCE:

#### Nation's oldest nuclear complex to close by end of June

## OIL AND GAS

**10. DAKOTA ACCESS:**

**N.D. regulators approve expanded pipeline capacity**

**11. OIL:**

**Saudi Arabia equates coronavirus impact to a house on fire**

**12. PIPELINES:**

**Trudeau urges patience, warns against force in rail protests**

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By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## The Democratic debate descends into class warfare, as the billionaire and socialist play off each other

“Should you exist?”

NBC anchor Chuck Todd’s question to Mike Bloomberg during the Democratic debate in Las Vegas was prompted by a tweet last year from Bernie Sanders. “Billionaires should not exist,” the senator from Vermont wrote.

“I can't speak for all billionaires,” the former New York mayor answered on Wednesday night. “All I know is I've been very lucky, made a lot of money, and I'm giving it all away to make this country better.”

Todd followed up: “Should you have earned that much money?”

“Yes,” Bloomberg replied. “I worked very hard for it.”

Sanders, who identifies as a democratic socialist, says the word billionaire like it's a grotesque slur. “Mike Bloomberg owns more wealth than the bottom 125 million Americans,” he replied. “That's wrong. That's immoral.”

**The sizzling two-hour debate underscored the extent to which class has emerged as a stark dividing line inside the factionalized Democratic Party, as significant as race or gender. The proliferation of soak-the-rich rhetoric at this level of presidential politics would have been unthinkable in the not-distant past. Sanders has moved the Overton window to the left on a battery of issues, including the debate over the virtues of capitalism itself.**



**Bloomberg leaned on his financial success as a differentiator.**

“I’m the only one here that’s ever started a business,” he said. The chief executive of Bloomberg LP has spent **more than \$409 million** since launching his campaign just 10 weeks ago. That money has, essentially, bought him second place in national polling. It’s still less than 1 percent of his net worth, which **Forbes estimates** at \$65.2 billion – making him the eighth richest person in America.

**Elizabeth Warren compared Bloomberg to President Trump.**

“Democrats take a huge risk if we just substitute one arrogant billionaire for another,” said the senator from Massachusetts, as he stood next to her, avoiding eye contact.

**Just as Trump did four years ago, Bloomberg cites his wealth as evidence that he’s incorruptible.** After Pete Buttigieg urged people to visit his campaign website, for example, Bloomberg joked that people can go to his, as well, but they won’t be able to give money because he’s not raising any. Unlike Trump, though, Bloomberg is not pretending to be a populist. He’s running as a managerial technocrat who can make the trains run on time.

**Class-tinged resentments were a consistent undercurrent in the pile-on against Bloomberg.** “As the lone person on this stage who’s not a millionaire, let alone a billionaire,” said the former mayor of South Bend, Ind., “I believe that part of what needs to change is for the voices of the communities that haven’t felt heard on Wall Street or in Washington to actually be brought to Capitol Hill.”

Joe Biden chimed in. “For 36 years [in the Senate] and as vice president, I was listed as the poorest man in Congress,” he said. “I made money when I wrote a book about my son, and it surprised me how much it sold. First time I’ve ever made any money.”

**The crowd booed Bloomberg when he explained why it would take a few more “weeks” to release his tax returns.**

“Unfortunately, or fortunately, I make a lot of money and we do business all around the world, and we are preparing it,” he explained. “The number

of pages will probably be thousands of pages. I can't go to TurboTax."

"Pay overtime," said Warren, "and get it done."

Amy Klobuchar noted that her husband prepares their taxes. "We probably could go to TurboTax," said the senator from Minnesota.

**Because of the ongoing realignment between the parties, the Democratic coalition writ large has become more affluent and highly educated.** Many blue-collar, non-college-educated whites in places like the industrial Midwest have gravitated away from their ancestral home toward the GOP because of **cultural grievances**, among other factors.

**Sanders, however, tailors his message more to the working class than the middle class.** His rallies have a decidedly more blue-collar vibe than Buttigieg's or Klobuchar's or Warren's. During a town hall-style meeting the weekend before last in New Hampshire, for instance, a speaker warming up the crowd for Sanders asked how many people currently work for minimum wage. More than a third of the people in the audience raised their hands.

"What our movement is about is bringing working-class people together, black and white and Latino, Native American, Asian American, around an agenda that works for all of us and not just the billionaire class," Sanders said in the debate. "Real change never takes place from the top on down. It never takes place from an oligarchy controlled by billionaires."



Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

## We Can't Afford Medicare for All



American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

**Sanders continued to attack Buttigieg for having the temerity to even accept money from 46 billionaires.** “We are giving a voice to people who are saying we are sick and tired of billionaires like Mr. Bloomberg seeing huge expansions of their wealth while half-a-million people sleep out on the street tonight,” said Sanders. “What we are saying, Pete, is maybe it's time for the working class of this country to have a little

bit of power in Washington, rather than your billionaire campaign contributors.”

**Buttigieg, who got pummeled at the December debate for holding a fundraiser in a Napa Valley wine cave, replied that the billionaires are “among the hundreds of thousands of contributors” to his campaign.** “You're not the only one who cares about the working class,” he told Sanders. “Most Americans believe we need to empower workers.” Buttigieg added that “you're the one who is at war with the Culinary Union right here in Las Vegas.” To which Sanders replied: “We’ve got more union support than you have ever dreamed of.”

**You could sense the urgency, even the desperation, in the air as several of the candidates whose futures hinge on the coming weeks waved their arms to be recognized.** “We've got to wake up as a party,” Buttigieg pleaded with the audience. “We could wake up two weeks from today, the day after Super Tuesday, and the only candidates left standing will be Bernie Sanders and Mike Bloomberg, the two most polarizing figures on this stage. And most Americans don't see where they fit if they've got to choose between a socialist who thinks that capitalism is the root of all evil and a billionaire who thinks that money ought to be the root of all power.”

**One reason Klobuchar’s clashes with Buttigieg were so intensely bitter is that they’re both trying to claim this middle ground.** “I believe in capitalism, but I think the goal of someone in government ... should be a check on that,” she said. “I'm not going to limit what people make, but right now our tax code is so tilted against regular people, and that is what's wrong.”

**Warren boasts in her stump speech about how she made a billionaire cry on television with her wealth tax proposal.** People chant “two cents” at her events as she explains how anyone worth more than \$50 million will need to pay 2 percent of their net worth in taxes every year – including, as she puts it, on their yachts, Rembrandts and diamonds. The cheers are louder when Warren talks about taxing the

superrich than when she explains what she'll do with that extra revenue. That speaks volumes about the pitchfork populism that's been ascendant on the left.

**For his part, even Bloomberg goes out of his way to say the rich must pay more in taxes.** “I disagree with the senator on the wealth tax, but I do agree with her that the rich aren't paying their fair share,” Bloomberg volunteered during the debate. “We should raise taxes on the rich. I did that as mayor in New York City.” Then Sanders complimented Warren’s proposed wealth tax. “Ours is a little bit tougher on Mr. Bloomberg than hers,” he added, with pride.



**Bloomberg and Sanders both saw the other as a useful foil since they appeal to different constituencies.** “I believe in democratic socialism for working people, not billionaires,” said Sanders. “Creating a government that works for all, not just for Mr. Bloomberg.”

“What a wonderful country we have,” Bloomberg replied. “The best-known socialist in the country happens to be a millionaire with three houses. What did I miss here?”

Sanders replied that his first house is in Washington, where he works, and the second is in Burlington, Vt., where he lives. “And like thousands of



other Vermonters, I do have a summer camp,” he added. “We have the insane situation that billionaires today, if you can believe it, have an effective tax rate lower than the middle class.” Bloomberg replied that Sanders, as a member of Congress, can write the tax code.

**Asked whether workers should be able to sit on corporate boards, something Sanders and Warren support, Bloomberg said absolutely not.** “I can’t think of a way that would make it easier for Donald Trump to get reelected than listening to this conversation,” he said. Bloomberg argued that Sanders couldn’t defeat Trump in a general election because he’s too far to the left and wants to take away people’s private health insurance.

“Maybe we can talk about a billionaire saying that we should not raise the minimum wage,” Sanders countered. “If that’s a way to beat Donald Trump, wow, I would be very surprised.”

**NBC’s Lester Holt, another moderator, asked Sanders about the latest NBC-Wall Street Journal poll that found two-thirds of all voters said they were uncomfortable with a socialist candidate for president.** Asked what message he has for them, Sanders replied that the same poll showed him leading among Democratic voters. “I was winning, and I think by a fairly comfortable margin,” he said. “You might mention that.”

**Bloomberg suggested that Sanders is really a communist, not a socialist.** “We’re not going to throw out capitalism. We tried that. Other countries tried that,” he said. “It was called communism, and it just didn’t work.”

“That’s a cheap shot,” Sanders replied, clarifying that what he stands for is democratic socialism. “We are living, in many ways, in a socialist society right now. The problem is, as Dr. Martin Luther King reminded us, we have socialism for the very rich [and] rugged individualism for the poor.”

**There were class undertones even when the debate turned to topics related to gender.** Klobuchar seized on a memo released by the

Bloomberg campaign that said the other moderates should step aside to “pave the way” for Bloomberg to stop Sanders from capturing the nomination. “As a woman,” the senator said, “I’ve been told many times to wait my turn and to step aside. And I’m not going to do that now. ... We need something different than Donald Trump. I don’t think you look at Donald Trump and say we need someone richer in the White House.”

**Bloomberg’s riches also probably help explain the sense of entitlement he exuded.** He seemed like a man unaccustomed to both waiting on others and being challenged. He was caught on camera rolling his eyes at criticism. When moderators didn’t come back to him during a discussion on health care, Bloomberg was clearly perturbed. “What am I,” he said, “chicken liver?”

**Bloomberg hadn’t debated since 2009, and it showed.** He’s not on the ballot in Nevada, which caucuses on Saturday, or in South Carolina, whose primary is the following Saturday. He’s invested in the states that vote on Super Tuesday, four days after that, so he can make up some for his wobbly debate debut during a CBS debate next week in the Palmetto State. “He was just warming up,” campaign manager Kevin Sheekey said in a statement afterward.

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## Quote of the day

*Tom Steyer, the other billionaire seeking the Democratic nomination, didn’t qualify for this debate but tweeted throughout. “Looks like Mike Bloomberg might be running in the wrong primary,” he [wrote](#).*



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- [Dan Balz](#): "It's a critical moment in the Democratic race. The debate made that clear."
- [Michael Kranish](#): "Bloomberg faces attacks for refusing to release

women from confidentiality agreements.”

- Glenn Kessler, Salvador Rizzo and Sarah Cahlan [fact-checked seven claims](#).


## What pundits are saying about winners and losers

- [The Fix's Aaron Blake](#) declared Sanders the winner, along with Warren's takedowns of Bloomberg. His losers were Bloomberg, Biden and Klobuchar.
- [CNN's Chris Cillizza](#) said Warren, Sanders and a combo of Buttigieg and Biden won the night while Bloomberg and Klobuchar lost.
- [Vox's team](#) declared Warren and Sanders the winners and Bloomberg the loser.
- [Mother Jones editor Clara Jeffery](#) said Warren was the runaway winner, while Bloomberg delivered a “horribly bad” performance.
- [FiveThirtyEight's Nate Silver's](#) top takeaway is that Bloomberg bombed.
- [Democratic operative Mary Anne Marsh](#), writing for Fox News, called Warren the winner and Bloomberg the loser. Fox anchor [Bret Baier](#) said Trump was actually the biggest winner.
- [Washington Examiner's Becket Adams](#) argued that Warren won the debate – for Sanders.

## How it's playing elsewhere

- [The Las Vegas Review-Journal's editorial board](#): “Nevada Democrats should reject extremism.”
- [Politico's John Harris](#): “Thank you, Mike Bloomberg, for rescuing the debate.”
- [Shira Scheindlin op-ed in the New York Times](#): “I Was the Judge in the Stop-and-Frisk Case. I Don't Think Bloomberg Is Racist.”
- [The Boston Globe's Joan Vennochi](#): “The double standard for old sexist Democrats.”

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### Democrats won't commit to a same-day release of the Nevada results.

“Tom Perez, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, [told The Associated Press](#) that several factors, including early voting and potentially high turnout, could affect the tabulation and timing of results. In addition, Nevada, like Iowa, will be reporting three sets of data from the multistage caucus process. **Perez said he doesn't know when results**

**will be released.** ‘We’re going to do our best to release results as soon as possible, but our North Star, again, is accuracy,’ he said late Tuesday after touring an early voting site in Las Vegas.”

## **Despite Warren’s rejection of super PACs, one launched to support her bid.**

“The group, Persist PAC, filed its papers on Tuesday,” [Michelle Ye Hee Lee reports](#). “It has already launched a 30-second ad in Nevada highlighting the senator’s record establishing a federal financial watchdog agency and supporting policies that help women and middle-class families. ... [Warren] has emphatically rejected super PACs and attacked her opponents receiving their help. In a statement, Warren’s campaign said the senator’s position has not changed. ... The statement did not address Warren’s feelings about Persist PAC, however, and the campaign did not respond to questions about whether the senator thinks the group should continue to exist to support her candidacy.”

Warren’s campaign announced that it raised more than \$1 million during the debate and \$2.8 million during the course of Wednesday.

## **Barack Obama has privately said he doesn’t like the idea of Sanders as a nominee.**

“To Obama, Sanders is a lot of what’s wrong with Democrats: unrelenting, unrealistic, so deep in his own fight that he doesn’t see how many people disagree with him or that he’s turning off people who should be his allies,” [the Atlantic’s Edward-Isaac Dove reports](#). “Obama has made clear in private conversations that he doesn’t like the idea of Sanders as the nominee (and has been only slightly more subtle in public comments), **but he’s pushed back on some who have urged him to get involved**, anxious that any move he makes could destroy the hope of him using his unique position to unite the party and defeat Trump during the general election. ... Obama is determined to make it work — if he has to.”

**Sanders was serious enough about waging a primary challenge against Obama in 2012 that then-Senate majority leader Harry**

**Reid had to intervene to stop him**, according to the story: “It took Reid two conversations over the summer of 2011 to get Sanders to scrap the idea, according to multiple people who remember the incident. ... That summer, Sanders privately discussed a potential primary challenge to Obama with several people, including Patrick Leahy, his fellow Vermont senator. Leahy, alarmed, warned Jim Messina, Obama’s presidential reelection-campaign manager. Obama’s campaign team was ‘absolutely panicked’ by Leahy’s report, Messina [said], since ‘every president who has gotten a real primary has lost a general [election].’ ... In another incident, in 2013, Sanders laid into Obama in a private meeting he held with Democratic senators, saying that the president was selling out to Republicans over Social Security benefits.” Obama replied that he didn't need to be lectured.

## **As Super Tuesday approaches, the candidates are rolling out endorsements.**

- Bloomberg this morning unveiled endorsements from three more Democratic members of Congress – Nita Lowey (N.Y.), Pete Aguilar (Calif.) and Josh Gottheimer (N.J.) – bringing his total to 16.
- Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D-Tex.), one of the House impeachment managers, backed Biden, giving him his sixth supporter from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. ([Politico](#))
- Virginia state Sen. Creigh Deeds, the 2009 nominee for governor, endorsed Klobuchar. ([Roanoke Times](#))
- Three Arizona state senators – Andrea Dalessandro, Jamescita Peshlakai and Victoria Steele – endorsed Warren on the first day of early voting in the state. The state votes March 17. ([Arizona Mirror](#))

## **The Bloomberg campaign is paying people \$2,500 a month to promote him to all their contacts.**

The campaign is hiring more than 500 “deputy digital organizers” to work 20 to 30 hours a week, [documents reviewed by the Wall Street Journal show](#). The workers are expected to promote Bloomberg weekly to everyone in their phone's contacts by text message and make daily social media posts supporting him.

## **Andrew Yang [joined CNN](#) as a political commentator.**

“Learned a lot these past months and am glad to contribute to the public discussion,” said the former presidential contender, who dropped out after the New Hampshire primary.

## **Florida’s new law prohibiting certain ex-felons from voting was ruled unconstitutional.**

The rule would’ve prohibited ex-felons who cannot pay certain legal fines from voting. The case “could have significant consequences for one of the country’s largest swing states,” [Elise Viebeck reports](#). “In a unanimous ruling, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit affirmed a lower court’s finding that Florida’s S.B. 7066 violates the Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection under the law. The panel also upheld that court’s preliminary injunction barring enforcement for the plaintiffs. Florida’s governor immediately signaled that he would appeal the decision to the full circuit. ... ‘Continued disenfranchisement is indisputably punitive in nature,’ the judges wrote, adding, ‘Felons who are unable to pay are subject to continued punishment *solely because of their inability to pay.*’ ”

## **The White House predicts the economy will not grow at a rate of 3 percent or higher this year.**

The Council of Economic Advisers forecasts that, unless Congress enacts a major infrastructure package and additional tax cuts, the U.S. economy will grow at a 2.4 percent pace this year and at a 2.3 percent pace in 2021. ([Heather Long](#))

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## **All the president's men**





President Trump takes the stage at a campaign rally on Wednesday night at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix. (Evan Vucci/AP)

## **Mick Mulvaney admitted that the GOP is hypocritical on deficits.**

“My party is very interested in deficits when there is a Democrat in the White House. The worst thing in the whole world is deficits when Barack Obama was the president. Then Donald Trump became president, and we’re a lot less interested as a party,” he said at the Oxford Union to a group of several hundred people.

“Mulvaney, who ran the Office of Management and Budget before taking the acting chief of staff role, said he found the growing deficit — which reached almost \$1 trillion in 2019, soaring in the Trump era — ‘extraordinarily disturbing’ but that neither party, nor voters, cared much about it,” [Josh Dawsey reports](#). “Mulvaney’s comments, which lasted about an hour, came as he visited Britain and Ireland to talk about Brexit and other issues. ... He criticized his predecessor, John F. Kelly, as chief of staff, and railed against the ‘deep state,’ giving the audience examples of civil servants who he said were working against the Trump administration. ...

**“Mulvaney robustly defended the president’s actions regarding Ukraine ...** He said the president regularly complained that Europeans don’t give Ukraine enough money. ‘And number two, they’re corrupt as hell, which is true,’ Mulvaney said. ... He joked about his news conference last year in which he conceded, from the White House podium, that there was a ‘quid pro quo’ and that it was normal in foreign policy and that people should ‘get over it.’ Mulvaney said he realized he’d made a mistake when he walked away from the podium. Another White House official, he said, ‘came up to me and said, ‘Do you know you just said X?’ I said, ‘No I didn’t say that.’” Soon, he realized, ‘S---, I said X.’ Mulvaney issued a statement later that day attacking the media for mischaracterizing his comments.”

### **Trump fired the Pentagon’s policy chief, who spoke out internally against his freeze on Ukraine aid.**

Undersecretary of Defense for Policy John Rood, who was charged with certifying that Ukraine met its anti-corruption targets in order to receive U.S. military aid, was dismissed after clashing with colleagues over the implementation of Trump’s foreign policy agenda for more than two years, [Paul Sonne and Missy Ryan report](#). His last day is Feb. 28. “Rood wrote that he understood, from speaking to Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper, that Trump had requested his resignation. ... In an email to Esper hours after Trump’s July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Rood said that ‘placing a hold on security assistance at this time would jeopardize this unique window of opportunity and undermine our defense priorities with a key partner in the strategic competition with Russia.’ ... The hold proceeded anyway.”

### **Trump will install German ambassador Richard Grenell as acting director of national intelligence.**

Trump is nominating “a fiercely loyal ally atop an intelligence structure he has frequently railed against,” [Shane Harris, Anne Gearan and Dawsey report](#). “It is unclear whether Trump intends to nominate Grenell to fill the top intelligence post on a permanent basis, which would require Senate confirmation. The appointment took many in Washington,

including on Capitol Hill, by surprise. Grenell, a former State Department official and communications executive, has been a Trump confidant and ad hoc adviser on issues beyond his ambassadorial work in Berlin. He is a conservative foreign policy hawk and sometime media critic, as well as a vocal supporter of Trump on social media. He has sparked controversy in his diplomatic role, but also won praise in Germany and elsewhere for taking on issues such as gay rights in Eastern Europe and the long-running tensions between Kosovo and Serbia. Grenell would be the first openly gay member of the Trump Cabinet.”

### **Trump continues to test his relationship with Bill Barr by tweeting about the Justice Department.**

A day after it was revealed that the attorney general has told people close to Trump that he’s considered quitting, the president amplified “conservative allies demanding he ‘clean house’ at the Justice Department and target those involved in the Russia investigation that once threatened his presidency,” [John Wagner, Matt Zaptosky and Devlin Barrett report](#). “The grievances shared by Trump in a flurry of morning tweets included claims of a ‘seditious conspiracy’ against him, and attacks on a ‘criminal gang’ at the FBI and the Justice Department.” **The fragile equilibrium may be tested again Thursday, as Roger Stone is scheduled to be sentenced** for lying to Congress and obstruction.

### **John Bolton said his testimony wouldn’t have changed the outcome of the impeachment trial.**

The former national security adviser “denounced the House’s impeachment proceedings against [Trump] as ‘grossly partisan’ and said his testimony would not have changed Trump’s acquittal in the Senate,” [the AP reports](#). “Bolton was on stage at Vanderbilt University with former national security adviser Susan Rice, who questioned Bolton’s refusal to discuss more details. ... Bolton contended that the House ‘committed impeachment malpractice,’ drawing some grumbling from the audience, saying ‘the process drove Republicans who might have voted for impeachment away because it was so partisan.’ He also said he didn’t expect the Senate to vote against having him testify. ‘People can argue

about what I should have said and what I should have done,' Bolton said. 'I would bet you a dollar right here and now, my testimony would have made no difference to the ultimate outcome.'”

## **Mike Pompeo and lawmakers sparred over “deep state” attacks while in Munich.**

“The meeting became contentious early on, when Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) confronted Pompeo about what the senator described as a severe morale problem among Foreign Service officers and civil servants working for the State Department both in Washington and around the world,” [Josh Rogin reports](#). “Pompeo reacted angrily. The secretary didn’t just deny that he had failed to protect his employees sufficiently; he also claimed that morale at the State Department is great, according to four lawmakers who were in the room.”



Rod Blagojevich, the ex-Illinois governor convicted of trying to peddle Barack Obama's vacated U.S. Senate seat, waves as he exits his home after Trump commuted his prison sentence. (Joshua Lott/Reuters)

**Trump is considering more pardons.**

**The president assembled a team of advisers to guide the clemency process.** “The White House is moving to take more direct control over pardons and commutations, with Trump aiming to limit the role of the Justice Department in the clemency process as he weighs a flurry of additional pardon announcements,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Dawsey and Neena Satija report](#). “Trump, who granted clemency Tuesday to a [group of 11 people](#) that included several political allies and supporters, has assembled a team of advisers to recommend and vet candidates for pardons. ... The group, essentially an informal task force of at least a half-dozen presidential allies, has been meeting since late last year to discuss a revamped pardon system in the White House. Jared Kushner, Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser, is taking a leading role in the new clemency initiative. ... Trump, who prefers granting clemency to people with compelling personal stories or lengthy sentences, is inclined to grant more pardons before facing voters in November, one official said.” ([Interesting op-ed by John K. Carroll](#): “I was a prosecutor in the Michael Milken case. I’m outraged at the pardon process.”)

**Julian Assange’s lawyer said a then-GOP congressman dangled a pardon if he would absolve Russia in the DNC hack.** Assange’s attorney told a British judge that former Republican congressman Dana Rohrabacher, a Trump ally who lost in 2018, made an offer to the WikiLeaks founder on behalf of Trump in 2017 to pardon Assange in exchange for saying that Russia had nothing to do with the 2016 hack and leak of DNC emails. “Assange is in a British prison while he awaits a decision on an extradition request by the United States,” [William Booth and Ellen Nakashima report](#). “In a statement posted to his website on Wednesday, Rohrabacher said ... ‘at no time did I offer Julian Assange anything from the President because I had not spoken with the President about this issue at all.’ But, he added, he told Assange that if he gave him evidence about who provided him the DNC emails, he would ask Trump to pardon him. White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham on Wednesday denied the allegation that Trump was seeking a trade with Assange.”

**An unrepentant Rod Blagojevich declared himself “a freed political prisoner” as he spoke to reporters outside his Chicago home.** “We want to express our most profound and everlasting gratitude to President Trump,” said the former Democratic governor of Illinois.

([Susan Berger and John Wagner](#))

**Trump granted clemency to three of Alice Johnson’s friends.**

The women said they hadn't spoken in years with Johnson, whom Trump freed in 2018, and were only vaguely aware of her efforts, [Beth Reinhard reports](#).

**Trump’s pardon of Bernie Kerik also apparently wiped out \$103,000 of the former New York City police commissioner’s debt to taxpayers.** The White House credited the president's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani – Kerik’s friend and former boss – for convincing Trump to pardon Kerik. ([The Week](#))

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## The new world order



People suspected of being infected with the coronavirus wait to receive tests at a medical center in Daegu, South Korea. (Lee Moo-ryul/AP)

## **Coronavirus cases surged in South Korea.**

“Authorities worldwide warned about the spread of the coronavirus beyond China on Thursday as **Japan reported the first two deaths from the Diamond Princess cruise liner**, South Korea reported its first fatality and a major city there asked citizens to refrain from venturing outdoors,” [Gerry Shih, Rick Noack and Teo Armus report](#). “A Japanese man and woman, both said to be in their 80s, were among more than 600 passengers who contracted the disease while on board the Diamond Princess. They left the ship last week and had been hospitalized but died on Thursday ... In nearby South Korea, cases soared by nearly two-thirds, mostly in the southern part of the peninsula ... The mayor of Daegu, the city where 10 South Koreans contracted the disease from a church service, asked residents to stay indoors.

**“Iran also reported two infected that then died.** Many international experts say the disease will continue to spread globally even as the Chinese government seeks to present the image that it is coming to grips with the epidemic. New cases inside China dropped again Wednesday, officials reported Thursday, after national authorities changed for the second time in a week the criteria for how cases are diagnosed and counted.”

## **A “xenophobic” motive is suspected in an overnight shooting that left 10 dead in Germany.**

“A spokesman for the Public Prosecutor General said that the office had taken over the investigation. Nine people were killed in shootings at the two hookah bars in Hanau, which is about 15 miles east of Frankfurt, on Wednesday night,” [Loveday Morris, Rick Noack and Luisa Beck report](#). “The body of the suspected attacker, and that of another person, were found in his home in the early hours of Thursday morning, police said. They didn't provide any additional information, but said there were ‘no indications of further perpetrators.’ German newspaper Bild reported the second body belonged to the suspect's mother. Police said they couldn't provide details on the attacker's motive or comment on German news

reports saying the shooter left a confessional letter and video that indicated a confused, extreme-right, anti-immigrant ideology.”

## **Britain wants to close its borders to low-skill migrants and lure English-speaking engineers.**

“Home Secretary Priti Patel called the immigration plan ‘a historic moment for the whole country,’ as the government pledged to transform the British economy by starving its businesses of low-wage workers from Europe and forcing companies to adopt technology and automation instead,” [William Booth and Karla Adam report](#). “The government said that beginning next year, it will reduce the overall number of migrants allowed into the country, honoring what it sees as one of the main mandates of the Brexit vote in June 2016. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who led the campaign for Brexit, has called the new immigration regime revolutionary. His government formally outlined the new plan Wednesday, confirming that Britain will install a new ‘points-based’ system, which will take back control of its borders and end what it described as the country’s overreliance on low-skilled workers.”

## **A Mexican national was arrested in Florida on accusation of spying for Russia.**

Hector Cabrera was arrested on charges that he collected information about a U.S. government informant on Russia, [Brittany Shammas reports](#). “U.S. prosecutors claim he was carrying out orders from a Russian official who had recruited him with promises of helping his family. A Singapore resident and researcher at the country’s National Heart Center, Fuentes made several trips to Moscow to meet with the official, who directed him to rent a specific property in Miami-Dade County and report back to Russia the license plate and location of the informant’s car.”

**Chris Steele said he feared assassination, directed by Russia, after he outlined alleged links between Trump and the Kremlin before the 2016 election.** [The Telegraph reports](#) that the former MI6 agent feared reprisals after he circulated memos that become known as the Steele dossier.



**Mexico is investigating ex-president Enrique Peña Nieto, a top official said.** Peña Nieto has been linked to the high-profile bribery case against the former CEO of Pemex, [the Wall Street Journal reports](#).

**Saudi Prince Mohammed bin Salman is sparring no detail in the planning of the Group of 20 summit, which he hopes will shift focus from the killing of Washington Post contributing columnist Jamal Khashoggi.** ([Bloomberg News](#))

**Scientists say we've dramatically underestimated how much methane gas we're emitting.**

“The contention emerges in a [new study](#) in the influential journal Nature, which draws on samples of ancient air extracted from within the Greenland ice sheet to measure levels of atmospheric methane before humans started burning fossil fuels,” [Chris Mooney reports](#). “If the researchers are right, then tens of millions of tons of methane could be wafting into the atmosphere, unaccounted for, from oil and gas fields around the world.”

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## **Social media speed read**

Elizabeth Warren got the most online buzz during the debate:

# Most Tweeted About Democratic Candidates



Elizabeth Warren



Mike Bloomberg



Bernie Sanders



Joe Biden



Pete Buttigieg



Amy Klobuchar



Ninth Debate: February 19, 2020

Bloomberg's hometown papers were not gentle with their former mayor's debut performance:



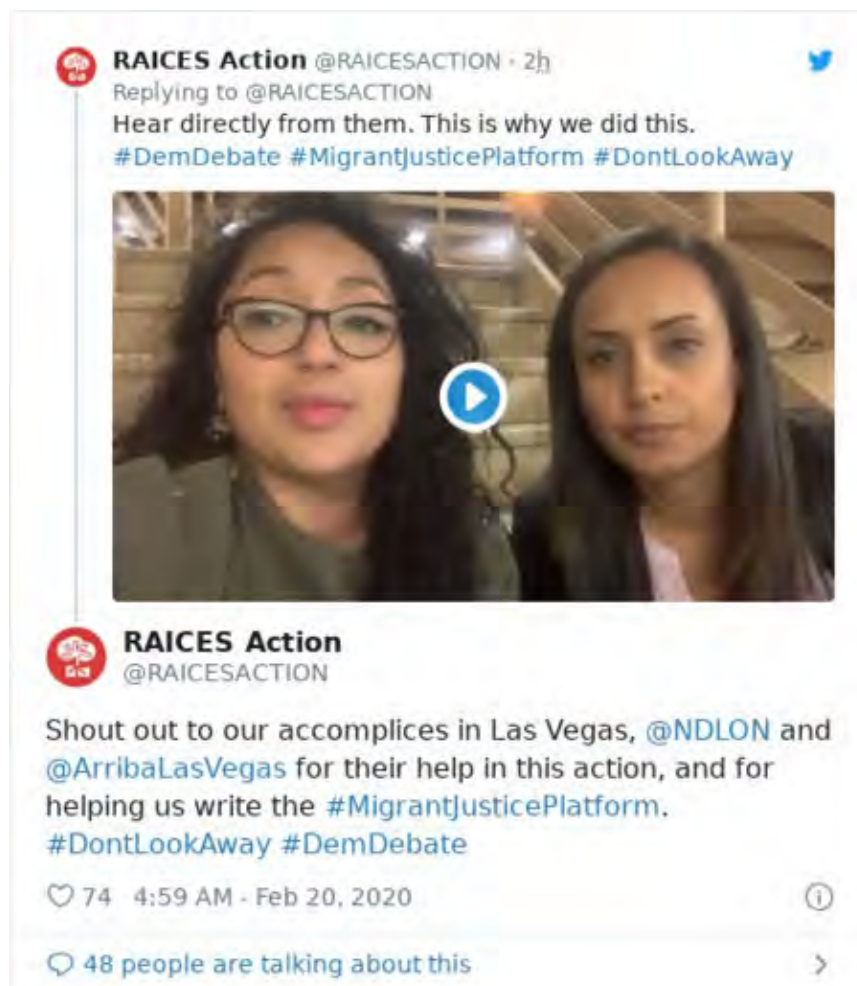
Not surprisingly, Trump also panned the former mayor's performance:



Warren didn't want to become an accidental influencer:



The activists who interrupted Biden's closing statement said they did so because there have been too few immigration questions in this cycle's debates:



The Bloomberg campaign shared old clips of Biden praising the former mayor, and Biden hit back:



## Videos of the day

A group glued tiny "Make America Great Again" hats onto pigeons in Las Vegas:

Group glues tiny MAGA hats onto pigeons in Las Vegas



▶ 0:57

Trevor Noah shared what his ideal presidential debate would look like:



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: The Democratic debate descends into class warfare, as the billionaire and socialist play off each other  
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By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## The Democratic debate descends into class warfare, as the billionaire and socialist play off each other

“Should you exist?”

NBC anchor Chuck Todd’s question to Mike Bloomberg during the Democratic debate in Las Vegas was prompted by a tweet last year from Bernie Sanders. “Billionaires should not exist,” the senator from Vermont wrote.



“I can't speak for all billionaires,” the former New York mayor answered on Wednesday night. “All I know is I've been very lucky, made a lot of money, and I'm giving it all away to make this country better.”

Todd followed up: “Should you have earned that much money?”

“Yes,” Bloomberg replied. “I worked very hard for it.”

Sanders, who identifies as a democratic socialist, says the word billionaire like it's a grotesque slur. “Mike Bloomberg owns more wealth than the bottom 125 million Americans,” he replied. “That's wrong. That's immoral.”

**The sizzling two-hour debate underscored the extent to which class has emerged as a stark dividing line inside the factionalized Democratic Party, as significant as race or gender. The proliferation of soak-the-rich rhetoric at this level of presidential politics would have been unthinkable in the not-distant past. Sanders has moved the Overton window to the left on a battery of issues, including the debate over the virtues of capitalism itself.**



**Bloomberg leaned on his financial success as a differentiator.**

“I’m the only one here that’s ever started a business,” he said. The chief executive of Bloomberg LP has spent **more than \$409 million** since launching his campaign just 10 weeks ago. That money has, essentially, bought him second place in national polling. It’s still less than 1 percent of his net worth, which **Forbes estimates** at \$65.2 billion – making him the eighth richest person in America.

**Elizabeth Warren compared Bloomberg to President Trump.**

“Democrats take a huge risk if we just substitute one arrogant billionaire for another,” said the senator from Massachusetts, as he stood next to her, avoiding eye contact.

**Just as Trump did four years ago, Bloomberg cites his wealth as evidence that he’s incorruptible.** After Pete Buttigieg urged people to visit his campaign website, for example, Bloomberg joked that people can go to his, as well, but they won’t be able to give money because he’s not raising any. Unlike Trump, though, Bloomberg is not pretending to be a populist. He’s running as a managerial technocrat who can make the trains run on time.

**Class-tinged resentments were a consistent undercurrent in the pile-on against Bloomberg.** “As the lone person on this stage who’s not a millionaire, let alone a billionaire,” said the former mayor of South Bend, Ind., “I believe that part of what needs to change is for the voices of the communities that haven’t felt heard on Wall Street or in Washington to actually be brought to Capitol Hill.”

Joe Biden chimed in. “For 36 years [in the Senate] and as vice president, I was listed as the poorest man in Congress,” he said. “I made money when I wrote a book about my son, and it surprised me how much it sold. First time I’ve ever made any money.”

**The crowd booed Bloomberg when he explained why it would take a few more “weeks” to release his tax returns.**

“Unfortunately, or fortunately, I make a lot of money and we do business all around the world, and we are preparing it,” he explained. “The number

of pages will probably be thousands of pages. I can't go to TurboTax."

"Pay overtime," said Warren, "and get it done."

Amy Klobuchar noted that her husband prepares their taxes. "We probably could go to TurboTax," said the senator from Minnesota.

**Because of the ongoing realignment between the parties, the Democratic coalition writ large has become more affluent and highly educated.** Many blue-collar, non-college-educated whites in places like the industrial Midwest have gravitated away from their ancestral home toward the GOP because of **cultural grievances**, among other factors.

**Sanders, however, tailors his message more to the working class than the middle class.** His rallies have a decidedly more blue-collar vibe than Buttigieg's or Klobuchar's or Warren's. During a town hall-style meeting the weekend before last in New Hampshire, for instance, a speaker warming up the crowd for Sanders asked how many people currently work for minimum wage. More than a third of the people in the audience raised their hands.

"What our movement is about is bringing working-class people together, black and white and Latino, Native American, Asian American, around an agenda that works for all of us and not just the billionaire class," Sanders said in the debate. "Real change never takes place from the top on down. It never takes place from an oligarchy controlled by billionaires."



Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

## **We Can't Afford Medicare for All**



American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

**Sanders continued to attack Buttigieg for having the temerity to even accept money from 46 billionaires.** “We are giving a voice to people who are saying we are sick and tired of billionaires like Mr. Bloomberg seeing huge expansions of their wealth while half-a-million people sleep out on the street tonight,” said Sanders. “What we are saying, Pete, is maybe it's time for the working class of this country to have a little

bit of power in Washington, rather than your billionaire campaign contributors.”

**Buttigieg, who got pummeled at the December debate for holding a fundraiser in a Napa Valley wine cave, replied that the billionaires are “among the hundreds of thousands of contributors” to his campaign.** “You're not the only one who cares about the working class,” he told Sanders. “Most Americans believe we need to empower workers.” Buttigieg added that “you're the one who is at war with the Culinary Union right here in Las Vegas.” To which Sanders replied: “We’ve got more union support than you have ever dreamed of.”

**You could sense the urgency, even the desperation, in the air as several of the candidates whose futures hinge on the coming weeks waved their arms to be recognized.** “We've got to wake up as a party,” Buttigieg pleaded with the audience. “We could wake up two weeks from today, the day after Super Tuesday, and the only candidates left standing will be Bernie Sanders and Mike Bloomberg, the two most polarizing figures on this stage. And most Americans don't see where they fit if they've got to choose between a socialist who thinks that capitalism is the root of all evil and a billionaire who thinks that money ought to be the root of all power.”

**One reason Klobuchar’s clashes with Buttigieg were so intensely bitter is that they’re both trying to claim this middle ground.** “I believe in capitalism, but I think the goal of someone in government ... should be a check on that,” she said. “I'm not going to limit what people make, but right now our tax code is so tilted against regular people, and that is what's wrong.”

**Warren boasts in her stump speech about how she made a billionaire cry on television with her wealth tax proposal.** People chant “two cents” at her events as she explains how anyone worth more than \$50 million will need to pay 2 percent of their net worth in taxes every year – including, as she puts it, on their yachts, Rembrandts and diamonds. The cheers are louder when Warren talks about taxing the

superrich than when she explains what she'll do with that extra revenue. That speaks volumes about the pitchfork populism that's been ascendant on the left.

**For his part, even Bloomberg goes out of his way to say the rich must pay more in taxes.** “I disagree with the senator on the wealth tax, but I do agree with her that the rich aren't paying their fair share,” Bloomberg volunteered during the debate. “We should raise taxes on the rich. I did that as mayor in New York City.” Then Sanders complimented Warren’s proposed wealth tax. “Ours is a little bit tougher on Mr. Bloomberg than hers,” he added, with pride.



**Bloomberg and Sanders both saw the other as a useful foil since they appeal to different constituencies.** “I believe in democratic socialism for working people, not billionaires,” said Sanders. “Creating a government that works for all, not just for Mr. Bloomberg.”

“What a wonderful country we have,” Bloomberg replied. “The best-known socialist in the country happens to be a millionaire with three houses. What did I miss here?”

Sanders replied that his first house is in Washington, where he works, and the second is in Burlington, Vt., where he lives. “And like thousands of

other Vermonters, I do have a summer camp,” he added. “We have the insane situation that billionaires today, if you can believe it, have an effective tax rate lower than the middle class.” Bloomberg replied that Sanders, as a member of Congress, can write the tax code.

**Asked whether workers should be able to sit on corporate boards, something Sanders and Warren support, Bloomberg said absolutely not.** “I can’t think of a way that would make it easier for Donald Trump to get reelected than listening to this conversation,” he said. Bloomberg argued that Sanders couldn’t defeat Trump in a general election because he’s too far to the left and wants to take away people’s private health insurance.

“Maybe we can talk about a billionaire saying that we should not raise the minimum wage,” Sanders countered. “If that’s a way to beat Donald Trump, wow, I would be very surprised.”

**NBC’s Lester Holt, another moderator, asked Sanders about the latest NBC-Wall Street Journal poll that found two-thirds of all voters said they were uncomfortable with a socialist candidate for president.** Asked what message he has for them, Sanders replied that the same poll showed him leading among Democratic voters. “I was winning, and I think by a fairly comfortable margin,” he said. “You might mention that.”

**Bloomberg suggested that Sanders is really a communist, not a socialist.** “We’re not going to throw out capitalism. We tried that. Other countries tried that,” he said. “It was called communism, and it just didn’t work.”

“That’s a cheap shot,” Sanders replied, clarifying that what he stands for is democratic socialism. “We are living, in many ways, in a socialist society right now. The problem is, as Dr. Martin Luther King reminded us, we have socialism for the very rich [and] rugged individualism for the poor.”

**There were class undertones even when the debate turned to topics related to gender.** Klobuchar seized on a memo released by the

Bloomberg campaign that said the other moderates should step aside to “pave the way” for Bloomberg to stop Sanders from capturing the nomination. “As a woman,” the senator said, “I've been told many times to wait my turn and to step aside. And I'm not going to do that now. ... We need something different than Donald Trump. I don't think you look at Donald Trump and say we need someone richer in the White House.”

**Bloomberg's riches also probably help explain the sense of entitlement he exuded.** He seemed like a man unaccustomed to both waiting on others and being challenged. He was caught on camera rolling his eyes at criticism. When moderators didn't come back to him during a discussion on health care, Bloomberg was clearly perturbed. “What am I,” he said, “chicken liver?”

**Bloomberg hadn't debated since 2009, and it showed.** He's not on the ballot in Nevada, which caucuses on Saturday, or in South Carolina, whose primary is the following Saturday. He's invested in the states that vote on Super Tuesday, four days after that, so he can make up some for his wobbly debate debut during a CBS debate next week in the Palmetto State. “He was just warming up,” campaign manager Kevin Sheekey said in a statement afterward.

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## Quote of the day

*Tom Steyer, the other billionaire seeking the Democratic nomination, didn't qualify for this debate but tweeted throughout. “Looks like Mike Bloomberg might be running in the wrong primary,” he [wrote](#).*





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### More from our team coverage

- [Dan Balz](#): “It’s a critical moment in the Democratic race. The debate made that clear.”
- [Michael Kranish](#): “Bloomberg faces attacks for refusing to release

women from confidentiality agreements.”

- Glenn Kessler, Salvador Rizzo and Sarah Cahlan [fact-checked seven claims](#).

## What pundits are saying about winners and losers

- [The Fix's Aaron Blake](#) declared Sanders the winner, along with Warren's takedowns of Bloomberg. His losers were Bloomberg, Biden and Klobuchar.
- [CNN's Chris Cillizza](#) said Warren, Sanders and a combo of Buttigieg and Biden won the night while Bloomberg and Klobuchar lost.
- [Vox's team](#) declared Warren and Sanders the winners and Bloomberg the loser.
- [Mother Jones editor Clara Jeffery](#) said Warren was the runaway winner, while Bloomberg delivered a “horribly bad” performance.
- [FiveThirtyEight's Nate Silver's](#) top takeaway is that Bloomberg bombed.
- [Democratic operative Mary Anne Marsh](#), writing for Fox News, called Warren the winner and Bloomberg the loser. Fox anchor [Bret Baier](#) said Trump was actually the biggest winner.
- [Washington Examiner's Becket Adams](#) argued that Warren won the debate – for Sanders.

## How it's playing elsewhere

- [The Las Vegas Review-Journal's editorial board](#): “Nevada Democrats should reject extremism.”
- [Politico's John Harris](#): “Thank you, Mike Bloomberg, for rescuing the debate.”
- [Shira Scheindlin op-ed in the New York Times](#): “I Was the Judge in the Stop-and-Frisk Case. I Don't Think Bloomberg Is Racist.”
- [The Boston Globe's Joan Vennochi](#): “The double standard for old sexist Democrats.”

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## More on 2020



### Democrats won't commit to a same-day release of the Nevada results.

“Tom Perez, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, [told The Associated Press](#) that several factors, including early voting and potentially high turnout, could affect the tabulation and timing of results. In addition, Nevada, like Iowa, will be reporting three sets of data from the multistage caucus process. **Perez said he doesn't know when results**

**will be released.** ‘We’re going to do our best to release results as soon as possible, but our North Star, again, is accuracy,’ he said late Tuesday after touring an early voting site in Las Vegas.”

## **Despite Warren’s rejection of super PACs, one launched to support her bid.**

“The group, Persist PAC, filed its papers on Tuesday,” [Michelle Ye Hee Lee reports](#). “It has already launched a 30-second ad in Nevada highlighting the senator’s record establishing a federal financial watchdog agency and supporting policies that help women and middle-class families. ... [Warren] has emphatically rejected super PACs and attacked her opponents receiving their help. In a statement, Warren’s campaign said the senator’s position has not changed. ... The statement did not address Warren’s feelings about Persist PAC, however, and the campaign did not respond to questions about whether the senator thinks the group should continue to exist to support her candidacy.”

Warren’s campaign announced that it raised more than \$1 million during the debate and \$2.8 million during the course of Wednesday.

## **Barack Obama has privately said he doesn’t like the idea of Sanders as a nominee.**

“To Obama, Sanders is a lot of what’s wrong with Democrats: unrelenting, unrealistic, so deep in his own fight that he doesn’t see how many people disagree with him or that he’s turning off people who should be his allies,” [the Atlantic’s Edward-Isaac Dove reports](#). “Obama has made clear in private conversations that he doesn’t like the idea of Sanders as the nominee (and has been only slightly more subtle in public comments), **but he’s pushed back on some who have urged him to get involved**, anxious that any move he makes could destroy the hope of him using his unique position to unite the party and defeat Trump during the general election. ... Obama is determined to make it work — if he has to.”

**Sanders was serious enough about waging a primary challenge against Obama in 2012 that then-Senate majority leader Harry**

**Reid had to intervene to stop him**, according to the story: “It took Reid two conversations over the summer of 2011 to get Sanders to scrap the idea, according to multiple people who remember the incident. ... That summer, Sanders privately discussed a potential primary challenge to Obama with several people, including Patrick Leahy, his fellow Vermont senator. Leahy, alarmed, warned Jim Messina, Obama’s presidential reelection-campaign manager. Obama’s campaign team was ‘absolutely panicked’ by Leahy’s report, Messina [said], since ‘every president who has gotten a real primary has lost a general [election].’ ... In another incident, in 2013, Sanders laid into Obama in a private meeting he held with Democratic senators, saying that the president was selling out to Republicans over Social Security benefits.” Obama replied that he didn't need to be lectured.

## **As Super Tuesday approaches, the candidates are rolling out endorsements.**

- Bloomberg this morning unveiled endorsements from three more Democratic members of Congress – Nita Lowey (N.Y.), Pete Aguilar (Calif.) and Josh Gottheimer (N.J.) – bringing his total to 16.
- Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D-Tex.), one of the House impeachment managers, backed Biden, giving him his sixth supporter from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. ([Politico](#))
- Virginia state Sen. Creigh Deeds, the 2009 nominee for governor, endorsed Klobuchar. ([Roanoke Times](#))
- Three Arizona state senators – Andrea Dalessandro, Jamescita Peshlakai and Victoria Steele – endorsed Warren on the first day of early voting in the state. The state votes March 17. ([Arizona Mirror](#))

## **The Bloomberg campaign is paying people \$2,500 a month to promote him to all their contacts.**

The campaign is hiring more than 500 “deputy digital organizers” to work 20 to 30 hours a week, [documents reviewed by the Wall Street Journal show](#). The workers are expected to promote Bloomberg weekly to everyone in their phone's contacts by text message and make daily social media posts supporting him.

## **Andrew Yang [joined CNN](#) as a political commentator.**

“Learned a lot these past months and am glad to contribute to the public discussion,” said the former presidential contender, who dropped out after the New Hampshire primary.

## **Florida’s new law prohibiting certain ex-felons from voting was ruled unconstitutional.**

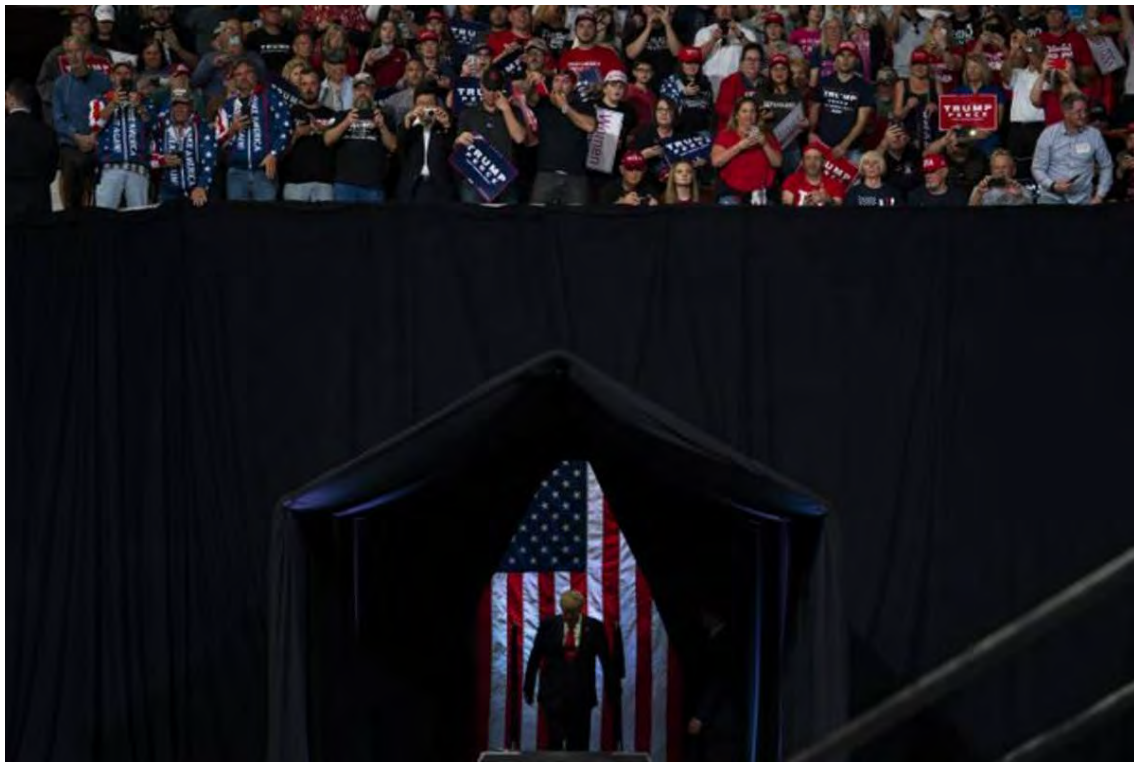
The rule would’ve prohibited ex-felons who cannot pay certain legal fines from voting. The case “could have significant consequences for one of the country’s largest swing states,” [Elise Viebeck reports](#). “In a unanimous ruling, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit affirmed a lower court’s finding that Florida’s S.B. 7066 violates the Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection under the law. The panel also upheld that court’s preliminary injunction barring enforcement for the plaintiffs. Florida’s governor immediately signaled that he would appeal the decision to the full circuit. ... ‘Continued disenfranchisement is indisputably punitive in nature,’ the judges wrote, adding, ‘Felons who are unable to pay are subject to continued punishment *solely because of their inability to pay.*’ ”

## **The White House predicts the economy will not grow at a rate of 3 percent or higher this year.**

The Council of Economic Advisers forecasts that, unless Congress enacts a major infrastructure package and additional tax cuts, the U.S. economy will grow at a 2.4 percent pace this year and at a 2.3 percent pace in 2021. ([Heather Long](#))

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## **All the president's men**



President Trump takes the stage at a campaign rally on Wednesday night at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix. (Evan Vucci/AP)

## **Mick Mulvaney admitted that the GOP is hypocritical on deficits.**

“My party is very interested in deficits when there is a Democrat in the White House. The worst thing in the whole world is deficits when Barack Obama was the president. Then Donald Trump became president, and we’re a lot less interested as a party,” he said at the Oxford Union to a group of several hundred people.

“Mulvaney, who ran the Office of Management and Budget before taking the acting chief of staff role, said he found the growing deficit — which reached almost \$1 trillion in 2019, soaring in the Trump era — ‘extraordinarily disturbing’ but that neither party, nor voters, cared much about it,” [Josh Dawsey reports](#). “Mulvaney’s comments, which lasted about an hour, came as he visited Britain and Ireland to talk about Brexit and other issues. ... He criticized his predecessor, John F. Kelly, as chief of staff, and railed against the ‘deep state,’ giving the audience examples of civil servants who he said were working against the Trump administration. ...

**“Mulvaney robustly defended the president’s actions regarding Ukraine ...** He said the president regularly complained that Europeans don’t give Ukraine enough money. ‘And number two, they’re corrupt as hell, which is true,’ Mulvaney said. ... He joked about his news conference last year in which he conceded, from the White House podium, that there was a ‘quid pro quo’ and that it was normal in foreign policy and that people should ‘get over it.’ Mulvaney said he realized he’d made a mistake when he walked away from the podium. Another White House official, he said, ‘came up to me and said, ‘Do you know you just said X?’ I said, ‘No I didn’t say that.’” Soon, he realized, ‘S---, I said X.’ Mulvaney issued a statement later that day attacking the media for mischaracterizing his comments.”

### **Trump fired the Pentagon’s policy chief, who spoke out internally against his freeze on Ukraine aid.**

Undersecretary of Defense for Policy John Rood, who was charged with certifying that Ukraine met its anti-corruption targets in order to receive U.S. military aid, was dismissed after clashing with colleagues over the implementation of Trump’s foreign policy agenda for more than two years, [Paul Sonne and Missy Ryan report](#). His last day is Feb. 28. “Rood wrote that he understood, from speaking to Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper, that Trump had requested his resignation. ... In an email to Esper hours after Trump’s July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Rood said that ‘placing a hold on security assistance at this time would jeopardize this unique window of opportunity and undermine our defense priorities with a key partner in the strategic competition with Russia.’ ... The hold proceeded anyway.”

### **Trump will install German ambassador Richard Grenell as acting director of national intelligence.**

Trump is nominating “a fiercely loyal ally atop an intelligence structure he has frequently railed against,” [Shane Harris, Anne Gearan and Dawsey report](#). “It is unclear whether Trump intends to nominate Grenell to fill the top intelligence post on a permanent basis, which would require Senate confirmation. The appointment took many in Washington,



including on Capitol Hill, by surprise. Grenell, a former State Department official and communications executive, has been a Trump confidant and ad hoc adviser on issues beyond his ambassadorial work in Berlin. He is a conservative foreign policy hawk and sometime media critic, as well as a vocal supporter of Trump on social media. He has sparked controversy in his diplomatic role, but also won praise in Germany and elsewhere for taking on issues such as gay rights in Eastern Europe and the long-running tensions between Kosovo and Serbia. Grenell would be the first openly gay member of the Trump Cabinet.”

### **Trump continues to test his relationship with Bill Barr by tweeting about the Justice Department.**

A day after it was revealed that the attorney general has told people close to Trump that he’s considered quitting, the president amplified “conservative allies demanding he ‘clean house’ at the Justice Department and target those involved in the Russia investigation that once threatened his presidency,” [John Wagner, Matt Zapposky and Devlin Barrett report](#). “The grievances shared by Trump in a flurry of morning tweets included claims of a ‘seditious conspiracy’ against him, and attacks on a ‘criminal gang’ at the FBI and the Justice Department.” **The fragile equilibrium may be tested again Thursday, as Roger Stone is scheduled to be sentenced** for lying to Congress and obstruction.

### **John Bolton said his testimony wouldn’t have changed the outcome of the impeachment trial.**

The former national security adviser “denounced the House’s impeachment proceedings against [Trump] as ‘grossly partisan’ and said his testimony would not have changed Trump’s acquittal in the Senate,” [the AP reports](#). “Bolton was on stage at Vanderbilt University with former national security adviser Susan Rice, who questioned Bolton’s refusal to discuss more details. ... Bolton contended that the House ‘committed impeachment malpractice,’ drawing some grumbling from the audience, saying ‘the process drove Republicans who might have voted for impeachment away because it was so partisan.’ He also said he didn’t expect the Senate to vote against having him testify. ‘People can argue

about what I should have said and what I should have done,' Bolton said. 'I would bet you a dollar right here and now, my testimony would have made no difference to the ultimate outcome.'”

## **Mike Pompeo and lawmakers sparred over “deep state” attacks while in Munich.**

“The meeting became contentious early on, when Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) confronted Pompeo about what the senator described as a severe morale problem among Foreign Service officers and civil servants working for the State Department both in Washington and around the world,” [Josh Rogin reports](#). “Pompeo reacted angrily. The secretary didn’t just deny that he had failed to protect his employees sufficiently; he also claimed that morale at the State Department is great, according to four lawmakers who were in the room.”



Rod Blagojevich, the ex-Illinois governor convicted of trying to peddle Barack Obama's vacated U.S. Senate seat, waves as he exits his home after Trump commuted his prison sentence. (Joshua Lott/Reuters)

**Trump is considering more pardons.**

**The president assembled a team of advisers to guide the clemency process.** “The White House is moving to take more direct control over pardons and commutations, with Trump aiming to limit the role of the Justice Department in the clemency process as he weighs a flurry of additional pardon announcements,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Dawsey and Neena Satija report](#). “Trump, who granted clemency Tuesday to a [group of 11 people](#) that included several political allies and supporters, has assembled a team of advisers to recommend and vet candidates for pardons. ... The group, essentially an informal task force of at least a half-dozen presidential allies, has been meeting since late last year to discuss a revamped pardon system in the White House. Jared Kushner, Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser, is taking a leading role in the new clemency initiative. ... Trump, who prefers granting clemency to people with compelling personal stories or lengthy sentences, is inclined to grant more pardons before facing voters in November, one official said.” ([Interesting op-ed by John K. Carroll](#): “I was a prosecutor in the Michael Milken case. I’m outraged at the pardon process.”)

**Julian Assange’s lawyer said a then-GOP congressman dangled a pardon if he would absolve Russia in the DNC hack.** Assange’s attorney told a British judge that former Republican congressman Dana Rohrabacher, a Trump ally who lost in 2018, made an offer to the WikiLeaks founder on behalf of Trump in 2017 to pardon Assange in exchange for saying that Russia had nothing to do with the 2016 hack and leak of DNC emails. “Assange is in a British prison while he awaits a decision on an extradition request by the United States,” [William Booth and Ellen Nakashima report](#). “In a statement posted to his website on Wednesday, Rohrabacher said ... ‘at no time did I offer Julian Assange anything from the President because I had not spoken with the President about this issue at all.’ But, he added, he told Assange that if he gave him evidence about who provided him the DNC emails, he would ask Trump to pardon him. White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham on Wednesday denied the allegation that Trump was seeking a trade with Assange.”

**An unrepentant Rod Blagojevich declared himself “a freed political prisoner” as he spoke to reporters outside his Chicago home.** “We want to express our most profound and everlasting gratitude to President Trump,” said the former Democratic governor of Illinois.

([Susan Berger and John Wagner](#))

**Trump granted clemency to three of Alice Johnson’s friends.**

The women said they hadn't spoken in years with Johnson, whom Trump freed in 2018, and were only vaguely aware of her efforts, [Beth Reinhard reports](#).

**Trump’s pardon of Bernie Kerik also apparently wiped out \$103,000 of the former New York City police commissioner’s debt to taxpayers.** The White House credited the president's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani – Kerik’s friend and former boss – for convincing Trump to pardon Kerik. ([The Week](#))

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## The new world order



People suspected of being infected with the coronavirus wait to receive tests at a medical center in Daegu, South Korea. (Lee Moo-ryul/AP)

## **Coronavirus cases surged in South Korea.**

“Authorities worldwide warned about the spread of the coronavirus beyond China on Thursday as **Japan reported the first two deaths from the Diamond Princess cruise liner**, South Korea reported its first fatality and a major city there asked citizens to refrain from venturing outdoors,” [Gerry Shih, Rick Noack and Teo Armus report](#). “A Japanese man and woman, both said to be in their 80s, were among more than 600 passengers who contracted the disease while on board the Diamond Princess. They left the ship last week and had been hospitalized but died on Thursday ... In nearby South Korea, cases soared by nearly two-thirds, mostly in the southern part of the peninsula ... The mayor of Daegu, the city where 10 South Koreans contracted the disease from a church service, asked residents to stay indoors.

**“Iran also reported two infected that then died.** Many international experts say the disease will continue to spread globally even as the Chinese government seeks to present the image that it is coming to grips with the epidemic. New cases inside China dropped again Wednesday, officials reported Thursday, after national authorities changed for the second time in a week the criteria for how cases are diagnosed and counted.”

## **A “xenophobic” motive is suspected in an overnight shooting that left 10 dead in Germany.**

“A spokesman for the Public Prosecutor General said that the office had taken over the investigation. Nine people were killed in shootings at the two hookah bars in Hanau, which is about 15 miles east of Frankfurt, on Wednesday night,” [Loveday Morris, Rick Noack and Luisa Beck report](#). “The body of the suspected attacker, and that of another person, were found in his home in the early hours of Thursday morning, police said. They didn't provide any additional information, but said there were ‘no indications of further perpetrators.’ German newspaper Bild reported the second body belonged to the suspect's mother. Police said they couldn't provide details on the attacker's motive or comment on German news

reports saying the shooter left a confessional letter and video that indicated a confused, extreme-right, anti-immigrant ideology.”

## **Britain wants to close its borders to low-skill migrants and lure English-speaking engineers.**

“Home Secretary Priti Patel called the immigration plan ‘a historic moment for the whole country,’ as the government pledged to transform the British economy by starving its businesses of low-wage workers from Europe and forcing companies to adopt technology and automation instead,” [William Booth and Karla Adam report](#). “The government said that beginning next year, it will reduce the overall number of migrants allowed into the country, honoring what it sees as one of the main mandates of the Brexit vote in June 2016. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who led the campaign for Brexit, has called the new immigration regime revolutionary. His government formally outlined the new plan Wednesday, confirming that Britain will install a new ‘points-based’ system, which will take back control of its borders and end what it described as the country’s overreliance on low-skilled workers.”

## **A Mexican national was arrested in Florida on accusation of spying for Russia.**

Hector Cabrera was arrested on charges that he collected information about a U.S. government informant on Russia, [Brittany Shammas reports](#). “U.S. prosecutors claim he was carrying out orders from a Russian official who had recruited him with promises of helping his family. A Singapore resident and researcher at the country’s National Heart Center, Fuentes made several trips to Moscow to meet with the official, who directed him to rent a specific property in Miami-Dade County and report back to Russia the license plate and location of the informant’s car.”

**Chris Steele said he feared assassination, directed by Russia, after he outlined alleged links between Trump and the Kremlin before the 2016 election.** [The Telegraph reports](#) that the former MI6 agent feared reprisals after he circulated memos that become known as the Steele dossier.

**Mexico is investigating ex-president Enrique Peña Nieto, a top official said.** Peña Nieto has been linked to the high-profile bribery case against the former CEO of Pemex, [the Wall Street Journal reports](#).

**Saudi Prince Mohammed bin Salman is sparring no detail in the planning of the Group of 20 summit, which he hopes will shift focus from the killing of Washington Post contributing columnist Jamal Khashoggi.** ([Bloomberg News](#))

**Scientists say we've dramatically underestimated how much methane gas we're emitting.**

“The contention emerges in a [new study](#) in the influential journal Nature, which draws on samples of ancient air extracted from within the Greenland ice sheet to measure levels of atmospheric methane before humans started burning fossil fuels,” [Chris Mooney reports](#). “If the researchers are right, then tens of millions of tons of methane could be wafting into the atmosphere, unaccounted for, from oil and gas fields around the world.”

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## **Social media speed read**

Elizabeth Warren got the most online buzz during the debate:

# Most Tweeted About Democratic Candidates



Elizabeth Warren



Mike Bloomberg



Bernie Sanders



Joe Biden



Pete Buttigieg



Amy Klobuchar



Ninth Debate: February 19, 2020

Bloomberg's hometown papers were not gentle with their former mayor's debut performance:





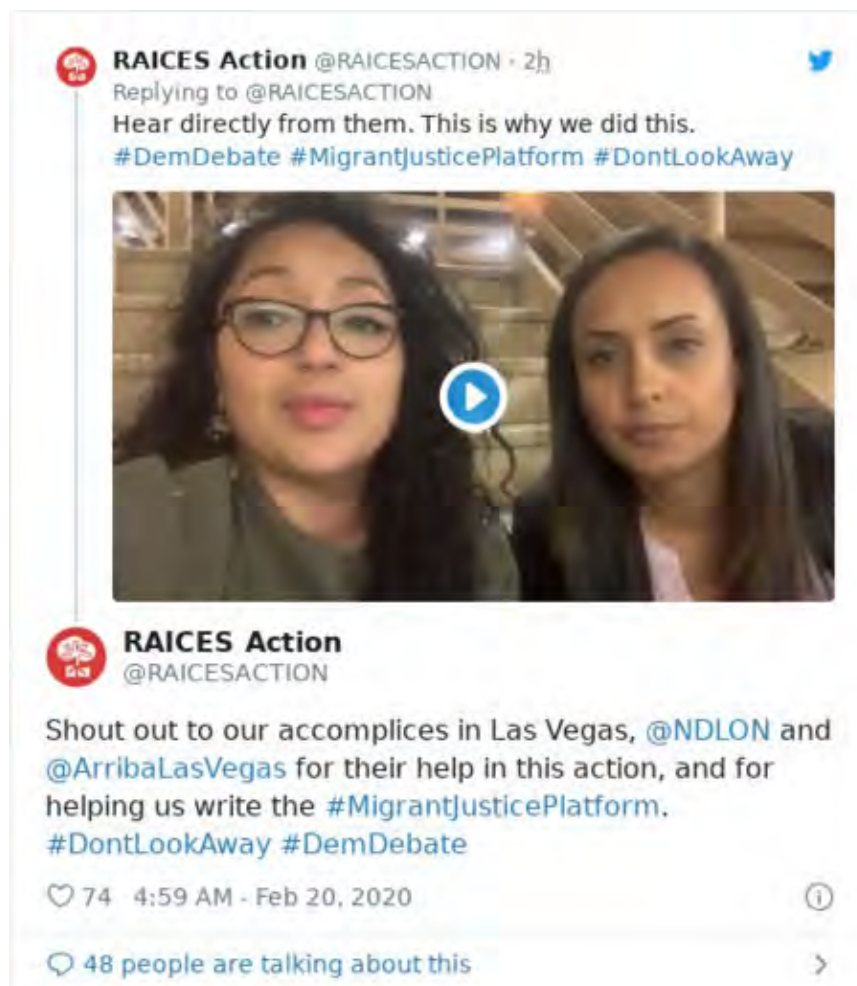
Not surprisingly, Trump also panned the former mayor's performance:



Warren didn't want to become an accidental influencer:



The activists who interrupted Biden's closing statement said they did so because there have been too few immigration questions in this cycle's debates:



The Bloomberg campaign shared old clips of Biden praising the former mayor, and Biden hit back:



## Videos of the day

A group glued tiny "Make America Great Again" hats onto pigeons in Las Vegas:

Group glues tiny MAGA hats onto pigeons in Las Vegas



▶ 0:57

Trevor Noah shared what his ideal presidential debate would look like:



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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
✉ Email

## The Democratic debate descends into class warfare, as the billionaire and socialist play off each other

“Should you exist?”

NBC anchor Chuck Todd’s question to Mike Bloomberg during the Democratic debate in Las Vegas was prompted by a tweet last year from Bernie Sanders. “Billionaires should not exist,” the senator from Vermont wrote.

“I can't speak for all billionaires,” the former New York mayor answered on Wednesday night. “All I know is I've been very lucky, made a lot of money, and I'm giving it all away to make this country better.”

Todd followed up: “Should you have earned that much money?”

“Yes,” Bloomberg replied. “I worked very hard for it.”

Sanders, who identifies as a democratic socialist, says the word billionaire like it's a grotesque slur. “Mike Bloomberg owns more wealth than the bottom 125 million Americans,” he replied. “That's wrong. That's immoral.”

**The sizzling two-hour debate underscored the extent to which class has emerged as a stark dividing line inside the factionalized Democratic Party, as significant as race or gender. The proliferation of soak-the-rich rhetoric at this level of presidential politics would have been unthinkable in the not-distant past. Sanders has moved the Overton window to the left on a battery of issues, including the debate over the virtues of capitalism itself.**



**Bloomberg leaned on his financial success as a differentiator.**

“I’m the only one here that’s ever started a business,” he said. The chief executive of Bloomberg LP has spent **more than \$409 million** since launching his campaign just 10 weeks ago. That money has, essentially, bought him second place in national polling. It’s still less than 1 percent of his net worth, which **Forbes estimates** at \$65.2 billion – making him the eighth richest person in America.

**Elizabeth Warren compared Bloomberg to President Trump.**

“Democrats take a huge risk if we just substitute one arrogant billionaire for another,” said the senator from Massachusetts, as he stood next to her, avoiding eye contact.

**Just as Trump did four years ago, Bloomberg cites his wealth as evidence that he’s incorruptible.** After Pete Buttigieg urged people to visit his campaign website, for example, Bloomberg joked that people can go to his, as well, but they won’t be able to give money because he’s not raising any. Unlike Trump, though, Bloomberg is not pretending to be a populist. He’s running as a managerial technocrat who can make the trains run on time.

**Class-tinged resentments were a consistent undercurrent in the pile-on against Bloomberg.** “As the lone person on this stage who’s not a millionaire, let alone a billionaire,” said the former mayor of South Bend, Ind., “I believe that part of what needs to change is for the voices of the communities that haven’t felt heard on Wall Street or in Washington to actually be brought to Capitol Hill.”

Joe Biden chimed in. “For 36 years [in the Senate] and as vice president, I was listed as the poorest man in Congress,” he said. “I made money when I wrote a book about my son, and it surprised me how much it sold. First time I’ve ever made any money.”

**The crowd booed Bloomberg when he explained why it would take a few more “weeks” to release his tax returns.**

“Unfortunately, or fortunately, I make a lot of money and we do business all around the world, and we are preparing it,” he explained. “The number



of pages will probably be thousands of pages. I can't go to TurboTax."

"Pay overtime," said Warren, "and get it done."

Amy Klobuchar noted that her husband prepares their taxes. "We probably could go to TurboTax," said the senator from Minnesota.

**Because of the ongoing realignment between the parties, the Democratic coalition writ large has become more affluent and highly educated.** Many blue-collar, non-college-educated whites in places like the industrial Midwest have gravitated away from their ancestral home toward the GOP because of **cultural grievances**, among other factors.

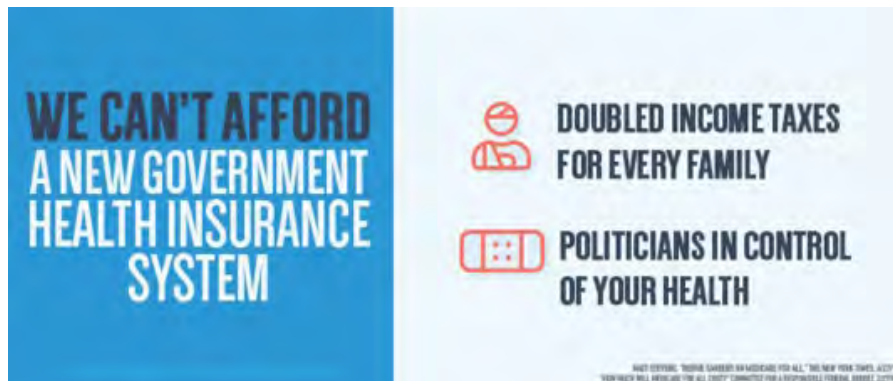
**Sanders, however, tailors his message more to the working class than the middle class.** His rallies have a decidedly more blue-collar vibe than Buttigieg's or Klobuchar's or Warren's. During a town hall-style meeting the weekend before last in New Hampshire, for instance, a speaker warming up the crowd for Sanders asked how many people currently work for minimum wage. More than a third of the people in the audience raised their hands.

"What our movement is about is bringing working-class people together, black and white and Latino, Native American, Asian American, around an agenda that works for all of us and not just the billionaire class," Sanders said in the debate. "Real change never takes place from the top on down. It never takes place from an oligarchy controlled by billionaires."



Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

### **We Can't Afford Medicare for All**



American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

**Sanders continued to attack Buttigieg for having the temerity to even accept money from 46 billionaires.** “We are giving a voice to people who are saying we are sick and tired of billionaires like Mr. Bloomberg seeing huge expansions of their wealth while half-a-million people sleep out on the street tonight,” said Sanders. “What we are saying, Pete, is maybe it's time for the working class of this country to have a little

bit of power in Washington, rather than your billionaire campaign contributors.”

**Buttigieg, who got pummeled at the December debate for holding a fundraiser in a Napa Valley wine cave, replied that the billionaires are “among the hundreds of thousands of contributors” to his campaign.** “You're not the only one who cares about the working class,” he told Sanders. “Most Americans believe we need to empower workers.” Buttigieg added that “you're the one who is at war with the Culinary Union right here in Las Vegas.” To which Sanders replied: “We’ve got more union support than you have ever dreamed of.”

**You could sense the urgency, even the desperation, in the air as several of the candidates whose futures hinge on the coming weeks waved their arms to be recognized.** “We've got to wake up as a party,” Buttigieg pleaded with the audience. “We could wake up two weeks from today, the day after Super Tuesday, and the only candidates left standing will be Bernie Sanders and Mike Bloomberg, the two most polarizing figures on this stage. And most Americans don't see where they fit if they've got to choose between a socialist who thinks that capitalism is the root of all evil and a billionaire who thinks that money ought to be the root of all power.”

**One reason Klobuchar’s clashes with Buttigieg were so intensely bitter is that they’re both trying to claim this middle ground.** “I believe in capitalism, but I think the goal of someone in government ... should be a check on that,” she said. “I'm not going to limit what people make, but right now our tax code is so tilted against regular people, and that is what's wrong.”

**Warren boasts in her stump speech about how she made a billionaire cry on television with her wealth tax proposal.** People chant “two cents” at her events as she explains how anyone worth more than \$50 million will need to pay 2 percent of their net worth in taxes every year – including, as she puts it, on their yachts, Rembrandts and diamonds. The cheers are louder when Warren talks about taxing the

superrich than when she explains what she'll do with that extra revenue. That speaks volumes about the pitchfork populism that's been ascendant on the left.

**For his part, even Bloomberg goes out of his way to say the rich must pay more in taxes.** “I disagree with the senator on the wealth tax, but I do agree with her that the rich aren't paying their fair share,” Bloomberg volunteered during the debate. “We should raise taxes on the rich. I did that as mayor in New York City.” Then Sanders complimented Warren’s proposed wealth tax. “Ours is a little bit tougher on Mr. Bloomberg than hers,” he added, with pride.



**Bloomberg and Sanders both saw the other as a useful foil since they appeal to different constituencies.** “I believe in democratic socialism for working people, not billionaires,” said Sanders. “Creating a government that works for all, not just for Mr. Bloomberg.”

“What a wonderful country we have,” Bloomberg replied. “The best-known socialist in the country happens to be a millionaire with three houses. What did I miss here?”

Sanders replied that his first house is in Washington, where he works, and the second is in Burlington, Vt., where he lives. “And like thousands of

other Vermonters, I do have a summer camp,” he added. “We have the insane situation that billionaires today, if you can believe it, have an effective tax rate lower than the middle class.” Bloomberg replied that Sanders, as a member of Congress, can write the tax code.

**Asked whether workers should be able to sit on corporate boards, something Sanders and Warren support, Bloomberg said absolutely not.** “I can’t think of a way that would make it easier for Donald Trump to get reelected than listening to this conversation,” he said. Bloomberg argued that Sanders couldn’t defeat Trump in a general election because he’s too far to the left and wants to take away people’s private health insurance.

“Maybe we can talk about a billionaire saying that we should not raise the minimum wage,” Sanders countered. “If that’s a way to beat Donald Trump, wow, I would be very surprised.”

**NBC’s Lester Holt, another moderator, asked Sanders about the latest NBC-Wall Street Journal poll that found two-thirds of all voters said they were uncomfortable with a socialist candidate for president.** Asked what message he has for them, Sanders replied that the same poll showed him leading among Democratic voters. “I was winning, and I think by a fairly comfortable margin,” he said. “You might mention that.”

**Bloomberg suggested that Sanders is really a communist, not a socialist.** “We’re not going to throw out capitalism. We tried that. Other countries tried that,” he said. “It was called communism, and it just didn’t work.”

“That’s a cheap shot,” Sanders replied, clarifying that what he stands for is democratic socialism. “We are living, in many ways, in a socialist society right now. The problem is, as Dr. Martin Luther King reminded us, we have socialism for the very rich [and] rugged individualism for the poor.”

**There were class undertones even when the debate turned to topics related to gender.** Klobuchar seized on a memo released by the

Bloomberg campaign that said the other moderates should step aside to “pave the way” for Bloomberg to stop Sanders from capturing the nomination. “As a woman,” the senator said, “I’ve been told many times to wait my turn and to step aside. And I’m not going to do that now. ... We need something different than Donald Trump. I don’t think you look at Donald Trump and say we need someone richer in the White House.”

**Bloomberg’s riches also probably help explain the sense of entitlement he exuded.** He seemed like a man unaccustomed to both waiting on others and being challenged. He was caught on camera rolling his eyes at criticism. When moderators didn’t come back to him during a discussion on health care, Bloomberg was clearly perturbed. “What am I,” he said, “chicken liver?”

**Bloomberg hadn’t debated since 2009, and it showed.** He’s not on the ballot in Nevada, which caucuses on Saturday, or in South Carolina, whose primary is the following Saturday. He’s invested in the states that vote on Super Tuesday, four days after that, so he can make up some for his wobbly debate debut during a CBS debate next week in the Palmetto State. “He was just warming up,” campaign manager Kevin Sheekey said in a statement afterward.

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## Quote of the day

*Tom Steyer, the other billionaire seeking the Democratic nomination, didn’t qualify for this debate but tweeted throughout. “Looks like Mike Bloomberg might be running in the wrong primary,” he [wrote](#).*



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### More from our team coverage

- [Dan Balz](#): “It’s a critical moment in the Democratic race. The debate made that clear.”
- [Michael Kranish](#): “Bloomberg faces attacks for refusing to release

women from confidentiality agreements.”

- Glenn Kessler, Salvador Rizzo and Sarah Cahlan [fact-checked seven claims](#).


## What pundits are saying about winners and losers

- [The Fix's Aaron Blake](#) declared Sanders the winner, along with Warren's takedowns of Bloomberg. His losers were Bloomberg, Biden and Klobuchar.
- [CNN's Chris Cillizza](#) said Warren, Sanders and a combo of Buttigieg and Biden won the night while Bloomberg and Klobuchar lost.
- [Vox's team](#) declared Warren and Sanders the winners and Bloomberg the loser.
- [Mother Jones editor Clara Jeffery](#) said Warren was the runaway winner, while Bloomberg delivered a “horribly bad” performance.
- [FiveThirtyEight's Nate Silver's](#) top takeaway is that Bloomberg bombed.
- [Democratic operative Mary Anne Marsh](#), writing for Fox News, called Warren the winner and Bloomberg the loser. Fox anchor [Bret Baier](#) said Trump was actually the biggest winner.
- [Washington Examiner's Becket Adams](#) argued that Warren won the debate – for Sanders.

## How it's playing elsewhere

- [The Las Vegas Review-Journal's editorial board](#): “Nevada Democrats should reject extremism.”
- [Politico's John Harris](#): “Thank you, Mike Bloomberg, for rescuing the debate.”
- [Shira Scheindlin op-ed in the New York Times](#): “I Was the Judge in the Stop-and-Frisk Case. I Don't Think Bloomberg Is Racist.”
- [The Boston Globe's Joan Vennochi](#): “The double standard for old sexist Democrats.”

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## More on 2020



### Democrats won't commit to a same-day release of the Nevada results.

“Tom Perez, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, [told The Associated Press](#) that several factors, including early voting and potentially high turnout, could affect the tabulation and timing of results. In addition, Nevada, like Iowa, will be reporting three sets of data from the multistage caucus process. **Perez said he doesn't know when results will be released.** ‘We’re going to do our best to release results as soon as

possible, but our North Star, again, is accuracy,' he said late Tuesday after touring an early voting site in Las Vegas.”

## **Despite Warren’s rejection of super PACs, one launched to support her bid.**

“The group, Persist PAC, filed its papers on Tuesday,” [Michelle Ye Hee Lee reports](#). “It has already launched a 30-second ad in Nevada highlighting the senator’s record establishing a federal financial watchdog agency and supporting policies that help women and middle-class families. ... [Warren] has emphatically rejected super PACs and attacked her opponents receiving their help. In a statement, Warren’s campaign said the senator’s position has not changed. ... The statement did not address Warren’s feelings about Persist PAC, however, and the campaign did not respond to questions about whether the senator thinks the group should continue to exist to support her candidacy.”

Warren’s campaign announced that it raised more than \$1 million during the debate and \$2.8 million during the course of Wednesday.

## **Barack Obama has privately said he doesn’t like the idea of Sanders as a nominee.**

“To Obama, Sanders is a lot of what’s wrong with Democrats: unrelenting, unrealistic, so deep in his own fight that he doesn’t see how many people disagree with him or that he’s turning off people who should be his allies,” [the Atlantic’s Edward-Isaac Dove reports](#). “Obama has made clear in private conversations that he doesn’t like the idea of Sanders as the nominee (and has been only slightly more subtle in public comments), **but he’s pushed back on some who have urged him to get involved**, anxious that any move he makes could destroy the hope of him using his unique position to unite the party and defeat Trump during the general election. ... Obama is determined to make it work — if he has to.”

**Sanders was serious enough about waging a primary challenge against Obama in 2012 that then-Senate majority leader Harry Reid had to intervene to stop him**, according to the story: “It took

Reid two conversations over the summer of 2011 to get Sanders to scrap the idea, according to multiple people who remember the incident. ... That summer, Sanders privately discussed a potential primary challenge to Obama with several people, including Patrick Leahy, his fellow Vermont senator. Leahy, alarmed, warned Jim Messina, Obama's presidential reelection-campaign manager. Obama's campaign team was 'absolutely panicked' by Leahy's report, Messina [said], since 'every president who has gotten a real primary has lost a general [election].' ... In another incident, in 2013, Sanders laid into Obama in a private meeting he held with Democratic senators, saying that the president was selling out to Republicans over Social Security benefits." Obama replied that he didn't need to be lectured.

## **As Super Tuesday approaches, the candidates are rolling out endorsements.**

- Bloomberg this morning unveiled endorsements from three more Democratic members of Congress – Nita Lowey (N.Y.), Pete Aguilar (Calif.) and Josh Gottheimer (N.J.) – bringing his total to 16.
- Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D-Tex.), one of the House impeachment managers, backed Biden, giving him his sixth supporter from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. ([Politico](#))
- Virginia state Sen. Creigh Deeds, the 2009 nominee for governor, endorsed Klobuchar. ([Roanoke Times](#))
- Three Arizona state senators – Andrea Dalessandro, Jamescita Peshlakai and Victoria Steele – endorsed Warren on the first day of early voting in the state. The state votes March 17. ([Arizona Mirror](#))

## **The Bloomberg campaign is paying people \$2,500 a month to promote him to all their contacts.**

The campaign is hiring more than 500 “deputy digital organizers” to work 20 to 30 hours a week, [documents reviewed by the Wall Street Journal show](#). The workers are expected to promote Bloomberg weekly to everyone in their phone's contacts by text message and make daily social media posts supporting him.

## **Andrew Yang [joined CNN](#) as a political commentator.**

“Learned a lot these past months and am glad to contribute to the public discussion,” said the former presidential contender, who dropped out after the New Hampshire primary.

## **Florida’s new law prohibiting certain ex-felons from voting was ruled unconstitutional.**

The rule would’ve prohibited ex-felons who cannot pay certain legal fines from voting. The case “could have significant consequences for one of the country’s largest swing states,” [Elise Viebeck reports](#). “In a unanimous ruling, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit affirmed a lower court’s finding that Florida’s S.B. 7066 violates the Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection under the law. The panel also upheld that court’s preliminary injunction barring enforcement for the plaintiffs. Florida’s governor immediately signaled that he would appeal the decision to the full circuit. ... ‘Continued disenfranchisement is indisputably punitive in nature,’ the judges wrote, adding, ‘Felons who are unable to pay are subject to continued punishment *solely because of* their inability to pay.’ ”

## **The White House predicts the economy will not grow at a rate of 3 percent or higher this year.**

The Council of Economic Advisers forecasts that, unless Congress enacts a major infrastructure package and additional tax cuts, the U.S. economy will grow at a 2.4 percent pace this year and at a 2.3 percent pace in 2021. ([Heather Long](#))

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## **All the president's men**



President Trump takes the stage at a campaign rally on Wednesday night at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix. (Evan Vucci/AP)

## **Mick Mulvaney admitted that the GOP is hypocritical on deficits.**

“My party is very interested in deficits when there is a Democrat in the White House. The worst thing in the whole world is deficits when Barack Obama was the president. Then Donald Trump became president, and we’re a lot less interested as a party,” he said at the Oxford Union to a group of several hundred people.

“Mulvaney, who ran the Office of Management and Budget before taking the acting chief of staff role, said he found the growing deficit — which reached almost \$1 trillion in 2019, soaring in the Trump era — ‘extraordinarily disturbing’ but that neither party, nor voters, cared much about it,” [Josh Dawsey reports](#). “Mulvaney’s comments, which lasted about an hour, came as he visited Britain and Ireland to talk about Brexit and other issues. ... He criticized his predecessor, John F. Kelly, as chief of staff, and railed against the ‘deep state,’ giving the audience examples of civil servants who he said were working against the Trump administration. ...

**“Mulvaney robustly defended the president’s actions regarding Ukraine ...** He said the president regularly complained that Europeans don’t give Ukraine enough money. ‘And number two, they’re corrupt as hell, which is true,’ Mulvaney said. ... He joked about his news conference last year in which he conceded, from the White House podium, that there was a ‘quid pro quo’ and that it was normal in foreign policy and that people should ‘get over it.’ Mulvaney said he realized he’d made a mistake when he walked away from the podium. Another White House official, he said, ‘came up to me and said, ‘Do you know you just said X?’ I said, ‘No I didn’t say that.’” Soon, he realized, ‘S---, I said X.’ Mulvaney issued a statement later that day attacking the media for mischaracterizing his comments.”

### **Trump fired the Pentagon’s policy chief, who spoke out internally against his freeze on Ukraine aid.**

Undersecretary of Defense for Policy John Rood, who was charged with certifying that Ukraine met its anti-corruption targets in order to receive U.S. military aid, was dismissed after clashing with colleagues over the implementation of Trump’s foreign policy agenda for more than two years, [Paul Sonne and Missy Ryan report](#). His last day is Feb. 28. “Rood wrote that he understood, from speaking to Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper, that Trump had requested his resignation. ... In an email to Esper hours after Trump’s July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Rood said that ‘placing a hold on security assistance at this time would jeopardize this unique window of opportunity and undermine our defense priorities with a key partner in the strategic competition with Russia.’ ... The hold proceeded anyway.”

### **Trump will install German ambassador Richard Grenell as acting director of national intelligence.**

Trump is nominating “a fiercely loyal ally atop an intelligence structure he has frequently railed against,” [Shane Harris, Anne Gearan and Dawsey report](#). “It is unclear whether Trump intends to nominate Grenell to fill the top intelligence post on a permanent basis, which would require Senate confirmation. The appointment took many in Washington,

including on Capitol Hill, by surprise. Grenell, a former State Department official and communications executive, has been a Trump confidant and ad hoc adviser on issues beyond his ambassadorial work in Berlin. He is a conservative foreign policy hawk and sometime media critic, as well as a vocal supporter of Trump on social media. He has sparked controversy in his diplomatic role, but also won praise in Germany and elsewhere for taking on issues such as gay rights in Eastern Europe and the long-running tensions between Kosovo and Serbia. Grenell would be the first openly gay member of the Trump Cabinet.”

### **Trump continues to test his relationship with Bill Barr by tweeting about the Justice Department.**

A day after it was revealed that the attorney general has told people close to Trump that he’s considered quitting, the president amplified “conservative allies demanding he ‘clean house’ at the Justice Department and target those involved in the Russia investigation that once threatened his presidency,” [John Wagner, Matt Zaptosky and Devlin Barrett report](#). “The grievances shared by Trump in a flurry of morning tweets included claims of a ‘seditious conspiracy’ against him, and attacks on a ‘criminal gang’ at the FBI and the Justice Department.” **The fragile equilibrium may be tested again Thursday, as Roger Stone is scheduled to be sentenced** for lying to Congress and obstruction.

### **John Bolton said his testimony wouldn’t have changed the outcome of the impeachment trial.**

The former national security adviser “denounced the House’s impeachment proceedings against [Trump] as ‘grossly partisan’ and said his testimony would not have changed Trump’s acquittal in the Senate,” [the AP reports](#). “Bolton was on stage at Vanderbilt University with former national security adviser Susan Rice, who questioned Bolton’s refusal to discuss more details. ... Bolton contended that the House ‘committed impeachment malpractice,’ drawing some grumbling from the audience, saying ‘the process drove Republicans who might have voted for impeachment away because it was so partisan.’ He also said he didn’t expect the Senate to vote against having him testify. ‘People can argue

about what I should have said and what I should have done,' Bolton said. 'I would bet you a dollar right here and now, my testimony would have made no difference to the ultimate outcome.'”

## **Mike Pompeo and lawmakers sparred over “deep state” attacks while in Munich.**

“The meeting became contentious early on, when Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) confronted Pompeo about what the senator described as a severe morale problem among Foreign Service officers and civil servants working for the State Department both in Washington and around the world,” [Josh Rogin reports](#). “Pompeo reacted angrily. The secretary didn’t just deny that he had failed to protect his employees sufficiently; he also claimed that morale at the State Department is great, according to four lawmakers who were in the room.”



Rod Blagojevich, the ex-Illinois governor convicted of trying to peddle Barack Obama's vacated U.S. Senate seat, waves as he exits his home after Trump commuted his prison sentence. (Joshua Lott/Reuters)

**Trump is considering more pardons.**



**The president assembled a team of advisers to guide the clemency process.** “The White House is moving to take more direct control over pardons and commutations, with Trump aiming to limit the role of the Justice Department in the clemency process as he weighs a flurry of additional pardon announcements,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Dawsey and Neena Satija report](#). “Trump, who granted clemency Tuesday to a [group of 11 people](#) that included several political allies and supporters, has assembled a team of advisers to recommend and vet candidates for pardons. ... The group, essentially an informal task force of at least a half-dozen presidential allies, has been meeting since late last year to discuss a revamped pardon system in the White House. Jared Kushner, Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser, is taking a leading role in the new clemency initiative. ... Trump, who prefers granting clemency to people with compelling personal stories or lengthy sentences, is inclined to grant more pardons before facing voters in November, one official said.” ([Interesting op-ed by John K. Carroll](#): “I was a prosecutor in the Michael Milken case. I’m outraged at the pardon process.”)

**Julian Assange’s lawyer said a then-GOP congressman dangled a pardon if he would absolve Russia in the DNC hack.** Assange’s attorney told a British judge that former Republican congressman Dana Rohrabacher, a Trump ally who lost in 2018, made an offer to the WikiLeaks founder on behalf of Trump in 2017 to pardon Assange in exchange for saying that Russia had nothing to do with the 2016 hack and leak of DNC emails. “Assange is in a British prison while he awaits a decision on an extradition request by the United States,” [William Booth and Ellen Nakashima report](#). “In a statement posted to his website on Wednesday, Rohrabacher said ... ‘at no time did I offer Julian Assange anything from the President because I had not spoken with the President about this issue at all.’ But, he added, he told Assange that if he gave him evidence about who provided him the DNC emails, he would ask Trump to pardon him. White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham on Wednesday denied the allegation that Trump was seeking a trade with Assange.”

**An unrepentant Rod Blagojevich declared himself “a freed political prisoner” as he spoke to reporters outside his Chicago home.** “We want to express our most profound and everlasting gratitude to President Trump,” said the former Democratic governor of Illinois.

([Susan Berger and John Wagner](#))

**Trump granted clemency to three of Alice Johnson’s friends.**

The women said they hadn't spoken in years with Johnson, whom Trump freed in 2018, and were only vaguely aware of her efforts, [Beth Reinhard reports](#).

**Trump’s pardon of Bernie Kerik also apparently wiped out \$103,000 of the former New York City police commissioner’s debt to taxpayers.** The White House credited the president's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani – Kerik’s friend and former boss – for convincing Trump to pardon Kerik. ([The Week](#))

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## The new world order



People suspected of being infected with the coronavirus wait to receive tests at a medical center in Daegu, South Korea. (Lee Moo-ryul/AP)

## **Coronavirus cases surged in South Korea.**

“Authorities worldwide warned about the spread of the coronavirus beyond China on Thursday as **Japan reported the first two deaths from the Diamond Princess cruise liner**, South Korea reported its first fatality and a major city there asked citizens to refrain from venturing outdoors,” [Gerry Shih, Rick Noack and Teo Armus report](#). “A Japanese man and woman, both said to be in their 80s, were among more than 600 passengers who contracted the disease while on board the Diamond Princess. They left the ship last week and had been hospitalized but died on Thursday ... In nearby South Korea, cases soared by nearly two-thirds, mostly in the southern part of the peninsula ... The mayor of Daegu, the city where 10 South Koreans contracted the disease from a church service, asked residents to stay indoors.

**“Iran also reported two infected that then died.** Many international experts say the disease will continue to spread globally even as the Chinese government seeks to present the image that it is coming to grips with the epidemic. New cases inside China dropped again Wednesday, officials reported Thursday, after national authorities changed for the second time in a week the criteria for how cases are diagnosed and counted.”

## **A “xenophobic” motive is suspected in an overnight shooting that left 10 dead in Germany.**

“A spokesman for the Public Prosecutor General said that the office had taken over the investigation. Nine people were killed in shootings at the two hookah bars in Hanau, which is about 15 miles east of Frankfurt, on Wednesday night,” [Loveday Morris, Rick Noack and Luisa Beck report](#). “The body of the suspected attacker, and that of another person, were found in his home in the early hours of Thursday morning, police said. They didn't provide any additional information, but said there were ‘no indications of further perpetrators.’ German newspaper Bild reported the second body belonged to the suspect's mother. Police said they couldn't provide details on the attacker's motive or comment on German news

reports saying the shooter left a confessional letter and video that indicated a confused, extreme-right, anti-immigrant ideology.”

## **Britain wants to close its borders to low-skill migrants and lure English-speaking engineers.**

“Home Secretary Priti Patel called the immigration plan ‘a historic moment for the whole country,’ as the government pledged to transform the British economy by starving its businesses of low-wage workers from Europe and forcing companies to adopt technology and automation instead,” [William Booth and Karla Adam report](#). “The government said that beginning next year, it will reduce the overall number of migrants allowed into the country, honoring what it sees as one of the main mandates of the Brexit vote in June 2016. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who led the campaign for Brexit, has called the new immigration regime revolutionary. His government formally outlined the new plan Wednesday, confirming that Britain will install a new ‘points-based’ system, which will take back control of its borders and end what it described as the country’s overreliance on low-skilled workers.”

## **A Mexican national was arrested in Florida on accusation of spying for Russia.**

Hector Cabrera was arrested on charges that he collected information about a U.S. government informant on Russia, [Brittany Shammas reports](#). “U.S. prosecutors claim he was carrying out orders from a Russian official who had recruited him with promises of helping his family. A Singapore resident and researcher at the country’s National Heart Center, Fuentes made several trips to Moscow to meet with the official, who directed him to rent a specific property in Miami-Dade County and report back to Russia the license plate and location of the informant’s car.”

**Chris Steele said he feared assassination, directed by Russia, after he outlined alleged links between Trump and the Kremlin before the 2016 election.** [The Telegraph reports](#) that the former MI6 agent feared reprisals after he circulated memos that become known as the Steele dossier.

**Mexico is investigating ex-president Enrique Peña Nieto, a top official said.** Peña Nieto has been linked to the high-profile bribery case against the former CEO of Pemex, [the Wall Street Journal reports](#).

**Saudi Prince Mohammed bin Salman is sparring no detail in the planning of the Group of 20 summit, which he hopes will shift focus from the killing of Washington Post contributing columnist Jamal Khashoggi.** ([Bloomberg News](#))

**Scientists say we've dramatically underestimated how much methane gas we're emitting.**

“The contention emerges in a [new study](#) in the influential journal Nature, which draws on samples of ancient air extracted from within the Greenland ice sheet to measure levels of atmospheric methane before humans started burning fossil fuels,” [Chris Mooney reports](#). “If the researchers are right, then tens of millions of tons of methane could be wafting into the atmosphere, unaccounted for, from oil and gas fields around the world.”

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## **Social media speed read**

Elizabeth Warren got the most online buzz during the debate:

# Most Tweeted About Democratic Candidates



Elizabeth Warren



Mike Bloomberg



Bernie Sanders



Joe Biden



Pete Buttigieg



Amy Klobuchar



Ninth Debate: February 19, 2020

Bloomberg's hometown papers were not gentle with their former mayor's debut performance:



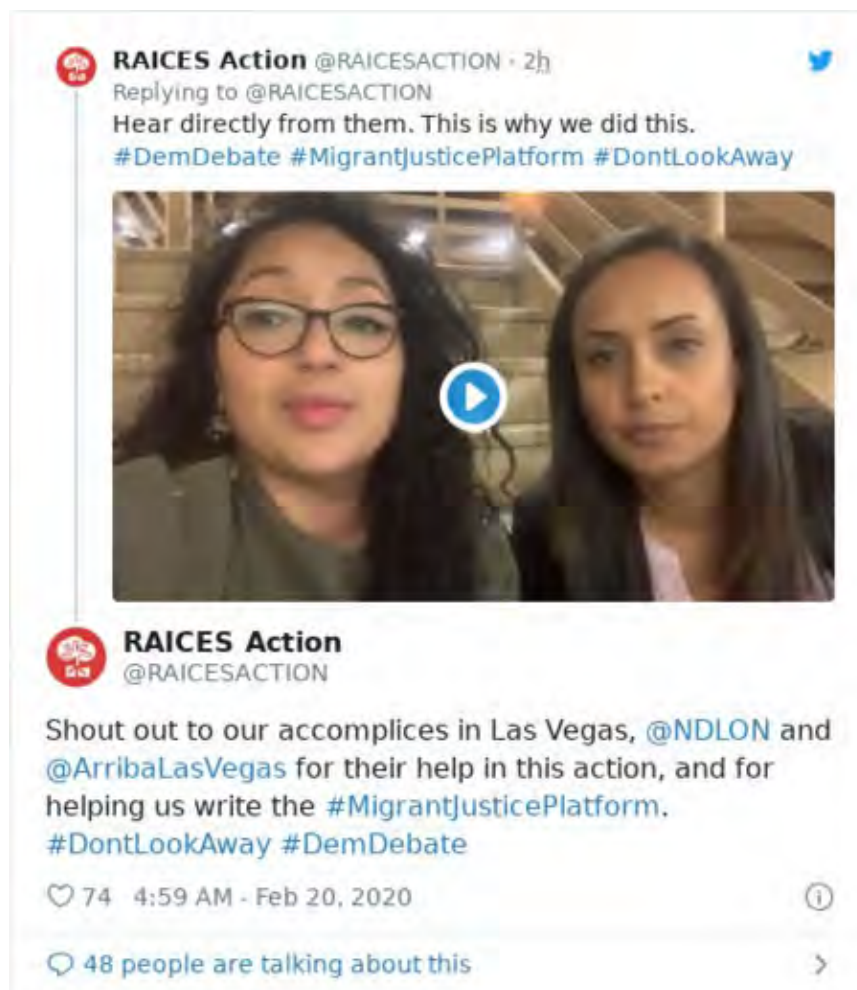
Not surprisingly, Trump also panned the former mayor's performance:



Warren didn't want to become an accidental influencer:



The activists who interrupted Biden's closing statement said they did so because there have been too few immigration questions in this cycle's debates:





The Bloomberg campaign shared old clips of Biden praising the former mayor, and Biden hit back:



## Videos of the day

A group glued tiny "Make America Great Again" hats onto pigeons in Las Vegas:



Trevor Noah shared what his ideal presidential debate would look like:



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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## The Democratic debate descends into class warfare, as the billionaire and socialist play off each other

“Should you exist?”

NBC anchor Chuck Todd’s question to Mike Bloomberg during the Democratic debate in Las Vegas was prompted by a tweet last year from Bernie Sanders. “Billionaires should not exist,” the senator from Vermont wrote.

“I can't speak for all billionaires,” the former New York mayor answered on Wednesday night. “All I know is I've been very lucky, made a lot of money, and I'm giving it all away to make this country better.”

Todd followed up: “Should you have earned that much money?”

“Yes,” Bloomberg replied. “I worked very hard for it.”

Sanders, who identifies as a democratic socialist, says the word billionaire like it's a grotesque slur. “Mike Bloomberg owns more wealth than the bottom 125 million Americans,” he replied. “That's wrong. That's immoral.”

**The sizzling two-hour debate underscored the extent to which class has emerged as a stark dividing line inside the factionalized Democratic Party, as significant as race or gender. The proliferation of soak-the-rich rhetoric at this level of presidential politics would have been unthinkable in the not-distant past. Sanders has moved the Overton window to the left on a battery of issues, including the debate over the virtues of capitalism itself.**



**Bloomberg leaned on his financial success as a differentiator.**

“I’m the only one here that’s ever started a business,” he said. The chief executive of Bloomberg LP has spent **more than \$409 million** since launching his campaign just 10 weeks ago. That money has, essentially, bought him second place in national polling. It’s still less than 1 percent of his net worth, which **Forbes estimates** at \$65.2 billion – making him the eighth richest person in America.

**Elizabeth Warren compared Bloomberg to President Trump.**

“Democrats take a huge risk if we just substitute one arrogant billionaire for another,” said the senator from Massachusetts, as he stood next to her, avoiding eye contact.

**Just as Trump did four years ago, Bloomberg cites his wealth as evidence that he’s incorruptible.** After Pete Buttigieg urged people to visit his campaign website, for example, Bloomberg joked that people can go to his, as well, but they won’t be able to give money because he’s not raising any. Unlike Trump, though, Bloomberg is not pretending to be a populist. He’s running as a managerial technocrat who can make the trains run on time.

**Class-tinged resentments were a consistent undercurrent in the pile-on against Bloomberg.** “As the lone person on this stage who’s not a millionaire, let alone a billionaire,” said the former mayor of South Bend, Ind., “I believe that part of what needs to change is for the voices of the communities that haven’t felt heard on Wall Street or in Washington to actually be brought to Capitol Hill.”

Joe Biden chimed in. “For 36 years [in the Senate] and as vice president, I was listed as the poorest man in Congress,” he said. “I made money when I wrote a book about my son, and it surprised me how much it sold. First time I’ve ever made any money.”

**The crowd booed Bloomberg when he explained why it would take a few more “weeks” to release his tax returns.**

“Unfortunately, or fortunately, I make a lot of money and we do business all around the world, and we are preparing it,” he explained. “The number

of pages will probably be thousands of pages. I can't go to TurboTax."

"Pay overtime," said Warren, "and get it done."

Amy Klobuchar noted that her husband prepares their taxes. "We probably could go to TurboTax," said the senator from Minnesota.

**Because of the ongoing realignment between the parties, the Democratic coalition writ large has become more affluent and highly educated.** Many blue-collar, non-college-educated whites in places like the industrial Midwest have gravitated away from their ancestral home toward the GOP because of **cultural grievances**, among other factors.

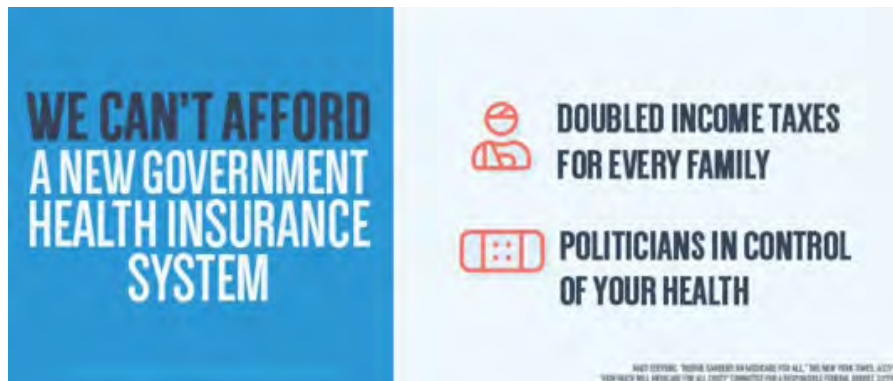
**Sanders, however, tailors his message more to the working class than the middle class.** His rallies have a decidedly more blue-collar vibe than Buttigieg's or Klobuchar's or Warren's. During a town hall-style meeting the weekend before last in New Hampshire, for instance, a speaker warming up the crowd for Sanders asked how many people currently work for minimum wage. More than a third of the people in the audience raised their hands.

"What our movement is about is bringing working-class people together, black and white and Latino, Native American, Asian American, around an agenda that works for all of us and not just the billionaire class," Sanders said in the debate. "Real change never takes place from the top on down. It never takes place from an oligarchy controlled by billionaires."



Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

### **We Can't Afford Medicare for All**



American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

**Sanders continued to attack Buttigieg for having the temerity to even accept money from 46 billionaires.** “We are giving a voice to people who are saying we are sick and tired of billionaires like Mr. Bloomberg seeing huge expansions of their wealth while half-a-million people sleep out on the street tonight,” said Sanders. “What we are saying, Pete, is maybe it's time for the working class of this country to have a little



bit of power in Washington, rather than your billionaire campaign contributors.”

**Buttigieg, who got pummeled at the December debate for holding a fundraiser in a Napa Valley wine cave, replied that the billionaires are “among the hundreds of thousands of contributors” to his campaign.** “You're not the only one who cares about the working class,” he told Sanders. “Most Americans believe we need to empower workers.” Buttigieg added that “you're the one who is at war with the Culinary Union right here in Las Vegas.” To which Sanders replied: “We’ve got more union support than you have ever dreamed of.”

**You could sense the urgency, even the desperation, in the air as several of the candidates whose futures hinge on the coming weeks waved their arms to be recognized.** “We've got to wake up as a party,” Buttigieg pleaded with the audience. “We could wake up two weeks from today, the day after Super Tuesday, and the only candidates left standing will be Bernie Sanders and Mike Bloomberg, the two most polarizing figures on this stage. And most Americans don't see where they fit if they've got to choose between a socialist who thinks that capitalism is the root of all evil and a billionaire who thinks that money ought to be the root of all power.”

**One reason Klobuchar’s clashes with Buttigieg were so intensely bitter is that they’re both trying to claim this middle ground.** “I believe in capitalism, but I think the goal of someone in government ... should be a check on that,” she said. “I'm not going to limit what people make, but right now our tax code is so tilted against regular people, and that is what's wrong.”

**Warren boasts in her stump speech about how she made a billionaire cry on television with her wealth tax proposal.** People chant “two cents” at her events as she explains how anyone worth more than \$50 million will need to pay 2 percent of their net worth in taxes every year – including, as she puts it, on their yachts, Rembrandts and diamonds. The cheers are louder when Warren talks about taxing the

superrich than when she explains what she'll do with that extra revenue. That speaks volumes about the pitchfork populism that's been ascendant on the left.

**For his part, even Bloomberg goes out of his way to say the rich must pay more in taxes.** “I disagree with the senator on the wealth tax, but I do agree with her that the rich aren't paying their fair share,” Bloomberg volunteered during the debate. “We should raise taxes on the rich. I did that as mayor in New York City.” Then Sanders complimented Warren’s proposed wealth tax. “Ours is a little bit tougher on Mr. Bloomberg than hers,” he added, with pride.



**Bloomberg and Sanders both saw the other as a useful foil since they appeal to different constituencies.** “I believe in democratic socialism for working people, not billionaires,” said Sanders. “Creating a government that works for all, not just for Mr. Bloomberg.”

“What a wonderful country we have,” Bloomberg replied. “The best-known socialist in the country happens to be a millionaire with three houses. What did I miss here?”

Sanders replied that his first house is in Washington, where he works, and the second is in Burlington, Vt., where he lives. “And like thousands of

other Vermonters, I do have a summer camp,” he added. “We have the insane situation that billionaires today, if you can believe it, have an effective tax rate lower than the middle class.” Bloomberg replied that Sanders, as a member of Congress, can write the tax code.

**Asked whether workers should be able to sit on corporate boards, something Sanders and Warren support, Bloomberg said absolutely not.** “I can’t think of a way that would make it easier for Donald Trump to get reelected than listening to this conversation,” he said. Bloomberg argued that Sanders couldn’t defeat Trump in a general election because he’s too far to the left and wants to take away people’s private health insurance.

“Maybe we can talk about a billionaire saying that we should not raise the minimum wage,” Sanders countered. “If that’s a way to beat Donald Trump, wow, I would be very surprised.”

**NBC’s Lester Holt, another moderator, asked Sanders about the latest NBC-Wall Street Journal poll that found two-thirds of all voters said they were uncomfortable with a socialist candidate for president.** Asked what message he has for them, Sanders replied that the same poll showed him leading among Democratic voters. “I was winning, and I think by a fairly comfortable margin,” he said. “You might mention that.”

**Bloomberg suggested that Sanders is really a communist, not a socialist.** “We’re not going to throw out capitalism. We tried that. Other countries tried that,” he said. “It was called communism, and it just didn’t work.”

“That’s a cheap shot,” Sanders replied, clarifying that what he stands for is democratic socialism. “We are living, in many ways, in a socialist society right now. The problem is, as Dr. Martin Luther King reminded us, we have socialism for the very rich [and] rugged individualism for the poor.”

**There were class undertones even when the debate turned to topics related to gender.** Klobuchar seized on a memo released by the

Bloomberg campaign that said the other moderates should step aside to “pave the way” for Bloomberg to stop Sanders from capturing the nomination. “As a woman,” the senator said, “I’ve been told many times to wait my turn and to step aside. And I’m not going to do that now. ... We need something different than Donald Trump. I don’t think you look at Donald Trump and say we need someone richer in the White House.”

**Bloomberg’s riches also probably help explain the sense of entitlement he exuded.** He seemed like a man unaccustomed to both waiting on others and being challenged. He was caught on camera rolling his eyes at criticism. When moderators didn’t come back to him during a discussion on health care, Bloomberg was clearly perturbed. “What am I,” he said, “chicken liver?”

**Bloomberg hadn’t debated since 2009, and it showed.** He’s not on the ballot in Nevada, which caucuses on Saturday, or in South Carolina, whose primary is the following Saturday. He’s invested in the states that vote on Super Tuesday, four days after that, so he can make up some for his wobbly debate debut during a CBS debate next week in the Palmetto State. “He was just warming up,” campaign manager Kevin Sheekey said in a statement afterward.

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## Quote of the day

*Tom Steyer, the other billionaire seeking the Democratic nomination, didn’t qualify for this debate but tweeted throughout. “Looks like Mike Bloomberg might be running in the wrong primary,” he [wrote](#).*



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### More from our team coverage

- [Dan Balz](#): “It’s a critical moment in the Democratic race. The debate made that clear.”
- [Michael Kranish](#): “Bloomberg faces attacks for refusing to release

women from confidentiality agreements.”

- Glenn Kessler, Salvador Rizzo and Sarah Cahlan [fact-checked seven claims](#).


## What pundits are saying about winners and losers

- [The Fix's Aaron Blake](#) declared Sanders the winner, along with Warren's takedowns of Bloomberg. His losers were Bloomberg, Biden and Klobuchar.
- [CNN's Chris Cillizza](#) said Warren, Sanders and a combo of Buttigieg and Biden won the night while Bloomberg and Klobuchar lost.
- [Vox's team](#) declared Warren and Sanders the winners and Bloomberg the loser.
- [Mother Jones editor Clara Jeffery](#) said Warren was the runaway winner, while Bloomberg delivered a “horribly bad” performance.
- [FiveThirtyEight's Nate Silver's](#) top takeaway is that Bloomberg bombed.
- [Democratic operative Mary Anne Marsh](#), writing for Fox News, called Warren the winner and Bloomberg the loser. Fox anchor [Bret Baier](#) said Trump was actually the biggest winner.
- [Washington Examiner's Becket Adams](#) argued that Warren won the debate – for Sanders.

## How it's playing elsewhere

- [The Las Vegas Review-Journal's editorial board](#): “Nevada Democrats should reject extremism.”
- [Politico's John Harris](#): “Thank you, Mike Bloomberg, for rescuing the debate.”
- [Shira Scheindlin op-ed in the New York Times](#): “I Was the Judge in the Stop-and-Frisk Case. I Don't Think Bloomberg Is Racist.”
- [The Boston Globe's Joan Vennochi](#): “The double standard for old sexist Democrats.”

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## More on 2020



### Democrats won't commit to a same-day release of the Nevada results.

“Tom Perez, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, [told The Associated Press](#) that several factors, including early voting and potentially high turnout, could affect the tabulation and timing of results. In addition, Nevada, like Iowa, will be reporting three sets of data from the multistage caucus process. **Perez said he doesn't know when results will be released.** ‘We’re going to do our best to release results as soon as

possible, but our North Star, again, is accuracy,' he said late Tuesday after touring an early voting site in Las Vegas.”

## **Despite Warren’s rejection of super PACs, one launched to support her bid.**

“The group, Persist PAC, filed its papers on Tuesday,” [Michelle Ye Hee Lee reports](#). “It has already launched a 30-second ad in Nevada highlighting the senator’s record establishing a federal financial watchdog agency and supporting policies that help women and middle-class families. ... [Warren] has emphatically rejected super PACs and attacked her opponents receiving their help. In a statement, Warren’s campaign said the senator’s position has not changed. ... The statement did not address Warren’s feelings about Persist PAC, however, and the campaign did not respond to questions about whether the senator thinks the group should continue to exist to support her candidacy.”

Warren’s campaign announced that it raised more than \$1 million during the debate and \$2.8 million during the course of Wednesday.

## **Barack Obama has privately said he doesn’t like the idea of Sanders as a nominee.**

“To Obama, Sanders is a lot of what’s wrong with Democrats: unrelenting, unrealistic, so deep in his own fight that he doesn’t see how many people disagree with him or that he’s turning off people who should be his allies,” [the Atlantic’s Edward-Isaac Dove reports](#). “Obama has made clear in private conversations that he doesn’t like the idea of Sanders as the nominee (and has been only slightly more subtle in public comments), **but he’s pushed back on some who have urged him to get involved**, anxious that any move he makes could destroy the hope of him using his unique position to unite the party and defeat Trump during the general election. ... Obama is determined to make it work — if he has to.”

**Sanders was serious enough about waging a primary challenge against Obama in 2012 that then-Senate majority leader Harry Reid had to intervene to stop him**, according to the story: “It took



Reid two conversations over the summer of 2011 to get Sanders to scrap the idea, according to multiple people who remember the incident. ... That summer, Sanders privately discussed a potential primary challenge to Obama with several people, including Patrick Leahy, his fellow Vermont senator. Leahy, alarmed, warned Jim Messina, Obama's presidential reelection-campaign manager. Obama's campaign team was 'absolutely panicked' by Leahy's report, Messina [said], since 'every president who has gotten a real primary has lost a general [election].' ... In another incident, in 2013, Sanders laid into Obama in a private meeting he held with Democratic senators, saying that the president was selling out to Republicans over Social Security benefits." Obama replied that he didn't need to be lectured.

## **As Super Tuesday approaches, the candidates are rolling out endorsements.**

- Bloomberg this morning unveiled endorsements from three more Democratic members of Congress – Nita Lowey (N.Y.), Pete Aguilar (Calif.) and Josh Gottheimer (N.J.) – bringing his total to 16.
- Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D-Tex.), one of the House impeachment managers, backed Biden, giving him his sixth supporter from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. ([Politico](#))
- Virginia state Sen. Creigh Deeds, the 2009 nominee for governor, endorsed Klobuchar. ([Roanoke Times](#))
- Three Arizona state senators – Andrea Dalessandro, Jamescita Peshlakai and Victoria Steele – endorsed Warren on the first day of early voting in the state. The state votes March 17. ([Arizona Mirror](#))

## **The Bloomberg campaign is paying people \$2,500 a month to promote him to all their contacts.**

The campaign is hiring more than 500 “deputy digital organizers” to work 20 to 30 hours a week, [documents reviewed by the Wall Street Journal show](#). The workers are expected to promote Bloomberg weekly to everyone in their phone's contacts by text message and make daily social media posts supporting him.

## **Andrew Yang [joined CNN](#) as a political commentator.**

“Learned a lot these past months and am glad to contribute to the public discussion,” said the former presidential contender, who dropped out after the New Hampshire primary.

## **Florida’s new law prohibiting certain ex-felons from voting was ruled unconstitutional.**

The rule would’ve prohibited ex-felons who cannot pay certain legal fines from voting. The case “could have significant consequences for one of the country’s largest swing states,” [Elise Viebeck reports](#). “In a unanimous ruling, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit affirmed a lower court’s finding that Florida’s S.B. 7066 violates the Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection under the law. The panel also upheld that court’s preliminary injunction barring enforcement for the plaintiffs. Florida’s governor immediately signaled that he would appeal the decision to the full circuit. ... ‘Continued disenfranchisement is indisputably punitive in nature,’ the judges wrote, adding, ‘Felons who are unable to pay are subject to continued punishment *solely because of their inability to pay.*’ ”

## **The White House predicts the economy will not grow at a rate of 3 percent or higher this year.**

The Council of Economic Advisers forecasts that, unless Congress enacts a major infrastructure package and additional tax cuts, the U.S. economy will grow at a 2.4 percent pace this year and at a 2.3 percent pace in 2021. ([Heather Long](#))

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## **All the president's men**



President Trump takes the stage at a campaign rally on Wednesday night at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix. (Evan Vucci/AP)

## **Mick Mulvaney admitted that the GOP is hypocritical on deficits.**

“My party is very interested in deficits when there is a Democrat in the White House. The worst thing in the whole world is deficits when Barack Obama was the president. Then Donald Trump became president, and we’re a lot less interested as a party,” he said at the Oxford Union to a group of several hundred people.

“Mulvaney, who ran the Office of Management and Budget before taking the acting chief of staff role, said he found the growing deficit — which reached almost \$1 trillion in 2019, soaring in the Trump era — ‘extraordinarily disturbing’ but that neither party, nor voters, cared much about it,” [Josh Dawsey reports](#). “Mulvaney’s comments, which lasted about an hour, came as he visited Britain and Ireland to talk about Brexit and other issues. ... He criticized his predecessor, John F. Kelly, as chief of staff, and railed against the ‘deep state,’ giving the audience examples of civil servants who he said were working against the Trump administration. ...

**“Mulvaney robustly defended the president’s actions regarding Ukraine ...** He said the president regularly complained that Europeans don’t give Ukraine enough money. ‘And number two, they’re corrupt as hell, which is true,’ Mulvaney said. ... He joked about his news conference last year in which he conceded, from the White House podium, that there was a ‘quid pro quo’ and that it was normal in foreign policy and that people should ‘get over it.’ Mulvaney said he realized he’d made a mistake when he walked away from the podium. Another White House official, he said, ‘came up to me and said, ‘Do you know you just said X?’ I said, ‘No I didn’t say that.’” Soon, he realized, ‘S---, I said X.’ Mulvaney issued a statement later that day attacking the media for mischaracterizing his comments.”

### **Trump fired the Pentagon’s policy chief, who spoke out internally against his freeze on Ukraine aid.**

Undersecretary of Defense for Policy John Rood, who was charged with certifying that Ukraine met its anti-corruption targets in order to receive U.S. military aid, was dismissed after clashing with colleagues over the implementation of Trump’s foreign policy agenda for more than two years, [Paul Sonne and Missy Ryan report](#). His last day is Feb. 28. “Rood wrote that he understood, from speaking to Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper, that Trump had requested his resignation. ... In an email to Esper hours after Trump’s July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Rood said that ‘placing a hold on security assistance at this time would jeopardize this unique window of opportunity and undermine our defense priorities with a key partner in the strategic competition with Russia.’ ... The hold proceeded anyway.”

### **Trump will install German ambassador Richard Grenell as acting director of national intelligence.**

Trump is nominating “a fiercely loyal ally atop an intelligence structure he has frequently railed against,” [Shane Harris, Anne Gearan and Dawsey report](#). “It is unclear whether Trump intends to nominate Grenell to fill the top intelligence post on a permanent basis, which would require Senate confirmation. The appointment took many in Washington,

including on Capitol Hill, by surprise. Grenell, a former State Department official and communications executive, has been a Trump confidant and ad hoc adviser on issues beyond his ambassadorial work in Berlin. He is a conservative foreign policy hawk and sometime media critic, as well as a vocal supporter of Trump on social media. He has sparked controversy in his diplomatic role, but also won praise in Germany and elsewhere for taking on issues such as gay rights in Eastern Europe and the long-running tensions between Kosovo and Serbia. Grenell would be the first openly gay member of the Trump Cabinet.”

### **Trump continues to test his relationship with Bill Barr by tweeting about the Justice Department.**

A day after it was revealed that the attorney general has told people close to Trump that he’s considered quitting, the president amplified “conservative allies demanding he ‘clean house’ at the Justice Department and target those involved in the Russia investigation that once threatened his presidency,” [John Wagner, Matt Zaptosky and Devlin Barrett report](#). “The grievances shared by Trump in a flurry of morning tweets included claims of a ‘seditious conspiracy’ against him, and attacks on a ‘criminal gang’ at the FBI and the Justice Department.” **The fragile equilibrium may be tested again Thursday, as Roger Stone is scheduled to be sentenced** for lying to Congress and obstruction.

### **John Bolton said his testimony wouldn’t have changed the outcome of the impeachment trial.**

The former national security adviser “denounced the House’s impeachment proceedings against [Trump] as ‘grossly partisan’ and said his testimony would not have changed Trump’s acquittal in the Senate,” [the AP reports](#). “Bolton was on stage at Vanderbilt University with former national security adviser Susan Rice, who questioned Bolton’s refusal to discuss more details. ... Bolton contended that the House ‘committed impeachment malpractice,’ drawing some grumbling from the audience, saying ‘the process drove Republicans who might have voted for impeachment away because it was so partisan.’ He also said he didn’t expect the Senate to vote against having him testify. ‘People can argue

about what I should have said and what I should have done,' Bolton said. 'I would bet you a dollar right here and now, my testimony would have made no difference to the ultimate outcome.'”

## **Mike Pompeo and lawmakers sparred over “deep state” attacks while in Munich.**

“The meeting became contentious early on, when Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) confronted Pompeo about what the senator described as a severe morale problem among Foreign Service officers and civil servants working for the State Department both in Washington and around the world,” [Josh Rogin reports](#). “Pompeo reacted angrily. The secretary didn’t just deny that he had failed to protect his employees sufficiently; he also claimed that morale at the State Department is great, according to four lawmakers who were in the room.”



Rod Blagojevich, the ex-Illinois governor convicted of trying to peddle Barack Obama's vacated U.S. Senate seat, waves as he exits his home after Trump commuted his prison sentence. (Joshua Lott/Reuters)

**Trump is considering more pardons.**

**The president assembled a team of advisers to guide the clemency process.** “The White House is moving to take more direct control over pardons and commutations, with Trump aiming to limit the role of the Justice Department in the clemency process as he weighs a flurry of additional pardon announcements,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Dawsey and Neena Satija report](#). “Trump, who granted clemency Tuesday to a [group of 11 people](#) that included several political allies and supporters, has assembled a team of advisers to recommend and vet candidates for pardons. ... The group, essentially an informal task force of at least a half-dozen presidential allies, has been meeting since late last year to discuss a revamped pardon system in the White House. Jared Kushner, Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser, is taking a leading role in the new clemency initiative. ... Trump, who prefers granting clemency to people with compelling personal stories or lengthy sentences, is inclined to grant more pardons before facing voters in November, one official said.” ([Interesting op-ed by John K. Carroll](#): “I was a prosecutor in the Michael Milken case. I’m outraged at the pardon process.”)

**Julian Assange’s lawyer said a then-GOP congressman dangled a pardon if he would absolve Russia in the DNC hack.** Assange’s attorney told a British judge that former Republican congressman Dana Rohrabacher, a Trump ally who lost in 2018, made an offer to the WikiLeaks founder on behalf of Trump in 2017 to pardon Assange in exchange for saying that Russia had nothing to do with the 2016 hack and leak of DNC emails. “Assange is in a British prison while he awaits a decision on an extradition request by the United States,” [William Booth and Ellen Nakashima report](#). “In a statement posted to his website on Wednesday, Rohrabacher said ... ‘at no time did I offer Julian Assange anything from the President because I had not spoken with the President about this issue at all.’ But, he added, he told Assange that if he gave him evidence about who provided him the DNC emails, he would ask Trump to pardon him. White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham on Wednesday denied the allegation that Trump was seeking a trade with Assange.”

**An unrepentant Rod Blagojevich declared himself “a freed political prisoner” as he spoke to reporters outside his Chicago home.** “We want to express our most profound and everlasting gratitude to President Trump,” said the former Democratic governor of Illinois.

([Susan Berger and John Wagner](#))

**Trump granted clemency to three of Alice Johnson’s friends.**

The women said they hadn't spoken in years with Johnson, whom Trump freed in 2018, and were only vaguely aware of her efforts, [Beth Reinhard reports](#).

**Trump’s pardon of Bernie Kerik also apparently wiped out \$103,000 of the former New York City police commissioner’s debt to taxpayers.** The White House credited the president's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani – Kerik’s friend and former boss – for convincing Trump to pardon Kerik. ([The Week](#))

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## The new world order



People suspected of being infected with the coronavirus wait to receive tests at a medical center in Daegu, South Korea. (Lee Moo-ryul/AP)



## **Coronavirus cases surged in South Korea.**

“Authorities worldwide warned about the spread of the coronavirus beyond China on Thursday as **Japan reported the first two deaths from the Diamond Princess cruise liner**, South Korea reported its first fatality and a major city there asked citizens to refrain from venturing outdoors,” [Gerry Shih, Rick Noack and Teo Armus report](#). “A Japanese man and woman, both said to be in their 80s, were among more than 600 passengers who contracted the disease while on board the Diamond Princess. They left the ship last week and had been hospitalized but died on Thursday ... In nearby South Korea, cases soared by nearly two-thirds, mostly in the southern part of the peninsula ... The mayor of Daegu, the city where 10 South Koreans contracted the disease from a church service, asked residents to stay indoors.

**“Iran also reported two infected that then died.** Many international experts say the disease will continue to spread globally even as the Chinese government seeks to present the image that it is coming to grips with the epidemic. New cases inside China dropped again Wednesday, officials reported Thursday, after national authorities changed for the second time in a week the criteria for how cases are diagnosed and counted.”

## **A “xenophobic” motive is suspected in an overnight shooting that left 10 dead in Germany.**

“A spokesman for the Public Prosecutor General said that the office had taken over the investigation. Nine people were killed in shootings at the two hookah bars in Hanau, which is about 15 miles east of Frankfurt, on Wednesday night,” [Loveday Morris, Rick Noack and Luisa Beck report](#). “The body of the suspected attacker, and that of another person, were found in his home in the early hours of Thursday morning, police said. They didn't provide any additional information, but said there were ‘no indications of further perpetrators.’ German newspaper Bild reported the second body belonged to the suspect's mother. Police said they couldn't provide details on the attacker's motive or comment on German news

reports saying the shooter left a confessional letter and video that indicated a confused, extreme-right, anti-immigrant ideology.”

## **Britain wants to close its borders to low-skill migrants and lure English-speaking engineers.**

“Home Secretary Priti Patel called the immigration plan ‘a historic moment for the whole country,’ as the government pledged to transform the British economy by starving its businesses of low-wage workers from Europe and forcing companies to adopt technology and automation instead,” [William Booth and Karla Adam report](#). “The government said that beginning next year, it will reduce the overall number of migrants allowed into the country, honoring what it sees as one of the main mandates of the Brexit vote in June 2016. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who led the campaign for Brexit, has called the new immigration regime revolutionary. His government formally outlined the new plan Wednesday, confirming that Britain will install a new ‘points-based’ system, which will take back control of its borders and end what it described as the country’s overreliance on low-skilled workers.”

## **A Mexican national was arrested in Florida on accusation of spying for Russia.**

Hector Cabrera was arrested on charges that he collected information about a U.S. government informant on Russia, [Brittany Shammas reports](#). “U.S. prosecutors claim he was carrying out orders from a Russian official who had recruited him with promises of helping his family. A Singapore resident and researcher at the country’s National Heart Center, Fuentes made several trips to Moscow to meet with the official, who directed him to rent a specific property in Miami-Dade County and report back to Russia the license plate and location of the informant’s car.”

**Chris Steele said he feared assassination, directed by Russia, after he outlined alleged links between Trump and the Kremlin before the 2016 election.** [The Telegraph reports](#) that the former MI6 agent feared reprisals after he circulated memos that become known as the Steele dossier.

**Mexico is investigating ex-president Enrique Peña Nieto, a top official said.** Peña Nieto has been linked to the high-profile bribery case against the former CEO of Pemex, [the Wall Street Journal reports](#).

**Saudi Prince Mohammed bin Salman is sparring no detail in the planning of the Group of 20 summit, which he hopes will shift focus from the killing of Washington Post contributing columnist Jamal Khashoggi.** ([Bloomberg News](#))

**Scientists say we've dramatically underestimated how much methane gas we're emitting.**

“The contention emerges in a [new study](#) in the influential journal Nature, which draws on samples of ancient air extracted from within the Greenland ice sheet to measure levels of atmospheric methane before humans started burning fossil fuels,” [Chris Mooney reports](#). “If the researchers are right, then tens of millions of tons of methane could be wafting into the atmosphere, unaccounted for, from oil and gas fields around the world.”

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## **Social media speed read**

Elizabeth Warren got the most online buzz during the debate:

# Most Tweeted About Democratic Candidates



Elizabeth Warren



Mike Bloomberg



Bernie Sanders



Joe Biden



Pete Buttigieg



Amy Klobuchar



Ninth Debate: February 19, 2020

Bloomberg's hometown papers were not gentle with their former mayor's debut performance:



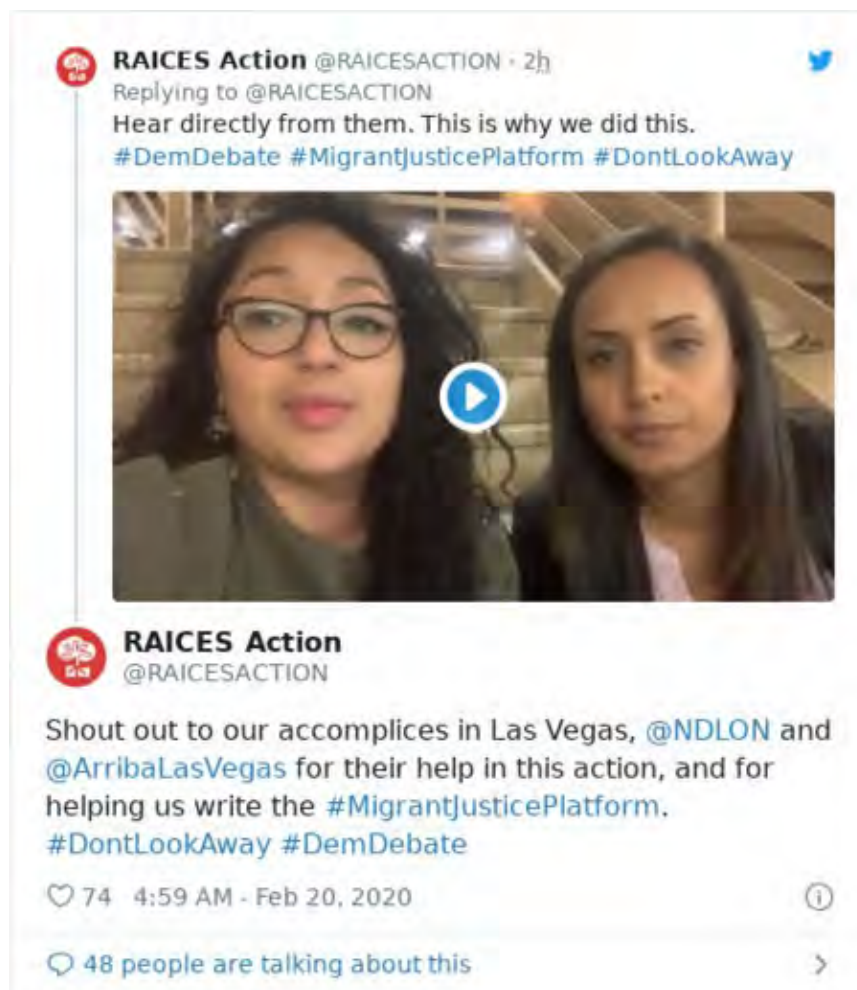
Not surprisingly, Trump also panned the former mayor's performance:



Warren didn't want to become an accidental influencer:



The activists who interrupted Biden's closing statement said they did so because there have been too few immigration questions in this cycle's debates:



The Bloomberg campaign shared old clips of Biden praising the former mayor, and Biden hit back:



## Videos of the day

A group glued tiny “Make America Great Again” hats onto pigeons in Las Vegas:



Trevor Noah shared what his ideal presidential debate would look like:



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Check out **Book Club** for our weekly selection of book reviews and recommendations from Book World editor Ron Charles. [Sign up »](#)



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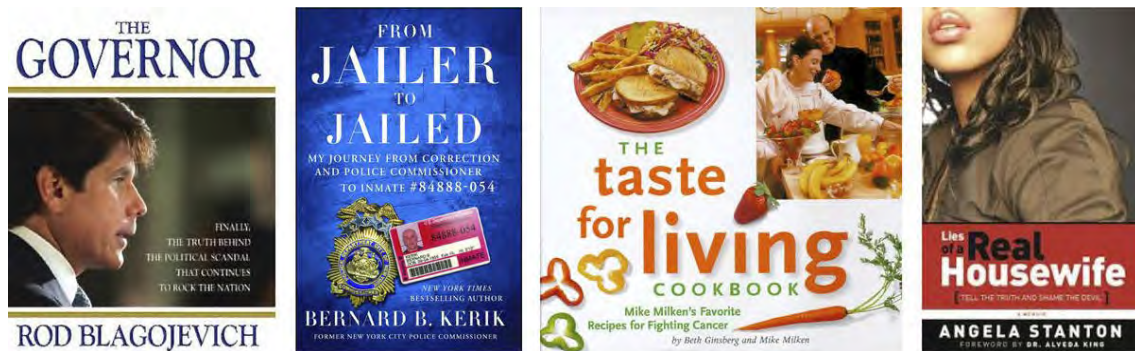
# Book Club

Reviews and recommendations from critic Ron Charles.



By **Ron Charles**

✉ Email



(Phoenix Books; Threshold Editions; Time Life Education; Augustus Publishing)

**President Trump pleased his sycophants and political allies on Tuesday by doling out pardons and commuting sentences.**

Among the folks Trump favored were also several fellow authors:

- Illinois Gov. **Rod Blagojevich** was impeached and imprisoned after making a “perfect phone call” of his own in which he tried to sell

President Obama's old senate seat. Before he went to prison, though, Blagojevich published a much-lampooned memoir titled "The Governor," which asserted his heroic innocence. Early in the book, Blagojevich proclaims, "I'm Icarus." But this week, he's more like a phoenix rising from America's ashes.

- Former New York police commissioner **Bernard Kerik**, who was convicted of tax fraud, feels equally aggrieved in his memoir "From Jailer to Jailed," but he's a better writer. The one-time 9/11 hero gives a harrowing description of incarceration and calls on members of both parties to stop "putting people in prison and treating them like animals." Kerik also devotes a particularly lachrymose chapter to how Rudy Giuliani, the godfather of Kerik's daughters, cut him off when he became a political liability. Presumably, they've made up now.
  - Junk bond king Michael Milken, who went to prison for securities fraud, has been the subject of several books, including James Stewart's "**Den of Thieves**" and Connie Bruck's "**The Predators' Ball**." A few years after he was released from prison and treated for prostate cancer, Milken and his personal chef, Beth Ginsberg, published "The Taste for Living Cookbook: Mike Milken's Favorite Recipes for Fighting Cancer."
  - Angela Stanton, who was convicted for her role in a car-stealing ring, was once a cast member on the reality show "From the Bottom Up." In 2013, she published a memoir called "Lies of a Real Housewife," which opens with this striking moral innovation: "Many of you may feel that people who have committed crimes don't deserve a second chance. I've got news for you. We all play our role in society. Without crime, there would be no cops, no lawyers, no judges, no prisons, no police stations, and more importantly, no justice system. I think you understand where I am going with this." (*Not a clue!*) "Like it or not, criminals employ half of the country. The sad part about all of this is that for someone to do right -- someone has to do wrong."
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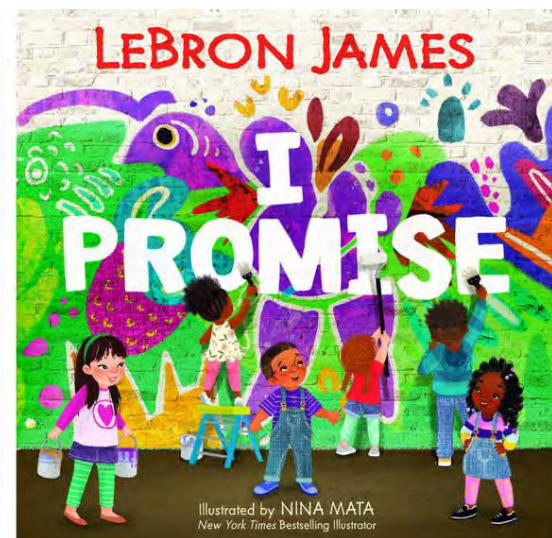
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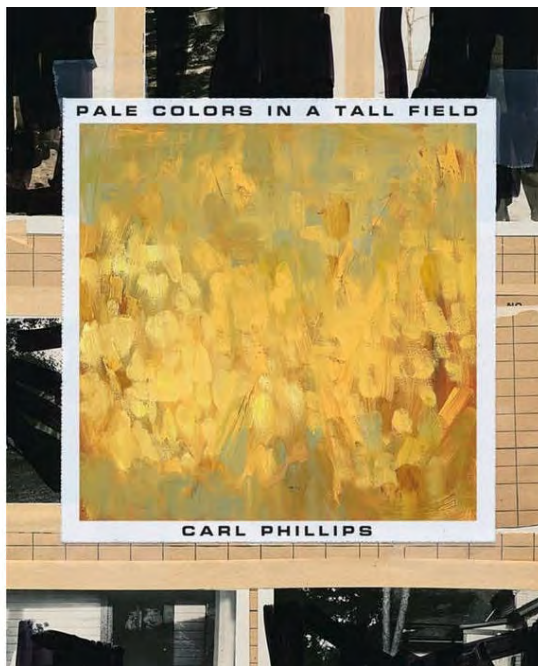
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### **If It Must Be Winter**

Not crowns,  
not conquest defined in terms of how many fear you, or  
fear to say otherwise, not by these  
will you know your own royalty, but in smaller ways, how  
to the least gesture there’s more power than seems reasonable,  
though it will feel deserved . . . So I was told, and they have not  
proved wrong. I’ve but to open my hand,  
bees come to it, the slick fur of bees  
assembling as toward an honor in no way expected

though each time the honor remains mine, as if  
almost it should, as if certain privileges had to do with destiny—  
Do I believe that? Do I? My hand a sea  
across which the wings of the bees flash  
like signal flags whose patterns, instead of translating,  
I make up my own translations for. I shall do as I please.  
As a lovely argument can make a difficult truth  
more clear, if not more sweet, though is there not  
a sweetness to clarity that can almost make the truth

seem worth it? To say I'm not quite sure makes me no less  
king, here. Sometimes, I open my hand and there's no sea at all,  
just a windy plain, what appear to be dust storms crossing it  
turn out, on reaching me, to be the disappointments—  
all of them—that I never intended, each one  
on horseback, my cavalry, each face  
raised toward mine, as if awaiting command—  
hungering for it. Forgetful, or stupid. I can see  
no difference.        Look away from me. I haven't said you can look at me.

*From "Pale Colors in a Tall Field," by Carl Phillips (FSG). Reprinted by  
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(L to R) Mark Murphey (William Joad) and Tony Sancho (Martín Jodes) in "Mother Road" at Arena

Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Margot Schulman/Arena Stage)

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Till next week, if you have any questions or comments about The Post's book coverage, contact me at [ron.charles@washpost.com](mailto:ron.charles@washpost.com). And if you know someone who would enjoy this newsletter, please forward it to them. **[To subscribe, click here.](#)**

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## A.D. Miller’s ‘Independence Square’ imagines how one diplomat tried to secretly manage Ukraine’s revolution



Review • By Ron Charles • [Read more »](#)

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## Five new thrillers and mysteries to help escape reality — or see it in another light

Review • By Richard Lipez • [Read more »](#)

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## In ‘Counterpoint,’ a memoirist reflects on love, loss and Bach

Review • By Marcia Butler • [Read more »](#)



## A memoirist faces the consequences of revealing her family's secret past

Review • By Marion Winik • [Read more »](#)



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## In 'Amnesty,' an immigrant is put in an impossible position

Review • By Kristen Millares Young • [Read more »](#)

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## Gish Jen's 'The Resisters' reminds us of the importance of standing up for what's right

Review • By Diana Abu-Jaber • [Read more »](#)

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## In 'The Mercies,' a deadly storm isn't the only danger for a Scandinavian community

Review • By Bethanne Patrick • [Read more »](#)



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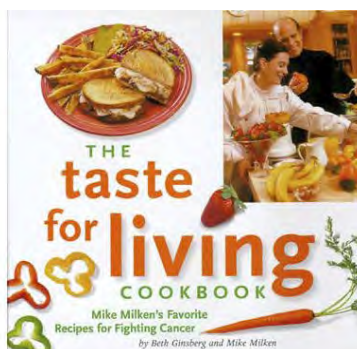
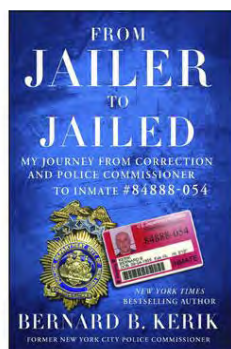
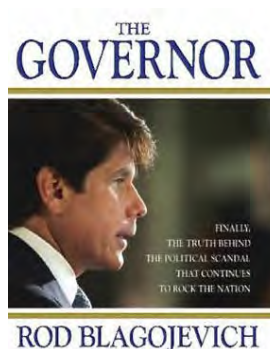
# Book Club

Reviews and recommendations from critic Ron Charles.



By **Ron Charles**

✉ Email



(Phoenix Books; Threshold Editions; Time Life Education; Augustus Publishing)

**President Trump pleased his sycophants and political allies on Tuesday by doling out pardons and commuting sentences.**

Among the folks Trump favored were also several fellow authors:

- Illinois Gov. **Rod Blagojevich** was impeached and imprisoned after making a “perfect phone call” of his own in which he tried to sell



President Obama's old senate seat. Before he went to prison, though, Blagojevich published a much-lampooned memoir titled "The Governor," which asserted his heroic innocence. Early in the book, Blagojevich proclaims, "I'm Icarus." But this week, he's more like a phoenix rising from America's ashes.

- Former New York police commissioner **Bernard Kerik**, who was convicted of tax fraud, feels equally aggrieved in his memoir "From Jailer to Jailed," but he's a better writer. The one-time 9/11 hero gives a harrowing description of incarceration and calls on members of both parties to stop "putting people in prison and treating them like animals." Kerik also devotes a particularly lachrymose chapter to how Rudy Giuliani, the godfather of Kerik's daughters, cut him off when he became a political liability. Presumably, they've made up now.
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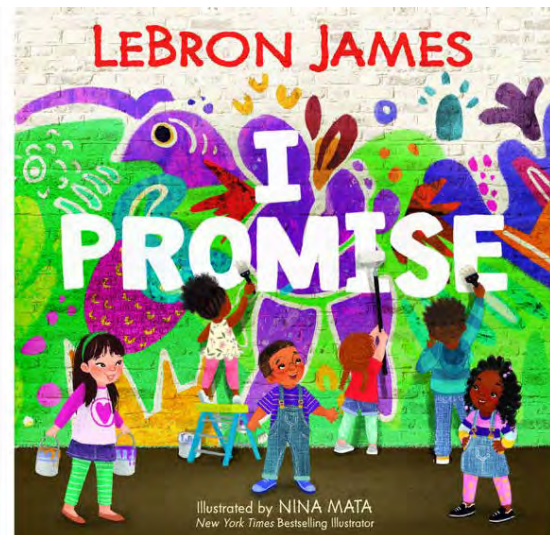
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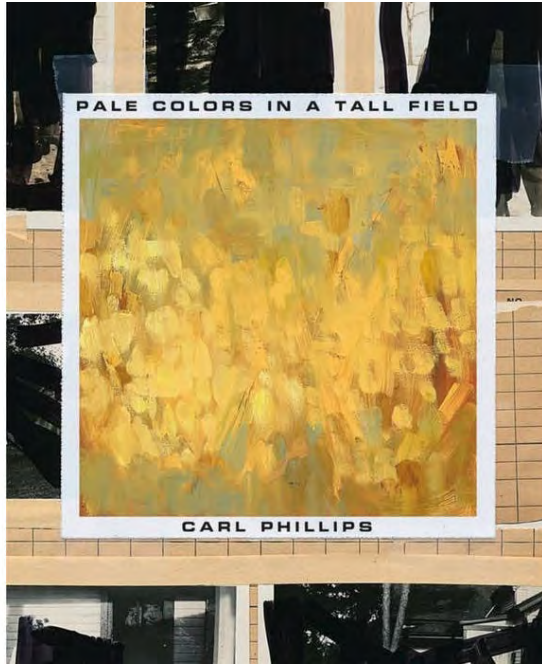
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**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Bernie Sanders shows some Trumpian tendencies as he refuses to release promised medical records  
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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

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By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
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## Bernie Sanders shows some Trumpian tendencies as he refuses to release promised medical records

He enjoys talking about his lead in the polls, the size of his crowds and his number of Twitter followers. He routinely criticizes the mainstream media and insists he cannot control his most zealous supporters online. Most people in his adopted party don't want him to be their nominee, but the establishment cannot agree on who is best to stop him.

Elizabeth Warren likened Mike Bloomberg to President Trump at the top of Wednesday night's debate, warning Democrats not to substitute one "arrogant billionaire" with a [history of misogyny](#) for another. But it was Bernie Sanders who displayed flashes of his Trumpian side during the two-hour clash. The most significant illustration of this came as the senator from Vermont sought to justify his refusal to release his full medical records.



Bernie Sanders delivers his victory speech after winning the New Hampshire primary last week. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

The 78-year-old would be the oldest president ever elected. Sanders suffered a heart attack in October just a few miles from the site of the debate, but his campaign refused to acknowledge the extent of what happened until three days later – late on a Friday. During the two weeks he spent recuperating at home, the senator [told CNN's Sanjay Gupta](#) that the American people have a right to "full disclosure" about the health of someone running for president. "And we will make, at the appropriate time, all of our medical records public for you or anybody else who wants to see them," he said.

On New Year's Eve, Sanders released summary [letters from three](#)

[physicians](#) that concluded he's healthy enough to be president. That's far from his full medical records. Now leading in the national polls, after winning the most votes in the first two states, Sanders says that will have to suffice for people worried about his physical fitness to be commander in chief.

**NBC correspondent Hallie Jackson, one of the debate moderators, noted that Sanders has attacked Trump for refusing to release his tax returns. "What," she asked, "happened to *your* promise of full transparency?"**

After thanking the doctors who took care of him, **Sanders began his answer with the kind of whataboutism that we've grown to expect from Trump.** "I think the one area maybe that Mayor Bloomberg and I share, you have two stents, as well," he said. The former New York mayor, who has never had a heart attack, replied that those were installed two decades ago. "Well, we both have two stents," Sanders replied. "It's a procedure that is done about a million times a year."

**Then the septuagenarian claimed he's released "the full report" of "all of my history," which he has not.** Sanders finished his answer by challenging anyone who doubts that he can deal with the stress of being president to "follow me around" on the campaign trail. "See how you're doing compared to me," he said.

**When John McCain ran for president in 2008, the then-72-year-old allowed reporters to review [1,173 pages](#) of his medical records.** But Trump, too, would only release [a letter](#) in 2016 from his doctor that said he was "in excellent physical health." Like Sanders, he pointed to his stamina at rallies as evidence he was in good shape. He won anyway. The 73-year-old president raised a round of [fresh questions](#) about his medial status in November after making an unscheduled trip to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and then insisting that he merely wanted to get an early start on his physical.

**After kneecapping Bloomberg during Wednesday's debate,**



**Warren trained her fire toward Sanders on Thursday.** Asked what differentiates her from Sanders, she told MSNBC last night: “I get stuff done. ... I don't want to be president just to yell at people. I want to be president to change things.” During a gaggle with reporters earlier in the day in Las Vegas, Warren attacked Sanders for not releasing his full medical records. “He had made a promise,” she said. “I don't think that's a question of opinion. Those aren't medical records.”

**The 70-year-old senator from Massachusetts released a letter from her physician and five pages of supporting medical data last year.** Former vice president Joe Biden, 77, released a three-page letter from his physician outlining his current condition and medical history. The youngest candidate in the race, 38-year-old Pete Buttigieg, noted that Barack Obama released his full medical records and details of annual physicals. “President Trump lowered that standard,” Buttigieg said during the debate. “He said just a letter from a doctor is enough. And a lot of folks on this stage are now saying that's enough. But I am certainly prepared to get a physical and put out the results. I think everybody here should be willing to do the same.”

**When Sanders spokeswoman Briahna Joy Gray was pressed during a CNN appearance on Wednesday about why he hasn't put out more medical records, she called it a “smear.”** She even likened requests for more health information from Sanders to demands that Obama release his birth certificate.



Bernie Sanders speaks on Oct. 19 in Queens. It was his first big rally after the heart attack, which allowed him to reset his campaign and helped secure the endorsement of New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. (Jeenah Moon/Bloomberg)

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## **We Can't Afford Medicare for All**



American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

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**To be sure, Trump and Sanders have vastly different agendas and stand on different sides of the ideological spectrum. It would**

be unfair to put too much emphasis on similarities. But one reason Sanders supporters like him, indisputably, is that he promises to fight Trump's fire with more fire. His Trumpian flashes this week foreshadow what the general election might look like if he won the nomination.

**Sanders has been attacked for more than a week now after some of his supporters harassed Culinary Union officials on social media after they criticized his Medicare-for-all plan.**

Asked about this during the debate, Sanders distanced himself. "We have over 10.6 million people on Twitter, and 99.9 percent of them are decent human beings," he said. "And if there are a few people who make ugly remarks, who attack trade union leaders, I disown those people. They are not part of our movement."

**Then he deflected in a way that seemed reminiscent of how Trump has deflected in the face of similar attacks.** Sanders said his own surrogates, especially women of color, face similarly vicious attacks online. "And let me say something else about this, not being too paranoid," he added. "All of us remember 2016, and what we remember is efforts by Russians and others to try to interfere in our election and divide us up. I'm not saying that's happening, but it would not shock me."

**Experts say there's no evidence of Russians masquerading as Bernie Bros.** "Absent direct evidence, researchers said Sanders's comments threaten to foment further doubt about a campaign that has been buffeted by confidence-shaking missteps, beginning with the technical glitches that marred the Iowa caucuses earlier this month," [Isaac Stanley-Becker and Tony Romm report](#). "Facebook spokesman Andy Stone said Thursday it also had not seen evidence of Russian trolls masquerading as Sanders supporters. Twitter spokeswoman Katie Rosborough said the company would 'disclose' activity by Russia or other foreign actors if it had 'reasonable evidence of state-backed information operations.' ... Researchers have found some of the most divisive tweets and memes during the 2020 election originate with specific, verified Sanders supporters. That includes the viral #mayorcheat hashtag that attacked Buttigieg for ties between the former mayor's presidential

campaign and Iowa caucus organizers, said Ben Nimmo, director of investigations at Graphika.”

“The problem we face is the impression of meddling can be as damaging to the legitimacy of an election as meddling itself,” said Jessica Brandt, the head of policy and research at the Alliance for Securing Democracy, an arm of the German Marshall Fund.

House minority whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) recalled Thursday that he was wounded by a Sanders supporter during baseball practice 2017:



**Both Trump and Sanders didn’t adopt the parties they now lead until late in life.** Sanders, [who still hasn’t formally become a Democrat](#), reportedly considered a primary challenge against Obama from the left in 2011 more seriously than he’s acknowledged. In 1987, Sanders – as a mayor of Burlington, Vt., -- told the University of Vermont student newspaper that he was “[physically nauseated](#)” as a young man when he watched John F. Kennedy speak out against Fidel Castro’s revolution in Cuba. He said this was a factor in his decision to work outside the party system. That same year, Trump paid to run full-page ads in The Washington Post [attacking Ronald Reagan’s foreign policy](#) for lacking “backbone.”

Ironically, Trump now touts Reagan and Sanders is currently airing a television commercial that likens him to Kennedy. After playing the sound

bite from the speech in which Kennedy said that “we choose to go to the moon ... not because it is easy but because it is hard,” Sanders narrates: “President Kennedy knew that settling for half-measures wasn't good enough. So when candidates say we can't guarantee health care for all, make college affordable for all, combat climate change, or create a world at peace, remember: America is best when we strive to do big things, even when it's hard.”



**The debate** again put in stark relief the collective action problem facing those who want to be the leading Sanders alternative, a dynamic I wrote about on the eve of the New Hampshire primary. Bloomberg's spotty performance will prevent him from consolidating support in that lane. Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar went after each other because both are running close to even and competing for the same set of voters. It was the most-watched Democratic debate ever, with nearly **20 million people** tuning into the telecast on NBC and MSNBC. The Sanders campaign said it raised \$2.7 million from about 150,000 donors on Wednesday, his best haul of any of the nine debate days this cycle.

**Of the six candidates onstage, Sanders was the only one who said the person with the most pledged delegates going into the**

**convention this summer should definitely be the nominee.** This represents a reversal from 2016 when he trailed Hillary Clinton among pledged delegates but thought he might persuade superdelegates that he'd be more electable. "What's clear out of [Wednesday] night is, it's hard to see what forces will stop Bernie from becoming the front-runner and just as hard to see how there will be any consolidation into a single candidate to oppose him," said Robby Mook, who was Clinton's campaign manager.

"The dawning realization for many in the party is that what Democrats had envisioned as a jubilant national convention in Milwaukee ... has the potential to turn into a pitched battle among multiple candidates and their supporters, each representing dueling ideological wings of the party and convinced that the other side would lose to Trump," [Matt Viser, Dan Balz and Annie Linskey report](#). **"Top campaigns have not only staffed up with delegate experts to guide them through the intricacies of the primaries, but they also have built legal teams preparing to challenge any results that don't go their way,** according to interviews with 16 top party officials and strategists. And in preparation for a contested convention, some campaigns have started to reach out to superdelegates, in an attempt to secure support for a second ballot when they would come into play."





**Former Senate majority leader Harry Reid said no candidate should be given the nomination without winning an outright majority of delegates.** “I don’t think that anybody — Bernie Sanders or anyone else — should simply get the nomination because they have 30 percent of the delegates and no one else has that many,” the Nevada Democrat told Paul Kane during [an interview in his office at the Bellagio hotel](#). “We have to let the system work its way out. I do not believe anyone should get the nomination unless they have 50-plus-one.” Reid added that moderates could align themselves in an attempt to combine their delegates and overtake Sanders.

**A favorite parlor game for Washington elites right now is speculating about how badly Sanders might lose in a general election.** Veterans Democratic operatives wonder whether Democrats would lose the House if he’s at the top of the ticket. Many of them privately fear a blowout more akin to Michael Dukakis’s in 1988 than George McGovern’s in 1972. These conversations sound similar to the ones Republican operatives had as Trump took over their party four years ago.

**Republicans are increasingly using Sanders as a foil to target down-ballot Democrats.** “Arizona Sen. Martha McSally launched a TV

ad titled ‘Bernie Bro’ likening her Democratic opponent, retired astronaut Mark Kelly, to the Vermont senator,” [Politico’s Alex Isenstadt notes](#).

“North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis held a press conference last week linking his Democratic rivals to the Sanders-backed Green New Deal. In Michigan, a conservative group has aired a series of commercials that go after Democratic Sen. Gary Peters by invoking Sanders and his support for Medicare for All. And the Republican State Leadership Committee, which focuses on state legislative races, has been running digital ads asking whether down-ballot Democrats in more than a half-dozen states are ‘feeling burned yet’ — a take on the Sanders mantra, ‘Feel the Bern.’”

**Sanders is dismissive of electability concerns.** Asked during the debate about a poll that showed two-thirds of Americans uncomfortable with a socialist president, Sanders replied that the same poll showed him winning. “You might mention that,” he told NBC moderator Lester Holt. Indeed, [the NBC-Wall Street Journal poll](#) showed Sanders leading among Democratic primary voters, with 27 percent, followed by four candidates bunched together with support between 15 percent to 13 percent. It also found Sanders beating Trump 50 percent to 46 percent in a hypothetical head-to-head matchup, which was within the margin of error. The same survey discovered that 67 percent said they have “reservations” or are “very uncomfortable” with a socialist candidate, 57 percent said the same about someone who had a heart attack in the last year and 53 percent said the same about someone who's older than 75.

After Buttigieg accused Sanders of wanting “to burn this party down,” Holt asked Sanders whether he’s polarizing. “If speaking to the needs and the pain of a long-neglected working class is polarizing,” he said, “I think you got the wrong word.”

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## The Trump presidency



## **A senior U.S. intelligence official said Russia wants to see Trump reelected.**

“After learning of that analysis, which was provided to House lawmakers in a classified hearing, Trump grew angry at his acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, in the Oval Office, seeing Maguire and his staff as disloyal for speaking to Congress about Russia’s perceived preference,” [Ellen Nakashima, Shane Harris, Josh Dawsey and Anne Gearan report](#). **“The intelligence official’s analysis and Trump’s furious response ruined Maguire’s chances of becoming the permanent intelligence chief.** ... It was not clear what specific steps, if any, U.S. intelligence officials think Russia may have taken to help Trump. ... Trump announced on Wednesday that he was replacing Maguire with a vocal loyalist, Richard Grenell. ... Maguire, a career official who is respected by the intelligence rank and file, was considered a leading candidate to be nominated to the post of DNI, White House aides had said. ...

**“The official, Shelby Pierson, said several times during the briefing that Russia had ‘developed a preference’ for Trump.** ... That conclusion was part of a broader discussion of election security that also touched on when the U.S. government should warn Democratic candidates if they are being targeted by foreign governments. ... Trump

erroneously believed that Pierson had given the assessment exclusively to Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.). ... Trump also believed that the information would be helpful to Democrats if it were released publicly. ... Trump learned about Pierson's remarks from Rep. Devin Nunes (Calif.). ...

"Trump became angry with Maguire and blamed him for Pierson's remarks when the two met the next day during a special briefing for Trump on election security attended by officials from other agencies, but not Pierson. ... He said that Maguire should not have let the Capitol Hill briefing happen. ... **Trump told Maguire and other aides in the Oval Office that he did not believe Russia was interfering to help him or planning to do so**, and that the intelligence community was getting 'played.' ... He said that the information would be used against him unfairly and that he could not believe that people were believing such a story again, reflecting his opinion that Russian interference in 2016 was a 'hoax' made up by officials with a political agenda. ... Maguire struck an apologetic tone ...

"White House officials said Trump's decision to make Grenell the acting director rather than nominate him for the permanent position reflected concerns that he might not win confirmation in the Senate, given his polarizing reputation. ... The president told reporters aboard Air Force One that **Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.), a staunch Trump supporter who also is running for U.S. Senate, is under consideration for the permanent post.** ...

"The shake-up at the top of the intelligence community is the latest move in a post-impeachment purge. ... **The deputy national security adviser, Victoria Coates, has also been removed from her post** after some colleagues, including trade adviser Peter Navarro, accused her of being the author of 'Anonymous.' ... Coates has strenuously denied the accusation. She was moved to an advisory position in the Energy Department." Meanwhile, a former NSC aide who tried to discredit the Russia probe has been promoted. Kash Patel is now a senior adviser for Grenell, per [Politico](#). It's not clear what exact role Patel, who used to work

for Nunes, will play.

## **Breaking this morning: The U.S. plans to sign a peace deal with the Taliban on Feb. 29.**

The deal will pass as long as a week-long reduction in violence across the country holds, according to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. [Susannah George and John Hudson report](#): “The violence reduction, the decisive condition of the possible peace deal, is set to begin early Saturday — just after midnight, according to Afghanistan's National Security Council and a senior State Department official. ‘U.S. negotiators in Doha have come to an understanding with the Taliban on a significant and nationwide reduction in violence across Afghanistan,’ Pompeo said in a statement Friday, referring to U.S.-Taliban talks in the Qatari capital. ... The Taliban said ‘both parties will now create a suitable security situation in advance of agreement signing date, extend invitations to senior representatives of numerous countries and organizations to participate in the signing ceremony, make arrangements for the release of prisoners’ and prepare for intra-Afghan negotiations, according to the group's statement released to the media Friday. The U.S. military command in Kabul said it has nothing to announce at this time. ... The [week-long reduction in violence](#) will require the Taliban, the United States and Afghan government-aligned forces to largely cease all planned offensive operations nationwide.”



Roger Stone arrives for his sentencing on Thursday at the federal courthouse in Washington. (Marvin Joseph/The Washington Post)

## **Trump confidant and former adviser Roger Stone was sentenced to 40 months in prison.**

“The penalty from U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson comes after weeks of infighting over the politically charged case that threw the Justice Department into crisis, and it is likely not to be the final word. **Even before the sentencing hearing began, Trump seemed to suggest on Twitter that he might pardon Stone,**” [Rachel Weiner](#), [Matt Zapposky](#), [Tom Jackman](#) and [Devlin Barrett](#) report. “With the proceedings ongoing, Trump questioned whether his ally was **being treated fairly**. Afterward, he attacked the jury in the case and said he would ‘love to see Roger exonerated.’ ... In a lengthy speech before imposing the penalty, Jackson seemed to take aim at Trump, saying Stone ‘was not prosecuted for standing up for the president; he was prosecuted for covering up for the president.’ She also appeared to call out Attorney General William P. Barr, saying his intervention to reduce career prosecutors’ sentencing recommendation was ‘unprecedented.’ But she said the politics surrounding the case had not influenced her decision.”

**“Stone did not speak in court and showed no visible emotion as**

**the sentence was read.** Emerging from the courtroom in a wide-striped suit and polka-dot tie, he appeared calm. ‘I have nothing to say,’ Stone said. ... Stone, 67, was convicted by a federal jury on seven counts of lying to Congress and tampering with a witness about his efforts to learn about hacked Democratic emails related to Clinton. ... Stone, his wife and a large entourage exited the courthouse to a large crowd of photographers, supporters and antagonists. As he climbed into an SUV, protesters shouted ‘Lock him up!’ while supporters yelled ‘Pardon Roger Stone!’ ...

**“Stone requested a new trial last week,** after Trump suggested the forewoman in Stone’s case had ‘significant bias.’ Jackson, the judge, said previously that she would delay implementing his sentence until she resolves that request. A filing is due from Stone’s defense team Monday. In addition to prison, Jackson ordered Stone to pay a \$20,000 fine and serve two years of supervised release. He remains out of prison on bond, and even if he loses his motion for a new trial, he will have at least two weeks to turn himself in — unless an appeal further delays things.”

**The Justice Department breathed a sigh of relief as Stone’s sentence hit Barr’s target.** “It was messier than we wanted, but we ended up in the same place,’ said one senior official,” [Barrett and Zapotosky report](#). “Another Justice Department official called Stone’s sentence a ‘vindication’ of the attorney general’s decision last week to insert himself into the process, calling for a revised sentencing memorandum that undercut the line prosecutors’ prior recommendation of seven to nine years in prison. ... **After a week of nervous tension atop the agency, anxiety levels have dropped, at least for the moment.** ... Senior Justice Department officials are, however, increasingly resigned to the idea that Trump is likely to continue upbraiding the department and the FBI, and that it may be a staple of his reelection campaign rhetoric — the odd spectacle of an incumbent president bashing his own Justice Department.”

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**Quote of the day**

*“The truth still exists; the truth still matters,” Judge Jackson said. “Roger Stone’s insistence that it doesn’t, his belligerence, his pride in his own lies are a threat to our most fundamental institutions, to the foundations of our democracy. If it goes unpunished, it will not be a victory for one party or another. Everyone loses. ... The dismay and disgust at the defendant’s belligerence should transcend party.”*

## **Former congressman Dana Rohrabacher confirmed that he offered a Trump pardon to Julian Assange.**

“Rohrabacher (R-Calif.) said his goal during the meeting was to find proof for a widely debunked conspiracy theory: that WikiLeaks’ real source for the DNC emails was not Russian intelligence agents, as U.S. officials have since concluded, but former DNC staffer Seth Rich, who was murdered on the streets of Washington in July 2016 in what police believe was a botched robbery,” [Yahoo News reports](#).

## **Rudy Giuliani’s work for a candidate in the Dominican Republic raised eyebrows amid the Ukraine swirl.**

“The politics of this Caribbean island nation do not frequently capture the attention of the stewards of America’s foreign policy, but Secretary of State Mike Pompeo phoned down last summer with a clear message,” [Joshua Partlow and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Dominican President Danilo Medina’s supporters were pushing to change the country’s constitution to allow him to run for an unprecedented third term. In a call with the president, Pompeo emphasized the importance of ‘adherence to rule of law and the constitution,’ according to a [State Department readout](#). That message was echoed a week later in person by [Giuliani]. ... [But] Giuliani was not in the Dominican Republic as Trump’s representative. He was speaking as a paid consultant to an opposition presidential candidate.”

## **A man was charged with making death threats against the Ukraine whistleblower’s attorney.**

A day after Trump lashed out against Mark Zaid during a 2019 rally, the

attorney received a disquieting email. “All traitors must die miserable deaths,” the message read. “Those that represent traitors shall meet the same fate. We will hunt you down and bleed you out like the pigs you are.” Federal prosecutors have indicted Brittan J. Atkinson and accused him of sending the message. ([Reis Thebault](#))

## **Mick Mulvaney said the U.S. is “desperate” for more legal immigrants.**

The acting White House chief of staff told a crowd at a gathering in England that the Trump administration “needs more immigration” for the U.S. economy to continue growing, according to audio of his remarks [obtained by Nick Miroff and Josh Dawsey](#). “‘We are desperate — desperate — for more people,’ Mulvaney said. ‘We are running out of people to fuel the economic growth that we’ve had in our nation over the last four years. We need more immigrants.’ The Trump administration wants those immigrants to come in a ‘legal fashion,’ Mulvaney said. ... Mulvaney’s remarks appear in contrast to the public position of several top figures in Trump’s White House — especially that of senior policy adviser Stephen Miller. ... Mulvaney’s private remarks were more in line with conventional GOP views of immigration as a major engine for the U.S. economy. ... He praised the immigration systems in Canada and Australia and said the Trump administration wants the United States to embrace a model closer to those nations.”

## **Trump’s “Remain in Mexico” program is dwindling as more migrants are sent to Guatemala.**

“Immigration attorneys and migrant advocates say the Trump administration is phasing out its year-old Migrant Protection Protocols policy, ... instead prioritizing newer, more restrictive programs that make qualifying for asylum in the United States extremely difficult,” [Arelis R. Hernández and Kevin Sieff report](#). “‘MPP is dying,’ said Charlene D’Cruz, a lawyer who represents Central American asylum seekers and has advocated for dozens of vulnerable migrants to be removed from the program and allowed into the United States. ‘And something worse is taking its place. Everything is changing.’”



**A Mexican man just became the seventh immigrant to die in ICE custody since October.** [BuzzFeed News](#) reported that the preliminary cause appears to be suicide. He was 34.

## **The State Department delayed the visa of a renowned German professor and far-right extremism expert.**

Academic Hajo Funke delivered documentation for a visa to the U.S. Consulate in Berlin in November 2019, [Moriah Balingit reports](#). But when the consulate returned his passport, “it was accompanied not by a visa but by a letter that said a decision about his visa had been delayed for three to six months. The two classes he was set to teach — one on far-right populism and another on political memory in Germany — were in jeopardy.” The professor finally got his visa granted Thursday, but questions have been raised about what prompted the delay. Last year, Funke “[wrote an article](#) for the website of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies at Johns Hopkins University linking violence in Charlottesville, where a white nationalist rally turned deadly in 2017, to [Trump’s election]. He has also visited Iran ... for an academic conference and to visit the family of his wife, who emigrated from Iran to Germany in the 1980s and is now a German citizen.”

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## **More on 2020**



Elizabeth Warren signs a cardboard cutout of herself at her campaign office in North Las Vegas on Thursday. (John Locher/AP)

## **Warren flip-flopped on outside money, refusing to disavow a new super PAC.**

Warren refused to disavow a new super PAC created to support her candidacy after spending a year criticizing her Democratic rivals for not disavowing super PACs set up to help them. “We reached the point a few weeks ago, where all of the men who were still in this race, and on the debate stage, all had either super PACs or they were multi-billionaires, and could just rummage around in their sock drawers and find enough money to be able to fund a campaign,” the senator told reporters. “And the only people who didn't have them were the two women. And at that point, there are some women saying, you know, that's just not right.” [CNN reports](#) that Persist PAC will spend more than \$1 million to air a biography-focused television ad that links Warren to Obama.

During Thursday night's CNN town hall, Warren said Bloomberg's refusal to release former employees from nondisclosure agreements is disqualifying. She showed up with her own version of a “release and covenant not to sue” document for him to sign and release his past

employees from their NDAs. She even offered to text it to him. Warren said that if Bloomberg is ultimately the nominee, [she'll support him](#), but added that “what we’ve got right now is a chance for the Nevada voters to make sure that Michael Bloomberg is not our nominee, and that’s what I’m asking.”

### **Warren desperately needed a post-debate cash infusion.**

Warren’s campaign says her fiery performance Wednesday has turned February into her best fundraising month yet. “But January figures show the Massachusetts senator was in deep trouble before her sudden apparent reversal — so much so that her campaign took out a \$3 million line of credit and tapped into \$400,000 of it as a loan, as contingency cash before the Iowa caucuses. She spent more than double (\$22.3 million) the amount she raised (\$10.8 million) in January,” [per Michelle Ye Hee Lee and Anu Narayanswamy](#).

### **Two Bloomborgs are running for president at the same time.**

“One is the tough, get-it-done, rich guy who stars in \$340 million worth of advertising, emotes in scripted speeches and is praised daily by his surrogate army,” [write Michael Scherer, Josh Dawsey and Michael Kranish](#). “The other is the sometimes bumbling, frequently ineffective and often peevish politician who showed up Wednesday night, operating on the fly. ... Bloomberg’s advisers, well aware of his uneven public performance as New York mayor, have tried to reconcile the two identities. They have scripted a campaign message that focuses heavily on the sheer scale of his operation and power of his purse, not the campaign talents of the candidate. On the trail, he boasts of having ‘the record and the resources’ to challenge Trump, not the heart or the passion.”

**“So, how was *your* night last night?”** Bloomberg asked a crowd in Salt Lake City Thursday night. [\(AP\)](#)

### **Conservatives have learned to wield power inside Facebook.**

“Trump and other party leaders have pressured Facebook by making unproven claims of bias against conservatives amid rising signs of government action on the issue, including investigations by Congress and the Justice Department. Republicans also have leveraged Facebook’s fears of alienating conservative Americans to win concessions from a company whose most widely shared news content typically includes stories from Fox News and other right-leaning sources,” [Craig Timberg reports](#). “These sensitivities — in conjunction with the company’s long-standing resistance to acting as ‘an arbiter of truth’ — have affected Facebook’s responses to a range of major issues, from how to address fake news and Russian manipulation of American voters on the platform to, more recently, the advertising policies that have set the political ground rules for the 2020 election, say people privy to internal debates. ... Critics — both outside Facebook and within its ranks — see something more akin to corporate realpolitik, a willingness to accede to political demands in an era when Republicans control most levers of power in Washington.”

### **Twitter is testing new ways to fight misinformation.**

“Twitter is experimenting with adding brightly colored labels directly beneath lies and misinformation posted by politicians and other public figures,” [according to a demo sent to NBC News](#). “Twitter confirmed that the leaked demo, which was accessible on a publicly available site, is one possible iteration of a new policy to target misinformation. The company does not have a date to roll out any new misinformation features. In this version, disinformation or misleading information posted by public figures would be corrected directly beneath a tweet by fact-checkers and journalists who are verified on the platform and possibly by other users who would participate in a new ‘community reports’ feature, which the demo claims is ‘like Wikipedia.’”

### **Quinnipiac polling shows Trump running strong in the Rust Belt.**

The president leads in head-to-head matchups against the top Democratic candidates in Wisconsin, loses or trails within the margin of error in Pennsylvania, and is locked in tight competitions in Michigan.

## The coronavirus



### **Infected Americans were flown home from Japan against the CDC's advice.**

“In the wee hours of a rainy Monday, more than a dozen buses sat on the tarmac at Tokyo’s Haneda Airport. Inside, 328 weary Americans wearing surgical masks and gloves waited anxiously to fly home after weeks in quarantine aboard the Diamond Princess, the luxury liner where the novel [coronavirus](#) had exploded into a shipwide epidemic,” [Lena Sun, Lenny Bernstein, Shibani Mahtani and Joel Achenbach report](#). “But as the buses idled, U.S. officials wrestled with troubling news. New test results showed that 14 passengers were infected with the virus. The U.S. State Department had promised that no one with the infection would be allowed to board the planes. ... In Washington, where it was still Sunday afternoon, a fierce debate broke out: The State Department and a top Trump administration health official wanted to forge ahead. The infected passengers [had no symptoms](#) and could be segregated on the plane in a plastic-lined enclosure. But officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention disagreed, contending they could still spread the [virus](#). The CDC believed the 14 should not be flown back with uninfected passengers.

**... The State Department won the argument. But unhappy CDC officials demanded to be left out of the news release that explained that infected people were being flown back to the United States** — a move that would nearly double the number of [known coronavirus cases](#) in this country.”

## **A coronavirus outbreak in Chinese prisons raised alarm.**

“Chinese authorities on Friday reported hundreds of new coronavirus infections at prisons around the country,” [Gerry Shih reports](#). “A handful of prisons reported nearly 500 new cases, a significant portion of the more than 1,100 new cases reported in mainland China on Friday — and a marked increase after several days of declines. Tests at a prison in eastern Shandong province showed 207 out of 2,077 inmates and staff were infected, and the provincial justice department’s Communist Party secretary was dismissed as a result. ... Another jail in Zhejiang province found 34 cases. Hubei province, at the center of the outbreak, said Friday it found 220 new cases inside penitentiaries. ...

**“In South Korea, new cases skyrocketed,** bringing the national total to 204, as worries mounted that the country is becoming a new hot spot. Many of the new cases have been traced to ... a regional branch of a fringe religious sect named Shincheonji Church of God in the southern city of Daegu, according to the KCDC. The church’s founder Lee Man-hee called the outbreak ‘the devil’s deed to curb the rapid growth of Shincheonji,’ in an [internal message](#) published by South Korea’s Yonhap News Agency on Friday. Daegu city and surrounding North Gyeongsang province have been designated ‘special care zones’ after a jump in cases in the area, Prime Minister Chung Sye Kyun said earlier Friday.”

## **Chinese researchers could submit a vaccine for clinical trials in late April.**

“Animal models of mice and monkeys infected with the novel coronavirus have also been constructed, which will provide support for drug screening, vaccine development and research on viral transmission mechanism.

China set up a coronavirus scientific research group about one month ago, with 14 experts led by renowned pulmonologist Zhong Nanshan,” [Liu Yang reports](#).

## **Confusion continues to grow over China’s counting methods, as infection numbers swing wildly.**

“Early Friday, China’s National Health Commission reported new infections increased again to 889. There are now a cumulative total of 75,465 infections and 2,236 deaths, mostly in Hubei province, the agency said. Hubei authorities have changed their criteria for counting cases twice in the past week,” [Shih and Miriam Berger report](#). “The latest inconsistency — under which one city appeared to have more cases than the total in the province — apparently arose because Hubei province deducted cases that have not been confirmed through genetic tests from a total reported case number, which includes all diagnoses made by physicians using other methods. At best, the constant changes have frustrated scholars. At worst, they have raised suspicions.”

## **The USDA estimates that China will not buy as much U.S. farm output as Trump claims.**

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s chief economist, Robert Johansson, projected that agricultural exports to China would reach roughly \$14 billion in the year that ends Sept. 30, a \$4 billion increase from one year ago. But that amount would still fall far short of what White House officials said would take place based on the recently announced ‘Phase One’ trade deal with Chinese leaders,” [Laura Reiley reports](#). “White House officials have said agricultural exports to China would be between \$40 billion and \$50 billion in each of the next two years. Last year, when he was promising the trade deal would lead to a huge increase in purchases, Trump told farmers to buy ‘more land’ and ‘bigger tractors.’”

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## **Social media speed read**

After Trump attacked him again, former FBI director James Comey posted

an image from Mariah Carey's music video for her song "Obsessed":



Several of the 2020 candidates attacked Trump's response to the intelligence community's conclusion that Russia favors his reelection:





Obama's former political director celebrated Stone's sentence:



The New York Times has published an op-ed by the deputy leader of the Taliban: "What We, the Taliban, Want." The paper's senior Afghanistan correspondent criticized his own publication for running the piece:

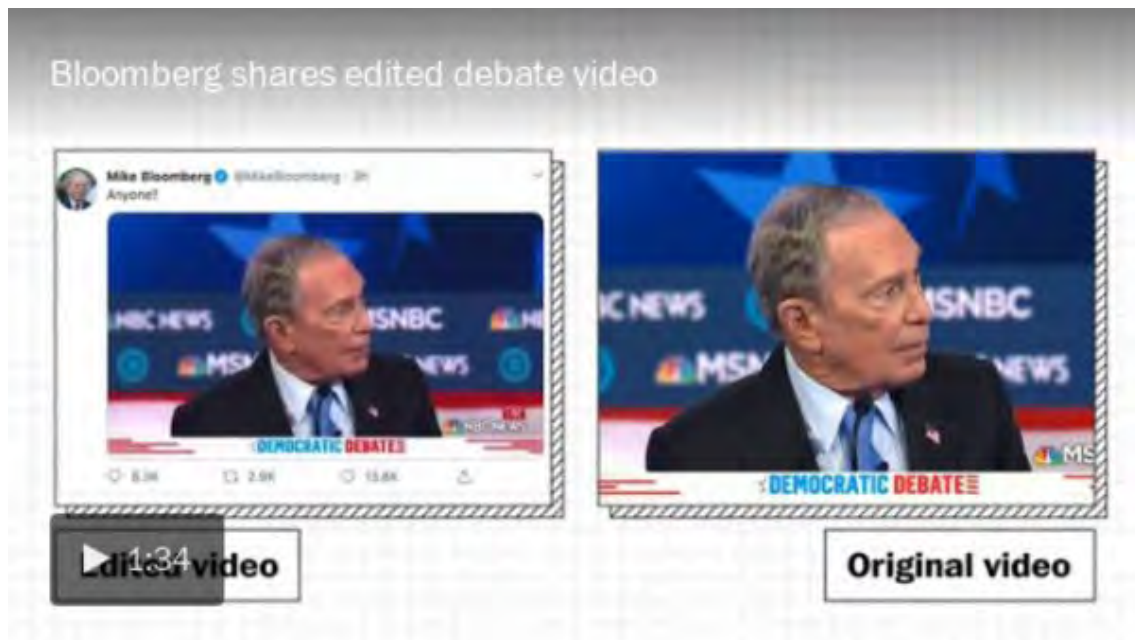


## Videos of the day

James Corden wondered if Democrats are headed to an Iowa-repeat in Nevada:



Mike Bloomberg's campaign posted a highly misleading video from the debate:



Trump complained that the movie "Parasite" won the Academy Award for best picture, even though it's not an American movie:



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Bernie Sanders shows some Trumpian tendencies as he refuses to release promised medical records  
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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## **Bernie Sanders shows some Trumpian tendencies as he refuses to release promised medical records**

He enjoys talking about his lead in the polls, the size of his crowds and his number of Twitter followers. He routinely criticizes the mainstream media and insists he cannot control his most zealous supporters online. Most people in his adopted party don't want him to be their nominee, but the establishment cannot agree on who is best to stop him.

Elizabeth Warren likened Mike Bloomberg to President Trump at the top of Wednesday night's debate, warning Democrats not to substitute one "arrogant billionaire" with a [history of misogyny](#) for another. But it was Bernie Sanders who displayed flashes of his Trumpian side during the two-hour clash. The most significant illustration of this came as the senator from Vermont sought to justify his refusal to release his full medical records.



Bernie Sanders delivers his victory speech after winning the New Hampshire primary last week. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

The 78-year-old would be the oldest president ever elected. Sanders suffered a heart attack in October just a few miles from the site of the debate, but his campaign refused to acknowledge the extent of what happened until three days later – late on a Friday. During the two weeks he spent recuperating at home, the senator [told CNN's Sanjay Gupta](#) that the American people have a right to "full disclosure" about the health of someone running for president. "And we will make, at the appropriate time, all of our medical records public for you or anybody else who wants to see them," he said.

On New Year's Eve, Sanders released summary [letters from three](#)

[physicians](#) that concluded he's healthy enough to be president. That's far from his full medical records. Now leading in the national polls, after winning the most votes in the first two states, Sanders says that will have to suffice for people worried about his physical fitness to be commander in chief.

**NBC correspondent Hallie Jackson, one of the debate moderators, noted that Sanders has attacked Trump for refusing to release his tax returns. "What," she asked, "happened to *your* promise of full transparency?"**

After thanking the doctors who took care of him, **Sanders began his answer with the kind of whataboutism that we've grown to expect from Trump.** "I think the one area maybe that Mayor Bloomberg and I share, you have two stents, as well," he said. The former New York mayor, who has never had a heart attack, replied that those were installed two decades ago. "Well, we both have two stents," Sanders replied. "It's a procedure that is done about a million times a year."

**Then the septuagenarian claimed he's released "the full report" of "all of my history," which he has not.** Sanders finished his answer by challenging anyone who doubts that he can deal with the stress of being president to "follow me around" on the campaign trail. "See how you're doing compared to me," he said.

**When John McCain ran for president in 2008, the then-72-year-old allowed reporters to review [1,173 pages](#) of his medical records.** But Trump, too, would only release [a letter](#) in 2016 from his doctor that said he was "in excellent physical health." Like Sanders, he pointed to his stamina at rallies as evidence he was in good shape. He won anyway. The 73-year-old president raised a round of [fresh questions](#) about his medial status in November after making an unscheduled trip to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and then insisting that he merely wanted to get an early start on his physical.

**After kneecapping Bloomberg during Wednesday's debate,**

**Warren trained her fire toward Sanders on Thursday.** Asked what differentiates her from Sanders, she told MSNBC last night: “I get stuff done. ... I don't want to be president just to yell at people. I want to be president to change things.” During a gaggle with reporters earlier in the day in Las Vegas, Warren attacked Sanders for not releasing his full medical records. “He had made a promise,” she said. “I don't think that's a question of opinion. Those aren't medical records.”

**The 70-year-old senator from Massachusetts released a letter from her physician and five pages of supporting medical data last year.** Former vice president Joe Biden, 77, released a three-page letter from his physician outlining his current condition and medical history. The youngest candidate in the race, 38-year-old Pete Buttigieg, noted that Barack Obama released his full medical records and details of annual physicals. “President Trump lowered that standard,” Buttigieg said during the debate. “He said just a letter from a doctor is enough. And a lot of folks on this stage are now saying that's enough. But I am certainly prepared to get a physical and put out the results. I think everybody here should be willing to do the same.”

**When Sanders spokeswoman Briahna Joy Gray was pressed during a CNN appearance on Wednesday about why he hasn't put out more medical records, she called it a “smear.”** She even likened requests for more health information from Sanders to demands that Obama release his birth certificate.



Bernie Sanders speaks on Oct. 19 in Queens. It was his first big rally after the heart attack, which allowed him to reset his campaign and helped secure the endorsement of New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. (Jeenah Moon/Bloomberg)

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Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

## We Can't Afford Medicare for All



American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

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**To be sure, Trump and Sanders have vastly different agendas and stand on different sides of the ideological spectrum. It would**



be unfair to put too much emphasis on similarities. But one reason Sanders supporters like him, indisputably, is that he promises to fight Trump's fire with more fire. His Trumpian flashes this week foreshadow what the general election might look like if he won the nomination.

**Sanders has been attacked for more than a week now after some of his supporters harassed Culinary Union officials on social media after they criticized his Medicare-for-all plan.**

Asked about this during the debate, Sanders distanced himself. "We have over 10.6 million people on Twitter, and 99.9 percent of them are decent human beings," he said. "And if there are a few people who make ugly remarks, who attack trade union leaders, I disown those people. They are not part of our movement."

**Then he deflected in a way that seemed reminiscent of how Trump has deflected in the face of similar attacks.** Sanders said his own surrogates, especially women of color, face similarly vicious attacks online. "And let me say something else about this, not being too paranoid," he added. "All of us remember 2016, and what we remember is efforts by Russians and others to try to interfere in our election and divide us up. I'm not saying that's happening, but it would not shock me."

**Experts say there's no evidence of Russians masquerading as Bernie Bros.** "Absent direct evidence, researchers said Sanders's comments threaten to foment further doubt about a campaign that has been buffeted by confidence-shaking missteps, beginning with the technical glitches that marred the Iowa caucuses earlier this month," [Isaac Stanley-Becker and Tony Romm report](#). "Facebook spokesman Andy Stone said Thursday it also had not seen evidence of Russian trolls masquerading as Sanders supporters. Twitter spokeswoman Katie Rosborough said the company would 'disclose' activity by Russia or other foreign actors if it had 'reasonable evidence of state-backed information operations.' ... Researchers have found some of the most divisive tweets and memes during the 2020 election originate with specific, verified Sanders supporters. That includes the viral #mayorcheat hashtag that attacked Buttigieg for ties between the former mayor's presidential

campaign and Iowa caucus organizers, said Ben Nimmo, director of investigations at Graphika.”

“The problem we face is the impression of meddling can be as damaging to the legitimacy of an election as meddling itself,” said Jessica Brandt, the head of policy and research at the Alliance for Securing Democracy, an arm of the German Marshall Fund.

House minority whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) recalled Thursday that he was wounded by a Sanders supporter during baseball practice 2017:



**Both Trump and Sanders didn’t adopt the parties they now lead until late in life.** Sanders, [who still hasn’t formally become a Democrat](#), reportedly considered a primary challenge against Obama from the left in 2011 more seriously than he’s acknowledged. In 1987, Sanders – as a mayor of Burlington, Vt., -- told the University of Vermont student newspaper that he was “[physically nauseated](#)” as a young man when he watched John F. Kennedy speak out against Fidel Castro’s revolution in Cuba. He said this was a factor in his decision to work outside the party system. That same year, Trump paid to run full-page ads in The Washington Post [attacking Ronald Reagan’s foreign policy](#) for lacking “backbone.”

Ironically, Trump now touts Reagan and Sanders is currently airing a television commercial that likens him to Kennedy. After playing the sound

bite from the speech in which Kennedy said that “we choose to go to the moon ... not because it is easy but because it is hard,” Sanders narrates: “President Kennedy knew that settling for half-measures wasn't good enough. So when candidates say we can't guarantee health care for all, make college affordable for all, combat climate change, or create a world at peace, remember: America is best when we strive to do big things, even when it's hard.”



**The debate again put in stark relief the collective action problem facing those who want to be the leading Sanders alternative, a dynamic I wrote about on the eve of the New Hampshire primary.** Bloomberg's spotty performance will prevent him from consolidating support in that lane. Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar went after each other because both are running close to even and competing for the same set of voters. It was the most-watched Democratic debate ever, with nearly **20 million people** tuning into the telecast on NBC and MSNBC. The Sanders campaign said it raised \$2.7 million from about 150,000 donors on Wednesday, his best haul of any of the nine debate days this cycle.

**Of the six candidates onstage, Sanders was the only one who said the person with the most pledged delegates going into the**

**convention this summer should definitely be the nominee.** This represents a reversal from 2016 when he trailed Hillary Clinton among pledged delegates but thought he might persuade superdelegates that he'd be more electable. "What's clear out of [Wednesday] night is, it's hard to see what forces will stop Bernie from becoming the front-runner and just as hard to see how there will be any consolidation into a single candidate to oppose him," said Robby Mook, who was Clinton's campaign manager.

"The dawning realization for many in the party is that what Democrats had envisioned as a jubilant national convention in Milwaukee ... has the potential to turn into a pitched battle among multiple candidates and their supporters, each representing dueling ideological wings of the party and convinced that the other side would lose to Trump," [Matt Viser, Dan Balz and Annie Linskey report](#). **"Top campaigns have not only staffed up with delegate experts to guide them through the intricacies of the primaries, but they also have built legal teams preparing to challenge any results that don't go their way,** according to interviews with 16 top party officials and strategists. And in preparation for a contested convention, some campaigns have started to reach out to superdelegates, in an attempt to secure support for a second ballot when they would come into play."





**Former Senate majority leader Harry Reid said no candidate should be given the nomination without winning an outright majority of delegates.** “I don’t think that anybody — Bernie Sanders or anyone else — should simply get the nomination because they have 30 percent of the delegates and no one else has that many,” the Nevada Democrat told Paul Kane during [an interview in his office at the Bellagio hotel](#). “We have to let the system work its way out. I do not believe anyone should get the nomination unless they have 50-plus-one.” Reid added that moderates could align themselves in an attempt to combine their delegates and overtake Sanders.

**A favorite parlor game for Washington elites right now is speculating about how badly Sanders might lose in a general election.** Veterans Democratic operatives wonder whether Democrats would lose the House if he’s at the top of the ticket. Many of them privately fear a blowout more akin to Michael Dukakis’s in 1988 than George McGovern’s in 1972. These conversations sound similar to the ones Republican operatives had as Trump took over their party four years ago.

**Republicans are increasingly using Sanders as a foil to target down-ballot Democrats.** “Arizona Sen. Martha McSally launched a TV

ad titled ‘Bernie Bro’ likening her Democratic opponent, retired astronaut Mark Kelly, to the Vermont senator,” [Politico’s Alex Isenstadt notes](#).

“North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis held a press conference last week linking his Democratic rivals to the Sanders-backed Green New Deal. In Michigan, a conservative group has aired a series of commercials that go after Democratic Sen. Gary Peters by invoking Sanders and his support for Medicare for All. And the Republican State Leadership Committee, which focuses on state legislative races, has been running digital ads asking whether down-ballot Democrats in more than a half-dozen states are ‘feeling burned yet’ — a take on the Sanders mantra, ‘Feel the Bern.’”

**Sanders is dismissive of electability concerns.** Asked during the debate about a poll that showed two-thirds of Americans uncomfortable with a socialist president, Sanders replied that the same poll showed him winning. “You might mention that,” he told NBC moderator Lester Holt. Indeed, [the NBC-Wall Street Journal poll](#) showed Sanders leading among Democratic primary voters, with 27 percent, followed by four candidates bunched together with support between 15 percent to 13 percent. It also found Sanders beating Trump 50 percent to 46 percent in a hypothetical head-to-head matchup, which was within the margin of error. The same survey discovered that 67 percent said they have “reservations” or are “very uncomfortable” with a socialist candidate, 57 percent said the same about someone who had a heart attack in the last year and 53 percent said the same about someone who's older than 75.

After Buttigieg accused Sanders of wanting “to burn this party down,” Holt asked Sanders whether he’s polarizing. “If speaking to the needs and the pain of a long-neglected working class is polarizing,” he said, “I think you got the wrong word.”

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## The Trump presidency



## **A senior U.S. intelligence official said Russia wants to see Trump reelected.**

“After learning of that analysis, which was provided to House lawmakers in a classified hearing, Trump grew angry at his acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, in the Oval Office, seeing Maguire and his staff as disloyal for speaking to Congress about Russia’s perceived preference,” [Ellen Nakashima, Shane Harris, Josh Dawsey and Anne Gearan report](#). **“The intelligence official’s analysis and Trump’s furious response ruined Maguire’s chances of becoming the permanent intelligence chief.** ... It was not clear what specific steps, if any, U.S. intelligence officials think Russia may have taken to help Trump. ... Trump announced on Wednesday that he was replacing Maguire with a vocal loyalist, Richard Grenell. ... Maguire, a career official who is respected by the intelligence rank and file, was considered a leading candidate to be nominated to the post of DNI, White House aides had said. ...

**“The official, Shelby Pierson, said several times during the briefing that Russia had ‘developed a preference’ for Trump.** ... That conclusion was part of a broader discussion of election security that also touched on when the U.S. government should warn Democratic candidates if they are being targeted by foreign governments. ... Trump



erroneously believed that Pierson had given the assessment exclusively to Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.). ... Trump also believed that the information would be helpful to Democrats if it were released publicly. ... Trump learned about Pierson's remarks from Rep. Devin Nunes (Calif.). ...

"Trump became angry with Maguire and blamed him for Pierson's remarks when the two met the next day during a special briefing for Trump on election security attended by officials from other agencies, but not Pierson. ... He said that Maguire should not have let the Capitol Hill briefing happen. ... **Trump told Maguire and other aides in the Oval Office that he did not believe Russia was interfering to help him or planning to do so**, and that the intelligence community was getting 'played.' ... He said that the information would be used against him unfairly and that he could not believe that people were believing such a story again, reflecting his opinion that Russian interference in 2016 was a 'hoax' made up by officials with a political agenda. ... Maguire struck an apologetic tone ...

"White House officials said Trump's decision to make Grenell the acting director rather than nominate him for the permanent position reflected concerns that he might not win confirmation in the Senate, given his polarizing reputation. ... The president told reporters aboard Air Force One that **Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.), a staunch Trump supporter who also is running for U.S. Senate, is under consideration for the permanent post.** ...

"The shake-up at the top of the intelligence community is the latest move in a post-impeachment purge. ... **The deputy national security adviser, Victoria Coates, has also been removed from her post** after some colleagues, including trade adviser Peter Navarro, accused her of being the author of 'Anonymous.' ... Coates has strenuously denied the accusation. She was moved to an advisory position in the Energy Department." Meanwhile, a former NSC aide who tried to discredit the Russia probe has been promoted. Kash Patel is now a senior adviser for Grenell, per [Politico](#). It's not clear what exact role Patel, who used to work for Nunes, will play.

## **Breaking this morning: The U.S. plans to sign a peace deal with the Taliban on Feb. 29.**

The deal will pass as long as a week-long reduction in violence across the country holds, according to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. [Susannah George and John Hudson report](#): “The violence reduction, the decisive condition of the possible peace deal, is set to begin early Saturday — just after midnight, according to Afghanistan's National Security Council and a senior State Department official. ‘U.S. negotiators in Doha have come to an understanding with the Taliban on a significant and nationwide reduction in violence across Afghanistan,’ Pompeo said in a statement Friday, referring to U.S.-Taliban talks in the Qatari capital. ... The Taliban said ‘both parties will now create a suitable security situation in advance of agreement signing date, extend invitations to senior representatives of numerous countries and organizations to participate in the signing ceremony, make arrangements for the release of prisoners’ and prepare for intra-Afghan negotiations, according to the group's statement released to the media Friday. The U.S. military command in Kabul said it has nothing to announce at this time. ... The [week-long reduction in violence](#) will require the Taliban, the United States and Afghan government-aligned forces to largely cease all planned offensive operations nationwide.”



Roger Stone arrives for his sentencing on Thursday at the federal courthouse in Washington. (Marvin Joseph/The Washington Post)

## **Trump confidant and former adviser Roger Stone was sentenced to 40 months in prison.**

“The penalty from U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson comes after weeks of infighting over the politically charged case that threw the Justice Department into crisis, and it is likely not to be the final word. **Even before the sentencing hearing began, Trump seemed to suggest on Twitter that he might pardon Stone,**” [Rachel Weiner](#), [Matt Zapposky](#), [Tom Jackman](#) and [Devlin Barrett](#) report. “With the proceedings ongoing, Trump questioned whether his ally was **being treated fairly**. Afterward, he attacked the jury in the case and said he would ‘love to see Roger exonerated.’ ... In a lengthy speech before imposing the penalty, Jackson seemed to take aim at Trump, saying Stone ‘was not prosecuted for standing up for the president; he was prosecuted for covering up for the president.’ She also appeared to call out Attorney General William P. Barr, saying his intervention to reduce career prosecutors’ sentencing recommendation was ‘unprecedented.’ But she said the politics surrounding the case had not influenced her decision.”

**“Stone did not speak in court and showed no visible emotion as**

**the sentence was read.** Emerging from the courtroom in a wide-striped suit and polka-dot tie, he appeared calm. ‘I have nothing to say,’ Stone said. ... Stone, 67, was convicted by a federal jury on seven counts of lying to Congress and tampering with a witness about his efforts to learn about hacked Democratic emails related to Clinton. ... Stone, his wife and a large entourage exited the courthouse to a large crowd of photographers, supporters and antagonists. As he climbed into an SUV, protesters shouted ‘Lock him up!’ while supporters yelled ‘Pardon Roger Stone!’ ...

**“Stone requested a new trial last week,** after Trump suggested the forewoman in Stone’s case had ‘significant bias.’ Jackson, the judge, said previously that she would delay implementing his sentence until she resolves that request. A filing is due from Stone’s defense team Monday. In addition to prison, Jackson ordered Stone to pay a \$20,000 fine and serve two years of supervised release. He remains out of prison on bond, and even if he loses his motion for a new trial, he will have at least two weeks to turn himself in — unless an appeal further delays things.”

**The Justice Department breathed a sigh of relief as Stone’s sentence hit Barr’s target.** “It was messier than we wanted, but we ended up in the same place,’ said one senior official,” [Barrett and Zapotosky report](#). “Another Justice Department official called Stone’s sentence a ‘vindication’ of the attorney general’s decision last week to insert himself into the process, calling for a revised sentencing memorandum that undercut the line prosecutors’ prior recommendation of seven to nine years in prison. ... **After a week of nervous tension atop the agency, anxiety levels have dropped, at least for the moment.** ... Senior Justice Department officials are, however, increasingly resigned to the idea that Trump is likely to continue upbraiding the department and the FBI, and that it may be a staple of his reelection campaign rhetoric — the odd spectacle of an incumbent president bashing his own Justice Department.”

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**Quote of the day**

*“The truth still exists; the truth still matters,” Judge Jackson said. “Roger Stone’s insistence that it doesn’t, his belligerence, his pride in his own lies are a threat to our most fundamental institutions, to the foundations of our democracy. If it goes unpunished, it will not be a victory for one party or another. Everyone loses. ... The dismay and disgust at the defendant’s belligerence should transcend party.”*

## **Former congressman Dana Rohrabacher confirmed that he offered a Trump pardon to Julian Assange.**

“Rohrabacher (R-Calif.) said his goal during the meeting was to find proof for a widely debunked conspiracy theory: that WikiLeaks’ real source for the DNC emails was not Russian intelligence agents, as U.S. officials have since concluded, but former DNC staffer Seth Rich, who was murdered on the streets of Washington in July 2016 in what police believe was a botched robbery,” [Yahoo News reports](#).

## **Rudy Giuliani’s work for a candidate in the Dominican Republic raised eyebrows amid the Ukraine swirl.**

“The politics of this Caribbean island nation do not frequently capture the attention of the stewards of America’s foreign policy, but Secretary of State Mike Pompeo phoned down last summer with a clear message,” [Joshua Partlow and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Dominican President Danilo Medina’s supporters were pushing to change the country’s constitution to allow him to run for an unprecedented third term. In a call with the president, Pompeo emphasized the importance of ‘adherence to rule of law and the constitution,’ according to a [State Department readout](#). That message was echoed a week later in person by [Giuliani]. ... [But] Giuliani was not in the Dominican Republic as Trump’s representative. He was speaking as a paid consultant to an opposition presidential candidate.”

## **A man was charged with making death threats against the Ukraine whistleblower’s attorney.**

A day after Trump lashed out against Mark Zaid during a 2019 rally, the

attorney received a disquieting email. “All traitors must die miserable deaths,” the message read. “Those that represent traitors shall meet the same fate. We will hunt you down and bleed you out like the pigs you are.” Federal prosecutors have indicted Brittan J. Atkinson and accused him of sending the message. ([Reis Thebault](#))

## **Mick Mulvaney said the U.S. is “desperate” for more legal immigrants.**

The acting White House chief of staff told a crowd at a gathering in England that the Trump administration “needs more immigration” for the U.S. economy to continue growing, according to audio of his remarks [obtained by Nick Miroff and Josh Dawsey](#). “‘We are desperate — desperate — for more people,’ Mulvaney said. ‘We are running out of people to fuel the economic growth that we’ve had in our nation over the last four years. We need more immigrants.’ The Trump administration wants those immigrants to come in a ‘legal fashion,’ Mulvaney said. ... Mulvaney’s remarks appear in contrast to the public position of several top figures in Trump’s White House — especially that of senior policy adviser Stephen Miller. ... Mulvaney’s private remarks were more in line with conventional GOP views of immigration as a major engine for the U.S. economy. ... He praised the immigration systems in Canada and Australia and said the Trump administration wants the United States to embrace a model closer to those nations.”

## **Trump’s “Remain in Mexico” program is dwindling as more migrants are sent to Guatemala.**

“Immigration attorneys and migrant advocates say the Trump administration is phasing out its year-old Migrant Protection Protocols policy, ... instead prioritizing newer, more restrictive programs that make qualifying for asylum in the United States extremely difficult,” [Arelis R. Hernández and Kevin Sieff report](#). “‘MPP is dying,’ said Charlene D’Cruz, a lawyer who represents Central American asylum seekers and has advocated for dozens of vulnerable migrants to be removed from the program and allowed into the United States. ‘And something worse is taking its place. Everything is changing.’”

**A Mexican man just became the seventh immigrant to die in ICE custody since October.** [BuzzFeed News](#) reported that the preliminary cause appears to be suicide. He was 34.

## **The State Department delayed the visa of a renowned German professor and far-right extremism expert.**

Academic Hajo Funke delivered documentation for a visa to the U.S. Consulate in Berlin in November 2019, [Moriah Balingit reports](#). But when the consulate returned his passport, “it was accompanied not by a visa but by a letter that said a decision about his visa had been delayed for three to six months. The two classes he was set to teach — one on far-right populism and another on political memory in Germany — were in jeopardy.” The professor finally got his visa granted Thursday, but questions have been raised about what prompted the delay. Last year, Funke “[wrote an article](#) for the website of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies at Johns Hopkins University linking violence in Charlottesville, where a white nationalist rally turned deadly in 2017, to [Trump’s election]. He has also visited Iran ... for an academic conference and to visit the family of his wife, who emigrated from Iran to Germany in the 1980s and is now a German citizen.”

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## **More on 2020**



Elizabeth Warren signs a cardboard cutout of herself at her campaign office in North Las Vegas on Thursday. (John Locher/AP)

## **Warren flip-flopped on outside money, refusing to disavow a new super PAC.**

Warren refused to disavow a new super PAC created to support her candidacy after spending a year criticizing her Democratic rivals for not disavowing super PACs set up to help them. “We reached the point a few weeks ago, where all of the men who were still in this race, and on the debate stage, all had either super PACs or they were multi-billionaires, and could just rummage around in their sock drawers and find enough money to be able to fund a campaign,” the senator told reporters. “And the only people who didn't have them were the two women. And at that point, there are some women saying, you know, that's just not right.” [CNN reports](#) that Persist PAC will spend more than \$1 million to air a biography-focused television ad that links Warren to Obama.

During Thursday night's CNN town hall, Warren said Bloomberg's refusal to release former employees from nondisclosure agreements is disqualifying. She showed up with her own version of a “release and covenant not to sue” document for him to sign and release his past



employees from their NDAs. She even offered to text it to him. Warren said that if Bloomberg is ultimately the nominee, [she'll support him](#), but added that “what we’ve got right now is a chance for the Nevada voters to make sure that Michael Bloomberg is not our nominee, and that’s what I’m asking.”

### **Warren desperately needed a post-debate cash infusion.**

Warren’s campaign says her fiery performance Wednesday has turned February into her best fundraising month yet. “But January figures show the Massachusetts senator was in deep trouble before her sudden apparent reversal — so much so that her campaign took out a \$3 million line of credit and tapped into \$400,000 of it as a loan, as contingency cash before the Iowa caucuses. She spent more than double (\$22.3 million) the amount she raised (\$10.8 million) in January,” [per Michelle Ye Hee Lee and Anu Narayanswamy](#).

### **Two Bloomborgs are running for president at the same time.**

“One is the tough, get-it-done, rich guy who stars in \$340 million worth of advertising, emotes in scripted speeches and is praised daily by his surrogate army,” [write Michael Scherer, Josh Dawsey and Michael Kranish](#). “The other is the sometimes bumbling, frequently ineffective and often peevish politician who showed up Wednesday night, operating on the fly. ... Bloomberg’s advisers, well aware of his uneven public performance as New York mayor, have tried to reconcile the two identities. They have scripted a campaign message that focuses heavily on the sheer scale of his operation and power of his purse, not the campaign talents of the candidate. On the trail, he boasts of having ‘the record and the resources’ to challenge Trump, not the heart or the passion.”

**“So, how was *your* night last night?”** Bloomberg asked a crowd in Salt Lake City Thursday night. [\(AP\)](#)

### **Conservatives have learned to wield power inside Facebook.**

“Trump and other party leaders have pressured Facebook by making unproven claims of bias against conservatives amid rising signs of government action on the issue, including investigations by Congress and the Justice Department. Republicans also have leveraged Facebook’s fears of alienating conservative Americans to win concessions from a company whose most widely shared news content typically includes stories from Fox News and other right-leaning sources,” [Craig Timberg reports](#). “These sensitivities — in conjunction with the company’s long-standing resistance to acting as ‘an arbiter of truth’ — have affected Facebook’s responses to a range of major issues, from how to address fake news and Russian manipulation of American voters on the platform to, more recently, the advertising policies that have set the political ground rules for the 2020 election, say people privy to internal debates. ... Critics — both outside Facebook and within its ranks — see something more akin to corporate realpolitik, a willingness to accede to political demands in an era when Republicans control most levers of power in Washington.”

### **Twitter is testing new ways to fight misinformation.**

“Twitter is experimenting with adding brightly colored labels directly beneath lies and misinformation posted by politicians and other public figures,” [according to a demo sent to NBC News](#). “Twitter confirmed that the leaked demo, which was accessible on a publicly available site, is one possible iteration of a new policy to target misinformation. The company does not have a date to roll out any new misinformation features. In this version, disinformation or misleading information posted by public figures would be corrected directly beneath a tweet by fact-checkers and journalists who are verified on the platform and possibly by other users who would participate in a new ‘community reports’ feature, which the demo claims is ‘like Wikipedia.’”

### **Quinnipiac polling shows Trump running strong in the Rust Belt.**

The president leads in head-to-head matchups against the top Democratic candidates in Wisconsin, loses or trails within the margin of error in Pennsylvania, and is locked in tight competitions in Michigan.

## The coronavirus



### Infected Americans were flown home from Japan against the CDC's advice.

“In the wee hours of a rainy Monday, more than a dozen buses sat on the tarmac at Tokyo’s Haneda Airport. Inside, 328 weary Americans wearing surgical masks and gloves waited anxiously to fly home after weeks in quarantine aboard the Diamond Princess, the luxury liner where the novel coronavirus had exploded into a shipwide epidemic,” [Lena Sun, Lenny Bernstein, Shibani Mahtani and Joel Achenbach report](#). “But as the buses idled, U.S. officials wrestled with troubling news. New test results showed that 14 passengers were infected with the virus. The U.S. State Department had promised that no one with the infection would be allowed to board the planes. ... In Washington, where it was still Sunday afternoon, a fierce debate broke out: The State Department and a top Trump administration health official wanted to forge ahead. The infected passengers [had no symptoms](#) and could be segregated on the plane in a plastic-lined enclosure. But officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention disagreed, contending they could still spread the [virus](#). The CDC believed the 14 should not be flown back with uninfected passengers.

**... The State Department won the argument. But unhappy CDC officials demanded to be left out of the news release that explained that infected people were being flown back to the United States — a move that would nearly double the number of [known coronavirus cases](#) in this country.”**

### **A coronavirus outbreak in Chinese prisons raised alarm.**

“Chinese authorities on Friday reported hundreds of new coronavirus infections at prisons around the country,” [Gerry Shih reports](#). “A handful of prisons reported nearly 500 new cases, a significant portion of the more than 1,100 new cases reported in mainland China on Friday — and a marked increase after several days of declines. Tests at a prison in eastern Shandong province showed 207 out of 2,077 inmates and staff were infected, and the provincial justice department’s Communist Party secretary was dismissed as a result. ... Another jail in Zhejiang province found 34 cases. Hubei province, at the center of the outbreak, said Friday it found 220 new cases inside penitentiaries. ...

**“In South Korea, new cases skyrocketed,** bringing the national total to 204, as worries mounted that the country is becoming a new hot spot. Many of the new cases have been traced to ... a regional branch of a fringe religious sect named Shincheonji Church of God in the southern city of Daegu, according to the KCDC. The church’s founder Lee Man-hee called the outbreak ‘the devil’s deed to curb the rapid growth of Shincheonji,’ in an [internal message](#) published by South Korea’s Yonhap News Agency on Friday. Daegu city and surrounding North Gyeongsang province have been designated ‘special care zones’ after a jump in cases in the area, Prime Minister Chung Sye Kyun said earlier Friday.”

### **Chinese researchers could submit a vaccine for clinical trials in late April.**

“Animal models of mice and monkeys infected with the novel coronavirus have also been constructed, which will provide support for drug screening, vaccine development and research on viral transmission mechanism. China set up a coronavirus scientific research group about one month ago,

with 14 experts led by renowned pulmonologist Zhong Nanshan,” [Liu Yang reports](#).

## **Confusion continues to grow over China’s counting methods, as infection numbers swing wildly.**

“Early Friday, China’s National Health Commission reported new infections increased again to 889. There are now a cumulative total of 75,465 infections and 2,236 deaths, mostly in Hubei province, the agency said. Hubei authorities have changed their criteria for counting cases twice in the past week,” [Shih and Miriam Berger report](#). “The latest inconsistency — under which one city appeared to have more cases than the total in the province — apparently arose because Hubei province deducted cases that have not been confirmed through genetic tests from a total reported case number, which includes all diagnoses made by physicians using other methods. At best, the constant changes have frustrated scholars. At worst, they have raised suspicions.”

## **The USDA estimates that China will not buy as much U.S. farm output as Trump claims.**

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s chief economist, Robert Johansson, projected that agricultural exports to China would reach roughly \$14 billion in the year that ends Sept. 30, a \$4 billion increase from one year ago. But that amount would still fall far short of what White House officials said would take place based on the recently announced ‘Phase One’ trade deal with Chinese leaders,” [Laura Reiley reports](#). “White House officials have said agricultural exports to China would be between \$40 billion and \$50 billion in each of the next two years. Last year, when he was promising the trade deal would lead to a huge increase in purchases, Trump told farmers to buy ‘more land’ and ‘bigger tractors.’”

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## **Social media speed read**

After Trump attacked him again, former FBI director James Comey posted an image from Mariah Carey's music video for her song “Obsessed”:



Several of the 2020 candidates attacked Trump's response to the intelligence community's conclusion that Russia favors his reelection:



Obama's former political director celebrated Stone's sentence:



The New York Times has published an op-ed by the deputy leader of the Taliban: “What We, the Taliban, Want.” The paper's senior Afghanistan correspondent criticized his own publication for running the piece:



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## Videos of the day

James Corden wondered if Democrats are headed to an Iowa-repeat in Nevada:



Mike Bloomberg's campaign posted a highly misleading video from the debate:



Trump complained that the movie "Parasite" won the Academy Award for best picture, even though it's not an American movie:





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## Bernie Sanders shows some Trumpian tendencies as he refuses to release promised medical records

He enjoys talking about his lead in the polls, the size of his crowds and his number of Twitter followers. He routinely criticizes the mainstream media and insists he cannot control his most zealous supporters online. Most people in his adopted party don't want him to be their nominee, but the establishment cannot agree on who is best to stop him.

Elizabeth Warren likened Mike Bloomberg to President Trump at the top of Wednesday night's debate, warning Democrats not to substitute one "arrogant billionaire" with a [history of misogyny](#) for another. But it was Bernie Sanders who displayed flashes of his Trumpian side during the two-hour clash. The most significant illustration of this came as the senator from Vermont sought to justify his refusal to release his full medical records.



Bernie Sanders delivers his victory speech after winning the New Hampshire primary last week. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

The 78-year-old would be the oldest president ever elected. Sanders suffered a heart attack in October just a few miles from the site of the debate, but his campaign refused to acknowledge the extent of what happened until three days later – late on a Friday. During the two weeks he spent recuperating at home, the senator [told CNN's Sanjay Gupta](#) that the American people have a right to "full disclosure" about the health of someone running for president. "And we will make, at the appropriate time, all of our medical records public for you or anybody else who wants to see them," he said.

On New Year's Eve, Sanders released summary [letters from three](#)

[physicians](#) that concluded he's healthy enough to be president. That's far from his full medical records. Now leading in the national polls, after winning the most votes in the first two states, Sanders says that will have to suffice for people worried about his physical fitness to be commander in chief.

**NBC correspondent Hallie Jackson, one of the debate moderators, noted that Sanders has attacked Trump for refusing to release his tax returns. "What," she asked, "happened to *your* promise of full transparency?"**

After thanking the doctors who took care of him, **Sanders began his answer with the kind of whataboutism that we've grown to expect from Trump.** "I think the one area maybe that Mayor Bloomberg and I share, you have two stents, as well," he said. The former New York mayor, who has never had a heart attack, replied that those were installed two decades ago. "Well, we both have two stents," Sanders replied. "It's a procedure that is done about a million times a year."

**Then the septuagenarian claimed he's released "the full report" of "all of my history," which he has not.** Sanders finished his answer by challenging anyone who doubts that he can deal with the stress of being president to "follow me around" on the campaign trail. "See how you're doing compared to me," he said.

**When John McCain ran for president in 2008, the then-72-year-old allowed reporters to review [1,173 pages](#) of his medical records.** But Trump, too, would only release [a letter](#) in 2016 from his doctor that said he was "in excellent physical health." Like Sanders, he pointed to his stamina at rallies as evidence he was in good shape. He won anyway. The 73-year-old president raised a round of [fresh questions](#) about his medial status in November after making an unscheduled trip to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and then insisting that he merely wanted to get an early start on his physical.

**After kneecapping Bloomberg during Wednesday's debate,**

**Warren trained her fire toward Sanders on Thursday.** Asked what differentiates her from Sanders, she told MSNBC last night: “I get stuff done. ... I don't want to be president just to yell at people. I want to be president to change things.” During a gaggle with reporters earlier in the day in Las Vegas, Warren attacked Sanders for not releasing his full medical records. “He had made a promise,” she said. “I don't think that's a question of opinion. Those aren't medical records.”

**The 70-year-old senator from Massachusetts released a letter from her physician and five pages of supporting medical data last year.** Former vice president Joe Biden, 77, released a three-page letter from his physician outlining his current condition and medical history. The youngest candidate in the race, 38-year-old Pete Buttigieg, noted that Barack Obama released his full medical records and details of annual physicals. “President Trump lowered that standard,” Buttigieg said during the debate. “He said just a letter from a doctor is enough. And a lot of folks on this stage are now saying that's enough. But I am certainly prepared to get a physical and put out the results. I think everybody here should be willing to do the same.”

**When Sanders spokeswoman Briahna Joy Gray was pressed during a CNN appearance on Wednesday about why he hasn't put out more medical records, she called it a “smear.”** She even likened requests for more health information from Sanders to demands that Obama release his birth certificate.



Bernie Sanders speaks on Oct. 19 in Queens. It was his first big rally after the heart attack, which allowed him to reset his campaign and helped secure the endorsement of New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. (Jeenah Moon/Bloomberg)

Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

## We Can't Afford Medicare for All



American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

**To be sure, Trump and Sanders have vastly different agendas and stand on different sides of the ideological spectrum. It would**

be unfair to put too much emphasis on similarities. But one reason Sanders supporters like him, indisputably, is that he promises to fight Trump's fire with more fire. His Trumpian flashes this week foreshadow what the general election might look like if he won the nomination.

**Sanders has been attacked for more than a week now after some of his supporters harassed Culinary Union officials on social media after they criticized his Medicare-for-all plan.**

Asked about this during the debate, Sanders distanced himself. "We have over 10.6 million people on Twitter, and 99.9 percent of them are decent human beings," he said. "And if there are a few people who make ugly remarks, who attack trade union leaders, I disown those people. They are not part of our movement."

**Then he deflected in a way that seemed reminiscent of how Trump has deflected in the face of similar attacks.** Sanders said his own surrogates, especially women of color, face similarly vicious attacks online. "And let me say something else about this, not being too paranoid," he added. "All of us remember 2016, and what we remember is efforts by Russians and others to try to interfere in our election and divide us up. I'm not saying that's happening, but it would not shock me."

**Experts say there's no evidence of Russians masquerading as Bernie Bros.** "Absent direct evidence, researchers said Sanders's comments threaten to foment further doubt about a campaign that has been buffeted by confidence-shaking missteps, beginning with the technical glitches that marred the Iowa caucuses earlier this month," [Isaac Stanley-Becker and Tony Romm report](#). "Facebook spokesman Andy Stone said Thursday it also had not seen evidence of Russian trolls masquerading as Sanders supporters. Twitter spokeswoman Katie Rosborough said the company would 'disclose' activity by Russia or other foreign actors if it had 'reasonable evidence of state-backed information operations.' ... Researchers have found some of the most divisive tweets and memes during the 2020 election originate with specific, verified Sanders supporters. That includes the viral #mayorcheat hashtag that attacked Buttigieg for ties between the former mayor's presidential

campaign and Iowa caucus organizers, said Ben Nimmo, director of investigations at Graphika.”

“The problem we face is the impression of meddling can be as damaging to the legitimacy of an election as meddling itself,” said Jessica Brandt, the head of policy and research at the Alliance for Securing Democracy, an arm of the German Marshall Fund.

House minority whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) recalled Thursday that he was wounded by a Sanders supporter during baseball practice 2017:



**Both Trump and Sanders didn’t adopt the parties they now lead until late in life.** Sanders, [who still hasn’t formally become a Democrat](#), reportedly considered a primary challenge against Obama from the left in 2011 more seriously than he’s acknowledged. In 1987, Sanders – as a mayor of Burlington, Vt., -- told the University of Vermont student newspaper that he was “[physically nauseated](#)” as a young man when he watched John F. Kennedy speak out against Fidel Castro’s revolution in Cuba. He said this was a factor in his decision to work outside the party system. That same year, Trump paid to run full-page ads in The Washington Post [attacking Ronald Reagan’s foreign policy](#) for lacking “backbone.”

Ironically, Trump now touts Reagan and Sanders is currently airing a television commercial that likens him to Kennedy. After playing the sound



bite from the speech in which Kennedy said that “we choose to go to the moon ... not because it is easy but because it is hard,” Sanders narrates: “President Kennedy knew that settling for half-measures wasn't good enough. So when candidates say we can't guarantee health care for all, make college affordable for all, combat climate change, or create a world at peace, remember: America is best when we strive to do big things, even when it's hard.”



**The debate** again put in stark relief the collective action problem facing those who want to be the leading Sanders alternative, a dynamic I wrote about on the eve of the New Hampshire primary. Bloomberg's spotty performance will prevent him from consolidating support in that lane. Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar went after each other because both are running close to even and competing for the same set of voters. It was the most-watched Democratic debate ever, with nearly 20 million people tuning into the telecast on NBC and MSNBC. The Sanders campaign said it raised \$2.7 million from about 150,000 donors on Wednesday, his best haul of any of the nine debate days this cycle.

**Of the six candidates onstage, Sanders was the only one who said the person with the most pledged delegates going into the**

**convention this summer should definitely be the nominee.** This represents a reversal from 2016 when he trailed Hillary Clinton among pledged delegates but thought he might persuade superdelegates that he'd be more electable. "What's clear out of [Wednesday] night is, it's hard to see what forces will stop Bernie from becoming the front-runner and just as hard to see how there will be any consolidation into a single candidate to oppose him," said Robby Mook, who was Clinton's campaign manager.

"The dawning realization for many in the party is that what Democrats had envisioned as a jubilant national convention in Milwaukee ... has the potential to turn into a pitched battle among multiple candidates and their supporters, each representing dueling ideological wings of the party and convinced that the other side would lose to Trump," [Matt Viser, Dan Balz and Annie Linskey report](#). **"Top campaigns have not only staffed up with delegate experts to guide them through the intricacies of the primaries, but they also have built legal teams preparing to challenge any results that don't go their way,** according to interviews with 16 top party officials and strategists. And in preparation for a contested convention, some campaigns have started to reach out to superdelegates, in an attempt to secure support for a second ballot when they would come into play."



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**Former Senate majority leader Harry Reid said no candidate should be given the nomination without winning an outright majority of delegates.** “I don’t think that anybody — Bernie Sanders or anyone else — should simply get the nomination because they have 30 percent of the delegates and no one else has that many,” the Nevada Democrat told Paul Kane during [an interview in his office at the Bellagio hotel](#). “We have to let the system work its way out. I do not believe anyone should get the nomination unless they have 50-plus-one.” Reid added that moderates could align themselves in an attempt to combine their delegates and overtake Sanders.

**A favorite parlor game for Washington elites right now is speculating about how badly Sanders might lose in a general election.** Veterans Democratic operatives wonder whether Democrats would lose the House if he’s at the top of the ticket. Many of them privately fear a blowout more akin to Michael Dukakis’s in 1988 than George McGovern’s in 1972. These conversations sound similar to the ones Republican operatives had as Trump took over their party four years ago.

**Republicans are increasingly using Sanders as a foil to target down-ballot Democrats.** “Arizona Sen. Martha McSally launched a TV

ad titled ‘Bernie Bro’ likening her Democratic opponent, retired astronaut Mark Kelly, to the Vermont senator,” [Politico’s Alex Isenstadt notes](#).

“North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis held a press conference last week linking his Democratic rivals to the Sanders-backed Green New Deal. In Michigan, a conservative group has aired a series of commercials that go after Democratic Sen. Gary Peters by invoking Sanders and his support for Medicare for All. And the Republican State Leadership Committee, which focuses on state legislative races, has been running digital ads asking whether down-ballot Democrats in more than a half-dozen states are ‘feeling burned yet’ — a take on the Sanders mantra, ‘Feel the Bern.’”

**Sanders is dismissive of electability concerns.** Asked during the debate about a poll that showed two-thirds of Americans uncomfortable with a socialist president, Sanders replied that the same poll showed him winning. “You might mention that,” he told NBC moderator Lester Holt. Indeed, [the NBC-Wall Street Journal poll](#) showed Sanders leading among Democratic primary voters, with 27 percent, followed by four candidates bunched together with support between 15 percent to 13 percent. It also found Sanders beating Trump 50 percent to 46 percent in a hypothetical head-to-head matchup, which was within the margin of error. The same survey discovered that 67 percent said they have “reservations” or are “very uncomfortable” with a socialist candidate, 57 percent said the same about someone who had a heart attack in the last year and 53 percent said the same about someone who's older than 75.

After Buttigieg accused Sanders of wanting “to burn this party down,” Holt asked Sanders whether he’s polarizing. “If speaking to the needs and the pain of a long-neglected working class is polarizing,” he said, “I think you got the wrong word.”

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## The Trump presidency



## **A senior U.S. intelligence official said Russia wants to see Trump reelected.**

“After learning of that analysis, which was provided to House lawmakers in a classified hearing, Trump grew angry at his acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, in the Oval Office, seeing Maguire and his staff as disloyal for speaking to Congress about Russia’s perceived preference,” [Ellen Nakashima, Shane Harris, Josh Dawsey and Anne Gearan report](#). **“The intelligence official’s analysis and Trump’s furious response ruined Maguire’s chances of becoming the permanent intelligence chief.** ... It was not clear what specific steps, if any, U.S. intelligence officials think Russia may have taken to help Trump. ... Trump announced on Wednesday that he was replacing Maguire with a vocal loyalist, Richard Grenell. ... Maguire, a career official who is respected by the intelligence rank and file, was considered a leading candidate to be nominated to the post of DNI, White House aides had said. ...

**“The official, Shelby Pierson, said several times during the briefing that Russia had ‘developed a preference’ for Trump.** ... That conclusion was part of a broader discussion of election security that also touched on when the U.S. government should warn Democratic candidates if they are being targeted by foreign governments. ... Trump

erroneously believed that Pierson had given the assessment exclusively to Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.). ... Trump also believed that the information would be helpful to Democrats if it were released publicly. ... Trump learned about Pierson's remarks from Rep. Devin Nunes (Calif.). ...

"Trump became angry with Maguire and blamed him for Pierson's remarks when the two met the next day during a special briefing for Trump on election security attended by officials from other agencies, but not Pierson. ... He said that Maguire should not have let the Capitol Hill briefing happen. ... **Trump told Maguire and other aides in the Oval Office that he did not believe Russia was interfering to help him or planning to do so**, and that the intelligence community was getting 'played.' ... He said that the information would be used against him unfairly and that he could not believe that people were believing such a story again, reflecting his opinion that Russian interference in 2016 was a 'hoax' made up by officials with a political agenda. ... Maguire struck an apologetic tone ...

"White House officials said Trump's decision to make Grenell the acting director rather than nominate him for the permanent position reflected concerns that he might not win confirmation in the Senate, given his polarizing reputation. ... The president told reporters aboard Air Force One that **Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.), a staunch Trump supporter who also is running for U.S. Senate, is [under consideration for the permanent post.](#)** ...

"The shake-up at the top of the intelligence community is the latest move in a post-impeachment purge. ... **The deputy national security adviser, Victoria Coates, has also been removed from her post** after some colleagues, including trade adviser Peter Navarro, accused her of being the author of 'Anonymous.' ... Coates has strenuously denied the accusation. She was moved to an advisory position in the Energy Department." Meanwhile, a former NSC aide who tried to discredit the Russia probe has been promoted. Kash Patel is now a senior adviser for Grenell, per [Politico](#). It's not clear what exact role Patel, who used to work

for Nunes, will play.

## **Breaking this morning: The U.S. plans to sign a peace deal with the Taliban on Feb. 29.**

The deal will pass as long as a week-long reduction in violence across the country holds, according to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. [Susannah George and John Hudson report](#): “The violence reduction, the decisive condition of the possible peace deal, is set to begin early Saturday — just after midnight, according to Afghanistan's National Security Council and a senior State Department official. ‘U.S. negotiators in Doha have come to an understanding with the Taliban on a significant and nationwide reduction in violence across Afghanistan,’ Pompeo said in a statement Friday, referring to U.S.-Taliban talks in the Qatari capital. ... The Taliban said ‘both parties will now create a suitable security situation in advance of agreement signing date, extend invitations to senior representatives of numerous countries and organizations to participate in the signing ceremony, make arrangements for the release of prisoners’ and prepare for intra-Afghan negotiations, according to the group's statement released to the media Friday. The U.S. military command in Kabul said it has nothing to announce at this time. ... The [week-long reduction in violence](#) will require the Taliban, the United States and Afghan government-aligned forces to largely cease all planned offensive operations nationwide.”





Roger Stone arrives for his sentencing on Thursday at the federal courthouse in Washington. (Marvin Joseph/The Washington Post)

## **Trump confidant and former adviser Roger Stone was sentenced to 40 months in prison.**

“The penalty from U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson comes after weeks of infighting over the politically charged case that threw the Justice Department into crisis, and it is likely not to be the final word. **Even before the sentencing hearing began, Trump seemed to suggest on Twitter that he might pardon Stone,**” [Rachel Weiner](#), [Matt Zapposky](#), [Tom Jackman](#) and [Devlin Barrett](#) report. “With the proceedings ongoing, Trump questioned whether his ally was **being treated fairly**. Afterward, he attacked the jury in the case and said he would ‘love to see Roger exonerated.’ ... In a lengthy speech before imposing the penalty, Jackson seemed to take aim at Trump, saying Stone ‘was not prosecuted for standing up for the president; he was prosecuted for covering up for the president.’ She also appeared to call out Attorney General William P. Barr, saying his intervention to reduce career prosecutors’ sentencing recommendation was ‘unprecedented.’ But she said the politics surrounding the case had not influenced her decision.”

**“Stone did not speak in court and showed no visible emotion as**

**the sentence was read.** Emerging from the courtroom in a wide-striped suit and polka-dot tie, he appeared calm. ‘I have nothing to say,’ Stone said. ... Stone, 67, was convicted by a federal jury on seven counts of lying to Congress and tampering with a witness about his efforts to learn about hacked Democratic emails related to Clinton. ... Stone, his wife and a large entourage exited the courthouse to a large crowd of photographers, supporters and antagonists. As he climbed into an SUV, protesters shouted ‘Lock him up!’ while supporters yelled ‘Pardon Roger Stone!’ ...

“**Stone requested a new trial last week**, after Trump suggested the forewoman in Stone’s case had ‘significant bias.’ Jackson, the judge, said previously that she would delay implementing his sentence until she resolves that request. A filing is due from Stone’s defense team Monday. In addition to prison, Jackson ordered Stone to pay a \$20,000 fine and serve two years of supervised release. He remains out of prison on bond, and even if he loses his motion for a new trial, he will have at least two weeks to turn himself in — unless an appeal further delays things.”

**The Justice Department breathed a sigh of relief as Stone’s sentence hit Barr’s target.** “It was messier than we wanted, but we ended up in the same place,’ said one senior official,” [Barrett and Zapotosky report](#). “Another Justice Department official called Stone’s sentence a ‘vindication’ of the attorney general’s decision last week to insert himself into the process, calling for a revised sentencing memorandum that undercut the line prosecutors’ prior recommendation of seven to nine years in prison. ... **After a week of nervous tension atop the agency, anxiety levels have dropped, at least for the moment.** ... Senior Justice Department officials are, however, increasingly resigned to the idea that Trump is likely to continue upbraiding the department and the FBI, and that it may be a staple of his reelection campaign rhetoric — the odd spectacle of an incumbent president bashing his own Justice Department.”

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**Quote of the day**

*“The truth still exists; the truth still matters,” Judge Jackson said. “Roger Stone’s insistence that it doesn’t, his belligerence, his pride in his own lies are a threat to our most fundamental institutions, to the foundations of our democracy. If it goes unpunished, it will not be a victory for one party or another. Everyone loses. ... The dismay and disgust at the defendant’s belligerence should transcend party.”*

## **Former congressman Dana Rohrabacher confirmed that he offered a Trump pardon to Julian Assange.**

“Rohrabacher (R-Calif.) said his goal during the meeting was to find proof for a widely debunked conspiracy theory: that WikiLeaks’ real source for the DNC emails was not Russian intelligence agents, as U.S. officials have since concluded, but former DNC staffer Seth Rich, who was murdered on the streets of Washington in July 2016 in what police believe was a botched robbery,” [Yahoo News reports](#).

## **Rudy Giuliani’s work for a candidate in the Dominican Republic raised eyebrows amid the Ukraine swirl.**

“The politics of this Caribbean island nation do not frequently capture the attention of the stewards of America’s foreign policy, but Secretary of State Mike Pompeo phoned down last summer with a clear message,” [Joshua Partlow and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Dominican President Danilo Medina’s supporters were pushing to change the country’s constitution to allow him to run for an unprecedented third term. In a call with the president, Pompeo emphasized the importance of ‘adherence to rule of law and the constitution,’ according to a [State Department readout](#). That message was echoed a week later in person by [Giuliani]. ... [But] Giuliani was not in the Dominican Republic as Trump’s representative. He was speaking as a paid consultant to an opposition presidential candidate.”

## **A man was charged with making death threats against the Ukraine whistleblower’s attorney.**

A day after Trump lashed out against Mark Zaid during a 2019 rally, the

attorney received a disquieting email. “All traitors must die miserable deaths,” the message read. “Those that represent traitors shall meet the same fate. We will hunt you down and bleed you out like the pigs you are.” Federal prosecutors have indicted Brittan J. Atkinson and accused him of sending the message. ([Reis Thebault](#))

## **Mick Mulvaney said the U.S. is “desperate” for more legal immigrants.**

The acting White House chief of staff told a crowd at a gathering in England that the Trump administration “needs more immigration” for the U.S. economy to continue growing, according to audio of his remarks [obtained by Nick Miroff and Josh Dawsey](#). “‘We are desperate — desperate — for more people,’ Mulvaney said. ‘We are running out of people to fuel the economic growth that we’ve had in our nation over the last four years. We need more immigrants.’ The Trump administration wants those immigrants to come in a ‘legal fashion,’ Mulvaney said. ... Mulvaney’s remarks appear in contrast to the public position of several top figures in Trump’s White House — especially that of senior policy adviser Stephen Miller. ... Mulvaney’s private remarks were more in line with conventional GOP views of immigration as a major engine for the U.S. economy. ... He praised the immigration systems in Canada and Australia and said the Trump administration wants the United States to embrace a model closer to those nations.”

## **Trump’s “Remain in Mexico” program is dwindling as more migrants are sent to Guatemala.**

“Immigration attorneys and migrant advocates say the Trump administration is phasing out its year-old Migrant Protection Protocols policy, ... instead prioritizing newer, more restrictive programs that make qualifying for asylum in the United States extremely difficult,” [Arelis R. Hernández and Kevin Sieff report](#). “‘MPP is dying,’ said Charlene D’Cruz, a lawyer who represents Central American asylum seekers and has advocated for dozens of vulnerable migrants to be removed from the program and allowed into the United States. ‘And something worse is taking its place. Everything is changing.’”

**A Mexican man just became the seventh immigrant to die in ICE custody since October.** [BuzzFeed News](#) reported that the preliminary cause appears to be suicide. He was 34.

## **The State Department delayed the visa of a renowned German professor and far-right extremism expert.**

Academic Hajo Funke delivered documentation for a visa to the U.S. Consulate in Berlin in November 2019, [Moriah Balingit reports](#). But when the consulate returned his passport, “it was accompanied not by a visa but by a letter that said a decision about his visa had been delayed for three to six months. The two classes he was set to teach — one on far-right populism and another on political memory in Germany — were in jeopardy.” The professor finally got his visa granted Thursday, but questions have been raised about what prompted the delay. Last year, Funke “[wrote an article](#) for the website of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies at Johns Hopkins University linking violence in Charlottesville, where a white nationalist rally turned deadly in 2017, to [Trump’s election]. He has also visited Iran ... for an academic conference and to visit the family of his wife, who emigrated from Iran to Germany in the 1980s and is now a German citizen.”

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## **More on 2020**



Elizabeth Warren signs a cardboard cutout of herself at her campaign office in North Las Vegas on Thursday. (John Locher/AP)

## **Warren flip-flopped on outside money, refusing to disavow a new super PAC.**

Warren refused to disavow a new super PAC created to support her candidacy after spending a year criticizing her Democratic rivals for not disavowing super PACs set up to help them. “We reached the point a few weeks ago, where all of the men who were still in this race, and on the debate stage, all had either super PACs or they were multi-billionaires, and could just rummage around in their sock drawers and find enough money to be able to fund a campaign,” the senator told reporters. “And the only people who didn't have them were the two women. And at that point, there are some women saying, you know, that's just not right.” [CNN reports](#) that Persist PAC will spend more than \$1 million to air a biography-focused television ad that links Warren to Obama.

During Thursday night's CNN town hall, Warren said Bloomberg's refusal to release former employees from nondisclosure agreements is disqualifying. She showed up with her own version of a “release and covenant not to sue” document for him to sign and release his past

employees from their NDAs. She even offered to text it to him. Warren said that if Bloomberg is ultimately the nominee, [she'll support him](#), but added that “what we’ve got right now is a chance for the Nevada voters to make sure that Michael Bloomberg is not our nominee, and that’s what I’m asking.”

### **Warren desperately needed a post-debate cash infusion.**

Warren’s campaign says her fiery performance Wednesday has turned February into her best fundraising month yet. “But January figures show the Massachusetts senator was in deep trouble before her sudden apparent reversal — so much so that her campaign took out a \$3 million line of credit and tapped into \$400,000 of it as a loan, as contingency cash before the Iowa caucuses. She spent more than double (\$22.3 million) the amount she raised (\$10.8 million) in January,” [per Michelle Ye Hee Lee and Anu Narayanswamy](#).

### **Two Bloomborgs are running for president at the same time.**

“One is the tough, get-it-done, rich guy who stars in \$340 million worth of advertising, emotes in scripted speeches and is praised daily by his surrogate army,” [write Michael Scherer, Josh Dawsey and Michael Kranish](#). “The other is the sometimes bumbling, frequently ineffective and often peevish politician who showed up Wednesday night, operating on the fly. ... Bloomberg’s advisers, well aware of his uneven public performance as New York mayor, have tried to reconcile the two identities. They have scripted a campaign message that focuses heavily on the sheer scale of his operation and power of his purse, not the campaign talents of the candidate. On the trail, he boasts of having ‘the record and the resources’ to challenge Trump, not the heart or the passion.”

**“So, how was *your* night last night?”** Bloomberg asked a crowd in Salt Lake City Thursday night. [\(AP\)](#)

### **Conservatives have learned to wield power inside Facebook.**

“Trump and other party leaders have pressured Facebook by making unproven claims of bias against conservatives amid rising signs of government action on the issue, including investigations by Congress and the Justice Department. Republicans also have leveraged Facebook’s fears of alienating conservative Americans to win concessions from a company whose most widely shared news content typically includes stories from Fox News and other right-leaning sources,” [Craig Timberg reports](#). “These sensitivities — in conjunction with the company’s long-standing resistance to acting as ‘an arbiter of truth’ — have affected Facebook’s responses to a range of major issues, from how to address fake news and Russian manipulation of American voters on the platform to, more recently, the advertising policies that have set the political ground rules for the 2020 election, say people privy to internal debates. ... Critics — both outside Facebook and within its ranks — see something more akin to corporate realpolitik, a willingness to accede to political demands in an era when Republicans control most levers of power in Washington.”

### **Twitter is testing new ways to fight misinformation.**

“Twitter is experimenting with adding brightly colored labels directly beneath lies and misinformation posted by politicians and other public figures,” [according to a demo sent to NBC News](#). “Twitter confirmed that the leaked demo, which was accessible on a publicly available site, is one possible iteration of a new policy to target misinformation. The company does not have a date to roll out any new misinformation features. In this version, disinformation or misleading information posted by public figures would be corrected directly beneath a tweet by fact-checkers and journalists who are verified on the platform and possibly by other users who would participate in a new ‘community reports’ feature, which the demo claims is ‘like Wikipedia.’”

### **Quinnipiac polling shows Trump running strong in the Rust Belt.**

The president leads in head-to-head matchups against the top Democratic candidates in Wisconsin, loses or trails within the margin of error in Pennsylvania, and is locked in tight competitions in Michigan.



## The coronavirus



### **Infected Americans were flown home from Japan against the CDC's advice.**

“In the wee hours of a rainy Monday, more than a dozen buses sat on the tarmac at Tokyo’s Haneda Airport. Inside, 328 weary Americans wearing surgical masks and gloves waited anxiously to fly home after weeks in quarantine aboard the Diamond Princess, the luxury liner where the novel [coronavirus](#) had exploded into a shipwide epidemic,” [Lena Sun, Lenny Bernstein, Shibani Mahtani and Joel Achenbach report](#). “But as the buses idled, U.S. officials wrestled with troubling news. New test results showed that 14 passengers were infected with the virus. The U.S. State Department had promised that no one with the infection would be allowed to board the planes. ... In Washington, where it was still Sunday afternoon, a fierce debate broke out: The State Department and a top Trump administration health official wanted to forge ahead. The infected passengers [had no symptoms](#) and could be segregated on the plane in a plastic-lined enclosure. But officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention disagreed, contending they could still spread the [virus](#). The CDC believed the 14 should not be flown back with uninfected passengers.

**... The State Department won the argument. But unhappy CDC officials demanded to be left out of the news release that explained that infected people were being flown back to the United States** — a move that would nearly double the number of [known coronavirus cases](#) in this country.”

## **A coronavirus outbreak in Chinese prisons raised alarm.**

“Chinese authorities on Friday reported hundreds of new coronavirus infections at prisons around the country,” [Gerry Shih reports](#). “A handful of prisons reported nearly 500 new cases, a significant portion of the more than 1,100 new cases reported in mainland China on Friday — and a marked increase after several days of declines. Tests at a prison in eastern Shandong province showed 207 out of 2,077 inmates and staff were infected, and the provincial justice department’s Communist Party secretary was dismissed as a result. ... Another jail in Zhejiang province found 34 cases. Hubei province, at the center of the outbreak, said Friday it found 220 new cases inside penitentiaries. ...

**“In South Korea, new cases skyrocketed,** bringing the national total to 204, as worries mounted that the country is becoming a new hot spot. Many of the new cases have been traced to ... a regional branch of a fringe religious sect named Shincheonji Church of God in the southern city of Daegu, according to the KCDC. The church’s founder Lee Man-hee called the outbreak ‘the devil’s deed to curb the rapid growth of Shincheonji,’ in an [internal message](#) published by South Korea’s Yonhap News Agency on Friday. Daegu city and surrounding North Gyeongsang province have been designated ‘special care zones’ after a jump in cases in the area, Prime Minister Chung Sye Kyun said earlier Friday.”

## **Chinese researchers could submit a vaccine for clinical trials in late April.**

“Animal models of mice and monkeys infected with the novel coronavirus have also been constructed, which will provide support for drug screening, vaccine development and research on viral transmission mechanism.

China set up a coronavirus scientific research group about one month ago, with 14 experts led by renowned pulmonologist Zhong Nanshan,” [Liu Yang reports](#).

## **Confusion continues to grow over China’s counting methods, as infection numbers swing wildly.**

“Early Friday, China’s National Health Commission reported new infections increased again to 889. There are now a cumulative total of 75,465 infections and 2,236 deaths, mostly in Hubei province, the agency said. Hubei authorities have changed their criteria for counting cases twice in the past week,” [Shih and Miriam Berger report](#). “The latest inconsistency — under which one city appeared to have more cases than the total in the province — apparently arose because Hubei province deducted cases that have not been confirmed through genetic tests from a total reported case number, which includes all diagnoses made by physicians using other methods. At best, the constant changes have frustrated scholars. At worst, they have raised suspicions.”

## **The USDA estimates that China will not buy as much U.S. farm output as Trump claims.**

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s chief economist, Robert Johansson, projected that agricultural exports to China would reach roughly \$14 billion in the year that ends Sept. 30, a \$4 billion increase from one year ago. But that amount would still fall far short of what White House officials said would take place based on the recently announced ‘Phase One’ trade deal with Chinese leaders,” [Laura Reiley reports](#). “White House officials have said agricultural exports to China would be between \$40 billion and \$50 billion in each of the next two years. Last year, when he was promising the trade deal would lead to a huge increase in purchases, Trump told farmers to buy ‘more land’ and ‘bigger tractors.’”

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## **Social media speed read**

After Trump attacked him again, former FBI director James Comey posted

an image from Mariah Carey's music video for her song "Obsessed":



Several of the 2020 candidates attacked Trump's response to the intelligence community's conclusion that Russia favors his reelection:



Obama's former political director celebrated Stone's sentence:



The New York Times has published an op-ed by the deputy leader of the Taliban: "What We, the Taliban, Want." The paper's senior Afghanistan correspondent criticized his own publication for running the piece:

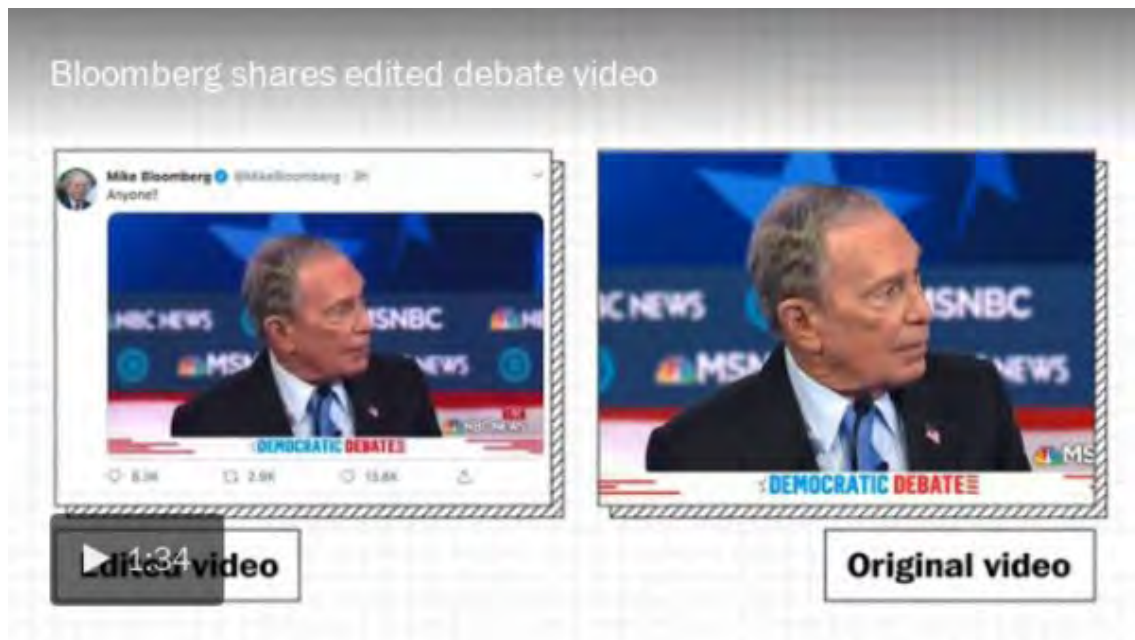


## Videos of the day

James Corden wondered if Democrats are headed to an Iowa-repeat in Nevada:



Mike Bloomberg's campaign posted a highly misleading video from the debate:



Trump complained that the movie "Parasite" won the Academy Award for best picture, even though it's not an American movie:



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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

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By **James Hohmann**  
with Mariana Alfaro  
 Email

## **Bernie Sanders shows some Trumpian tendencies as he refuses to release promised medical records**

He enjoys talking about his lead in the polls, the size of his crowds and his number of Twitter followers. He routinely criticizes the mainstream media and insists he cannot control his most zealous supporters online. Most people in his adopted party don't want him to be their nominee, but the establishment cannot agree on who is best to stop him.



Elizabeth Warren likened Mike Bloomberg to President Trump at the top of Wednesday night's debate, warning Democrats not to substitute one "arrogant billionaire" with a [history of misogyny](#) for another. But it was Bernie Sanders who displayed flashes of his Trumpian side during the two-hour clash. The most significant illustration of this came as the senator from Vermont sought to justify his refusal to release his full medical records.



Bernie Sanders delivers his victory speech after winning the New Hampshire primary last week. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

The 78-year-old would be the oldest president ever elected. Sanders suffered a heart attack in October just a few miles from the site of the debate, but his campaign refused to acknowledge the extent of what happened until three days later – late on a Friday. During the two weeks he spent recuperating at home, the senator [told CNN's Sanjay Gupta](#) that the American people have a right to "full disclosure" about the health of someone running for president. "And we will make, at the appropriate time, all of our medical records public for you or anybody else who wants to see them," he said.

On New Year's Eve, Sanders released summary [letters from three](#)

[physicians](#) that concluded he's healthy enough to be president. That's far from his full medical records. Now leading in the national polls, after winning the most votes in the first two states, Sanders says that will have to suffice for people worried about his physical fitness to be commander in chief.

**NBC correspondent Hallie Jackson, one of the debate moderators, noted that Sanders has attacked Trump for refusing to release his tax returns. "What," she asked, "happened to *your* promise of full transparency?"**

After thanking the doctors who took care of him, **Sanders began his answer with the kind of whataboutism that we've grown to expect from Trump.** "I think the one area maybe that Mayor Bloomberg and I share, you have two stents, as well," he said. The former New York mayor, who has never had a heart attack, replied that those were installed two decades ago. "Well, we both have two stents," Sanders replied. "It's a procedure that is done about a million times a year."

**Then the septuagenarian claimed he's released "the full report" of "all of my history," which he has not.** Sanders finished his answer by challenging anyone who doubts that he can deal with the stress of being president to "follow me around" on the campaign trail. "See how you're doing compared to me," he said.

**When John McCain ran for president in 2008, the then-72-year-old allowed reporters to review [1,173 pages](#) of his medical records.** But Trump, too, would only release [a letter](#) in 2016 from his doctor that said he was "in excellent physical health." Like Sanders, he pointed to his stamina at rallies as evidence he was in good shape. He won anyway. The 73-year-old president raised a round of [fresh questions](#) about his medial status in November after making an unscheduled trip to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and then insisting that he merely wanted to get an early start on his physical.

**After kneecapping Bloomberg during Wednesday's debate,**

**Warren trained her fire toward Sanders on Thursday.** Asked what differentiates her from Sanders, she told MSNBC last night: “I get stuff done. ... I don't want to be president just to yell at people. I want to be president to change things.” During a gaggle with reporters earlier in the day in Las Vegas, Warren attacked Sanders for not releasing his full medical records. “He had made a promise,” she said. “I don't think that's a question of opinion. Those aren't medical records.”

**The 70-year-old senator from Massachusetts released a letter from her physician and five pages of supporting medical data last year.** Former vice president Joe Biden, 77, released a three-page letter from his physician outlining his current condition and medical history. The youngest candidate in the race, 38-year-old Pete Buttigieg, noted that Barack Obama released his full medical records and details of annual physicals. “President Trump lowered that standard,” Buttigieg said during the debate. “He said just a letter from a doctor is enough. And a lot of folks on this stage are now saying that's enough. But I am certainly prepared to get a physical and put out the results. I think everybody here should be willing to do the same.”

**When Sanders spokeswoman Briahna Joy Gray was pressed during a CNN appearance on Wednesday about why he hasn't put out more medical records, she called it a “smear.”** She even likened requests for more health information from Sanders to demands that Obama release his birth certificate.



Bernie Sanders speaks on Oct. 19 in Queens. It was his first big rally after the heart attack, which allowed him to reset his campaign and helped secure the endorsement of New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. (Jeenah Moon/Bloomberg)

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Content from [Partnership for America's Health Care Future](#)

## We Can't Afford Medicare for All



American families should not be forced to foot the bill for Medicare for All. And any new government insurance system would force them to pay more to wait longer for worse care.

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**To be sure, Trump and Sanders have vastly different agendas and stand on different sides of the ideological spectrum. It would**

be unfair to put too much emphasis on similarities. But one reason Sanders supporters like him, indisputably, is that he promises to fight Trump's fire with more fire. His Trumpian flashes this week foreshadow what the general election might look like if he won the nomination.

**Sanders has been attacked for more than a week now after some of his supporters harassed Culinary Union officials on social media after they criticized his Medicare-for-all plan.**

Asked about this during the debate, Sanders distanced himself. "We have over 10.6 million people on Twitter, and 99.9 percent of them are decent human beings," he said. "And if there are a few people who make ugly remarks, who attack trade union leaders, I disown those people. They are not part of our movement."

**Then he deflected in a way that seemed reminiscent of how Trump has deflected in the face of similar attacks.** Sanders said his own surrogates, especially women of color, face similarly vicious attacks online. "And let me say something else about this, not being too paranoid," he added. "All of us remember 2016, and what we remember is efforts by Russians and others to try to interfere in our election and divide us up. I'm not saying that's happening, but it would not shock me."

**Experts say there's no evidence of Russians masquerading as Bernie Bros.** "Absent direct evidence, researchers said Sanders's comments threaten to foment further doubt about a campaign that has been buffeted by confidence-shaking missteps, beginning with the technical glitches that marred the Iowa caucuses earlier this month," [Isaac Stanley-Becker and Tony Romm report](#). "Facebook spokesman Andy Stone said Thursday it also had not seen evidence of Russian trolls masquerading as Sanders supporters. Twitter spokeswoman Katie Rosborough said the company would 'disclose' activity by Russia or other foreign actors if it had 'reasonable evidence of state-backed information operations.' ... Researchers have found some of the most divisive tweets and memes during the 2020 election originate with specific, verified Sanders supporters. That includes the viral #mayorcheat hashtag that attacked Buttigieg for ties between the former mayor's presidential

campaign and Iowa caucus organizers, said Ben Nimmo, director of investigations at Graphika.”

“The problem we face is the impression of meddling can be as damaging to the legitimacy of an election as meddling itself,” said Jessica Brandt, the head of policy and research at the Alliance for Securing Democracy, an arm of the German Marshall Fund.

House minority whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) recalled Thursday that he was wounded by a Sanders supporter during baseball practice 2017:



**Both Trump and Sanders didn’t adopt the parties they now lead until late in life.** Sanders, [who still hasn’t formally become a Democrat](#), reportedly considered a primary challenge against Obama from the left in 2011 more seriously than he’s acknowledged. In 1987, Sanders – as a mayor of Burlington, Vt., -- told the University of Vermont student newspaper that he was “[physically nauseated](#)” as a young man when he watched John F. Kennedy speak out against Fidel Castro’s revolution in Cuba. He said this was a factor in his decision to work outside the party system. That same year, Trump paid to run full-page ads in The Washington Post [attacking Ronald Reagan’s foreign policy](#) for lacking “backbone.”

Ironically, Trump now touts Reagan and Sanders is currently airing a television commercial that likens him to Kennedy. After playing the sound

bite from the speech in which Kennedy said that “we choose to go to the moon ... not because it is easy but because it is hard,” Sanders narrates: “President Kennedy knew that settling for half-measures wasn't good enough. So when candidates say we can't guarantee health care for all, make college affordable for all, combat climate change, or create a world at peace, remember: America is best when we strive to do big things, even when it's hard.”



**The debate again put in stark relief the collective action problem facing those who want to be the leading Sanders alternative, a dynamic I wrote about on the eve of the New Hampshire primary.** Bloomberg's spotty performance will prevent him from consolidating support in that lane. Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar went after each other because both are running close to even and competing for the same set of voters. It was the most-watched Democratic debate ever, with nearly **20 million people** tuning into the telecast on NBC and MSNBC. The Sanders campaign said it raised \$2.7 million from about 150,000 donors on Wednesday, his best haul of any of the nine debate days this cycle.

**Of the six candidates onstage, Sanders was the only one who said the person with the most pledged delegates going into the**

**convention this summer should definitely be the nominee.** This represents a reversal from 2016 when he trailed Hillary Clinton among pledged delegates but thought he might persuade superdelegates that he'd be more electable. "What's clear out of [Wednesday] night is, it's hard to see what forces will stop Bernie from becoming the front-runner and just as hard to see how there will be any consolidation into a single candidate to oppose him," said Robby Mook, who was Clinton's campaign manager.

"The dawning realization for many in the party is that what Democrats had envisioned as a jubilant national convention in Milwaukee ... has the potential to turn into a pitched battle among multiple candidates and their supporters, each representing dueling ideological wings of the party and convinced that the other side would lose to Trump," [Matt Viser, Dan Balz and Annie Linskey report](#). **"Top campaigns have not only staffed up with delegate experts to guide them through the intricacies of the primaries, but they also have built legal teams preparing to challenge any results that don't go their way,** according to interviews with 16 top party officials and strategists. And in preparation for a contested convention, some campaigns have started to reach out to superdelegates, in an attempt to secure support for a second ballot when they would come into play."







**Former Senate majority leader Harry Reid said no candidate should be given the nomination without winning an outright majority of delegates.** “I don’t think that anybody — Bernie Sanders or anyone else — should simply get the nomination because they have 30 percent of the delegates and no one else has that many,” the Nevada Democrat told Paul Kane during [an interview in his office at the Bellagio hotel](#). “We have to let the system work its way out. I do not believe anyone should get the nomination unless they have 50-plus-one.” Reid added that moderates could align themselves in an attempt to combine their delegates and overtake Sanders.

**A favorite parlor game for Washington elites right now is speculating about how badly Sanders might lose in a general election.** Veterans Democratic operatives wonder whether Democrats would lose the House if he’s at the top of the ticket. Many of them privately fear a blowout more akin to Michael Dukakis’s in 1988 than George McGovern’s in 1972. These conversations sound similar to the ones Republican operatives had as Trump took over their party four years ago.

**Republicans are increasingly using Sanders as a foil to target down-ballot Democrats.** “Arizona Sen. Martha McSally launched a TV

ad titled ‘Bernie Bro’ likening her Democratic opponent, retired astronaut Mark Kelly, to the Vermont senator,” [Politico’s Alex Isenstadt notes](#).

“North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis held a press conference last week linking his Democratic rivals to the Sanders-backed Green New Deal. In Michigan, a conservative group has aired a series of commercials that go after Democratic Sen. Gary Peters by invoking Sanders and his support for Medicare for All. And the Republican State Leadership Committee, which focuses on state legislative races, has been running digital ads asking whether down-ballot Democrats in more than a half-dozen states are ‘feeling burned yet’ — a take on the Sanders mantra, ‘Feel the Bern.’”

**Sanders is dismissive of electability concerns.** Asked during the debate about a poll that showed two-thirds of Americans uncomfortable with a socialist president, Sanders replied that the same poll showed him winning. “You might mention that,” he told NBC moderator Lester Holt. Indeed, [the NBC-Wall Street Journal poll](#) showed Sanders leading among Democratic primary voters, with 27 percent, followed by four candidates bunched together with support between 15 percent to 13 percent. It also found Sanders beating Trump 50 percent to 46 percent in a hypothetical head-to-head matchup, which was within the margin of error. The same survey discovered that 67 percent said they have “reservations” or are “very uncomfortable” with a socialist candidate, 57 percent said the same about someone who had a heart attack in the last year and 53 percent said the same about someone who's older than 75.

After Buttigieg accused Sanders of wanting “to burn this party down,” Holt asked Sanders whether he’s polarizing. “If speaking to the needs and the pain of a long-neglected working class is polarizing,” he said, “I think you got the wrong word.”

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## The Trump presidency



## **A senior U.S. intelligence official said Russia wants to see Trump reelected.**

“After learning of that analysis, which was provided to House lawmakers in a classified hearing, Trump grew angry at his acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, in the Oval Office, seeing Maguire and his staff as disloyal for speaking to Congress about Russia’s perceived preference,” [Ellen Nakashima, Shane Harris, Josh Dawsey and Anne Gearan report](#). **“The intelligence official’s analysis and Trump’s furious response ruined Maguire’s chances of becoming the permanent intelligence chief.** ... It was not clear what specific steps, if any, U.S. intelligence officials think Russia may have taken to help Trump. ... Trump announced on Wednesday that he was replacing Maguire with a vocal loyalist, Richard Grenell. ... Maguire, a career official who is respected by the intelligence rank and file, was considered a leading candidate to be nominated to the post of DNI, White House aides had said. ...

**“The official, Shelby Pierson, said several times during the briefing that Russia had ‘developed a preference’ for Trump.** ... That conclusion was part of a broader discussion of election security that also touched on when the U.S. government should warn Democratic candidates if they are being targeted by foreign governments. ... Trump

erroneously believed that Pierson had given the assessment exclusively to Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.). ... Trump also believed that the information would be helpful to Democrats if it were released publicly. ... Trump learned about Pierson's remarks from Rep. Devin Nunes (Calif.). ...

"Trump became angry with Maguire and blamed him for Pierson's remarks when the two met the next day during a special briefing for Trump on election security attended by officials from other agencies, but not Pierson. ... He said that Maguire should not have let the Capitol Hill briefing happen. ... **Trump told Maguire and other aides in the Oval Office that he did not believe Russia was interfering to help him or planning to do so**, and that the intelligence community was getting 'played.' ... He said that the information would be used against him unfairly and that he could not believe that people were believing such a story again, reflecting his opinion that Russian interference in 2016 was a 'hoax' made up by officials with a political agenda. ... Maguire struck an apologetic tone ...

"White House officials said Trump's decision to make Grenell the acting director rather than nominate him for the permanent position reflected concerns that he might not win confirmation in the Senate, given his polarizing reputation. ... The president told reporters aboard Air Force One that **Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.), a staunch Trump supporter who also is running for U.S. Senate, is under consideration for the permanent post.** ...

"The shake-up at the top of the intelligence community is the latest move in a post-impeachment purge. ... **The deputy national security adviser, Victoria Coates, has also been removed from her post** after some colleagues, including trade adviser Peter Navarro, accused her of being the author of 'Anonymous.' ... Coates has strenuously denied the accusation. She was moved to an advisory position in the Energy Department." Meanwhile, a former NSC aide who tried to discredit the Russia probe has been promoted. Kash Patel is now a senior adviser for Grenell, per [Politico](#). It's not clear what exact role Patel, who used to work for Nunes, will play.

## **Breaking this morning: The U.S. plans to sign a peace deal with the Taliban on Feb. 29.**

The deal will pass as long as a week-long reduction in violence across the country holds, according to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. [Susannah George and John Hudson report](#): “The violence reduction, the decisive condition of the possible peace deal, is set to begin early Saturday — just after midnight, according to Afghanistan's National Security Council and a senior State Department official. ‘U.S. negotiators in Doha have come to an understanding with the Taliban on a significant and nationwide reduction in violence across Afghanistan,’ Pompeo said in a statement Friday, referring to U.S.-Taliban talks in the Qatari capital. ... The Taliban said ‘both parties will now create a suitable security situation in advance of agreement signing date, extend invitations to senior representatives of numerous countries and organizations to participate in the signing ceremony, make arrangements for the release of prisoners’ and prepare for intra-Afghan negotiations, according to the group's statement released to the media Friday. The U.S. military command in Kabul said it has nothing to announce at this time. ... The [week-long reduction in violence](#) will require the Taliban, the United States and Afghan government-aligned forces to largely cease all planned offensive operations nationwide.”



Roger Stone arrives for his sentencing on Thursday at the federal courthouse in Washington. (Marvin Joseph/The Washington Post)

## **Trump confidant and former adviser Roger Stone was sentenced to 40 months in prison.**

“The penalty from U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson comes after weeks of infighting over the politically charged case that threw the Justice Department into crisis, and it is likely not to be the final word. **Even before the sentencing hearing began, Trump seemed to suggest on Twitter that he might pardon Stone,**” [Rachel Weiner](#), [Matt Zapposky](#), [Tom Jackman](#) and [Devlin Barrett](#) report. “With the proceedings ongoing, Trump questioned whether his ally was **being treated fairly**. Afterward, he attacked the jury in the case and said he would ‘love to see Roger exonerated.’ ... In a lengthy speech before imposing the penalty, Jackson seemed to take aim at Trump, saying Stone ‘was not prosecuted for standing up for the president; he was prosecuted for covering up for the president.’ She also appeared to call out Attorney General William P. Barr, saying his intervention to reduce career prosecutors’ sentencing recommendation was ‘unprecedented.’ But she said the politics surrounding the case had not influenced her decision.”

**“Stone did not speak in court and showed no visible emotion as**

**the sentence was read.** Emerging from the courtroom in a wide-striped suit and polka-dot tie, he appeared calm. ‘I have nothing to say,’ Stone said. ... Stone, 67, was convicted by a federal jury on seven counts of lying to Congress and tampering with a witness about his efforts to learn about hacked Democratic emails related to Clinton. ... Stone, his wife and a large entourage exited the courthouse to a large crowd of photographers, supporters and antagonists. As he climbed into an SUV, protesters shouted ‘Lock him up!’ while supporters yelled ‘Pardon Roger Stone!’ ...

**“Stone requested a new trial last week,** after Trump suggested the forewoman in Stone’s case had ‘significant bias.’ Jackson, the judge, said previously that she would delay implementing his sentence until she resolves that request. A filing is due from Stone’s defense team Monday. In addition to prison, Jackson ordered Stone to pay a \$20,000 fine and serve two years of supervised release. He remains out of prison on bond, and even if he loses his motion for a new trial, he will have at least two weeks to turn himself in — unless an appeal further delays things.”

**The Justice Department breathed a sigh of relief as Stone’s sentence hit Barr’s target.** “It was messier than we wanted, but we ended up in the same place,’ said one senior official,” [Barrett and Zapotosky report](#). “Another Justice Department official called Stone’s sentence a ‘vindication’ of the attorney general’s decision last week to insert himself into the process, calling for a revised sentencing memorandum that undercut the line prosecutors’ prior recommendation of seven to nine years in prison. ... **After a week of nervous tension atop the agency, anxiety levels have dropped, at least for the moment.** ... Senior Justice Department officials are, however, increasingly resigned to the idea that Trump is likely to continue upbraiding the department and the FBI, and that it may be a staple of his reelection campaign rhetoric — the odd spectacle of an incumbent president bashing his own Justice Department.”

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**Quote of the day**



*“The truth still exists; the truth still matters,” Judge Jackson said. “Roger Stone’s insistence that it doesn’t, his belligerence, his pride in his own lies are a threat to our most fundamental institutions, to the foundations of our democracy. If it goes unpunished, it will not be a victory for one party or another. Everyone loses. ... The dismay and disgust at the defendant’s belligerence should transcend party.”*

## **Former congressman Dana Rohrabacher confirmed that he offered a Trump pardon to Julian Assange.**

“Rohrabacher (R-Calif.) said his goal during the meeting was to find proof for a widely debunked conspiracy theory: that WikiLeaks’ real source for the DNC emails was not Russian intelligence agents, as U.S. officials have since concluded, but former DNC staffer Seth Rich, who was murdered on the streets of Washington in July 2016 in what police believe was a botched robbery,” [Yahoo News reports](#).

## **Rudy Giuliani’s work for a candidate in the Dominican Republic raised eyebrows amid the Ukraine swirl.**

“The politics of this Caribbean island nation do not frequently capture the attention of the stewards of America’s foreign policy, but Secretary of State Mike Pompeo phoned down last summer with a clear message,” [Joshua Partlow and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Dominican President Danilo Medina’s supporters were pushing to change the country’s constitution to allow him to run for an unprecedented third term. In a call with the president, Pompeo emphasized the importance of ‘adherence to rule of law and the constitution,’ according to a [State Department readout](#). That message was echoed a week later in person by [Giuliani]. ... [But] Giuliani was not in the Dominican Republic as Trump’s representative. He was speaking as a paid consultant to an opposition presidential candidate.”

## **A man was charged with making death threats against the Ukraine whistleblower’s attorney.**

A day after Trump lashed out against Mark Zaid during a 2019 rally, the

attorney received a disquieting email. “All traitors must die miserable deaths,” the message read. “Those that represent traitors shall meet the same fate. We will hunt you down and bleed you out like the pigs you are.” Federal prosecutors have indicted Brittan J. Atkinson and accused him of sending the message. ([Reis Thebault](#))

## **Mick Mulvaney said the U.S. is “desperate” for more legal immigrants.**

The acting White House chief of staff told a crowd at a gathering in England that the Trump administration “needs more immigration” for the U.S. economy to continue growing, according to audio of his remarks [obtained by Nick Miroff and Josh Dawsey](#). “‘We are desperate — desperate — for more people,’ Mulvaney said. ‘We are running out of people to fuel the economic growth that we’ve had in our nation over the last four years. We need more immigrants.’ The Trump administration wants those immigrants to come in a ‘legal fashion,’ Mulvaney said. ... Mulvaney’s remarks appear in contrast to the public position of several top figures in Trump’s White House — especially that of senior policy adviser Stephen Miller. ... Mulvaney’s private remarks were more in line with conventional GOP views of immigration as a major engine for the U.S. economy. ... He praised the immigration systems in Canada and Australia and said the Trump administration wants the United States to embrace a model closer to those nations.”

## **Trump’s “Remain in Mexico” program is dwindling as more migrants are sent to Guatemala.**

“Immigration attorneys and migrant advocates say the Trump administration is phasing out its year-old Migrant Protection Protocols policy, ... instead prioritizing newer, more restrictive programs that make qualifying for asylum in the United States extremely difficult,” [Arelis R. Hernández and Kevin Sieff report](#). “‘MPP is dying,’ said Charlene D’Cruz, a lawyer who represents Central American asylum seekers and has advocated for dozens of vulnerable migrants to be removed from the program and allowed into the United States. ‘And something worse is taking its place. Everything is changing.’”

**A Mexican man just became the seventh immigrant to die in ICE custody since October.** [BuzzFeed News](#) reported that the preliminary cause appears to be suicide. He was 34.

## **The State Department delayed the visa of a renowned German professor and far-right extremism expert.**

Academic Hajo Funke delivered documentation for a visa to the U.S. Consulate in Berlin in November 2019, [Moriah Balingit reports](#). But when the consulate returned his passport, “it was accompanied not by a visa but by a letter that said a decision about his visa had been delayed for three to six months. The two classes he was set to teach — one on far-right populism and another on political memory in Germany — were in jeopardy.” The professor finally got his visa granted Thursday, but questions have been raised about what prompted the delay. Last year, Funke “[wrote an article](#) for the website of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies at Johns Hopkins University linking violence in Charlottesville, where a white nationalist rally turned deadly in 2017, to [Trump’s election]. He has also visited Iran ... for an academic conference and to visit the family of his wife, who emigrated from Iran to Germany in the 1980s and is now a German citizen.”

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## **More on 2020**



Elizabeth Warren signs a cardboard cutout of herself at her campaign office in North Las Vegas on Thursday. (John Locher/AP)

## **Warren flip-flopped on outside money, refusing to disavow a new super PAC.**

Warren refused to disavow a new super PAC created to support her candidacy after spending a year criticizing her Democratic rivals for not disavowing super PACs set up to help them. “We reached the point a few weeks ago, where all of the men who were still in this race, and on the debate stage, all had either super PACs or they were multi-billionaires, and could just rummage around in their sock drawers and find enough money to be able to fund a campaign,” the senator told reporters. “And the only people who didn't have them were the two women. And at that point, there are some women saying, you know, that's just not right.” [CNN reports](#) that Persist PAC will spend more than \$1 million to air a biography-focused television ad that links Warren to Obama.

During Thursday night's CNN town hall, Warren said Bloomberg's refusal to release former employees from nondisclosure agreements is disqualifying. She showed up with her own version of a “release and covenant not to sue” document for him to sign and release his past

employees from their NDAs. She even offered to text it to him. Warren said that if Bloomberg is ultimately the nominee, [she'll support him](#), but added that “what we’ve got right now is a chance for the Nevada voters to make sure that Michael Bloomberg is not our nominee, and that’s what I’m asking.”

### **Warren desperately needed a post-debate cash infusion.**

Warren’s campaign says her fiery performance Wednesday has turned February into her best fundraising month yet. “But January figures show the Massachusetts senator was in deep trouble before her sudden apparent reversal — so much so that her campaign took out a \$3 million line of credit and tapped into \$400,000 of it as a loan, as contingency cash before the Iowa caucuses. She spent more than double (\$22.3 million) the amount she raised (\$10.8 million) in January,” [per Michelle Ye Hee Lee and Anu Narayanswamy](#).

### **Two Bloomborgs are running for president at the same time.**

“One is the tough, get-it-done, rich guy who stars in \$340 million worth of advertising, emotes in scripted speeches and is praised daily by his surrogate army,” [write Michael Scherer, Josh Dawsey and Michael Kranish](#). “The other is the sometimes bumbling, frequently ineffective and often peevish politician who showed up Wednesday night, operating on the fly. ... Bloomberg’s advisers, well aware of his uneven public performance as New York mayor, have tried to reconcile the two identities. They have scripted a campaign message that focuses heavily on the sheer scale of his operation and power of his purse, not the campaign talents of the candidate. On the trail, he boasts of having ‘the record and the resources’ to challenge Trump, not the heart or the passion.”

**“So, how was *your* night last night?”** Bloomberg asked a crowd in Salt Lake City Thursday night. [\(AP\)](#)

### **Conservatives have learned to wield power inside Facebook.**

“Trump and other party leaders have pressured Facebook by making unproven claims of bias against conservatives amid rising signs of government action on the issue, including investigations by Congress and the Justice Department. Republicans also have leveraged Facebook’s fears of alienating conservative Americans to win concessions from a company whose most widely shared news content typically includes stories from Fox News and other right-leaning sources,” [Craig Timberg reports](#). “These sensitivities — in conjunction with the company’s long-standing resistance to acting as ‘an arbiter of truth’ — have affected Facebook’s responses to a range of major issues, from how to address fake news and Russian manipulation of American voters on the platform to, more recently, the advertising policies that have set the political ground rules for the 2020 election, say people privy to internal debates. ... Critics — both outside Facebook and within its ranks — see something more akin to corporate realpolitik, a willingness to accede to political demands in an era when Republicans control most levers of power in Washington.”

### **Twitter is testing new ways to fight misinformation.**

“Twitter is experimenting with adding brightly colored labels directly beneath lies and misinformation posted by politicians and other public figures,” [according to a demo sent to NBC News](#). “Twitter confirmed that the leaked demo, which was accessible on a publicly available site, is one possible iteration of a new policy to target misinformation. The company does not have a date to roll out any new misinformation features. In this version, disinformation or misleading information posted by public figures would be corrected directly beneath a tweet by fact-checkers and journalists who are verified on the platform and possibly by other users who would participate in a new ‘community reports’ feature, which the demo claims is ‘like Wikipedia.’”

### **[Quinnipiac polling](#) shows Trump running strong in the Rust Belt.**

The president leads in head-to-head matchups against the top Democratic candidates in Wisconsin, loses or trails within the margin of error in Pennsylvania, and is locked in tight competitions in Michigan.

## The coronavirus



### **Infected Americans were flown home from Japan against the CDC's advice.**

“In the wee hours of a rainy Monday, more than a dozen buses sat on the tarmac at Tokyo’s Haneda Airport. Inside, 328 weary Americans wearing surgical masks and gloves waited anxiously to fly home after weeks in quarantine aboard the Diamond Princess, the luxury liner where the novel coronavirus had exploded into a shipwide epidemic,” [Lena Sun, Lenny Bernstein, Shibani Mahtani and Joel Achenbach report](#). “But as the buses idled, U.S. officials wrestled with troubling news. New test results showed that 14 passengers were infected with the virus. The U.S. State Department had promised that no one with the infection would be allowed to board the planes. ... In Washington, where it was still Sunday afternoon, a fierce debate broke out: The State Department and a top Trump administration health official wanted to forge ahead. The infected passengers [had no symptoms](#) and could be segregated on the plane in a plastic-lined enclosure. But officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention disagreed, contending they could still spread the [virus](#). The CDC believed the 14 should not be flown back with uninfected passengers.

**... The State Department won the argument. But unhappy CDC officials demanded to be left out of the news release that explained that infected people were being flown back to the United States — a move that would nearly double the number of [known coronavirus cases](#) in this country.”**

### **A coronavirus outbreak in Chinese prisons raised alarm.**

“Chinese authorities on Friday reported hundreds of new coronavirus infections at prisons around the country,” [Gerry Shih reports](#). “A handful of prisons reported nearly 500 new cases, a significant portion of the more than 1,100 new cases reported in mainland China on Friday — and a marked increase after several days of declines. Tests at a prison in eastern Shandong province showed 207 out of 2,077 inmates and staff were infected, and the provincial justice department’s Communist Party secretary was dismissed as a result. ... Another jail in Zhejiang province found 34 cases. Hubei province, at the center of the outbreak, said Friday it found 220 new cases inside penitentiaries. ...

**“In South Korea, new cases skyrocketed,** bringing the national total to 204, as worries mounted that the country is becoming a new hot spot. Many of the new cases have been traced to ... a regional branch of a fringe religious sect named Shincheonji Church of God in the southern city of Daegu, according to the KCDC. The church’s founder Lee Man-hee called the outbreak ‘the devil’s deed to curb the rapid growth of Shincheonji,’ in an [internal message](#) published by South Korea’s Yonhap News Agency on Friday. Daegu city and surrounding North Gyeongsang province have been designated ‘special care zones’ after a jump in cases in the area, Prime Minister Chung Sye Kyun said earlier Friday.”

### **Chinese researchers could submit a vaccine for clinical trials in late April.**

“Animal models of mice and monkeys infected with the novel coronavirus have also been constructed, which will provide support for drug screening, vaccine development and research on viral transmission mechanism. China set up a coronavirus scientific research group about one month ago,



with 14 experts led by renowned pulmonologist Zhong Nanshan,” [Liu Yang reports](#).

## **Confusion continues to grow over China’s counting methods, as infection numbers swing wildly.**

“Early Friday, China’s National Health Commission reported new infections increased again to 889. There are now a cumulative total of 75,465 infections and 2,236 deaths, mostly in Hubei province, the agency said. Hubei authorities have changed their criteria for counting cases twice in the past week,” [Shih and Miriam Berger report](#). “The latest inconsistency — under which one city appeared to have more cases than the total in the province — apparently arose because Hubei province deducted cases that have not been confirmed through genetic tests from a total reported case number, which includes all diagnoses made by physicians using other methods. At best, the constant changes have frustrated scholars. At worst, they have raised suspicions.”

## **The USDA estimates that China will not buy as much U.S. farm output as Trump claims.**

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s chief economist, Robert Johansson, projected that agricultural exports to China would reach roughly \$14 billion in the year that ends Sept. 30, a \$4 billion increase from one year ago. But that amount would still fall far short of what White House officials said would take place based on the recently announced ‘Phase One’ trade deal with Chinese leaders,” [Laura Reiley reports](#). “White House officials have said agricultural exports to China would be between \$40 billion and \$50 billion in each of the next two years. Last year, when he was promising the trade deal would lead to a huge increase in purchases, Trump told farmers to buy ‘more land’ and ‘bigger tractors.’”

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## **Social media speed read**

After Trump attacked him again, former FBI director James Comey posted an image from Mariah Carey's music video for her song “Obsessed”:



Several of the 2020 candidates attacked Trump's response to the intelligence community's conclusion that Russia favors his reelection:



Obama's former political director celebrated Stone's sentence:



The New York Times has published an op-ed by the deputy leader of the Taliban: “What We, the Taliban, Want.” The paper's senior Afghanistan correspondent criticized his own publication for running the piece:



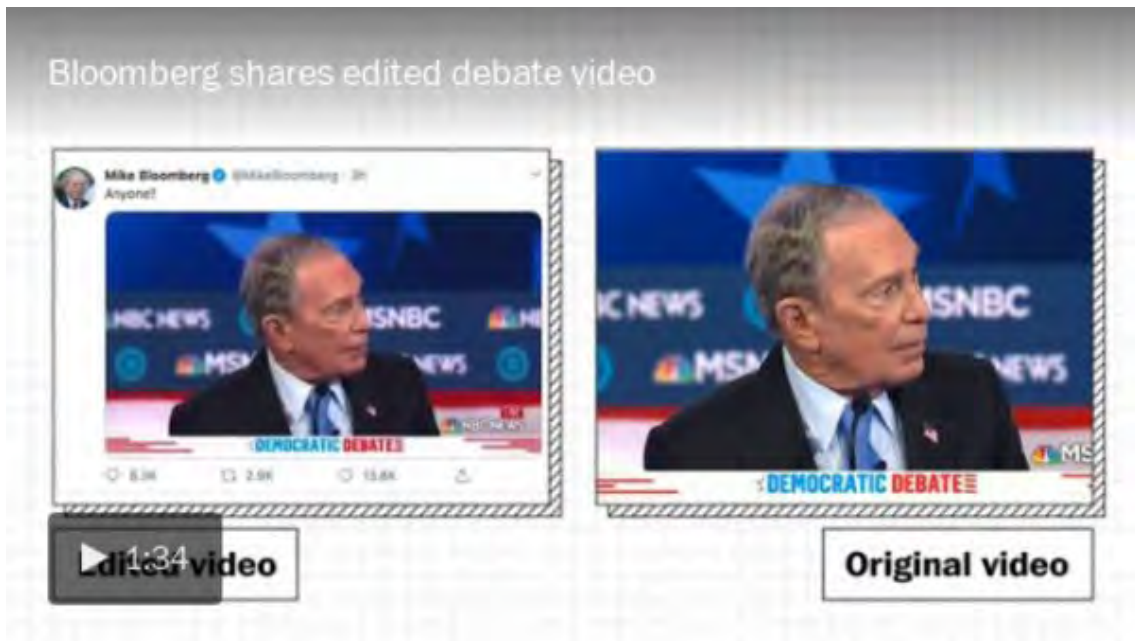
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## Videos of the day

James Corden wondered if Democrats are headed to an Iowa-repeat in Nevada:



Mike Bloomberg's campaign posted a highly misleading video from the debate:



Trump complained that the movie "Parasite" won the Academy Award for best picture, even though it's not an American movie:



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AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**ENERGYWIRE — Mon., February 24, 2020**

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### **3 things to watch in the Appalachian Trail pipeline fight**

A contentious battle over the Atlantic Coast pipeline's crossing beneath one of the nation's longest hiking trails arrives at the Supreme Court this morning. What will the justices do?

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#### **Developers kill Constitution pipeline project**

### 3. TEXAS:

#### **Fracking linked to increased sexually transmitted infections**

### 4. ELECTRICITY:

#### **Northeast keeps largest coal plant online**

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## POLITICS

### 5. PIPELINES:

#### **9 states weigh ALEC-backed plan targeting protesters**

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## TECHNOLOGY

### 6. ELECTRIC VEHICLES:

#### **Bill Gates backs mining company to support 'EVs at scale'**

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## ELECTRICITY

### 7. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

#### **Study: Offshore wind could power China's entire coast**

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### 9. COAL:

#### **Tribes turn to other heat sources after Ariz. mine closure**

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## FEDERAL AGENCIES

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## U.S. drops plan to sell energy leases near Utah bike trail

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By **James Hohmann**  
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## **Bernie Sanders built a diverse coalition to win Nevada. South Carolina offers a tougher test.**

COLUMBIA, S.C. – As Bernie Sanders cruised to a landslide victory in the Nevada caucuses on Saturday, Keith Ellison told volunteers here that a win in South Carolina’s primary would make the senator’s path to the Democratic presidential nomination essentially unstoppable. “We’re going to break it out,” he said, banging his hand on a table for emphasis.

Ellison, a former congressman who is now Minnesota’s attorney general after running unsuccessfully to be chairman of the Democratic National

Committee in 2017, warmed up a crowd of 120 at a Sanders rally in the fellowship hall at First Calvary Baptist Church. Next up was Sanders surrogate scholar-activist Cornel West, who was downright triumphal.

“The corporate media is telling lies about my dear brother Bernie Sanders: They call him a Bolshevik. That’s what they said about my brother Martin Luther King Jr.,” West said to a chorus of amens. “Get ready to get lied on, rebuked, scorned, attacked, assaulted. ... In some ways, that’s a compliment. It means they’ve got to take us seriously now. It also means that we’ve got momentum. And once you let that genie out, there ain’t no putting it back in.”

A field organizer announced that Sanders volunteers had knocked on 11,000 doors in South Carolina that day, and there was a palpable feeling in the room that their movement is on the cusp of [taking over](#) the Democratic Party.

It was a totally different vibe than four years ago for the independent senator from Vermont. After Sanders won the New Hampshire primary by 22 points in 2016, he lost the Nevada caucuses to Hillary Clinton by 5 points and then got trounced in the South Carolina primary by 47 points. The Sanders effort dragged on for three more months, but the crushing defeat here – which showed that he couldn’t break Clinton’s firewall with African Americans – was the beginning of the end.



Cornel West speaks Saturday in Columbia. (James Hohmann/The Washington Post)

Ellison and West stumped together for Sanders in 2016. But what made this event feel quite different was the presence of several African American state legislators who didn't endorse him four years ago. State Rep. Leon Howard, who chairs a state House committee that oversees public hospitals, talked about how much Medicare-for-all might help his constituents. "We have a real opportunity to win this election," he said. "South Carolina is the slingshot that will propel Senator Sanders to the White House," added state Rep. Ivory Thigpen.

Sanders supporter April Jones, 36, a stay-at-home mom in Columbia, said a lot of people here who reflexively backed Clinton last time are giving Sanders a serious look. "It's like if you're dating somebody," she explained. "You come back around a second time and you're like, 'Oh, I'm going to give you some new eyes because I kind of know you from before.' ... We're in even more of a crisis economically, in terms of inequality being so much worse, and he talked about all these same issues last time. Four years ago, people said his ideas were too radical, but now they're all mainstream

positions, so people kind of see him as a visionary.”

**Sanders’s sweeping win in the Silver State was powered by large numbers of first-time caucus-goers. He won 51 percent of Hispanics, 29 percent of whites and 27 percent of African Americans**, according to [entrance polls](#) of Democratic caucus-goers. Sanders got the support of 2 in 3 voters under 30 years old and carried every age group except those over 65, which went for Joe Biden. “In Nevada, we have just put together a multigenerational, multiracial coalition,” Sanders said during a rally in San Antonio after he was declared the winner. “It is going to sweep this country.”

First, though, all the candidates are sweeping into South Carolina. **After trying to lower expectations for the better part of a year, Sanders is now playing to win in the Palmetto State and plans to invest heavily in hopes of knocking out Biden.** After a televised debate in Charleston with all his rivals on Tuesday night, Sanders is scheduled to hold rallies in North Charleston and Myrtle Beach on Wednesday, Spartanburg on Thursday and Columbia on Friday, where he’ll speak on the steps of the state capitol. He is airing commercials in every media market.

**More than half the Democratic electorate this Saturday will be African American.** In 2016, exit polls show that Clinton won 86 percent of the black vote in South Carolina. Biden won 39 percent of black voters in Nevada on Saturday, 12 points better than Sanders. But that represented a major improvement for Sanders, who got only 22 percent of the black vote against Clinton in a two-way race there in 2016.



**Biden remains the favorite to win this first-in-the-South primary on Saturday, but Sanders is nipping at the former vice president's heels.** A CBS News-YouGov poll released Sunday puts Biden at 28 percent among likely voters, down 17 points from last month, with Sanders at 23 percent, up 8 points. Tom Steyer, the billionaire who didn't qualify for last week's debate but has spent more time and money in South Carolina than any other candidate, polled in third place, with 18 percent, followed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.) at 12 percent, former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg at 10 percent and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Minn.) at 4 percent. The poll found that 46 percent of likely

voters say they've definitely made up their minds, 45 percent said they've probably made up their minds and 7 percent said they'll probably end up changing their minds between now and the primary.

**Biden is making what could be a last stand.** He hopes that a win in South Carolina after his second-place finish in Nevada will give him momentum in the Southern states with large black populations that vote on March 3. "The African American community in South Carolina can make a judgment about who the next president of the United States is going to be," Biden told congregants on Sunday at the Royal Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston. "Literally!"

**I drove nearly 500 miles around South Carolina this weekend to take the pulse of the Democratic electorate, and the polling tracks with what I found anecdotally in more than two dozen interviews.**

**"Bernie Sanders obviously learned a lot from his loss here in 2016," said Trav Robertson Jr., the chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party.** "In 2016, they'd only come for groups that were 3,000 people or bigger. They transitioned into realizing that they've got to visit smaller communities of color. ... That's paying off for him, especially among younger African American voters."

We chatted Sunday night in Conway after a two-hour forum for candidate surrogates at the Mason Temple Church of God in Christ. Robertson, who is neutral, said **Our Revolution, the outside group created to boost Sanders after 2016, has been organizing in this state nonstop since the last presidential election.** He said that group, combined with the campaign's early investments in a field program, is an important part of the story for why Sanders has made "a hell of a lot of headway."

"Sanders, to a certain extent, has held true to his core values for 40 years, but he modified his campaign practices this time," Robertson said. "What we're going to find out in the next several days is whether or not Joe Biden's support is because of name ID and a positive feeling, especially

among older African American voters. ... The other question you've got to ask is: How big a win does Biden need to have going into Super Tuesday? I don't know."



Jim Clyburn arrives for a meeting with other House Democrats at the Capitol last month. (J. Scott Applewhite/AP)

### **With momentum comes scrutiny.**

**House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (S.C.), who is No. 3 in Democratic leadership and an ally of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, warned on the Sunday shows that Sanders and his brand of “socialism” could cost the party its House majority.** “I think it would be a real burden for us in these states or congressional districts that we have to do well in,” Clyburn said on ABC’s “This Week.” “If you look at how well we did the last time [in 2018] and look at the congressional districts, these were not liberal or what you might call progressive districts. These were basically moderate and conservative districts that we did well in.” Clyburn announced that he will reveal his endorsement on Wednesday morning – after the debate. [Politico reports](#) that he plans to endorse Biden.

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## Quote of the day

*“I don’t see a whole lot of 2016 in this election. I see a whole lot of 1972,” Clyburn told [the Charleston Post & Courier](#), comparing Sanders to George McGovern.*



**Buttigieg, who finished third in Nevada, is running an attack ad in South Carolina against Sanders over Medicare-for-all.** A narrator says Sanders would “eliminate private insurance” and kick “22 million seniors off of Medicare Advantage.” This is the first negative ad this election cycle that a Democrat has actually aired on television against a rival. “Senator Sanders’s revolution has the tenor of combat, division and polarization, a vision where whoever wins the day, nothing will change the toxic tone of our politics,” Buttigieg said Saturday night in Las Vegas.

**While Mike Bloomberg bore the brunt of attacks last week in Las Vegas, Sanders will probably be the focus of the most attacks during Tuesday’s debate,** which will air on CBS. But the collective action problem remains for the candidates who aspire to emerge as the main alternative to Sanders. Biden, Buttigieg, Warren, Klobuchar and Bloomberg, who does not appear on any ballots until Super Tuesday, all show no signs of backing down.

**Biden's campaign stepped up attacks on Sunday against Sanders for flirting with a primary challenge against Barack Obama in 2012 and for not detailing how he'd pay for his ambitious plans. And Warren sharpened her criticisms of Sanders during a rally in Denver on Sunday night.** "People ask about the difference between Bernie and me, because there are a lot of places where we agree about the things we want to fight for," she told a crowd of 4,000. "But here's a big [difference]: Bernie supports the filibuster. I'm going to get rid of the filibuster." During a gaggle with reporters afterward, though, Warren declined to call Sanders a "risky" choice for the nomination. Instead, she attacked Bloomberg.

**Steyer is an X factor.** He's qualified to appear onstage in Tuesday's debate and has made reparations for the descendants of slaves a centerpiece of his campaign.



**Even though he doesn't actually lead in the statewide polls here, Sanders dominates the conversation among Democratic voters. He provokes strong passions, both positive and negative.** Robyn Morgan, 41 of Pamplico, came to Warren's field office in Florence to go door-knocking with her 3-year-old daughter Hannah. She said she loves that "Warren has a plan for everything," especially universal childcare.

The student adviser at a small college complained that Sanders could never succeed with his temperament if he was a red-in-the-face female candidate. “Warren is so much less quote unquote ‘angry’ than Sanders, but people don’t see it that way because she’s a woman,” Morgan said. “In 2016, I didn’t think Sanders could ever survive the vetting process. But apparently that doesn’t seem to matter anymore. ... Everything he stands for fits on a hat, but what it takes to run our government doesn’t fit on a hat.”

Michael Rahenkemp, 62 of Florence, phone-banked for Warren at her Florence field office. The retired computer programmer said he strongly supports Medicare-for-all and Sanders is his second choice. “But I think she has a better set of policies,” he said. “He’s a democratic socialist whereas Warren is more of a capitalist, and I support capitalism.”

**Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) is the only member of the self-described Squad of first-term women of color who didn’t endorse Sanders.** She’s become one of Warren’s most visible surrogates and barnstormed Sunday across what’s known as the Pee Dee region in the northeast corner of South Carolina. Speaking to 18 canvassers as they prepared to knock on doors Sunday afternoon, Pressley emphasized that Warren is aspirational but has plans that are attainable – an apparent dig at Sanders. “People have broken hearts because of broken promise,” she said. “Elizabeth keeps her promises.” When I asked her whether liberals should rally behind Sanders to stop a more moderate candidate from securing the nomination – because Warren hasn’t won a delegate since Iowa – Pressley replied: “I believe she’s the most electable. ... We’re not riding the pollercoaster.”



Ayanna Pressley, right, greets volunteers at Elizabeth Warren's field office on Sunday afternoon in Florence, S.C. (James Hohmann/The Washington Post)

**Only 35 percent of likely Democratic primary voters in the CBS poll of South Carolina said they're very confident that Democrats will nominate someone who can beat President Trump.** Regardless of who they support, asked who has the best chance to beat Trump, Sanders still finished second, trailing Biden 33 percent to 23 percent. The poll found that 37 percent of likely South Carolina voters said Sanders's policy positions are too liberal to defeat Trump, compared to 49 percent who said his stances are about right for defeating Trump. Respondents were asked who has impressed them in the most recent debates and could pick multiple options. Sanders was first, impressing 43 percent, followed by Warren at 41 percent and Biden at 35 percent.

**While his rivals focus on him, Sanders's stump speech has stayed as focused as ever on criticizing Trump.** He opened a rally in Houston on Sunday afternoon by raising the electability question. "Some of the folks in the corporate media are getting a little bit nervous, and they say Bernie can't beat Trump," he [told](#) a crowd of more than

6,200. The front-runner then read the results of a few recent polls that showed him beating both Trump nationally and [in states like Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin](#).

**The audience of 120 people who came to see West and Ellison in Columbia on Saturday night was split almost evenly between white and black voters.** “A lot of politicians don’t want to be seen as radical because they want to keep their positions, but Bernie has been doing this his way since before I was born,” said Eric Johnson, 34, a graphic designer in Columbia who is African American and has attended three Sanders rallies in the last eight months. “Now we hear the term ‘socialism’ thrown around. Nobody really knows what it is. There’s no set definition of democratic socialism. How is it that negative? It’s like the term ‘Bernie Bros’ and how that’s a term that’s been twisted to mean something negative.”

Janet Bates, 62, a Democratic middle school teacher in Columbia who is white and voted for George W. Bush two decades ago supports Sanders because she admires his ideological consistency. “I haven’t always believed in everything he’s stood for, but it’s probably 90 percent,” she said. “Even his detractors would agree he’s exactly the same person he was decades ago.”



## **South Carolina is not fertile ground for Buttigieg.**

He's running into some of the same problems that Sanders did four years ago related to a dearth of black support. Last night's forum in Conway put this into stark relief. Rep. Anthony Brown (D-Md.), a national co-chair of his campaign, spent Sunday visiting black churches. After the emcee introduced him as a surrogate for "Boot-um-egg," Brown falsely claimed that Buttigieg was campaigning in a different part of the state (in fact, he was in Northern Virginia) and then made the case that Sanders, without naming him, would "jeopardize" down-ballot candidates.

"We're up against a president who is quite formidable," he said. "The candidates don't differ a lot on the issues. ... But Americans are yearning for a new face."

Robertson, the state party chairman, had emphasized how much more diverse South Carolina is than Iowa and New Hampshire during his introductory remarks. Noting Buttigieg's success in those two states, Brown pointed toward him and said: "Let's not discount Iowa and New Hampshire because they are Americans too!"

Then Brown spent two minutes complaining about distortions related to Buttigieg's relationship with the black community as mayor in South Bend, Ind. "If you're a young black man in South Bend, now listen close, because you've heard a lot of disinformation, the chances of you being convicted for marijuana possession are lower than anywhere else in Indiana and lower than the American average," he said.

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**More on 2020**

## Inside each campaign's Super Tuesday strategy

**Sanders hopes to twist the knife by picking off either Massachusetts (Warren's home state) and/or Minnesota (Klobuchar's home state) a week from tomorrow, which would be paralyzing blows for either of them.** He's expected to hold an event in both states between now and Super Tuesday. The biggest of the 14 prizes on March 3 are California and Texas. All told, approximately one-third of the nearly 4,000 pledged delegates to the convention will be awarded. "Sanders's money and organization have allowed him to spend weeks punctuating visits to early-voting states with trips to Super Tuesday states — most notably delegate-heavy California, where rival campaigns believe he will be difficult to beat," [Chelsea Janes, Annie Linskey and Matt Viser report](#).

**"The goal for Buttigieg's campaign on Super Tuesday is to accumulate enough delegates to stay within striking distance of Sanders.** Campaign advisers say if he is close Super Tuesday, states voting March 10 and 17 — including Michigan, Ohio, Arizona and Illinois — are favorable enough to Buttigieg to allow him to make up ground. ... Last week, Buttigieg squeezed in a trip to Salt Lake City, where his campaign has made a major organizing push and earned endorsements from several local officials. His campaign also is counting on delegate-rich areas in some of the less high-profile Super Tuesday states — Little Rock, for one. He campaigned in Northern Virginia Sunday and has stops scheduled in Raleigh, N.C., and Oklahoma City before Super Tuesday. ...

**"Warren is banking her candidacy on the idea that she can begin accumulating delegates on March 3 by doing well in liberal pockets like Denver, San Antonio and the Los Angeles area.** Over the next few days, Warren will campaign in South Carolina, but she also plans a Thursday evening rally in San Antonio with Julián Castro, the former mayor of that city, and a stop in the Los Angeles area. Warren's campaign has bought TV ad time in Colorado and Maine. The campaign also will air ads starting Tuesday in Austin, San Antonio and Oklahoma City — all population-rich areas in Super Tuesday states. ...

**“Klobuchar had to ramp up her national operation more hurriedly than her competitors ... She stopped by Colorado this week and headed to her home state to raise money Saturday — followed by a Sunday three-state tour via charter plane: Fargo to Oklahoma City to Little Rock.** (North Dakota votes a week after Oklahoma and Arkansas, Super Tuesday states.) ... Several Super Tuesday states, including Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina and Alabama, have substantial numbers of black voters. But Biden has not been advertising in those states and, while he is already well known, the lack of visibility could be problematic at a time when Bloomberg is flooding the airwaves.”

**Internal polling and analytics completed last week by Bloomberg’s campaign projected that Sanders may be the only presidential candidate to win delegates in every state and district on March 3, delivering him a lead of 350 to 400 out of 1,357 delegates set to be awarded, unless race dynamics change,** Mike DeBonis and Michael Scherer reported in [the Sunday newspaper](#). “Because of Democratic rules that give no delegates to candidates who scores less than 15 percent of the vote in a state or congressional district, Sanders could build a delegate lead far greater than his advantage in the popular vote.”

### **New surveys show Sanders leading in three key Midwestern states that vote after Super Tuesday.**

The University of Wisconsin at Madison-YouGov [surveys of likely Democratic primary voters](#) showed Sanders garnering 25 percent in Michigan, which holds its primary on March 10. His nearest competitor was Biden, with 16 percent. In Wisconsin, which votes on April 7, Sanders led with 30 percent. Biden and Bloomberg trailed with 13 percent. And in Pennsylvania, Sanders led with 25 percent, followed by Biden at 20 percent and Bloomberg at 19 percent. That primary is April 28. “Sanders is well positioned to pick up the lion’s share of delegates in these states unless another Democrat breaks away from the pack to challenge him,” said UW-Madison political science Barry Burden, who runs the Elections



Research Center.

## **Buttigieg's campaign alleged numerous errors in Nevada's vote counting.**

But the state Democratic Party rebuffed a request from Buttigieg's campaign to hold off releasing final numbers, which showed him in third place behind Biden. ([Isaac Stanley-Becker](#))

Harry Reid, the former Senate majority leader from Nevada, said in a statement last night that caucuses should no longer be used to nominate candidates. He repeated his call for Nevada to hold a primary before Iowa or New Hampshire vote, emphasizing the Silver State's diversity.

## **Bloomberg will postpone a CNN town hall to focus on debate prep.**

"Bloomberg was scheduled to appear on CNN on Monday. But he'll now join the network for the live question-and-answer program on Wednesday," [the Associated Press reports](#). "A spokeswoman for Bloomberg called the debate 'crucial' and said 'the country can't afford to let Bernie Sanders skate by another debate without a focus on his extreme record.'"

Trump will hold a campaign rally in North Charleston the night before the South Carolina Democratic primary, per the [Post and Courier](#).

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## **The Trump presidency**



President Trump takes the stage with his wife and the Indian prime minister for a “Namaste Trump” rally at Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad, India. (Alex Brandon/AP)

## **Trump is visiting India for the first time as president.**

The whirlwind 36-hour tour “includes a mega rally expected to draw more than 100,000 people, a visit to the Taj Mahal, and a day of ceremonies and meetings in Delhi. Trump was greeted by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom Trump recently described as ‘a friend of mine,’” [Niha Masih, Joanna Slater, Seung Min Kim and Anne Gearan report](#). “The Modi government has encountered considerable international criticism — including from members of Congress — over its crackdown in Kashmir, India’s only Muslim-majority state, and the passage of a controversial religion-based citizenship bill that has led to protests throughout the country. **In the run-up to the trip, a senior White House official said Trump would raise the issue of religious freedom with Modi in private. ...**

“Thousands of people lined the streets of Ahmedabad, the largest city in the state of Gujarat, to welcome Trump. Trump had said earlier that as many as 10 million people would be there to greet him. Preparations included building a wall to hide a slum along his route.” Trump and Modi

lavished praise on each other during a joint rally at the world's largest cricket stadium before an audience of 100,000. On stage, **Trump announced that “the United States and India are poised to sign a new agreement to sell \$3 billion worth of U.S. military helicopters to the Indian armed forces as he touted a ‘critical partnership’ between the two countries.”**

**“Upon arriving in Agra to visit the Taj Mahal, Trump met Yogi Adityanath, a radical Hindu monk known for his anti-Muslim rhetoric.** The two shook hands and walked down the red carpet lined with performers. Adityanath is the chief minister of India's largest and most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, where Agra is located. Ahead of the meeting, critics decried the scheduled interaction, which they said could help legitimize Adityanath's divisive politics. The saffron-robed priest is a five-time parliamentarian who has more than a dozen criminal cases pending against him, including serious charges such as attempted murder and rioting. He has not been convicted of a crime. ... In 2014, Adityanath promised to cleanse India of other religions.”

**Mick Mulvaney didn't go on the trip because of a cold, sources said.** A person close to Mulvaney [told CNN](#) that White House doctors advised against having him travel in such close proximity to Trump.

**Trump, a known steak-lover, is in for a beef-free menu in India.** “I don't know what he's going to do in this case,” [a former official told CNN](#). “They don't serve cheeseburgers.” A person close to the president said that, aside from a few salads here and there, they “have never seen him eat a vegetable.”

**Trump's response to reports that Russia prefers him in 2020 has shaken the intelligence community.**

“Current and former national security officials were appalled but not surprised by [Joe] Maguire's unceremonious dispatch,” [Shane Harris, Ellen Nakashima and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Intelligence officers are used to working with presidents who don't enthusiastically embrace or always agree with their analysis. But Trump's tendency to shoot the messenger

puts the people working for him in a precarious position. ‘The intelligence community at this point is having to walk a tightrope,’ [said Katrina Mulligan, a former National Security Council aide under the Obama administration]. ... Three other former senior intelligence officials said that Trump’s violent reactions could encourage his advisers to withhold unsettling information. There is talk of ‘trying to hide’ stuff, one of the former officials said ... Current and former intelligence officials see [Rick] Grenell’s appointment, which he has said will last only until a permanent director is confirmed by the Senate, as a signal that Trump intends to exert more political control over the intelligence community.”

National security adviser, Robert C. O’Brien, claimed he has not seen any intelligence that Russia wants to help Trump: “But O’Brien said reports that Russia is helping Sanders were ‘no surprise’ ... As intelligence officials struggle to draw attention to election interference, Trump is purging the ranks of advisers he believes won’t strongly defend him. Johnny McEntee, the new head of the White House Presidential Personnel Office, has asked agencies to tell him about appointees who are opposed to the president, according to a White House official.”

### **Trump threatened Adam Schiff.**

The president claimed without evidence that the Democratic chairman of the House Intelligence Committee leaked details from Shelby Pierson’s briefing that led to Maguire’s ouster. “Someday he will be caught, & that will be a very unpleasant experience!” Trump tweeted. In another tweet, Trump jokingly suggested that former special counsel Bob Mueller should be dispatched to investigate the claims that [Russia is seeking to help Sanders win the Democratic nomination](#). “Trump maintained in an exchange with reporters outside the White House earlier Sunday that he had not been briefed about any Russian interference efforts,” [Felicia Sonmez reports](#). “He blamed Schiff and said there should be an investigation into the source of the leak.”

### **The White House wants to overhaul spy laws, partly due to Trump’s anger over the investigation of a former**

## **adviser.**

“The effort seeks to take advantage of the looming expiration of some spying powers next month, including portions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, a Watergate-era law that Mr. Trump believes was improperly used to target his campaign,” [the Wall Street Journal reports](#). “Overhauling FISA has become a rallying cry for conservatives and allies of the president in the aftermath of a watchdog report detailing several errors made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in its applications for surveillance of Mr. Trump’s campaign adviser, Carter Page. Some Republicans have called for upending FISA, prompting pushback from some in the administration, including Attorney General William Barr. The plan, which is being spearheaded by officials within the White House Domestic Policy Council, is in the early stages and could face resistance from other parts of the Trump administration, including the National Security Council, which has generally advocated maintaining or expanding surveillance powers during Mr. Trump’s presidency.”

## **Judge Amy Berman Jackson rejected Roger Stone’s effort to disqualify her.**

“The federal judge who oversaw [his] trial and sentenced him last week to 40 months in prison dismissed his demand that she be taken off the case as a baseless smear,” [Rachel Weiner reports](#). “Stone’s motion sought to disqualify Berman Jackson for referring during Thursday’s sentencing to ‘the jurors who served with integrity under difficult circumstances.’ He is still challenging one juror as biased. Berman Jackson rebutted any claim that she has not treated Stone fairly.”

## **Justice Clarence Thomas's wife has worked to identify “deep state” members who are “disloyal” to Trump.**

“The Trump White House and its allies, over the past 18 months, assembled detailed lists of disloyal government officials to oust — and trusted pro-Trump people to replace them,” [Axios reports](#). “Members of this network include [Ginni Thomas] and Republican Senate staffer Barbara Ledeen. ... Thomas has spent a significant amount of time and

energy urging Trump administration officials to change the personnel inside his government. ... The presidential personnel office reviewed Thomas' memo and determined that some names she passed along for jobs were not appropriate candidates.” Leeden wrote a memo arguing why former D.C. U.S. attorney Jessie Liu should be disqualified for a nomination to a top Treasury job. Thomas, meanwhile, compiled names of potential nominees for different positions, many sourced from meetings with her conservative activist network Groundswell. Potential hires she offered to Trump include: Sheriff David Clarke for a senior DHS job, radio talk show host Chris Plante for press secretary, and Federalist contributor Ben Weingarten for the National Security Council.

### **Trump, eyeing Nevada, opposed a nuclear waste site at Yucca, reversing his own administration's policy.**

“Why should you have nuclear waste in your backyard?’ Mr. Trump asked the crowd at a rally in Las Vegas on Friday, to applause, noting that his recently released budget proposal did not include funding to license the site, as previous ones had,” [the Times reports](#). “In Mr. Trump’s decentralized administration, top aides and agency leaders have sometimes pursued their own agendas, at times creating politically perilous situations for him. ... The president made his latest move after a monthslong policy debate inside the White House over finally breaking with support for Yucca ... Nationally, Republicans have long favored the proposal ... But Nevada politicians of both parties have remained steadfastly opposed to the policy, which is deeply unpopular in the state.”

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## **The new world order**



A newlywed couple wear protective masks as they take wedding photos in Hong Kong. (Tyrone Siu/Reuters)

## **China postponed its most important political gathering of the year because of the coronavirus.**

“China’s ruling Communist Party has postponed the biggest event in China’s political calendar, the National People’s Congress, as it concentrates on fighting the coronavirus,” [Anna Fifield and Liu Yang report](#). “The annual legislative session, held together with a meeting of the party’s top political-advisory body, was due to begin on March 5. But the NPC’s Standing Committee decided at a meeting in Beijing on Monday that they would be delayed. It did not set a date for the meetings, known collectively as the ‘Two Sessions.’ It will be the first time since 1997 that the meetings have not started in the first week of March.”

President Xi Jinping said that the outbreak is a crisis that will test the Chinese economy. “No victory should be lightly announced until there is a complete win,” he said during a speech to Communist Party members in Beijing on Sunday, adding the situation remains [grim and complex](#).

## **China backtracked on a decision to relax travel**

## **restrictions on Wuhan.**

“A notice by Wuhan’s epidemic prevention and control headquarters said Monday that it would ease some of the more draconian travel restrictions on the locked-down city at the heart of the epidemic, allowing for the return of some residents trapped outside Wuhan since late January and permitting visitors stuck in the city to leave. But hours later, Wuhan’s city government declared the earlier announcement invalid, saying it had been released without authorization,” [Adam Taylor reports](#). “Official figures released Monday showed there had been 409 new cases of the novel coronavirus and 150 new deaths from the outbreak by the end of Sunday, bringing the total confirmed cases to 77,150 with a cumulative death toll of 2,592.”

## **A Chinese study suggests that the outbreak didn’t begin at a Wuhan market.**

“Co-authored by researchers from three Chinese institutions including the Chinese Academy of Sciences and published on the academy’s website last Thursday, the study attempts to trace how the virus emerged and evolved. The authors analyzed the genomic data from 93 samples of the novel coronavirus and concluded that it was likely to have spread to the market from somewhere else,” [Tiffany Liang reports](#). “It also pointed out that human-to-human transmission of the virus might have existed in Wuhan as early as late November. The market was closed on Jan. 1.”

## **South Korea temporarily shut down the messianic church linked to half of the country’s virus cases.**

“More than half of South Korea’s covid-19 cases have been traced to a regional branch of the secretive Shincheonji Church of Jesus, formally known as the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony. But authorities were having difficulty locating members, many of whom are probably in hiding,” [Min Joo Kim reports](#). “The South Korean government on Sunday announced 169 new coronavirus cases and two more deaths, bringing the totals to 602 cases and six deaths. ... South Korean President Moon Jae-in said the country’s coronavirus crisis has entered a ‘totally different phase



since the mass infection at Shincheonji.’ Hundreds of thousands signed a petition calling for the church to be dissolved. Moon called the temporary shutdown of Shincheonji churches across the country ‘a fair and inevitable step’ to protect the community. He said there was ‘no intention to limit religious freedom.’”

## **Fifty people reportedly died of coronavirus in the Iranian city of Qom.**

The country’s health minister rejected the report from Iranian lawmaker Ahmad Amirabadi Farahani, who claimed that the government is covering up the full extent of the outbreak. ([The Guardian](#))

## **The U.S. government backtracked on a plan to transfer quarantined patients to Alabama.**

Hours after Anniston County's City Council voted on Sunday to pursue legal action against the federal government over its proposal to transfer patients from the Diamond Princess cruise ship to be held in the town's FEMA facility, Sen. Richard Shelby (R) and Gov. Kay Ivey (R) announced that plans had changed. Ivey said Trump called and assured her that the patients wouldn't be sent to Alabama, [ABC News reports](#).

## **Hong Kong refugees traverse a legal twilight zone as they build their new lives in Taiwan.**

“Che-lam Presbyterian Church is next door to Taiwan's legislature and a stone's throw from the presidential office in the island's capital. But while President Tsai Ing-wen's support for Hong Kong protesters powered her to reelection last month, the church is Taiwan's only institution to publicly provide material assistance to people who have fled the Asian financial hub's crackdown on demonstrators,” [Nick Aspinwall reports](#). “Although Taiwan has temporarily barred entry to most Hong Kongers amid the coronavirus outbreak, many in Hong Kong view the island as a place to resettle should their political strife worsen. ... Taiwan, which is not a member of the United Nations, has not signed the U.N. Refugee Convention and has no formal asylum laws. Its government processes people from Hong Kong on a case-by-case basis but provides no public

assurance of their long-term legal status, leading to concerns that the uncertainty creates gaps for protesters to be exploited.”

## **Israel’s fear of coronavirus contagion grows as election day approaches.**

The concern comes after “reports that a group of South Koreans who had visited some of the country's most popular religious and tourist spots tested positive for the infection,” [Steve Hendrix reports](#). “Israeli officials, who had expressed cautious optimism that Israel could avoid significant risk from the global epidemic, immediately increased restrictions on those entering the country. **Non-Israeli travelers from South Korea and Japan have been barred from entering**, according to local media reports, and Israelis arriving from any of several Asian countries face two weeks of mandatory quarantine.”

## **Israeli military jets targeted sites in Gaza and Syria linked to Palestinian Islamic Jihad.**

The attacks came “hours after militants from the group fired more than 20 rockets into Israeli territory,” [Ruth Eglash and Hazem Balousha report](#). “The exchange came after a Palestinian news agency posted graphic footage of an [Israeli army bulldozer dragging the body of a Palestinian man](#) who Israel said was part of a ‘terror squad,’ killed as he placed an explosive device along the border fence. ... The Israeli strikes injured four in Gaza, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.”

## **Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad, the world’s oldest national leader, resigned.**

“Under Malaysia’s constitution, the entire cabinet must be dissolved if the prime minister resigns,” [Shibani Mahtani and Jonathan Edward report](#). “As the prime minister’s office announced Mahathir’s intent to resign, his political party, the Malaysian United Indigenous Party, known as Bersatu, said it would be leaving Malaysia’s ruling coalition. About a dozen other prominent members of parliament also left to form an independent bloc in the Southeast Asian country’s legislature. The king, Sultan Abdullah of Pahang, has not commented publicly on the matter. The political drama

on Monday appeared to thwart one of Southeast Asia's most celebrated democratic transitions, and returned Malaysia to a time of backdoor political plotting and palace intrigue. The move also appeared aimed at preventing [Anwar Ibrahim] from taking over as leader."

### **In Greece, migrants wait in bread lines while tourists dine on grilled octopus next door.**

"At the Moria refugee camp on Lesbos, the largest of the island facilities, migrants wait in snaking lines for up to eight hours a day to get their meals," [Chico Harlan reports](#). "They wait because this camp has mushroomed in size, growing seven times more crowded than its capacity, a shantytown on a vacation island never intended for such emergencies ... One migrant said the food was worse than at her former workplace, an Afghan prison. ... Yet beyond the camp, closer to the water, locals and tourists are eating well. Lesbos's tavernas serve octopus, grilled squid, feta, vegetables dressed with lemon and olive oil. That jarring juxtaposition is part of what makes the camp 'one of the worst places I've seen on earth,' said Marco Sandrone, the Lesbos field coordinator for Doctors Without Borders."

### **The U.K.'s new post-Brexit passports will be distributed next month.**

What the the Home Office didn't say, however, was that the passports will be made by a Franco-Dutch company at a Polish factory under E.U. procurement rules, [the Times reports](#).

### **Harry and Meghan won't be able to use the brand**

**"SussexRoyal" in any territories.** The couple, which will become independent from the crown on March 31, appeared upset at the palace's ban on the use of the word "royal." ([The Guardian](#))

### **Prague renamed the square in front of the Russian embassy after the slain Putin critic Boris Nemtsov. (CNN)**

### **Prosecutors say a former DEA agent laundered millions for a Colombian cartel.**

“Jose Irizarry was the model agent for his bosses at the Drug Enforcement Administration. Seen as a rising star in Miami for overseeing undercover investigations that led to dozens of drug arrests, Irizarry transferred to the Colombian city of Cartagena to continue to fight the violent cartel. ... But **when the DEA special agent allegedly began to spend lavishly on homes, cars and jewelry, and hosted wild yacht parties with bikini-clad prostitutes, it raised some red flags within the agency,**” [Timothy Bella reports](#). “As it turns out, Irizarry allegedly laundered money for the very Colombian drug cartel he was fighting against. Irizarry, 46, was arrested Friday at his home near San Juan, Puerto Rico, on charges of conspiring to launder money, as well as honest services wire fraud, bank fraud, conspiracy to commit bank fraud, conspiracy to commit identity theft and aggravated identity theft. ... **Irizarry, who resigned in early 2018 after the agency grew suspicious, is believed to have laundered more than \$7 million.**”

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## Social media speed read

Sanders’s partial defense of Fidel Castro on CBS's “60 Minutes” drew widespread criticism from conservatives in Florida:



**Marco Rubio** ✓

@marcorubio



Likely Dem nominee praised the supposed  
“achievements” Castro regime

And he’s wrong about why people didn’t overthrow  
Castro. It’s not because “he educated their kids,gave  
them health care” it’s because his opponents were  
jailed,murdered or exiled [cbsnews.com/news/bernie-sa...](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bernie-sanders/)



**Bernie Sanders on being the Democratic frontrunn...**

Coming off his win in the Nevada caucuses, Bernie Sanders  
talks about Michael Bloomberg, Donald Trump, Democratic  
[cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bernie-sanders/)

♥ 4,436 3:13 AM - Feb 24, 2020



💬 2,423 people are talking about this



Former presidential candidate Marianne Williamson endorsed Sanders:



**Emma Kinery** ✓  
@EmmaKinery



“Surprise guest” and native Texan Marianne Williamson endorses Bernie Sanders for president at his rally in Austin, TX



♥ 12.2K 11:11 PM - Feb 23, 2020



💬 2.123 people are talking about this



And love led a Sanders supporter to a Warren rally:



**Jess Bidgood**

@jessbidgood



A happy couple at the @ewarren rally in Denver



♥ 22 11:30 PM - Feb 23, 2020



[See Jess Bidgood's other Tweets](#)



Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) responded playfully to a report in the New York Post that noted he's spent over \$8,600 at Junior's Cheesecake over the past decade, mostly to buy gifts using campaign funds:



**The Hill**   
@thehill



"Guilty as charged... it's my guilty pleasure."

WATCH: Sen. Chuck Schumer admits to spending thousands on cheesecake and serves cheesecake to members of the press in a lighthearted moment.



196 1:13 AM - Feb 24, 2020



81 people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

John Oliver talked about India's Modi:





“The Daily Show” offered an interesting service to former presidential candidates:



And a California couple that went missing on Valentine's Day was found alive on Saturday by a search dog named Groot:



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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

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By **James Hohmann**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

Email

## **Bernie Sanders built a diverse coalition to win Nevada. South Carolina offers a tougher test.**

COLUMBIA, S.C. – As Bernie Sanders cruised to a landslide victory in the Nevada caucuses on Saturday, Keith Ellison told volunteers here that a win in South Carolina’s primary would make the senator’s path to the Democratic presidential nomination essentially unstoppable. “We’re going to break it out,” he said, banging his hand on a table for emphasis.

Ellison, a former congressman who is now Minnesota’s attorney general after running unsuccessfully to be chairman of the Democratic National

Committee in 2017, warmed up a crowd of 120 at a Sanders rally in the fellowship hall at First Calvary Baptist Church. Next up was Sanders surrogate scholar-activist Cornel West, who was downright triumphal.

“The corporate media is telling lies about my dear brother Bernie Sanders: They call him a Bolshevik. That’s what they said about my brother Martin Luther King Jr.,” West said to a chorus of amens. “Get ready to get lied on, rebuked, scorned, attacked, assaulted. ... In some ways, that’s a compliment. It means they’ve got to take us seriously now. It also means that we’ve got momentum. And once you let that genie out, there ain’t no putting it back in.”

A field organizer announced that Sanders volunteers had knocked on 11,000 doors in South Carolina that day, and there was a palpable feeling in the room that their movement is on the cusp of [taking over](#) the Democratic Party.

It was a totally different vibe than four years ago for the independent senator from Vermont. After Sanders won the New Hampshire primary by 22 points in 2016, he lost the Nevada caucuses to Hillary Clinton by 5 points and then got trounced in the South Carolina primary by 47 points. The Sanders effort dragged on for three more months, but the crushing defeat here – which showed that he couldn’t break Clinton’s firewall with African Americans – was the beginning of the end.



Cornel West speaks Saturday in Columbia. (James Hohmann/The Washington Post)

Ellison and West stumped together for Sanders in 2016. But what made this event feel quite different was the presence of several African American state legislators who didn't endorse him four years ago. State Rep. Leon Howard, who chairs a state House committee that oversees public hospitals, talked about how much Medicare-for-all might help his constituents. "We have a real opportunity to win this election," he said. "South Carolina is the slingshot that will propel Senator Sanders to the White House," added state Rep. Ivory Thigpen.

Sanders supporter April Jones, 36, a stay-at-home mom in Columbia, said a lot of people here who reflexively backed Clinton last time are giving Sanders a serious look. "It's like if you're dating somebody," she explained. "You come back around a second time and you're like, 'Oh, I'm going to give you some new eyes because I kind of know you from before.' ... We're in even more of a crisis economically, in terms of inequality being so much worse, and he talked about all these same issues last time. Four years ago, people said his ideas were too radical, but now they're all mainstream

positions, so people kind of see him as a visionary.”

**Sanders’s sweeping win in the Silver State was powered by large numbers of first-time caucus-goers. He won 51 percent of Hispanics, 29 percent of whites and 27 percent of African Americans**, according to [entrance polls](#) of Democratic caucus-goers. Sanders got the support of 2 in 3 voters under 30 years old and carried every age group except those over 65, which went for Joe Biden. “In Nevada, we have just put together a multigenerational, multiracial coalition,” Sanders said during a rally in San Antonio after he was declared the winner. “It is going to sweep this country.”

First, though, all the candidates are sweeping into South Carolina. **After trying to lower expectations for the better part of a year, Sanders is now playing to win in the Palmetto State and plans to invest heavily in hopes of knocking out Biden.** After a televised debate in Charleston with all his rivals on Tuesday night, Sanders is scheduled to hold rallies in North Charleston and Myrtle Beach on Wednesday, Spartanburg on Thursday and Columbia on Friday, where he’ll speak on the steps of the state capitol. He is airing commercials in every media market.

**More than half the Democratic electorate this Saturday will be African American.** In 2016, exit polls show that Clinton won 86 percent of the black vote in South Carolina. Biden won 39 percent of black voters in Nevada on Saturday, 12 points better than Sanders. But that represented a major improvement for Sanders, who got only 22 percent of the black vote against Clinton in a two-way race there in 2016.



**Biden remains the favorite to win this first-in-the-South primary on Saturday, but Sanders is nipping at the former vice president's heels.** A CBS News-YouGov poll released Sunday puts Biden at 28 percent among likely voters, down 17 points from last month, with Sanders at 23 percent, up 8 points. Tom Steyer, the billionaire who didn't qualify for last week's debate but has spent more time and money in South Carolina than any other candidate, polled in third place, with 18 percent, followed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.) at 12 percent, former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg at 10 percent and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Minn.) at 4 percent. The poll found that 46 percent of likely

voters say they've definitely made up their minds, 45 percent said they've probably made up their minds and 7 percent said they'll probably end up changing their minds between now and the primary.

**Biden is making what could be a last stand.** He hopes that a win in South Carolina after his second-place finish in Nevada will give him momentum in the Southern states with large black populations that vote on March 3. "The African American community in South Carolina can make a judgment about who the next president of the United States is going to be," Biden told congregants on Sunday at the Royal Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston. "Literally!"

**I drove nearly 500 miles around South Carolina this weekend to take the pulse of the Democratic electorate, and the polling tracks with what I found anecdotally in more than two dozen interviews.**

**"Bernie Sanders obviously learned a lot from his loss here in 2016," said Trav Robertson Jr., the chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party.** "In 2016, they'd only come for groups that were 3,000 people or bigger. They transitioned into realizing that they've got to visit smaller communities of color. ... That's paying off for him, especially among younger African American voters."

We chatted Sunday night in Conway after a two-hour forum for candidate surrogates at the Mason Temple Church of God in Christ. Robertson, who is neutral, said **Our Revolution, the outside group created to boost Sanders after 2016, has been organizing in this state nonstop since the last presidential election.** He said that group, combined with the campaign's early investments in a field program, is an important part of the story for why Sanders has made "a hell of a lot of headway."

"Sanders, to a certain extent, has held true to his core values for 40 years, but he modified his campaign practices this time," Robertson said. "What we're going to find out in the next several days is whether or not Joe Biden's support is because of name ID and a positive feeling, especially



among older African American voters. ... The other question you've got to ask is: How big a win does Biden need to have going into Super Tuesday? I don't know."



Jim Clyburn arrives for a meeting with other House Democrats at the Capitol last month. (J. Scott Applewhite/AP)

### **With momentum comes scrutiny.**

**House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (S.C.), who is No. 3 in Democratic leadership and an ally of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, warned on the Sunday shows that Sanders and his brand of “socialism” could cost the party its House majority.** “I think it would be a real burden for us in these states or congressional districts that we have to do well in,” Clyburn said on ABC’s “This Week.” “If you look at how well we did the last time [in 2018] and look at the congressional districts, these were not liberal or what you might call progressive districts. These were basically moderate and conservative districts that we did well in.” Clyburn announced that he will reveal his endorsement on Wednesday morning – after the debate. [Politico reports](#) that he plans to endorse Biden.

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## Quote of the day

*"I don't see a whole lot of 2016 in this election. I see a whole lot of 1972," Clyburn told [the Charleston Post & Courier](#), comparing Sanders to George McGovern.*



**Buttigieg, who finished third in Nevada, is running an attack ad in South Carolina against Sanders over Medicare-for-all.** A narrator says Sanders would “eliminate private insurance” and kick “22 million seniors off of Medicare Advantage.” This is the first negative ad this election cycle that a Democrat has actually aired on television against a rival. “Senator Sanders’s revolution has the tenor of combat, division and polarization, a vision where whoever wins the day, nothing will change the toxic tone of our politics,” Buttigieg said Saturday night in Las Vegas.

**While Mike Bloomberg bore the brunt of attacks last week in Las Vegas, Sanders will probably be the focus of the most attacks during Tuesday’s debate,** which will air on CBS. But the collective action problem remains for the candidates who aspire to emerge as the main alternative to Sanders. Biden, Buttigieg, Warren, Klobuchar and Bloomberg, who does not appear on any ballots until Super Tuesday, all show no signs of backing down.

**Biden's campaign stepped up attacks on Sunday against Sanders for flirting with a primary challenge against Barack Obama in 2012 and for not detailing how he'd pay for his ambitious plans. And Warren sharpened her criticisms of Sanders during a rally in Denver on Sunday night.** "People ask about the difference between Bernie and me, because there are a lot of places where we agree about the things we want to fight for," she told a crowd of 4,000. "But here's a big [difference]: Bernie supports the filibuster. I'm going to get rid of the filibuster." During a gaggle with reporters afterward, though, Warren declined to call Sanders a "risky" choice for the nomination. Instead, she attacked Bloomberg.

**Steyer is an X factor.** He's qualified to appear onstage in Tuesday's debate and has made reparations for the descendants of slaves a centerpiece of his campaign.



**Even though he doesn't actually lead in the statewide polls here, Sanders dominates the conversation among Democratic voters. He provokes strong passions, both positive and negative.** Robyn Morgan, 41 of Pamplico, came to Warren's field office in Florence to go door-knocking with her 3-year-old daughter Hannah. She said she loves that "Warren has a plan for everything," especially universal childcare.

The student adviser at a small college complained that Sanders could never succeed with his temperament if he was a red-in-the-face female candidate. “Warren is so much less quote unquote ‘angry’ than Sanders, but people don’t see it that way because she’s a woman,” Morgan said. “In 2016, I didn’t think Sanders could ever survive the vetting process. But apparently that doesn’t seem to matter anymore. ... Everything he stands for fits on a hat, but what it takes to run our government doesn’t fit on a hat.”

Michael Rahenkemp, 62 of Florence, phone-banked for Warren at her Florence field office. The retired computer programmer said he strongly supports Medicare-for-all and Sanders is his second choice. “But I think she has a better set of policies,” he said. “He’s a democratic socialist whereas Warren is more of a capitalist, and I support capitalism.”

**Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) is the only member of the self-described Squad of first-term women of color who didn’t endorse Sanders.** She’s become one of Warren’s most visible surrogates and barnstormed Sunday across what’s known as the Pee Dee region in the northeast corner of South Carolina. Speaking to 18 canvassers as they prepared to knock on doors Sunday afternoon, Pressley emphasized that Warren is aspirational but has plans that are attainable – an apparent dig at Sanders. “People have broken hearts because of broken promise,” she said. “Elizabeth keeps her promises.” When I asked her whether liberals should rally behind Sanders to stop a more moderate candidate from securing the nomination – because Warren hasn’t won a delegate since Iowa – Pressley replied: “I believe she’s the most electable. ... We’re not riding the pollercoaster.”



Ayanna Pressley, right, greets volunteers at Elizabeth Warren's field office on Sunday afternoon in Florence, S.C. (James Hohmann/The Washington Post)

**Only 35 percent of likely Democratic primary voters in the CBS poll of South Carolina said they're very confident that Democrats will nominate someone who can beat President Trump.** Regardless of who they support, asked who has the best chance to beat Trump, Sanders still finished second, trailing Biden 33 percent to 23 percent. The poll found that 37 percent of likely South Carolina voters said Sanders's policy positions are too liberal to defeat Trump, compared to 49 percent who said his stances are about right for defeating Trump. Respondents were asked who has impressed them in the most recent debates and could pick multiple options. Sanders was first, impressing 43 percent, followed by Warren at 41 percent and Biden at 35 percent.

**While his rivals focus on him, Sanders's stump speech has stayed as focused as ever on criticizing Trump.** He opened a rally in Houston on Sunday afternoon by raising the electability question. "Some of the folks in the corporate media are getting a little bit nervous, and they say Bernie can't beat Trump," he [told](#) a crowd of more than

6,200. The front-runner then read the results of a few recent polls that showed him beating both Trump nationally and [in states like Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin](#).

**The audience of 120 people who came to see West and Ellison in Columbia on Saturday night was split almost evenly between white and black voters.** “A lot of politicians don’t want to be seen as radical because they want to keep their positions, but Bernie has been doing this his way since before I was born,” said Eric Johnson, 34, a graphic designer in Columbia who is African American and has attended three Sanders rallies in the last eight months. “Now we hear the term ‘socialism’ thrown around. Nobody really knows what it is. There’s no set definition of democratic socialism. How is it that negative? It’s like the term ‘Bernie Bros’ and how that’s a term that’s been twisted to mean something negative.”

Janet Bates, 62, a Democratic middle school teacher in Columbia who is white and voted for George W. Bush two decades ago supports Sanders because she admires his ideological consistency. “I haven’t always believed in everything he’s stood for, but it’s probably 90 percent,” she said. “Even his detractors would agree he’s exactly the same person he was decades ago.”



## **South Carolina is not fertile ground for Buttigieg.**

He's running into some of the same problems that Sanders did four years ago related to a dearth of black support. Last night's forum in Conway put this into stark relief. Rep. Anthony Brown (D-Md.), a national co-chair of his campaign, spent Sunday visiting black churches. After the emcee introduced him as a surrogate for "Boot-um-egg," Brown falsely claimed that Buttigieg was campaigning in a different part of the state (in fact, he was in Northern Virginia) and then made the case that Sanders, without naming him, would "jeopardize" down-ballot candidates.

"We're up against a president who is quite formidable," he said. "The candidates don't differ a lot on the issues. ... But Americans are yearning for a new face."

Robertson, the state party chairman, had emphasized how much more diverse South Carolina is than Iowa and New Hampshire during his introductory remarks. Noting Buttigieg's success in those two states, Brown pointed toward him and said: "Let's not discount Iowa and New Hampshire because they are Americans too!"

Then Brown spent two minutes complaining about distortions related to Buttigieg's relationship with the black community as mayor in South Bend, Ind. "If you're a young black man in South Bend, now listen close, because you've heard a lot of disinformation, the chances of you being convicted for marijuana possession are lower than anywhere else in Indiana and lower than the American average," he said.

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**More on 2020**

## Inside each campaign's Super Tuesday strategy

**Sanders hopes to twist the knife by picking off either Massachusetts (Warren's home state) and/or Minnesota (Klobuchar's home state) a week from tomorrow, which would be paralyzing blows for either of them.** He's expected to hold an event in both states between now and Super Tuesday. The biggest of the 14 prizes on March 3 are California and Texas. All told, approximately one-third of the nearly 4,000 pledged delegates to the convention will be awarded. "Sanders's money and organization have allowed him to spend weeks punctuating visits to early-voting states with trips to Super Tuesday states — most notably delegate-heavy California, where rival campaigns believe he will be difficult to beat," [Chelsea Janes, Annie Linskey and Matt Viser report](#).

**"The goal for Buttigieg's campaign on Super Tuesday is to accumulate enough delegates to stay within striking distance of Sanders.** Campaign advisers say if he is close Super Tuesday, states voting March 10 and 17 — including Michigan, Ohio, Arizona and Illinois — are favorable enough to Buttigieg to allow him to make up ground. ... Last week, Buttigieg squeezed in a trip to Salt Lake City, where his campaign has made a major organizing push and earned endorsements from several local officials. His campaign also is counting on delegate-rich areas in some of the less high-profile Super Tuesday states — Little Rock, for one. He campaigned in Northern Virginia Sunday and has stops scheduled in Raleigh, N.C., and Oklahoma City before Super Tuesday. ...

**"Warren is banking her candidacy on the idea that she can begin accumulating delegates on March 3 by doing well in liberal pockets like Denver, San Antonio and the Los Angeles area.** Over the next few days, Warren will campaign in South Carolina, but she also plans a Thursday evening rally in San Antonio with Julián Castro, the former mayor of that city, and a stop in the Los Angeles area. Warren's campaign has bought TV ad time in Colorado and Maine. The campaign also will air ads starting Tuesday in Austin, San Antonio and Oklahoma City — all population-rich areas in Super Tuesday states. ...



**“Klobuchar had to ramp up her national operation more hurriedly than her competitors ... She stopped by Colorado this week and headed to her home state to raise money Saturday — followed by a Sunday three-state tour via charter plane: Fargo to Oklahoma City to Little Rock.** (North Dakota votes a week after Oklahoma and Arkansas, Super Tuesday states.) ... Several Super Tuesday states, including Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina and Alabama, have substantial numbers of black voters. But Biden has not been advertising in those states and, while he is already well known, the lack of visibility could be problematic at a time when Bloomberg is flooding the airwaves.”

**Internal polling and analytics completed last week by Bloomberg’s campaign projected that Sanders may be the only presidential candidate to win delegates in every state and district on March 3, delivering him a lead of 350 to 400 out of 1,357 delegates set to be awarded, unless race dynamics change,** Mike DeBonis and Michael Scherer reported in [the Sunday newspaper](#). “Because of Democratic rules that give no delegates to candidates who scores less than 15 percent of the vote in a state or congressional district, Sanders could build a delegate lead far greater than his advantage in the popular vote.”

### **New surveys show Sanders leading in three key Midwestern states that vote after Super Tuesday.**

The University of Wisconsin at Madison-YouGov [surveys of likely Democratic primary voters](#) showed Sanders garnering 25 percent in Michigan, which holds its primary on March 10. His nearest competitor was Biden, with 16 percent. In Wisconsin, which votes on April 7, Sanders led with 30 percent. Biden and Bloomberg trailed with 13 percent. And in Pennsylvania, Sanders led with 25 percent, followed by Biden at 20 percent and Bloomberg at 19 percent. That primary is April 28. “Sanders is well positioned to pick up the lion’s share of delegates in these states unless another Democrat breaks away from the pack to challenge him,” said UW-Madison political science Barry Burden, who runs the Elections

Research Center.

## **Buttigieg's campaign alleged numerous errors in Nevada's vote counting.**

But the state Democratic Party rebuffed a request from Buttigieg's campaign to hold off releasing final numbers, which showed him in third place behind Biden. ([Isaac Stanley-Becker](#))

Harry Reid, the former Senate majority leader from Nevada, said in a statement last night that caucuses should no longer be used to nominate candidates. He repeated his call for Nevada to hold a primary before Iowa or New Hampshire vote, emphasizing the Silver State's diversity.

## **Bloomberg will postpone a CNN town hall to focus on debate prep.**

“Bloomberg was scheduled to appear on CNN on Monday. But he'll now join the network for the live question-and-answer program on Wednesday,” [the Associated Press reports](#). “A spokeswoman for Bloomberg called the debate ‘crucial’ and said ‘the country can’t afford to let Bernie Sanders skate by another debate without a focus on his extreme record.’”

Trump will hold a campaign rally in North Charleston the night before the South Carolina Democratic primary, per the [Post and Courier](#).

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## **The Trump presidency**



President Trump takes the stage with his wife and the Indian prime minister for a “Namaste Trump” rally at Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad, India. (Alex Brandon/AP)

## **Trump is visiting India for the first time as president.**

The whirlwind 36-hour tour “includes a mega rally expected to draw more than 100,000 people, a visit to the Taj Mahal, and a day of ceremonies and meetings in Delhi. Trump was greeted by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom Trump recently described as ‘a friend of mine,’” [Niha Masih, Joanna Slater, Seung Min Kim and Anne Gearan report](#). “The Modi government has encountered considerable international criticism — including from members of Congress — over its crackdown in Kashmir, India’s only Muslim-majority state, and the passage of a controversial religion-based citizenship bill that has led to protests throughout the country. **In the run-up to the trip, a senior White House official said Trump would raise the issue of religious freedom with Modi in private. ...**

“Thousands of people lined the streets of Ahmedabad, the largest city in the state of Gujarat, to welcome Trump. Trump had said earlier that as many as 10 million people would be there to greet him. Preparations included building a wall to hide a slum along his route.” Trump and Modi

lavished praise on each other during a joint rally at the world's largest cricket stadium before an audience of 100,000. On stage, **Trump announced that “the United States and India are poised to sign a new agreement to sell \$3 billion worth of U.S. military helicopters to the Indian armed forces as he touted a ‘critical partnership’ between the two countries.”**

**“Upon arriving in Agra to visit the Taj Mahal, Trump met Yogi Adityanath, a radical Hindu monk known for his anti-Muslim rhetoric.** The two shook hands and walked down the red carpet lined with performers. Adityanath is the chief minister of India's largest and most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, where Agra is located. Ahead of the meeting, critics decried the scheduled interaction, which they said could help legitimize Adityanath's divisive politics. The saffron-robed priest is a five-time parliamentarian who has more than a dozen criminal cases pending against him, including serious charges such as attempted murder and rioting. He has not been convicted of a crime. ... In 2014, Adityanath promised to cleanse India of other religions.”

**Mick Mulvaney didn't go on the trip because of a cold, sources said.** A person close to Mulvaney [told CNN](#) that White House doctors advised against having him travel in such close proximity to Trump.

**Trump, a known steak-lover, is in for a beef-free menu in India.** “I don't know what he's going to do in this case,” [a former official told CNN](#). “They don't serve cheeseburgers.” A person close to the president said that, aside from a few salads here and there, they “have never seen him eat a vegetable.”

**Trump's response to reports that Russia prefers him in 2020 has shaken the intelligence community.**

“Current and former national security officials were appalled but not surprised by [Joe] Maguire's unceremonious dispatch,” [Shane Harris, Ellen Nakashima and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Intelligence officers are used to working with presidents who don't enthusiastically embrace or always agree with their analysis. But Trump's tendency to shoot the messenger

puts the people working for him in a precarious position. ‘The intelligence community at this point is having to walk a tightrope,’ [said Katrina Mulligan, a former National Security Council aide under the Obama administration]. ... Three other former senior intelligence officials said that Trump’s violent reactions could encourage his advisers to withhold unsettling information. There is talk of ‘trying to hide’ stuff, one of the former officials said ... Current and former intelligence officials see [Rick] Grenell’s appointment, which he has said will last only until a permanent director is confirmed by the Senate, as a signal that Trump intends to exert more political control over the intelligence community.”

National security adviser, Robert C. O’Brien, claimed he has not seen any intelligence that Russia wants to help Trump: “But O’Brien said reports that Russia is helping Sanders were ‘no surprise’ ... As intelligence officials struggle to draw attention to election interference, Trump is purging the ranks of advisers he believes won’t strongly defend him. Johnny McEntee, the new head of the White House Presidential Personnel Office, has asked agencies to tell him about appointees who are opposed to the president, according to a White House official.”

### **Trump threatened Adam Schiff.**

The president claimed without evidence that the Democratic chairman of the House Intelligence Committee leaked details from Shelby Pierson’s briefing that led to Maguire’s ouster. “Someday he will be caught, & that will be a very unpleasant experience!” Trump tweeted. In another tweet, Trump jokingly suggested that former special counsel Bob Mueller should be dispatched to investigate the claims that [Russia is seeking to help Sanders win the Democratic nomination](#). “Trump maintained in an exchange with reporters outside the White House earlier Sunday that he had not been briefed about any Russian interference efforts,” [Felicia Sonmez reports](#). “He blamed Schiff and said there should be an investigation into the source of the leak.”

### **The White House wants to overhaul spy laws, partly due to Trump’s anger over the investigation of a former**

## **adviser.**

“The effort seeks to take advantage of the looming expiration of some spying powers next month, including portions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, a Watergate-era law that Mr. Trump believes was improperly used to target his campaign,” [the Wall Street Journal reports](#). “Overhauling FISA has become a rallying cry for conservatives and allies of the president in the aftermath of a watchdog report detailing several errors made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in its applications for surveillance of Mr. Trump’s campaign adviser, Carter Page. Some Republicans have called for upending FISA, prompting pushback from some in the administration, including Attorney General William Barr. The plan, which is being spearheaded by officials within the White House Domestic Policy Council, is in the early stages and could face resistance from other parts of the Trump administration, including the National Security Council, which has generally advocated maintaining or expanding surveillance powers during Mr. Trump’s presidency.”

## **Judge Amy Berman Jackson rejected Roger Stone’s effort to disqualify her.**

“The federal judge who oversaw [his] trial and sentenced him last week to 40 months in prison dismissed his demand that she be taken off the case as a baseless smear,” [Rachel Weiner reports](#). “Stone’s motion sought to disqualify Berman Jackson for referring during Thursday’s sentencing to ‘the jurors who served with integrity under difficult circumstances.’ He is still challenging one juror as biased. Berman Jackson rebutted any claim that she has not treated Stone fairly.”

## **Justice Clarence Thomas's wife has worked to identify “deep state” members who are “disloyal” to Trump.**

“The Trump White House and its allies, over the past 18 months, assembled detailed lists of disloyal government officials to oust — and trusted pro-Trump people to replace them,” [Axios reports](#). “Members of this network include [Ginni Thomas] and Republican Senate staffer Barbara Ledeen. ... Thomas has spent a significant amount of time and

energy urging Trump administration officials to change the personnel inside his government. ... The presidential personnel office reviewed Thomas' memo and determined that some names she passed along for jobs were not appropriate candidates.” Leeden wrote a memo arguing why former D.C. U.S. attorney Jessie Liu should be disqualified for a nomination to a top Treasury job. Thomas, meanwhile, compiled names of potential nominees for different positions, many sourced from meetings with her conservative activist network Groundswell. Potential hires she offered to Trump include: Sheriff David Clarke for a senior DHS job, radio talk show host Chris Plante for press secretary, and Federalist contributor Ben Weingarten for the National Security Council.

### **Trump, eyeing Nevada, opposed a nuclear waste site at Yucca, reversing his own administration's policy.**

“Why should you have nuclear waste in your backyard?’ Mr. Trump asked the crowd at a rally in Las Vegas on Friday, to applause, noting that his recently released budget proposal did not include funding to license the site, as previous ones had,” [the Times reports](#). “In Mr. Trump’s decentralized administration, top aides and agency leaders have sometimes pursued their own agendas, at times creating politically perilous situations for him. ... The president made his latest move after a monthslong policy debate inside the White House over finally breaking with support for Yucca ... Nationally, Republicans have long favored the proposal ... But Nevada politicians of both parties have remained steadfastly opposed to the policy, which is deeply unpopular in the state.”

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## **The new world order**



A newlywed couple wear protective masks as they take wedding photos in Hong Kong. (Tyrone Siu/Reuters)

## **China postponed its most important political gathering of the year because of the coronavirus.**

“China’s ruling Communist Party has postponed the biggest event in China’s political calendar, the National People’s Congress, as it concentrates on fighting the coronavirus,” [Anna Fifield and Liu Yang report](#). “The annual legislative session, held together with a meeting of the party’s top political-advisory body, was due to begin on March 5. But the NPC’s Standing Committee decided at a meeting in Beijing on Monday that they would be delayed. It did not set a date for the meetings, known collectively as the ‘Two Sessions.’ It will be the first time since 1997 that the meetings have not started in the first week of March.”

President Xi Jinping said that the outbreak is a crisis that will test the Chinese economy. “No victory should be lightly announced until there is a complete win,” he said during a speech to Communist Party members in Beijing on Sunday, adding the situation remains [grim and complex](#).

## **China backtracked on a decision to relax travel**



## **restrictions on Wuhan.**

“A notice by Wuhan’s epidemic prevention and control headquarters said Monday that it would ease some of the more draconian travel restrictions on the locked-down city at the heart of the epidemic, allowing for the return of some residents trapped outside Wuhan since late January and permitting visitors stuck in the city to leave. But hours later, Wuhan’s city government declared the earlier announcement invalid, saying it had been released without authorization,” [Adam Taylor reports](#). “Official figures released Monday showed there had been 409 new cases of the novel coronavirus and 150 new deaths from the outbreak by the end of Sunday, bringing the total confirmed cases to 77,150 with a cumulative death toll of 2,592.”

## **A Chinese study suggests that the outbreak didn’t begin at a Wuhan market.**

“Co-authored by researchers from three Chinese institutions including the Chinese Academy of Sciences and published on the academy’s website last Thursday, the study attempts to trace how the virus emerged and evolved. The authors analyzed the genomic data from 93 samples of the novel coronavirus and concluded that it was likely to have spread to the market from somewhere else,” [Tiffany Liang reports](#). “It also pointed out that human-to-human transmission of the virus might have existed in Wuhan as early as late November. The market was closed on Jan. 1.”

## **South Korea temporarily shut down the messianic church linked to half of the country’s virus cases.**

“More than half of South Korea’s covid-19 cases have been traced to a regional branch of the secretive Shincheonji Church of Jesus, formally known as the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony. But authorities were having difficulty locating members, many of whom are probably in hiding,” [Min Joo Kim reports](#). “The South Korean government on Sunday announced 169 new coronavirus cases and two more deaths, bringing the totals to 602 cases and six deaths. ... South Korean President Moon Jae-in said the country’s coronavirus crisis has entered a ‘totally different phase

since the mass infection at Shincheonji.’ Hundreds of thousands signed a petition calling for the church to be dissolved. Moon called the temporary shutdown of Shincheonji churches across the country ‘a fair and inevitable step’ to protect the community. He said there was ‘no intention to limit religious freedom.’”

## **Fifty people reportedly died of coronavirus in the Iranian city of Qom.**

The country’s health minister rejected the report from Iranian lawmaker Ahmad Amirabadi Farahani, who claimed that the government is covering up the full extent of the outbreak. ([The Guardian](#))

## **The U.S. government backtracked on a plan to transfer quarantined patients to Alabama.**

Hours after Anniston County's City Council voted on Sunday to pursue legal action against the federal government over its proposal to transfer patients from the Diamond Princess cruise ship to be held in the town's FEMA facility, Sen. Richard Shelby (R) and Gov. Kay Ivey (R) announced that plans had changed. Ivey said Trump called and assured her that the patients wouldn't be sent to Alabama, [ABC News reports](#).

## **Hong Kong refugees traverse a legal twilight zone as they build their new lives in Taiwan.**

“Che-lam Presbyterian Church is next door to Taiwan's legislature and a stone's throw from the presidential office in the island's capital. But while President Tsai Ing-wen's support for Hong Kong protesters powered her to reelection last month, the church is Taiwan's only institution to publicly provide material assistance to people who have fled the Asian financial hub's crackdown on demonstrators,” [Nick Aspinwall reports](#). “Although Taiwan has temporarily barred entry to most Hong Kongers amid the coronavirus outbreak, many in Hong Kong view the island as a place to resettle should their political strife worsen. ... Taiwan, which is not a member of the United Nations, has not signed the U.N. Refugee Convention and has no formal asylum laws. Its government processes people from Hong Kong on a case-by-case basis but provides no public

assurance of their long-term legal status, leading to concerns that the uncertainty creates gaps for protesters to be exploited.”

## **Israel’s fear of coronavirus contagion grows as election day approaches.**

The concern comes after “reports that a group of South Koreans who had visited some of the country's most popular religious and tourist spots tested positive for the infection,” [Steve Hendrix reports](#). “Israeli officials, who had expressed cautious optimism that Israel could avoid significant risk from the global epidemic, immediately increased restrictions on those entering the country. **Non-Israeli travelers from South Korea and Japan have been barred from entering**, according to local media reports, and Israelis arriving from any of several Asian countries face two weeks of mandatory quarantine.”

## **Israeli military jets targeted sites in Gaza and Syria linked to Palestinian Islamic Jihad.**

The attacks came “hours after militants from the group fired more than 20 rockets into Israeli territory,” [Ruth Eglash and Hazem Balousha report](#). “The exchange came after a Palestinian news agency posted graphic footage of an [Israeli army bulldozer dragging the body of a Palestinian man](#) who Israel said was part of a ‘terror squad,’ killed as he placed an explosive device along the border fence. ... The Israeli strikes injured four in Gaza, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.”

## **Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad, the world’s oldest national leader, resigned.**

“Under Malaysia’s constitution, the entire cabinet must be dissolved if the prime minister resigns,” [Shibani Mahtani and Jonathan Edward report](#). “As the prime minister’s office announced Mahathir’s intent to resign, his political party, the Malaysian United Indigenous Party, known as Bersatu, said it would be leaving Malaysia’s ruling coalition. About a dozen other prominent members of parliament also left to form an independent bloc in the Southeast Asian country’s legislature. The king, Sultan Abdullah of Pahang, has not commented publicly on the matter. The political drama

on Monday appeared to thwart one of Southeast Asia's most celebrated democratic transitions, and returned Malaysia to a time of backdoor political plotting and palace intrigue. The move also appeared aimed at preventing [Anwar Ibrahim] from taking over as leader."

### **In Greece, migrants wait in bread lines while tourists dine on grilled octopus next door.**

"At the Moria refugee camp on Lesbos, the largest of the island facilities, migrants wait in snaking lines for up to eight hours a day to get their meals," [Chico Harlan reports](#). "They wait because this camp has mushroomed in size, growing seven times more crowded than its capacity, a shantytown on a vacation island never intended for such emergencies ... One migrant said the food was worse than at her former workplace, an Afghan prison. ... Yet beyond the camp, closer to the water, locals and tourists are eating well. Lesbos's tavernas serve octopus, grilled squid, feta, vegetables dressed with lemon and olive oil. That jarring juxtaposition is part of what makes the camp 'one of the worst places I've seen on earth,' said Marco Sandrone, the Lesbos field coordinator for Doctors Without Borders."

### **The U.K.'s new post-Brexit passports will be distributed next month.**

What the the Home Office didn't say, however, was that the passports will be made by a Franco-Dutch company at a Polish factory under E.U. procurement rules, [the Times reports](#).

### **Harry and Meghan won't be able to use the brand**

**"SussexRoyal" in any territories.** The couple, which will become independent from the crown on March 31, appeared upset at the palace's ban on the use of the word "royal." ([The Guardian](#))

### **Prague renamed the square in front of the Russian embassy after the slain Putin critic Boris Nemtsov. (CNN)**

### **Prosecutors say a former DEA agent laundered millions for a Colombian cartel.**

“Jose Irizarry was the model agent for his bosses at the Drug Enforcement Administration. Seen as a rising star in Miami for overseeing undercover investigations that led to dozens of drug arrests, Irizarry transferred to the Colombian city of Cartagena to continue to fight the violent cartel. ... But **when the DEA special agent allegedly began to spend lavishly on homes, cars and jewelry, and hosted wild yacht parties with bikini-clad prostitutes, it raised some red flags within the agency,**” [Timothy Bella reports](#). “As it turns out, Irizarry allegedly laundered money for the very Colombian drug cartel he was fighting against. Irizarry, 46, was arrested Friday at his home near San Juan, Puerto Rico, on charges of conspiring to launder money, as well as honest services wire fraud, bank fraud, conspiracy to commit bank fraud, conspiracy to commit identity theft and aggravated identity theft. ... **Irizarry, who resigned in early 2018 after the agency grew suspicious, is believed to have laundered more than \$7 million.**”

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## Social media speed read

Sanders’s partial defense of Fidel Castro on CBS's “60 Minutes” drew widespread criticism from conservatives in Florida:



**Marco Rubio** ✓

@marcorubio



Likely Dem nominee praised the supposed  
“achievements” Castro regime

And he’s wrong about why people didn’t overthrow  
Castro. It’s not because “he educated their kids,gave  
them health care” it’s because his opponents were  
jailed,murdered or exiled [cbsnews.com/news/bernie-sa...](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bernie-sanders/)



**Bernie Sanders on being the Democratic frontrunn...**

Coming off his win in the Nevada caucuses, Bernie Sanders  
talks about Michael Bloomberg, Donald Trump, Democratic  
[cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com)

♥ 4,436 3:13 AM - Feb 24, 2020



💬 2,423 people are talking about this



Former presidential candidate Marianne Williamson endorsed Sanders:



**Emma Kinery** ✓  
@EmmaKinery



“Surprise guest” and native Texan Marianne Williamson endorses Bernie Sanders for president at his rally in Austin, TX



♥ 12.2K 11:11 PM - Feb 23, 2020



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And love led a Sanders supporter to a Warren rally:



**Jess Bidgood**

@jessbidgood



A happy couple at the @ewarren rally in Denver



♥ 22 11:30 PM - Feb 23, 2020



[See Jess Bidgood's other Tweets](#)



Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) responded playfully to a report in the New York Post that noted he's spent over \$8,600 at Junior's Cheesecake over the past decade, mostly to buy gifts using campaign funds:





**The Hill**   
@thehill



"Guilty as charged... it's my guilty pleasure."

WATCH: Sen. Chuck Schumer admits to spending thousands on cheesecake and serves cheesecake to members of the press in a lighthearted moment.



♥ 196 1:13 AM - Feb 24, 2020



💬 81 people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

John Oliver talked about India's Modi:



“The Daily Show” offered an interesting service to former presidential candidates:



And a California couple that went missing on Valentine's Day was found alive on Saturday by a search dog named Groot:



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# The Daily 202

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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## **Bernie Sanders built a diverse coalition to win Nevada. South Carolina offers a tougher test.**

COLUMBIA, S.C. – As Bernie Sanders cruised to a landslide victory in the Nevada caucuses on Saturday, Keith Ellison told volunteers here that a win in South Carolina’s primary would make the senator’s path to the Democratic presidential nomination essentially unstoppable. “We’re going to break it out,” he said, banging his hand on a table for emphasis.

Ellison, a former congressman who is now Minnesota’s attorney general after running unsuccessfully to be chairman of the Democratic National

Committee in 2017, warmed up a crowd of 120 at a Sanders rally in the fellowship hall at First Calvary Baptist Church. Next up was Sanders surrogate scholar-activist Cornel West, who was downright triumphal.

“The corporate media is telling lies about my dear brother Bernie Sanders: They call him a Bolshevik. That’s what they said about my brother Martin Luther King Jr.,” West said to a chorus of amens. “Get ready to get lied on, rebuked, scorned, attacked, assaulted. ... In some ways, that’s a compliment. It means they’ve got to take us seriously now. It also means that we’ve got momentum. And once you let that genie out, there ain’t no putting it back in.”

A field organizer announced that Sanders volunteers had knocked on 11,000 doors in South Carolina that day, and there was a palpable feeling in the room that their movement is on the cusp of [taking over](#) the Democratic Party.

It was a totally different vibe than four years ago for the independent senator from Vermont. After Sanders won the New Hampshire primary by 22 points in 2016, he lost the Nevada caucuses to Hillary Clinton by 5 points and then got trounced in the South Carolina primary by 47 points. The Sanders effort dragged on for three more months, but the crushing defeat here – which showed that he couldn’t break Clinton’s firewall with African Americans – was the beginning of the end.



Cornel West speaks Saturday in Columbia. (James Hohmann/The Washington Post)

Ellison and West stumped together for Sanders in 2016. But what made this event feel quite different was the presence of several African American state legislators who didn't endorse him four years ago. State Rep. Leon Howard, who chairs a state House committee that oversees public hospitals, talked about how much Medicare-for-all might help his constituents. "We have a real opportunity to win this election," he said. "South Carolina is the slingshot that will propel Senator Sanders to the White House," added state Rep. Ivory Thigpen.

Sanders supporter April Jones, 36, a stay-at-home mom in Columbia, said a lot of people here who reflexively backed Clinton last time are giving Sanders a serious look. "It's like if you're dating somebody," she explained. "You come back around a second time and you're like, 'Oh, I'm going to give you some new eyes because I kind of know you from before.' ... We're in even more of a crisis economically, in terms of inequality being so much worse, and he talked about all these same issues last time. Four years ago, people said his ideas were too radical, but now they're all mainstream

positions, so people kind of see him as a visionary.”

**Sanders’s sweeping win in the Silver State was powered by large numbers of first-time caucus-goers. He won 51 percent of Hispanics, 29 percent of whites and 27 percent of African Americans**, according to [entrance polls](#) of Democratic caucus-goers. Sanders got the support of 2 in 3 voters under 30 years old and carried every age group except those over 65, which went for Joe Biden. “In Nevada, we have just put together a multigenerational, multiracial coalition,” Sanders said during a rally in San Antonio after he was declared the winner. “It is going to sweep this country.”

First, though, all the candidates are sweeping into South Carolina. **After trying to lower expectations for the better part of a year, Sanders is now playing to win in the Palmetto State and plans to invest heavily in hopes of knocking out Biden.** After a televised debate in Charleston with all his rivals on Tuesday night, Sanders is scheduled to hold rallies in North Charleston and Myrtle Beach on Wednesday, Spartanburg on Thursday and Columbia on Friday, where he’ll speak on the steps of the state capitol. He is airing commercials in every media market.

**More than half the Democratic electorate this Saturday will be African American.** In 2016, exit polls show that Clinton won 86 percent of the black vote in South Carolina. Biden won 39 percent of black voters in Nevada on Saturday, 12 points better than Sanders. But that represented a major improvement for Sanders, who got only 22 percent of the black vote against Clinton in a two-way race there in 2016.



**Biden remains the favorite to win this first-in-the-South primary on Saturday, but Sanders is nipping at the former vice president's heels.** A CBS News-YouGov poll released Sunday puts Biden at 28 percent among likely voters, down 17 points from last month, with Sanders at 23 percent, up 8 points. Tom Steyer, the billionaire who didn't qualify for last week's debate but has spent more time and money in South Carolina than any other candidate, polled in third place, with 18 percent, followed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.) at 12 percent, former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg at 10 percent and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Minn.) at 4 percent. The poll found that 46 percent of likely



voters say they've definitely made up their minds, 45 percent said they've probably made up their minds and 7 percent said they'll probably end up changing their minds between now and the primary.

**Biden is making what could be a last stand.** He hopes that a win in South Carolina after his second-place finish in Nevada will give him momentum in the Southern states with large black populations that vote on March 3. "The African American community in South Carolina can make a judgment about who the next president of the United States is going to be," Biden told congregants on Sunday at the Royal Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston. "Literally!"

**I drove nearly 500 miles around South Carolina this weekend to take the pulse of the Democratic electorate, and the polling tracks with what I found anecdotally in more than two dozen interviews.**

**"Bernie Sanders obviously learned a lot from his loss here in 2016," said Trav Robertson Jr., the chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party.** "In 2016, they'd only come for groups that were 3,000 people or bigger. They transitioned into realizing that they've got to visit smaller communities of color. ... That's paying off for him, especially among younger African American voters."

We chatted Sunday night in Conway after a two-hour forum for candidate surrogates at the Mason Temple Church of God in Christ. Robertson, who is neutral, said **Our Revolution, the outside group created to boost Sanders after 2016, has been organizing in this state nonstop since the last presidential election.** He said that group, combined with the campaign's early investments in a field program, is an important part of the story for why Sanders has made "a hell of a lot of headway."

"Sanders, to a certain extent, has held true to his core values for 40 years, but he modified his campaign practices this time," Robertson said. "What we're going to find out in the next several days is whether or not Joe Biden's support is because of name ID and a positive feeling, especially

among older African American voters. ... The other question you've got to ask is: How big a win does Biden need to have going into Super Tuesday? I don't know."



Jim Clyburn arrives for a meeting with other House Democrats at the Capitol last month. (J. Scott Applewhite/AP)

### **With momentum comes scrutiny.**

**House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (S.C.), who is No. 3 in Democratic leadership and an ally of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, warned on the Sunday shows that Sanders and his brand of “socialism” could cost the party its House majority.** “I think it would be a real burden for us in these states or congressional districts that we have to do well in,” Clyburn said on ABC’s “This Week.” “If you look at how well we did the last time [in 2018] and look at the congressional districts, these were not liberal or what you might call progressive districts. These were basically moderate and conservative districts that we did well in.” Clyburn announced that he will reveal his endorsement on Wednesday morning – after the debate. [Politico reports](#) that he plans to endorse Biden.

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## Quote of the day

*“I don’t see a whole lot of 2016 in this election. I see a whole lot of 1972,” Clyburn told [the Charleston Post & Courier](#), comparing Sanders to George McGovern.*



**Buttigieg, who finished third in Nevada, is running an attack ad in South Carolina against Sanders over Medicare-for-all.** A narrator says Sanders would “eliminate private insurance” and kick “22 million seniors off of Medicare Advantage.” This is the first negative ad this election cycle that a Democrat has actually aired on television against a rival. “Senator Sanders’s revolution has the tenor of combat, division and polarization, a vision where whoever wins the day, nothing will change the toxic tone of our politics,” Buttigieg said Saturday night in Las Vegas.

**While Mike Bloomberg bore the brunt of attacks last week in Las Vegas, Sanders will probably be the focus of the most attacks during Tuesday’s debate,** which will air on CBS. But the collective action problem remains for the candidates who aspire to emerge as the main alternative to Sanders. Biden, Buttigieg, Warren, Klobuchar and Bloomberg, who does not appear on any ballots until Super Tuesday, all show no signs of backing down.

**Biden's campaign stepped up attacks on Sunday against Sanders for flirting with a primary challenge against Barack Obama in 2012 and for not detailing how he'd pay for his ambitious plans. And Warren sharpened her criticisms of Sanders during a rally in Denver on Sunday night.** "People ask about the difference between Bernie and me, because there are a lot of places where we agree about the things we want to fight for," she told a crowd of 4,000. "But here's a big [difference]: Bernie supports the filibuster. I'm going to get rid of the filibuster." During a gaggle with reporters afterward, though, Warren declined to call Sanders a "risky" choice for the nomination. Instead, she attacked Bloomberg.

**Steyer is an X factor.** He's qualified to appear onstage in Tuesday's debate and has made reparations for the descendants of slaves a centerpiece of his campaign.



**Even though he doesn't actually lead in the statewide polls here, Sanders dominates the conversation among Democratic voters. He provokes strong passions, both positive and negative.** Robyn Morgan, 41 of Pamplico, came to Warren's field office in Florence to go door-knocking with her 3-year-old daughter Hannah. She said she loves that "Warren has a plan for everything," especially universal childcare.

The student adviser at a small college complained that Sanders could never succeed with his temperament if he was a red-in-the-face female candidate. “Warren is so much less quote unquote ‘angry’ than Sanders, but people don’t see it that way because she’s a woman,” Morgan said. “In 2016, I didn’t think Sanders could ever survive the vetting process. But apparently that doesn’t seem to matter anymore. ... Everything he stands for fits on a hat, but what it takes to run our government doesn’t fit on a hat.”

Michael Rahenkemp, 62 of Florence, phone-banked for Warren at her Florence field office. The retired computer programmer said he strongly supports Medicare-for-all and Sanders is his second choice. “But I think she has a better set of policies,” he said. “He’s a democratic socialist whereas Warren is more of a capitalist, and I support capitalism.”

**Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) is the only member of the self-described Squad of first-term women of color who didn’t endorse Sanders.** She’s become one of Warren’s most visible surrogates and barnstormed Sunday across what’s known as the Pee Dee region in the northeast corner of South Carolina. Speaking to 18 canvassers as they prepared to knock on doors Sunday afternoon, Pressley emphasized that Warren is aspirational but has plans that are attainable – an apparent dig at Sanders. “People have broken hearts because of broken promise,” she said. “Elizabeth keeps her promises.” When I asked her whether liberals should rally behind Sanders to stop a more moderate candidate from securing the nomination – because Warren hasn’t won a delegate since Iowa – Pressley replied: “I believe she’s the most electable. ... We’re not riding the pollercoaster.”



Ayanna Pressley, right, greets volunteers at Elizabeth Warren's field office on Sunday afternoon in Florence, S.C. (James Hohmann/The Washington Post)

**Only 35 percent of likely Democratic primary voters in the CBS poll of South Carolina said they're very confident that Democrats will nominate someone who can beat President Trump.** Regardless of who they support, asked who has the best chance to beat Trump, Sanders still finished second, trailing Biden 33 percent to 23 percent. The poll found that 37 percent of likely South Carolina voters said Sanders's policy positions are too liberal to defeat Trump, compared to 49 percent who said his stances are about right for defeating Trump. Respondents were asked who has impressed them in the most recent debates and could pick multiple options. Sanders was first, impressing 43 percent, followed by Warren at 41 percent and Biden at 35 percent.

**While his rivals focus on him, Sanders's stump speech has stayed as focused as ever on criticizing Trump.** He opened a rally in Houston on Sunday afternoon by raising the electability question. "Some of the folks in the corporate media are getting a little bit nervous, and they say Bernie can't beat Trump," he [told](#) a crowd of more than

6,200. The front-runner then read the results of a few recent polls that showed him beating both Trump nationally and [in states like Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin](#).

**The audience of 120 people who came to see West and Ellison in Columbia on Saturday night was split almost evenly between white and black voters.** “A lot of politicians don’t want to be seen as radical because they want to keep their positions, but Bernie has been doing this his way since before I was born,” said Eric Johnson, 34, a graphic designer in Columbia who is African American and has attended three Sanders rallies in the last eight months. “Now we hear the term ‘socialism’ thrown around. Nobody really knows what it is. There’s no set definition of democratic socialism. How is it that negative? It’s like the term ‘Bernie Bros’ and how that’s a term that’s been twisted to mean something negative.”

Janet Bates, 62, a Democratic middle school teacher in Columbia who is white and voted for George W. Bush two decades ago supports Sanders because she admires his ideological consistency. “I haven’t always believed in everything he’s stood for, but it’s probably 90 percent,” she said. “Even his detractors would agree he’s exactly the same person he was decades ago.”



## **South Carolina is not fertile ground for Buttigieg.**

He's running into some of the same problems that Sanders did four years ago related to a dearth of black support. Last night's forum in Conway put this into stark relief. Rep. Anthony Brown (D-Md.), a national co-chair of his campaign, spent Sunday visiting black churches. After the emcee introduced him as a surrogate for "Boot-um-egg," Brown falsely claimed that Buttigieg was campaigning in a different part of the state (in fact, he was in Northern Virginia) and then made the case that Sanders, without naming him, would "jeopardize" down-ballot candidates.

"We're up against a president who is quite formidable," he said. "The candidates don't differ a lot on the issues. ... But Americans are yearning for a new face."

Robertson, the state party chairman, had emphasized how much more diverse South Carolina is than Iowa and New Hampshire during his introductory remarks. Noting Buttigieg's success in those two states, Brown pointed toward him and said: "Let's not discount Iowa and New Hampshire because they are Americans too!"

Then Brown spent two minutes complaining about distortions related to Buttigieg's relationship with the black community as mayor in South Bend, Ind. "If you're a young black man in South Bend, now listen close, because you've heard a lot of disinformation, the chances of you being convicted for marijuana possession are lower than anywhere else in Indiana and lower than the American average," he said.

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**More on 2020**



## Inside each campaign's Super Tuesday strategy

**Sanders hopes to twist the knife by picking off either Massachusetts (Warren's home state) and/or Minnesota (Klobuchar's home state) a week from tomorrow, which would be paralyzing blows for either of them.** He's expected to hold an event in both states between now and Super Tuesday. The biggest of the 14 prizes on March 3 are California and Texas. All told, approximately one-third of the nearly 4,000 pledged delegates to the convention will be awarded. "Sanders's money and organization have allowed him to spend weeks punctuating visits to early-voting states with trips to Super Tuesday states — most notably delegate-heavy California, where rival campaigns believe he will be difficult to beat," [Chelsea Janes, Annie Linskey and Matt Viser report](#).

**"The goal for Buttigieg's campaign on Super Tuesday is to accumulate enough delegates to stay within striking distance of Sanders.** Campaign advisers say if he is close Super Tuesday, states voting March 10 and 17 — including Michigan, Ohio, Arizona and Illinois — are favorable enough to Buttigieg to allow him to make up ground. ... Last week, Buttigieg squeezed in a trip to Salt Lake City, where his campaign has made a major organizing push and earned endorsements from several local officials. His campaign also is counting on delegate-rich areas in some of the less high-profile Super Tuesday states — Little Rock, for one. He campaigned in Northern Virginia Sunday and has stops scheduled in Raleigh, N.C., and Oklahoma City before Super Tuesday. ...

**"Warren is banking her candidacy on the idea that she can begin accumulating delegates on March 3 by doing well in liberal pockets like Denver, San Antonio and the Los Angeles area.** Over the next few days, Warren will campaign in South Carolina, but she also plans a Thursday evening rally in San Antonio with Julián Castro, the former mayor of that city, and a stop in the Los Angeles area. Warren's campaign has bought TV ad time in Colorado and Maine. The campaign also will air ads starting Tuesday in Austin, San Antonio and Oklahoma City — all population-rich areas in Super Tuesday states. ...

**“Klobuchar had to ramp up her national operation more hurriedly than her competitors ... She stopped by Colorado this week and headed to her home state to raise money Saturday — followed by a Sunday three-state tour via charter plane: Fargo to Oklahoma City to Little Rock.** (North Dakota votes a week after Oklahoma and Arkansas, Super Tuesday states.) ... Several Super Tuesday states, including Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina and Alabama, have substantial numbers of black voters. But Biden has not been advertising in those states and, while he is already well known, the lack of visibility could be problematic at a time when Bloomberg is flooding the airwaves.”

**Internal polling and analytics completed last week by Bloomberg’s campaign projected that Sanders may be the only presidential candidate to win delegates in every state and district on March 3, delivering him a lead of 350 to 400 out of 1,357 delegates set to be awarded, unless race dynamics change,** Mike DeBonis and Michael Scherer reported in [the Sunday newspaper](#). “Because of Democratic rules that give no delegates to candidates who scores less than 15 percent of the vote in a state or congressional district, Sanders could build a delegate lead far greater than his advantage in the popular vote.”

### **New surveys show Sanders leading in three key Midwestern states that vote after Super Tuesday.**

The University of Wisconsin at Madison-YouGov [surveys of likely Democratic primary voters](#) showed Sanders garnering 25 percent in Michigan, which holds its primary on March 10. His nearest competitor was Biden, with 16 percent. In Wisconsin, which votes on April 7, Sanders led with 30 percent. Biden and Bloomberg trailed with 13 percent. And in Pennsylvania, Sanders led with 25 percent, followed by Biden at 20 percent and Bloomberg at 19 percent. That primary is April 28. “Sanders is well positioned to pick up the lion’s share of delegates in these states unless another Democrat breaks away from the pack to challenge him,” said UW-Madison political science Barry Burden, who runs the Elections

Research Center.

## **Buttigieg's campaign alleged numerous errors in Nevada's vote counting.**

But the state Democratic Party rebuffed a request from Buttigieg's campaign to hold off releasing final numbers, which showed him in third place behind Biden. ([Isaac Stanley-Becker](#))

Harry Reid, the former Senate majority leader from Nevada, said in a statement last night that caucuses should no longer be used to nominate candidates. He repeated his call for Nevada to hold a primary before Iowa or New Hampshire vote, emphasizing the Silver State's diversity.

## **Bloomberg will postpone a CNN town hall to focus on debate prep.**

“Bloomberg was scheduled to appear on CNN on Monday. But he'll now join the network for the live question-and-answer program on Wednesday,” [the Associated Press reports](#). “A spokeswoman for Bloomberg called the debate ‘crucial’ and said ‘the country can’t afford to let Bernie Sanders skate by another debate without a focus on his extreme record.’”

Trump will hold a campaign rally in North Charleston the night before the South Carolina Democratic primary, per the [Post and Courier](#).

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## **The Trump presidency**



President Trump takes the stage with his wife and the Indian prime minister for a “Namaste Trump” rally at Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad, India. (Alex Brandon/AP)

## **Trump is visiting India for the first time as president.**

The whirlwind 36-hour tour “includes a mega rally expected to draw more than 100,000 people, a visit to the Taj Mahal, and a day of ceremonies and meetings in Delhi. Trump was greeted by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom Trump recently described as ‘a friend of mine,’” [Niha Masih, Joanna Slater, Seung Min Kim and Anne Gearan report](#). “The Modi government has encountered considerable international criticism — including from members of Congress — over its crackdown in Kashmir, India’s only Muslim-majority state, and the passage of a controversial religion-based citizenship bill that has led to protests throughout the country. **In the run-up to the trip, a senior White House official said Trump would raise the issue of religious freedom with Modi in private. ...**

“Thousands of people lined the streets of Ahmedabad, the largest city in the state of Gujarat, to welcome Trump. Trump had said earlier that as many as 10 million people would be there to greet him. Preparations included building a wall to hide a slum along his route.” Trump and Modi

lavished praise on each other during a joint rally at the world's largest cricket stadium before an audience of 100,000. On stage, **Trump announced that “the United States and India are poised to sign a new agreement to sell \$3 billion worth of U.S. military helicopters to the Indian armed forces as he touted a ‘critical partnership’ between the two countries.”**

**“Upon arriving in Agra to visit the Taj Mahal, Trump met Yogi Adityanath, a radical Hindu monk known for his anti-Muslim rhetoric.** The two shook hands and walked down the red carpet lined with performers. Adityanath is the chief minister of India's largest and most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, where Agra is located. Ahead of the meeting, critics decried the scheduled interaction, which they said could help legitimize Adityanath's divisive politics. The saffron-robed priest is a five-time parliamentarian who has more than a dozen criminal cases pending against him, including serious charges such as attempted murder and rioting. He has not been convicted of a crime. ... In 2014, Adityanath promised to cleanse India of other religions.”

**Mick Mulvaney didn't go on the trip because of a cold, sources said.** A person close to Mulvaney [told CNN](#) that White House doctors advised against having him travel in such close proximity to Trump.

**Trump, a known steak-lover, is in for a beef-free menu in India.** “I don't know what he's going to do in this case,” [a former official told CNN](#). “They don't serve cheeseburgers.” A person close to the president said that, aside from a few salads here and there, they “have never seen him eat a vegetable.”

**Trump's response to reports that Russia prefers him in 2020 has shaken the intelligence community.**

“Current and former national security officials were appalled but not surprised by [Joe] Maguire's unceremonious dispatch,” [Shane Harris, Ellen Nakashima and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Intelligence officers are used to working with presidents who don't enthusiastically embrace or always agree with their analysis. But Trump's tendency to shoot the messenger

puts the people working for him in a precarious position. ‘The intelligence community at this point is having to walk a tightrope,’ [said Katrina Mulligan, a former National Security Council aide under the Obama administration]. ... Three other former senior intelligence officials said that Trump’s violent reactions could encourage his advisers to withhold unsettling information. There is talk of ‘trying to hide’ stuff, one of the former officials said ... Current and former intelligence officials see [Rick] Grenell’s appointment, which he has said will last only until a permanent director is confirmed by the Senate, as a signal that Trump intends to exert more political control over the intelligence community.”

National security adviser, Robert C. O’Brien, claimed he has not seen any intelligence that Russia wants to help Trump: “But O’Brien said reports that Russia is helping Sanders were ‘no surprise’ ... As intelligence officials struggle to draw attention to election interference, Trump is purging the ranks of advisers he believes won’t strongly defend him. Johnny McEntee, the new head of the White House Presidential Personnel Office, has asked agencies to tell him about appointees who are opposed to the president, according to a White House official.”

### **Trump threatened Adam Schiff.**

The president claimed without evidence that the Democratic chairman of the House Intelligence Committee leaked details from Shelby Pierson’s briefing that led to Maguire’s ouster. “Someday he will be caught, & that will be a very unpleasant experience!” Trump tweeted. In another tweet, Trump jokingly suggested that former special counsel Bob Mueller should be dispatched to investigate the claims that [Russia is seeking to help Sanders win the Democratic nomination](#). “Trump maintained in an exchange with reporters outside the White House earlier Sunday that he had not been briefed about any Russian interference efforts,” [Felicia Sonmez reports](#). “He blamed Schiff and said there should be an investigation into the source of the leak.”

### **The White House wants to overhaul spy laws, partly due to Trump’s anger over the investigation of a former**

## **adviser.**

“The effort seeks to take advantage of the looming expiration of some spying powers next month, including portions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, a Watergate-era law that Mr. Trump believes was improperly used to target his campaign,” [the Wall Street Journal reports](#). “Overhauling FISA has become a rallying cry for conservatives and allies of the president in the aftermath of a watchdog report detailing several errors made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in its applications for surveillance of Mr. Trump’s campaign adviser, Carter Page. Some Republicans have called for upending FISA, prompting pushback from some in the administration, including Attorney General William Barr. The plan, which is being spearheaded by officials within the White House Domestic Policy Council, is in the early stages and could face resistance from other parts of the Trump administration, including the National Security Council, which has generally advocated maintaining or expanding surveillance powers during Mr. Trump’s presidency.”

## **Judge Amy Berman Jackson rejected Roger Stone’s effort to disqualify her.**

“The federal judge who oversaw [his] trial and sentenced him last week to 40 months in prison dismissed his demand that she be taken off the case as a baseless smear,” [Rachel Weiner reports](#). “Stone’s motion sought to disqualify Berman Jackson for referring during Thursday’s sentencing to ‘the jurors who served with integrity under difficult circumstances.’ He is still challenging one juror as biased. Berman Jackson rebutted any claim that she has not treated Stone fairly.”

## **Justice Clarence Thomas's wife has worked to identify “deep state” members who are “disloyal” to Trump.**

“The Trump White House and its allies, over the past 18 months, assembled detailed lists of disloyal government officials to oust — and trusted pro-Trump people to replace them,” [Axios reports](#). “Members of this network include [Ginni Thomas] and Republican Senate staffer Barbara Ledeen. ... Thomas has spent a significant amount of time and

energy urging Trump administration officials to change the personnel inside his government. ... The presidential personnel office reviewed Thomas' memo and determined that some names she passed along for jobs were not appropriate candidates.” Leeden wrote a memo arguing why former D.C. U.S. attorney Jessie Liu should be disqualified for a nomination to a top Treasury job. Thomas, meanwhile, compiled names of potential nominees for different positions, many sourced from meetings with her conservative activist network Groundswell. Potential hires she offered to Trump include: Sheriff David Clarke for a senior DHS job, radio talk show host Chris Plante for press secretary, and Federalist contributor Ben Weingarten for the National Security Council.

### **Trump, eyeing Nevada, opposed a nuclear waste site at Yucca, reversing his own administration's policy.**

“Why should you have nuclear waste in your backyard?’ Mr. Trump asked the crowd at a rally in Las Vegas on Friday, to applause, noting that his recently released budget proposal did not include funding to license the site, as previous ones had,” [the Times reports](#). “In Mr. Trump’s decentralized administration, top aides and agency leaders have sometimes pursued their own agendas, at times creating politically perilous situations for him. ... The president made his latest move after a monthslong policy debate inside the White House over finally breaking with support for Yucca ... Nationally, Republicans have long favored the proposal ... But Nevada politicians of both parties have remained steadfastly opposed to the policy, which is deeply unpopular in the state.”

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## **The new world order**





A newlywed couple wear protective masks as they take wedding photos in Hong Kong. (Tyrone Siu/Reuters)

## **China postponed its most important political gathering of the year because of the coronavirus.**

“China’s ruling Communist Party has postponed the biggest event in China’s political calendar, the National People’s Congress, as it concentrates on fighting the coronavirus,” [Anna Fifield and Liu Yang report](#). “The annual legislative session, held together with a meeting of the party’s top political-advisory body, was due to begin on March 5. But the NPC’s Standing Committee decided at a meeting in Beijing on Monday that they would be delayed. It did not set a date for the meetings, known collectively as the ‘Two Sessions.’ It will be the first time since 1997 that the meetings have not started in the first week of March.”

President Xi Jinping said that the outbreak is a crisis that will test the Chinese economy. “No victory should be lightly announced until there is a complete win,” he said during a speech to Communist Party members in Beijing on Sunday, adding the situation remains [grim and complex](#).

## **China backtracked on a decision to relax travel**

## **restrictions on Wuhan.**

“A notice by Wuhan’s epidemic prevention and control headquarters said Monday that it would ease some of the more draconian travel restrictions on the locked-down city at the heart of the epidemic, allowing for the return of some residents trapped outside Wuhan since late January and permitting visitors stuck in the city to leave. But hours later, Wuhan’s city government declared the earlier announcement invalid, saying it had been released without authorization,” [Adam Taylor reports](#). “Official figures released Monday showed there had been 409 new cases of the novel coronavirus and 150 new deaths from the outbreak by the end of Sunday, bringing the total confirmed cases to 77,150 with a cumulative death toll of 2,592.”

## **A Chinese study suggests that the outbreak didn’t begin at a Wuhan market.**

“Co-authored by researchers from three Chinese institutions including the Chinese Academy of Sciences and published on the academy’s website last Thursday, the study attempts to trace how the virus emerged and evolved. The authors analyzed the genomic data from 93 samples of the novel coronavirus and concluded that it was likely to have spread to the market from somewhere else,” [Tiffany Liang reports](#). “It also pointed out that human-to-human transmission of the virus might have existed in Wuhan as early as late November. The market was closed on Jan. 1.”

## **South Korea temporarily shut down the messianic church linked to half of the country’s virus cases.**

“More than half of South Korea’s covid-19 cases have been traced to a regional branch of the secretive Shincheonji Church of Jesus, formally known as the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony. But authorities were having difficulty locating members, many of whom are probably in hiding,” [Min Joo Kim reports](#). “The South Korean government on Sunday announced 169 new coronavirus cases and two more deaths, bringing the totals to 602 cases and six deaths. ... South Korean President Moon Jae-in said the country’s coronavirus crisis has entered a ‘totally different phase

since the mass infection at Shincheonji.’ Hundreds of thousands signed a petition calling for the church to be dissolved. Moon called the temporary shutdown of Shincheonji churches across the country ‘a fair and inevitable step’ to protect the community. He said there was ‘no intention to limit religious freedom.’”

## **Fifty people reportedly died of coronavirus in the Iranian city of Qom.**

The country’s health minister rejected the report from Iranian lawmaker Ahmad Amirabadi Farahani, who claimed that the government is covering up the full extent of the outbreak. ([The Guardian](#))

## **The U.S. government backtracked on a plan to transfer quarantined patients to Alabama.**

Hours after Anniston County's City Council voted on Sunday to pursue legal action against the federal government over its proposal to transfer patients from the Diamond Princess cruise ship to be held in the town's FEMA facility, Sen. Richard Shelby (R) and Gov. Kay Ivey (R) announced that plans had changed. Ivey said Trump called and assured her that the patients wouldn't be sent to Alabama, [ABC News reports](#).

## **Hong Kong refugees traverse a legal twilight zone as they build their new lives in Taiwan.**

“Che-lam Presbyterian Church is next door to Taiwan's legislature and a stone's throw from the presidential office in the island's capital. But while President Tsai Ing-wen's support for Hong Kong protesters powered her to reelection last month, the church is Taiwan's only institution to publicly provide material assistance to people who have fled the Asian financial hub's crackdown on demonstrators,” [Nick Aspinwall reports](#). “Although Taiwan has temporarily barred entry to most Hong Kongers amid the coronavirus outbreak, many in Hong Kong view the island as a place to resettle should their political strife worsen. ... Taiwan, which is not a member of the United Nations, has not signed the U.N. Refugee Convention and has no formal asylum laws. Its government processes people from Hong Kong on a case-by-case basis but provides no public

assurance of their long-term legal status, leading to concerns that the uncertainty creates gaps for protesters to be exploited.”

## **Israel’s fear of coronavirus contagion grows as election day approaches.**

The concern comes after “reports that a group of South Koreans who had visited some of the country's most popular religious and tourist spots tested positive for the infection,” [Steve Hendrix reports](#). “Israeli officials, who had expressed cautious optimism that Israel could avoid significant risk from the global epidemic, immediately increased restrictions on those entering the country. **Non-Israeli travelers from South Korea and Japan have been barred from entering**, according to local media reports, and Israelis arriving from any of several Asian countries face two weeks of mandatory quarantine.”

## **Israeli military jets targeted sites in Gaza and Syria linked to Palestinian Islamic Jihad.**

The attacks came “hours after militants from the group fired more than 20 rockets into Israeli territory,” [Ruth Eglash and Hazem Balousha report](#). “The exchange came after a Palestinian news agency posted graphic footage of an [Israeli army bulldozer dragging the body of a Palestinian man](#) who Israel said was part of a ‘terror squad,’ killed as he placed an explosive device along the border fence. ... The Israeli strikes injured four in Gaza, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.”

## **Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad, the world’s oldest national leader, resigned.**

“Under Malaysia’s constitution, the entire cabinet must be dissolved if the prime minister resigns,” [Shibani Mahtani and Jonathan Edward report](#). “As the prime minister’s office announced Mahathir’s intent to resign, his political party, the Malaysian United Indigenous Party, known as Bersatu, said it would be leaving Malaysia’s ruling coalition. About a dozen other prominent members of parliament also left to form an independent bloc in the Southeast Asian country’s legislature. The king, Sultan Abdullah of Pahang, has not commented publicly on the matter. The political drama

on Monday appeared to thwart one of Southeast Asia's most celebrated democratic transitions, and returned Malaysia to a time of backdoor political plotting and palace intrigue. The move also appeared aimed at preventing [Anwar Ibrahim] from taking over as leader."

### **In Greece, migrants wait in bread lines while tourists dine on grilled octopus next door.**

"At the Moria refugee camp on Lesbos, the largest of the island facilities, migrants wait in snaking lines for up to eight hours a day to get their meals," [Chico Harlan reports](#). "They wait because this camp has mushroomed in size, growing seven times more crowded than its capacity, a shantytown on a vacation island never intended for such emergencies ... One migrant said the food was worse than at her former workplace, an Afghan prison. ... Yet beyond the camp, closer to the water, locals and tourists are eating well. Lesbos's tavernas serve octopus, grilled squid, feta, vegetables dressed with lemon and olive oil. That jarring juxtaposition is part of what makes the camp 'one of the worst places I've seen on earth,' said Marco Sandrone, the Lesbos field coordinator for Doctors Without Borders."

### **The U.K.'s new post-Brexit passports will be distributed next month.**

What the the Home Office didn't say, however, was that the passports will be made by a Franco-Dutch company at a Polish factory under E.U. procurement rules, [the Times reports](#).

### **Harry and Meghan won't be able to use the brand**

**"SussexRoyal" in any territories.** The couple, which will become independent from the crown on March 31, appeared upset at the palace's ban on the use of the word "royal." ([The Guardian](#))

### **Prague renamed the square in front of the Russian embassy after the slain Putin critic Boris Nemtsov. (CNN)**

### **Prosecutors say a former DEA agent laundered millions for a Colombian cartel.**

“Jose Irizarry was the model agent for his bosses at the Drug Enforcement Administration. Seen as a rising star in Miami for overseeing undercover investigations that led to dozens of drug arrests, Irizarry transferred to the Colombian city of Cartagena to continue to fight the violent cartel. ... But **when the DEA special agent allegedly began to spend lavishly on homes, cars and jewelry, and hosted wild yacht parties with bikini-clad prostitutes, it raised some red flags within the agency,**” [Timothy Bella reports](#). “As it turns out, Irizarry allegedly laundered money for the very Colombian drug cartel he was fighting against. Irizarry, 46, was arrested Friday at his home near San Juan, Puerto Rico, on charges of conspiring to launder money, as well as honest services wire fraud, bank fraud, conspiracy to commit bank fraud, conspiracy to commit identity theft and aggravated identity theft. ... **Irizarry, who resigned in early 2018 after the agency grew suspicious, is believed to have laundered more than \$7 million.**”

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## Social media speed read

Sanders’s partial defense of Fidel Castro on CBS's “60 Minutes” drew widespread criticism from conservatives in Florida:



**Marco Rubio** ✓

@marcorubio



Likely Dem nominee praised the supposed  
“achievements” Castro regime

And he’s wrong about why people didn’t overthrow  
Castro. It’s not because “he educated their kids,gave  
them health care” it’s because his opponents were  
jailed,murdered or exiled [cbsnews.com/news/bernie-sa...](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bernie-sanders/)



**Bernie Sanders on being the Democratic frontrunn...**

Coming off his win in the Nevada caucuses, Bernie Sanders  
talks about Michael Bloomberg, Donald Trump, Democratic  
[cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bernie-sanders/)

♥ 4,436 3:13 AM - Feb 24, 2020



💬 2,423 people are talking about this



Former presidential candidate Marianne Williamson endorsed Sanders:



**Emma Kinery** ✓  
@EmmaKinery



“Surprise guest” and native Texan Marianne Williamson endorses Bernie Sanders for president at his rally in Austin, TX



♥ 12.2K 11:11 PM - Feb 23, 2020



💬 2.123 people are talking about this



And love led a Sanders supporter to a Warren rally:





**Jess Bidgood**

@jessbidgood



A happy couple at the @ewarren rally in Denver



♥ 22 11:30 PM - Feb 23, 2020



[See Jess Bidgood's other Tweets](#)



Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) responded playfully to a report in the New York Post that noted he's spent over \$8,600 at Junior's Cheesecake over the past decade, mostly to buy gifts using campaign funds:



**The Hill**   
@thehill



"Guilty as charged... it's my guilty pleasure."

WATCH: Sen. Chuck Schumer admits to spending thousands on cheesecake and serves cheesecake to members of the press in a lighthearted moment.



♥ 196 1:13 AM - Feb 24, 2020



💬 81 people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

John Oliver talked about India's Modi:



“The Daily Show” offered an interesting service to former presidential candidates:



And a California couple that went missing on Valentine's Day was found alive on Saturday by a search dog named Groot:



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**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Bernie Sanders built a diverse coalition to win Nevada. South Carolina offers a tougher test.  
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# The Daily 202

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By **James Hohmann**

with *Mariana Alfaro*

Email

## **Bernie Sanders built a diverse coalition to win Nevada. South Carolina offers a tougher test.**

COLUMBIA, S.C. – As Bernie Sanders cruised to a landslide victory in the Nevada caucuses on Saturday, Keith Ellison told volunteers here that a win in South Carolina’s primary would make the senator’s path to the Democratic presidential nomination essentially unstoppable. “We’re going to break it out,” he said, banging his hand on a table for emphasis.

Ellison, a former congressman who is now Minnesota’s attorney general after running unsuccessfully to be chairman of the Democratic National

Committee in 2017, warmed up a crowd of 120 at a Sanders rally in the fellowship hall at First Calvary Baptist Church. Next up was Sanders surrogate scholar-activist Cornel West, who was downright triumphal.

“The corporate media is telling lies about my dear brother Bernie Sanders: They call him a Bolshevik. That’s what they said about my brother Martin Luther King Jr.,” West said to a chorus of amens. “Get ready to get lied on, rebuked, scorned, attacked, assaulted. ... In some ways, that’s a compliment. It means they’ve got to take us seriously now. It also means that we’ve got momentum. And once you let that genie out, there ain’t no putting it back in.”

A field organizer announced that Sanders volunteers had knocked on 11,000 doors in South Carolina that day, and there was a palpable feeling in the room that their movement is on the cusp of [taking over](#) the Democratic Party.

It was a totally different vibe than four years ago for the independent senator from Vermont. After Sanders won the New Hampshire primary by 22 points in 2016, he lost the Nevada caucuses to Hillary Clinton by 5 points and then got trounced in the South Carolina primary by 47 points. The Sanders effort dragged on for three more months, but the crushing defeat here – which showed that he couldn’t break Clinton’s firewall with African Americans – was the beginning of the end.



Cornel West speaks Saturday in Columbia. (James Hohmann/The Washington Post)

Ellison and West stumped together for Sanders in 2016. But what made this event feel quite different was the presence of several African American state legislators who didn't endorse him four years ago. State Rep. Leon Howard, who chairs a state House committee that oversees public hospitals, talked about how much Medicare-for-all might help his constituents. "We have a real opportunity to win this election," he said. "South Carolina is the slingshot that will propel Senator Sanders to the White House," added state Rep. Ivory Thigpen.

Sanders supporter April Jones, 36, a stay-at-home mom in Columbia, said a lot of people here who reflexively backed Clinton last time are giving Sanders a serious look. "It's like if you're dating somebody," she explained. "You come back around a second time and you're like, 'Oh, I'm going to give you some new eyes because I kind of know you from before.' ... We're in even more of a crisis economically, in terms of inequality being so much worse, and he talked about all these same issues last time. Four years ago, people said his ideas were too radical, but now they're all mainstream

positions, so people kind of see him as a visionary.”

**Sanders’s sweeping win in the Silver State was powered by large numbers of first-time caucus-goers. He won 51 percent of Hispanics, 29 percent of whites and 27 percent of African Americans**, according to [entrance polls](#) of Democratic caucus-goers. Sanders got the support of 2 in 3 voters under 30 years old and carried every age group except those over 65, which went for Joe Biden. “In Nevada, we have just put together a multigenerational, multiracial coalition,” Sanders said during a rally in San Antonio after he was declared the winner. “It is going to sweep this country.”

First, though, all the candidates are sweeping into South Carolina. **After trying to lower expectations for the better part of a year, Sanders is now playing to win in the Palmetto State and plans to invest heavily in hopes of knocking out Biden.** After a televised debate in Charleston with all his rivals on Tuesday night, Sanders is scheduled to hold rallies in North Charleston and Myrtle Beach on Wednesday, Spartanburg on Thursday and Columbia on Friday, where he’ll speak on the steps of the state capitol. He is airing commercials in every media market.

**More than half the Democratic electorate this Saturday will be African American.** In 2016, exit polls show that Clinton won 86 percent of the black vote in South Carolina. Biden won 39 percent of black voters in Nevada on Saturday, 12 points better than Sanders. But that represented a major improvement for Sanders, who got only 22 percent of the black vote against Clinton in a two-way race there in 2016.





**Biden remains the favorite to win this first-in-the-South primary on Saturday, but Sanders is nipping at the former vice president's heels.** A CBS News-YouGov poll released Sunday puts Biden at 28 percent among likely voters, down 17 points from last month, with Sanders at 23 percent, up 8 points. Tom Steyer, the billionaire who didn't qualify for last week's debate but has spent more time and money in South Carolina than any other candidate, polled in third place, with 18 percent, followed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.) at 12 percent, former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg at 10 percent and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Minn.) at 4 percent. The poll found that 46 percent of likely

voters say they've definitely made up their minds, 45 percent said they've probably made up their minds and 7 percent said they'll probably end up changing their minds between now and the primary.

**Biden is making what could be a last stand.** He hopes that a win in South Carolina after his second-place finish in Nevada will give him momentum in the Southern states with large black populations that vote on March 3. "The African American community in South Carolina can make a judgment about who the next president of the United States is going to be," Biden told congregants on Sunday at the Royal Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston. "Literally!"

**I drove nearly 500 miles around South Carolina this weekend to take the pulse of the Democratic electorate, and the polling tracks with what I found anecdotally in more than two dozen interviews.**

**"Bernie Sanders obviously learned a lot from his loss here in 2016," said Trav Robertson Jr., the chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party.** "In 2016, they'd only come for groups that were 3,000 people or bigger. They transitioned into realizing that they've got to visit smaller communities of color. ... That's paying off for him, especially among younger African American voters."

We chatted Sunday night in Conway after a two-hour forum for candidate surrogates at the Mason Temple Church of God in Christ. Robertson, who is neutral, said **Our Revolution, the outside group created to boost Sanders after 2016, has been organizing in this state nonstop since the last presidential election.** He said that group, combined with the campaign's early investments in a field program, is an important part of the story for why Sanders has made "a hell of a lot of headway."

"Sanders, to a certain extent, has held true to his core values for 40 years, but he modified his campaign practices this time," Robertson said. "What we're going to find out in the next several days is whether or not Joe Biden's support is because of name ID and a positive feeling, especially

among older African American voters. ... The other question you've got to ask is: How big a win does Biden need to have going into Super Tuesday? I don't know."



Jim Clyburn arrives for a meeting with other House Democrats at the Capitol last month. (J. Scott Applewhite/AP)

### **With momentum comes scrutiny.**

**House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (S.C.), who is No. 3 in Democratic leadership and an ally of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, warned on the Sunday shows that Sanders and his brand of “socialism” could cost the party its House majority.** “I think it would be a real burden for us in these states or congressional districts that we have to do well in,” Clyburn said on ABC’s “This Week.” “If you look at how well we did the last time [in 2018] and look at the congressional districts, these were not liberal or what you might call progressive districts. These were basically moderate and conservative districts that we did well in.” Clyburn announced that he will reveal his endorsement on Wednesday morning – after the debate. [Politico reports](#) that he plans to endorse Biden.

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## Quote of the day

*"I don't see a whole lot of 2016 in this election. I see a whole lot of 1972," Clyburn told [the Charleston Post & Courier](#), comparing Sanders to George McGovern.*



**Buttigieg, who finished third in Nevada, is running an attack ad in South Carolina against Sanders over Medicare-for-all.** A narrator says Sanders would “eliminate private insurance” and kick “22 million seniors off of Medicare Advantage.” This is the first negative ad this election cycle that a Democrat has actually aired on television against a rival. “Senator Sanders’s revolution has the tenor of combat, division and polarization, a vision where whoever wins the day, nothing will change the toxic tone of our politics,” Buttigieg said Saturday night in Las Vegas.

**While Mike Bloomberg bore the brunt of attacks last week in Las Vegas, Sanders will probably be the focus of the most attacks during Tuesday’s debate,** which will air on CBS. But the collective action problem remains for the candidates who aspire to emerge as the main alternative to Sanders. Biden, Buttigieg, Warren, Klobuchar and Bloomberg, who does not appear on any ballots until Super Tuesday, all show no signs of backing down.

**Biden's campaign stepped up attacks on Sunday against Sanders for flirting with a primary challenge against Barack Obama in 2012 and for not detailing how he'd pay for his ambitious plans. And Warren sharpened her criticisms of Sanders during a rally in Denver on Sunday night.** "People ask about the difference between Bernie and me, because there are a lot of places where we agree about the things we want to fight for," she told a crowd of 4,000. "But here's a big [difference]: Bernie supports the filibuster. I'm going to get rid of the filibuster." During a gaggle with reporters afterward, though, Warren declined to call Sanders a "risky" choice for the nomination. Instead, she attacked Bloomberg.

**Steyer is an X factor.** He's qualified to appear onstage in Tuesday's debate and has made reparations for the descendants of slaves a centerpiece of his campaign.



**Even though he doesn't actually lead in the statewide polls here, Sanders dominates the conversation among Democratic voters. He provokes strong passions, both positive and negative.** Robyn Morgan, 41 of Pamplico, came to Warren's field office in Florence to go door-knocking with her 3-year-old daughter Hannah. She said she loves that "Warren has a plan for everything," especially universal childcare.

The student adviser at a small college complained that Sanders could never succeed with his temperament if he was a red-in-the-face female candidate. “Warren is so much less quote unquote ‘angry’ than Sanders, but people don’t see it that way because she’s a woman,” Morgan said. “In 2016, I didn’t think Sanders could ever survive the vetting process. But apparently that doesn’t seem to matter anymore. ... Everything he stands for fits on a hat, but what it takes to run our government doesn’t fit on a hat.”

Michael Rahenkemp, 62 of Florence, phone-banked for Warren at her Florence field office. The retired computer programmer said he strongly supports Medicare-for-all and Sanders is his second choice. “But I think she has a better set of policies,” he said. “He’s a democratic socialist whereas Warren is more of a capitalist, and I support capitalism.”

**Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) is the only member of the self-described Squad of first-term women of color who didn’t endorse Sanders.** She’s become one of Warren’s most visible surrogates and barnstormed Sunday across what’s known as the Pee Dee region in the northeast corner of South Carolina. Speaking to 18 canvassers as they prepared to knock on doors Sunday afternoon, Pressley emphasized that Warren is aspirational but has plans that are attainable – an apparent dig at Sanders. “People have broken hearts because of broken promise,” she said. “Elizabeth keeps her promises.” When I asked her whether liberals should rally behind Sanders to stop a more moderate candidate from securing the nomination – because Warren hasn’t won a delegate since Iowa – Pressley replied: “I believe she’s the most electable. ... We’re not riding the pollercoaster.”



Ayanna Pressley, right, greets volunteers at Elizabeth Warren's field office on Sunday afternoon in Florence, S.C. (James Hohmann/The Washington Post)

**Only 35 percent of likely Democratic primary voters in the CBS poll of South Carolina said they're very confident that Democrats will nominate someone who can beat President Trump.** Regardless of who they support, asked who has the best chance to beat Trump, Sanders still finished second, trailing Biden 33 percent to 23 percent. The poll found that 37 percent of likely South Carolina voters said Sanders's policy positions are too liberal to defeat Trump, compared to 49 percent who said his stances are about right for defeating Trump. Respondents were asked who has impressed them in the most recent debates and could pick multiple options. Sanders was first, impressing 43 percent, followed by Warren at 41 percent and Biden at 35 percent.

**While his rivals focus on him, Sanders's stump speech has stayed as focused as ever on criticizing Trump.** He opened a rally in Houston on Sunday afternoon by raising the electability question. "Some of the folks in the corporate media are getting a little bit nervous, and they say Bernie can't beat Trump," he [told](#) a crowd of more than

6,200. The front-runner then read the results of a few recent polls that showed him beating both Trump nationally and [in states like Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin](#).

**The audience of 120 people who came to see West and Ellison in Columbia on Saturday night was split almost evenly between white and black voters.** “A lot of politicians don’t want to be seen as radical because they want to keep their positions, but Bernie has been doing this his way since before I was born,” said Eric Johnson, 34, a graphic designer in Columbia who is African American and has attended three Sanders rallies in the last eight months. “Now we hear the term ‘socialism’ thrown around. Nobody really knows what it is. There’s no set definition of democratic socialism. How is it that negative? It’s like the term ‘Bernie Bros’ and how that’s a term that’s been twisted to mean something negative.”

Janet Bates, 62, a Democratic middle school teacher in Columbia who is white and voted for George W. Bush two decades ago supports Sanders because she admires his ideological consistency. “I haven’t always believed in everything he’s stood for, but it’s probably 90 percent,” she said. “Even his detractors would agree he’s exactly the same person he was decades ago.”





## **South Carolina is not fertile ground for Buttigieg.**

He's running into some of the same problems that Sanders did four years ago related to a dearth of black support. Last night's forum in Conway put this into stark relief. Rep. Anthony Brown (D-Md.), a national co-chair of his campaign, spent Sunday visiting black churches. After the emcee introduced him as a surrogate for "Boot-um-egg," Brown falsely claimed that Buttigieg was campaigning in a different part of the state (in fact, he was in Northern Virginia) and then made the case that Sanders, without naming him, would "jeopardize" down-ballot candidates.

"We're up against a president who is quite formidable," he said. "The candidates don't differ a lot on the issues. ... But Americans are yearning for a new face."

Robertson, the state party chairman, had emphasized how much more diverse South Carolina is than Iowa and New Hampshire during his introductory remarks. Noting Buttigieg's success in those two states, Brown pointed toward him and said: "Let's not discount Iowa and New Hampshire because they are Americans too!"

Then Brown spent two minutes complaining about distortions related to Buttigieg's relationship with the black community as mayor in South Bend, Ind. "If you're a young black man in South Bend, now listen close, because you've heard a lot of disinformation, the chances of you being convicted for marijuana possession are lower than anywhere else in Indiana and lower than the American average," he said.

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**More on 2020**

## Inside each campaign's Super Tuesday strategy

**Sanders hopes to twist the knife by picking off either Massachusetts (Warren's home state) and/or Minnesota (Klobuchar's home state) a week from tomorrow, which would be paralyzing blows for either of them.** He's expected to hold an event in both states between now and Super Tuesday. The biggest of the 14 prizes on March 3 are California and Texas. All told, approximately one-third of the nearly 4,000 pledged delegates to the convention will be awarded. "Sanders's money and organization have allowed him to spend weeks punctuating visits to early-voting states with trips to Super Tuesday states — most notably delegate-heavy California, where rival campaigns believe he will be difficult to beat," [Chelsea Janes, Annie Linskey and Matt Viser report](#).

**"The goal for Buttigieg's campaign on Super Tuesday is to accumulate enough delegates to stay within striking distance of Sanders.** Campaign advisers say if he is close Super Tuesday, states voting March 10 and 17 — including Michigan, Ohio, Arizona and Illinois — are favorable enough to Buttigieg to allow him to make up ground. ... Last week, Buttigieg squeezed in a trip to Salt Lake City, where his campaign has made a major organizing push and earned endorsements from several local officials. His campaign also is counting on delegate-rich areas in some of the less high-profile Super Tuesday states — Little Rock, for one. He campaigned in Northern Virginia Sunday and has stops scheduled in Raleigh, N.C., and Oklahoma City before Super Tuesday. ...

**"Warren is banking her candidacy on the idea that she can begin accumulating delegates on March 3 by doing well in liberal pockets like Denver, San Antonio and the Los Angeles area.** Over the next few days, Warren will campaign in South Carolina, but she also plans a Thursday evening rally in San Antonio with Julián Castro, the former mayor of that city, and a stop in the Los Angeles area. Warren's campaign has bought TV ad time in Colorado and Maine. The campaign also will air ads starting Tuesday in Austin, San Antonio and Oklahoma City — all population-rich areas in Super Tuesday states. ...

**“Klobuchar had to ramp up her national operation more hurriedly than her competitors ... She stopped by Colorado this week and headed to her home state to raise money Saturday — followed by a Sunday three-state tour via charter plane: Fargo to Oklahoma City to Little Rock.** (North Dakota votes a week after Oklahoma and Arkansas, Super Tuesday states.) ... Several Super Tuesday states, including Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina and Alabama, have substantial numbers of black voters. But Biden has not been advertising in those states and, while he is already well known, the lack of visibility could be problematic at a time when Bloomberg is flooding the airwaves.”

**Internal polling and analytics completed last week by Bloomberg’s campaign projected that Sanders may be the only presidential candidate to win delegates in every state and district on March 3, delivering him a lead of 350 to 400 out of 1,357 delegates set to be awarded, unless race dynamics change,** Mike DeBonis and Michael Scherer reported in [the Sunday newspaper](#). “Because of Democratic rules that give no delegates to candidates who scores less than 15 percent of the vote in a state or congressional district, Sanders could build a delegate lead far greater than his advantage in the popular vote.”

### **New surveys show Sanders leading in three key Midwestern states that vote after Super Tuesday.**

The University of Wisconsin at Madison-YouGov [surveys of likely Democratic primary voters](#) showed Sanders garnering 25 percent in Michigan, which holds its primary on March 10. His nearest competitor was Biden, with 16 percent. In Wisconsin, which votes on April 7, Sanders led with 30 percent. Biden and Bloomberg trailed with 13 percent. And in Pennsylvania, Sanders led with 25 percent, followed by Biden at 20 percent and Bloomberg at 19 percent. That primary is April 28. “Sanders is well positioned to pick up the lion’s share of delegates in these states unless another Democrat breaks away from the pack to challenge him,” said UW-Madison political science Barry Burden, who runs the Elections

Research Center.

## **Buttigieg's campaign alleged numerous errors in Nevada's vote counting.**

But the state Democratic Party rebuffed a request from Buttigieg's campaign to hold off releasing final numbers, which showed him in third place behind Biden. ([Isaac Stanley-Becker](#))

Harry Reid, the former Senate majority leader from Nevada, said in a statement last night that caucuses should no longer be used to nominate candidates. He repeated his call for Nevada to hold a primary before Iowa or New Hampshire vote, emphasizing the Silver State's diversity.

## **Bloomberg will postpone a CNN town hall to focus on debate prep.**

"Bloomberg was scheduled to appear on CNN on Monday. But he'll now join the network for the live question-and-answer program on Wednesday," [the Associated Press reports](#). "A spokeswoman for Bloomberg called the debate 'crucial' and said 'the country can't afford to let Bernie Sanders skate by another debate without a focus on his extreme record.'"

Trump will hold a campaign rally in North Charleston the night before the South Carolina Democratic primary, per the [Post and Courier](#).

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## **The Trump presidency**



President Trump takes the stage with his wife and the Indian prime minister for a “Namaste Trump” rally at Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad, India. (Alex Brandon/AP)

## **Trump is visiting India for the first time as president.**

The whirlwind 36-hour tour “includes a mega rally expected to draw more than 100,000 people, a visit to the Taj Mahal, and a day of ceremonies and meetings in Delhi. Trump was greeted by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom Trump recently described as ‘a friend of mine,’” [Niha Masih, Joanna Slater, Seung Min Kim and Anne Gearan report](#). “The Modi government has encountered considerable international criticism — including from members of Congress — over its crackdown in Kashmir, India’s only Muslim-majority state, and the passage of a controversial religion-based citizenship bill that has led to protests throughout the country. **In the run-up to the trip, a senior White House official said Trump would raise the issue of religious freedom with Modi in private. ...**

“Thousands of people lined the streets of Ahmedabad, the largest city in the state of Gujarat, to welcome Trump. Trump had said earlier that as many as 10 million people would be there to greet him. Preparations included building a wall to hide a slum along his route.” Trump and Modi

lavished praise on each other during a joint rally at the world's largest cricket stadium before an audience of 100,000. On stage, **Trump announced that “the United States and India are poised to sign a new agreement to sell \$3 billion worth of U.S. military helicopters to the Indian armed forces as he touted a ‘critical partnership’ between the two countries.”**

**“Upon arriving in Agra to visit the Taj Mahal, Trump met Yogi Adityanath, a radical Hindu monk known for his anti-Muslim rhetoric.** The two shook hands and walked down the red carpet lined with performers. Adityanath is the chief minister of India's largest and most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, where Agra is located. Ahead of the meeting, critics decried the scheduled interaction, which they said could help legitimize Adityanath's divisive politics. The saffron-robed priest is a five-time parliamentarian who has more than a dozen criminal cases pending against him, including serious charges such as attempted murder and rioting. He has not been convicted of a crime. ... In 2014, Adityanath promised to cleanse India of other religions.”

**Mick Mulvaney didn't go on the trip because of a cold, sources said.** A person close to Mulvaney [told CNN](#) that White House doctors advised against having him travel in such close proximity to Trump.

**Trump, a known steak-lover, is in for a beef-free menu in India.** “I don't know what he's going to do in this case,” [a former official told CNN](#). “They don't serve cheeseburgers.” A person close to the president said that, aside from a few salads here and there, they “have never seen him eat a vegetable.”

**Trump's response to reports that Russia prefers him in 2020 has shaken the intelligence community.**

“Current and former national security officials were appalled but not surprised by [Joe] Maguire's unceremonious dispatch,” [Shane Harris, Ellen Nakashima and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Intelligence officers are used to working with presidents who don't enthusiastically embrace or always agree with their analysis. But Trump's tendency to shoot the messenger

puts the people working for him in a precarious position. ‘The intelligence community at this point is having to walk a tightrope,’ [said Katrina Mulligan, a former National Security Council aide under the Obama administration]. ... Three other former senior intelligence officials said that Trump’s violent reactions could encourage his advisers to withhold unsettling information. There is talk of ‘trying to hide’ stuff, one of the former officials said ... Current and former intelligence officials see [Rick] Grenell’s appointment, which he has said will last only until a permanent director is confirmed by the Senate, as a signal that Trump intends to exert more political control over the intelligence community.”

National security adviser, Robert C. O’Brien, claimed he has not seen any intelligence that Russia wants to help Trump: “But O’Brien said reports that Russia is helping Sanders were ‘no surprise’ ... As intelligence officials struggle to draw attention to election interference, Trump is purging the ranks of advisers he believes won’t strongly defend him. Johnny McEntee, the new head of the White House Presidential Personnel Office, has asked agencies to tell him about appointees who are opposed to the president, according to a White House official.”

### **Trump threatened Adam Schiff.**

The president claimed without evidence that the Democratic chairman of the House Intelligence Committee leaked details from Shelby Pierson’s briefing that led to Maguire’s ouster. “Someday he will be caught, & that will be a very unpleasant experience!” Trump tweeted. In another tweet, Trump jokingly suggested that former special counsel Bob Mueller should be dispatched to investigate the claims that [Russia is seeking to help Sanders win the Democratic nomination](#). “Trump maintained in an exchange with reporters outside the White House earlier Sunday that he had not been briefed about any Russian interference efforts,” [Felicia Sonmez reports](#). “He blamed Schiff and said there should be an investigation into the source of the leak.”

### **The White House wants to overhaul spy laws, partly due to Trump’s anger over the investigation of a former**

## **adviser.**

“The effort seeks to take advantage of the looming expiration of some spying powers next month, including portions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, a Watergate-era law that Mr. Trump believes was improperly used to target his campaign,” [the Wall Street Journal reports](#). “Overhauling FISA has become a rallying cry for conservatives and allies of the president in the aftermath of a watchdog report detailing several errors made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in its applications for surveillance of Mr. Trump’s campaign adviser, Carter Page. Some Republicans have called for upending FISA, prompting pushback from some in the administration, including Attorney General William Barr. The plan, which is being spearheaded by officials within the White House Domestic Policy Council, is in the early stages and could face resistance from other parts of the Trump administration, including the National Security Council, which has generally advocated maintaining or expanding surveillance powers during Mr. Trump’s presidency.”

## **Judge Amy Berman Jackson rejected Roger Stone’s effort to disqualify her.**

“The federal judge who oversaw [his] trial and sentenced him last week to 40 months in prison dismissed his demand that she be taken off the case as a baseless smear,” [Rachel Weiner reports](#). “Stone’s motion sought to disqualify Berman Jackson for referring during Thursday’s sentencing to ‘the jurors who served with integrity under difficult circumstances.’ He is still challenging one juror as biased. Berman Jackson rebutted any claim that she has not treated Stone fairly.”

## **Justice Clarence Thomas's wife has worked to identify “deep state” members who are “disloyal” to Trump.**

“The Trump White House and its allies, over the past 18 months, assembled detailed lists of disloyal government officials to oust — and trusted pro-Trump people to replace them,” [Axios reports](#). “Members of this network include [Ginni Thomas] and Republican Senate staffer Barbara Ledeen. ... Thomas has spent a significant amount of time and



energy urging Trump administration officials to change the personnel inside his government. ... The presidential personnel office reviewed Thomas' memo and determined that some names she passed along for jobs were not appropriate candidates.” Leeden wrote a memo arguing why former D.C. U.S. attorney Jessie Liu should be disqualified for a nomination to a top Treasury job. Thomas, meanwhile, compiled names of potential nominees for different positions, many sourced from meetings with her conservative activist network Groundswell. Potential hires she offered to Trump include: Sheriff David Clarke for a senior DHS job, radio talk show host Chris Plante for press secretary, and Federalist contributor Ben Weingarten for the National Security Council.

### **Trump, eyeing Nevada, opposed a nuclear waste site at Yucca, reversing his own administration's policy.**

“Why should you have nuclear waste in your backyard?’ Mr. Trump asked the crowd at a rally in Las Vegas on Friday, to applause, noting that his recently released budget proposal did not include funding to license the site, as previous ones had,” [the Times reports](#). “In Mr. Trump’s decentralized administration, top aides and agency leaders have sometimes pursued their own agendas, at times creating politically perilous situations for him. ... The president made his latest move after a monthslong policy debate inside the White House over finally breaking with support for Yucca ... Nationally, Republicans have long favored the proposal ... But Nevada politicians of both parties have remained steadfastly opposed to the policy, which is deeply unpopular in the state.”

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## **The new world order**



A newlywed couple wear protective masks as they take wedding photos in Hong Kong. (Tyrone Siu/Reuters)

## **China postponed its most important political gathering of the year because of the coronavirus.**

“China’s ruling Communist Party has postponed the biggest event in China’s political calendar, the National People’s Congress, as it concentrates on fighting the coronavirus,” [Anna Fifield and Liu Yang report](#). “The annual legislative session, held together with a meeting of the party’s top political-advisory body, was due to begin on March 5. But the NPC’s Standing Committee decided at a meeting in Beijing on Monday that they would be delayed. It did not set a date for the meetings, known collectively as the ‘Two Sessions.’ It will be the first time since 1997 that the meetings have not started in the first week of March.”

President Xi Jinping said that the outbreak is a crisis that will test the Chinese economy. “No victory should be lightly announced until there is a complete win,” he said during a speech to Communist Party members in Beijing on Sunday, adding the situation remains [grim and complex](#).

## **China backtracked on a decision to relax travel**

## **restrictions on Wuhan.**

“A notice by Wuhan’s epidemic prevention and control headquarters said Monday that it would ease some of the more draconian travel restrictions on the locked-down city at the heart of the epidemic, allowing for the return of some residents trapped outside Wuhan since late January and permitting visitors stuck in the city to leave. But hours later, Wuhan’s city government declared the earlier announcement invalid, saying it had been released without authorization,” [Adam Taylor reports](#). “Official figures released Monday showed there had been 409 new cases of the novel coronavirus and 150 new deaths from the outbreak by the end of Sunday, bringing the total confirmed cases to 77,150 with a cumulative death toll of 2,592.”

## **A Chinese study suggests that the outbreak didn’t begin at a Wuhan market.**

“Co-authored by researchers from three Chinese institutions including the Chinese Academy of Sciences and published on the academy’s website last Thursday, the study attempts to trace how the virus emerged and evolved. The authors analyzed the genomic data from 93 samples of the novel coronavirus and concluded that it was likely to have spread to the market from somewhere else,” [Tiffany Liang reports](#). “It also pointed out that human-to-human transmission of the virus might have existed in Wuhan as early as late November. The market was closed on Jan. 1.”

## **South Korea temporarily shut down the messianic church linked to half of the country’s virus cases.**

“More than half of South Korea’s covid-19 cases have been traced to a regional branch of the secretive Shincheonji Church of Jesus, formally known as the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony. But authorities were having difficulty locating members, many of whom are probably in hiding,” [Min Joo Kim reports](#). “The South Korean government on Sunday announced 169 new coronavirus cases and two more deaths, bringing the totals to 602 cases and six deaths. ... South Korean President Moon Jae-in said the country’s coronavirus crisis has entered a ‘totally different phase

since the mass infection at Shincheonji.’ Hundreds of thousands signed a petition calling for the church to be dissolved. Moon called the temporary shutdown of Shincheonji churches across the country ‘a fair and inevitable step’ to protect the community. He said there was ‘no intention to limit religious freedom.’”

## **Fifty people reportedly died of coronavirus in the Iranian city of Qom.**

The country’s health minister rejected the report from Iranian lawmaker Ahmad Amirabadi Farahani, who claimed that the government is covering up the full extent of the outbreak. ([The Guardian](#))

## **The U.S. government backtracked on a plan to transfer quarantined patients to Alabama.**

Hours after Anniston County's City Council voted on Sunday to pursue legal action against the federal government over its proposal to transfer patients from the Diamond Princess cruise ship to be held in the town's FEMA facility, Sen. Richard Shelby (R) and Gov. Kay Ivey (R) announced that plans had changed. Ivey said Trump called and assured her that the patients wouldn't be sent to Alabama, [ABC News reports](#).

## **Hong Kong refugees traverse a legal twilight zone as they build their new lives in Taiwan.**

“Che-lam Presbyterian Church is next door to Taiwan's legislature and a stone's throw from the presidential office in the island's capital. But while President Tsai Ing-wen's support for Hong Kong protesters powered her to reelection last month, the church is Taiwan's only institution to publicly provide material assistance to people who have fled the Asian financial hub's crackdown on demonstrators,” [Nick Aspinwall reports](#). “Although Taiwan has temporarily barred entry to most Hong Kongers amid the coronavirus outbreak, many in Hong Kong view the island as a place to resettle should their political strife worsen. ... Taiwan, which is not a member of the United Nations, has not signed the U.N. Refugee Convention and has no formal asylum laws. Its government processes people from Hong Kong on a case-by-case basis but provides no public

assurance of their long-term legal status, leading to concerns that the uncertainty creates gaps for protesters to be exploited.”

## **Israel’s fear of coronavirus contagion grows as election day approaches.**

The concern comes after “reports that a group of South Koreans who had visited some of the country's most popular religious and tourist spots tested positive for the infection,” [Steve Hendrix reports](#). “Israeli officials, who had expressed cautious optimism that Israel could avoid significant risk from the global epidemic, immediately increased restrictions on those entering the country. **Non-Israeli travelers from South Korea and Japan have been barred from entering**, according to local media reports, and Israelis arriving from any of several Asian countries face two weeks of mandatory quarantine.”

## **Israeli military jets targeted sites in Gaza and Syria linked to Palestinian Islamic Jihad.**

The attacks came “hours after militants from the group fired more than 20 rockets into Israeli territory,” [Ruth Eglash and Hazem Balousha report](#). “The exchange came after a Palestinian news agency posted graphic footage of an [Israeli army bulldozer dragging the body of a Palestinian man](#) who Israel said was part of a ‘terror squad,’ killed as he placed an explosive device along the border fence. ... The Israeli strikes injured four in Gaza, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.”

## **Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad, the world’s oldest national leader, resigned.**

“Under Malaysia’s constitution, the entire cabinet must be dissolved if the prime minister resigns,” [Shibani Mahtani and Jonathan Edward report](#). “As the prime minister’s office announced Mahathir’s intent to resign, his political party, the Malaysian United Indigenous Party, known as Bersatu, said it would be leaving Malaysia’s ruling coalition. About a dozen other prominent members of parliament also left to form an independent bloc in the Southeast Asian country’s legislature. The king, Sultan Abdullah of Pahang, has not commented publicly on the matter. The political drama

on Monday appeared to thwart one of Southeast Asia's most celebrated democratic transitions, and returned Malaysia to a time of backdoor political plotting and palace intrigue. The move also appeared aimed at preventing [Anwar Ibrahim] from taking over as leader."

### **In Greece, migrants wait in bread lines while tourists dine on grilled octopus next door.**

"At the Moria refugee camp on Lesbos, the largest of the island facilities, migrants wait in snaking lines for up to eight hours a day to get their meals," [Chico Harlan reports](#). "They wait because this camp has mushroomed in size, growing seven times more crowded than its capacity, a shantytown on a vacation island never intended for such emergencies ... One migrant said the food was worse than at her former workplace, an Afghan prison. ... Yet beyond the camp, closer to the water, locals and tourists are eating well. Lesbos's tavernas serve octopus, grilled squid, feta, vegetables dressed with lemon and olive oil. That jarring juxtaposition is part of what makes the camp 'one of the worst places I've seen on earth,' said Marco Sandrone, the Lesbos field coordinator for Doctors Without Borders."

### **The U.K.'s new post-Brexit passports will be distributed next month.**

What the the Home Office didn't say, however, was that the passports will be made by a Franco-Dutch company at a Polish factory under E.U. procurement rules, [the Times reports](#).

### **Harry and Meghan won't be able to use the brand**

**"SussexRoyal" in any territories.** The couple, which will become independent from the crown on March 31, appeared upset at the palace's ban on the use of the word "royal." ([The Guardian](#))

### **Prague renamed the square in front of the Russian embassy after the slain Putin critic Boris Nemtsov. (CNN)**

### **Prosecutors say a former DEA agent laundered millions for a Colombian cartel.**

“Jose Irizarry was the model agent for his bosses at the Drug Enforcement Administration. Seen as a rising star in Miami for overseeing undercover investigations that led to dozens of drug arrests, Irizarry transferred to the Colombian city of Cartagena to continue to fight the violent cartel. ... But **when the DEA special agent allegedly began to spend lavishly on homes, cars and jewelry, and hosted wild yacht parties with bikini-clad prostitutes, it raised some red flags within the agency,**” [Timothy Bella reports](#). “As it turns out, Irizarry allegedly laundered money for the very Colombian drug cartel he was fighting against. Irizarry, 46, was arrested Friday at his home near San Juan, Puerto Rico, on charges of conspiring to launder money, as well as honest services wire fraud, bank fraud, conspiracy to commit bank fraud, conspiracy to commit identity theft and aggravated identity theft. ... **Irizarry, who resigned in early 2018 after the agency grew suspicious, is believed to have laundered more than \$7 million.**”

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## Social media speed read

Sanders’s partial defense of Fidel Castro on CBS's “60 Minutes” drew widespread criticism from conservatives in Florida:



**Marco Rubio** ✓

@marcorubio



Likely Dem nominee praised the supposed  
“achievements” Castro regime

And he’s wrong about why people didn’t overthrow  
Castro. It’s not because “he educated their kids,gave  
them health care” it’s because his opponents were  
jailed,murdered or exiled [cbsnews.com/news/bernie-sa...](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bernie-sanders/)



**Bernie Sanders on being the Democratic frontrunn...**

Coming off his win in the Nevada caucuses, Bernie Sanders  
talks about Michael Bloomberg, Donald Trump, Democratic  
[cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com)

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Former presidential candidate Marianne Williamson endorsed Sanders:





**Emma Kinery** ✓  
@EmmaKinery



“Surprise guest” and native Texan Marianne Williamson endorses Bernie Sanders for president at his rally in Austin, TX



♥ 12.2K 11:11 PM - Feb 23, 2020



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And love led a Sanders supporter to a Warren rally:



**Jess Bidgood**

@jessbidgood



A happy couple at the @ewarren rally in Denver



♥ 22 11:30 PM - Feb 23, 2020



[See Jess Bidgood's other Tweets](#)



Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) responded playfully to a report in the New York Post that noted he's spent over \$8,600 at Junior's Cheesecake over the past decade, mostly to buy gifts using campaign funds:



**The Hill**   
@thehill



"Guilty as charged... it's my guilty pleasure."

WATCH: Sen. Chuck Schumer admits to spending thousands on cheesecake and serves cheesecake to members of the press in a lighthearted moment.



♥ 196 1:13 AM - Feb 24, 2020



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## Videos of the day

John Oliver talked about India's Modi:



“The Daily Show” offered an interesting service to former presidential candidates:



And a California couple that went missing on Valentine's Day was found alive on Saturday by a search dog named Groot:



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# The Daily 202

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By **James Hohmann**  
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## **Biden uses Obama as a shield – and cudgel – in bid to thwart Sanders in South Carolina**

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Joe Biden spoke frantically – faster and louder than normal – as he touted his relationship with Barack Obama during a rally here on Monday night. No longer content to merely cite the former president as validation, Biden now invokes his old boss to attack his opponents – specifically Bernie Sanders and Tom Steyer, who are [nipping at his heels in South Carolina](#) by making inroads with African American voters.

Biden exudes a new sense of urgency as he makes what could be his last stand ahead of Saturday's primary, in which the majority of voters will be black. "When we were president – when Barack was president, and I was vice president – we went to HBCUs," Biden said, referring to historically black colleges and universities.

He said stricter gun laws would have prevented the massacre of nine African American parishioners during a Bible study in 2015 at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church a few blocks away. "I went there with Barack," he said, referring to the memorial service when [Obama sang "Amazing Grace."](#) "We met with all the families."

Biden's extended bear hug of his former running mate came a few hours after his campaign launched a new attack ad against Sanders for mulling a primary challenge in 2012 against "our first African American president."

The 60-second digital spot features audio from a 2011 radio interview in which the independent senator from Vermont said, "I think it would be a good idea if President Obama faced some primary opposition." The spot ends with a narrator saying: "When it comes to building on President Obama's legacy, Bernie Sanders just can't be trusted." The campaign said this is part of a \$600,000 digital buy in South Carolina that will play on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.



**Obama has not endorsed anyone, and he's kept his head down as the primary has heated up.** Some allies of the former president speculate privately that he wants to maintain credibility with all the factions of the party if there's a contested convention so that he could help mediate. He's previously signaled unease with Sanders's style of radical politics, but Obama's shown no inclination to forcefully or publicly articulate such concerns.

**Responding to Biden's attack, Sanders categorically denied that he ever considered a primary challenge against Obama.** [The Atlantic reported](#) last week that the president's 2012 reelection campaign was panicked about the possibility after being tipped off by Sen. Pat Leahy (D-Vt.) that Sanders was seriously considering it, and they took it seriously enough that then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) was enlisted to dissuade Sanders from running.

**"Not true at all," Sanders said during a town hall in Charleston that aired on CNN last night.** "I'm the senator from a small state, and I did not give any consideration to running for president of the United States until 2015." He added that he was "very busy running for reelection" in 2012. "In fact, I ended up campaigning for Obama, and I'm a strong supporter of all that Barack Obama has accomplished," he said. "Joe is a friend of mine. I've known him for many years. But you know what happens in campaigns? At the end of the season, it's called silly season. People say things they should not say."

**The former vice president has leaned on his eight years of service in what he likes to call "the Obama-Biden administration" since announcing his candidacy for the Democratic nomination last spring, but he's becoming as explicit about it as ever.** Biden's staff set up teleprompters last night next to a podium in a gymnasium at the College of Charleston, but he ignored those accoutrements and paced with a wireless microphone. He claimed the 2009 stimulus package wouldn't have passed without him. "The president asked me to handle it," he said, referring to Obama. "The



president said ... 'Sheriff Joe will do it.'" Biden also touted the Affordable Care Act. "Five Democratic presidents tried to get Obamacare or something like it passed," he said. "We got it passed."

**Biden has started going after Sanders directly almost every chance he gets.** "We've just had significant disagreements with Bernie, but the way he talks about it, you'd think he and Barack were close buddies," he said Sunday night on MSNBC. "I know they were not."

**A fresh [NBC News-Marist University poll](#) helps explain why: Biden leads Sanders 27 percent to 23 percent among likely Democratic primary voters, with a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.** Steyer places third with 15 percent. No one else breaks into double digits, but 27 percent of likely voters say they remain persuadable.



Joe Biden speaks Monday night at the College of Charleston. (Elizabeth Frantz/Reuters)



**Biden is laser focused on the Palmetto State because he recognizes that failing here would functionally end his campaign.** He hopes to ride momentum from a victory on Saturday to success in the other Southern states with large African American populations that vote one week from today on Super Tuesday. **Reflecting his limited financial resources, Biden is not airing television ads in any of the states that vote next week.**

In fact, Biden came to his Charleston rally from a fundraiser in Mount Pleasant at the home of a prominent local lawyer on the banks of Hobcaw Creek. **State Sen. Marlon Kimpson (D), who is black, led the donors in a reprise of the “Fired up, ready to go” chant that was common during Obama rallies.** “On the most fundamental decision that President Barack Obama had to make, and that is choosing a vice president, he chose Joe Biden and he has said, the president has said, that’s the best damn decision he has ever made,” Kimpson said at the fundraiser. “Don’t be confused by the fantasyland nirvana proposals. It ain’t going nowhere. Senator Sanders has spent more than 30 years up on Capitol Hill talking about the same thing, and nothing has passed. Let’s not get it confused.”

**Biden then ripped into Sanders for supporting a bill to limit liability for gun manufacturers.** “Bernie’s a good guy,” said Biden. “He talks about how we all make mistakes. Well, he didn’t tell you he

voted five times against the Brady Bill and the waiting period. He voted against allowing us to go up and sue the companies that created this havoc.”

**The odds seem good that Sanders's purported flirtation with primarying Obama will come up during tonight's debate, which begins at 8 p.m. Eastern and will air on CBS.** The six other candidates onstage have [each realized](#), to varying degrees, that Sanders could build an insurmountable lead in the hunt for delegates next Tuesday if nothing is done to bludgeon his momentum. The collective action problem complicates efforts to stop Sanders: Everyone wants to promote their own candidacy more than they want to stop Sanders. Going too negative could generate backlash and ill will from party activists. On the other hand, with the field still so fragmented, there are new incentives to try to emerge as Sanders's chief detractor. That's certainly the role that Mike Bloomberg wants to play. Bloomberg, who spent Monday [cloistered](#) at the Four Seasons in Orlando for debate prep, reportedly plans to go after Sanders for his gun-related votes.



Bernie Sanders speaks on Monday night at the South Carolina Democratic Party's "First in the South" dinner at the Charleston Marriott. He threw out his prepared remarks. (Drew Angerer/Getty Images)

**For his part, Sanders is telegraphing a more conciliatory approach.** Before his town hall on CNN, Sanders spoke last night at a dinner hosted by the South Carolina Democratic Party. Biden, Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Minn.), Elizabeth Warren (Mass.), Pete Buttigieg and Steyer also delivered remarks at the Charleston Marriott. The Sanders campaign distributed the prepared text of his speech in advance. The senator was slated to criticize “the political establishment and some of my opponents.” But Sanders tossed these comments and instead emphasized his own electability. “I know you’re hearing a lot on TV, ‘Bernie can’t win,’” Sanders [said](#). “Don’t believe everything you hear on TV.”

**All of the voters I spoke with at Biden’s rally said his background as Obama’s wingman is an important asset weighing in his favor. Since Iowa, though, you hear much less from attendees at his events about electability and much more about likeability.** Allison Pryor, 57, a retired probation and parole officer who lives in Charleston and is African American, said she’ll vote for Biden because he seems so relatable. She appreciated his perseverance after his wife died in a car crash and his son died of brain cancer. “He rode the train, and he’s always been like a cup of coffee: Regular Old Joe,” said Pryor. “Yes, it’s good to know he’d be a continuation of the Obama administration. But I think he can also stand on his own merits.”

**A national poll conducted by Fox News in August found that 60 percent of Americans held a favorable impression of Obama, including 95 percent of both Democrats and African Americans,** as well as 56 percent of independents. Among Democrats, 78 percent felt “strongly favorable” toward the former president and 17 percent were “somewhat favorable.”

**But several voters I’ve interviewed around South Carolina have wondered why Obama’s not endorsing Biden if they’re so close.** Biden claimed last April, [dubiously](#), that he asked Obama “not to endorse” him so that the president could stay neutral. Others said they’ve seen ads online from Bloomberg highlighting how close he was with Obama as New York’s mayor.

**“This is going to be Biden’s last stand because he thinks that black people are going to support him just because of Barack Obama,” said Connie Breeden, an attorney in Columbia who is African American. “He’s tooting that horn all the way to the bank. But people are savvier than that. He hasn’t done anything. What has he actually done for us? Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. I’m leaning toward Steyer because he’s really put his money where his mouth is.”**



Tom Steyer greets supporters after a speech on Sunday afternoon in Yemassee, S.C. (Elizabeth Frantz/Reuters)

**Biden has also been invoking Obama as he steps up his attacks on Steyer, the X factor in this primary. The former V.P. blasted the billionaire from San Francisco over the weekend for investing in private prisons while he and Obama were in the White House trying to get rid of private prisons.**

Steyer defended himself during his own CNN town hall last night. “I thought it was the right thing, I decided it was the wrong thing and, 15 years ago, I sold it for moral reasons,” he said. “I came to the conclusion that everyone has come to conclude now, that this isn't a place to make

money.” Steyer added that he’s sought to atone for his past investment by funding initiatives in California to get rid of private prisons. “When I make a mistake, I correct it,” he said.

**Many black voters draw a clear distinction between Obama and Biden.** Steven Lykes, 44, a full-time caretaker, is torn between Sanders and Steyer. He backed Hillary Clinton in the primary four years ago, and his favorite candidate had been Elizabeth Warren for much of the past year. Lykes thinks the senator from Massachusetts is an amazing debater and loves her plans, but Warren’s lackluster finishes in the first three states gave him pause.

“Biden has run three different times,” Lykes said in Columbia. “I’m always scared because Donald Trump is a savvy campaigner. You’ve got to have someone who is on their tippy toes and ready to fight back. I don’t think Biden can do that. He has too many gaffes. You can see it in the debates. He’s having a hard enough time just against the candidates we have. But Bernie can stand up to Trump like nobody’s business.”

**Obama’s shadow looms large in the minds of black voters in other ways that don’t necessarily help Biden.** David Swinton, the former president of Benedict College in Columbia, a historically black liberal arts college, said he and his wife already cast their ballots early for Sanders. “We cannot be concerned about all the pundits who say he can’t win,” said Swinton. “Let’s not worry about that. Let’s vote for what we feel in our heart, rather than who might win. Remember, nobody thought Barack Obama could win. And he did.”

**South Carolina does not have partisan voter registration, which means people can vote in whatever primary they want.** An open primary means that there will be many moderate voters who may not like Trump but don’t necessarily swoon for Obama. There’s also buzz on the right, for example, that Republicans should vote for Sanders here to elevate his candidacy on the theory that he’d be much easier for Trump to defeat in the fall. This could be a factor in a close race.

**Attitudes toward Obama are more complicated among white Democrats.** Lifelong Democrat Doug Brafford, a retired lawyer who lives in Mount Pleasant, plans to support Buttigieg after backing Sanders in the primary four years ago. “One of the things that upsets me about Joe Biden is that, as vice president, he repeatedly denigrated Southerners,” said Brafford, 77. “When Obama said that people cling to their guns and religion, Biden didn’t speak out. He picked up where Obama left off. I love Obama with all my heart, but I think he’s divisive – and that matters to me.”

Brafford dislikes Trump, but he worries that his party’s nonstop attacks on the president hurt politically. That’s why he finds Buttigieg’s calls for civility so compelling. “We have been uncivil in this party,” said Brafford. “It may drive some middle-of-the-roaders to stay at home. It has turned some people off.”





Barack Obama, then a presidential hopeful, shares a laugh with Edith Childs in Aiken, S.C. Childs has endorsed Steyer's bid this year. (Brett Flashnick/AP)

**It's about more than personalities, too. Democrats are divided about the best approach to governing.** The [CBS-YouGov poll](#) published on Sunday, which had Biden up 5 points over Sanders, found that 54 percent of likely Democratic voters in South Carolina think the party should nominate someone who is trying to “return the country to the way it was before Donald Trump took office,” and 46 percent said Democrats should instead “advance a more progressive agenda than the country had under Barack Obama.”

Obama himself left little doubt as to which way he'd answer that CBS poll question during a speech in November in which he urged Democrats running for the White House not to lurch too far left to win the nomination. “This is still a country that is less revolutionary than it is interested in improvement,” the former president said during a meeting of the Democracy Alliance, the powerful network of liberal megadonors, in what was [covered at the time](#) as a subtle rebuke of Sandersism. “They like seeing things improved. But the average American doesn't think that we have to completely tear down the system and remake it. And I think it's



important for us not to lose sight of that.”

**To be sure, African American voters in South Carolina revere Obama.** Dorothy Hollis, 77, retired nine years ago after 40 years of teaching high school. Now she teaches Sunday school and sings in the choir at First Calvary Baptist Church in Columbia. As Saturday looms, she’s undecided and praying for guidance. “I want President Obama to run again, to be honest,” she said. “He was an outstanding president. Like Abraham Lincoln, those don’t come but every so often. So we have to take the next best thing and accept a flawed person and just go with it. But who is that?”

Hollis thought four years ago that Clinton would be a wonderful president, but she said none of the candidates in 2020 particularly excite her. “Sometimes it takes a devil to catch the Devil. It takes a thief to catch a thief. Sometimes it takes that. And I’m not sure we have that on the platform right now,” she said.

Her faith comforts her in what she sees as a perilous moment for the country. Hollis said she was “just so tickled” when heavy winds blew down a section of Trump’s border wall a few weeks ago before the cement hardened. To her, it was a sign. “God is good,” Hollis said. “To me, that was a warning. Those little things, those are warnings. You can’t fight against the powers that be. That wall is going to come down one way or another. Just ask Joshua.”

In the Book of Joshua, the walls of Jericho fall after the Israelites blow their trumpets. “If we don’t get anybody genuine to deal with this world, we’re going to all just perish,” she said. “The one will come.”

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## More on 2020



### **Sanders's Cold War travels face fresh scrutiny.**

Buttigieg and Bloomberg attacked the senator for his comments about Fidel Castro's Cuba in a "60 Minutes" interview that aired Sunday night. Sanders said Castro deserved praise where it was due, including for a "massive literacy program." "During the dying days of the Cold War, Sanders indulged a fascination with far more disruptive and divisive strains of a socialist ideology he has embraced throughout his adult life," [Griff Witte reports](#). "Returning home from visits to some of the United States' most avowed enemies, Sanders offered some criticism but also plenty of praise in Vermont community television recordings. ... Now, Sanders's comments are coming back to life as opponents say his warm feelings toward his hosts decades ago make him vulnerable to attack and reveal a soft spot for left-wing despots."

**Sanders defended his Castro comments during last night's CNN town hall.** "You know what? I think teaching people to read and write is

a good thing,” he said. “I have been extremely consistent and critical of all authoritarian regimes all over the world — including Cuba, including Nicaragua, including Saudi Arabia, including China, including Russia. I happen to believe in democracy, not authoritarianism. ... But can anyone deny — I mean, the facts are clear — that [China has] taken more people out of extreme poverty than any country in history?” When pressed on Castro’s legacy, he responded, “Truth is truth. All right?”

**Democrats fret this could cost them Florida in the general.**

Terrie Rizzo, the chair of the Florida Democratic Party, didn’t mention Sanders by name but released a statement saying Democrats in her state “stand in solidarity with the thousands of people who have fled violent dictatorships in Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua.” Two Democratic congresswomen from Florida — Debbie Mucarsel-Powell and Donna Shalala — took issue with the comments as well, with Shalala saying she hopes that Sanders “will take time to speak to some of my constituents before he decides to sing the praises of a murderous tyrant like Fidel Castro.” Sen. Robert Menendez (N.J.), the only Cuban American Democratic senator, also denounced Sanders’s comments.

**Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) paused for 17 seconds last night when Paul Kane asked him if Sanders can win the general election.**

“I’m not sure I’m the right person to ask about winning a Democratic primary, but I think winning a primary election and winning a general election are two different things,” said Bennet, who dropped out of the presidential race after garnering less than 1 percent of the vote in New Hampshire. Bennet expressed concern that Sanders could make it harder for John Hickenlooper, the former governor of his state, to defeat Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.). Bennet, the former chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, said he believes Democrats “need to nominate somebody in this process who is going to be able to win purple states like Colorado and lead us to a 55-senator majority in the Senate. That could be challenging.”

**Biden claimed he was arrested trying to see Nelson Mandela. There’s no evidence of that.**

“Biden, as a senator, was active in the anti-apartheid movement, helping pass sanctions on companies doing business in South Africa over President Ronald Reagan’s veto. But there is no evidence that Biden was ever arrested trying to see the imprisoned future president of a democratic South Africa,” [fact checker Glenn Kessler writes](#). “As far as we can tell, Biden never mentioned this arrest before; neither can we locate any news accounts of him being arrested.”

### **A Sanders staffer was fired for mocking Warren’s looks and Buttigieg’s sexuality on Twitter.**

“Using the account @perma\_ben, Ben Mora, a regional field director for Sanders’ campaign based in Michigan, has attacked other Democrats in the field—as well as their family members, surrogates, journalists, and politically active celebrities—in deeply personal terms, mocking their physical appearance, gender, and sexuality, among other things,” [the Daily Beast reports](#). “Mora, the Sanders campaign confirmed, has been fired.”

### **Sanders and his campaign have stepped up criticism of MSNBC.**

“Sanders reportedly confronted MSNBC president Phil Griffin and another network executive last week before the NBC-sponsored Democratic debate in Las Vegas to complain about its coverage, including disparaging comments made by Chris Matthews and ‘Meet the Press’ host Chuck Todd. MSNBC has not confirmed the encounters took place, though it hasn’t disputed the report either,” [Paul Farhi and Jenna Johnson report](#). “Sanders’ campaign manager, Faiz Shakir, told Vanity Fair last week that MSNBC ‘is constantly undermining the Bernie Sanders campaign.’ He has even said Fox News has been ‘more fair than MSNBC’ ...

“The campaign’s ire was raised further by Matthews’s commentary as Sanders swept to an early lead in Nevada on Saturday. **Matthews compared Sanders’s performance to Nazi Germany’s shattering military victory over France in the early months of World War II**, suggesting Sanders’s path to the Democratic nomination was unstoppable. ‘It’s over,’ said Matthews, referring to a French prime

minister's assessment of the battle and possibly the war. The comparison was flawed in several respects (France was eventually liberated and Germany was crushed by allied forces), but Sanders's representatives expressed outrage that Matthews had compared Sanders to Hitler's soldiers, given that Sanders, a Jew, lost family members during the Holocaust. ... **Matthews apologized to Sanders on his program, 'Hardball,' on Monday night.** 'As I watched the one-sided results of Saturday's Democratic caucus in Nevada, I reached for an historical analogy and used a bad one..., he said."

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## Quote of the day

*"We're going to spend Trump out of office," Bloomberg campaign manager Kevin Sheekey [told Vanity Fair](#).*

### **In a historically old presidential field, candidates are still refusing to release their health records.**

Klobuchar, 59, released four pages of [medical documentation](#) last night with recent lab results and a doctor's letter that said she's in "very good health." Buttigieg, 38, has yet to release any medical records despite arguing last week that the candidates should undergo physical exams and disclose the results. Bloomberg, 78, released a single page from his doctor that said he's in "great physical shape" and that he "plays golf avidly." Biden, 77, released a three-page letter describing him as "healthy [and] vigorous." Sanders, 78, [released letters from three doctors](#) – including a cardiologist who said he has "the mental and physical stamina" to be president. Warren, 70, released five pages of documents revealing a thyroid condition and a doctor's letter declaring her in "excellent health." ([Matt Viser and Lenny Bernstein](#))

### **A Minneapolis inmate blamed Klobuchar for what he claims was a wrongful conviction.**

"She recharged me with first degree murder, never looked into the facts of the case. Never looked into the misconduct that had taken place," [Myon](#)

[Burrell told ABC News](#). He was convicted for the 2002 first-degree murder of 11-year-old Tyesha Edwards. Recently, an AP investigation has cast doubt over the murder investigation and the police tactics used.

Klobuchar, Burrell said, “never even addressed the misconduct that had taken place and still put the same detective, the same police on my case to go and get more bogus evidence.” In a statement to ABC, Klobuchar once again called for a review of the case.

## **Presidential candidates are rebranding Rep. Jim Clyburn’s anti-poverty program as reparations.**

“Clyburn (D-S.C.), whose district encompasses eight of the state’s poorest counties, has long opposed cash payments to African Americans whose ancestors were enslaved. He believes it would be too difficult to determine who deserves to be compensated. But a race-neutral anti-poverty program he conceived a decade ago is now catching fire among candidates for the Democratic nomination as a way to provide practical restitution for slavery,” [Tracy Jan reports](#). “Several presidential hopefuls, including [Sanders and Klobuchar], have sought to rebrand Clyburn’s program as a vehicle for reparations, which remain politically contentious. Clyburn’s idea, with strong bipartisan support, was originally adopted in 2009 by just one federal agency. But framing the program, which targets federal spending on certain high-poverty areas, as reparations has drawn criticism from African Americans living in poor urban neighborhoods — some in Clyburn’s own district — that do not qualify for the funding, as well as longtime advocates for reparations. The critique underlines the difficulty of finding a solution that would satisfy those demanding redress and also be politically viable.”

## **The State newspaper in Columbia endorses Buttigieg in today’s edition.**

“During the last half-century, the Democratic Party has only won the presidency when it has resisted the temptation to pick status-quo nominees and shown the courage to choose centrist outsiders with fresh, optimistic messages,” [the editorial explains](#). “Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama prevailed in part because they understood the values

of real-world America. All three successfully connected with voters by tapping into the sensibilities of average Americans. Buttigieg has gained that needed perspective during his eight years leading South Bend, a Midwestern city that had to reinvent itself and cast aside a Rust Belt image.”

### **Silicon Valley asked Warren for help with a fundraiser. Her campaign considered it.**

“Warren’s team in recent weeks explored ways to raise money from Silicon Valley donors without violating her ironclad fundraising pledge to not ‘sell access to my time,’” [Recode reports](#). “The Democratic presidential campaign considered an inbound request to have a campaign representative — such as an endorser, a staff member, or a high-level volunteer leader — attend a now-canceled high-dollar event in the Bay Area, according to several people familiar with the discussions.”

### **Trump’s former doctor thought he had a ticket to Congress. It might not be that easy.**

Ronny Jackson is one of 15 candidates in a crowded Republican primary in Texas, and the White House hasn’t gone out of its way to help, [the New York Times reports](#). “Jackson left the West Wing in December after rising from Trump’s physician to his unlikely pick to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs to Trump administration roadkill when he was forced to withdraw his name from consideration amid allegations related to his professional conduct. Now he’s running for Congress in Texas’ 13th District, one of the most conservative in the country, and his argument is simple... Jackson is betting his personal connection with the president is enough to win the Republican nomination tantamount to election. ... But it is not clear if that connection, combined with his background as a Navy rear admiral, will be enough to help Dr. Jackson overcome some rookie mistakes as a candidate.”

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## **The new world order**



Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi hug after giving a joint statement in New Delhi. (Manish Swarup/AP)

## Trump said the U.S.-India relationship has “never been as good” as it is now.

The president and “Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the growing defense ties between the world’s two largest democracies even as they acknowledged that a trade deal between them remains distant. During his second day in India, Trump is holding formal meetings with the Indian leadership, making a visit to the U.S. Embassy and attending a state banquet in New Delhi,” [Joanna Slater reports](#). “Trump began Tuesday by participating in a grand ceremonial welcome and visiting a memorial to Mohandas Gandhi ... There will be no huge crowds or tourism for the president today.

**“On Monday, as Trump arrived in India, [violence broke out in Delhi](#) between supporters and opponents of [Modi’s] controversial new citizenship law. Critics say the law is unconstitutional and discriminates against Muslims. ... [Violence continued today], police told local media that **the death toll from Monday’s violence had climbed to seven, including one police officer**. More than 100 people were injured, according to media reports. Heavy police presence in the affected areas failed to stem the violence. ... Home Minister Amit Shah, Modi’s second-in-command, chaired a meeting with top officials and the Delhi state leadership. The government**



ruled out calling the army for assistance and said there were adequate security forces on the ground. ...

**“First lady Melania Trump visited a public school in New Delhi to attend a ‘happiness class,’** part of a special curriculum introduced across India’s capital in 2018 to emphasize well-being alongside academic achievement. ... [Meanwhile], Trump and Modi claimed progress Tuesday toward a comprehensive trade deal, but a chummy atmosphere between the two leaders during Trump’s state visit could not mask frustration that the long-delayed pact is still in limbo. Trump predicted that a successful deal is in the offing but gave no deadline. The United States had once hoped to have the agreement ready in September, when Modi visited the United States.”

**Trump’s acting director of national intelligence worked for a nonprofit group funded mostly by Hungary.**

“[Richard] Grenell’s public relations firm was paid to do work for a U.S. nonprofit funded almost entirely by the Hungarian government led by far-right Prime Minister Viktor Orban,” [Emma Brown, Beth Reinhard and Dalton Bennett report](#). Individuals who have served as acting directors of national intelligence “typically have been nonpartisan national security professionals whose experience has included leading intelligence agencies or service in the military. Now that promotion is drawing fresh scrutiny to Grenell’s past, including his foreign affairs commentary and consulting work after he served as U.S. spokesman at the United Nations during the George W. Bush administration. His work for the Hungarian-funded nonprofit is the type of activity that, in other cases, has drawn the attention of Justice Department investigators tasked with enforcing the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA).”

**The White House asked Congress for an emergency \$1.8 billion to bolster the response.**

“The request includes \$1.25 billion in new funding for the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the ability to transfer an additional \$535 million set aside to fight Ebola and use it for the coronavirus

response instead,” [Erica Werner, Jeff Stein and Lena Sun report](#). “The request reflects the fast-evolving nature of the crisis confronting the administration, which until recently had insisted that no additional funds were necessary. But Democrats immediately slammed the request as too small, with House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey (D-N.Y.) calling it ‘woefully insufficient to protect Americans’ and criticizing the administration for trying to ‘raid’ money from other public health accounts.”

## **The market plunge yesterday underscored the coronavirus’s political risk to Trump.**

“The Trump administration’s disjointed handling of the outbreak has faced mounting criticism as the president’s allies have scrambled to take preventive steps while seeking to reassure the public, at times struggling to explain their decisions and offer a consistent message,” [Toluse Olorunnipa and Costa report](#). “For a president who has governed ‘by tweet and circus,’ a potential global health crisis that blunts economic growth could expose one of Trump’s main weaknesses as he prepares to face voters in November, said Russell Riley, a presidential historian at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center.”

## **New virus cases in China and North Korea raised concerns about how long it could take to go back to normal.**

“The Chinese government said Tuesday that there had been 508 new confirmed cases by the end of the previous day, along with 74 deaths, bringing the total number of accumulated infections nationwide to 77,658, with 2,663 deaths,” [Adam Taylor and Wang Yuan report](#). “A Chinese official suggested Monday evening that the country needs at least 28 days without new cases to show the virus is not spreading. ... The remarks drew thousands of comments on Weibo, China’s Twitter-like service, where many wondered how long they would have to wait before normal life resumed. ‘Two months will have 60% of enterprises killed!’ one user wrote.”

## **A California judge delayed a decision on moving coronavirus-exposed Americans.**

“A federal judge on Monday directed federal and state officials to answer the questions of Costa Mesa, Calif., residents about their plans to bring Americans who have tested positive for the coronavirus but show no signs of illness to a closed mental-health facility in the city,” [Jeff Rowe and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#). “District Judge Josephine Staton cautioned that the city — and Orange County if it joins the effort — does not have veto power over state and federal quarantine decisions and faces an uphill battle trying to block the transfer of people from Travis Air Force Base in Northern California.”

**Hosni Mubarak, Egypt’s autocratic ruler whose power came to an end during the Arab Spring uprisings, died at 91.** ([Will Englund and T. Rees Shapiro](#))

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## **Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



**Harvey Weinstein was found guilty on two charges of sexual assault.**

“The jury determined that Weinstein forced oral sex on former production assistant Mimi Haley at his apartment in July 2006 and raped former aspiring actress Jessica Mann at a hotel in 2013,” [Shayna Jacobs reports](#). “He was found not guilty of the most severe charges, of predatory sexual assault, which would have acknowledged a pattern that included forcing sex on actress Annabella Sciorra in 1993 or 1994. **Weinstein, 67, faces at least five years and up to 25 on the count of first-degree criminal sex act for his assault on Haley, and up to four years on a third-degree rape count for the Mann encounter.** The judge can consider running the sentences consecutively, for a maximum of 29 years. Sentencing is scheduled for March 11. After the verdict announcement, Weinstein was handcuffed and taken to jail, and his bail was revoked.

**“Weinstein’s lawyers are expected to appeal the conviction on the basis of several concerns,** including the amount of media attention on the case and the fact that the three supporting accusers were permitted to testify even though charges were not brought on their behalf. The appeal must be filed after sentencing. ... Weinstein lawyer Donna Rotunno told reporters, ‘He took it like a man. He knows this is not over.’”

### **Advocates hailed the Weinstein conviction as a breakthrough.**

“‘This is one of those days when the whole world changes,’ said Jane Manning, a former sex-crimes prosecutor in New York and director of the Women’s Equal Justice Project. ‘A sexual predator who was so powerful that he thought he could never be touched has just been held accountable,’” [Caitlin Gibson and Elahe Izadi report](#). ”Deborah Tuerkheimer, a professor of law at Northwestern University, noted that most sexual assault cases that enter the legal system are more likely to fit the stereotypical ‘stranger rape’ paradigm — involving a woman who is assaulted by someone she doesn’t know, resulting in apparent physical injury and, potentially, DNA evidence. The Weinstein case, in contrast, presented a far more complicated portrait of sexual violence — and the fact that New York prosecutors even filed charges against him is

‘extraordinary,’ she said.”

### **Mitch McConnell, after months of legislative inactivity, will now force votes on abortion.**

“McConnell is about to plunge the Senate into the nation’s culture wars with votes on bills to sharply restrict access to late-term abortions and threaten some doctors who perform them with criminal penalties, signaling that Republicans plan to make curbing a woman’s right to terminate a pregnancy a central theme of their re-election campaigns this year,” [the Times reports](#). “After months of shunning legislative activity in favor of confirming [Trump’s] judicial nominees — and a brief detour for the president’s impeachment trial — [McConnell] is expected to bring the bills up for votes on Tuesday. Both lack the necessary 60-vote supermajority to advance, and the Senate has voted previously to reject them. But by putting them on the floor again, Mr. McConnell hopes to energize the social conservatives who helped elect Mr. Trump.”

### **An appeals court upheld the Trump move to withdraw Title X funding for abortions.**

“The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals -- long regarded as a liberal body, though Trump appointees have started to tilt the balance -- lifted preliminary injunctions against the rules issued by lower courts in cases from three different states,” [Fox News reports](#). “Xavier Becerra, attorney general of California, one of the states that sued over the regulations, said the Ninth Circuit’s ruling was ‘troubling.’”

### **Justice Clarence Thomas cited himself in arguing to overturn a decision he authored.**

“Although I authored *Brand X*, ‘it is never too late to ‘surrende[r] former views to a better considered position,’ Thomas wrote in his Monday dissent, quoting himself from a 2018 opinion in *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.*,” [Fox reports](#). “Thomas has recently been quite vocal in advocating for the court to overturn a variety of precedents, saying in one opinion last year that when ‘faced with a demonstrably erroneous precedent, my rule is simple: We should not follow it.’”

## **Oregon lawmakers were supposed to vote on a climate change bill. Once again, Republicans walked out.**

“For the second time in eight months, Oregon Republicans walked out of the capitol, denying the Democratic supermajority a chance to pass a bill that would limit greenhouse gas emissions. By absconding, the 11 GOP lawmakers prevented the quorum necessary to vote on the legislation and forced Democrats to adjourn for the day,” [Reis Thebault reports](#). “It was the same tactic Republican lawmakers employed in June, when they fled to Idaho to avoid a vote on an earlier version of the same cap-and-trade bill, prompting Oregon’s governor to call in state troopers to track them down and return them to the statehouse.”

## **The TSA froze hiring and overtime pay as the spring travel season nears.**

“Hydrick Thomas, the [TSA] union’s president, said agency officials told him last week that the freezes would be in place until April or May,” [Ian Duncan reports](#). “That could leave security checkpoints short-staffed, he said. ‘You’re going to have long lines,’ Thomas said. ‘That’s just the way it works.’”

## **Vanessa Bryant sued the helicopter operator in the crash that killed her husband and daughter, and 7 others.**

“The lawsuit alleges that the helicopter company, Island Express, was ‘vicariously liable’ for any and all actions of pilot Ara George Zobayan, including his ‘negligent and careless piloting,’” [Lori Aratani reports](#).

**The suit was filed the same day thousands gathered at the Staples Center to remember the victims.** “[Bryant’s] public memorial Monday sparked a heartbreaking tribute from his wife, Vanessa; brought Michael Jordan to tears; and led former teammate Shaquille O’Neal to share behind-the-scenes anecdotes during a two-hour ceremony,” [Ben Golliver and Cindy Boren report](#). “NBA Commissioner Adam Silver; Hall of Famers Bill Russell, Magic Johnson and Kareem

Abdul-Jabbar; current stars Stephen Curry and Kyrie Irving; and dozens of other prominent athletes and entertainers [attended] the celebration of life."

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## **Social media speed read**

Trump shared a video recap of India's welcome:



**Donald J. Trump**   
@realDonaldTrump



[twitter.com/narendramodi/s...](https://twitter.com/narendramodi/s...)



**Narendra Modi** @narendramodi

During his speech at the #NamasteTrump programme, @POTUS @realDonaldTrump highlighted aspects of his vision for USA. He also spoke at length about India's greatness as well as the greatness of our culture, ethos, people and more. I thank him for his kind words.



84.4K 6:13 PM - Feb 24, 2020



29.6K people are talking about this



Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner are on the trip, and they posted shots from the Taj Mahal:





Those images of the Trump's lavish visit clashed jarringly with pictures of protesters, speaking out against Modi's anti-Muslim policies, being viciously attacked by police:



A member of the president's coronavirus response team struggled to access a publicly available coronavirus map:



The Bloomberg campaign made a Twitter thread calling out vandalism on different campaign offices, including one in Flint, Mich. It backfired.

Consider this from the former secretary of labor:

 **Robert Reich** ✓  
@RBReich

Cost of repairing Flint's water pipes: \$55 million

Cost of Mike Bloomberg's ad spending: \$505.8 million

America deserves better than an oligarch wasting his fortune trying to buy the presidency.  
[twitter.com/Mike2020/statu...](https://twitter.com/Mike2020/status...)

**Team Bloomberg** ✓ @Mike2020  
Replying to @Mike2020  
"Eat the Rich"  
Our office in Flint, MI

America deserves better.



♥ 25.3K 8:55 PM - Feb 24, 2020 ⓘ

💬 9,416 people are talking about this. >

## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert reviewed Trump's performance in India:



Trevor Noah looked at some of the things India is doing to give Trump a memorable experience:



Seth Meyers made fun of the mainstream media's “meltdown” over Sanders's success in Nevada:



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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Biden uses Obama as a shield – and cudgel – in bid to thwart Sanders in South Carolina  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 25, 2020 10:24:56 AM



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# The Daily 202

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By **James Hohmann**

with *Mariana Alfaro*

Email

## Biden uses Obama as a shield – and cudgel – in bid to thwart Sanders in South Carolina

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Joe Biden spoke frantically – faster and louder than normal – as he touted his relationship with Barack Obama during a rally here on Monday night. No longer content to merely cite the former president as validation, Biden now invokes his old boss to attack his opponents – specifically Bernie Sanders and Tom Steyer, who are [nipping at his heels in South Carolina](#) by making inroads with African American voters.

Biden exudes a new sense of urgency as he makes what could be his last stand ahead of Saturday's primary, in which the majority of voters will be black. "When we were president – when Barack was president, and I was vice president – we went to HBCUs," Biden said, referring to historically black colleges and universities.

He said stricter gun laws would have prevented the massacre of nine African American parishioners during a Bible study in 2015 at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church a few blocks away. "I went there with Barack," he said, referring to the memorial service when [Obama sang "Amazing Grace."](#) "We met with all the families."

Biden's extended bear hug of his former running mate came a few hours after his campaign launched a new attack ad against Sanders for mulling a primary challenge in 2012 against "our first African American president."

The 60-second digital spot features audio from a 2011 radio interview in which the independent senator from Vermont said, "I think it would be a good idea if President Obama faced some primary opposition." The spot ends with a narrator saying: "When it comes to building on President Obama's legacy, Bernie Sanders just can't be trusted." The campaign said this is part of a \$600,000 digital buy in South Carolina that will play on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.



**Obama has not endorsed anyone, and he's kept his head down as the primary has heated up.** Some allies of the former president speculate privately that he wants to maintain credibility with all the factions of the party if there's a contested convention so that he could help mediate. He's previously signaled unease with Sanders's style of radical politics, but Obama's shown no inclination to forcefully or publicly articulate such concerns.

**Responding to Biden's attack, Sanders categorically denied that he ever considered a primary challenge against Obama.** [The Atlantic reported](#) last week that the president's 2012 reelection campaign was panicked about the possibility after being tipped off by Sen. Pat Leahy (D-Vt.) that Sanders was seriously considering it, and they took it seriously enough that then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) was enlisted to dissuade Sanders from running.

**"Not true at all," Sanders said during a town hall in Charleston that aired on CNN last night.** "I'm the senator from a small state, and I did not give any consideration to running for president of the United States until 2015." He added that he was "very busy running for reelection" in 2012. "In fact, I ended up campaigning for Obama, and I'm a strong supporter of all that Barack Obama has accomplished," he said. "Joe is a friend of mine. I've known him for many years. But you know what happens in campaigns? At the end of the season, it's called silly season. People say things they should not say."

**The former vice president has leaned on his eight years of service in what he likes to call "the Obama-Biden administration" since announcing his candidacy for the Democratic nomination last spring, but he's becoming as explicit about it as ever.** Biden's staff set up teleprompters last night next to a podium in a gymnasium at the College of Charleston, but he ignored those accoutrements and paced with a wireless microphone. He claimed the 2009 stimulus package wouldn't have passed without him. "The president asked me to handle it," he said, referring to Obama. "The



president said ... 'Sheriff Joe will do it.'" Biden also touted the Affordable Care Act. "Five Democratic presidents tried to get Obamacare or something like it passed," he said. "We got it passed."

**Biden has started going after Sanders directly almost every chance he gets.** "We've just had significant disagreements with Bernie, but the way he talks about it, you'd think he and Barack were close buddies," he said Sunday night on MSNBC. "I know they were not."

**A fresh [NBC News-Marist University poll](#) helps explain why: Biden leads Sanders 27 percent to 23 percent among likely Democratic primary voters, with a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.** Steyer places third with 15 percent. No one else breaks into double digits, but 27 percent of likely voters say they remain persuadable.



Joe Biden speaks Monday night at the College of Charleston. (Elizabeth Frantz/Reuters)



**Biden is laser focused on the Palmetto State because he recognizes that failing here would functionally end his campaign.** He hopes to ride momentum from a victory on Saturday to success in the other Southern states with large African American populations that vote one week from today on Super Tuesday. **Reflecting his limited financial resources, Biden is not airing television ads in any of the states that vote next week.**

In fact, Biden came to his Charleston rally from a fundraiser in Mount Pleasant at the home of a prominent local lawyer on the banks of Hobcaw Creek. **State Sen. Marlon Kimpson (D), who is black, led the donors in a reprise of the “Fired up, ready to go” chant that was common during Obama rallies.** “On the most fundamental decision that President Barack Obama had to make, and that is choosing a vice president, he chose Joe Biden and he has said, the president has said, that’s the best damn decision he has ever made,” Kimpson said at the fundraiser. “Don’t be confused by the fantasyland nirvana proposals. It ain’t going nowhere. Senator Sanders has spent more than 30 years up on Capitol Hill talking about the same thing, and nothing has passed. Let’s not get it confused.”

**Biden then ripped into Sanders for supporting a bill to limit liability for gun manufacturers.** “Bernie’s a good guy,” said Biden. “He talks about how we all make mistakes. Well, he didn’t tell you he

voted five times against the Brady Bill and the waiting period. He voted against allowing us to go up and sue the companies that created this havoc.”

**The odds seem good that Sanders's purported flirtation with primarying Obama will come up during tonight's debate, which begins at 8 p.m. Eastern and will air on CBS.** The six other candidates onstage have [each realized](#), to varying degrees, that Sanders could build an insurmountable lead in the hunt for delegates next Tuesday if nothing is done to bludgeon his momentum. The collective action problem complicates efforts to stop Sanders: Everyone wants to promote their own candidacy more than they want to stop Sanders. Going too negative could generate backlash and ill will from party activists. On the other hand, with the field still so fragmented, there are new incentives to try to emerge as Sanders's chief detractor. That's certainly the role that Mike Bloomberg wants to play. Bloomberg, who spent Monday [cloistered](#) at the Four Seasons in Orlando for debate prep, reportedly plans to go after Sanders for his gun-related votes.



Bernie Sanders speaks on Monday night at the South Carolina Democratic Party's "First in the South" dinner at the Charleston Marriott. He threw out his prepared remarks. (Drew Angerer/Getty Images)

**For his part, Sanders is telegraphing a more conciliatory approach.** Before his town hall on CNN, Sanders spoke last night at a dinner hosted by the South Carolina Democratic Party. Biden, Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Minn.), Elizabeth Warren (Mass.), Pete Buttigieg and Steyer also delivered remarks at the Charleston Marriott. The Sanders campaign distributed the prepared text of his speech in advance. The senator was slated to criticize “the political establishment and some of my opponents.” But Sanders tossed these comments and instead emphasized his own electability. “I know you’re hearing a lot on TV, ‘Bernie can’t win,’” Sanders [said](#). “Don’t believe everything you hear on TV.”

**All of the voters I spoke with at Biden’s rally said his background as Obama’s wingman is an important asset weighing in his favor. Since Iowa, though, you hear much less from attendees at his events about electability and much more about likeability.** Allison Pryor, 57, a retired probation and parole officer who lives in Charleston and is African American, said she’ll vote for Biden because he seems so relatable. She appreciated his perseverance after his wife died in a car crash and his son died of brain cancer. “He rode the train, and he’s always been like a cup of coffee: Regular Old Joe,” said Pryor. “Yes, it’s good to know he’d be a continuation of the Obama administration. But I think he can also stand on his own merits.”

**A national poll conducted by [Fox News](#) in August found that 60 percent of Americans held a favorable impression of Obama, including 95 percent of both Democrats and African Americans, as well as 56 percent of independents. Among Democrats, 78 percent felt “strongly favorable” toward the former president and 17 percent were “somewhat favorable.”**

**But several voters I’ve interviewed around South Carolina have wondered why Obama’s not endorsing Biden if they’re so close.** Biden claimed last April, [dubiously](#), that he asked Obama “not to endorse” him so that the president could stay neutral. Others said they’ve seen ads online from Bloomberg highlighting how close he was with Obama as New York’s mayor.

**“This is going to be Biden’s last stand because he thinks that black people are going to support him just because of Barack Obama,” said Connie Breeden, an attorney in Columbia who is African American.** “He’s tooting that horn all the way to the bank. But people are savvier than that. He hasn’t done anything. What has he actually done for us? Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. I’m leaning toward Steyer because he’s really put his money where his mouth is.”



Tom Steyer greets supporters after a speech on Sunday afternoon in Yemassee, S.C. (Elizabeth Frantz/Reuters)

**Biden has also been invoking Obama as he steps up his attacks on Steyer, the X factor in this primary. The former V.P. blasted the billionaire from San Francisco over the weekend for investing in private prisons while he and Obama were in the White House trying to get rid of private prisons.**

Steyer defended himself during his own CNN town hall last night. “I thought it was the right thing, I decided it was the wrong thing and, 15 years ago, I sold it for moral reasons,” he said. “I came to the conclusion that everyone has come to conclude now, that this isn't a place to make

money.” Steyer added that he’s sought to atone for his past investment by funding initiatives in California to get rid of private prisons. “When I make a mistake, I correct it,” he said.

**Many black voters draw a clear distinction between Obama and Biden.** Steven Lykes, 44, a full-time caretaker, is torn between Sanders and Steyer. He backed Hillary Clinton in the primary four years ago, and his favorite candidate had been Elizabeth Warren for much of the past year. Lykes thinks the senator from Massachusetts is an amazing debater and loves her plans, but Warren’s lackluster finishes in the first three states gave him pause.

“Biden has run three different times,” Lykes said in Columbia. “I’m always scared because Donald Trump is a savvy campaigner. You’ve got to have someone who is on their tippy toes and ready to fight back. I don’t think Biden can do that. He has too many gaffes. You can see it in the debates. He’s having a hard enough time just against the candidates we have. But Bernie can stand up to Trump like nobody’s business.”

**Obama’s shadow looms large in the minds of black voters in other ways that don’t necessarily help Biden.** David Swinton, the former president of Benedict College in Columbia, a historically black liberal arts college, said he and his wife already cast their ballots early for Sanders. “We cannot be concerned about all the pundits who say he can’t win,” said Swinton. “Let’s not worry about that. Let’s vote for what we feel in our heart, rather than who might win. Remember, nobody thought Barack Obama could win. And he did.”

**South Carolina does not have partisan voter registration, which means people can vote in whatever primary they want.** An open primary means that there will be many moderate voters who may not like Trump but don’t necessarily swoon for Obama. There’s also buzz on the right, for example, that Republicans should vote for Sanders here to elevate his candidacy on the theory that he’d be much easier for Trump to defeat in the fall. This could be a factor in a close race.

**Attitudes toward Obama are more complicated among white Democrats.** Lifelong Democrat Doug Brafford, a retired lawyer who lives in Mount Pleasant, plans to support Buttigieg after backing Sanders in the primary four years ago. “One of the things that upsets me about Joe Biden is that, as vice president, he repeatedly denigrated Southerners,” said Brafford, 77. “When Obama said that people cling to their guns and religion, Biden didn’t speak out. He picked up where Obama left off. I love Obama with all my heart, but I think he’s divisive – and that matters to me.”

Brafford dislikes Trump, but he worries that his party’s nonstop attacks on the president hurt politically. That’s why he finds Buttigieg’s calls for civility so compelling. “We have been uncivil in this party,” said Brafford. “It may drive some middle-of-the-roaders to stay at home. It has turned some people off.”





Barack Obama, then a presidential hopeful, shares a laugh with Edith Childs in Aiken, S.C. Childs has endorsed Steyer's bid this year. (Brett Flashnick/AP)

**It's about more than personalities, too. Democrats are divided about the best approach to governing.** The [CBS-YouGov poll](#) published on Sunday, which had Biden up 5 points over Sanders, found that 54 percent of likely Democratic voters in South Carolina think the party should nominate someone who is trying to “return the country to the way it was before Donald Trump took office,” and 46 percent said Democrats should instead “advance a more progressive agenda than the country had under Barack Obama.”

Obama himself left little doubt as to which way he'd answer that CBS poll question during a speech in November in which he urged Democrats running for the White House not to lurch too far left to win the nomination. “This is still a country that is less revolutionary than it is interested in improvement,” the former president said during a meeting of the Democracy Alliance, the powerful network of liberal megadonors, in what was [covered at the time](#) as a subtle rebuke of Sandersism. “They like seeing things improved. But the average American doesn't think that we have to completely tear down the system and remake it. And I think it's



important for us not to lose sight of that.”

**To be sure, African American voters in South Carolina revere Obama.** Dorothy Hollis, 77, retired nine years ago after 40 years of teaching high school. Now she teaches Sunday school and sings in the choir at First Calvary Baptist Church in Columbia. As Saturday looms, she’s undecided and praying for guidance. “I want President Obama to run again, to be honest,” she said. “He was an outstanding president. Like Abraham Lincoln, those don’t come but every so often. So we have to take the next best thing and accept a flawed person and just go with it. But who is that?”

Hollis thought four years ago that Clinton would be a wonderful president, but she said none of the candidates in 2020 particularly excite her. “Sometimes it takes a devil to catch the Devil. It takes a thief to catch a thief. Sometimes it takes that. And I’m not sure we have that on the platform right now,” she said.

Her faith comforts her in what she sees as a perilous moment for the country. Hollis said she was “just so tickled” when heavy winds blew down a section of Trump’s border wall a few weeks ago before the cement hardened. To her, it was a sign. “God is good,” Hollis said. “To me, that was a warning. Those little things, those are warnings. You can’t fight against the powers that be. That wall is going to come down one way or another. Just ask Joshua.”

In the Book of Joshua, the walls of Jericho fall after the Israelites blow their trumpets. “If we don’t get anybody genuine to deal with this world, we’re going to all just perish,” she said. “The one will come.”

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## More on 2020



### **Sanders's Cold War travels face fresh scrutiny.**

Buttigieg and Bloomberg attacked the senator for his comments about Fidel Castro's Cuba in a "60 Minutes" interview that aired Sunday night. Sanders said Castro deserved praise where it was due, including for a "massive literacy program." "During the dying days of the Cold War, Sanders indulged a fascination with far more disruptive and divisive strains of a socialist ideology he has embraced throughout his adult life," [Griff Witte reports](#). "Returning home from visits to some of the United States' most avowed enemies, Sanders offered some criticism but also plenty of praise in Vermont community television recordings. ... Now, Sanders's comments are coming back to life as opponents say his warm feelings toward his hosts decades ago make him vulnerable to attack and reveal a soft spot for left-wing despots."

**Sanders defended his Castro comments during last night's CNN town hall.** "You know what? I think teaching people to read and write is

a good thing,” he said. “I have been extremely consistent and critical of all authoritarian regimes all over the world — including Cuba, including Nicaragua, including Saudi Arabia, including China, including Russia. I happen to believe in democracy, not authoritarianism. ... But can anyone deny — I mean, the facts are clear — that [China has] taken more people out of extreme poverty than any country in history?” When pressed on Castro’s legacy, he responded, “Truth is truth. All right?”

**Democrats fret this could cost them Florida in the general.**

Terrie Rizzo, the chair of the Florida Democratic Party, didn’t mention Sanders by name but released a statement saying Democrats in her state “stand in solidarity with the thousands of people who have fled violent dictatorships in Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua.” Two Democratic congresswomen from Florida — Debbie Mucarsel-Powell and Donna Shalala — took issue with the comments as well, with Shalala saying she hopes that Sanders “will take time to speak to some of my constituents before he decides to sing the praises of a murderous tyrant like Fidel Castro.” Sen. Robert Menendez (N.J.), the only Cuban American Democratic senator, also denounced Sanders’s comments.

**Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) paused for 17 seconds last night when Paul Kane asked him if Sanders can win the general election.**

“I’m not sure I’m the right person to ask about winning a Democratic primary, but I think winning a primary election and winning a general election are two different things,” said Bennet, who dropped out of the presidential race after garnering less than 1 percent of the vote in New Hampshire. Bennet expressed concern that Sanders could make it harder for John Hickenlooper, the former governor of his state, to defeat Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.). Bennet, the former chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, said he believes Democrats “need to nominate somebody in this process who is going to be able to win purple states like Colorado and lead us to a 55-senator majority in the Senate. That could be challenging.”

**Biden claimed he was arrested trying to see Nelson Mandela. There’s no evidence of that.**

“Biden, as a senator, was active in the anti-apartheid movement, helping pass sanctions on companies doing business in South Africa over President Ronald Reagan’s veto. But there is no evidence that Biden was ever arrested trying to see the imprisoned future president of a democratic South Africa,” [fact checker Glenn Kessler writes](#). “As far as we can tell, Biden never mentioned this arrest before; neither can we locate any news accounts of him being arrested.”

### **A Sanders staffer was fired for mocking Warren’s looks and Buttigieg’s sexuality on Twitter.**

“Using the account @perma\_ben, Ben Mora, a regional field director for Sanders’ campaign based in Michigan, has attacked other Democrats in the field—as well as their family members, surrogates, journalists, and politically active celebrities—in deeply personal terms, mocking their physical appearance, gender, and sexuality, among other things,” [the Daily Beast reports](#). “Mora, the Sanders campaign confirmed, has been fired.”

### **Sanders and his campaign have stepped up criticism of MSNBC.**

“Sanders reportedly confronted MSNBC president Phil Griffin and another network executive last week before the NBC-sponsored Democratic debate in Las Vegas to complain about its coverage, including disparaging comments made by Chris Matthews and ‘Meet the Press’ host Chuck Todd. MSNBC has not confirmed the encounters took place, though it hasn’t disputed the report either,” [Paul Farhi and Jenna Johnson report](#). “Sanders’ campaign manager, Faiz Shakir, told Vanity Fair last week that MSNBC ‘is constantly undermining the Bernie Sanders campaign.’ He has even said Fox News has been ‘more fair than MSNBC’ ...

“The campaign’s ire was raised further by Matthews’s commentary as Sanders swept to an early lead in Nevada on Saturday. **Matthews compared Sanders’s performance to Nazi Germany’s shattering military victory over France in the early months of World War II**, suggesting Sanders’s path to the Democratic nomination was unstoppable. ‘It’s over,’ said Matthews, referring to a French prime

minister's assessment of the battle and possibly the war. The comparison was flawed in several respects (France was eventually liberated and Germany was crushed by allied forces), but Sanders's representatives expressed outrage that Matthews had compared Sanders to Hitler's soldiers, given that Sanders, a Jew, lost family members during the Holocaust. ... **Matthews apologized to Sanders on his program, 'Hardball,' on Monday night.** 'As I watched the one-sided results of Saturday's Democratic caucus in Nevada, I reached for an historical analogy and used a bad one..., he said."

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## Quote of the day

*"We're going to spend Trump out of office," Bloomberg campaign manager Kevin Sheekey [told Vanity Fair](#).*

### **In a historically old presidential field, candidates are still refusing to release their health records.**

Klobuchar, 59, released four pages of [medical documentation](#) last night with recent lab results and a doctor's letter that said she's in "very good health." Buttigieg, 38, has yet to release any medical records despite arguing last week that the candidates should undergo physical exams and disclose the results. Bloomberg, 78, released a single page from his doctor that said he's in "great physical shape" and that he "plays golf avidly." Biden, 77, released a three-page letter describing him as "healthy [and] vigorous." Sanders, 78, [released letters from three doctors](#) – including a cardiologist who said he has "the mental and physical stamina" to be president. Warren, 70, released five pages of documents revealing a thyroid condition and a doctor's letter declaring her in "excellent health." ([Matt Viser and Lenny Bernstein](#))

### **A Minneapolis inmate blamed Klobuchar for what he claims was a wrongful conviction.**

"She recharged me with first degree murder, never looked into the facts of the case. Never looked into the misconduct that had taken place," [Myon](#)

[Burrell told ABC News](#). He was convicted for the 2002 first-degree murder of 11-year-old Tyesha Edwards. Recently, an AP investigation has cast doubt over the murder investigation and the police tactics used.

Klobuchar, Burrell said, “never even addressed the misconduct that had taken place and still put the same detective, the same police on my case to go and get more bogus evidence.” In a statement to ABC, Klobuchar once again called for a review of the case.

## **Presidential candidates are rebranding Rep. Jim Clyburn’s anti-poverty program as reparations.**

“Clyburn (D-S.C.), whose district encompasses eight of the state’s poorest counties, has long opposed cash payments to African Americans whose ancestors were enslaved. He believes it would be too difficult to determine who deserves to be compensated. But a race-neutral anti-poverty program he conceived a decade ago is now catching fire among candidates for the Democratic nomination as a way to provide practical restitution for slavery,” [Tracy Jan reports](#). “Several presidential hopefuls, including [Sanders and Klobuchar], have sought to rebrand Clyburn’s program as a vehicle for reparations, which remain politically contentious. Clyburn’s idea, with strong bipartisan support, was originally adopted in 2009 by just one federal agency. But framing the program, which targets federal spending on certain high-poverty areas, as reparations has drawn criticism from African Americans living in poor urban neighborhoods — some in Clyburn’s own district — that do not qualify for the funding, as well as longtime advocates for reparations. The critique underlines the difficulty of finding a solution that would satisfy those demanding redress and also be politically viable.”

## **The State newspaper in Columbia endorses Buttigieg in today’s edition.**

“During the last half-century, the Democratic Party has only won the presidency when it has resisted the temptation to pick status-quo nominees and shown the courage to choose centrist outsiders with fresh, optimistic messages,” [the editorial explains](#). “Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama prevailed in part because they understood the values

of real-world America. All three successfully connected with voters by tapping into the sensibilities of average Americans. Buttigieg has gained that needed perspective during his eight years leading South Bend, a Midwestern city that had to reinvent itself and cast aside a Rust Belt image.”

### **Silicon Valley asked Warren for help with a fundraiser. Her campaign considered it.**

“Warren’s team in recent weeks explored ways to raise money from Silicon Valley donors without violating her ironclad fundraising pledge to not ‘sell access to my time,’” [Recode reports](#). “The Democratic presidential campaign considered an inbound request to have a campaign representative — such as an endorser, a staff member, or a high-level volunteer leader — attend a now-canceled high-dollar event in the Bay Area, according to several people familiar with the discussions.”

### **Trump’s former doctor thought he had a ticket to Congress. It might not be that easy.**

Ronny Jackson is one of 15 candidates in a crowded Republican primary in Texas, and the White House hasn’t gone out of its way to help, [the New York Times reports](#). “Jackson left the West Wing in December after rising from Trump’s physician to his unlikely pick to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs to Trump administration roadkill when he was forced to withdraw his name from consideration amid allegations related to his professional conduct. Now he’s running for Congress in Texas’ 13th District, one of the most conservative in the country, and his argument is simple... Jackson is betting his personal connection with the president is enough to win the Republican nomination tantamount to election. ... But it is not clear if that connection, combined with his background as a Navy rear admiral, will be enough to help Dr. Jackson overcome some rookie mistakes as a candidate.”

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## **The new world order**



Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi hug after giving a joint statement in New Delhi. (Manish Swarup/AP)

## Trump said the U.S.-India relationship has “never been as good” as it is now.

The president and “Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the growing defense ties between the world’s two largest democracies even as they acknowledged that a trade deal between them remains distant.

During his second day in India, Trump is holding formal meetings with the Indian leadership, making a visit to the U.S. Embassy and attending a state banquet in New Delhi,” [Joanna Slater reports](#). “Trump began Tuesday by participating in a grand ceremonial welcome and visiting a memorial to Mohandas Gandhi ... There will be no huge crowds or tourism for the president today.

**“On Monday, as Trump arrived in India, [violence broke out in Delhi](#) between supporters and opponents of [Modi’s] controversial new citizenship law. Critics say the law is unconstitutional and discriminates against Muslims. ... [Violence continued today], police told local media that **the death toll from Monday’s violence had climbed to seven, including one police officer**. More than 100 people were injured, according to media reports. Heavy police presence in the affected areas failed to stem the violence. ... Home Minister Amit Shah, Modi’s second-in-command, chaired a meeting with top officials and the Delhi state leadership. The government**



ruled out calling the army for assistance and said there were adequate security forces on the ground. ...

**“First lady Melania Trump visited a public school in New Delhi to attend a ‘happiness class,’** part of a special curriculum introduced across India’s capital in 2018 to emphasize well-being alongside academic achievement. ... [Meanwhile], Trump and Modi claimed progress Tuesday toward a comprehensive trade deal, but a chummy atmosphere between the two leaders during Trump’s state visit could not mask frustration that the long-delayed pact is still in limbo. Trump predicted that a successful deal is in the offing but gave no deadline. The United States had once hoped to have the agreement ready in September, when Modi visited the United States.”

**Trump’s acting director of national intelligence worked for a nonprofit group funded mostly by Hungary.**

“[Richard] Grenell’s public relations firm was paid to do work for a U.S. nonprofit funded almost entirely by the Hungarian government led by far-right Prime Minister Viktor Orban,” [Emma Brown, Beth Reinhard and Dalton Bennett report](#). Individuals who have served as acting directors of national intelligence “typically have been nonpartisan national security professionals whose experience has included leading intelligence agencies or service in the military. Now that promotion is drawing fresh scrutiny to Grenell’s past, including his foreign affairs commentary and consulting work after he served as U.S. spokesman at the United Nations during the George W. Bush administration. His work for the Hungarian-funded nonprofit is the type of activity that, in other cases, has drawn the attention of Justice Department investigators tasked with enforcing the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA).”

**The White House asked Congress for an emergency \$1.8 billion to bolster the response.**

“The request includes \$1.25 billion in new funding for the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the ability to transfer an additional \$535 million set aside to fight Ebola and use it for the coronavirus

response instead,” [Erica Werner, Jeff Stein and Lena Sun report](#). “The request reflects the fast-evolving nature of the crisis confronting the administration, which until recently had insisted that no additional funds were necessary. But Democrats immediately slammed the request as too small, with House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey (D-N.Y.) calling it ‘woefully insufficient to protect Americans’ and criticizing the administration for trying to ‘raid’ money from other public health accounts.”

## **The market plunge yesterday underscored the coronavirus’s political risk to Trump.**

“The Trump administration’s disjointed handling of the outbreak has faced mounting criticism as the president’s allies have scrambled to take preventive steps while seeking to reassure the public, at times struggling to explain their decisions and offer a consistent message,” [Toluse Olorunnipa and Costa report](#). “For a president who has governed ‘by tweet and circus,’ a potential global health crisis that blunts economic growth could expose one of Trump’s main weaknesses as he prepares to face voters in November, said Russell Riley, a presidential historian at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center.”

## **New virus cases in China and North Korea raised concerns about how long it could take to go back to normal.**

“The Chinese government said Tuesday that there had been 508 new confirmed cases by the end of the previous day, along with 74 deaths, bringing the total number of accumulated infections nationwide to 77,658, with 2,663 deaths,” [Adam Taylor and Wang Yuan report](#). “A Chinese official suggested Monday evening that the country needs at least 28 days without new cases to show the virus is not spreading. ... The remarks drew thousands of comments on Weibo, China’s Twitter-like service, where many wondered how long they would have to wait before normal life resumed. ‘Two months will have 60% of enterprises killed!’ one user wrote.”

## **A California judge delayed a decision on moving coronavirus-exposed Americans.**

“A federal judge on Monday directed federal and state officials to answer the questions of Costa Mesa, Calif., residents about their plans to bring Americans who have tested positive for the coronavirus but show no signs of illness to a closed mental-health facility in the city,” [Jeff Rowe and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#). “District Judge Josephine Staton cautioned that the city — and Orange County if it joins the effort — does not have veto power over state and federal quarantine decisions and faces an uphill battle trying to block the transfer of people from Travis Air Force Base in Northern California.”

**Hosni Mubarak, Egypt’s autocratic ruler whose power came to an end during the Arab Spring uprisings, died at 91.** ([Will Englund and T. Rees Shapiro](#))

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## **Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



**Harvey Weinstein was found guilty on two charges of sexual assault.**

“The jury determined that Weinstein forced oral sex on former production assistant Mimi Haley at his apartment in July 2006 and raped former aspiring actress Jessica Mann at a hotel in 2013,” [Shayna Jacobs reports](#). “He was found not guilty of the most severe charges, of predatory sexual assault, which would have acknowledged a pattern that included forcing sex on actress Annabella Sciorra in 1993 or 1994. **Weinstein, 67, faces at least five years and up to 25 on the count of first-degree criminal sex act for his assault on Haley, and up to four years on a third-degree rape count for the Mann encounter.** The judge can consider running the sentences consecutively, for a maximum of 29 years. Sentencing is scheduled for March 11. After the verdict announcement, Weinstein was handcuffed and taken to jail, and his bail was revoked.

**“Weinstein’s lawyers are expected to appeal the conviction on the basis of several concerns,** including the amount of media attention on the case and the fact that the three supporting accusers were permitted to testify even though charges were not brought on their behalf. The appeal must be filed after sentencing. ... Weinstein lawyer Donna Rotunno told reporters, ‘He took it like a man. He knows this is not over.’”

### **Advocates hailed the Weinstein conviction as a breakthrough.**

“‘This is one of those days when the whole world changes,’ said Jane Manning, a former sex-crimes prosecutor in New York and director of the Women’s Equal Justice Project. ‘A sexual predator who was so powerful that he thought he could never be touched has just been held accountable,’” [Caitlin Gibson and Elahe Izadi report](#). ”Deborah Tuerkheimer, a professor of law at Northwestern University, noted that most sexual assault cases that enter the legal system are more likely to fit the stereotypical ‘stranger rape’ paradigm — involving a woman who is assaulted by someone she doesn’t know, resulting in apparent physical injury and, potentially, DNA evidence. The Weinstein case, in contrast, presented a far more complicated portrait of sexual violence — and the fact that New York prosecutors even filed charges against him is

‘extraordinary,’ she said.”

### **Mitch McConnell, after months of legislative inactivity, will now force votes on abortion.**

“McConnell is about to plunge the Senate into the nation’s culture wars with votes on bills to sharply restrict access to late-term abortions and threaten some doctors who perform them with criminal penalties, signaling that Republicans plan to make curbing a woman’s right to terminate a pregnancy a central theme of their re-election campaigns this year,” [the Times reports](#). “After months of shunning legislative activity in favor of confirming [Trump’s] judicial nominees — and a brief detour for the president’s impeachment trial — [McConnell] is expected to bring the bills up for votes on Tuesday. Both lack the necessary 60-vote supermajority to advance, and the Senate has voted previously to reject them. But by putting them on the floor again, Mr. McConnell hopes to energize the social conservatives who helped elect Mr. Trump.”

### **An appeals court upheld the Trump move to withdraw Title X funding for abortions.**

“The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals -- long regarded as a liberal body, though Trump appointees have started to tilt the balance -- lifted preliminary injunctions against the rules issued by lower courts in cases from three different states,” [Fox News reports](#). “Xavier Becerra, attorney general of California, one of the states that sued over the regulations, said the Ninth Circuit’s ruling was ‘troubling.’”

### **Justice Clarence Thomas cited himself in arguing to overturn a decision he authored.**

“Although I authored *Brand X*, ‘it is never too late to ‘surrende[r] former views to a better considered position,’ Thomas wrote in his Monday dissent, quoting himself from a 2018 opinion in *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.*,” [Fox reports](#). “Thomas has recently been quite vocal in advocating for the court to overturn a variety of precedents, saying in one opinion last year that when ‘faced with a demonstrably erroneous precedent, my rule is simple: We should not follow it.’”

## **Oregon lawmakers were supposed to vote on a climate change bill. Once again, Republicans walked out.**

“For the second time in eight months, Oregon Republicans walked out of the capitol, denying the Democratic supermajority a chance to pass a bill that would limit greenhouse gas emissions. By absconding, the 11 GOP lawmakers prevented the quorum necessary to vote on the legislation and forced Democrats to adjourn for the day,” [Reis Thebault reports](#). “It was the same tactic Republican lawmakers employed in June, when they fled to Idaho to avoid a vote on an earlier version of the same cap-and-trade bill, prompting Oregon’s governor to call in state troopers to track them down and return them to the statehouse.”

## **The TSA froze hiring and overtime pay as the spring travel season nears.**

“Hydrick Thomas, the [TSA] union’s president, said agency officials told him last week that the freezes would be in place until April or May,” [Ian Duncan reports](#). “That could leave security checkpoints short-staffed, he said. ‘You’re going to have long lines,’ Thomas said. ‘That’s just the way it works.’”

## **Vanessa Bryant sued the helicopter operator in the crash that killed her husband and daughter, and 7 others.**

“The lawsuit alleges that the helicopter company, Island Express, was ‘vicariously liable’ for any and all actions of pilot Ara George Zobayan, including his ‘negligent and careless piloting,’” [Lori Aratani reports](#).

**The suit was filed the same day thousands gathered at the Staples Center to remember the victims.** “[Bryant's] public memorial Monday sparked a heartbreaking tribute from his wife, Vanessa; brought Michael Jordan to tears; and led former teammate Shaquille O’Neal to share behind-the-scenes anecdotes during a two-hour ceremony,” [Ben Golliver and Cindy Boren report](#). “NBA Commissioner Adam Silver; Hall of Famers Bill Russell, Magic Johnson and Kareem

Abdul-Jabbar; current stars Stephen Curry and Kyrie Irving; and dozens of other prominent athletes and entertainers [attended] the celebration of life."

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## **Social media speed read**

Trump shared a video recap of India's welcome:



**Donald J. Trump**   
@realDonaldTrump



[twitter.com/narendramodi/s...](https://twitter.com/narendramodi/s...)



**Narendra Modi** @narendramodi

During his speech at the #NamasteTrump programme, @POTUS @realDonaldTrump highlighted aspects of his vision for USA. He also spoke at length about India's greatness as well as the greatness of our culture, ethos, people and more. I thank him for his kind words.



84.4K 6:13 PM - Feb 24, 2020



29.6K people are talking about this



Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner are on the trip, and they posted shots from the Taj Mahal:





Those images of the Trump's lavish visit clashed jarringly with pictures of protesters, speaking out against Modi's anti-Muslim policies, being viciously attacked by police:



A member of the president's coronavirus response team struggled to access a publicly available coronavirus map:



The Bloomberg campaign made a Twitter thread calling out vandalism on different campaign offices, including one in Flint, Mich. It backfired.

Consider this from the former secretary of labor:

**Robert Reich** [@RBReich](#)

Cost of repairing Flint's water pipes: \$55 million

Cost of Mike Bloomberg's ad spending: \$505.8 million

America deserves better than an oligarch wasting his fortune trying to buy the presidency.  
[twitter.com/Mike2020/statu...](https://twitter.com/Mike2020/status...)

**Team Bloomberg** [@Mike2020](#)  
Replying to [@Mike2020](#)

"Eat the Rich"  
Our office in Flint, MI

America deserves better.

25.3K 8:55 PM - Feb 24, 2020

9,416 people are talking about this.

## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert reviewed Trump's performance in India:



Trevor Noah looked at some of the things India is doing to give Trump a memorable experience:



Seth Meyers made fun of the mainstream media's "meltdown" over Sanders's success in Nevada:



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Biden uses Obama as a shield – and cudgel – in bid to thwart Sanders in South Carolina  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 25, 2020 10:25:35 AM



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# The Daily 202

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By **James Hohmann**

with *Mariana Alfaro*

Email

## Biden uses Obama as a shield – and cudgel – in bid to thwart Sanders in South Carolina

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Joe Biden spoke frantically – faster and louder than normal – as he touted his relationship with Barack Obama during a rally here on Monday night. No longer content to merely cite the former president as validation, Biden now invokes his old boss to attack his opponents – specifically Bernie Sanders and Tom Steyer, who are [nipping at his heels in South Carolina](#) by making inroads with African American voters.

Biden exudes a new sense of urgency as he makes what could be his last stand ahead of Saturday's primary, in which the majority of voters will be black. "When we were president – when Barack was president, and I was vice president – we went to HBCUs," Biden said, referring to historically black colleges and universities.

He said stricter gun laws would have prevented the massacre of nine African American parishioners during a Bible study in 2015 at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church a few blocks away. "I went there with Barack," he said, referring to the memorial service when [Obama sang "Amazing Grace."](#) "We met with all the families."

Biden's extended bear hug of his former running mate came a few hours after his campaign launched a new attack ad against Sanders for mulling a primary challenge in 2012 against "our first African American president."

The 60-second digital spot features audio from a 2011 radio interview in which the independent senator from Vermont said, "I think it would be a good idea if President Obama faced some primary opposition." The spot ends with a narrator saying: "When it comes to building on President Obama's legacy, Bernie Sanders just can't be trusted." The campaign said this is part of a \$600,000 digital buy in South Carolina that will play on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.



**Obama has not endorsed anyone, and he's kept his head down as the primary has heated up.** Some allies of the former president speculate privately that he wants to maintain credibility with all the factions of the party if there's a contested convention so that he could help mediate. He's previously signaled unease with Sanders's style of radical politics, but Obama's shown no inclination to forcefully or publicly articulate such concerns.

**Responding to Biden's attack, Sanders categorically denied that he ever considered a primary challenge against Obama.** [The Atlantic reported](#) last week that the president's 2012 reelection campaign was panicked about the possibility after being tipped off by Sen. Pat Leahy (D-Vt.) that Sanders was seriously considering it, and they took it seriously enough that then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) was enlisted to dissuade Sanders from running.

**"Not true at all," Sanders said during a town hall in Charleston that aired on CNN last night.** "I'm the senator from a small state, and I did not give any consideration to running for president of the United States until 2015." He added that he was "very busy running for reelection" in 2012. "In fact, I ended up campaigning for Obama, and I'm a strong supporter of all that Barack Obama has accomplished," he said. "Joe is a friend of mine. I've known him for many years. But you know what happens in campaigns? At the end of the season, it's called silly season. People say things they should not say."

**The former vice president has leaned on his eight years of service in what he likes to call "the Obama-Biden administration" since announcing his candidacy for the Democratic nomination last spring, but he's becoming as explicit about it as ever.** Biden's staff set up teleprompters last night next to a podium in a gymnasium at the College of Charleston, but he ignored those accoutrements and paced with a wireless microphone. He claimed the 2009 stimulus package wouldn't have passed without him. "The president asked me to handle it," he said, referring to Obama. "The



president said ... 'Sheriff Joe will do it.'" Biden also touted the Affordable Care Act. "Five Democratic presidents tried to get Obamacare or something like it passed," he said. "We got it passed."

**Biden has started going after Sanders directly almost every chance he gets.** "We've just had significant disagreements with Bernie, but the way he talks about it, you'd think he and Barack were close buddies," he said Sunday night on MSNBC. "I know they were not."

**A fresh [NBC News-Marist University poll](#) helps explain why: Biden leads Sanders 27 percent to 23 percent among likely Democratic primary voters, with a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.** Steyer places third with 15 percent. No one else breaks into double digits, but 27 percent of likely voters say they remain persuadable.



Joe Biden speaks Monday night at the College of Charleston. (Elizabeth Frantz/Reuters)



**Biden is laser focused on the Palmetto State because he recognizes that failing here would functionally end his campaign.** He hopes to ride momentum from a victory on Saturday to success in the other Southern states with large African American populations that vote one week from today on Super Tuesday. **Reflecting his limited financial resources, Biden is not airing television ads in any of the states that vote next week.**

In fact, Biden came to his Charleston rally from a fundraiser in Mount Pleasant at the home of a prominent local lawyer on the banks of Hobcaw Creek. **State Sen. Marlon Kimpson (D), who is black, led the donors in a reprise of the “Fired up, ready to go” chant that was common during Obama rallies.** “On the most fundamental decision that President Barack Obama had to make, and that is choosing a vice president, he chose Joe Biden and he has said, the president has said, that’s the best damn decision he has ever made,” Kimpson said at the fundraiser. “Don’t be confused by the fantasyland nirvana proposals. It ain’t going nowhere. Senator Sanders has spent more than 30 years up on Capitol Hill talking about the same thing, and nothing has passed. Let’s not get it confused.”

**Biden then ripped into Sanders for supporting a bill to limit liability for gun manufacturers.** “Bernie’s a good guy,” said Biden. “He talks about how we all make mistakes. Well, he didn’t tell you he

voted five times against the Brady Bill and the waiting period. He voted against allowing us to go up and sue the companies that created this havoc.”

**The odds seem good that Sanders's purported flirtation with primarying Obama will come up during tonight's debate, which begins at 8 p.m. Eastern and will air on CBS.** The six other candidates onstage have [each realized](#), to varying degrees, that Sanders could build an insurmountable lead in the hunt for delegates next Tuesday if nothing is done to bludgeon his momentum. The collective action problem complicates efforts to stop Sanders: Everyone wants to promote their own candidacy more than they want to stop Sanders. Going too negative could generate backlash and ill will from party activists. On the other hand, with the field still so fragmented, there are new incentives to try to emerge as Sanders's chief detractor. That's certainly the role that Mike Bloomberg wants to play. Bloomberg, who spent Monday [cloistered](#) at the Four Seasons in Orlando for debate prep, reportedly plans to go after Sanders for his gun-related votes.



Bernie Sanders speaks on Monday night at the South Carolina Democratic Party's "First in the South" dinner at the Charleston Marriott. He threw out his prepared remarks. (Drew Angerer/Getty Images)

**For his part, Sanders is telegraphing a more conciliatory approach.** Before his town hall on CNN, Sanders spoke last night at a dinner hosted by the South Carolina Democratic Party. Biden, Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Minn.), Elizabeth Warren (Mass.), Pete Buttigieg and Steyer also delivered remarks at the Charleston Marriott. The Sanders campaign distributed the prepared text of his speech in advance. The senator was slated to criticize “the political establishment and some of my opponents.” But Sanders tossed these comments and instead emphasized his own electability. “I know you’re hearing a lot on TV, ‘Bernie can’t win,’” Sanders [said](#). “Don’t believe everything you hear on TV.”

**All of the voters I spoke with at Biden’s rally said his background as Obama’s wingman is an important asset weighing in his favor. Since Iowa, though, you hear much less from attendees at his events about electability and much more about likeability.** Allison Pryor, 57, a retired probation and parole officer who lives in Charleston and is African American, said she’ll vote for Biden because he seems so relatable. She appreciated his perseverance after his wife died in a car crash and his son died of brain cancer. “He rode the train, and he’s always been like a cup of coffee: Regular Old Joe,” said Pryor. “Yes, it’s good to know he’d be a continuation of the Obama administration. But I think he can also stand on his own merits.”

**A national poll conducted by [Fox News](#) in August found that 60 percent of Americans held a favorable impression of Obama, including 95 percent of both Democrats and African Americans, as well as 56 percent of independents. Among Democrats, 78 percent felt “strongly favorable” toward the former president and 17 percent were “somewhat favorable.”**

**But several voters I’ve interviewed around South Carolina have wondered why Obama’s not endorsing Biden if they’re so close.** Biden claimed last April, [dubiously](#), that he asked Obama “not to endorse” him so that the president could stay neutral. Others said they’ve seen ads online from Bloomberg highlighting how close he was with Obama as New York’s mayor.

**“This is going to be Biden’s last stand because he thinks that black people are going to support him just because of Barack Obama,” said Connie Breeden, an attorney in Columbia who is African American. “He’s tooting that horn all the way to the bank. But people are savvier than that. He hasn’t done anything. What has he actually done for us? Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. I’m leaning toward Steyer because he’s really put his money where his mouth is.”**



Tom Steyer greets supporters after a speech on Sunday afternoon in Yemassee, S.C. (Elizabeth Frantz/Reuters)

**Biden has also been invoking Obama as he steps up his attacks on Steyer, the X factor in this primary. The former V.P. blasted the billionaire from San Francisco over the weekend for investing in private prisons while he and Obama were in the White House trying to get rid of private prisons.**

Steyer defended himself during his own CNN town hall last night. “I thought it was the right thing, I decided it was the wrong thing and, 15 years ago, I sold it for moral reasons,” he said. “I came to the conclusion that everyone has come to conclude now, that this isn't a place to make

money.” Steyer added that he’s sought to atone for his past investment by funding initiatives in California to get rid of private prisons. “When I make a mistake, I correct it,” he said.

**Many black voters draw a clear distinction between Obama and Biden.** Steven Lykes, 44, a full-time caretaker, is torn between Sanders and Steyer. He backed Hillary Clinton in the primary four years ago, and his favorite candidate had been Elizabeth Warren for much of the past year. Lykes thinks the senator from Massachusetts is an amazing debater and loves her plans, but Warren’s lackluster finishes in the first three states gave him pause.

“Biden has run three different times,” Lykes said in Columbia. “I’m always scared because Donald Trump is a savvy campaigner. You’ve got to have someone who is on their tippy toes and ready to fight back. I don’t think Biden can do that. He has too many gaffes. You can see it in the debates. He’s having a hard enough time just against the candidates we have. But Bernie can stand up to Trump like nobody’s business.”

**Obama’s shadow looms large in the minds of black voters in other ways that don’t necessarily help Biden.** David Swinton, the former president of Benedict College in Columbia, a historically black liberal arts college, said he and his wife already cast their ballots early for Sanders. “We cannot be concerned about all the pundits who say he can’t win,” said Swinton. “Let’s not worry about that. Let’s vote for what we feel in our heart, rather than who might win. Remember, nobody thought Barack Obama could win. And he did.”

**South Carolina does not have partisan voter registration, which means people can vote in whatever primary they want.** An open primary means that there will be many moderate voters who may not like Trump but don’t necessarily swoon for Obama. There’s also buzz on the right, for example, that Republicans should vote for Sanders here to elevate his candidacy on the theory that he’d be much easier for Trump to defeat in the fall. This could be a factor in a close race.

**Attitudes toward Obama are more complicated among white Democrats.** Lifelong Democrat Doug Brafford, a retired lawyer who lives in Mount Pleasant, plans to support Buttigieg after backing Sanders in the primary four years ago. “One of the things that upsets me about Joe Biden is that, as vice president, he repeatedly denigrated Southerners,” said Brafford, 77. “When Obama said that people cling to their guns and religion, Biden didn’t speak out. He picked up where Obama left off. I love Obama with all my heart, but I think he’s divisive – and that matters to me.”

Brafford dislikes Trump, but he worries that his party’s nonstop attacks on the president hurt politically. That’s why he finds Buttigieg’s calls for civility so compelling. “We have been uncivil in this party,” said Brafford. “It may drive some middle-of-the-roaders to stay at home. It has turned some people off.”





Barack Obama, then a presidential hopeful, shares a laugh with Edith Childs in Aiken, S.C. Childs has endorsed Steyer's bid this year. (Brett Flashnick/AP)

**It's about more than personalities, too. Democrats are divided about the best approach to governing.** The [CBS-YouGov poll](#) published on Sunday, which had Biden up 5 points over Sanders, found that 54 percent of likely Democratic voters in South Carolina think the party should nominate someone who is trying to “return the country to the way it was before Donald Trump took office,” and 46 percent said Democrats should instead “advance a more progressive agenda than the country had under Barack Obama.”

Obama himself left little doubt as to which way he'd answer that CBS poll question during a speech in November in which he urged Democrats running for the White House not to lurch too far left to win the nomination. “This is still a country that is less revolutionary than it is interested in improvement,” the former president said during a meeting of the Democracy Alliance, the powerful network of liberal megadonors, in what was [covered at the time](#) as a subtle rebuke of Sandersism. “They like seeing things improved. But the average American doesn't think that we have to completely tear down the system and remake it. And I think it's



important for us not to lose sight of that.”

**To be sure, African American voters in South Carolina revere Obama.** Dorothy Hollis, 77, retired nine years ago after 40 years of teaching high school. Now she teaches Sunday school and sings in the choir at First Calvary Baptist Church in Columbia. As Saturday looms, she’s undecided and praying for guidance. “I want President Obama to run again, to be honest,” she said. “He was an outstanding president. Like Abraham Lincoln, those don’t come but every so often. So we have to take the next best thing and accept a flawed person and just go with it. But who is that?”

Hollis thought four years ago that Clinton would be a wonderful president, but she said none of the candidates in 2020 particularly excite her. “Sometimes it takes a devil to catch the Devil. It takes a thief to catch a thief. Sometimes it takes that. And I’m not sure we have that on the platform right now,” she said.

Her faith comforts her in what she sees as a perilous moment for the country. Hollis said she was “just so tickled” when heavy winds blew down a section of Trump’s border wall a few weeks ago before the cement hardened. To her, it was a sign. “God is good,” Hollis said. “To me, that was a warning. Those little things, those are warnings. You can’t fight against the powers that be. That wall is going to come down one way or another. Just ask Joshua.”

In the Book of Joshua, the walls of Jericho fall after the Israelites blow their trumpets. “If we don’t get anybody genuine to deal with this world, we’re going to all just perish,” she said. “The one will come.”

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## More on 2020



### **Sanders's Cold War travels face fresh scrutiny.**

Buttigieg and Bloomberg attacked the senator for his comments about Fidel Castro's Cuba in a "60 Minutes" interview that aired Sunday night. Sanders said Castro deserved praise where it was due, including for a "massive literacy program." "During the dying days of the Cold War, Sanders indulged a fascination with far more disruptive and divisive strains of a socialist ideology he has embraced throughout his adult life," [Griff Witte reports](#). "Returning home from visits to some of the United States' most avowed enemies, Sanders offered some criticism but also plenty of praise in Vermont community television recordings. ... Now, Sanders's comments are coming back to life as opponents say his warm feelings toward his hosts decades ago make him vulnerable to attack and reveal a soft spot for left-wing despots."

**Sanders defended his Castro comments during last night's CNN town hall.** "You know what? I think teaching people to read and write is

a good thing,” he said. “I have been extremely consistent and critical of all authoritarian regimes all over the world — including Cuba, including Nicaragua, including Saudi Arabia, including China, including Russia. I happen to believe in democracy, not authoritarianism. ... But can anyone deny — I mean, the facts are clear — that [China has] taken more people out of extreme poverty than any country in history?” When pressed on Castro’s legacy, he responded, “Truth is truth. All right?”

**Democrats fret this could cost them Florida in the general.**

Terrie Rizzo, the chair of the Florida Democratic Party, didn’t mention Sanders by name but released a statement saying Democrats in her state “stand in solidarity with the thousands of people who have fled violent dictatorships in Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua.” Two Democratic congresswomen from Florida — Debbie Mucarsel-Powell and Donna Shalala — took issue with the comments as well, with Shalala saying she hopes that Sanders “will take time to speak to some of my constituents before he decides to sing the praises of a murderous tyrant like Fidel Castro.” Sen. Robert Menendez (N.J.), the only Cuban American Democratic senator, also denounced Sanders’s comments.

**Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) paused for 17 seconds last night when Paul Kane asked him if Sanders can win the general election.**

“I’m not sure I’m the right person to ask about winning a Democratic primary, but I think winning a primary election and winning a general election are two different things,” said Bennet, who dropped out of the presidential race after garnering less than 1 percent of the vote in New Hampshire. Bennet expressed concern that Sanders could make it harder for John Hickenlooper, the former governor of his state, to defeat Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.). Bennet, the former chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, said he believes Democrats “need to nominate somebody in this process who is going to be able to win purple states like Colorado and lead us to a 55-senator majority in the Senate. That could be challenging.”

**Biden claimed he was arrested trying to see Nelson Mandela. There’s no evidence of that.**

“Biden, as a senator, was active in the anti-apartheid movement, helping pass sanctions on companies doing business in South Africa over President Ronald Reagan’s veto. But there is no evidence that Biden was ever arrested trying to see the imprisoned future president of a democratic South Africa,” [fact checker Glenn Kessler writes](#). “As far as we can tell, Biden never mentioned this arrest before; neither can we locate any news accounts of him being arrested.”

## **A Sanders staffer was fired for mocking Warren’s looks and Buttigieg’s sexuality on Twitter.**

“Using the account @perma\_ben, Ben Mora, a regional field director for Sanders’ campaign based in Michigan, has attacked other Democrats in the field—as well as their family members, surrogates, journalists, and politically active celebrities—in deeply personal terms, mocking their physical appearance, gender, and sexuality, among other things,” [the Daily Beast reports](#). “Mora, the Sanders campaign confirmed, has been fired.”

## **Sanders and his campaign have stepped up criticism of MSNBC.**

“Sanders reportedly confronted MSNBC president Phil Griffin and another network executive last week before the NBC-sponsored Democratic debate in Las Vegas to complain about its coverage, including disparaging comments made by Chris Matthews and ‘Meet the Press’ host Chuck Todd. MSNBC has not confirmed the encounters took place, though it hasn’t disputed the report either,” [Paul Farhi and Jenna Johnson report](#). “Sanders’ campaign manager, Faiz Shakir, told Vanity Fair last week that MSNBC ‘is constantly undermining the Bernie Sanders campaign.’ He has even said Fox News has been ‘more fair than MSNBC’ ...

“The campaign’s ire was raised further by Matthews’s commentary as Sanders swept to an early lead in Nevada on Saturday. **Matthews compared Sanders’s performance to Nazi Germany’s shattering military victory over France in the early months of World War II**, suggesting Sanders’s path to the Democratic nomination was unstoppable. ‘It’s over,’ said Matthews, referring to a French prime

minister's assessment of the battle and possibly the war. The comparison was flawed in several respects (France was eventually liberated and Germany was crushed by allied forces), but Sanders's representatives expressed outrage that Matthews had compared Sanders to Hitler's soldiers, given that Sanders, a Jew, lost family members during the Holocaust. ... **Matthews apologized to Sanders on his program, 'Hardball,' on Monday night.** 'As I watched the one-sided results of Saturday's Democratic caucus in Nevada, I reached for an historical analogy and used a bad one..., he said."

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## Quote of the day

*"We're going to spend Trump out of office," Bloomberg campaign manager Kevin Sheekey [told Vanity Fair](#).*

### **In a historically old presidential field, candidates are still refusing to release their health records.**

Klobuchar, 59, released four pages of [medical documentation](#) last night with recent lab results and a doctor's letter that said she's in "very good health." Buttigieg, 38, has yet to release any medical records despite arguing last week that the candidates should undergo physical exams and disclose the results. Bloomberg, 78, released a single page from his doctor that said he's in "great physical shape" and that he "plays golf avidly." Biden, 77, released a three-page letter describing him as "healthy [and] vigorous." Sanders, 78, [released letters from three doctors](#) – including a cardiologist who said he has "the mental and physical stamina" to be president. Warren, 70, released five pages of documents revealing a thyroid condition and a doctor's letter declaring her in "excellent health." ([Matt Viser and Lenny Bernstein](#))

### **A Minneapolis inmate blamed Klobuchar for what he claims was a wrongful conviction.**

"She recharged me with first degree murder, never looked into the facts of the case. Never looked into the misconduct that had taken place," [Myon](#)

[Burrell told ABC News](#). He was convicted for the 2002 first-degree murder of 11-year-old Tyesha Edwards. Recently, an AP investigation has cast doubt over the murder investigation and the police tactics used.

Klobuchar, Burrell said, “never even addressed the misconduct that had taken place and still put the same detective, the same police on my case to go and get more bogus evidence.” In a statement to ABC, Klobuchar once again called for a review of the case.

## **Presidential candidates are rebranding Rep. Jim Clyburn’s anti-poverty program as reparations.**

“Clyburn (D-S.C.), whose district encompasses eight of the state’s poorest counties, has long opposed cash payments to African Americans whose ancestors were enslaved. He believes it would be too difficult to determine who deserves to be compensated. But a race-neutral anti-poverty program he conceived a decade ago is now catching fire among candidates for the Democratic nomination as a way to provide practical restitution for slavery,” [Tracy Jan reports](#). “Several presidential hopefuls, including [Sanders and Klobuchar], have sought to rebrand Clyburn’s program as a vehicle for reparations, which remain politically contentious. Clyburn’s idea, with strong bipartisan support, was originally adopted in 2009 by just one federal agency. But framing the program, which targets federal spending on certain high-poverty areas, as reparations has drawn criticism from African Americans living in poor urban neighborhoods — some in Clyburn’s own district — that do not qualify for the funding, as well as longtime advocates for reparations. The critique underlines the difficulty of finding a solution that would satisfy those demanding redress and also be politically viable.”

## **The State newspaper in Columbia endorses Buttigieg in today’s edition.**

“During the last half-century, the Democratic Party has only won the presidency when it has resisted the temptation to pick status-quo nominees and shown the courage to choose centrist outsiders with fresh, optimistic messages,” [the editorial explains](#). “Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama prevailed in part because they understood the values

of real-world America. All three successfully connected with voters by tapping into the sensibilities of average Americans. Buttigieg has gained that needed perspective during his eight years leading South Bend, a Midwestern city that had to reinvent itself and cast aside a Rust Belt image.”

### **Silicon Valley asked Warren for help with a fundraiser. Her campaign considered it.**

“Warren’s team in recent weeks explored ways to raise money from Silicon Valley donors without violating her ironclad fundraising pledge to not ‘sell access to my time,’” [Recode reports](#). “The Democratic presidential campaign considered an inbound request to have a campaign representative — such as an endorser, a staff member, or a high-level volunteer leader — attend a now-canceled high-dollar event in the Bay Area, according to several people familiar with the discussions.”

### **Trump’s former doctor thought he had a ticket to Congress. It might not be that easy.**

Ronny Jackson is one of 15 candidates in a crowded Republican primary in Texas, and the White House hasn’t gone out of its way to help, [the New York Times reports](#). “Jackson left the West Wing in December after rising from Trump’s physician to his unlikely pick to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs to Trump administration roadkill when he was forced to withdraw his name from consideration amid allegations related to his professional conduct. Now he’s running for Congress in Texas’ 13th District, one of the most conservative in the country, and his argument is simple... Jackson is betting his personal connection with the president is enough to win the Republican nomination tantamount to election. ... But it is not clear if that connection, combined with his background as a Navy rear admiral, will be enough to help Dr. Jackson overcome some rookie mistakes as a candidate.”

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## **The new world order**



Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi hug after giving a joint statement in New Delhi. (Manish Swarup/AP)

## Trump said the U.S.-India relationship has “never been as good” as it is now.

The president and “Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the growing defense ties between the world’s two largest democracies even as they acknowledged that a trade deal between them remains distant.

During his second day in India, Trump is holding formal meetings with the Indian leadership, making a visit to the U.S. Embassy and attending a state banquet in New Delhi,” [Joanna Slater reports](#). “Trump began Tuesday by participating in a grand ceremonial welcome and visiting a memorial to Mohandas Gandhi ... There will be no huge crowds or tourism for the president today.

**“On Monday, as Trump arrived in India, [violence broke out in Delhi](#) between supporters and opponents of [Modi’s] controversial new citizenship law. Critics say the law is unconstitutional and discriminates against Muslims. ... [Violence continued today], police told local media that **the death toll from Monday’s violence had climbed to seven, including one police officer**. More than 100 people were injured, according to media reports. Heavy police presence in the affected areas failed to stem the violence. ... Home Minister Amit Shah, Modi’s second-in-command, chaired a meeting with top officials and the Delhi state leadership. The government**



ruled out calling the army for assistance and said there were adequate security forces on the ground. ...

**“First lady Melania Trump visited a public school in New Delhi to attend a ‘happiness class,’** part of a special curriculum introduced across India’s capital in 2018 to emphasize well-being alongside academic achievement. ... [Meanwhile], Trump and Modi claimed progress Tuesday toward a comprehensive trade deal, but a chummy atmosphere between the two leaders during Trump’s state visit could not mask frustration that the long-delayed pact is still in limbo. Trump predicted that a successful deal is in the offing but gave no deadline. The United States had once hoped to have the agreement ready in September, when Modi visited the United States.”

**Trump’s acting director of national intelligence worked for a nonprofit group funded mostly by Hungary.**

“[Richard] Grenell’s public relations firm was paid to do work for a U.S. nonprofit funded almost entirely by the Hungarian government led by far-right Prime Minister Viktor Orban,” [Emma Brown, Beth Reinhard and Dalton Bennett report](#). Individuals who have served as acting directors of national intelligence “typically have been nonpartisan national security professionals whose experience has included leading intelligence agencies or service in the military. Now that promotion is drawing fresh scrutiny to Grenell’s past, including his foreign affairs commentary and consulting work after he served as U.S. spokesman at the United Nations during the George W. Bush administration. His work for the Hungarian-funded nonprofit is the type of activity that, in other cases, has drawn the attention of Justice Department investigators tasked with enforcing the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA).”

**The White House asked Congress for an emergency \$1.8 billion to bolster the response.**

“The request includes \$1.25 billion in new funding for the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the ability to transfer an additional \$535 million set aside to fight Ebola and use it for the coronavirus

response instead,” [Erica Werner, Jeff Stein and Lena Sun report](#). “The request reflects the fast-evolving nature of the crisis confronting the administration, which until recently had insisted that no additional funds were necessary. But Democrats immediately slammed the request as too small, with House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey (D-N.Y.) calling it ‘woefully insufficient to protect Americans’ and criticizing the administration for trying to ‘raid’ money from other public health accounts.”

### **The market plunge yesterday underscored the coronavirus’s political risk to Trump.**

“The Trump administration’s disjointed handling of the outbreak has faced mounting criticism as the president’s allies have scrambled to take preventive steps while seeking to reassure the public, at times struggling to explain their decisions and offer a consistent message,” [Toluse Olorunnipa and Costa report](#). “For a president who has governed ‘by tweet and circus,’ a potential global health crisis that blunts economic growth could expose one of Trump’s main weaknesses as he prepares to face voters in November, said Russell Riley, a presidential historian at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center.”

### **New virus cases in China and North Korea raised concerns about how long it could take to go back to normal.**

“The Chinese government said Tuesday that there had been 508 new confirmed cases by the end of the previous day, along with 74 deaths, bringing the total number of accumulated infections nationwide to 77,658, with 2,663 deaths,” [Adam Taylor and Wang Yuan report](#). “A Chinese official suggested Monday evening that the country needs at least 28 days without new cases to show the virus is not spreading. ... The remarks drew thousands of comments on Weibo, China’s Twitter-like service, where many wondered how long they would have to wait before normal life resumed. ‘Two months will have 60% of enterprises killed!’ one user wrote.”

## **A California judge delayed a decision on moving coronavirus-exposed Americans.**

“A federal judge on Monday directed federal and state officials to answer the questions of Costa Mesa, Calif., residents about their plans to bring Americans who have tested positive for the coronavirus but show no signs of illness to a closed mental-health facility in the city,” [Jeff Rowe and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#). “District Judge Josephine Staton cautioned that the city — and Orange County if it joins the effort — does not have veto power over state and federal quarantine decisions and faces an uphill battle trying to block the transfer of people from Travis Air Force Base in Northern California.”

**Hosni Mubarak, Egypt’s autocratic ruler whose power came to an end during the Arab Spring uprisings, died at 91.** ([Will Englund and T. Rees Shapiro](#))

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## **Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



**Harvey Weinstein was found guilty on two charges of sexual assault.**

“The jury determined that Weinstein forced oral sex on former production assistant Mimi Haley at his apartment in July 2006 and raped former aspiring actress Jessica Mann at a hotel in 2013,” [Shayna Jacobs reports](#). “He was found not guilty of the most severe charges, of predatory sexual assault, which would have acknowledged a pattern that included forcing sex on actress Annabella Sciorra in 1993 or 1994. **Weinstein, 67, faces at least five years and up to 25 on the count of first-degree criminal sex act for his assault on Haley, and up to four years on a third-degree rape count for the Mann encounter.** The judge can consider running the sentences consecutively, for a maximum of 29 years. Sentencing is scheduled for March 11. After the verdict announcement, Weinstein was handcuffed and taken to jail, and his bail was revoked.

**“Weinstein’s lawyers are expected to appeal the conviction on the basis of several concerns,** including the amount of media attention on the case and the fact that the three supporting accusers were permitted to testify even though charges were not brought on their behalf. The appeal must be filed after sentencing. ... Weinstein lawyer Donna Rotunno told reporters, ‘He took it like a man. He knows this is not over.’”

### **Advocates hailed the Weinstein conviction as a breakthrough.**

“‘This is one of those days when the whole world changes,’ said Jane Manning, a former sex-crimes prosecutor in New York and director of the Women’s Equal Justice Project. ‘A sexual predator who was so powerful that he thought he could never be touched has just been held accountable,’” [Caitlin Gibson and Elahe Izadi report](#). ”Deborah Tuerkheimer, a professor of law at Northwestern University, noted that most sexual assault cases that enter the legal system are more likely to fit the stereotypical ‘stranger rape’ paradigm — involving a woman who is assaulted by someone she doesn’t know, resulting in apparent physical injury and, potentially, DNA evidence. The Weinstein case, in contrast, presented a far more complicated portrait of sexual violence — and the fact that New York prosecutors even filed charges against him is

‘extraordinary,’ she said.”

### **Mitch McConnell, after months of legislative inactivity, will now force votes on abortion.**

“McConnell is about to plunge the Senate into the nation’s culture wars with votes on bills to sharply restrict access to late-term abortions and threaten some doctors who perform them with criminal penalties, signaling that Republicans plan to make curbing a woman’s right to terminate a pregnancy a central theme of their re-election campaigns this year,” [the Times reports](#). “After months of shunning legislative activity in favor of confirming [Trump’s] judicial nominees — and a brief detour for the president’s impeachment trial — [McConnell] is expected to bring the bills up for votes on Tuesday. Both lack the necessary 60-vote supermajority to advance, and the Senate has voted previously to reject them. But by putting them on the floor again, Mr. McConnell hopes to energize the social conservatives who helped elect Mr. Trump.”

### **An appeals court upheld the Trump move to withdraw Title X funding for abortions.**

“The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals -- long regarded as a liberal body, though Trump appointees have started to tilt the balance -- lifted preliminary injunctions against the rules issued by lower courts in cases from three different states,” [Fox News reports](#). “Xavier Becerra, attorney general of California, one of the states that sued over the regulations, said the Ninth Circuit’s ruling was ‘troubling.’”

### **Justice Clarence Thomas cited himself in arguing to overturn a decision he authored.**

“Although I authored *Brand X*, ‘it is never too late to ‘surrende[r] former views to a better considered position,’ Thomas wrote in his Monday dissent, quoting himself from a 2018 opinion in *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.*,” [Fox reports](#). “Thomas has recently been quite vocal in advocating for the court to overturn a variety of precedents, saying in one opinion last year that when ‘faced with a demonstrably erroneous precedent, my rule is simple: We should not follow it.’”

## **Oregon lawmakers were supposed to vote on a climate change bill. Once again, Republicans walked out.**

“For the second time in eight months, Oregon Republicans walked out of the capitol, denying the Democratic supermajority a chance to pass a bill that would limit greenhouse gas emissions. By absconding, the 11 GOP lawmakers prevented the quorum necessary to vote on the legislation and forced Democrats to adjourn for the day,” [Reis Thebault reports](#). “It was the same tactic Republican lawmakers employed in June, when they fled to Idaho to avoid a vote on an earlier version of the same cap-and-trade bill, prompting Oregon’s governor to call in state troopers to track them down and return them to the statehouse.”

## **The TSA froze hiring and overtime pay as the spring travel season nears.**

“Hydrick Thomas, the [TSA] union’s president, said agency officials told him last week that the freezes would be in place until April or May,” [Ian Duncan reports](#). “That could leave security checkpoints short-staffed, he said. ‘You’re going to have long lines,’ Thomas said. ‘That’s just the way it works.’”

## **Vanessa Bryant sued the helicopter operator in the crash that killed her husband and daughter, and 7 others.**

“The lawsuit alleges that the helicopter company, Island Express, was ‘vicariously liable’ for any and all actions of pilot Ara George Zobayan, including his ‘negligent and careless piloting,’” [Lori Aratani reports](#).

**The suit was filed the same day thousands gathered at the Staples Center to remember the victims.** “[Bryant’s] public memorial Monday sparked a heartbreaking tribute from his wife, Vanessa; brought Michael Jordan to tears; and led former teammate Shaquille O’Neal to share behind-the-scenes anecdotes during a two-hour ceremony,” [Ben Golliver and Cindy Boren report](#). “NBA Commissioner Adam Silver; Hall of Famers Bill Russell, Magic Johnson and Kareem

Abdul-Jabbar; current stars Stephen Curry and Kyrie Irving; and dozens of other prominent athletes and entertainers [attended] the celebration of life."

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## **Social media speed read**

Trump shared a video recap of India's welcome:



**Donald J. Trump**   
@realDonaldTrump



[twitter.com/narendramodi/s...](https://twitter.com/narendramodi/s...)



**Narendra Modi** @narendramodi

During his speech at the #NamasteTrump programme, @POTUS @realDonaldTrump highlighted aspects of his vision for USA. He also spoke at length about India's greatness as well as the greatness of our culture, ethos, people and more. I thank him for his kind words.



84.4K 6:13 PM - Feb 24, 2020



29.6K people are talking about this



Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner are on the trip, and they posted shots from the Taj Mahal:





Those images of the Trump's lavish visit clashed jarringly with pictures of protesters, speaking out against Modi's anti-Muslim policies, being viciously attacked by police:



A member of the president's coronavirus response team struggled to access a publicly available coronavirus map:



The Bloomberg campaign made a Twitter thread calling out vandalism on different campaign offices, including one in Flint, Mich. It backfired.

Consider this from the former secretary of labor:

 **Robert Reich** ✓  
@RBReich

Cost of repairing Flint's water pipes: \$55 million

Cost of Mike Bloomberg's ad spending: \$505.8 million

America deserves better than an oligarch wasting his fortune trying to buy the presidency.  
[twitter.com/Mike2020/statu...](https://twitter.com/Mike2020/status/1228888888888888888)

**Team Bloomberg** ✓ @Mike2020  
Replying to @Mike2020

"Eat the Rich"  
Our office in Flint, MI

America deserves better.



♥ 25.3K 8:55 PM - Feb 24, 2020 ⓘ

💬 9,416 people are talking about this >

## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert reviewed Trump's performance in India:



Trevor Noah looked at some of the things India is doing to give Trump a memorable experience:



Seth Meyers made fun of the mainstream media's "meltdown" over Sanders's success in Nevada:



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Bernie Sanders refuses to get bogged down – or pinned down – on specifics during Democratic debate  
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 Email

## **Bernie Sanders refuses to get bogged down – or pinned down – on specifics during Democratic debate**

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Pete Buttigieg ripped into Bernie Sanders during Tuesday night’s presidential debate for declining to endorse the abolition of the Senate filibuster. “How are we going to deliver a revolution if you won’t even support a rule change?” the former mayor asked the front-runner for the Democratic nomination. “We are in the state where Strom Thurmond used the filibuster to block civil rights legislation repeatedly.”

Elizabeth Warren also took a shot, warning that Republicans will use the filibuster to block the next president from passing gun control legislation, tackling climate change and overhauling the immigration system. “I’ve seen gun safety legislation introduced, get a majority and then it doesn’t pass because of the filibuster,” said the senator from Massachusetts. “Understand this: The filibuster is giving a veto to the gun industry.”

Sanders chose not to directly respond to these attacks during the 10th Democratic debate, the first time he found himself standing behind the podium at center stage, on account of his lead in national polls. The independent senator from Vermont didn’t let himself get mired in a process debate about legislative procedure with two rivals, as he did during the September debate in Houston. Instead, Sanders emphasized his support for stricter gun laws. “At the end of the day, we need to rally the American people,” he said. “I am proud I have a D-minus voting record from the NRA. If elected president, it will get worse than that.”

**Sanders weathered the heavily anticipated, two-hour barrage of attacks from his six opponents by sticking relentlessly to the populist message that got him here.** At several key moments, he offered a master class in deflection. On one hand, this can be viewed as impressive message discipline from a candidate who has successfully claimed the mantle of an insurgent outsider. On the other, it could be described as sloganeering and the oversimplifying of complex issues by someone who has served in Congress since 1991. Either way, the debate served as a reminder that Sanders, despite his unconventional candidacy, is [more pragmatic than popularly understood](#).

He clearly relished the attention, if not always the scrutiny. “I’m hearing my name mentioned a little bit tonight,” he said. “I wonder why?”



**Like President Trump, Sanders is loath to admit mistakes. But he acknowledged one last night.** When Joe Biden attacked him for supporting the legislation that exempted gun manufacturers from being sued, Sanders initially responded with an attack on the former vice president. “Joe has voted for terrible trade agreements,” he said. “Joe voted for the war in Iraq.” The crowd booed. “My point was,” he continued, “I have cast thousands of votes, including bad votes. That was a bad vote.”

**Sanders, also like Trump, is a counterpuncher.** He had several other moments that might best be summarized as: *I know you are, but what am I?* Former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg expressed concern about the trillion-dollar deficit and the national debt approaching \$21 trillion. “We just cannot afford some of this stuff people talk about,” he said. Asked to respond, Sanders said: “Mayor Bloomberg has a solid and strong and enthusiastic base of support. The problem is they're all billionaires.”

When Bloomberg noted that the intelligence community **believes** Russian President Vladimir Putin is trying to boost Sanders, Sanders ripped Bloomberg for doing **business in Beijing**. “I’m not a good friend of President Xi [Jinping] of China,” he said. “I think President Xi is an



authoritarian leader.” Sanders then added he won’t tolerate Russian interference.

Amy Klobuchar claimed Sanders’s plans would cumulatively cost \$60 trillion, or three times the size of the U.S. economy. “I think that we can get all those bold progressive things done without having someone that is so alienating that we're going to turn off the voters that we need to bring with us,” the senator from Minnesota continued. Sanders did not quibble with her \$60 trillion figure. Instead, **like Trump did so often during the primaries in 2016, Sanders responded to this critique by pointing to polls.** “Hey, Amy,” he said, “my favorability nationally I believe are the highest up here, as a matter of fact.”

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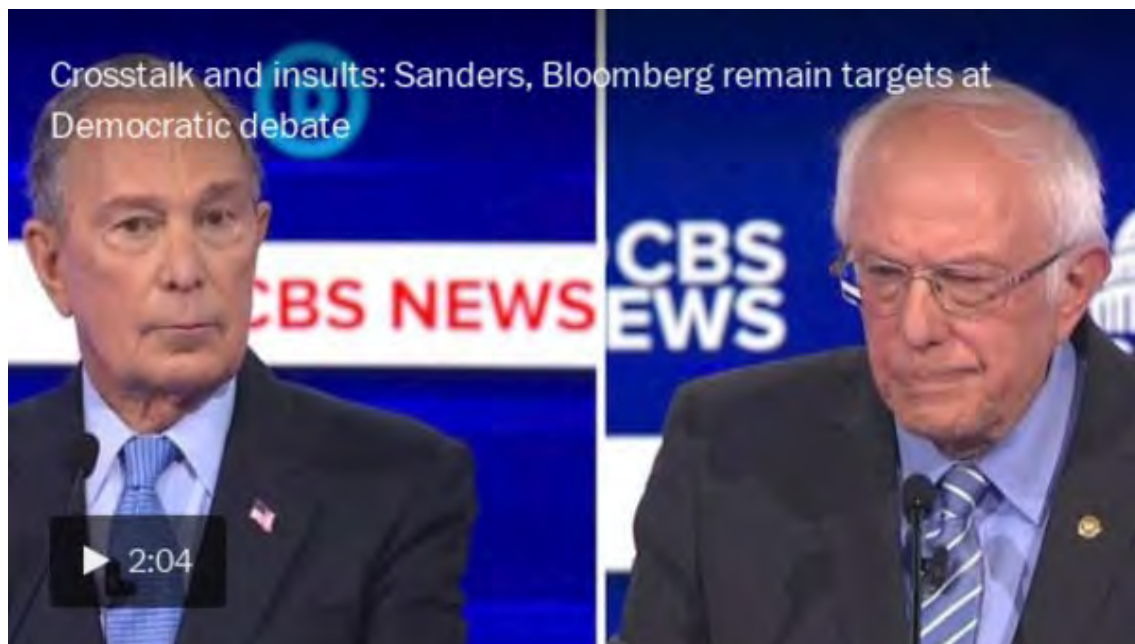
**Sanders brushed aside a chorus of attacks related to the price tag, and therefore feasibility, of his proposed revolution.** Moderator Norah O’Donnell said that his Medicare-for-all plan would cost \$30 trillion over 10 years, but he’s only outlined how he’d pay for half of it. She asked: “Can you do the math for the rest of us?”

Sanders replied: “How many hours do you have?” Biden interjected: “That’s the problem.”

Sanders [noted](#) that he’s “laid out options all over the place,” including a seven-and-a-half percent payroll tax on employers. He then cited a new study, which he didn’t mention was co-written by one of his own former advisers, that claims his Medicare-for-all plan would reduce overall costs for consumers. [Our fact-checkers note](#) that the study has come under fire for a number of its assumptions, such as a single-payer plan paying current Medicare reimbursement rates to doctors, hospitals and other providers.

**Trying to position herself as a liberal who is more effective than Sanders, Warren criticized Sanders for not offering as many details on paying for universal health care as she does in her plan.** “I did the work and then Bernie’s team trashed me for it,” she said. “We need a president who is going to dig in, do the hard work and actually get it done. Progressives have got one shot, and we need to spend it with a leader who will get something done.”

Buttigieg piled on. “Senator Sanders at one point said it was going to be \$40 trillion,” he said. “Then it was \$30 trillion. Then it was \$17 trillion. That’s an incredible shrinking price tag. At some point, he said it is unknowable what the price tag would be. Now there are new numbers. I’ll tell you exactly what it adds up to: It adds to four more years of Donald Trump.”



**His Democratic rivals seemed more interested in delivering zingers like this, in a bid to elevate themselves as the best alternative to Sanders one week out from Super Tuesday, than pushing the democratic socialist to actually answer underlying questions about positions that are outside the Democratic mainstream.** It's the latest manifestation of [the collective action problem](#) that continues to work to Sanders's advantage.

**Red in the face, Sanders sometimes struggled to get a word in as everyone else tried to dunk on him.** Klobuchar cited a Vanderbilt University study that she said showed she was the most effective senator across 15 metrics and noted that the same research showed Sanders and Warren were much less effective than her. Neither was given a chance to respond.

**The CBS moderators lost control of the contentious debate early and never got it back.** Sanders was asked three times to give a "quick" response to something, which allowed him to skirt specifics. The moderators also failed to ask Warren about her flip-flop to welcome the help of a super PAC or Biden's recent false claims that he once got arrested during a trip to South Africa.

**Sanders also avoided particulars on foreign policy.** When he was

asked specifically whether he would move the U.S. Embassy from Jerusalem back to Tel Aviv, he gave this non-answer: “The answer is it’s something we would take into consideration.”

**The democratic socialist defended his praise for Fidel Castro’s literacy programs in Cuba.** “Occasionally it might be a good idea to be honest about American foreign policy, and that includes the fact that America has overthrown governments all over the world in Chile, in Guatemala and in Iran,” said Sanders. “And when dictatorships, whether it is the Chinese or the Cubans, do something good, you acknowledge that. But you don't have to trade love letters with them.”

**Buttigieg, who seemed more determined to attack Sanders than anyone else, ridiculed this.** “I am not looking forward to a scenario where it comes down to Donald Trump, with his nostalgia for the social order of the 1950s, and Bernie Sanders, with a nostalgia for the revolutionary politics of the 1960s,” he said. “This is not about what coups were happening in the 1970s or '80s. ... This is about 2020. We are not going to survive or succeed, and we're certainly not going to win by reliving the Cold War. And we're not going to win these critical House and Senate races if people in those races have to explain why the nominee of the Democratic Party is telling people to look at the bright side of the Castro regime.”

“Let us be clear,” Sanders replied, “do we think health care for all, Pete, is some kind of radical communist idea?”

“What is a radical idea is completely eliminating all private insurance,” Buttigieg replied later. “And part of how you know it is, is that no industrialized country has gone that far. He and I both like to talk about Denmark, for example. But even in Denmark, they have not abolished the possibility of private insurance. So this is an idea that goes further than what is acceptable in Denmark the country, let alone imagining how that's going to fly in Denmark, South Carolina.”

**Sanders circled back to the theme of radicalism in his final**

**answer.** When all the candidates were asked to share what they see as the biggest misconception about them, Sanders said it's that people see his ideas as radical. "In one form or another, they exist in countries all over the world," he said. "The saying that moves me the most is from Nelson Mandela. Mandela said everything is impossible until it happens."



### More team coverage

**"The tone of the debate ultimately became a metaphor for the Democratic race itself,** as it was marred repeatedly by candidates interrupting one another, talking over each other and constantly ignoring the moderators' efforts to bring some order to the unruly evening," [writes Dan Balz](#). "What the evening highlighted was the degree to which Sanders stands apart from the field, with the other candidates divided and sparring with one another as much as with [him]. Sanders has his base, and it has served him well enough so far. The others are trying to find theirs. None of Sanders's rivals rose significantly above the others. For Sanders, that was probably a satisfactory outcome."

**"While falling short of the glossy image that appeared during the commercial breaks, Bloomberg succeeded in doing what he had failed to do a week earlier in Las Vegas,"** [adds Michael Scherer](#). "He delivered his messages — about his experience, his policy goals and

his political focus — without a script in front of him, albeit with less polish, more stiffness and a far more stilted style of delivering a joke than his ads suggest. ... Still, Bloomberg spent significant time responding to attacks — on his treatment of women, his comments about banks’ redlining policies, his yet-unreleased tax returns and his praise of the Chinese leadership. He appeared agitated when [Warren] cited a woman’s account that he told her to ‘kill’ her baby when she got pregnant, responding: ‘I never said it. Period, end of story.’ It was far from clear whether his performance was enough to save his hopes for the nomination.”



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## Quote of the day

*“All of the new Democrats that came in, put Nancy Pelosi in charge, and gave the Congress the ability to control this president — I bought,” said Bloomberg, referring to \$100 million he spent to help House candidates in the 2018 midterms. He quickly corrected himself: “I — I got them.”*  
*(Matt Viser, Annie Linskey, Sean Sullivan and Cleve Wootson)*

**Buttigieg’s campaign canceled a four-stop swing through South Florida scheduled for today.** “Multiple aides to Buttigieg said he is sick and needed a day to rest,” [Chelsea Janes reports](#). **“Buttigieg looked**

**sweatier than usual during the debate and appeared to have a cough drop in his mouth at various moments.** He has maintained one of the more rigorous schedules of any of the candidates and will still appear at a breakfast in Charleston on Wednesday morning. Three of the events scheduled in South Florida were fundraisers, meaning the cancellation could be a costly one for Buttigieg. His campaign has been pushing to raise \$13 million by Super Tuesday, and it sent a several-page memo to supporters outlining where and why it needs money for ad buys.”

**The next debate will take place in Phoenix on March 15.** The Sunday night battle will come before primaries that Tuesday in Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Ohio. By then, 47 percent of the delegates will have been pledged. The DNC still hasn’t announced the eligibility requirements for the debate, which will air on CNN and Univision. How much will the field have winnowed by then? Who will have emerged with the strongest chance of stopping Sanders?

## **Notable commentary**

**Politico’s John Harris argues that Democrats needed a good debate but got a bad one instead:** “The evening offered limited opportunities—*were these possibly enough?*—for six Democrats not named Sanders to revive their candidacies with last-stand moments to emerge as the main alternative to the self-described democratic socialist.”

**The Times’s Frank Bruni says the debate “felt like a genuine freakout”:** Sanders’s competitors “seemed to be in the grip of some larger existential crisis, their understanding of their party’s dynamics challenged, their sense of its destiny upended and their dread of blowing an immeasurably consequential election profound.” **Post columnist Dana Milbank says Sanders stirred up “a sickening sense of déjà vu” to the Republican debate in South Carolina four years ago,** when the other candidates piled on Trump, but it was too little and too late to stop him from winning the nomination. “The winner of Tuesday night’s debate was Trump,” he concludes.

- **The Fix’s Aaron Blake** declares Warren and Biden the winners and

Sanders and Bloomberg the losers.

- [Post columnist Jen Rubin](#): “Biden needed the debate of his life. He delivered.”
- [CNN’s Chris Cillizza](#) says Buttigieg, Biden, Klobuchar, Sanders and Trump won, while Bloomberg and Warren lost.
- [Vox’s team](#) says Sanders won and Klobuchar lost.
- [The Guardian’s Jessa Crispin](#) says Warren dominated the mic but Sanders held his ground.
- [FiveThirtyEight’s Nate Silver](#) thinks Biden “pulled out his best debate with his back to the wall.”
- [Democratic operative Mary Anne Marsh](#), writing for Fox News, calls Sanders, Warren and Biden winners, but she thinks the other four candidates onstage lost.
- [The New Republic’s Walter Shapiro](#) thinks Biden, Buttigieg and Klobuchar fared well, but Sanders and Bloomberg lost ground.
- [Bloomberg Opinion’s Ramesh Ponnuru](#) said Biden and Bloomberg performed better than they did at last week’s debate, but he argues that Sanders emerged victorious.
- [Mother Jones’s Edwin Rios and Nathalie Baptiste](#) said the debate was pretty much a pandering fest to South Carolina’s black voters.

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## The coronavirus





A man wearing a protective face mask watches the Nikkei index tank outside a brokerage house in Tokyo. (Athit Perawongmetha/Reuters)

## The CDC warned the virus's spread in the United States is “inevitable.”

“The warnings from officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health and other agencies, contrasted sharply with assessments from President Trump and other White House officials, who have largely dismissed concerns about the virus,” [Erica Werner, Yasmeen Abutaleb, Lena Sun and Lenny Bernstein report](#). “The mixed messages continued Tuesday as dire warnings issued to senators and reporters early in the day gave way to a more positive assessment, after the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 3.4 percent, bringing the two-day loss to more than 1,900 points — the worst in two years.”

- “We believe the immediate risk here in the United States remains low, and we’re working hard to keep that risk low,” Anne Schuchat, the CDC’s principal deputy director, said during a hastily convened afternoon news briefing.
- “Ultimately, we expect we will see community spread in the United

States. It's not a question of if this will happen, but when this will happen, and how many people in this country will have severe illnesses," Nancy Messonnier, the director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the CDC, said during the morning briefing.

**"The confused messaging threatened to obscure urgent public health advice coming from the CDC ...** Businesses need to consider replacing in-person meetings with telework, Messonnier said. School authorities should consider ways to limit face-to-face contact, such as dividing students into smaller groups, using Internet-based learning or even closing schools. Local officials should consider modifying, postponing or canceling large gatherings. Hospitals should consider ways to triage patients who do not need urgent care and recommend that patients delay surgery that isn't absolutely necessary."

### **The White House seems mainly focused on reducing public alarm.**

"Trump is highly concerned about the market and has encouraged aides not to give predictions that might cause further tremors," [Jeff Stein and Josh Dawsey report](#). "Privately, Trump has become furious about the stock market's slide, according to two people familiar with the president's thinking ... **Some White House officials have been unhappy with how Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar has handled the situation ...** White House officials often face a tricky balance of trying to assure the public while also not dismissing threats that could become calamities. The Dow is still up markedly from 2017, when Trump took office, but it closed Tuesday at its lowest level since October." Global financial markets continued losing ground overnight.

### **The acting head of DHS was grilled by a GOP senator over the response.**

"Appearing in front of a Senate appropriations subcommittee, [Chad] Wolf was on the receiving end of a brutal line of questioning from Sen. John Neely Kennedy (R-La.). Throughout the exchange, Wolf struggled to

produce basic facts and projections about the disease,” [Aaron Blake reports](#).



### **No major lockdown is planned in a South Korean region stricken with the virus.**

“When a spokesman for South Korea's ruling party suggested Tuesday that the government would be rolling out a ‘maximum lockdown’ on the coronavirus-hit southern city of Daegu, the backlash was immediate and the political retreat swift,” [Min Joo Kim and Simon Denyer report](#). “Hong Ihk-pyo soon clarified that he didn’t mean a ‘Wuhan-style lockdown’ or a blockade on travel into and out of the city — along the lines that China’s Communist Party has imposed on Wuhan and surrounding areas at the center of the covid-19 outbreak. President Moon Jae-in soon chimed in. There would be no regional blockade, he said, only a full-scale effort to contain the spread of the virus.” Infection numbers soared in South Korea to over 1,200.

### **France and Iran reported new deaths this morning.**

“France reported the first death of a French citizen from the epidemic as cases spread rapidly across Europe, with Spain confirming eight new cases in the past 24 hours and new infections reported in France, Croatia, Austria and Switzerland,” [according to our live blog](#). “Nineteen people

have died in Iran from the novel coronavirus outbreak, Iranian Health Ministry spokesman Kianush Jahanpur told state television on Wednesday.”

### **The virus hits seniors the hardest. Italy’s elderly population is on the front line.**

“That has set off a race in countries with significant older populations — like Italy — to figure out whether there are ways to protect their most vulnerable: those in hospitals, in nursing homes, and seniors in sealed-off hot-spot towns who are watching television and fearing the worst,” [Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). “But even as Italy works to contain what is the first major coronavirus outbreak in Europe, there is growing concern that the virus is outracing the health measures. New cases on Tuesday popped up farther from the original cluster, including in the southern island of Sicily and the tourist-heavy Tuscan capital, Florence. Italy has at least 322 confirmed cases and 11 deaths, all people who were elderly or already sick.”

### **The U.S. government can quarantine you. There’s almost nothing you can do about it.**

“Regulations set forth by the [CDC] give health officials broad authority to quarantine or isolate anyone ‘reasonably believed’ to have been exposed to a range of highly infectious diseases. The list includes cholera, infectious tuberculosis and flus that can cause a pandemic,” [Derek Hawkins reports](#). “The government’s powers to sequester people in the name of public health are rooted in the Constitution’s Commerce Clause, which allows Congress to regulate foreign and interstate commerce.”

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## **The Trump presidency**



President Trump and first lady Melania Trump attend a wreath-laying ceremony at Mohandas Gandhi's memorial in New Delhi on Tuesday. (Alexander Drago/Reuters)

## **Trump praised Modi's record on religious tolerance, as violence erupted over discrimination against Muslims.**

“Trump avoided any public criticism of his host — whose political biography is also built partly on religious and cultural divisions — along with any comparison of [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi's policies with his own treatment of Muslim immigrants,” [Anne Gearan, Joanna Slatter, Seung Min Kim and Niha Masih report](#). “We did talk about religious freedom, and I will say that the prime minister was incredible in what he told me. He wants people to have religious freedom and very strongly,” Trump said during a news conference that capped the public portion of his largely ceremonial visit. Modi, who leads the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, has insisted that the citizenship law aims to help persecuted religious minorities in three nearby countries. ... **At least 17 people were killed, including a police officer, in clashes in the capital city during Trump's visit.** The violence began when supporters of the citizenship law confronted opponents of the measure. ...

“The citizenship law, along with India's other actions, has drawn

bipartisan criticism in Congress, but Trump tread lightly. The president said he had 'asked that question' during a closed-door meeting Tuesday, but he was vague about whether he criticized Modi for his decision. 'I don't want to discuss that,' he said when asked for his opinion of the law. 'I want to leave that to India, and hopefully they're going to make the right decision for the people.' ... **Trump and Modi issued joint statements praising the growing defense cooperation between the two countries, but they did not field questions together.** ... Although they spent much of the day together, including at a state banquet of salmon and grilled goat, Modi is known for not having held a news conference in his six years as prime minister."

### **There's a new senior leader at the White House personnel office. He's a college senior.**

[Politico reports](#) that James Bacon, 23, is acting as one of the right-hand men to new director of presidential personnel John McEntee, who is 29: "Bacon, a senior at George Washington University pursuing a bachelor's degree, comes from the Department of Transportation, where he briefly worked in the policy shop. Bacon will be PPO's director of operations overseeing paperwork and will assist on vetting. The role was previously filled by Katja Bullock, who is in her late 70s and was a veteran of the office in both Bush administrations, as well as the Reagan administration."

### **A Trump judicial nominee once called for abolishing Social Security.**

Stephen Schwartz, nominated to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, argued 15 years ago "that several federal agencies should be eliminated and that Social Security should be abolished because economic disparity 'is a natural aspect of the human condition,'" [Robert O'Harrow Jr. reports](#). "Schwartz wrote that the departments of Transportation, Agriculture and Education lack a 'constitutional basis,' and that Social Security benefits were intended to prevent 'outright starvation' but had become a 'standard component of most retirement programs.'"

## **Trump escalated his attacks on the judicial branch.**

“In [tweets](#) and comments at a news conference in India — and just a month before the Supreme Court is to consider congressional and prosecutors’ requests for the president’s closely guarded financial records — Trump targeted Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg,” [Robert Barnes and Ashley Parker report](#). “Trump interpreted as biased a [dissent from Sotomayor](#) about his administration’s tendency to seek emergency interventions from the Supreme Court. ... The president’s broadside breached what normally is an arm’s-length distance between the White House and the high court, and cast the disagreements into starkly personal terms. ... A court spokeswoman on Tuesday said that [John] Roberts, Sotomayor and Ginsburg had no comment ... Writing only for herself, Sotomayor complained that the federal government has been too quick to ask the Supreme Court for emergency relief from lower-court decisions that had not gone through the usual legal process. ... Neither opinion — the one written by Sotomayor or [the other by \[Justices Neil Gorsuch and \[Clarence\] Thomas](#) — specifically mentioned Trump or the administration.”

## **Trump also attacked a juror who voted to convict his confidant Roger Stone.**

Trump “injected new political drama into the legal debate over whether [Stone] deserves a new trial, tweeting during a hearing in the matter that the jury forewoman who voted to convict his longtime friend and confidant was ‘totally biased’ and seeming to suggest the judge was, as well,” [Spencer S. Hsu and Matt Zapposky report](#). “Trump’s comments came just as U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson had rebuked him and others over their attacks on the juror, and they seemed to put the president at odds with his own Justice Department, which argued against Stone’s bid for new legal proceedings. Jackson ultimately ended the hearing without a decision after taking testimony from three jurors on the panel — including the forewoman. The judge is expected to issue a ruling soon.”

## **Senate Republicans backed Bill Barr after his clash with**

## Trump.

“GOP lawmakers gave [the attorney general] a solid show of support in a private lunch meeting,” [Mike DeBonis reports](#) “Every sentence began with, ‘Keep up the good work,’” said Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), recalling senators’ remarks at the lunch, which began with a round of applause for Barr. ... [Mitch] McConnell told reporters afterward that Barr ‘enjoys overwhelming support’ in the Republican ranks: ‘We all think he’s doing an outstanding job.’ ... ‘He didn’t give any indication he’s going anywhere,’ said Senate Majority Whip John Thune (R-S.D.). ...

“Barr also finds himself in the middle of a thorny issue that has split Republican lawmakers — the pending expiration of key federal surveillance authorities. ... Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), among others, is pushing to take any future surveillance of political campaigns out of the secret foreign intelligence court entirely, among other changes to the existing law. ... But Barr, according to multiple senators, said he was not pressing for any specific statutory change to address the alleged Trump-related warrant abuses, which were detailed in a December report from Michael E. Horowitz, the Justice Department inspector general. Instead, he indicated that he would pursue administrative changes to remake how secret warrants are obtained and supervised.”

## **The NSA’s phone program cost \$100 million but produced just two unique leads.**

“A National Security Agency system that analyzed logs of Americans’ domestic phone calls and text messages cost \$100 million from 2015 to 2019, but yielded only a single significant investigation, according to a newly declassified study,” [the New York Times reports](#). “Moreover, only twice during that four-year period did the program generate unique information that the F.B.I. did not already possess, said the study, which was produced by the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board and briefed to Congress ... The report did not reveal the subject matter of the one significant F.B.I. investigation that was spurred by the Freedom Act program, and it did not divulge its outcome.”



## **Seventy former senators signed onto an op-ed saying the Senate isn't performing its constitutional duties.**

[In an open letter](#), a bipartisan group of former lawmakers said Congress isn't functioning as the Framers intended. "The Senate's abdication of its legislative and oversight responsibilities erodes the checks and balances of the separate powers that are designed to protect the liberties on which our democracy depends," they write.

## **Two antiabortion bills failed to advance in the Senate.**

"All Republicans except Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) voted for a bill banning abortion after 20 weeks, while Democratic Sens. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) and Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) supported the measure," [Politico reports](#). "All four lawmakers, meanwhile, voted for a bill requiring doctors to provide care to survivors of failed abortions. Sen. Doug Jones of Alabama, the most vulnerable Democrat facing reelection, opposed the 20-week ban but voted for the second measure."

## **The Supreme Court ruled that the family of a Mexican teen killed by the Border Patrol can't sue in U.S. courts.**

"The court's conservatives prevailed in the 5 to 4 ruling, in which the court for the second time considered whether relatives of foreign victims injured on foreign soil can go to court without express authorization from Congress," [Barnes reports](#). "The case began with the death of 15-year-old Sergio Adrián Hernández Güereca, who was fatally shot by a federal agent in 2010 on the Mexican side of the wide concrete culvert that separates El Paso from Juarez, Mexico. Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. wrote for his conservative colleagues, saying a respect for the separation of powers means that courts should be reluctant to allow lawsuits filed by foreign victims in U.S. courts without express congressional authorization."

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## **More on 2020**



## **A Sanders nomination would complicate the reelection campaigns of three Virginia congresswomen.**

GOP candidates and groups are already targeting the once deep-red Virginia districts held by Democratic Reps. Elaine Luria, Abigail Spanberger and Jennifer Wexton, trying to link the freshman lawmakers to Sanders. [Jenna Portnoy reports](#) that Luria, who backs Biden, wasted no time in denouncing Sanders this week after he said he would skip the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee: “Her swift reaction was an example of the tactics she and other centrist Democrats may use to try to steer clear of [Sanders] if he wins their party’s presidential nomination. ... Spanberger and Wexton have not made endorsements in the presidential contest and have no plans to at the moment. Spanberger, a former CIA officer, said she has already cast her absentee ballot; she declined to reveal her choice or rule anyone out. Rob Jones, one of several Republicans vying to challenge Wexton in November, suggested last week that because Wexton often votes the same way as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), a top Sanders surrogate, Wexton must support Sanders. Wexton balked at that logic, and said: ‘I will not be supporting Bernie Sanders in this primary.’”

**The Democratic establishment in Texas is freaking out about Sanders's rise.**

“Rep. Marc Veasey is about as restrained as Texans come, but in recent days he has unloaded ... to practically any reporter he could find,” [the Texas Tribune reports](#). “His message? [Sanders’s] march to the party’s nomination will jeopardize Texas Democrats’ efforts to capture the state House of Representatives and a slew of U.S. House seats across the state. ... While Sanders supporters proclaim a growing movement that will bring out new voters needed to flip the state, nearly two dozen Texas Democratic officeholders, candidates, activists and donors interviewed for this story expressed concern — sometimes bordering on despair — that a Sanders Democratic nomination is the difference between being on offense or in retreat in Texas this cycle.”

### **Mitch McConnell said Sanders may be more competitive than pundits think.**

“I’m reminded of when the Democrats back in 1980 were all pulling for Ronald Reagan to be the nominee because they thought he’d be the easiest to beat,” McConnell told reporters, [per Politico](#). “I think it’s going to be a contested general election with a lot of energy on both sides, and for myself I’ll leave it up to the Democrats to pick who they’d like to be their candidate.”

### **The Boston Globe [endorsed](#) Warren for president, a year after calling for her not to run.**

This is significant because Sanders is making a play to win Massachusetts on Super Tuesday, scheduling rallies for later this week in Boston and Springfield. “In December 2018, this editorial board expressed doubt that Elizabeth Warren should run for president. She has proved us wrong and has shaped the course of the race for the better. The electorate, at least in recent polls and in the early states, is signaling its preference for the profound change that underpins Warren’s agenda. Sanders has been the main beneficiary, but is less likely to deliver; he has shown no ability over the course of his career to build broad legislative coalitions. Warren is uniquely poised to accomplish serious reform without sacrificing what’s working in our economy and innovation ecosystem. She would get under the hood to fix the engine — not drive off a cliff, but also not just kick the

tires.”

## **9/11 was a turning point in Bloomberg's quest to become New York mayor.**

“Bloomberg awoke early on that crisp and cloudless Tuesday and walked from his East Side mansion to his neighborhood polling place, where he saw his name on an election ballot for the first time, as a Republican candidate for mayor. It was Sept. 11, 2001, primary day, and Bloomberg was in the thick of trying to reinvent himself as the face of America’s largest city,” [Paul Schwartzmann reports](#) in the latest version of our Pursuits series. “Then someone told him that an airplane had slammed into the World Trade Center. ... What Bloomberg did not know in that moment — what no one could have known — is that the [attack] would fuel his unlikely rise as New York’s mayor and become a foundation for his race for the White House. ... ‘We began to write a comeback story,’ Bloomberg tells audiences, recalling that he took over a city ‘in tatters’ after winning an election that ‘almost no one’ — not even his mother, he often notes — ‘thought I had a chance.’ Bloomberg’s 12 years at City Hall lifted him to newfound prominence and spanned the rebirth of Lower Manhattan, the rise of the new World Trade Center and the opening of the 9/11 Memorial. Yet, in 2001, as he aspired to succeed Republican Mayor Rudy Giuliani, he was largely unknown beyond Wall Street and the exclusive dinner parties and charity galas he frequented.”

## **Hard work saved the Nevada caucuses, but it may not have been enough.**

“[Harry] Reid, who helped move Nevada’s caucuses up in the calendar in 2008, establishing his state as the first in the West, said on Sunday that it was ‘time for the Democratic Party to move to primaries everywhere.’ That affirmation was echoed on Monday by the state party’s chairman, William McCurdy II, who said it was ‘time for our state party and elected leaders to look at shifting to a primary process moving forward.’ And it was reiterated on Tuesday by the Democratic governor, Steve Sisolak, who said he would help ‘review how we could switch to an early presidential primary,’” [Isaac Stanley-Becker reports](#). “Similar sentiment

has been voiced in Iowa, where the quadrennial institution had defined the political culture of the state since it inaugurated the modern caucuses in 1972, part of an effort to make the nominating process more inclusive.”

## **Democrats are desperately trying to recruit Steve Bullock to run for Senate.**

“Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer met with [the former presidential candidate] in Montana last weekend as Democrats make a last-ditch effort to woo him to run for the Senate this year,” [Politico reports](#). “Bullock, the two-term governor and former presidential candidate, has repeatedly said he has no plans to challenge Republican Sen. Steve Daines this year. But the state’s filing deadline is just over two weeks away, and Democrats have continued to pitch Bullock on seeking the Senate seat before the window closes.”

## **A veteran running for Congress in Arizona suspended his campaign after a heroin overdose.**

“Chris Taylor, a 33-year-old Army veteran and city councilman in Safford, Ariz., told The Post that he was sober for ‘many solid years’ before the relapse. He was found unresponsive Wednesday night in his home, where paramedics revived him with naloxone,” [Meryl Kornfield reports](#). The Republican said he’s “not going to hide from this.” He said he has battled with an opioid addiction since high school. He was seeking the GOP nomination to challenge Rep. Tom O’Halloran (D).

## **ABC News suspended veteran correspondent David Wright after a Project Veritas sting.**

Network officials suspended Wright after reviewing footage gathered by the conservative group that records “undercover” footage of mainstream journalists to bolster its accusations of media bias, [Paul Farhi reports](#). It isn’t clear yet what specifically prompted the network to take action against the reporter.

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# Social media speed read

Sanders dominated the Twitter conversation during last night's debate:



 **#DemDebate**

Tenth Debate: February 25, 2020

Jill Biden wished her husband luck on the debate stage:

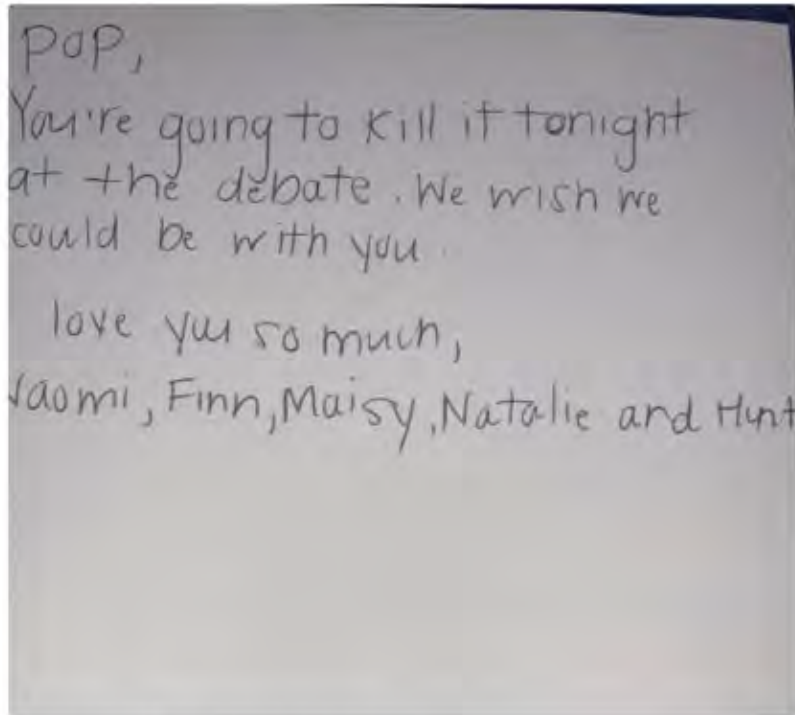


**Dr. Jill Biden** ✓

@DrBiden



Tonight, ahead of the #DemDebate, I slipped this note into @JoeBiden's jacket pocket without him knowing. ❤️  
Jill



♥️ 3,667 12:06 AM - Feb 26, 2020



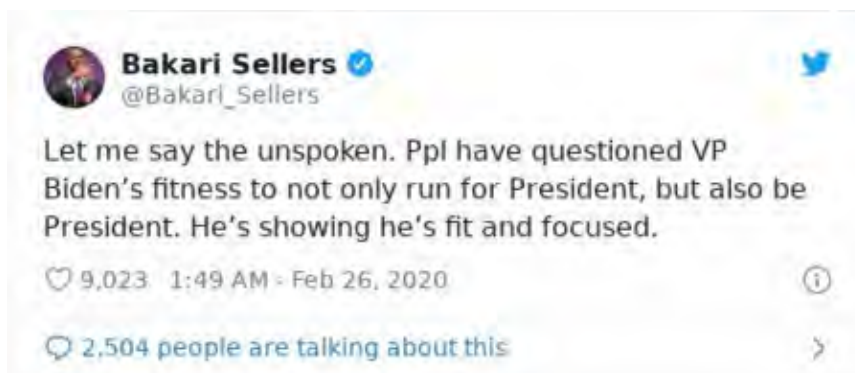
🗨️ 679 people are talking about this



**Klobuchar got caught in the middle of a Biden vs. Steyer shouting match:**

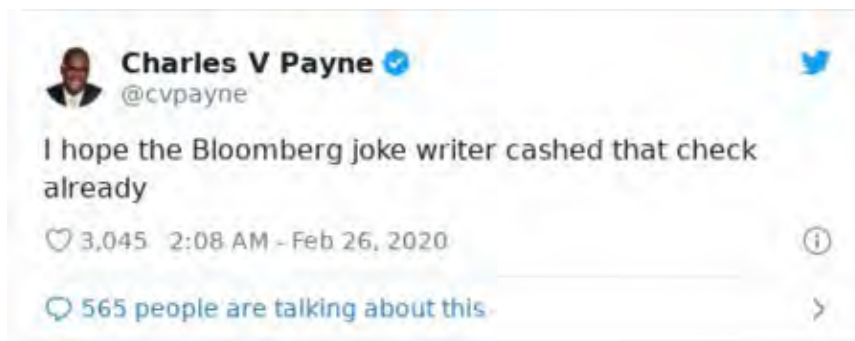


A lot of pundits, including this former South Carolina state legislator, praised Biden's performance:



Bloomberg's one-liners were widely mocked:





A Post reporter had this interaction with a flack:



And two inspiring young activists hung out:



## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert went live after his hometown's debate and joked that it would be great if Sanders and Trump are the nominees because those are the only two impressions he can do:



Trevor Noah joked about Sanders not being in any rush to see moderates drop out of the race:



Seth Meyers called out Bloomberg and his campaign for tweeting fake quotes they attributed to Sanders:



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**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Bernie Sanders refuses to get bogged down – or pinned down – on specifics during Democratic debate  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 9:24:47 AM



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## **Bernie Sanders refuses to get bogged down – or pinned down – on specifics during Democratic debate**

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Pete Buttigieg ripped into Bernie Sanders during Tuesday night’s presidential debate for declining to endorse the abolition of the Senate filibuster. “How are we going to deliver a revolution if you won’t even support a rule change?” the former mayor asked the front-runner for the Democratic nomination. “We are in the state where Strom Thurmond used the filibuster to block civil rights legislation repeatedly.”

Elizabeth Warren also took a shot, warning that Republicans will use the filibuster to block the next president from passing gun control legislation, tackling climate change and overhauling the immigration system. “I’ve seen gun safety legislation introduced, get a majority and then it doesn’t pass because of the filibuster,” said the senator from Massachusetts. “Understand this: The filibuster is giving a veto to the gun industry.”

Sanders chose not to directly respond to these attacks during the 10th Democratic debate, the first time he found himself standing behind the podium at center stage, on account of his lead in national polls. The independent senator from Vermont didn’t let himself get mired in a process debate about legislative procedure with two rivals, as he did during the September debate in Houston. Instead, Sanders emphasized his support for stricter gun laws. “At the end of the day, we need to rally the American people,” he said. “I am proud I have a D-minus voting record from the NRA. If elected president, it will get worse than that.”

**Sanders weathered the heavily anticipated, two-hour barrage of attacks from his six opponents by sticking relentlessly to the populist message that got him here.** At several key moments, he offered a master class in deflection. On one hand, this can be viewed as impressive message discipline from a candidate who has successfully claimed the mantle of an insurgent outsider. On the other, it could be described as sloganeering and the oversimplifying of complex issues by someone who has served in Congress since 1991. Either way, the debate served as a reminder that Sanders, despite his unconventional candidacy, is [more pragmatic than popularly understood](#).

He clearly relished the attention, if not always the scrutiny. “I’m hearing my name mentioned a little bit tonight,” he said. “I wonder why?”



**Like President Trump, Sanders is loath to admit mistakes. But he acknowledged one last night.** When Joe Biden attacked him for supporting the legislation that exempted gun manufacturers from being sued, Sanders initially responded with an attack on the former vice president. “Joe has voted for terrible trade agreements,” he said. “Joe voted for the war in Iraq.” The crowd booed. “My point was,” he continued, “I have cast thousands of votes, including bad votes. That was a bad vote.”

**Sanders, also like Trump, is a counterpuncher.** He had several other moments that might best be summarized as: *I know you are, but what am I?* Former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg expressed concern about the trillion-dollar deficit and the national debt approaching \$21 trillion. “We just cannot afford some of this stuff people talk about,” he said. Asked to respond, Sanders said: “Mayor Bloomberg has a solid and strong and enthusiastic base of support. The problem is they’re all billionaires.”

When Bloomberg noted that the intelligence community **believes** Russian President Vladimir Putin is trying to boost Sanders, Sanders ripped Bloomberg for doing **business in Beijing**. “I’m not a good friend of President Xi [Jinping] of China,” he said. “I think President Xi is an

authoritarian leader.” Sanders then added he won’t tolerate Russian interference.

Amy Klobuchar claimed Sanders’s plans would cumulatively cost \$60 trillion, or three times the size of the U.S. economy. “I think that we can get all those bold progressive things done without having someone that is so alienating that we're going to turn off the voters that we need to bring with us,” the senator from Minnesota continued. Sanders did not quibble with her \$60 trillion figure. Instead, **like Trump did so often during the primaries in 2016, Sanders responded to this critique by pointing to polls.** “Hey, Amy,” he said, “my favorability nationally I believe are the highest up here, as a matter of fact.”

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**Sanders brushed aside a chorus of attacks related to the price tag, and therefore feasibility, of his proposed revolution.** Moderator Norah O’Donnell said that his Medicare-for-all plan would cost \$30 trillion over 10 years, but he’s only outlined how he’d pay for half of it. She asked: “Can you do the math for the rest of us?”

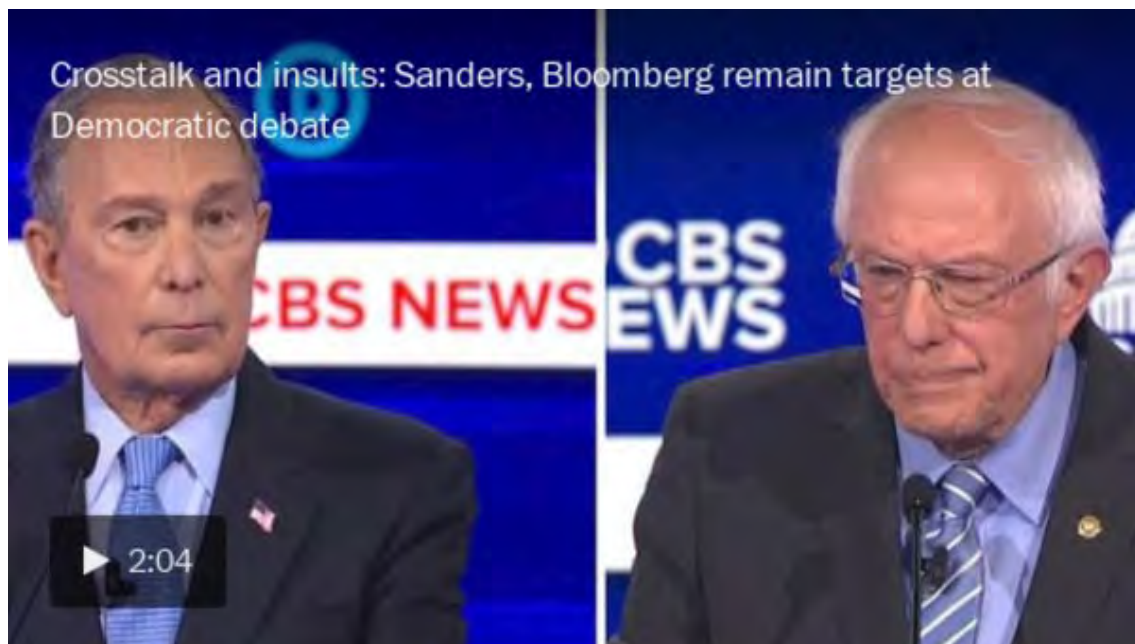


Sanders replied: “How many hours do you have?” Biden interjected: “That’s the problem.”

Sanders [noted](#) that he’s “laid out options all over the place,” including a seven-and-a-half percent payroll tax on employers. He then cited a new study, which he didn’t mention was co-written by one of his own former advisers, that claims his Medicare-for-all plan would reduce overall costs for consumers. [Our fact-checkers note](#) that the study has come under fire for a number of its assumptions, such as a single-payer plan paying current Medicare reimbursement rates to doctors, hospitals and other providers.

**Trying to position herself as a liberal who is more effective than Sanders, Warren criticized Sanders for not offering as many details on paying for universal health care as she does in her plan.** “I did the work and then Bernie’s team trashed me for it,” she said. “We need a president who is going to dig in, do the hard work and actually get it done. Progressives have got one shot, and we need to spend it with a leader who will get something done.”

Buttigieg piled on. “Senator Sanders at one point said it was going to be \$40 trillion,” he said. “Then it was \$30 trillion. Then it was \$17 trillion. That’s an incredible shrinking price tag. At some point, he said it is unknowable what the price tag would be. Now there are new numbers. I’ll tell you exactly what it adds up to: It adds to four more years of Donald Trump.”



**His Democratic rivals seemed more interested in delivering zingers like this, in a bid to elevate themselves as the best alternative to Sanders one week out from Super Tuesday, than pushing the democratic socialist to actually answer underlying questions about positions that are outside the Democratic mainstream.** It's the latest manifestation of [the collective action problem](#) that continues to work to Sanders's advantage.

**Red in the face, Sanders sometimes struggled to get a word in as everyone else tried to dunk on him.** Klobuchar cited a Vanderbilt University study that she said showed she was the most effective senator across 15 metrics and noted that the same research showed Sanders and Warren were much less effective than her. Neither was given a chance to respond.

**The CBS moderators lost control of the contentious debate early and never got it back.** Sanders was asked three times to give a "quick" response to something, which allowed him to skirt specifics. The moderators also failed to ask Warren about her flip-flop to welcome the help of a super PAC or Biden's recent false claims that he once got arrested during a trip to South Africa.

**Sanders also avoided particulars on foreign policy.** When he was

asked specifically whether he would move the U.S. Embassy from Jerusalem back to Tel Aviv, he gave this non-answer: “The answer is it’s something we would take into consideration.”

**The democratic socialist defended his praise for Fidel Castro’s literacy programs in Cuba.** “Occasionally it might be a good idea to be honest about American foreign policy, and that includes the fact that America has overthrown governments all over the world in Chile, in Guatemala and in Iran,” said Sanders. “And when dictatorships, whether it is the Chinese or the Cubans, do something good, you acknowledge that. But you don't have to trade love letters with them.”

**Buttigieg, who seemed more determined to attack Sanders than anyone else, ridiculed this.** “I am not looking forward to a scenario where it comes down to Donald Trump, with his nostalgia for the social order of the 1950s, and Bernie Sanders, with a nostalgia for the revolutionary politics of the 1960s,” he said. “This is not about what coups were happening in the 1970s or '80s. ... This is about 2020. We are not going to survive or succeed, and we're certainly not going to win by reliving the Cold War. And we're not going to win these critical House and Senate races if people in those races have to explain why the nominee of the Democratic Party is telling people to look at the bright side of the Castro regime.”

“Let us be clear,” Sanders replied, “do we think health care for all, Pete, is some kind of radical communist idea?”

“What is a radical idea is completely eliminating all private insurance,” Buttigieg replied later. “And part of how you know it is, is that no industrialized country has gone that far. He and I both like to talk about Denmark, for example. But even in Denmark, they have not abolished the possibility of private insurance. So this is an idea that goes further than what is acceptable in Denmark the country, let alone imagining how that's going to fly in Denmark, South Carolina.”

**Sanders circled back to the theme of radicalism in his final**

**answer.** When all the candidates were asked to share what they see as the biggest misconception about them, Sanders said it's that people see his ideas as radical. "In one form or another, they exist in countries all over the world," he said. "The saying that moves me the most is from Nelson Mandela. Mandela said everything is impossible until it happens."



### More team coverage

**"The tone of the debate ultimately became a metaphor for the Democratic race itself,** as it was marred repeatedly by candidates interrupting one another, talking over each other and constantly ignoring the moderators' efforts to bring some order to the unruly evening," [writes Dan Balz](#). "What the evening highlighted was the degree to which Sanders stands apart from the field, with the other candidates divided and sparring with one another as much as with [him]. Sanders has his base, and it has served him well enough so far. The others are trying to find theirs. None of Sanders's rivals rose significantly above the others. For Sanders, that was probably a satisfactory outcome."

**"While falling short of the glossy image that appeared during the commercial breaks, Bloomberg succeeded in doing what he had failed to do a week earlier in Las Vegas,"** [adds Michael Scherer](#). "He delivered his messages — about his experience, his policy goals and

his political focus — without a script in front of him, albeit with less polish, more stiffness and a far more stilted style of delivering a joke than his ads suggest. ... Still, Bloomberg spent significant time responding to attacks — on his treatment of women, his comments about banks’ redlining policies, his yet-unreleased tax returns and his praise of the Chinese leadership. He appeared agitated when [Warren] cited a woman’s account that he told her to ‘kill’ her baby when she got pregnant, responding: ‘I never said it. Period, end of story.’ It was far from clear whether his performance was enough to save his hopes for the nomination.”



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## Quote of the day

*“All of the new Democrats that came in, put Nancy Pelosi in charge, and gave the Congress the ability to control this president — I bought,” said Bloomberg, referring to \$100 million he spent to help House candidates in the 2018 midterms. He quickly corrected himself: “I — I got them.”*  
*(Matt Viser, Annie Linskey, Sean Sullivan and Cleve Wootson)*

**Buttigieg’s campaign canceled a four-stop swing through South Florida scheduled for today.** “Multiple aides to Buttigieg said he is sick and needed a day to rest,” [Chelsea Janes reports](#). **“Buttigieg looked**

**sweatier than usual during the debate and appeared to have a cough drop in his mouth at various moments.** He has maintained one of the more rigorous schedules of any of the candidates and will still appear at a breakfast in Charleston on Wednesday morning. Three of the events scheduled in South Florida were fundraisers, meaning the cancellation could be a costly one for Buttigieg. His campaign has been pushing to raise \$13 million by Super Tuesday, and it sent a several-page memo to supporters outlining where and why it needs money for ad buys.”

**The next debate will take place in Phoenix on March 15.** The Sunday night battle will come before primaries that Tuesday in Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Ohio. By then, 47 percent of the delegates will have been pledged. The DNC still hasn’t announced the eligibility requirements for the debate, which will air on CNN and Univision. How much will the field have winnowed by then? Who will have emerged with the strongest chance of stopping Sanders?

## Notable commentary

**Politico’s John Harris argues that Democrats needed a good debate but got a bad one instead:** “The evening offered limited opportunities—*were these possibly enough?*—for six Democrats not named Sanders to revive their candidacies with last-stand moments to emerge as the main alternative to the self-described democratic socialist.”

**The Times’s Frank Bruni says the debate “felt like a genuine freakout”:** Sanders’s competitors “seemed to be in the grip of some larger existential crisis, their understanding of their party’s dynamics challenged, their sense of its destiny upended and their dread of blowing an immeasurably consequential election profound.” **Post columnist Dana Milbank says Sanders stirred up “a sickening sense of déjà vu” to the Republican debate in South Carolina four years ago,** when the other candidates piled on Trump, but it was too little and too late to stop him from winning the nomination. “The winner of Tuesday night’s debate was Trump,” he concludes.

- **The Fix’s Aaron Blake** declares Warren and Biden the winners and

Sanders and Bloomberg the losers.

- [Post columnist Jen Rubin](#): “Biden needed the debate of his life. He delivered.”
- [CNN’s Chris Cillizza](#) says Buttigieg, Biden, Klobuchar, Sanders and Trump won, while Bloomberg and Warren lost.
- [Vox’s team](#) says Sanders won and Klobuchar lost.
- [The Guardian’s Jessa Crispin](#) says Warren dominated the mic but Sanders held his ground.
- [FiveThirtyEight’s Nate Silver](#) thinks Biden “pulled out his best debate with his back to the wall.”
- [Democratic operative Mary Anne Marsh](#), writing for Fox News, calls Sanders, Warren and Biden winners, but she thinks the other four candidates onstage lost.
- [The New Republic’s Walter Shapiro](#) thinks Biden, Buttigieg and Klobuchar fared well, but Sanders and Bloomberg lost ground.
- [Bloomberg Opinion’s Ramesh Ponnuru](#) said Biden and Bloomberg performed better than they did at last week’s debate, but he argues that Sanders emerged victorious.
- [Mother Jones’s Edwin Rios and Nathalie Baptiste](#) said the debate was pretty much a pandering fest to South Carolina’s black voters.

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## The coronavirus



A man wearing a protective face mask watches the Nikkei index tank outside a brokerage house in Tokyo. (Athit Perawongmetha/Reuters)

## The CDC warned the virus's spread in the United States is “inevitable.”

“The warnings from officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health and other agencies, contrasted sharply with assessments from President Trump and other White House officials, who have largely dismissed concerns about the virus,” [Erica Werner, Yasmeen Abutaleb, Lena Sun and Lenny Bernstein report](#). “The mixed messages continued Tuesday as dire warnings issued to senators and reporters early in the day gave way to a more positive assessment, after the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 3.4 percent, bringing the two-day loss to more than 1,900 points — the worst in two years.”

- “We believe the immediate risk here in the United States remains low, and we’re working hard to keep that risk low,” Anne Schuchat, the CDC’s principal deputy director, said during a hastily convened afternoon news briefing.
- “Ultimately, we expect we will see community spread in the United



States. It's not a question of if this will happen, but when this will happen, and how many people in this country will have severe illnesses," Nancy Messonnier, the director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the CDC, said during the morning briefing.

**"The confused messaging threatened to obscure urgent public health advice coming from the CDC ...** Businesses need to consider replacing in-person meetings with telework, Messonnier said. School authorities should consider ways to limit face-to-face contact, such as dividing students into smaller groups, using Internet-based learning or even closing schools. Local officials should consider modifying, postponing or canceling large gatherings. Hospitals should consider ways to triage patients who do not need urgent care and recommend that patients delay surgery that isn't absolutely necessary."

### **The White House seems mainly focused on reducing public alarm.**

"Trump is highly concerned about the market and has encouraged aides not to give predictions that might cause further tremors," [Jeff Stein and Josh Dawsey report](#). "Privately, Trump has become furious about the stock market's slide, according to two people familiar with the president's thinking ... **Some White House officials have been unhappy with how Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar has handled the situation ...** White House officials often face a tricky balance of trying to assure the public while also not dismissing threats that could become calamities. The Dow is still up markedly from 2017, when Trump took office, but it closed Tuesday at its lowest level since October." Global financial markets continued losing ground overnight.

### **The acting head of DHS was grilled by a GOP senator over the response.**

"Appearing in front of a Senate appropriations subcommittee, [Chad] Wolf was on the receiving end of a brutal line of questioning from Sen. John Neely Kennedy (R-La.). Throughout the exchange, Wolf struggled to

produce basic facts and projections about the disease,” [Aaron Blake reports](#).



### **No major lockdown is planned in a South Korean region stricken with the virus.**

“When a spokesman for South Korea's ruling party suggested Tuesday that the government would be rolling out a ‘maximum lockdown’ on the coronavirus-hit southern city of Daegu, the backlash was immediate and the political retreat swift,” [Min Joo Kim and Simon Denyer report](#). “Hong Ihk-pyo soon clarified that he didn’t mean a ‘Wuhan-style lockdown’ or a blockade on travel into and out of the city — along the lines that China’s Communist Party has imposed on Wuhan and surrounding areas at the center of the covid-19 outbreak. President Moon Jae-in soon chimed in. There would be no regional blockade, he said, only a full-scale effort to contain the spread of the virus.” Infection numbers soared in South Korea to over 1,200.

### **France and Iran reported new deaths this morning.**

“France reported the first death of a French citizen from the epidemic as cases spread rapidly across Europe, with Spain confirming eight new cases in the past 24 hours and new infections reported in France, Croatia, Austria and Switzerland,” [according to our live blog](#). “Nineteen people

have died in Iran from the novel coronavirus outbreak, Iranian Health Ministry spokesman Kianush Jahanpur told state television on Wednesday.”

### **The virus hits seniors the hardest. Italy’s elderly population is on the front line.**

“That has set off a race in countries with significant older populations — like Italy — to figure out whether there are ways to protect their most vulnerable: those in hospitals, in nursing homes, and seniors in sealed-off hot-spot towns who are watching television and fearing the worst,” [Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). “But even as Italy works to contain what is the first major coronavirus outbreak in Europe, there is growing concern that the virus is outracing the health measures. New cases on Tuesday popped up farther from the original cluster, including in the southern island of Sicily and the tourist-heavy Tuscan capital, Florence. Italy has at least 322 confirmed cases and 11 deaths, all people who were elderly or already sick.”

### **The U.S. government can quarantine you. There’s almost nothing you can do about it.**

“Regulations set forth by the [CDC] give health officials broad authority to quarantine or isolate anyone ‘reasonably believed’ to have been exposed to a range of highly infectious diseases. The list includes cholera, infectious tuberculosis and flus that can cause a pandemic,” [Derek Hawkins reports](#). “The government’s powers to sequester people in the name of public health are rooted in the Constitution’s Commerce Clause, which allows Congress to regulate foreign and interstate commerce.”

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## **The Trump presidency**



President Trump and first lady Melania Trump attend a wreath-laying ceremony at Mohandas Gandhi's memorial in New Delhi on Tuesday. (Alexander Drago/Reuters)

## **Trump praised Modi's record on religious tolerance, as violence erupted over discrimination against Muslims.**

“Trump avoided any public criticism of his host — whose political biography is also built partly on religious and cultural divisions — along with any comparison of [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi's policies with his own treatment of Muslim immigrants,” [Anne Gearan, Joanna Slatter, Seung Min Kim and Niha Masih report](#). “We did talk about religious freedom, and I will say that the prime minister was incredible in what he told me. He wants people to have religious freedom and very strongly,” Trump said during a news conference that capped the public portion of his largely ceremonial visit. Modi, who leads the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, has insisted that the citizenship law aims to help persecuted religious minorities in three nearby countries. ... **At least 17 people were killed, including a police officer, in clashes in the capital city during Trump's visit.** The violence began when supporters of the citizenship law confronted opponents of the measure. ...

“The citizenship law, along with India's other actions, has drawn

bipartisan criticism in Congress, but Trump tread lightly. The president said he had 'asked that question' during a closed-door meeting Tuesday, but he was vague about whether he criticized Modi for his decision. 'I don't want to discuss that,' he said when asked for his opinion of the law. 'I want to leave that to India, and hopefully they're going to make the right decision for the people.' ... **Trump and Modi issued joint statements praising the growing defense cooperation between the two countries, but they did not field questions together.** ... Although they spent much of the day together, including at a state banquet of salmon and grilled goat, Modi is known for not having held a news conference in his six years as prime minister."

### **There's a new senior leader at the White House personnel office. He's a college senior.**

[Politico reports](#) that James Bacon, 23, is acting as one of the right-hand men to new director of presidential personnel John McEntee, who is 29: "Bacon, a senior at George Washington University pursuing a bachelor's degree, comes from the Department of Transportation, where he briefly worked in the policy shop. Bacon will be PPO's director of operations overseeing paperwork and will assist on vetting. The role was previously filled by Katja Bullock, who is in her late 70s and was a veteran of the office in both Bush administrations, as well as the Reagan administration."

### **A Trump judicial nominee once called for abolishing Social Security.**

Stephen Schwartz, nominated to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, argued 15 years ago "that several federal agencies should be eliminated and that Social Security should be abolished because economic disparity 'is a natural aspect of the human condition,'" [Robert O'Harrow Jr. reports](#). "Schwartz wrote that the departments of Transportation, Agriculture and Education lack a 'constitutional basis,' and that Social Security benefits were intended to prevent 'outright starvation' but had become a 'standard component of most retirement programs.'"

## **Trump escalated his attacks on the judicial branch.**

“In [tweets](#) and comments at a news conference in India — and just a month before the Supreme Court is to consider congressional and prosecutors’ requests for the president’s closely guarded financial records — Trump targeted Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg,” [Robert Barnes and Ashley Parker report](#). “Trump interpreted as biased a [dissent from Sotomayor](#) about his administration’s tendency to seek emergency interventions from the Supreme Court. ... The president’s broadside breached what normally is an arm’s-length distance between the White House and the high court, and cast the disagreements into starkly personal terms. ... A court spokeswoman on Tuesday said that [John] Roberts, Sotomayor and Ginsburg had no comment ... Writing only for herself, Sotomayor complained that the federal government has been too quick to ask the Supreme Court for emergency relief from lower-court decisions that had not gone through the usual legal process. ... Neither opinion — the one written by Sotomayor or [the other by \[Justices Neil Gorsuch and \[Clarence\] Thomas](#) — specifically mentioned Trump or the administration.”

## **Trump also attacked a juror who voted to convict his confidant Roger Stone.**

Trump “injected new political drama into the legal debate over whether [Stone] deserves a new trial, tweeting during a hearing in the matter that the jury forewoman who voted to convict his longtime friend and confidant was ‘totally biased’ and seeming to suggest the judge was, as well,” [Spencer S. Hsu and Matt Zapotosky report](#). “Trump’s comments came just as U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson had rebuked him and others over their attacks on the juror, and they seemed to put the president at odds with his own Justice Department, which argued against Stone’s bid for new legal proceedings. Jackson ultimately ended the hearing without a decision after taking testimony from three jurors on the panel — including the forewoman. The judge is expected to issue a ruling soon.”

## **Senate Republicans backed Bill Barr after his clash with**

## Trump.

“GOP lawmakers gave [the attorney general] a solid show of support in a private lunch meeting,” [Mike DeBonis reports](#) “Every sentence began with, “Keep up the good work,” said Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), recalling senators’ remarks at the lunch, which began with a round of applause for Barr. ... [Mitch] McConnell told reporters afterward that Barr ‘enjoys overwhelming support’ in the Republican ranks: ‘We all think he’s doing an outstanding job.’ ... ‘He didn’t give any indication he’s going anywhere,’ said Senate Majority Whip John Thune (R-S.D.). ...

“Barr also finds himself in the middle of a thorny issue that has split Republican lawmakers — the pending expiration of key federal surveillance authorities. ... Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), among others, is pushing to take any future surveillance of political campaigns out of the secret foreign intelligence court entirely, among other changes to the existing law. ... But Barr, according to multiple senators, said he was not pressing for any specific statutory change to address the alleged Trump-related warrant abuses, which were detailed in a December report from Michael E. Horowitz, the Justice Department inspector general. Instead, he indicated that he would pursue administrative changes to remake how secret warrants are obtained and supervised.”

## **The NSA’s phone program cost \$100 million but produced just two unique leads.**

“A National Security Agency system that analyzed logs of Americans’ domestic phone calls and text messages cost \$100 million from 2015 to 2019, but yielded only a single significant investigation, according to a newly declassified study,” [the New York Times reports](#). “Moreover, only twice during that four-year period did the program generate unique information that the F.B.I. did not already possess, said the study, which was produced by the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board and briefed to Congress ... The report did not reveal the subject matter of the one significant F.B.I. investigation that was spurred by the Freedom Act program, and it did not divulge its outcome.”

## **Seventy former senators signed onto an op-ed saying the Senate isn't performing its constitutional duties.**

[In an open letter](#), a bipartisan group of former lawmakers said Congress isn't functioning as the Framers intended. "The Senate's abdication of its legislative and oversight responsibilities erodes the checks and balances of the separate powers that are designed to protect the liberties on which our democracy depends," they write.

## **Two antiabortion bills failed to advance in the Senate.**

"All Republicans except Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) voted for a bill banning abortion after 20 weeks, while Democratic Sens. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) and Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) supported the measure," [Politico reports](#). "All four lawmakers, meanwhile, voted for a bill requiring doctors to provide care to survivors of failed abortions. Sen. Doug Jones of Alabama, the most vulnerable Democrat facing reelection, opposed the 20-week ban but voted for the second measure."

## **The Supreme Court ruled that the family of a Mexican teen killed by the Border Patrol can't sue in U.S. courts.**

"The court's conservatives prevailed in the 5 to 4 ruling, in which the court for the second time considered whether relatives of foreign victims injured on foreign soil can go to court without express authorization from Congress," [Barnes reports](#). "The case began with the death of 15-year-old Sergio Adrián Hernández Güereca, who was fatally shot by a federal agent in 2010 on the Mexican side of the wide concrete culvert that separates El Paso from Juarez, Mexico. Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. wrote for his conservative colleagues, saying a respect for the separation of powers means that courts should be reluctant to allow lawsuits filed by foreign victims in U.S. courts without express congressional authorization."

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## **More on 2020**





## **A Sanders nomination would complicate the reelection campaigns of three Virginia congresswomen.**

GOP candidates and groups are already targeting the once deep-red Virginia districts held by Democratic Reps. Elaine Luria, Abigail Spanberger and Jennifer Wexton, trying to link the freshman lawmakers to Sanders. [Jenna Portnoy reports](#) that Luria, who backs Biden, wasted no time in denouncing Sanders this week after he said he would skip the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee: “Her swift reaction was an example of the tactics she and other centrist Democrats may use to try to steer clear of [Sanders] if he wins their party’s presidential nomination. ... Spanberger and Wexton have not made endorsements in the presidential contest and have no plans to at the moment. Spanberger, a former CIA officer, said she has already cast her absentee ballot; she declined to reveal her choice or rule anyone out. Rob Jones, one of several Republicans vying to challenge Wexton in November, suggested last week that because Wexton often votes the same way as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), a top Sanders surrogate, Wexton must support Sanders. Wexton balked at that logic, and said: ‘I will not be supporting Bernie Sanders in this primary.’”

**The Democratic establishment in Texas is freaking out about Sanders's rise.**

“Rep. Marc Veasey is about as restrained as Texans come, but in recent days he has unloaded ... to practically any reporter he could find,” [the Texas Tribune reports](#). “His message? [Sanders’s] march to the party’s nomination will jeopardize Texas Democrats’ efforts to capture the state House of Representatives and a slew of U.S. House seats across the state. ... While Sanders supporters proclaim a growing movement that will bring out new voters needed to flip the state, nearly two dozen Texas Democratic officeholders, candidates, activists and donors interviewed for this story expressed concern — sometimes bordering on despair — that a Sanders Democratic nomination is the difference between being on offense or in retreat in Texas this cycle.”

### **Mitch McConnell said Sanders may be more competitive than pundits think.**

“I’m reminded of when the Democrats back in 1980 were all pulling for Ronald Reagan to be the nominee because they thought he’d be the easiest to beat,” McConnell told reporters, [per Politico](#). “I think it’s going to be a contested general election with a lot of energy on both sides, and for myself I’ll leave it up to the Democrats to pick who they’d like to be their candidate.”

### **The Boston Globe [endorsed](#) Warren for president, a year after calling for her not to run.**

This is significant because Sanders is making a play to win Massachusetts on Super Tuesday, scheduling rallies for later this week in Boston and Springfield. “In December 2018, this editorial board expressed doubt that Elizabeth Warren should run for president. She has proved us wrong and has shaped the course of the race for the better. The electorate, at least in recent polls and in the early states, is signaling its preference for the profound change that underpins Warren’s agenda. Sanders has been the main beneficiary, but is less likely to deliver; he has shown no ability over the course of his career to build broad legislative coalitions. Warren is uniquely poised to accomplish serious reform without sacrificing what’s working in our economy and innovation ecosystem. She would get under the hood to fix the engine — not drive off a cliff, but also not just kick the

tires.”

## **9/11 was a turning point in Bloomberg's quest to become New York mayor.**

“Bloomberg awoke early on that crisp and cloudless Tuesday and walked from his East Side mansion to his neighborhood polling place, where he saw his name on an election ballot for the first time, as a Republican candidate for mayor. It was Sept. 11, 2001, primary day, and Bloomberg was in the thick of trying to reinvent himself as the face of America’s largest city,” [Paul Schwartzmann reports](#) in the latest version of our Pursuits series. “Then someone told him that an airplane had slammed into the World Trade Center. ... What Bloomberg did not know in that moment — what no one could have known — is that the [attack] would fuel his unlikely rise as New York’s mayor and become a foundation for his race for the White House. ... ‘We began to write a comeback story,’ Bloomberg tells audiences, recalling that he took over a city ‘in tatters’ after winning an election that ‘almost no one’ — not even his mother, he often notes — ‘thought I had a chance.’ Bloomberg’s 12 years at City Hall lifted him to newfound prominence and spanned the rebirth of Lower Manhattan, the rise of the new World Trade Center and the opening of the 9/11 Memorial. Yet, in 2001, as he aspired to succeed Republican Mayor Rudy Giuliani, he was largely unknown beyond Wall Street and the exclusive dinner parties and charity galas he frequented.”

## **Hard work saved the Nevada caucuses, but it may not have been enough.**

“[Harry] Reid, who helped move Nevada’s caucuses up in the calendar in 2008, establishing his state as the first in the West, said on Sunday that it was ‘time for the Democratic Party to move to primaries everywhere.’ That affirmation was echoed on Monday by the state party’s chairman, William McCurdy II, who said it was ‘time for our state party and elected leaders to look at shifting to a primary process moving forward.’ And it was reiterated on Tuesday by the Democratic governor, Steve Sisolak, who said he would help ‘review how we could switch to an early presidential primary,’” [Isaac Stanley-Becker reports](#). “Similar sentiment

has been voiced in Iowa, where the quadrennial institution had defined the political culture of the state since it inaugurated the modern caucuses in 1972, part of an effort to make the nominating process more inclusive.”

## **Democrats are desperately trying to recruit Steve Bullock to run for Senate.**

“Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer met with [the former presidential candidate] in Montana last weekend as Democrats make a last-ditch effort to woo him to run for the Senate this year,” [Politico reports](#). “Bullock, the two-term governor and former presidential candidate, has repeatedly said he has no plans to challenge Republican Sen. Steve Daines this year. But the state’s filing deadline is just over two weeks away, and Democrats have continued to pitch Bullock on seeking the Senate seat before the window closes.”

## **A veteran running for Congress in Arizona suspended his campaign after a heroin overdose.**

“Chris Taylor, a 33-year-old Army veteran and city councilman in Safford, Ariz., told The Post that he was sober for ‘many solid years’ before the relapse. He was found unresponsive Wednesday night in his home, where paramedics revived him with naloxone,” [Meryl Kornfield reports](#). The Republican said he’s “not going to hide from this.” He said he has battled with an opioid addiction since high school. He was seeking the GOP nomination to challenge Rep. Tom O’Halloran (D).

## **ABC News suspended veteran correspondent David Wright after a Project Veritas sting.**

Network officials suspended Wright after reviewing footage gathered by the conservative group that records “undercover” footage of mainstream journalists to bolster its accusations of media bias, [Paul Farhi reports](#). It isn’t clear yet what specifically prompted the network to take action against the reporter.

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# Social media speed read

Sanders dominated the Twitter conversation during last night's debate:



 **#DemDebate**

Tenth Debate: February 25, 2020

Jill Biden wished her husband luck on the debate stage:

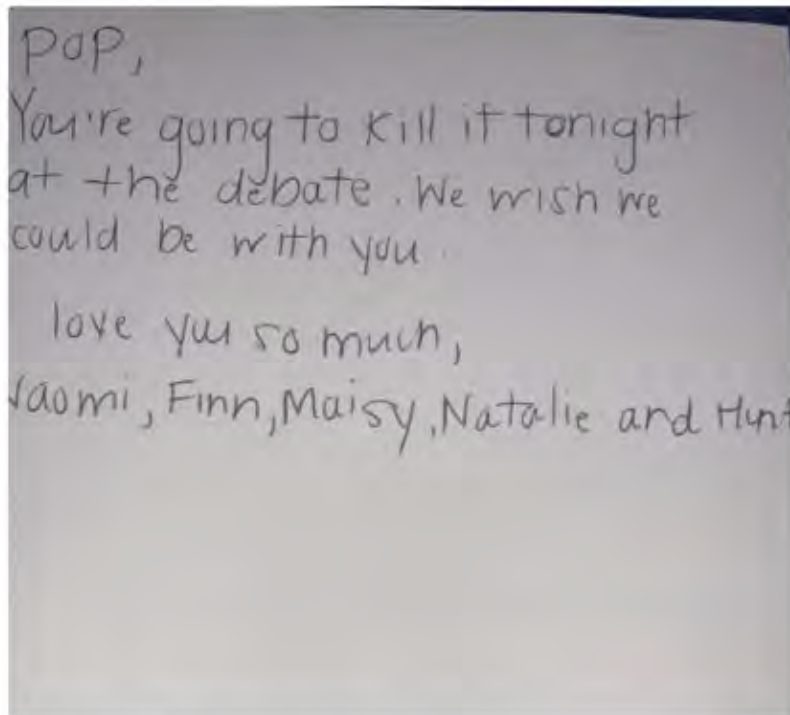


**Dr. Jill Biden** ✓

@DrBiden



Tonight, ahead of the #DemDebate, I slipped this note into @JoeBiden's jacket pocket without him knowing. ❤️  
Jill



♥️ 3,667 12:06 AM - Feb 26, 2020



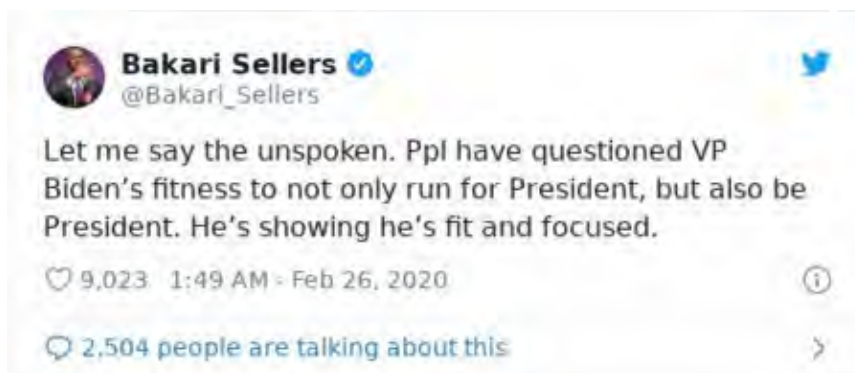
🗨️ 679 people are talking about this



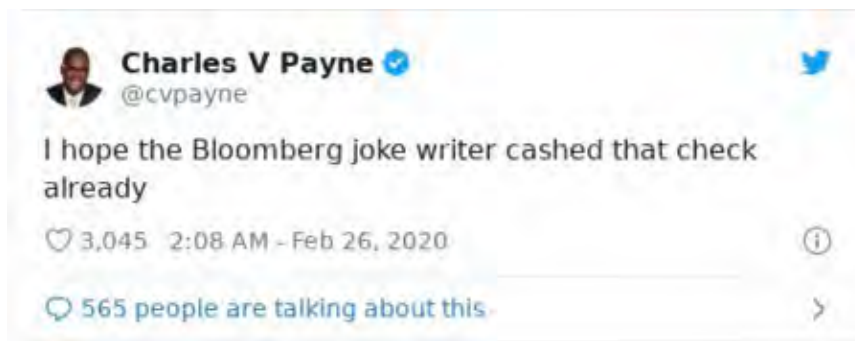
**Klobuchar got caught in the middle of a Biden vs. Steyer shouting match:**



A lot of pundits, including this former South Carolina state legislator, praised Biden's performance:



Bloomberg's one-liners were widely mocked:



A Post reporter had this interaction with a flack:



And two inspiring young activists hung out:





## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert went live after his hometown's debate and joked that it would be great if Sanders and Trump are the nominees because those are the only two impressions he can do:



Trevor Noah joked about Sanders not being in any rush to see moderates drop out of the race:



Seth Meyers called out Bloomberg and his campaign for tweeting fake quotes they attributed to Sanders:



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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Bernie Sanders refuses to get bogged down – or pinned down – on specifics during Democratic debate  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 9:24:57 AM



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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

Presented by 



By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## **Bernie Sanders refuses to get bogged down – or pinned down – on specifics during Democratic debate**

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Pete Buttigieg ripped into Bernie Sanders during Tuesday night’s presidential debate for declining to endorse the abolition of the Senate filibuster. “How are we going to deliver a revolution if you won’t even support a rule change?” the former mayor asked the front-runner for the Democratic nomination. “We are in the state where Strom Thurmond used the filibuster to block civil rights legislation repeatedly.”

Elizabeth Warren also took a shot, warning that Republicans will use the filibuster to block the next president from passing gun control legislation, tackling climate change and overhauling the immigration system. “I’ve seen gun safety legislation introduced, get a majority and then it doesn’t pass because of the filibuster,” said the senator from Massachusetts. “Understand this: The filibuster is giving a veto to the gun industry.”

Sanders chose not to directly respond to these attacks during the 10th Democratic debate, the first time he found himself standing behind the podium at center stage, on account of his lead in national polls. The independent senator from Vermont didn’t let himself get mired in a process debate about legislative procedure with two rivals, as he did during the September debate in Houston. Instead, Sanders emphasized his support for stricter gun laws. “At the end of the day, we need to rally the American people,” he said. “I am proud I have a D-minus voting record from the NRA. If elected president, it will get worse than that.”

**Sanders weathered the heavily anticipated, two-hour barrage of attacks from his six opponents by sticking relentlessly to the populist message that got him here.** At several key moments, he offered a master class in deflection. On one hand, this can be viewed as impressive message discipline from a candidate who has successfully claimed the mantle of an insurgent outsider. On the other, it could be described as sloganeering and the oversimplifying of complex issues by someone who has served in Congress since 1991. Either way, the debate served as a reminder that Sanders, despite his unconventional candidacy, is [more pragmatic than popularly understood](#).

He clearly relished the attention, if not always the scrutiny. “I’m hearing my name mentioned a little bit tonight,” he said. “I wonder why?”



**Like President Trump, Sanders is loath to admit mistakes. But he acknowledged one last night.** When Joe Biden attacked him for supporting the legislation that exempted gun manufacturers from being sued, Sanders initially responded with an attack on the former vice president. “Joe has voted for terrible trade agreements,” he said. “Joe voted for the war in Iraq.” The crowd booed. “My point was,” he continued, “I have cast thousands of votes, including bad votes. That was a bad vote.”

**Sanders, also like Trump, is a counterpuncher.** He had several other moments that might best be summarized as: *I know you are, but what am I?* Former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg expressed concern about the trillion-dollar deficit and the national debt approaching \$21 trillion. “We just cannot afford some of this stuff people talk about,” he said. Asked to respond, Sanders said: “Mayor Bloomberg has a solid and strong and enthusiastic base of support. The problem is they’re all billionaires.”

When Bloomberg noted that the intelligence community **believes** Russian President Vladimir Putin is trying to boost Sanders, Sanders ripped Bloomberg for doing **business in Beijing**. “I’m not a good friend of President Xi [Jinping] of China,” he said. “I think President Xi is an

authoritarian leader.” Sanders then added he won’t tolerate Russian interference.

Amy Klobuchar claimed Sanders’s plans would cumulatively cost \$60 trillion, or three times the size of the U.S. economy. “I think that we can get all those bold progressive things done without having someone that is so alienating that we’re going to turn off the voters that we need to bring with us,” the senator from Minnesota continued. Sanders did not quibble with her \$60 trillion figure. Instead, **like Trump did so often during the primaries in 2016, Sanders responded to this critique by pointing to polls.** “Hey, Amy,” he said, “my favorability nationally I believe are the highest up here, as a matter of fact.”

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**Sanders brushed aside a chorus of attacks related to the price tag, and therefore feasibility, of his proposed revolution.**

Moderator Norah O’Donnell said that his Medicare-for-all plan would cost \$30 trillion over 10 years, but he’s only outlined how he’d pay for half of it. She asked: “Can you do the math for the rest of us?” Sanders replied:

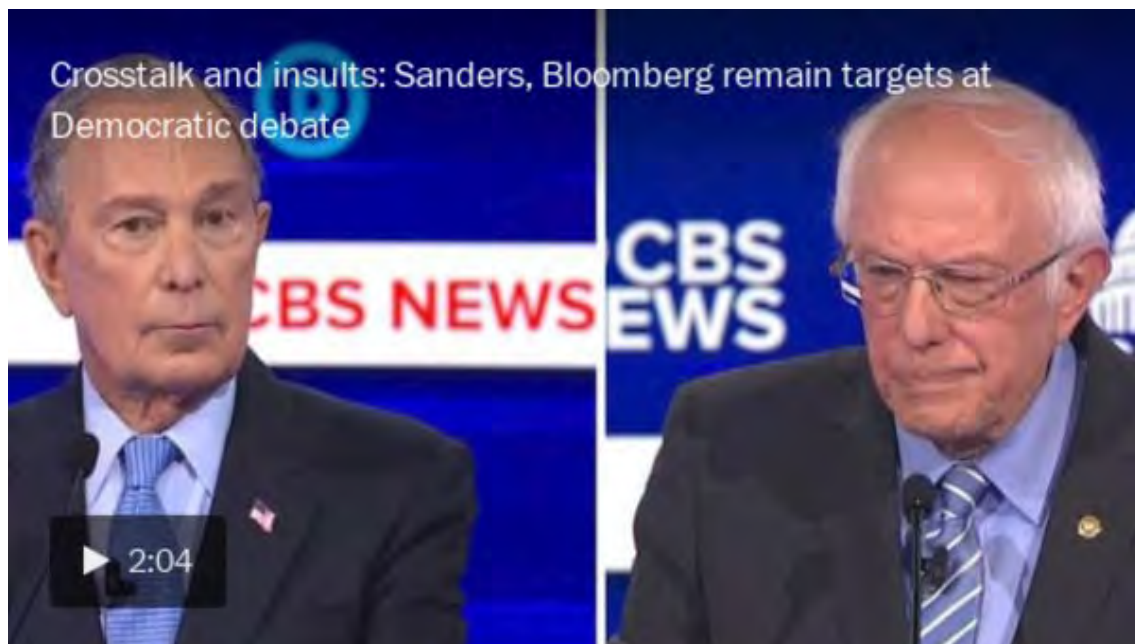
“How many hours do you have?” Biden interjected: “That’s the problem.”

Sanders **noted** that he’s “laid out options all over the place,” including a seven-and-a-half percent payroll tax on employers. He then cited a new study, which he didn’t mention was co-written by one of his own former advisers, that claims his Medicare-for-all plan would reduce overall costs for consumers. **Our fact-checkers note** that the study has come under fire for a number of its assumptions, such as a single-payer plan paying current Medicare reimbursement rates to doctors, hospitals and other providers.

**Trying to position herself as a liberal who is more effective than Sanders, Warren criticized Sanders for not offering as many details on paying for universal health care as she does in her plan.** “I did the work and then Bernie’s team trashed me for it,” she said. “We need a president who is going to dig in, do the hard work and actually get it done. Progressives have got one shot, and we need to spend it with a leader who will get something done.”

Buttigieg piled on. “Senator Sanders at one point said it was going to be \$40 trillion,” he said. “Then it was \$30 trillion. Then it was \$17 trillion. That’s an incredible shrinking price tag. At some point, he said it is unknowable what the price tag would be. Now there are new numbers. I’ll tell you exactly what it adds up to: It adds to four more years of Donald Trump.”





**His Democratic rivals seemed more interested in delivering zingers like this, in a bid to elevate themselves as the best alternative to Sanders one week out from Super Tuesday, than pushing the democratic socialist to actually answer underlying questions about positions that are outside the Democratic mainstream.** It's the latest manifestation of [the collective action problem](#) that continues to work to Sanders's advantage.

**Red in the face, Sanders sometimes struggled to get a word in as everyone else tried to dunk on him.** Klobuchar cited a Vanderbilt University study that she said showed she was the most effective senator across 15 metrics and noted that the same research showed Sanders and Warren were much less effective than her. Neither was given a chance to respond.

**The CBS moderators lost control of the contentious debate early and never got it back.** Sanders was asked three times to give a "quick" response to something, which allowed him to skirt specifics. The moderators also failed to ask Warren about her flip-flop to welcome the help of a super PAC or Biden's recent false claims that he once got arrested during a trip to South Africa.

**Sanders also avoided particulars on foreign policy.** When he was

asked specifically whether he would move the U.S. Embassy from Jerusalem back to Tel Aviv, he gave this non-answer: “The answer is it’s something we would take into consideration.”

**The democratic socialist defended his praise for Fidel Castro’s literacy programs in Cuba.** “Occasionally it might be a good idea to be honest about American foreign policy, and that includes the fact that America has overthrown governments all over the world in Chile, in Guatemala and in Iran,” said Sanders. “And when dictatorships, whether it is the Chinese or the Cubans, do something good, you acknowledge that. But you don't have to trade love letters with them.”

**Buttigieg, who seemed more determined to attack Sanders than anyone else, ridiculed this.** “I am not looking forward to a scenario where it comes down to Donald Trump, with his nostalgia for the social order of the 1950s, and Bernie Sanders, with a nostalgia for the revolutionary politics of the 1960s,” he said. “This is not about what coups were happening in the 1970s or '80s. ... This is about 2020. We are not going to survive or succeed, and we're certainly not going to win by reliving the Cold War. And we're not going to win these critical House and Senate races if people in those races have to explain why the nominee of the Democratic Party is telling people to look at the bright side of the Castro regime.”

“Let us be clear,” Sanders replied, “do we think health care for all, Pete, is some kind of radical communist idea?”

“What is a radical idea is completely eliminating all private insurance,” Buttigieg replied later. “And part of how you know it is, is that no industrialized country has gone that far. He and I both like to talk about Denmark, for example. But even in Denmark, they have not abolished the possibility of private insurance. So this is an idea that goes further than what is acceptable in Denmark the country, let alone imagining how that's going to fly in Denmark, South Carolina.”

**Sanders circled back to the theme of radicalism in his final**

**answer.** When all the candidates were asked to share what they see as the biggest misconception about them, Sanders said it's that people see his ideas as radical. "In one form or another, they exist in countries all over the world," he said. "The saying that moves me the most is from Nelson Mandela. Mandela said everything is impossible until it happens."



### More team coverage

**"The tone of the debate ultimately became a metaphor for the Democratic race itself,** as it was marred repeatedly by candidates interrupting one another, talking over each other and constantly ignoring the moderators' efforts to bring some order to the unruly evening," [writes Dan Balz](#). "What the evening highlighted was the degree to which Sanders stands apart from the field, with the other candidates divided and sparring with one another as much as with [him]. Sanders has his base, and it has served him well enough so far. The others are trying to find theirs. None of Sanders's rivals rose significantly above the others. For Sanders, that was probably a satisfactory outcome."

**"While falling short of the glossy image that appeared during the commercial breaks, Bloomberg succeeded in doing what he had failed to do a week earlier in Las Vegas,"** [adds Michael Scherer](#). "He delivered his messages — about his experience, his policy goals and

his political focus — without a script in front of him, albeit with less polish, more stiffness and a far more stilted style of delivering a joke than his ads suggest. ... Still, Bloomberg spent significant time responding to attacks — on his treatment of women, his comments about banks’ redlining policies, his yet-unreleased tax returns and his praise of the Chinese leadership. He appeared agitated when [Warren] cited a woman’s account that he told her to ‘kill’ her baby when she got pregnant, responding: ‘I never said it. Period, end of story.’ It was far from clear whether his performance was enough to save his hopes for the nomination.”



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## Quote of the day

*“All of the new Democrats that came in, put Nancy Pelosi in charge, and gave the Congress the ability to control this president — I bought,” said Bloomberg, referring to \$100 million he spent to help House candidates in the 2018 midterms. He quickly corrected himself: “I — I got them.”*  
*(Matt Viser, Annie Linskey, Sean Sullivan and Cleve Wootson)*

**Buttigieg’s campaign canceled a four-stop swing through South Florida scheduled for today.** “Multiple aides to Buttigieg said he is sick and needed a day to rest,” [Chelsea Janes reports](#). **“Buttigieg looked**

**sweatier than usual during the debate and appeared to have a cough drop in his mouth at various moments.** He has maintained one of the more rigorous schedules of any of the candidates and will still appear at a breakfast in Charleston on Wednesday morning. Three of the events scheduled in South Florida were fundraisers, meaning the cancellation could be a costly one for Buttigieg. His campaign has been pushing to raise \$13 million by Super Tuesday, and it sent a several-page memo to supporters outlining where and why it needs money for ad buys.”

**The next debate will take place in Phoenix on March 15.** The Sunday night battle will come before primaries that Tuesday in Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Ohio. By then, 47 percent of the delegates will have been pledged. The DNC still hasn’t announced the eligibility requirements for the debate, which will air on CNN and Univision. How much will the field have winnowed by then? Who will have emerged with the strongest chance of stopping Sanders?

## **Notable commentary**

**Politico’s John Harris argues that Democrats needed a good debate but got a bad one instead:** “The evening offered limited opportunities—*were these possibly enough?*—for six Democrats not named Sanders to revive their candidacies with last-stand moments to emerge as the main alternative to the self-described democratic socialist.”

**The Times’s Frank Bruni says the debate “felt like a genuine freakout”:** Sanders’s competitors “seemed to be in the grip of some larger existential crisis, their understanding of their party’s dynamics challenged, their sense of its destiny upended and their dread of blowing an immeasurably consequential election profound.” **Post columnist Dana Milbank says Sanders stirred up “a sickening sense of déjà vu” to the Republican debate in South Carolina four years ago,** when the other candidates piled on Trump, but it was too little and too late to stop him from winning the nomination. “The winner of Tuesday night’s debate was Trump,” he concludes.

- **The Fix’s Aaron Blake** declares Warren and Biden the winners and

Sanders and Bloomberg the losers.

- [Post columnist Jen Rubin](#): “Biden needed the debate of his life. He delivered.”
- [CNN’s Chris Cillizza](#) says Buttigieg, Biden, Klobuchar, Sanders and Trump won, while Bloomberg and Warren lost.
- [Vox’s team](#) says Sanders won and Klobuchar lost.
- [The Guardian’s Jessa Crispin](#) says Warren dominated the mic but Sanders held his ground.
- [FiveThirtyEight’s Nate Silver](#) thinks Biden “pulled out his best debate with his back to the wall.”
- [Democratic operative Mary Anne Marsh](#), writing for Fox News, calls Sanders, Warren and Biden winners, but she thinks the other four candidates onstage lost.
- [The New Republic’s Walter Shapiro](#) thinks Biden, Buttigieg and Klobuchar fared well, but Sanders and Bloomberg lost ground.
- [Bloomberg Opinion’s Ramesh Ponnuru](#) said Biden and Bloomberg performed better than they did at last week’s debate, but he argues that Sanders emerged victorious.
- [Mother Jones’s Edwin Rios and Nathalie Baptiste](#) said the debate was pretty much a pandering fest to South Carolina’s black voters.

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## The coronavirus



A man wearing a protective face mask watches the Nikkei index tank outside a brokerage house in Tokyo. (Athit Perawongmetha/Reuters)

## The CDC warned the virus's spread in the United States is “inevitable.”

“The warnings from officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health and other agencies, contrasted sharply with assessments from President Trump and other White House officials, who have largely dismissed concerns about the virus,” [Erica Werner, Yasmeen Abutaleb, Lena Sun and Lenny Bernstein report](#). “The mixed messages continued Tuesday as dire warnings issued to senators and reporters early in the day gave way to a more positive assessment, after the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 3.4 percent, bringing the two-day loss to more than 1,900 points — the worst in two years.”

- “We believe the immediate risk here in the United States remains low, and we’re working hard to keep that risk low,” Anne Schuchat, the CDC’s principal deputy director, said during a hastily convened afternoon news briefing.
- “Ultimately, we expect we will see community spread in the United

States. It's not a question of if this will happen, but when this will happen, and how many people in this country will have severe illnesses," Nancy Messonnier, the director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the CDC, said during the morning briefing.

**"The confused messaging threatened to obscure urgent public health advice coming from the CDC ...** Businesses need to consider replacing in-person meetings with telework, Messonnier said. School authorities should consider ways to limit face-to-face contact, such as dividing students into smaller groups, using Internet-based learning or even closing schools. Local officials should consider modifying, postponing or canceling large gatherings. Hospitals should consider ways to triage patients who do not need urgent care and recommend that patients delay surgery that isn't absolutely necessary."

### **The White House seems mainly focused on reducing public alarm.**

"Trump is highly concerned about the market and has encouraged aides not to give predictions that might cause further tremors," [Jeff Stein and Josh Dawsey report](#). "Privately, Trump has become furious about the stock market's slide, according to two people familiar with the president's thinking ... **Some White House officials have been unhappy with how Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar has handled the situation ...** White House officials often face a tricky balance of trying to assure the public while also not dismissing threats that could become calamities. The Dow is still up markedly from 2017, when Trump took office, but it closed Tuesday at its lowest level since October." Global financial markets continued losing ground overnight.

### **The acting head of DHS was grilled by a GOP senator over the response.**

"Appearing in front of a Senate appropriations subcommittee, [Chad] Wolf was on the receiving end of a brutal line of questioning from Sen. John Neely Kennedy (R-La.). Throughout the exchange, Wolf struggled to



produce basic facts and projections about the disease,” [Aaron Blake reports](#).



### **No major lockdown is planned in a South Korean region stricken with the virus.**

“When a spokesman for South Korea's ruling party suggested Tuesday that the government would be rolling out a ‘maximum lockdown’ on the coronavirus-hit southern city of Daegu, the backlash was immediate and the political retreat swift,” [Min Joo Kim and Simon Denyer report](#). “Hong Ihk-pyo soon clarified that he didn’t mean a ‘Wuhan-style lockdown’ or a blockade on travel into and out of the city — along the lines that China’s Communist Party has imposed on Wuhan and surrounding areas at the center of the covid-19 outbreak. President Moon Jae-in soon chimed in. There would be no regional blockade, he said, only a full-scale effort to contain the spread of the virus.” Infection numbers soared in South Korea to over 1,200.

### **France and Iran reported new deaths this morning.**

“France reported the first death of a French citizen from the epidemic as cases spread rapidly across Europe, with Spain confirming eight new cases in the past 24 hours and new infections reported in France, Croatia, Austria and Switzerland,” [according to our live blog](#). “Nineteen people

have died in Iran from the novel coronavirus outbreak, Iranian Health Ministry spokesman Kianush Jahanpur told state television on Wednesday.”

### **The virus hits seniors the hardest. Italy’s elderly population is on the front line.**

“That has set off a race in countries with significant older populations — like Italy — to figure out whether there are ways to protect their most vulnerable: those in hospitals, in nursing homes, and seniors in sealed-off hot-spot towns who are watching television and fearing the worst,” [Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). “But even as Italy works to contain what is the first major coronavirus outbreak in Europe, there is growing concern that the virus is outracing the health measures. New cases on Tuesday popped up farther from the original cluster, including in the southern island of Sicily and the tourist-heavy Tuscan capital, Florence. Italy has at least 322 confirmed cases and 11 deaths, all people who were elderly or already sick.”

### **The U.S. government can quarantine you. There’s almost nothing you can do about it.**

“Regulations set forth by the [CDC] give health officials broad authority to quarantine or isolate anyone ‘reasonably believed’ to have been exposed to a range of highly infectious diseases. The list includes cholera, infectious tuberculosis and flus that can cause a pandemic,” [Derek Hawkins reports](#). “The government’s powers to sequester people in the name of public health are rooted in the Constitution’s Commerce Clause, which allows Congress to regulate foreign and interstate commerce.”

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## **The Trump presidency**



President Trump and first lady Melania Trump attend a wreath-laying ceremony at Mohandas Gandhi's memorial in New Delhi on Tuesday. (Alexander Drago/Reuters)

## **Trump praised Modi's record on religious tolerance, as violence erupted over discrimination against Muslims.**

“Trump avoided any public criticism of his host — whose political biography is also built partly on religious and cultural divisions — along with any comparison of [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi's policies with his own treatment of Muslim immigrants,” [Anne Gearan, Joanna Slatter, Seung Min Kim and Niha Masih report](#). “We did talk about religious freedom, and I will say that the prime minister was incredible in what he told me. He wants people to have religious freedom and very strongly,” Trump said during a news conference that capped the public portion of his largely ceremonial visit. Modi, who leads the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, has insisted that the citizenship law aims to help persecuted religious minorities in three nearby countries. ... **At least 17 people were killed, including a police officer, in clashes in the capital city during Trump's visit.** The violence began when supporters of the citizenship law confronted opponents of the measure. ...

“The citizenship law, along with India's other actions, has drawn

bipartisan criticism in Congress, but Trump tread lightly. The president said he had 'asked that question' during a closed-door meeting Tuesday, but he was vague about whether he criticized Modi for his decision. 'I don't want to discuss that,' he said when asked for his opinion of the law. 'I want to leave that to India, and hopefully they're going to make the right decision for the people.' ... **Trump and Modi issued joint statements praising the growing defense cooperation between the two countries, but they did not field questions together.** ... Although they spent much of the day together, including at a state banquet of salmon and grilled goat, Modi is known for not having held a news conference in his six years as prime minister.”

### **There's a new senior leader at the White House personnel office. He's a college senior.**

[Politico reports](#) that James Bacon, 23, is acting as one of the right-hand men to new director of presidential personnel John McEntee, who is 29: "Bacon, a senior at George Washington University pursuing a bachelor's degree, comes from the Department of Transportation, where he briefly worked in the policy shop. Bacon will be PPO's director of operations overseeing paperwork and will assist on vetting. The role was previously filled by Katja Bullock, who is in her late 70s and was a veteran of the office in both Bush administrations, as well as the Reagan administration.”

### **A Trump judicial nominee once called for abolishing Social Security.**

Stephen Schwartz, nominated to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, argued 15 years ago “that several federal agencies should be eliminated and that Social Security should be abolished because economic disparity ‘is a natural aspect of the human condition,’” [Robert O’Harrow Jr. reports](#). “Schwartz wrote that the departments of Transportation, Agriculture and Education lack a ‘constitutional basis,’ and that Social Security benefits were intended to prevent ‘outright starvation’ but had become a ‘standard component of most retirement programs.’”

## **Trump escalated his attacks on the judicial branch.**

“In [tweets](#) and comments at a news conference in India — and just a month before the Supreme Court is to consider congressional and prosecutors’ requests for the president’s closely guarded financial records — Trump targeted Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg,” [Robert Barnes and Ashley Parker report](#). “Trump interpreted as biased a [dissent from Sotomayor](#) about his administration’s tendency to seek emergency interventions from the Supreme Court. ... The president’s broadside breached what normally is an arm’s-length distance between the White House and the high court, and cast the disagreements into starkly personal terms. ... A court spokeswoman on Tuesday said that [John] Roberts, Sotomayor and Ginsburg had no comment ... Writing only for herself, Sotomayor complained that the federal government has been too quick to ask the Supreme Court for emergency relief from lower-court decisions that had not gone through the usual legal process. ... Neither opinion — the one written by Sotomayor or [the other by \[Justices Neil Gorsuch and \[Clarence\] Thomas](#) — specifically mentioned Trump or the administration.”

## **Trump also attacked a juror who voted to convict his confidant Roger Stone.**

Trump “injected new political drama into the legal debate over whether [Stone] deserves a new trial, tweeting during a hearing in the matter that the jury forewoman who voted to convict his longtime friend and confidant was ‘totally biased’ and seeming to suggest the judge was, as well,” [Spencer S. Hsu and Matt Zapposky report](#). “Trump’s comments came just as U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson had rebuked him and others over their attacks on the juror, and they seemed to put the president at odds with his own Justice Department, which argued against Stone’s bid for new legal proceedings. Jackson ultimately ended the hearing without a decision after taking testimony from three jurors on the panel — including the forewoman. The judge is expected to issue a ruling soon.”

## **Senate Republicans backed Bill Barr after his clash with**

## Trump.

“GOP lawmakers gave [the attorney general] a solid show of support in a private lunch meeting,” [Mike DeBonis reports](#) “Every sentence began with, ‘Keep up the good work,’” said Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), recalling senators’ remarks at the lunch, which began with a round of applause for Barr. ... [Mitch] McConnell told reporters afterward that Barr ‘enjoys overwhelming support’ in the Republican ranks: ‘We all think he’s doing an outstanding job.’ ... ‘He didn’t give any indication he’s going anywhere,’ said Senate Majority Whip John Thune (R-S.D.). ...

“Barr also finds himself in the middle of a thorny issue that has split Republican lawmakers — the pending expiration of key federal surveillance authorities. ... Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), among others, is pushing to take any future surveillance of political campaigns out of the secret foreign intelligence court entirely, among other changes to the existing law. ... But Barr, according to multiple senators, said he was not pressing for any specific statutory change to address the alleged Trump-related warrant abuses, which were detailed in a December report from Michael E. Horowitz, the Justice Department inspector general. Instead, he indicated that he would pursue administrative changes to remake how secret warrants are obtained and supervised.”

## **The NSA’s phone program cost \$100 million but produced just two unique leads.**

“A National Security Agency system that analyzed logs of Americans’ domestic phone calls and text messages cost \$100 million from 2015 to 2019, but yielded only a single significant investigation, according to a newly declassified study,” [the New York Times reports](#). “Moreover, only twice during that four-year period did the program generate unique information that the F.B.I. did not already possess, said the study, which was produced by the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board and briefed to Congress ... The report did not reveal the subject matter of the one significant F.B.I. investigation that was spurred by the Freedom Act program, and it did not divulge its outcome.”

## **Seventy former senators signed onto an op-ed saying the Senate isn't performing its constitutional duties.**

[In an open letter](#), a bipartisan group of former lawmakers said Congress isn't functioning as the Framers intended. "The Senate's abdication of its legislative and oversight responsibilities erodes the checks and balances of the separate powers that are designed to protect the liberties on which our democracy depends," they write.

## **Two antiabortion bills failed to advance in the Senate.**

"All Republicans except Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) voted for a bill banning abortion after 20 weeks, while Democratic Sens. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) and Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) supported the measure," [Politico reports](#). "All four lawmakers, meanwhile, voted for a bill requiring doctors to provide care to survivors of failed abortions. Sen. Doug Jones of Alabama, the most vulnerable Democrat facing reelection, opposed the 20-week ban but voted for the second measure."

## **The Supreme Court ruled that the family of a Mexican teen killed by the Border Patrol can't sue in U.S. courts.**

"The court's conservatives prevailed in the 5 to 4 ruling, in which the court for the second time considered whether relatives of foreign victims injured on foreign soil can go to court without express authorization from Congress," [Barnes reports](#). "The case began with the death of 15-year-old Sergio Adrián Hernández Güereca, who was fatally shot by a federal agent in 2010 on the Mexican side of the wide concrete culvert that separates El Paso from Juarez, Mexico. Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. wrote for his conservative colleagues, saying a respect for the separation of powers means that courts should be reluctant to allow lawsuits filed by foreign victims in U.S. courts without express congressional authorization."

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## **More on 2020**



## **A Sanders nomination would complicate the reelection campaigns of three Virginia congresswomen.**

GOP candidates and groups are already targeting the once deep-red Virginia districts held by Democratic Reps. Elaine Luria, Abigail Spanberger and Jennifer Wexton, trying to link the freshman lawmakers to Sanders. [Jenna Portnoy reports](#) that Luria, who backs Biden, wasted no time in denouncing Sanders this week after he said he would skip the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee: “Her swift reaction was an example of the tactics she and other centrist Democrats may use to try to steer clear of [Sanders] if he wins their party’s presidential nomination. ... Spanberger and Wexton have not made endorsements in the presidential contest and have no plans to at the moment. Spanberger, a former CIA officer, said she has already cast her absentee ballot; she declined to reveal her choice or rule anyone out. Rob Jones, one of several Republicans vying to challenge Wexton in November, suggested last week that because Wexton often votes the same way as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), a top Sanders surrogate, Wexton must support Sanders. Wexton balked at that logic, and said: ‘I will not be supporting Bernie Sanders in this primary.’”

**The Democratic establishment in Texas is freaking out about Sanders's rise.**



“Rep. Marc Veasey is about as restrained as Texans come, but in recent days he has unloaded ... to practically any reporter he could find,” [the Texas Tribune reports](#). “His message? [Sanders’s] march to the party’s nomination will jeopardize Texas Democrats’ efforts to capture the state House of Representatives and a slew of U.S. House seats across the state. ... While Sanders supporters proclaim a growing movement that will bring out new voters needed to flip the state, nearly two dozen Texas Democratic officeholders, candidates, activists and donors interviewed for this story expressed concern — sometimes bordering on despair — that a Sanders Democratic nomination is the difference between being on offense or in retreat in Texas this cycle.”

### **Mitch McConnell said Sanders may be more competitive than pundits think.**

“I’m reminded of when the Democrats back in 1980 were all pulling for Ronald Reagan to be the nominee because they thought he’d be the easiest to beat,” McConnell told reporters, [per Politico](#). “I think it’s going to be a contested general election with a lot of energy on both sides, and for myself I’ll leave it up to the Democrats to pick who they’d like to be their candidate.”

### **The Boston Globe [endorsed](#) Warren for president, a year after calling for her not to run.**

This is significant because Sanders is making a play to win Massachusetts on Super Tuesday, scheduling rallies for later this week in Boston and Springfield. “In December 2018, this editorial board expressed doubt that Elizabeth Warren should run for president. She has proved us wrong and has shaped the course of the race for the better. The electorate, at least in recent polls and in the early states, is signaling its preference for the profound change that underpins Warren’s agenda. Sanders has been the main beneficiary, but is less likely to deliver; he has shown no ability over the course of his career to build broad legislative coalitions. Warren is uniquely poised to accomplish serious reform without sacrificing what’s working in our economy and innovation ecosystem. She would get under the hood to fix the engine — not drive off a cliff, but also not just kick the

tires.”

## **9/11 was a turning point in Bloomberg's quest to become New York mayor.**

“Bloomberg awoke early on that crisp and cloudless Tuesday and walked from his East Side mansion to his neighborhood polling place, where he saw his name on an election ballot for the first time, as a Republican candidate for mayor. It was Sept. 11, 2001, primary day, and Bloomberg was in the thick of trying to reinvent himself as the face of America’s largest city,” [Paul Schwartzmann reports](#) in the latest version of our Pursuits series. “Then someone told him that an airplane had slammed into the World Trade Center. ... What Bloomberg did not know in that moment — what no one could have known — is that the [attack] would fuel his unlikely rise as New York’s mayor and become a foundation for his race for the White House. ... ‘We began to write a comeback story,’ Bloomberg tells audiences, recalling that he took over a city ‘in tatters’ after winning an election that ‘almost no one’ — not even his mother, he often notes — ‘thought I had a chance.’ Bloomberg’s 12 years at City Hall lifted him to newfound prominence and spanned the rebirth of Lower Manhattan, the rise of the new World Trade Center and the opening of the 9/11 Memorial. Yet, in 2001, as he aspired to succeed Republican Mayor Rudy Giuliani, he was largely unknown beyond Wall Street and the exclusive dinner parties and charity galas he frequented.”

## **Hard work saved the Nevada caucuses, but it may not have been enough.**

“[Harry] Reid, who helped move Nevada’s caucuses up in the calendar in 2008, establishing his state as the first in the West, said on Sunday that it was ‘time for the Democratic Party to move to primaries everywhere.’ That affirmation was echoed on Monday by the state party’s chairman, William McCurdy II, who said it was ‘time for our state party and elected leaders to look at shifting to a primary process moving forward.’ And it was reiterated on Tuesday by the Democratic governor, Steve Sisolak, who said he would help ‘review how we could switch to an early presidential primary,’” [Isaac Stanley-Becker reports](#). “Similar sentiment has been

voiced in Iowa, where the quadrennial institution had defined the political culture of the state since it inaugurated the modern caucuses in 1972, part of an effort to make the nominating process more inclusive.”

## **Democrats are desperately trying to recruit Steve Bullock to run for Senate.**

“Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer met with [the former presidential candidate] in Montana last weekend as Democrats make a last-ditch effort to woo him to run for the Senate this year,” [Politico reports](#). “Bullock, the two-term governor and former presidential candidate, has repeatedly said he has no plans to challenge Republican Sen. Steve Daines this year. But the state’s filing deadline is just over two weeks away, and Democrats have continued to pitch Bullock on seeking the Senate seat before the window closes.”

## **A veteran running for Congress in Arizona suspended his campaign after a heroin overdose.**

“Chris Taylor, a 33-year-old Army veteran and city councilman in Safford, Ariz., told The Post that he was sober for ‘many solid years’ before the relapse. He was found unresponsive Wednesday night in his home, where paramedics revived him with naloxone,” [Meryl Kornfield reports](#). The Republican said he’s “not going to hide from this.” He said he has battled with an opioid addiction since high school. He was seeking the GOP nomination to challenge Rep. Tom O’Halloran (D).

## **ABC News suspended veteran correspondent David Wright after a Project Veritas sting.**

Network officials suspended Wright after reviewing footage gathered by the conservative group that records “undercover” footage of mainstream journalists to bolster its accusations of media bias, [Paul Farhi reports](#). It isn’t clear yet what specifically prompted the network to take action against the reporter.

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# Social media speed read

Sanders dominated the Twitter conversation during last night's debate:



 **#DemDebate**

Tenth Debate: February 25, 2020

Jill Biden wished her husband luck on the debate stage:

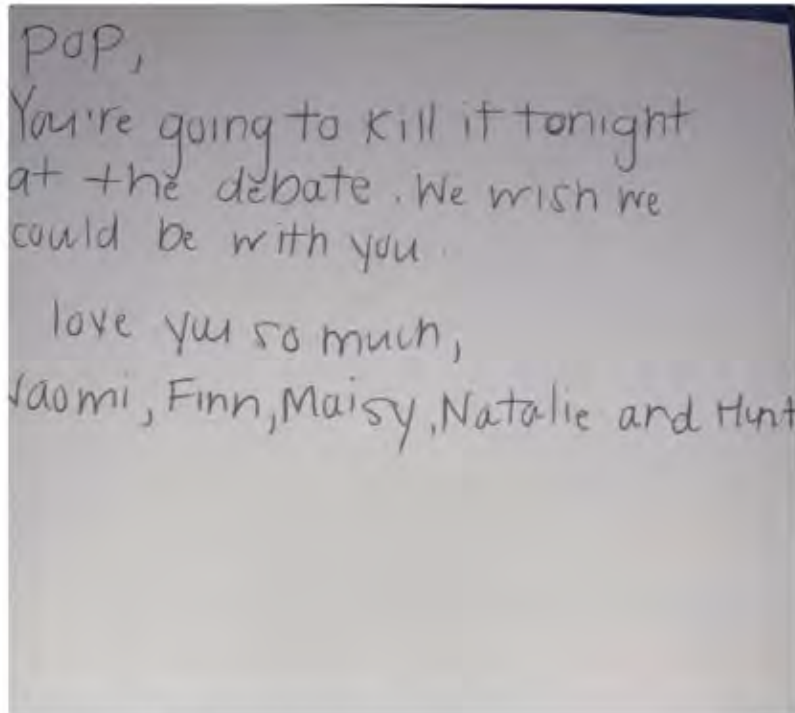


**Dr. Jill Biden** ✓

@DrBiden



Tonight, ahead of the #DemDebate, I slipped this note into @JoeBiden's jacket pocket without him knowing. ❤️  
Jill



♥️ 3,667 12:06 AM - Feb 26, 2020



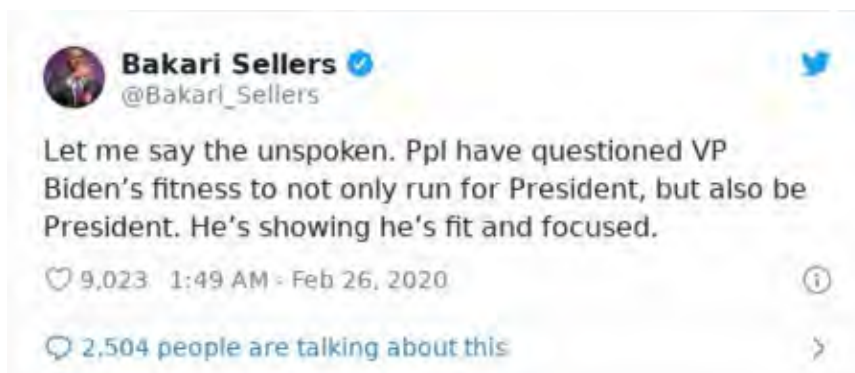
🗨️ 679 people are talking about this



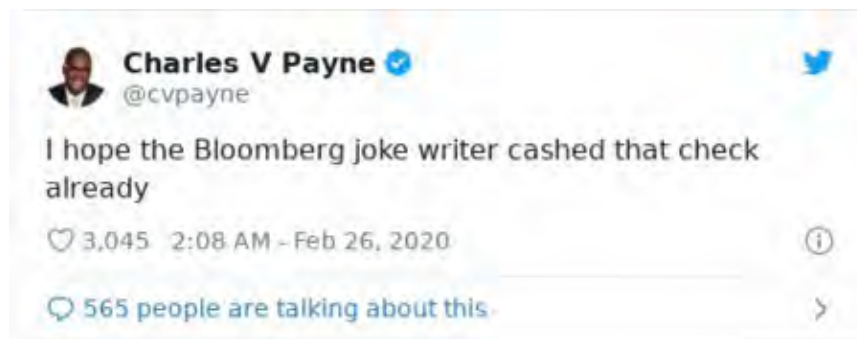
**Klobuchar got caught in the middle of a Biden vs. Steyer shouting match:**



A lot of pundits, including this former South Carolina state legislator, praised Biden's performance:



Bloomberg's one-liners were widely mocked:



A Post reporter had this interaction with a flack:



And two inspiring young activists hung out:



**Malala** ✓  
@Malala



She's the only friend I'd skip school for.



♥ 555K 4:46 PM - Feb 25, 2020



💬 65.8K people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert went live after his hometown's debate and joked that it would be great if Sanders and Trump are the nominees because those are the only two impressions he can do:





Trevor Noah joked about Sanders not being in any rush to see moderates drop out of the race:



Seth Meyers called out Bloomberg and his campaign for tweeting fake quotes they attributed to Sanders:



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**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Bernie Sanders refuses to get bogged down – or pinned down – on specifics during Democratic debate  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 9:25:15 AM



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# The Daily 202

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## **Bernie Sanders refuses to get bogged down – or pinned down – on specifics during Democratic debate**

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Pete Buttigieg ripped into Bernie Sanders during Tuesday night’s presidential debate for declining to endorse the abolition of the Senate filibuster. “How are we going to deliver a revolution if you won’t even support a rule change?” the former mayor asked the front-runner for the Democratic nomination. “We are in the state where Strom Thurmond used the filibuster to block civil rights legislation repeatedly.”

Elizabeth Warren also took a shot, warning that Republicans will use the filibuster to block the next president from passing gun control legislation, tackling climate change and overhauling the immigration system. “I’ve seen gun safety legislation introduced, get a majority and then it doesn’t pass because of the filibuster,” said the senator from Massachusetts. “Understand this: The filibuster is giving a veto to the gun industry.”

Sanders chose not to directly respond to these attacks during the 10th Democratic debate, the first time he found himself standing behind the podium at center stage, on account of his lead in national polls. The independent senator from Vermont didn’t let himself get mired in a process debate about legislative procedure with two rivals, as he did during the September debate in Houston. Instead, Sanders emphasized his support for stricter gun laws. “At the end of the day, we need to rally the American people,” he said. “I am proud I have a D-minus voting record from the NRA. If elected president, it will get worse than that.”

**Sanders weathered the heavily anticipated, two-hour barrage of attacks from his six opponents by sticking relentlessly to the populist message that got him here.** At several key moments, he offered a master class in deflection. On one hand, this can be viewed as impressive message discipline from a candidate who has successfully claimed the mantle of an insurgent outsider. On the other, it could be described as sloganeering and the oversimplifying of complex issues by someone who has served in Congress since 1991. Either way, the debate served as a reminder that Sanders, despite his unconventional candidacy, is [more pragmatic than popularly understood](#).

He clearly relished the attention, if not always the scrutiny. “I’m hearing my name mentioned a little bit tonight,” he said. “I wonder why?”



**Like President Trump, Sanders is loath to admit mistakes. But he acknowledged one last night.** When Joe Biden attacked him for supporting the legislation that exempted gun manufacturers from being sued, Sanders initially responded with an attack on the former vice president. “Joe has voted for terrible trade agreements,” he said. “Joe voted for the war in Iraq.” The crowd booed. “My point was,” he continued, “I have cast thousands of votes, including bad votes. That was a bad vote.”

**Sanders, also like Trump, is a counterpuncher.** He had several other moments that might best be summarized as: *I know you are, but what am I?* Former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg expressed concern about the trillion-dollar deficit and the national debt approaching \$21 trillion. “We just cannot afford some of this stuff people talk about,” he said. Asked to respond, Sanders said: “Mayor Bloomberg has a solid and strong and enthusiastic base of support. The problem is they’re all billionaires.”

When Bloomberg noted that the intelligence community **believes** Russian President Vladimir Putin is trying to boost Sanders, Sanders ripped Bloomberg for doing **business in Beijing**. “I’m not a good friend of President Xi [Jinping] of China,” he said. “I think President Xi is an

authoritarian leader.” Sanders then added he won’t tolerate Russian interference.

Amy Klobuchar claimed Sanders’s plans would cumulatively cost \$60 trillion, or three times the size of the U.S. economy. “I think that we can get all those bold progressive things done without having someone that is so alienating that we’re going to turn off the voters that we need to bring with us,” the senator from Minnesota continued. Sanders did not quibble with her \$60 trillion figure. Instead, **like Trump did so often during the primaries in 2016, Sanders responded to this critique by pointing to polls.** “Hey, Amy,” he said, “my favorability nationally I believe are the highest up here, as a matter of fact.”

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**Sanders brushed aside a chorus of attacks related to the price tag, and therefore feasibility, of his proposed revolution.**

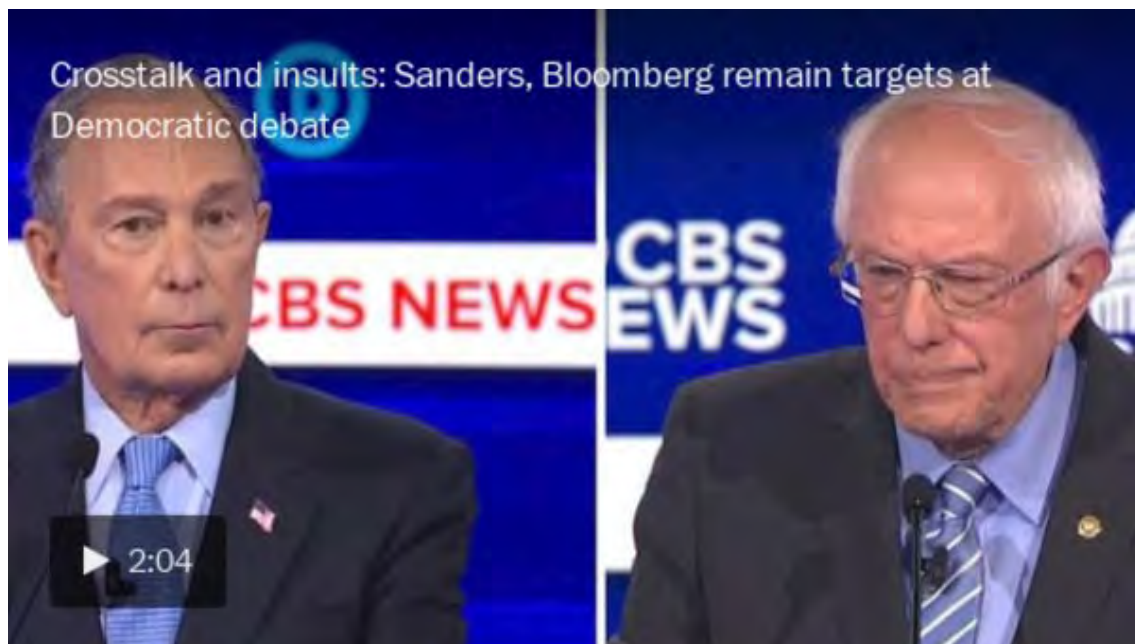
Moderator Norah O’Donnell said that his Medicare-for-all plan would cost \$30 trillion over 10 years, but he’s only outlined how he’d pay for half of it. She asked: “Can you do the math for the rest of us?” Sanders replied:

“How many hours do you have?” Biden interjected: “That’s the problem.”

Sanders **noted** that he’s “laid out options all over the place,” including a seven-and-a-half percent payroll tax on employers. He then cited a new study, which he didn’t mention was co-written by one of his own former advisers, that claims his Medicare-for-all plan would reduce overall costs for consumers. **Our fact-checkers note** that the study has come under fire for a number of its assumptions, such as a single-payer plan paying current Medicare reimbursement rates to doctors, hospitals and other providers.

**Trying to position herself as a liberal who is more effective than Sanders, Warren criticized Sanders for not offering as many details on paying for universal health care as she does in her plan.** “I did the work and then Bernie’s team trashed me for it,” she said. “We need a president who is going to dig in, do the hard work and actually get it done. Progressives have got one shot, and we need to spend it with a leader who will get something done.”

Buttigieg piled on. “Senator Sanders at one point said it was going to be \$40 trillion,” he said. “Then it was \$30 trillion. Then it was \$17 trillion. That’s an incredible shrinking price tag. At some point, he said it is unknowable what the price tag would be. Now there are new numbers. I’ll tell you exactly what it adds up to: It adds to four more years of Donald Trump.”



**His Democratic rivals seemed more interested in delivering zingers like this, in a bid to elevate themselves as the best alternative to Sanders one week out from Super Tuesday, than pushing the democratic socialist to actually answer underlying questions about positions that are outside the Democratic mainstream.** It's the latest manifestation of [the collective action problem](#) that continues to work to Sanders's advantage.

**Red in the face, Sanders sometimes struggled to get a word in as everyone else tried to dunk on him.** Klobuchar cited a Vanderbilt University study that she said showed she was the most effective senator across 15 metrics and noted that the same research showed Sanders and Warren were much less effective than her. Neither was given a chance to respond.

**The CBS moderators lost control of the contentious debate early and never got it back.** Sanders was asked three times to give a "quick" response to something, which allowed him to skirt specifics. The moderators also failed to ask Warren about her flip-flop to welcome the help of a super PAC or Biden's recent false claims that he once got arrested during a trip to South Africa.

**Sanders also avoided particulars on foreign policy.** When he was



asked specifically whether he would move the U.S. Embassy from Jerusalem back to Tel Aviv, he gave this non-answer: “The answer is it’s something we would take into consideration.”

**The democratic socialist defended his praise for Fidel Castro’s literacy programs in Cuba.** “Occasionally it might be a good idea to be honest about American foreign policy, and that includes the fact that America has overthrown governments all over the world in Chile, in Guatemala and in Iran,” said Sanders. “And when dictatorships, whether it is the Chinese or the Cubans, do something good, you acknowledge that. But you don't have to trade love letters with them.”

**Buttigieg, who seemed more determined to attack Sanders than anyone else, ridiculed this.** “I am not looking forward to a scenario where it comes down to Donald Trump, with his nostalgia for the social order of the 1950s, and Bernie Sanders, with a nostalgia for the revolutionary politics of the 1960s,” he said. “This is not about what coups were happening in the 1970s or '80s. ... This is about 2020. We are not going to survive or succeed, and we're certainly not going to win by reliving the Cold War. And we're not going to win these critical House and Senate races if people in those races have to explain why the nominee of the Democratic Party is telling people to look at the bright side of the Castro regime.”

“Let us be clear,” Sanders replied, “do we think health care for all, Pete, is some kind of radical communist idea?”

“What is a radical idea is completely eliminating all private insurance,” Buttigieg replied later. “And part of how you know it is, is that no industrialized country has gone that far. He and I both like to talk about Denmark, for example. But even in Denmark, they have not abolished the possibility of private insurance. So this is an idea that goes further than what is acceptable in Denmark the country, let alone imagining how that's going to fly in Denmark, South Carolina.”

**Sanders circled back to the theme of radicalism in his final**

**answer.** When all the candidates were asked to share what they see as the biggest misconception about them, Sanders said it's that people see his ideas as radical. "In one form or another, they exist in countries all over the world," he said. "The saying that moves me the most is from Nelson Mandela. Mandela said everything is impossible until it happens."



### More team coverage

**"The tone of the debate ultimately became a metaphor for the Democratic race itself,** as it was marred repeatedly by candidates interrupting one another, talking over each other and constantly ignoring the moderators' efforts to bring some order to the unruly evening," [writes Dan Balz](#). "What the evening highlighted was the degree to which Sanders stands apart from the field, with the other candidates divided and sparring with one another as much as with [him]. Sanders has his base, and it has served him well enough so far. The others are trying to find theirs. None of Sanders's rivals rose significantly above the others. For Sanders, that was probably a satisfactory outcome."

**"While falling short of the glossy image that appeared during the commercial breaks, Bloomberg succeeded in doing what he had failed to do a week earlier in Las Vegas,"** [adds Michael Scherer](#). "He delivered his messages — about his experience, his policy goals and

his political focus — without a script in front of him, albeit with less polish, more stiffness and a far more stilted style of delivering a joke than his ads suggest. ... Still, Bloomberg spent significant time responding to attacks — on his treatment of women, his comments about banks’ redlining policies, his yet-unreleased tax returns and his praise of the Chinese leadership. He appeared agitated when [Warren] cited a woman’s account that he told her to ‘kill’ her baby when she got pregnant, responding: ‘I never said it. Period, end of story.’ It was far from clear whether his performance was enough to save his hopes for the nomination.”



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## Quote of the day

*“All of the new Democrats that came in, put Nancy Pelosi in charge, and gave the Congress the ability to control this president — I bought,” said Bloomberg, referring to \$100 million he spent to help House candidates in the 2018 midterms. He quickly corrected himself: “I — I got them.”*  
*(Matt Viser, Annie Linskey, Sean Sullivan and Cleve Wootson)*

**Buttigieg’s campaign canceled a four-stop swing through South Florida scheduled for today.** “Multiple aides to Buttigieg said he is sick and needed a day to rest,” [Chelsea Janes reports](#). **“Buttigieg looked**

**sweatier than usual during the debate and appeared to have a cough drop in his mouth at various moments.** He has maintained one of the more rigorous schedules of any of the candidates and will still appear at a breakfast in Charleston on Wednesday morning. Three of the events scheduled in South Florida were fundraisers, meaning the cancellation could be a costly one for Buttigieg. His campaign has been pushing to raise \$13 million by Super Tuesday, and it sent a several-page memo to supporters outlining where and why it needs money for ad buys.”

**The next debate will take place in Phoenix on March 15.** The Sunday night battle will come before primaries that Tuesday in Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Ohio. By then, 47 percent of the delegates will have been pledged. The DNC still hasn’t announced the eligibility requirements for the debate, which will air on CNN and Univision. How much will the field have winnowed by then? Who will have emerged with the strongest chance of stopping Sanders?

## **Notable commentary**

**Politico’s John Harris argues that Democrats needed a good debate but got a bad one instead:** “The evening offered limited opportunities—*were these possibly enough?*—for six Democrats not named Sanders to revive their candidacies with last-stand moments to emerge as the main alternative to the self-described democratic socialist.”

**The Times’s Frank Bruni says the debate “felt like a genuine freakout”:** Sanders’s competitors “seemed to be in the grip of some larger existential crisis, their understanding of their party’s dynamics challenged, their sense of its destiny upended and their dread of blowing an immeasurably consequential election profound.” **Post columnist Dana Milbank says Sanders stirred up “a sickening sense of déjà vu” to the Republican debate in South Carolina four years ago,** when the other candidates piled on Trump, but it was too little and too late to stop him from winning the nomination. “The winner of Tuesday night’s debate was Trump,” he concludes.

- **The Fix’s Aaron Blake** declares Warren and Biden the winners and

Sanders and Bloomberg the losers.

- [Post columnist Jen Rubin](#): “Biden needed the debate of his life. He delivered.”
- [CNN’s Chris Cillizza](#) says Buttigieg, Biden, Klobuchar, Sanders and Trump won, while Bloomberg and Warren lost.
- [Vox’s team](#) says Sanders won and Klobuchar lost.
- [The Guardian’s Jessa Crispin](#) says Warren dominated the mic but Sanders held his ground.
- [FiveThirtyEight’s Nate Silver](#) thinks Biden “pulled out his best debate with his back to the wall.”
- [Democratic operative Mary Anne Marsh](#), writing for Fox News, calls Sanders, Warren and Biden winners, but she thinks the other four candidates onstage lost.
- [The New Republic’s Walter Shapiro](#) thinks Biden, Buttigieg and Klobuchar fared well, but Sanders and Bloomberg lost ground.
- [Bloomberg Opinion’s Ramesh Ponnuru](#) said Biden and Bloomberg performed better than they did at last week’s debate, but he argues that Sanders emerged victorious.
- [Mother Jones’s Edwin Rios and Nathalie Baptiste](#) said the debate was pretty much a pandering fest to South Carolina’s black voters.

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## The coronavirus



A man wearing a protective face mask watches the Nikkei index tank outside a brokerage house in Tokyo. (Athit Perawongmetha/Reuters)

## The CDC warned the virus's spread in the United States is “inevitable.”

“The warnings from officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health and other agencies, contrasted sharply with assessments from President Trump and other White House officials, who have largely dismissed concerns about the virus,” [Erica Werner, Yasmeen Abutaleb, Lena Sun and Lenny Bernstein report](#). “The mixed messages continued Tuesday as dire warnings issued to senators and reporters early in the day gave way to a more positive assessment, after the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 3.4 percent, bringing the two-day loss to more than 1,900 points — the worst in two years.”

- “We believe the immediate risk here in the United States remains low, and we’re working hard to keep that risk low,” Anne Schuchat, the CDC’s principal deputy director, said during a hastily convened afternoon news briefing.
- “Ultimately, we expect we will see community spread in the United

States. It's not a question of if this will happen, but when this will happen, and how many people in this country will have severe illnesses," Nancy Messonnier, the director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the CDC, said during the morning briefing.

**"The confused messaging threatened to obscure urgent public health advice coming from the CDC ...** Businesses need to consider replacing in-person meetings with telework, Messonnier said. School authorities should consider ways to limit face-to-face contact, such as dividing students into smaller groups, using Internet-based learning or even closing schools. Local officials should consider modifying, postponing or canceling large gatherings. Hospitals should consider ways to triage patients who do not need urgent care and recommend that patients delay surgery that isn't absolutely necessary."

### **The White House seems mainly focused on reducing public alarm.**

"Trump is highly concerned about the market and has encouraged aides not to give predictions that might cause further tremors," [Jeff Stein and Josh Dawsey report](#). "Privately, Trump has become furious about the stock market's slide, according to two people familiar with the president's thinking ... **Some White House officials have been unhappy with how Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar has handled the situation** ... White House officials often face a tricky balance of trying to assure the public while also not dismissing threats that could become calamities. The Dow is still up markedly from 2017, when Trump took office, but it closed Tuesday at its lowest level since October." Global financial markets continued losing ground overnight.

### **The acting head of DHS was grilled by a GOP senator over the response.**

"Appearing in front of a Senate appropriations subcommittee, [Chad] Wolf was on the receiving end of a brutal line of questioning from Sen. John Neely Kennedy (R-La.). Throughout the exchange, Wolf struggled to

produce basic facts and projections about the disease,” [Aaron Blake reports](#).



### **No major lockdown is planned in a South Korean region stricken with the virus.**

“When a spokesman for South Korea's ruling party suggested Tuesday that the government would be rolling out a ‘maximum lockdown’ on the coronavirus-hit southern city of Daegu, the backlash was immediate and the political retreat swift,” [Min Joo Kim and Simon Denyer report](#). “Hong Ihk-pyo soon clarified that he didn’t mean a ‘Wuhan-style lockdown’ or a blockade on travel into and out of the city — along the lines that China’s Communist Party has imposed on Wuhan and surrounding areas at the center of the covid-19 outbreak. President Moon Jae-in soon chimed in. There would be no regional blockade, he said, only a full-scale effort to contain the spread of the virus.” Infection numbers soared in South Korea to over 1,200.

### **France and Iran reported new deaths this morning.**

“France reported the first death of a French citizen from the epidemic as cases spread rapidly across Europe, with Spain confirming eight new cases in the past 24 hours and new infections reported in France, Croatia, Austria and Switzerland,” [according to our live blog](#). “Nineteen people



have died in Iran from the novel coronavirus outbreak, Iranian Health Ministry spokesman Kianush Jahanpur told state television on Wednesday.”

### **The virus hits seniors the hardest. Italy’s elderly population is on the front line.**

“That has set off a race in countries with significant older populations — like Italy — to figure out whether there are ways to protect their most vulnerable: those in hospitals, in nursing homes, and seniors in sealed-off hot-spot towns who are watching television and fearing the worst,” [Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). “But even as Italy works to contain what is the first major coronavirus outbreak in Europe, there is growing concern that the virus is outracing the health measures. New cases on Tuesday popped up farther from the original cluster, including in the southern island of Sicily and the tourist-heavy Tuscan capital, Florence. Italy has at least 322 confirmed cases and 11 deaths, all people who were elderly or already sick.”

### **The U.S. government can quarantine you. There’s almost nothing you can do about it.**

“Regulations set forth by the [CDC] give health officials broad authority to quarantine or isolate anyone ‘reasonably believed’ to have been exposed to a range of highly infectious diseases. The list includes cholera, infectious tuberculosis and flus that can cause a pandemic,” [Derek Hawkins reports](#). “The government’s powers to sequester people in the name of public health are rooted in the Constitution’s Commerce Clause, which allows Congress to regulate foreign and interstate commerce.”

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## **The Trump presidency**



President Trump and first lady Melania Trump attend a wreath-laying ceremony at Mohandas Gandhi's memorial in New Delhi on Tuesday. (Alexander Drago/Reuters)

## **Trump praised Modi's record on religious tolerance, as violence erupted over discrimination against Muslims.**

“Trump avoided any public criticism of his host — whose political biography is also built partly on religious and cultural divisions — along with any comparison of [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi's policies with his own treatment of Muslim immigrants,” [Anne Gearan, Joanna Slatter, Seung Min Kim and Niha Masih report](#). “We did talk about religious freedom, and I will say that the prime minister was incredible in what he told me. He wants people to have religious freedom and very strongly,” Trump said during a news conference that capped the public portion of his largely ceremonial visit. Modi, who leads the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, has insisted that the citizenship law aims to help persecuted religious minorities in three nearby countries. ... **At least 17 people were killed, including a police officer, in clashes in the capital city during Trump's visit.** The violence began when supporters of the citizenship law confronted opponents of the measure. ...

“The citizenship law, along with India's other actions, has drawn

bipartisan criticism in Congress, but Trump tread lightly. The president said he had ‘asked that question’ during a closed-door meeting Tuesday, but he was vague about whether he criticized Modi for his decision. ‘I don’t want to discuss that,’ he said when asked for his opinion of the law. ‘I want to leave that to India, and hopefully they’re going to make the right decision for the people.’ ... **Trump and Modi issued joint statements praising the growing defense cooperation between the two countries, but they did not field questions together.** ... Although they spent much of the day together, including at a state banquet of salmon and grilled goat, Modi is known for not having held a news conference in his six years as prime minister.”

### **There’s a new senior leader at the White House personnel office. He’s a college senior.**

[Politico reports](#) that James Bacon, 23, is acting as one of the right-hand men to new director of presidential personnel John McEntee, who is 29: "Bacon, a senior at George Washington University pursuing a bachelor’s degree, comes from the Department of Transportation, where he briefly worked in the policy shop. Bacon will be PPO’s director of operations overseeing paperwork and will assist on vetting. The role was previously filled by Katja Bullock, who is in her late 70s and was a veteran of the office in both Bush administrations, as well as the Reagan administration.”

### **A Trump judicial nominee once called for abolishing Social Security.**

Stephen Schwartz, nominated to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, argued 15 years ago “that several federal agencies should be eliminated and that Social Security should be abolished because economic disparity ‘is a natural aspect of the human condition,’” [Robert O’Harrow Jr. reports](#). “Schwartz wrote that the departments of Transportation, Agriculture and Education lack a ‘constitutional basis,’ and that Social Security benefits were intended to prevent ‘outright starvation’ but had become a ‘standard component of most retirement programs.’”

## **Trump escalated his attacks on the judicial branch.**

“In [tweets](#) and comments at a news conference in India — and just a month before the Supreme Court is to consider congressional and prosecutors’ requests for the president’s closely guarded financial records — Trump targeted Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg,” [Robert Barnes and Ashley Parker report](#). “Trump interpreted as biased a [dissent from Sotomayor](#) about his administration’s tendency to seek emergency interventions from the Supreme Court. ... The president’s broadside breached what normally is an arm’s-length distance between the White House and the high court, and cast the disagreements into starkly personal terms. ... A court spokeswoman on Tuesday said that [John] Roberts, Sotomayor and Ginsburg had no comment ... Writing only for herself, Sotomayor complained that the federal government has been too quick to ask the Supreme Court for emergency relief from lower-court decisions that had not gone through the usual legal process. ... Neither opinion — the one written by Sotomayor or [the other by \[Justices Neil Gorsuch and \[Clarence\] Thomas](#) — specifically mentioned Trump or the administration.”

## **Trump also attacked a juror who voted to convict his confidant Roger Stone.**

Trump “injected new political drama into the legal debate over whether [Stone] deserves a new trial, tweeting during a hearing in the matter that the jury forewoman who voted to convict his longtime friend and confidant was ‘totally biased’ and seeming to suggest the judge was, as well,” [Spencer S. Hsu and Matt Zapotosky report](#). “Trump’s comments came just as U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson had rebuked him and others over their attacks on the juror, and they seemed to put the president at odds with his own Justice Department, which argued against Stone’s bid for new legal proceedings. Jackson ultimately ended the hearing without a decision after taking testimony from three jurors on the panel — including the forewoman. The judge is expected to issue a ruling soon.”

## **Senate Republicans backed Bill Barr after his clash with**

## Trump.

“GOP lawmakers gave [the attorney general] a solid show of support in a private lunch meeting,” [Mike DeBonis reports](#) “Every sentence began with, “Keep up the good work,” said Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), recalling senators’ remarks at the lunch, which began with a round of applause for Barr. ... [Mitch] McConnell told reporters afterward that Barr ‘enjoys overwhelming support’ in the Republican ranks: ‘We all think he’s doing an outstanding job.’ ... ‘He didn’t give any indication he’s going anywhere,’ said Senate Majority Whip John Thune (R-S.D.). ...

“Barr also finds himself in the middle of a thorny issue that has split Republican lawmakers — the pending expiration of key federal surveillance authorities. ... Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), among others, is pushing to take any future surveillance of political campaigns out of the secret foreign intelligence court entirely, among other changes to the existing law. ... But Barr, according to multiple senators, said he was not pressing for any specific statutory change to address the alleged Trump-related warrant abuses, which were detailed in a December report from Michael E. Horowitz, the Justice Department inspector general. Instead, he indicated that he would pursue administrative changes to remake how secret warrants are obtained and supervised.”

## **The NSA’s phone program cost \$100 million but produced just two unique leads.**

“A National Security Agency system that analyzed logs of Americans’ domestic phone calls and text messages cost \$100 million from 2015 to 2019, but yielded only a single significant investigation, according to a newly declassified study,” [the New York Times reports](#). “Moreover, only twice during that four-year period did the program generate unique information that the F.B.I. did not already possess, said the study, which was produced by the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board and briefed to Congress ... The report did not reveal the subject matter of the one significant F.B.I. investigation that was spurred by the Freedom Act program, and it did not divulge its outcome.”

## **Seventy former senators signed onto an op-ed saying the Senate isn't performing its constitutional duties.**

[In an open letter](#), a bipartisan group of former lawmakers said Congress isn't functioning as the Framers intended. "The Senate's abdication of its legislative and oversight responsibilities erodes the checks and balances of the separate powers that are designed to protect the liberties on which our democracy depends," they write.

## **Two antiabortion bills failed to advance in the Senate.**

"All Republicans except Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) voted for a bill banning abortion after 20 weeks, while Democratic Sens. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) and Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) supported the measure," [Politico reports](#). "All four lawmakers, meanwhile, voted for a bill requiring doctors to provide care to survivors of failed abortions. Sen. Doug Jones of Alabama, the most vulnerable Democrat facing reelection, opposed the 20-week ban but voted for the second measure."

## **The Supreme Court ruled that the family of a Mexican teen killed by the Border Patrol can't sue in U.S. courts.**

"The court's conservatives prevailed in the 5 to 4 ruling, in which the court for the second time considered whether relatives of foreign victims injured on foreign soil can go to court without express authorization from Congress," [Barnes reports](#). "The case began with the death of 15-year-old Sergio Adrián Hernández Güereca, who was fatally shot by a federal agent in 2010 on the Mexican side of the wide concrete culvert that separates El Paso from Juarez, Mexico. Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. wrote for his conservative colleagues, saying a respect for the separation of powers means that courts should be reluctant to allow lawsuits filed by foreign victims in U.S. courts without express congressional authorization."

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## **More on 2020**



## **A Sanders nomination would complicate the reelection campaigns of three Virginia congresswomen.**

GOP candidates and groups are already targeting the once deep-red Virginia districts held by Democratic Reps. Elaine Luria, Abigail Spanberger and Jennifer Wexton, trying to link the freshman lawmakers to Sanders. [Jenna Portnoy reports](#) that Luria, who backs Biden, wasted no time in denouncing Sanders this week after he said he would skip the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee: “Her swift reaction was an example of the tactics she and other centrist Democrats may use to try to steer clear of [Sanders] if he wins their party’s presidential nomination. ... Spanberger and Wexton have not made endorsements in the presidential contest and have no plans to at the moment. Spanberger, a former CIA officer, said she has already cast her absentee ballot; she declined to reveal her choice or rule anyone out. Rob Jones, one of several Republicans vying to challenge Wexton in November, suggested last week that because Wexton often votes the same way as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), a top Sanders surrogate, Wexton must support Sanders. Wexton balked at that logic, and said: ‘I will not be supporting Bernie Sanders in this primary.’”

**The Democratic establishment in Texas is freaking out about Sanders's rise.**

“Rep. Marc Veasey is about as restrained as Texans come, but in recent days he has unloaded ... to practically any reporter he could find,” [the Texas Tribune reports](#). “His message? [Sanders’s] march to the party’s nomination will jeopardize Texas Democrats’ efforts to capture the state House of Representatives and a slew of U.S. House seats across the state. ... While Sanders supporters proclaim a growing movement that will bring out new voters needed to flip the state, nearly two dozen Texas Democratic officeholders, candidates, activists and donors interviewed for this story expressed concern — sometimes bordering on despair — that a Sanders Democratic nomination is the difference between being on offense or in retreat in Texas this cycle.”

### **Mitch McConnell said Sanders may be more competitive than pundits think.**

“I’m reminded of when the Democrats back in 1980 were all pulling for Ronald Reagan to be the nominee because they thought he’d be the easiest to beat,” McConnell told reporters, [per Politico](#). “I think it’s going to be a contested general election with a lot of energy on both sides, and for myself I’ll leave it up to the Democrats to pick who they’d like to be their candidate.”

### **The Boston Globe [endorsed](#) Warren for president, a year after calling for her not to run.**

This is significant because Sanders is making a play to win Massachusetts on Super Tuesday, scheduling rallies for later this week in Boston and Springfield. “In December 2018, this editorial board expressed doubt that Elizabeth Warren should run for president. She has proved us wrong and has shaped the course of the race for the better. The electorate, at least in recent polls and in the early states, is signaling its preference for the profound change that underpins Warren’s agenda. Sanders has been the main beneficiary, but is less likely to deliver; he has shown no ability over the course of his career to build broad legislative coalitions. Warren is uniquely poised to accomplish serious reform without sacrificing what’s working in our economy and innovation ecosystem. She would get under the hood to fix the engine — not drive off a cliff, but also not just kick the



tires.”

## **9/11 was a turning point in Bloomberg's quest to become New York mayor.**

“Bloomberg awoke early on that crisp and cloudless Tuesday and walked from his East Side mansion to his neighborhood polling place, where he saw his name on an election ballot for the first time, as a Republican candidate for mayor. It was Sept. 11, 2001, primary day, and Bloomberg was in the thick of trying to reinvent himself as the face of America’s largest city,” [Paul Schwartzmann reports](#) in the latest version of our Pursuits series. “Then someone told him that an airplane had slammed into the World Trade Center. ... What Bloomberg did not know in that moment — what no one could have known — is that the [attack] would fuel his unlikely rise as New York’s mayor and become a foundation for his race for the White House. ... ‘We began to write a comeback story,’ Bloomberg tells audiences, recalling that he took over a city ‘in tatters’ after winning an election that ‘almost no one’ — not even his mother, he often notes — ‘thought I had a chance.’ Bloomberg’s 12 years at City Hall lifted him to newfound prominence and spanned the rebirth of Lower Manhattan, the rise of the new World Trade Center and the opening of the 9/11 Memorial. Yet, in 2001, as he aspired to succeed Republican Mayor Rudy Giuliani, he was largely unknown beyond Wall Street and the exclusive dinner parties and charity galas he frequented.”

## **Hard work saved the Nevada caucuses, but it may not have been enough.**

“[Harry] Reid, who helped move Nevada’s caucuses up in the calendar in 2008, establishing his state as the first in the West, said on Sunday that it was ‘time for the Democratic Party to move to primaries everywhere.’ That affirmation was echoed on Monday by the state party’s chairman, William McCurdy II, who said it was ‘time for our state party and elected leaders to look at shifting to a primary process moving forward.’ And it was reiterated on Tuesday by the Democratic governor, Steve Sisolak, who said he would help ‘review how we could switch to an early presidential primary,’” [Isaac Stanley-Becker reports](#). “Similar sentiment has been

voiced in Iowa, where the quadrennial institution had defined the political culture of the state since it inaugurated the modern caucuses in 1972, part of an effort to make the nominating process more inclusive.”

## **Democrats are desperately trying to recruit Steve Bullock to run for Senate.**

“Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer met with [the former presidential candidate] in Montana last weekend as Democrats make a last-ditch effort to woo him to run for the Senate this year,” [Politico reports](#). “Bullock, the two-term governor and former presidential candidate, has repeatedly said he has no plans to challenge Republican Sen. Steve Daines this year. But the state’s filing deadline is just over two weeks away, and Democrats have continued to pitch Bullock on seeking the Senate seat before the window closes.”

## **A veteran running for Congress in Arizona suspended his campaign after a heroin overdose.**

“Chris Taylor, a 33-year-old Army veteran and city councilman in Safford, Ariz., told The Post that he was sober for ‘many solid years’ before the relapse. He was found unresponsive Wednesday night in his home, where paramedics revived him with naloxone,” [Meryl Kornfield reports](#). The Republican said he’s “not going to hide from this.” He said he has battled with an opioid addiction since high school. He was seeking the GOP nomination to challenge Rep. Tom O’Halloran (D).

## **ABC News suspended veteran correspondent David Wright after a Project Veritas sting.**

Network officials suspended Wright after reviewing footage gathered by the conservative group that records “undercover” footage of mainstream journalists to bolster its accusations of media bias, [Paul Farhi reports](#). It isn’t clear yet what specifically prompted the network to take action against the reporter.

---

# Social media speed read

Sanders dominated the Twitter conversation during last night's debate:



 **#DemDebate**

Tenth Debate: February 25, 2020

Jill Biden wished her husband luck on the debate stage:

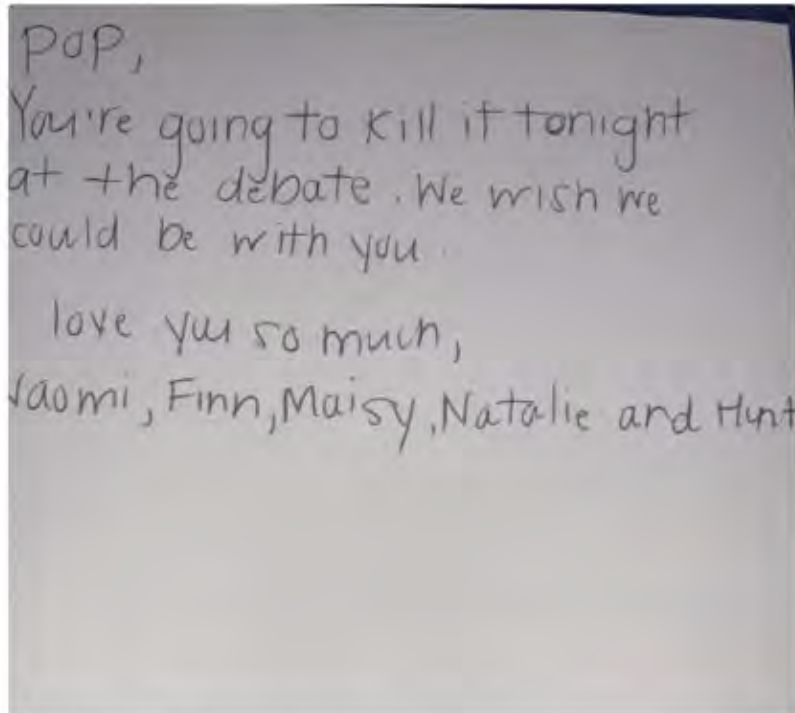


**Dr. Jill Biden** ✓

@DrBiden



Tonight, ahead of the #DemDebate, I slipped this note into @JoeBiden's jacket pocket without him knowing. ❤️  
Jill



♥️ 3,667 12:06 AM - Feb 26, 2020



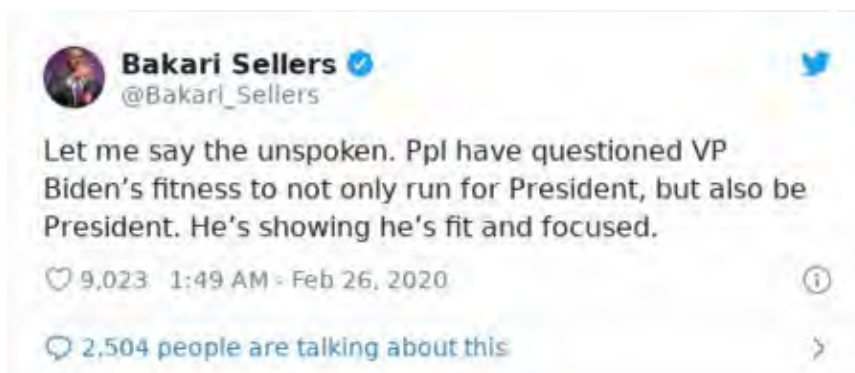
🗨️ 679 people are talking about this



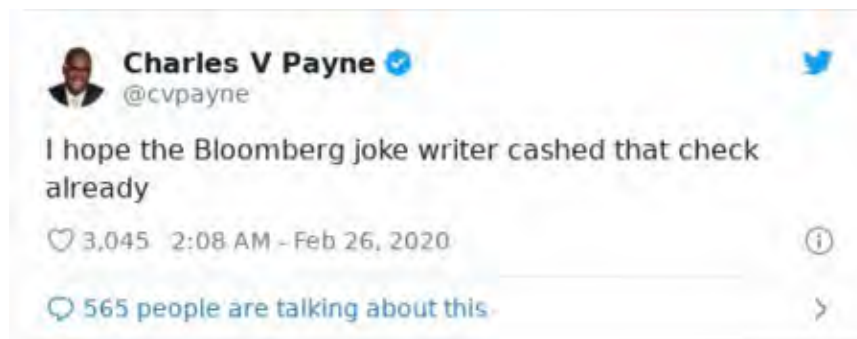
**Klobuchar got caught in the middle of a Biden vs. Steyer shouting match:**



A lot of pundits, including this former South Carolina state legislator, praised Biden's performance:



Bloomberg's one-liners were widely mocked:



A Post reporter had this interaction with a flack:



And two inspiring young activists hung out:



**Malala** ✓  
@Malala



She's the only friend I'd skip school for.



♥ 555K 4:46 PM - Feb 25, 2020



💬 65.8K people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert went live after his hometown's debate and joked that it would be great if Sanders and Trump are the nominees because those are the only two impressions he can do:



Trevor Noah joked about Sanders not being in any rush to see moderates drop out of the race:



Seth Meyers called out Bloomberg and his campaign for tweeting fake quotes they attributed to Sanders:





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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: SEIU will spend \$150 million on 2020 elections, focused on mobilizing infrequent voters  
**Date:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 8:23:12 AM



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# The Daily 202

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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## SEIU will spend \$150 million on 2020 elections, focused on mobilizing infrequent voters

The Service Employees International Union plans to spend \$150 million this year to get out the vote for Democrats in November, its largest political investment ever.

The union will deploy canvassers across more than 40 states, but its efforts will mainly focus on turning out infrequent voters from the African American and Latino communities across the eight battleground states of

Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin.

SEIU President Mary Kay Henry previewed the strategy to defeat President Trump during an extended interview in her office off Dupont Circle in Washington. The union, which represents 2 million members, has opted not to endorse in the presidential primary, at least for now, but to focus instead on building a massive field operation to help whoever emerges from the convention this summer, as well as Democrats down the ballot.

The decision to focus on low-propensity voters grew out of Trump's victory in the 2016 election. In urban centers like Milwaukee, Detroit and Philadelphia, many minorities who cast ballots for Barack Obama in 2008 and/or 2012 did not come out again for Hillary Clinton. In 2018, the SEIU spent tens of millions of dollars trying to convince these folks that it was worth their time to participate in the midterm elections. [The success of that effort](#) has shaped 2020 planning.

“People have to be persuaded that it matters. We’re up against a sense of either hopelessness or disillusionment,” said Henry. “Our experience in ‘18 was that we were able to take infrequent voters that most campaigns and parties never talk to and demonstrate, through data, that when you go early, and you communicate frequently, and you engage people on wages and health care and investment in their communities, they’re going to show up and vote.”



Service Employees International Union President Mary Kay Henry speaks to the audience before the Democratic presidential debate in Detroit last July. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)

**By Election Day on Nov. 3, the SEIU's goal is to attempt face-to-face conversations with 6 million individuals, send text messages to 20 million people and reach another 1 million possible voters online through a digital ad program in the battleground states.**

**The SEIU plans targeted Latino outreach programs in Wisconsin, Colorado, Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Nevada. The union is building out programs to mobilize Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Pennsylvania and Nevada. In Philadelphia, this will be concentrated in the Chinese community. In Las Vegas, it's more Filipinos. In Florida, the SEIU has partnered with the same four organizations it worked with in 2018 to expand turnout in black and Hispanic communities, including Puerto Ricans and others from the Caribbean. All told, canvassers are being hired to communicate at people's front doors in five different languages.**

**The SEIU will invest significant resources to turn out Somali and Hmong voters around the Twin Cities after Trump came within 1.5 percentage points of beating Clinton in Minnesota, a state no Republican presidential**

candidate has carried since Richard Nixon in 1972. “They're part of this infrequent voter pool, and we know they need to show up in order to win in Minnesota,” said Henry, who got her start in the labor movement as a field organizer in the state.

Outreach to black voters in Detroit and Milwaukee has been happening since the fall, building on the work that helped elect Democratic governors Gretchen Whitmer in Michigan and Tony Evers in Wisconsin. Canvassers have knocked on 251,000 doors in those two states since the beginning of January.

With limited resources, campaigns and outside groups usually reach out to people who are most likely to vote. The best predictor of whether someone is likely to vote has always been whether they voted in the previous election. But with tight races expected across the industrial Midwest, the SEIU decided in 2018 to focus on minorities who are registered but participated in one or none of the past four federal elections. The first pass that canvassers make will be aimed at cleaning up the union’s list of targeted voters. In a lot of cases, people have stopped voting because they passed away or moved away.

“Once you get to somebody, they’re like ‘Whoa, this is incredible. No one has knocked on my door before,’” said SEIU political director Maria Peralta. “A lot of groups thought we were crazy, but we were committed to engaging voters that really aren't talked to at all or contacted at all. We saw the impact when we looked at the voter turnout: Folks on the lowest end of the scale turned out at higher rates than those on the higher end after being contacted by us. That’s why we’re doubling down on that strategy this year.”



Members of the SEIU, which represents 6,500 Twin Cities janitors and security guards, vote earlier this month to authorize a strike at the SEIU Local 26 headquarters in Minneapolis. (Matt Sepic/Minnesota Public Radio/AP)



**The SEIU has conducted and commissioned extensive research over the past several months to figure out what messages resonate with minorities who have not been voting. They've discovered a widespread perception that the economy is strong, even**

among blue-collar workers who haven't felt the benefits directly. They've also discovered that Latino and African American men are more likely to think favorably of both Trump and the economy than women in those communities. The SEIU has tested various messages to cut through this gender divide to persuade men and mobilize women to both vote and support Democrats when they do. At least until Labor Day, the field program will focus more on pocketbook issues than Trump himself.

The SEIU's broader goal is to couple the movements for racial justice and economic equality. Half the union's members are racial and ethnic minorities, and about 60 percent are women. "Race is being used by the right to divide and conquer," said Henry. "We don't think candidates ... can win without talking about how white, black [and] brown have to join together because we have another voice in the nation that is hammering on divide and conquer, saying that criminals are coming across our border and taking our jobs, which is his way of dividing the electorate based on race."

Research has also shown them that an especially effective way to reach these low-frequency voters is with peer-to-peer text messaging. In all 2018, SEIU organizers sent about 500,000 texts nationwide. They've already surpassed that number since January. In fact, nearly 500,000 texts have already been sent in Florida alone since the start of this year urging communities of color to register so they can vote.

**To be sure, union leaders emphasize they are not writing off working-class white voters.** Part of the \$150 million effort this year will go toward supporting an initiative with other organized labor groups to appeal to former union members in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. "We have a million voters that used to be in unions in these states, but because of the right-wing attacks, people have fallen out," said Henry. "If people have been in a union, they're more likely to support who the union and economic issues tied to unionization."

SEIU leaders are also engaging their own members. By their estimates, about 20 percent of the 2 million dues-paying members are conservatives.

Union officials plan to contact all members about voting approximately five times. For those who lean to the right, there will be emphasis on where candidates stand on issues related to supporting unions. “Wages and health care are still the top two issues, no matter what community we're in,” said Henry.



Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) speaks at an SEIU forum on labor issues last April in Las Vegas. (John Locher/AP)

**The SEIU has no current plans to endorse in the Democratic presidential contest, but this could change.** Several of the candidates have joined picket lines, spent time with workers in their service industry jobs and spoke at one of [the SEIU’s two cattle calls](#) over the past year. At their January board meeting, Henry said the officers of the union – which endorsed Clinton in November 2015 – agreed they should stay neutral for now. “There’s no push inside our union for me to convene an in-person meeting to endorse,” Henry said. “The current understanding amongst the leadership of our union is that any leader can put their hand up and say to me or any of our officers, ‘I think it’s time for us to convene.’ The one commitment we’ve made to each other is that we’ll get in a room. It won’t be done on a phone call.”

The SEIU continues to push the candidates to commit to support



unionization efforts. “We think any plan to provide health care for all, college for all and child care for all ought to make it possible for workers to join unions,” said Henry. “The rules are rigged against us: The rules in the economy that block workers from joining unions and the rules in the democracy that don't allow everybody who should be able to vote to vote.”

Henry sits on the DNC’s platform committee. In 2016, she used that position to successfully push for the Democratic Party’s platform to endorse a \$15-an-hour federal minimum wage. Asked whether she’s concerned about a contested convention, Henry said they’re “factoring it in,” but that her members are more concerned about issues than personalities. She also emphasized that down-ballot races will stay a major focus. In Pennsylvania, for example, they’re not just trying to help the Democratic presidential candidate win but also seeking to take control of the state’s legislature. “In some cases,” she said, “our members are telling us that the down-ballot races are far more motivational for them than the top of the ticket because they feel kind of flooded by the presidential in states where there's lots of TV advertising happening.”

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## The coronavirus



Travis Air Force base is one of the two California military installations accepting flights carrying U.S. citizens evacuated from China and serving as a quarantine center. (Pete Dasilva/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

### **The first sign the disease may be spreading within a U.S. community**

The CDC reported last night that a person in Northern California has

contracted the coronavirus without traveling to regions hit by the outbreak or coming in contact with anyone known to have the infection. “How the person acquired the virus is unknown,” [Lenny Bernstein, Laurie McGinley and Lena Sun report](#). “The health agency left open the possibility ‘that the patient may have been exposed to a returned traveler who was infected.’ The state of California, however, called the case its first instance of community transmission. ... Community spread would represent a significant turn for the worse in the battle against the virus. To date, the United States has 60 known cases of the infection, with 59 among people who traveled to Asia or were close contacts of people who went there. The vast majority, 42, picked up the virus while quarantined on the Diamond Princess cruise ship off Japan. ...

**“The individual is a resident of Solano County, according to the California Department of Public Health. The patient is being treated at UC Davis Medical Center. Two officials from that hospital sent an email to employees Wednesday that said the patient arrived at the medical center Feb. 19 but was not tested until Sunday, despite an immediate request to the CDC.** The patient arrived from another hospital in Northern California ...

**“There are indications that other hospitals could be involved in the case.** Kris Concepcion, fire chief and acting public information officer in Vacaville, Calif., said county officials had issued a directive not to transport any new patients to two local hospitals — NorthBay VacaValley Hospital in Vacaville and NorthBay Medical Center in nearby Fairfield. ... **The two hospitals are in Solano County, home to Travis Air Force Base, where hundreds of Americans repatriated from China and others brought home from the Diamond Princess cruise ship have been kept in quarantine.** Many of them have been released. The health department said it has already begun tracing people who may have come in contact with the coronavirus-infected individual. ... The virus, which originated in Wuhan, China, has killed 2,801 people and sickened more than 82,000 as it has spread around the globe, reaching every continent except Antarctica.”

Key quote: If the infection is confirmed to be a case of “community spread,” “it would confirm what we have long suspected — that **there is a good chance there already are people infected in this country and that the virus is circulating undetected,**” said Jennifer Nuzzo, epidemiologist and senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

### **Virginia officials are waiting for test results for two patients.**

Nine possible coronavirus cases have been investigated in Virginia since Jan. 21, health officials said. No positive test results have been returned, per [Justin Wm. Moyer](#).

### **Schools are also preparing for a possible contagion by canceling foreign trips.**

For example, in Virginia, the Fairfax County school system – with 188,000 students, one of the largest – posted website updates with the same instructions it has offered since the virus surfaced – frequent hand-washing and disinfectant everywhere. The school system has canceled international field trips to countries where residents have fallen ill from the coronavirus. Class closures are unlikely in the near future, experts said, because relatively few cases have been diagnosed in the United States. ([Hannah Natanson](#))

**Officials revealed that more than 600 are being monitored for the virus in Massachusetts.** All had recently traveled to China and voluntarily quarantined themselves at home while being monitored, health officials said. So far, 377 completed the quarantine without falling ill, while 231 are still being monitored. ([Boston Globe](#))



## **Trump put Vice President Pence in charge of the coronavirus response.**

The president's choice is "an attempt to reassure the public amid growing concerns of a global health crisis and criticism that the United States has been slow to respond to the fast-moving outbreak," [Toluse Olorunnipa, Josh Dawsey and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#). "We've had tremendous success, tremendous success beyond what many people would've thought," the president said during a White House news conference that followed days of mixed messages, tumbling stocks and rising death tolls abroad driven by the coronavirus. 'We're very, very ready for this.' The president declared that the risk to America was 'very low' and predicted a swift end to the outbreak. ...

**"The president was contradicted almost in real time by some of the government experts who flanked him as he stood in the White House press briefing room.** 'We could be just one or two people over the next short period of time,' Trump said of the virus's impact in the United States. Minutes later, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and CDC Principal Deputy Director Anne Schuchat warned Americans to prepare for the number of cases to grow. 'We can expect to see more cases in the United States,' Azar said. 'We do expect more cases,' Schuchat said. ...

“The president said he would be willing to accept more emergency funding than the \$2.5 billion requested by his administration after lawmakers pushed for a more robust federal response. **He also said he would consider new travel restrictions on other countries struggling to contain the outbreak, including South Korea and Italy.** ... He partly blamed Democrats for the drop in the stock market and attacked House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) as ‘incompetent’ after she had made disparaging comments about his handling of the coronavirus outbreak ... **Trump has made a direct connection between the virus and his political fortunes, accusing Democrats and the media of trying to harm his reelection chances by focusing on the outbreak.** Trump took to Twitter early Wednesday to accuse cable news channels of ‘doing everything possible to make the Coronavirus look as bad as possible, including panicking markets, if possible.’ ...

“The White House considered appointing a ‘czar’ to oversee the government-wide response effort, a move that would essentially demote Azar from his role as the head of the coronavirus task force. ... **Trump said his decision to put Pence in charge was not tantamount to appointing a czar, despite him taking a role that serves the same purpose.** ‘Mike is not a czar, he’s vice president,’ the president said. ‘I’m having them report to Mike. Mike will report to me.’”

### **As Indiana's governor, Pence badly mishandled a 2016 HIV outbreak in his state.**

“Pence came under fire for resisting the CDC's urging to allow clean needles to be distributed because of his conservative, religious beliefs. At the time, needle exchanges were illegal in Indiana. But after mounting pressure from health officials and praying on it, the Republican eventually lifted the ban,” [BuzzFeed News reports](#).

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## **Quote of the day**

“*We’re doing great. Other countries have not been doing*”

*great,” Trump said about the U.S. government's coronavirus response. (Aaron Blake)*

## **The outbreak is flaring up around Asia, as it eases inside China.**

“While China's official numbers continued to show a drop in new cases and deaths in the country, in other parts of the world the problem appeared to be getting worse. **South Korea announced 505 new cases on Thursday, bringing its total to 1,766, including one U.S. soldier stationed on the peninsula,” Adam Taylor and Rick Noack report.** “Elsewhere, officials canceled or postponed events including religious pilgrimages in Saudi Arabia, as doubts grow over Tokyo's plans to host the 2020 Olympics.”

**A flight attendant diagnosed with coronavirus might have worked trips between Seoul and Los Angeles.** South Korea's Center for Disease Control said the attendant, who had serviced a flight between Seoul and Tel Aviv, had tested positive. Neither Korean Air nor local officials immediately confirmed reports that she serviced two flights to L.A. ([L.A. Times](#))

**South Korea called off joint military exercises with U.S. troops because of the virus.** ([WSJ](#))

## **A Japanese woman who had recovered from the virus tested positive again.**

The woman was one of the first cases of coronavirus in the country but was released from the hospital nearly four weeks ago, apparently cured. Now she's testing positive again. This is a bad sign for containment efforts. ([Simon Denyer](#))

## **Iran is struggling to contain the disease, putting other Middle East nations at risk.**

“In Iran, 139 people have contracted the virus, including the deputy health minister and a prominent member of parliament. Nineteen people have

died, according to the Health Ministry,” [Erin Cunningham and Louisa Loveluck report](#). “The virus has appeared in multiple Iranian cities, and infections in Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and Oman have been traced back to Iran. ... But even as regional governments moved to control the outbreak, Iranian authorities came under fire for what critics said is an inadequate response to the threat. Officials have rejected calls to quarantine major cities and have allowed communal prayer services to continue in places such as Qom, where the virus first emerged in Iran.”

### **Italy’s economy was already struggling. Then came the virus.**

“Trams rattle by half-empty. Office buildings are vacant. Top-flight soccer matches are played in empty stadiums behind closed doors,” [Loveday Morris and Chico Harlan report](#). “For Italy, the coronavirus could hardly have broken out in a more damaging economic area. The country’s two largest northern regions, Lombardy and Veneto, account for 30 percent of the employment and 40 percent of the exports. Milan is the economic hub, and to the east, Venice is a tourism mega-draw for a country that depends on visitors for 13 percent of its gross domestic product.”

### **The World Health Organization says China isn’t sharing enough data on infections.**

“The WHO said it has repeatedly asked Chinese officials for ‘disaggregated’ data — meaning specific figures broken out from the overall numbers — that could shed light on hospital transmission and help assess the level of risk front-line workers face,” [Emily Rauhala reports](#) “It is not clear whether political sensitivities have shaped China’s reporting on sick doctors and other health-care professionals. It is possible that data gaps simply reflect the challenge of gathering information in the middle of a crisis, experts said. What is clear is that China is not sending details that WHO officials and other experts expect and need.”

### **Russia and China are taking different, but equally dangerous, approaches to the virus.**

So says The Post's [Editorial Board](#): “Open governments are struggling to



encourage responsibility about a growing pandemic without inspiring panic. Russia appears to be trying to do just the opposite. [Evidence suggests Moscow is spreading propaganda designed to stoke anxiety about the virus and distrust in authorities' efforts to fight it.](#) Meanwhile, citizens in China are suffering not from a deluge of misleading material but from a dearth of open discussion. ... Either tactic, with stakes as high as they are today, could get people killed.”

## **The coronavirus has forced religious leaders to reconsider Lenten traditions.**

“Ash Wednesday is a chance for clergy to remind Christians of their mortality, often with a swipe of thumb-to-forehead ashes,” [Sarah Pulliam Bailey reports.](#) “But this year, the holy day came one day after federal health officials said the country should brace for [the ‘inevitable’ spread of the virus]. Pastors and ministers ... found themselves asking: Should we tweak our rituals? ‘It’s a very intimate moment,’ said Teer Hardy, an associate pastor at Mount Olivet United Methodist Church in Arlington, Va. .... ‘You’re a couple of inches from someone’s face.’ ... **Spokespeople for many of the largest Christian denominations in the U.S. said this week that they have not issued special directives for their churches but are closely monitoring guidance from government officials.** The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey told clergy and lay leaders Tuesday that anyone administering Communion should wash their hands, preferably with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and keep their distance during the greeting ritual known as the ‘passing of the peace.’”

## **You really don’t need to buy anything new or special to brace for the virus.**

Doctors gave [Reis Thebault and Alex Horton](#) a few recommendations: “Don’t go crazy,” said Timothy Brewer, an epidemiologist at UCLA. “You don’t need to go out and stock up on lots of things.” If you’re not sick, you don’t need a surgical mask – and you don’t need to buy every box your pharmacy has in stock. “The main point of the mask is to keep someone who is infected with the virus from spreading it to others,” Brewer said.

- **Wash your hands regularly.** Cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze. And when you're sick, stay home from work or school and drink lots of fluids.
  - **It's worth considering limiting exposure to large groups,** said Stanley Perlman, an infectious-disease expert at the University of Iowa.
  - **Avoid the middle of a packed train car,** and turn away if someone is coughing nearby, said Saskia V. Popescu, a senior infection-prevention epidemiologist for a Phoenix-based hospital system.
- 

## 2020 watch



Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.) endorses Joe Biden on Wednesday in North Charleston. (Gerald Herbert/AP)

**Joe Biden had a good day in South Carolina, where he's favored to win.**

“South Carolina chooses presidents,” Biden said as he accepted House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn’s endorsement. “You decided to launch Bill

Clinton to the White House, and up to that time, it didn't look like he was going very far — but you did. You launched my buddy Barack Obama to the White House. I firmly believe, once again on Saturday, you hold in your hands, in South Carolina, the power to choose the next president of the United States.”

**“Even as he holds a small lead in polls, Biden is being vastly outspent on television and radio ads here,”** [Matt Viser and Cleve Wootson report from North Charleston, S.C.](#) "While the Clyburn endorsement could prove influential, Biden also secured the top endorsements in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada, and that helped little. And there is no certainty that even a convincing win could translate to victory when 14 other states and American Samoa vote on Super Tuesday three days later. **Biden has laid little groundwork in the next states**, forced to spend almost all of his time in South Carolina this week as other candidates scatter to the next set of states. Strapped for cash, he is only now starting to buy advertising in some Super Tuesday states — and is spending a fraction of what his rivals are. That puts even more pressure on South Carolina to give Biden a bounce. ... Rep. David E. Price (D-N.C.) had sat on the sidelines and watched the primary contest unfold. But after growing concerned about the unsettled field, he endorsed Biden this week.

### **Barack Obama demanded TV stations stop airing a misleading attack against Biden.**

The ad from a pro-Trump super PAC, which has been running around South Carolina, uses the former president's words out of context in a misleading attack on Biden. [Michael Scherer and Anu Narayanswamy report.](#) “The Committee to Defend the President, a pro-Trump group, circulated **an ad that falsely suggests** that words Obama spoke in the narration of his own 1995 book were meant to describe Biden.” Katie Hill, Obama’s communications director, denounced the ad as being “straight out of the Republican disinformation playbook” and added that Obama has “no plans to endorse in the primary.”

## **Bernie Sanders is a challenge to Nancy Pelosi's majority that's beyond her control.**

“While a cadre of lawmakers and strategists are sounding alarms about the risks the senator from Vermont and democratic socialist would pose to down-ballot candidates, **Pelosi is moving carefully publicly and privately to avoid even the perception that she is putting her thumb on the presidential scales,**” [Mike DeBonis reports](#). “I think whoever our nominee is, we will enthusiastically embrace, and we will win the White House, the Senate and the House of Representatives,’ she told reporters ... It would be a mistake to expect Pelosi to follow Clyburn’s lead and insert herself into the presidential race. ... Asked Wednesday about whether she thought she had the power to help cull the field, Pelosi said, “The power is with the people.””

## **Warren said she'll stay in the race until the convention, even if Sanders has more delegates.**

[During a CNN town hall in South Carolina](#), Warren said “she would be willing to lobby superdelegates, who have votes on the second ballot if there's no outright winner, when asked if she would continue her candidacy even if she were trailing in the delegate count. Asked by an audience member why the person who gets the most votes shouldn't be awarded the nomination, Warren said the rules set a higher bar -- and that she intended to fight to the last. Warren also suggested that the argument by [Sanders] that a candidate with a plurality should be declared the nominee was disingenuous, noting that his 2016 campaign, despite losing to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, publicly argued that convention superdelegates should consider swinging the contest in his favor.”

## **The Trump campaign plans to open community centers to woo black voters.**

Campaign officials showed reporters posters featuring the glossy facades of their proposed “Black Voices for Trump community centers,” [Ashley Parker reports](#). They described them as functioning as a cross between a traditional campaign field office and a sleek retail space in a heavily

trafficked pedestrian area, such as a mall. “You’re never going to get the votes you don’t ask for,” the president’s son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner said, describing the outreach as “more than a toe in the water. It’s a whole foot in the water.”

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## Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked



### A shooting in Wisconsin left six dead.

“Wisconsin’s largest city is grieving after an employee at a historic brewery shot and killed five co-workers and then turned the gun on himself. Police say the 51-year-old assailant — who has not been publicly named by the authorities — opened fire on the sprawling Molson Coors campus Wednesday afternoon,” [Dan Simmons, Hannah Knowles, Mark Berman and Reis Thebault report](#). They did not discuss a possible motive for the killings and did not name the victims. **“The rampage is the first shooting to kill four or more people in 2020,** according to a Post [database](#).”

**The House passed legislation that would finally make lynching a federal hate crime.**

“H.R. 35, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, was approved on a bipartisan 410-to-4 vote after a sometimes emotional debate in the House,” [Felicia Sonmez reports](#). “Rep. Bobby L. Rush (D-Ill.), who sponsored the legislation, said the bill will ‘send a strong message that violence, and race-based violence in particular, has no place in American society.’ The measure’s passage comes after lawmakers tried, and failed, to pass anti-lynching bills nearly 200 times. The earliest such attempt came in 1900, when Rep. George Henry White (R-N.C.), then the country’s only black member of Congress, stood on the floor of the House and read the text of his unprecedented measure, which would have prosecuted lynchings at the federal level. The bill later died in committee. Years later, Rep. Leonidas C. Dyer (R-Mo.) introduced an anti-lynching measure that passed the House but was filibustered in the Senate by Southern Democrats ...

**“At least 4,742 people, mostly African Americans, were reported lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1968 in all but four states ...** Ninety-nine percent of perpetrators escaped state or local punishment ... A separate version of the measure, the Justice for Victims of Lynching Act, passed the Senate last year. It was introduced by the chamber’s three black senators: Kamala D. Harris (D-Calif.), Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.). ... There are minor differences between the two measures, and House Democrats are optimistic the Senate will approve the House-passed version and send it to President Trump’s desk.”

## **Mexican reverse migration is shrinking the undocumented population.**

“José cared for the bottle-fed babies, 700 of them in all. He knew a calf was healthy if her eyes were bright and her appetite hearty,” [the Times reports](#). “His job was to do all things a mom would do to look after her young,’ said Mary Kraft, who employed José and his brother, Juan, both undocumented immigrants from Mexico, for a decade at her Quail Ridge Dairy in Colorado. Then about a year ago, the brothers informed Ms. Kraft that they were returning to Mexico. They had amassed enough savings in

the land of opportunity to resume their lives back where they had started. The pair are among a growing number of Mexicans who have been departing the United States in recent years ... [New data that was released](#) on Wednesday by the Center for Migration Studies shows there were 10.6 million immigrants living unlawfully in the United States in 2018 compared with 11.75 million in 2010, a decline propelled primarily by Mexicans returning south.”

## **ICE ran facial-recognition searches on millions of Marylanders.**

Agency officials “have been permitted to run facial-recognition searches on millions of Maryland driver’s license photos without first seeking state or court approval, state officials said — access that goes far beyond what other states allow and that alarms immigration activists in a state that grants special driver’s licenses to undocumented immigrants,” [Drew Harwell and Erin Cox report](#). “The technology now under scrutiny could let an ICE official run a photograph of an unknown person through the system and see if any potentially undocumented immigrants are returned as a match.”

## **A facial-recognition company that works with law enforcement said its client list was stolen.**

“The startup Clearview AI disclosed to its customers that an intruder ‘gained unauthorized access’ to its list of customers, to the number of user accounts those customers had set up, and to the number of searches its customers have conducted,” the [Daily Beast reports](#). “The notification said the company’s servers were not breached and that there was ‘no compromise of Clearview’s systems or network.’”

## **Five were arrested for allegedly targeting reporters as part of a neo-Nazi group.**

Federal officials “arrested several alleged members of a white-supremacist group called Atomwaffen Division, including its two leaders, accusing them of plotting to intimidate journalists by calling police to their homes and offices and dropping off threatening fliers,” [Rachel Weiner and Matt](#)

[Zapotosky report](#). “John Cameron Denton, of Montgomery, Tex., is charged in U.S. District Court in Alexandria with conspiring to call in fake threats targeting a ProPublica reporter and his office. ... In federal court in Seattle, prosecutors say Kaleb Cole and three others hatched a different intimidation plan: finding out where journalists live and leaving posters at their homes with messages featuring swastikas, weapons and the vague threat that they were being watched.”

## **Giuliani wanted the 2001 mayoral election cancelled so he could stay on as mayor after 9/11.**

“Rudy Giuliani secretly asked then-New York Gov. George Pataki to cancel New York City’s 2001 mayoral election so he could remain in office following the Sept. 11 terror attack,” [the New York Post reports](#). **“The bombshell disclosure is contained in Pataki’s upcoming memoir of 9/11, ‘Beyond the Great Divide: How A Nation Became A Neighborhood.’ ... Giuliani ‘dropped a bomb,’ Pataki writes. ‘Governor, you have extraordinary powers to extend my term in office,’ Giuliani said. Pataki’s ‘heart sank,’ he writes, noting that he initially backed the idea of repealing term limits so Giuliani, a fellow Republican, could seek a third term, but quickly realized it was a ‘bad idea both as a matter of principle and politically.’”**

## **Giuliani complained about having “five friends left” after forgetting to hang up on a reporter.**

Giuliani forgot to hang up on a [New York Daily News reporter](#) after being asked about Pataki’s claims. He started trash-talking Pataki while complaining that he only has “five friends left.” “There were people who wanted me to do it,” Giuliani told the News, when he was aware he was on the phone. “I thought about it for two days, but I never asked him to do it. I never made the decision to do it.”

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## **Social media speed read**

India's prime minister called for deescalation of riots that have left more



than 30 dead in Delhi:



“Mobs of Hindus and Muslims had clashed on roads and alleyways in northeast Delhi, throwing stones and crude gasoline bombs. At least three mosques were torched, as were scores of homes and businesses. Witnesses said that instead of stopping the violence, police joined crowds shouting Hindu nationalist slogans and fired indiscriminately,” Joanna Slater and Niha Masih report.

Reuters reporters shared devastating images from the attacks:

 **Reuters**   
@Reuters




This mid-afternoon attack in India's capital New Delhi, captured in a dramatic @Reuters photograph, came against a backdrop of tension and violence. More: [reut.rs/32G8Vgd](https://reut.rs/32G8Vgd)



 114 6:42 AM - Feb 27, 2020



 110 people are talking about this



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Here's the aftermath for Mohammad Zubair: "They saw I was alone, they saw my cap, beard, shalwar kameez (clothes) and saw me as a Muslim. They just started attacking, shouting slogans. What kind of humanity is this?"

Pic by Danish Siddiqui for Reuters. #delhivoilence  
[#DelhiRiots twitter.com/iron\\_emu/statu...](https://twitter.com/iron_emu/status...)



**Simon Robinson**  @iron\_emu



Another conspiracy theory is circulating in the fever swamps of the fringe right, per a CNN reporter:



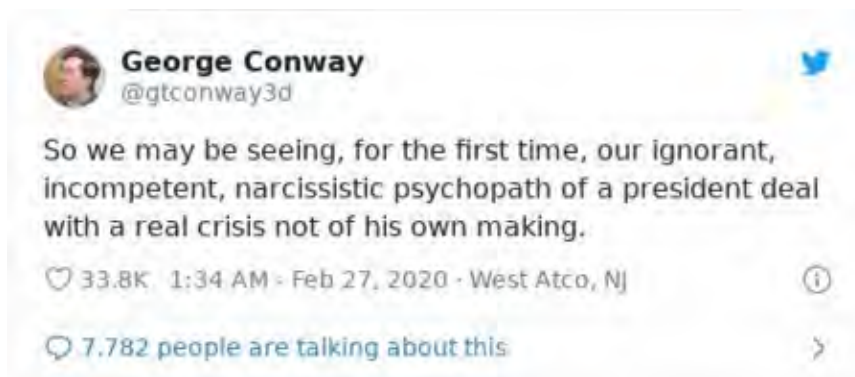
Once again, there's always a tweet:



A Hawaii Democratic senator expressed concern that Pence is taking point on the coronavirus:



The husband of one of Trump's top advisers noted that this is a rare crisis not of the president's own creation:



Biden shared a moving answer about his faith:



## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert doesn't feel very reassured by Trump's plan to fight the coronavirus:



Seth Meyers said Trump likes cozying up to authoritarian leaders:



In a break from politics, Trevor Noah took a look at other news, including how the heiress of the Hot Pockets fortune was sentenced to prison:



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# The Daily 202

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By **James Hohmann**

with Mariana Alfaro

Email

## SEIU will spend \$150 million on 2020 elections, focused on mobilizing infrequent voters

The Service Employees International Union plans to spend \$150 million this year to get out the vote for Democrats in November, its largest political investment ever.

The union will deploy canvassers across more than 40 states, but its efforts will mainly focus on turning out infrequent voters from the African American and Latino communities across the eight battleground states of



Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin.

SEIU President Mary Kay Henry previewed the strategy to defeat President Trump during an extended interview in her office off Dupont Circle in Washington. The union, which represents 2 million members, has opted not to endorse in the presidential primary, at least for now, but to focus instead on building a massive field operation to help whoever emerges from the convention this summer, as well as Democrats down the ballot.

The decision to focus on low-propensity voters grew out of Trump's victory in the 2016 election. In urban centers like Milwaukee, Detroit and Philadelphia, many minorities who cast ballots for Barack Obama in 2008 and/or 2012 did not come out again for Hillary Clinton. In 2018, the SEIU spent tens of millions of dollars trying to convince these folks that it was worth their time to participate in the midterm elections. [The success of that effort](#) has shaped 2020 planning.

“People have to be persuaded that it matters. We’re up against a sense of either hopelessness or disillusionment,” said Henry. “Our experience in ‘18 was that we were able to take infrequent voters that most campaigns and parties never talk to and demonstrate, through data, that when you go early, and you communicate frequently, and you engage people on wages and health care and investment in their communities, they’re going to show up and vote.”



Service Employees International Union President Mary Kay Henry speaks to the audience before the Democratic presidential debate in Detroit last July. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)

**By Election Day on Nov. 3, the SEIU's goal is to attempt face-to-face conversations with 6 million individuals, send text messages to 20 million people and reach another 1 million possible voters online through a digital ad program in the battleground states.**

**The SEIU plans targeted Latino outreach programs in Wisconsin, Colorado, Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Nevada. The union is building out programs to mobilize Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Pennsylvania and Nevada. In Philadelphia, this will be concentrated in the Chinese community. In Las Vegas, it's more Filipinos. In Florida, the SEIU has partnered with the same four organizations it worked with in 2018 to expand turnout in black and Hispanic communities, including Puerto Ricans and others from the Caribbean. All told, canvassers are being hired to communicate at people's front doors in five different languages.**

**The SEIU will invest significant resources to turn out Somali and Hmong voters around the Twin Cities after Trump came within 1.5 percentage points of beating Clinton in Minnesota, a state no Republican presidential**

candidate has carried since Richard Nixon in 1972. “They're part of this infrequent voter pool, and we know they need to show up in order to win in Minnesota,” said Henry, who got her start in the labor movement as a field organizer in the state.

Outreach to black voters in Detroit and Milwaukee has been happening since the fall, building on the work that helped elect Democratic governors Gretchen Whitmer in Michigan and Tony Evers in Wisconsin. Canvassers have knocked on 251,000 doors in those two states since the beginning of January.

With limited resources, campaigns and outside groups usually reach out to people who are most likely to vote. The best predictor of whether someone is likely to vote has always been whether they voted in the previous election. But with tight races expected across the industrial Midwest, the SEIU decided in 2018 to focus on minorities who are registered but participated in one or none of the past four federal elections. The first pass that canvassers make will be aimed at cleaning up the union’s list of targeted voters. In a lot of cases, people have stopped voting because they passed away or moved away.

“Once you get to somebody, they’re like ‘Whoa, this is incredible. No one has knocked on my door before,’” said SEIU political director Maria Peralta. “A lot of groups thought we were crazy, but we were committed to engaging voters that really aren't talked to at all or contacted at all. We saw the impact when we looked at the voter turnout: Folks on the lowest end of the scale turned out at higher rates than those on the higher end after being contacted by us. That’s why we’re doubling down on that strategy this year.”



Members of the SEIU, which represents 6,500 Twin Cities janitors and security guards, vote earlier this month to authorize a strike at the SEIU Local 26 headquarters in Minneapolis. (Matt Sepic/Minnesota Public Radio/AP)



**The SEIU has conducted and commissioned extensive research over the past several months to figure out what messages resonate with minorities who have not been voting. They've discovered a widespread perception that the economy is strong, even**

among blue-collar workers who haven't felt the benefits directly. They've also discovered that Latino and African American men are more likely to think favorably of both Trump and the economy than women in those communities. The SEIU has tested various messages to cut through this gender divide to persuade men and mobilize women to both vote and support Democrats when they do. At least until Labor Day, the field program will focus more on pocketbook issues than Trump himself.

The SEIU's broader goal is to couple the movements for racial justice and economic equality. Half the union's members are racial and ethnic minorities, and about 60 percent are women. "Race is being used by the right to divide and conquer," said Henry. "We don't think candidates ... can win without talking about how white, black [and] brown have to join together because we have another voice in the nation that is hammering on divide and conquer, saying that criminals are coming across our border and taking our jobs, which is his way of dividing the electorate based on race."

Research has also shown them that an especially effective way to reach these low-frequency voters is with peer-to-peer text messaging. In all 2018, SEIU organizers sent about 500,000 texts nationwide. They've already surpassed that number since January. In fact, nearly 500,000 texts have already been sent in Florida alone since the start of this year urging communities of color to register so they can vote.

**To be sure, union leaders emphasize they are not writing off working-class white voters.** Part of the \$150 million effort this year will go toward supporting an initiative with other organized labor groups to appeal to former union members in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. "We have a million voters that used to be in unions in these states, but because of the right-wing attacks, people have fallen out," said Henry. "If people have been in a union, they're more likely to support who the union and economic issues tied to unionization."

SEIU leaders are also engaging their own members. By their estimates, about 20 percent of the 2 million dues-paying members are conservatives.

Union officials plan to contact all members about voting approximately five times. For those who lean to the right, there will be emphasis on where candidates stand on issues related to supporting unions. “Wages and health care are still the top two issues, no matter what community we're in,” said Henry.



Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) speaks at an SEIU forum on labor issues last April in Las Vegas. (John Locher/AP)

**The SEIU has no current plans to endorse in the Democratic presidential contest, but this could change.** Several of the candidates have joined picket lines, spent time with workers in their service industry jobs and spoke at one of [the SEIU’s two cattle calls](#) over the past year. At their January board meeting, Henry said the officers of the union – which endorsed Clinton in November 2015 – agreed they should stay neutral for now. “There’s no push inside our union for me to convene an in-person meeting to endorse,” Henry said. “The current understanding amongst the leadership of our union is that any leader can put their hand up and say to me or any of our officers, ‘I think it's time for us to convene.’ The one commitment we've made to each other is that we'll get in a room. It won't be done on a phone call.”

The SEIU continues to push the candidates to commit to support

unionization efforts. “We think any plan to provide health care for all, college for all and child care for all ought to make it possible for workers to join unions,” said Henry. “The rules are rigged against us: The rules in the economy that block workers from joining unions and the rules in the democracy that don't allow everybody who should be able to vote to vote.”

Henry sits on the DNC’s platform committee. In 2016, she used that position to successfully push for the Democratic Party’s platform to endorse a \$15-an-hour federal minimum wage. Asked whether she’s concerned about a contested convention, Henry said they’re “factoring it in,” but that her members are more concerned about issues than personalities. She also emphasized that down-ballot races will stay a major focus. In Pennsylvania, for example, they’re not just trying to help the Democratic presidential candidate win but also seeking to take control of the state’s legislature. “In some cases,” she said, “our members are telling us that the down-ballot races are far more motivational for them than the top of the ticket because they feel kind of flooded by the presidential in states where there's lots of TV advertising happening.”

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## The coronavirus



Travis Air Force base is one of the two California military installations accepting flights carrying U.S. citizens evacuated from China and serving as a quarantine center. (Pete Dasilva/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

## The first sign the disease may be spreading within a U.S. community

The CDC reported last night that a person in Northern California has



contracted the coronavirus without traveling to regions hit by the outbreak or coming in contact with anyone known to have the infection. “How the person acquired the virus is unknown,” [Lenny Bernstein, Laurie McGinley and Lena Sun report](#). “The health agency left open the possibility ‘that the patient may have been exposed to a returned traveler who was infected.’ The state of California, however, called the case its first instance of community transmission. ... Community spread would represent a significant turn for the worse in the battle against the virus. To date, the United States has 60 known cases of the infection, with 59 among people who traveled to Asia or were close contacts of people who went there. The vast majority, 42, picked up the virus while quarantined on the Diamond Princess cruise ship off Japan. ...

**“The individual is a resident of Solano County, according to the California Department of Public Health. The patient is being treated at UC Davis Medical Center. Two officials from that hospital sent an email to employees Wednesday that said the patient arrived at the medical center Feb. 19 but was not tested until Sunday, despite an immediate request to the CDC.** The patient arrived from another hospital in Northern California ...

**“There are indications that other hospitals could be involved in the case.** Kris Concepcion, fire chief and acting public information officer in Vacaville, Calif., said county officials had issued a directive not to transport any new patients to two local hospitals — NorthBay VacaValley Hospital in Vacaville and NorthBay Medical Center in nearby Fairfield. ... **The two hospitals are in Solano County, home to Travis Air Force Base, where hundreds of Americans repatriated from China and others brought home from the Diamond Princess cruise ship have been kept in quarantine.** Many of them have been released. The health department said it has already begun tracing people who may have come in contact with the coronavirus-infected individual. ... The virus, which originated in Wuhan, China, has killed 2,801 people and sickened more than 82,000 as it has spread around the globe, reaching every continent except Antarctica.”

Key quote: If the infection is confirmed to be a case of “community spread,” “it would confirm what we have long suspected — that **there is a good chance there already are people infected in this country and that the virus is circulating undetected,**” said Jennifer Nuzzo, epidemiologist and senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

### **Virginia officials are waiting for test results for two patients.**

Nine possible coronavirus cases have been investigated in Virginia since Jan. 21, health officials said. No positive test results have been returned, per [Justin Wm. Moyer](#).

### **Schools are also preparing for a possible contagion by canceling foreign trips.**

For example, in Virginia, the Fairfax County school system – with 188,000 students, one of the largest – posted website updates with the same instructions it has offered since the virus surfaced – frequent hand-washing and disinfectant everywhere. The school system has canceled international field trips to countries where residents have fallen ill from the coronavirus. Class closures are unlikely in the near future, experts said, because relatively few cases have been diagnosed in the United States. ([Hannah Natanson](#))

**Officials revealed that more than 600 are being monitored for the virus in Massachusetts.** All had recently traveled to China and voluntarily quarantined themselves at home while being monitored, health officials said. So far, 377 completed the quarantine without falling ill, while 231 are still being monitored. ([Boston Globe](#))



## **Trump put Vice President Pence in charge of the coronavirus response.**

The president's choice is "an attempt to reassure the public amid growing concerns of a global health crisis and criticism that the United States has been slow to respond to the fast-moving outbreak," [Toluse Olorunnipa, Josh Dawsey and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#). "We've had tremendous success, tremendous success beyond what many people would've thought,' the president said during a White House news conference that followed days of mixed messages, tumbling stocks and rising death tolls abroad driven by the coronavirus. 'We're very, very ready for this.' The president declared that the risk to America was 'very low' and predicted a swift end to the outbreak. ...

**"The president was contradicted almost in real time by some of the government experts who flanked him as he stood in the White House press briefing room.** 'We could be just one or two people over the next short period of time,' Trump said of the virus's impact in the United States. Minutes later, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and CDC Principal Deputy Director Anne Schuchat warned Americans to prepare for the number of cases to grow. 'We can expect to see more cases in the United States,' Azar said. 'We do expect more cases,' Schuchat said. ...

“The president said he would be willing to accept more emergency funding than the \$2.5 billion requested by his administration after lawmakers pushed for a more robust federal response. **He also said he would consider new travel restrictions on other countries struggling to contain the outbreak, including South Korea and Italy.** ... He partly blamed Democrats for the drop in the stock market and attacked House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) as ‘incompetent’ after she had made disparaging comments about his handling of the coronavirus outbreak ... **Trump has made a direct connection between the virus and his political fortunes, accusing Democrats and the media of trying to harm his reelection chances by focusing on the outbreak.** Trump took to Twitter early Wednesday to accuse cable news channels of ‘doing everything possible to make the Coronavirus look as bad as possible, including panicking markets, if possible.’ ...

“The White House considered appointing a ‘czar’ to oversee the government-wide response effort, a move that would essentially demote Azar from his role as the head of the coronavirus task force. ... **Trump said his decision to put Pence in charge was not tantamount to appointing a czar, despite him taking a role that serves the same purpose.** ‘Mike is not a czar, he’s vice president,’ the president said. ‘I’m having them report to Mike. Mike will report to me.’”

### **As Indiana's governor, Pence badly mishandled a 2016 HIV outbreak in his state.**

“Pence came under fire for resisting the CDC's urging to allow clean needles to be distributed because of his conservative, religious beliefs. At the time, needle exchanges were illegal in Indiana. But after mounting pressure from health officials and praying on it, the Republican eventually lifted the ban,” [BuzzFeed News reports](#).

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## **Quote of the day**

“*We’re doing great. Other countries have not been doing*”

*great,” Trump said about the U.S. government's coronavirus response. ([Aaron Blake](#))*

## **The outbreak is flaring up around Asia, as it eases inside China.**

“While China's official numbers continued to show a drop in new cases and deaths in the country, in other parts of the world the problem appeared to be getting worse. **South Korea announced 505 new cases on Thursday, bringing its total to 1,766, including one U.S. soldier stationed on the peninsula,**” [Adam Taylor and Rick Noack report](#). “Elsewhere, officials canceled or postponed events including religious pilgrimages in Saudi Arabia, as doubts grow over Tokyo's plans to host the 2020 Olympics.”

**A flight attendant diagnosed with coronavirus might have worked trips between Seoul and Los Angeles.** South Korea's Center for Disease Control said the attendant, who had serviced a flight between Seoul and Tel Aviv, had tested positive. Neither Korean Air nor local officials immediately confirmed reports that she serviced two flights to L.A. ([L.A. Times](#))

**South Korea called off joint military exercises with U.S. troops because of the virus.** ([WSJ](#))

## **A Japanese woman who had recovered from the virus tested positive again.**

The woman was one of the first cases of coronavirus in the country but was released from the hospital nearly four weeks ago, apparently cured. Now she's testing positive again. This is a bad sign for containment efforts. ([Simon Denyer](#))

## **Iran is struggling to contain the disease, putting other Middle East nations at risk.**

“In Iran, 139 people have contracted the virus, including the deputy health minister and a prominent member of parliament. Nineteen people have

died, according to the Health Ministry,” [Erin Cunningham and Louisa Loveluck report](#). “The virus has appeared in multiple Iranian cities, and infections in Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and Oman have been traced back to Iran. ... But even as regional governments moved to control the outbreak, Iranian authorities came under fire for what critics said is an inadequate response to the threat. Officials have rejected calls to quarantine major cities and have allowed communal prayer services to continue in places such as Qom, where the virus first emerged in Iran.”

### **Italy’s economy was already struggling. Then came the virus.**

“Trams rattle by half-empty. Office buildings are vacant. Top-flight soccer matches are played in empty stadiums behind closed doors,” [Loveday Morris and Chico Harlan report](#). “For Italy, the coronavirus could hardly have broken out in a more damaging economic area. The country’s two largest northern regions, Lombardy and Veneto, account for 30 percent of the employment and 40 percent of the exports. Milan is the economic hub, and to the east, Venice is a tourism mega-draw for a country that depends on visitors for 13 percent of its gross domestic product.”

### **The World Health Organization says China isn’t sharing enough data on infections.**

“The WHO said it has repeatedly asked Chinese officials for ‘disaggregated’ data — meaning specific figures broken out from the overall numbers — that could shed light on hospital transmission and help assess the level of risk front-line workers face,” [Emily Rauhala reports](#) “It is not clear whether political sensitivities have shaped China’s reporting on sick doctors and other health-care professionals. It is possible that data gaps simply reflect the challenge of gathering information in the middle of a crisis, experts said. What is clear is that China is not sending details that WHO officials and other experts expect and need.”

### **Russia and China are taking different, but equally dangerous, approaches to the virus.**

So says The Post's [Editorial Board](#): “Open governments are struggling to

encourage responsibility about a growing pandemic without inspiring panic. Russia appears to be trying to do just the opposite. [Evidence suggests Moscow is spreading propaganda designed to stoke anxiety about the virus and distrust in authorities' efforts to fight it.](#) Meanwhile, citizens in China are suffering not from a deluge of misleading material but from a dearth of open discussion. ... Either tactic, with stakes as high as they are today, could get people killed.”

## **The coronavirus has forced religious leaders to reconsider Lenten traditions.**

“Ash Wednesday is a chance for clergy to remind Christians of their mortality, often with a swipe of thumb-to-forehead ashes,” [Sarah Pulliam Bailey reports.](#) “But this year, the holy day came one day after federal health officials said the country should brace for [the ‘inevitable’ spread of the virus]. Pastors and ministers ... found themselves asking: Should we tweak our rituals? ‘It’s a very intimate moment,’ said Teer Hardy, an associate pastor at Mount Olivet United Methodist Church in Arlington, Va. .... ‘You’re a couple of inches from someone’s face.’ ... **Spokespeople for many of the largest Christian denominations in the U.S. said this week that they have not issued special directives for their churches but are closely monitoring guidance from government officials.** The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey told clergy and lay leaders Tuesday that anyone administering Communion should wash their hands, preferably with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and keep their distance during the greeting ritual known as the ‘passing of the peace.’”

## **You really don’t need to buy anything new or special to brace for the virus.**

Doctors gave [Reis Thebault and Alex Horton](#) a few recommendations: “Don’t go crazy,” said Timothy Brewer, an epidemiologist at UCLA. “You don’t need to go out and stock up on lots of things.” If you’re not sick, you don’t need a surgical mask – and you don’t need to buy every box your pharmacy has in stock. “The main point of the mask is to keep someone who is infected with the virus from spreading it to others,” Brewer said.

- **Wash your hands regularly.** Cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze. And when you're sick, stay home from work or school and drink lots of fluids.
  - **It's worth considering limiting exposure to large groups,** said Stanley Perlman, an infectious-disease expert at the University of Iowa.
  - **Avoid the middle of a packed train car,** and turn away if someone is coughing nearby, said Saskia V. Popescu, a senior infection-prevention epidemiologist for a Phoenix-based hospital system.
- 

## 2020 watch



Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.) endorses Joe Biden on Wednesday in North Charleston. (Gerald Herbert/AP)

**Joe Biden had a good day in South Carolina, where he's favored to win.**

“South Carolina chooses presidents,” Biden said as he accepted House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn’s endorsement. “You decided to launch Bill



Clinton to the White House, and up to that time, it didn't look like he was going very far — but you did. You launched my buddy Barack Obama to the White House. I firmly believe, once again on Saturday, you hold in your hands, in South Carolina, the power to choose the next president of the United States.”

**“Even as he holds a small lead in polls, Biden is being vastly outspent on television and radio ads here,”** [Matt Viser and Cleve Wootson report from North Charleston, S.C.](#) "While the Clyburn endorsement could prove influential, Biden also secured the top endorsements in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada, and that helped little. And there is no certainty that even a convincing win could translate to victory when 14 other states and American Samoa vote on Super Tuesday three days later. **Biden has laid little groundwork in the next states**, forced to spend almost all of his time in South Carolina this week as other candidates scatter to the next set of states. Strapped for cash, he is only now starting to buy advertising in some Super Tuesday states — and is spending a fraction of what his rivals are. That puts even more pressure on South Carolina to give Biden a bounce. ... Rep. David E. Price (D-N.C.) had sat on the sidelines and watched the primary contest unfold. But after growing concerned about the unsettled field, he endorsed Biden this week.

### **Barack Obama demanded TV stations stop airing a misleading attack against Biden.**

The ad from a pro-Trump super PAC, which has been running around South Carolina, uses the former president's words out of context in a misleading attack on Biden. [Michael Scherer and Anu Narayanswamy report.](#) “The Committee to Defend the President, a pro-Trump group, circulated [an ad that falsely suggests](#) that words Obama spoke in the narration of his own 1995 book were meant to describe Biden.” Katie Hill, Obama’s communications director, denounced the ad as being “straight out of the Republican disinformation playbook” and added that Obama has “no plans to endorse in the primary.”

## **Bernie Sanders is a challenge to Nancy Pelosi's majority that's beyond her control.**

“While a cadre of lawmakers and strategists are sounding alarms about the risks the senator from Vermont and democratic socialist would pose to down-ballot candidates, **Pelosi is moving carefully publicly and privately to avoid even the perception that she is putting her thumb on the presidential scales,**” [Mike DeBonis reports](#). “I think whoever our nominee is, we will enthusiastically embrace, and we will win the White House, the Senate and the House of Representatives,’ she told reporters ... It would be a mistake to expect Pelosi to follow Clyburn’s lead and insert herself into the presidential race. ... Asked Wednesday about whether she thought she had the power to help cull the field, Pelosi said, ‘The power is with the people.’”

## **Warren said she'll stay in the race until the convention, even if Sanders has more delegates.**

[During a CNN town hall in South Carolina](#), Warren said “she would be willing to lobby superdelegates, who have votes on the second ballot if there's no outright winner, when asked if she would continue her candidacy even if she were trailing in the delegate count. Asked by an audience member why the person who gets the most votes shouldn't be awarded the nomination, Warren said the rules set a higher bar -- and that she intended to fight to the last. Warren also suggested that the argument by [Sanders] that a candidate with a plurality should be declared the nominee was disingenuous, noting that his 2016 campaign, despite losing to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, publicly argued that convention superdelegates should consider swinging the contest in his favor.”

## **The Trump campaign plans to open community centers to woo black voters.**

Campaign officials showed reporters posters featuring the glossy facades of their proposed “Black Voices for Trump community centers,” [Ashley Parker reports](#). They described them as functioning as a cross between a traditional campaign field office and a sleek retail space in a heavily

trafficked pedestrian area, such as a mall. “You’re never going to get the votes you don’t ask for,” the president’s son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner said, describing the outreach as “more than a toe in the water. It’s a whole foot in the water.”

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## Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked



### A shooting in Wisconsin left six dead.

“Wisconsin’s largest city is grieving after an employee at a historic brewery shot and killed five co-workers and then turned the gun on himself. Police say the 51-year-old assailant — who has not been publicly named by the authorities — opened fire on the sprawling Molson Coors campus Wednesday afternoon,” [Dan Simmons, Hannah Knowles, Mark Berman and Reis Thebault report](#). They did not discuss a possible motive for the killings and did not name the victims. **“The rampage is the first shooting to kill four or more people in 2020,** according to a [Post database](#).”

**The House passed legislation that would finally make lynching a federal hate crime.**

“H.R. 35, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, was approved on a bipartisan 410-to-4 vote after a sometimes emotional debate in the House,” [Felicia Sonmez reports](#). “Rep. Bobby L. Rush (D-Ill.), who sponsored the legislation, said the bill will ‘send a strong message that violence, and race-based violence in particular, has no place in American society.’ The measure’s passage comes after lawmakers tried, and failed, to pass anti-lynching bills nearly 200 times. The earliest such attempt came in 1900, when Rep. George Henry White (R-N.C.), then the country’s only black member of Congress, stood on the floor of the House and read the text of his unprecedented measure, which would have prosecuted lynchings at the federal level. The bill later died in committee. Years later, Rep. Leonidas C. Dyer (R-Mo.) introduced an anti-lynching measure that passed the House but was filibustered in the Senate by Southern Democrats ...

**“At least 4,742 people, mostly African Americans, were reported lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1968 in all but four states ...** Ninety-nine percent of perpetrators escaped state or local punishment ... A separate version of the measure, the Justice for Victims of Lynching Act, passed the Senate last year. It was introduced by the chamber’s three black senators: Kamala D. Harris (D-Calif.), Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.). ... There are minor differences between the two measures, and House Democrats are optimistic the Senate will approve the House-passed version and send it to President Trump’s desk.”

## **Mexican reverse migration is shrinking the undocumented population.**

“José cared for the bottle-fed babies, 700 of them in all. He knew a calf was healthy if her eyes were bright and her appetite hearty,” [the Times reports](#). “‘His job was to do all things a mom would do to look after her young,’ said Mary Kraft, who employed José and his brother, Juan, both undocumented immigrants from Mexico, for a decade at her Quail Ridge Dairy in Colorado. Then about a year ago, the brothers informed Ms. Kraft that they were returning to Mexico. They had amassed enough savings in the land of opportunity to resume their lives back where they had started.

The pair are among a growing number of Mexicans who have been departing the United States in recent years ... [New data that was released](#) on Wednesday by the Center for Migration Studies shows there were 10.6 million immigrants living unlawfully in the United States in 2018 compared with 11.75 million in 2010, a decline propelled primarily by Mexicans returning south.”

## **ICE ran facial-recognition searches on millions of Marylanders.**

Agency officials “have been permitted to run facial-recognition searches on millions of Maryland driver’s license photos without first seeking state or court approval, state officials said — access that goes far beyond what other states allow and that alarms immigration activists in a state that grants special driver’s licenses to undocumented immigrants,” [Drew Harwell and Erin Cox report](#). “The technology now under scrutiny could let an ICE official run a photograph of an unknown person through the system and see if any potentially undocumented immigrants are returned as a match.”

## **A facial-recognition company that works with law enforcement said its client list was stolen.**

“The startup Clearview AI disclosed to its customers that an intruder ‘gained unauthorized access’ to its list of customers, to the number of user accounts those customers had set up, and to the number of searches its customers have conducted,” the [Daily Beast reports](#). “The notification said the company’s servers were not breached and that there was ‘no compromise of Clearview’s systems or network.’”

## **Five were arrested for allegedly targeting reporters as part of a neo-Nazi group.**

Federal officials “arrested several alleged members of a white-supremacist group called Atomwaffen Division, including its two leaders, accusing them of plotting to intimidate journalists by calling police to their homes and offices and dropping off threatening fliers,” [Rachel Weiner and Matt Zapposky report](#). “John Cameron Denton, of Montgomery, Tex., is

charged in U.S. District Court in Alexandria with conspiring to call in fake threats targeting a ProPublica reporter and his office. ... In federal court in Seattle, prosecutors say Kaleb Cole and three others hatched a different intimidation plan: finding out where journalists live and leaving posters at their homes with messages featuring swastikas, weapons and the vague threat that they were being watched.”

### **Giuliani wanted the 2001 mayoral election cancelled so he could stay on as mayor after 9/11.**

“Rudy Giuliani secretly asked then-New York Gov. George Pataki to cancel New York City’s 2001 mayoral election so he could remain in office following the Sept. 11 terror attack,” [the New York Post reports](#). **“The bombshell disclosure is contained in Pataki’s upcoming memoir of 9/11, ‘Beyond the Great Divide: How A Nation Became A Neighborhood.’** ... Giuliani ‘dropped a bomb,’ Pataki writes. ‘Governor, you have extraordinary powers to extend my term in office,’ Giuliani said. Pataki’s ‘heart sank,’ he writes, noting that he initially backed the idea of repealing term limits so Giuliani, a fellow Republican, could seek a third term, but quickly realized it was a ‘bad idea both as a matter of principle and politically.’”

### **Giuliani complained about having “five friends left” after forgetting to hang up on a reporter.**

Giuliani forgot to hang up on a [New York Daily News reporter](#) after being asked about Pataki’s claims. He started trash-talking Pataki while complaining that he only has “five friends left.” “There were people who wanted me to do it,” Giuliani told the News, when he was aware he was on the phone. “I thought about it for two days, but I never asked him to do it. I never made the decision to do it.”

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## **Social media speed read**

India's prime minister called for deescalation of riots that have left more than 30 dead in Delhi:



“Mobs of Hindus and Muslims had clashed on roads and alleyways in northeast Delhi, throwing stones and crude gasoline bombs. At least three mosques were torched, as were scores of homes and businesses. Witnesses said that instead of stopping the violence, police joined crowds shouting Hindu nationalist slogans and fired indiscriminately," Joanna Slater and Niha Masih report.

Reuters reporters shared devastating images from the attacks:





**Simon Robinson** ✓ @iron\_emu · 43m



Here's the aftermath for Mohammad Zubair: "They saw I was alone, they saw my cap, beard, shalwar kameez (clothes) and saw me as a Muslim. They just started attacking, shouting slogans. What kind of humanity is this?"

Pic by Danish Siddiqui for Reuters. #delhivoilence  
#DelhiRiots [twitter.com/iron\\_emu/statu...](https://twitter.com/iron_emu/status...)



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A mob out for blood: India's protests pit Hindus against Muslims [reut.rs/2VkJIC](https://reut.rs/2VkJIC)



**Simon Robinson** ✓

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More from Delhi: Policemen move through a riot-affected area after clashes between people demonstrating for and against India's new citizenship law. REUTERS/Adnan Abidi



8:57 AM - Feb 27, 2020





[See Simon Robinson's other Tweets](#)

Another conspiracy theory is circulating in the fever swamps of the fringe right, per a CNN reporter:



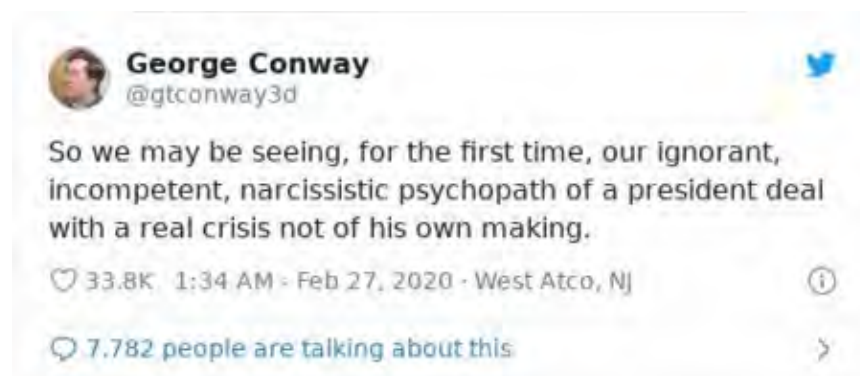
Once again, there's always a tweet:



A Hawaii Democratic senator expressed concern that Pence is taking point on the coronavirus:



The husband of one of Trump's top advisers noted that this is a rare crisis not of the president's own creation:



Biden shared a moving answer about his faith:



**CNN Politics**   
@CNNPolitics



Joe Biden on his faith: "For me, it's important because it gives me some reason to have hope. And purpose. ... It took a long time for me to get to the point to realize that that purpose is the thing that would save me. And it has" [#CNNTownHall](#) [cnn.it/2PtWnTv](http://cnn.it/2PtWnTv)



 11.9K 1:33 AM - Feb 27, 2020 

 3,692 people are talking about this 

## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert doesn't feel very reassured by Trump's plan to fight the coronavirus:



Seth Meyers said Trump likes cozying up to authoritarian leaders:



In a break from politics, Trevor Noah took a look at other news, including how the heiress of the Hot Pockets fortune was sentenced to prison:



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: SEIU will spend \$150 million on 2020 elections, focused on mobilizing infrequent voters  
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# The Daily 202

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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## SEIU will spend \$150 million on 2020 elections, focused on mobilizing infrequent voters

The Service Employees International Union plans to spend \$150 million this year to get out the vote for Democrats in November, its largest political investment ever.

The union will deploy canvassers across more than 40 states, but its efforts will mainly focus on turning out infrequent voters from the African American and Latino communities across the eight battleground states of

Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin.

SEIU President Mary Kay Henry previewed the strategy to defeat President Trump during an extended interview in her office off Dupont Circle in Washington. The union, which represents 2 million members, has opted not to endorse in the presidential primary, at least for now, but to focus instead on building a massive field operation to help whoever emerges from the convention this summer, as well as Democrats down the ballot.

The decision to focus on low-propensity voters grew out of Trump's victory in the 2016 election. In urban centers like Milwaukee, Detroit and Philadelphia, many minorities who cast ballots for Barack Obama in 2008 and/or 2012 did not come out again for Hillary Clinton. In 2018, the SEIU spent tens of millions of dollars trying to convince these folks that it was worth their time to participate in the midterm elections. [The success of that effort](#) has shaped 2020 planning.

“People have to be persuaded that it matters. We’re up against a sense of either hopelessness or disillusionment,” said Henry. “Our experience in ‘18 was that we were able to take infrequent voters that most campaigns and parties never talk to and demonstrate, through data, that when you go early, and you communicate frequently, and you engage people on wages and health care and investment in their communities, they’re going to show up and vote.”



Service Employees International Union President Mary Kay Henry speaks to the audience before the Democratic presidential debate in Detroit last July. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)

**By Election Day on Nov. 3, the SEIU's goal is to attempt face-to-face conversations with 6 million individuals, send text messages to 20 million people and reach another 1 million possible voters online through a digital ad program in the battleground states.**

**The SEIU plans targeted Latino outreach programs in Wisconsin, Colorado, Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Nevada. The union is building out programs to mobilize Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Pennsylvania and Nevada. In Philadelphia, this will be concentrated in the Chinese community. In Las Vegas, it's more Filipinos. In Florida, the SEIU has partnered with the same four organizations it worked with in 2018 to expand turnout in black and Hispanic communities, including Puerto Ricans and others from the Caribbean. All told, canvassers are being hired to communicate at people's front doors in five different languages.**

**The SEIU will invest significant resources to turn out Somali and Hmong voters around the Twin Cities after Trump came within 1.5 percentage points of beating Clinton in Minnesota, a state no Republican presidential**



candidate has carried since Richard Nixon in 1972. “They're part of this infrequent voter pool, and we know they need to show up in order to win in Minnesota,” said Henry, who got her start in the labor movement as a field organizer in the state.

Outreach to black voters in Detroit and Milwaukee has been happening since the fall, building on the work that helped elect Democratic governors Gretchen Whitmer in Michigan and Tony Evers in Wisconsin. Canvassers have knocked on 251,000 doors in those two states since the beginning of January.

With limited resources, campaigns and outside groups usually reach out to people who are most likely to vote. The best predictor of whether someone is likely to vote has always been whether they voted in the previous election. But with tight races expected across the industrial Midwest, the SEIU decided in 2018 to focus on minorities who are registered but participated in one or none of the past four federal elections. The first pass that canvassers make will be aimed at cleaning up the union's list of targeted voters. In a lot of cases, people have stopped voting because they passed away or moved away.

“Once you get to somebody, they're like ‘Whoa, this is incredible. No one has knocked on my door before,’” said SEIU political director Maria Peralta. “A lot of groups thought we were crazy, but we were committed to engaging voters that really aren't talked to at all or contacted at all. We saw the impact when we looked at the voter turnout: Folks on the lowest end of the scale turned out at higher rates than those on the higher end after being contacted by us. That's why we're doubling down on that strategy this year.”



Members of the SEIU, which represents 6,500 Twin Cities janitors and security guards, vote earlier this month to authorize a strike at the SEIU Local 26 headquarters in Minneapolis. (Matt Sepic/Minnesota Public Radio/AP)



**The SEIU has conducted and commissioned extensive research over the past several months to figure out what messages resonate with minorities who have not been voting. They've discovered a widespread perception that the economy is strong, even**

among blue-collar workers who haven't felt the benefits directly. They've also discovered that Latino and African American men are more likely to think favorably of both Trump and the economy than women in those communities. The SEIU has tested various messages to cut through this gender divide to persuade men and mobilize women to both vote and support Democrats when they do. At least until Labor Day, the field program will focus more on pocketbook issues than Trump himself.

The SEIU's broader goal is to couple the movements for racial justice and economic equality. Half the union's members are racial and ethnic minorities, and about 60 percent are women. "Race is being used by the right to divide and conquer," said Henry. "We don't think candidates ... can win without talking about how white, black [and] brown have to join together because we have another voice in the nation that is hammering on divide and conquer, saying that criminals are coming across our border and taking our jobs, which is his way of dividing the electorate based on race."

Research has also shown them that an especially effective way to reach these low-frequency voters is with peer-to-peer text messaging. In all 2018, SEIU organizers sent about 500,000 texts nationwide. They've already surpassed that number since January. In fact, nearly 500,000 texts have already been sent in Florida alone since the start of this year urging communities of color to register so they can vote.

**To be sure, union leaders emphasize they are not writing off working-class white voters.** Part of the \$150 million effort this year will go toward supporting an initiative with other organized labor groups to appeal to former union members in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. "We have a million voters that used to be in unions in these states, but because of the right-wing attacks, people have fallen out," said Henry. "If people have been in a union, they're more likely to support who the union and economic issues tied to unionization."

SEIU leaders are also engaging their own members. By their estimates, about 20 percent of the 2 million dues-paying members are conservatives.

Union officials plan to contact all members about voting approximately five times. For those who lean to the right, there will be emphasis on where candidates stand on issues related to supporting unions. “Wages and health care are still the top two issues, no matter what community we're in,” said Henry.



Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) speaks at an SEIU forum on labor issues last April in Las Vegas. (John Locher/AP)

**The SEIU has no current plans to endorse in the Democratic presidential contest, but this could change.** Several of the candidates have joined picket lines, spent time with workers in their service industry jobs and spoke at one of [the SEIU’s two cattle calls](#) over the past year. At their January board meeting, Henry said the officers of the union – which endorsed Clinton in November 2015 – agreed they should stay neutral for now. “There’s no push inside our union for me to convene an in-person meeting to endorse,” Henry said. “The current understanding amongst the leadership of our union is that any leader can put their hand up and say to me or any of our officers, ‘I think it's time for us to convene.’ The one commitment we've made to each other is that we'll get in a room. It won't be done on a phone call.”

The SEIU continues to push the candidates to commit to support

unionization efforts. “We think any plan to provide health care for all, college for all and child care for all ought to make it possible for workers to join unions,” said Henry. “The rules are rigged against us: The rules in the economy that block workers from joining unions and the rules in the democracy that don't allow everybody who should be able to vote to vote.”

Henry sits on the DNC’s platform committee. In 2016, she used that position to successfully push for the Democratic Party’s platform to endorse a \$15-an-hour federal minimum wage. Asked whether she’s concerned about a contested convention, Henry said they’re “factoring it in,” but that her members are more concerned about issues than personalities. She also emphasized that down-ballot races will stay a major focus. In Pennsylvania, for example, they’re not just trying to help the Democratic presidential candidate win but also seeking to take control of the state’s legislature. “In some cases,” she said, “our members are telling us that the down-ballot races are far more motivational for them than the top of the ticket because they feel kind of flooded by the presidential in states where there's lots of TV advertising happening.”

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## The coronavirus



Travis Air Force base is one of the two California military installations accepting flights carrying U.S. citizens evacuated from China and serving as a quarantine center. (Pete Dasilva/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

## The first sign the disease may be spreading within a U.S. community

The CDC reported last night that a person in Northern California has

contracted the coronavirus without traveling to regions hit by the outbreak or coming in contact with anyone known to have the infection. “How the person acquired the virus is unknown,” [Lenny Bernstein, Laurie McGinley and Lena Sun report](#). “The health agency left open the possibility ‘that the patient may have been exposed to a returned traveler who was infected.’ The state of California, however, called the case its first instance of community transmission. ... Community spread would represent a significant turn for the worse in the battle against the virus. To date, the United States has 60 known cases of the infection, with 59 among people who traveled to Asia or were close contacts of people who went there. The vast majority, 42, picked up the virus while quarantined on the Diamond Princess cruise ship off Japan. ...

**“The individual is a resident of Solano County, according to the California Department of Public Health. The patient is being treated at UC Davis Medical Center. Two officials from that hospital sent an email to employees Wednesday that said the patient arrived at the medical center Feb. 19 but was not tested until Sunday, despite an immediate request to the CDC.** The patient arrived from another hospital in Northern California ...

**“There are indications that other hospitals could be involved in the case.** Kris Concepcion, fire chief and acting public information officer in Vacaville, Calif., said county officials had issued a directive not to transport any new patients to two local hospitals — NorthBay VacaValley Hospital in Vacaville and NorthBay Medical Center in nearby Fairfield. ... **The two hospitals are in Solano County, home to Travis Air Force Base, where hundreds of Americans repatriated from China and others brought home from the Diamond Princess cruise ship have been kept in quarantine.** Many of them have been released. The health department said it has already begun tracing people who may have come in contact with the coronavirus-infected individual. ... The virus, which originated in Wuhan, China, has killed 2,801 people and sickened more than 82,000 as it has spread around the globe, reaching every continent except Antarctica.”

Key quote: If the infection is confirmed to be a case of “community spread,” “it would confirm what we have long suspected — that **there is a good chance there already are people infected in this country and that the virus is circulating undetected,**” said Jennifer Nuzzo, epidemiologist and senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

### **Virginia officials are waiting for test results for two patients.**

Nine possible coronavirus cases have been investigated in Virginia since Jan. 21, health officials said. No positive test results have been returned, per [Justin Wm. Moyer](#).

### **Schools are also preparing for a possible contagion by canceling foreign trips.**

For example, in Virginia, the Fairfax County school system – with 188,000 students, one of the largest – posted website updates with the same instructions it has offered since the virus surfaced – frequent hand-washing and disinfectant everywhere. The school system has canceled international field trips to countries where residents have fallen ill from the coronavirus. Class closures are unlikely in the near future, experts said, because relatively few cases have been diagnosed in the United States. ([Hannah Natanson](#))

**Officials revealed that more than 600 are being monitored for the virus in Massachusetts.** All had recently traveled to China and voluntarily quarantined themselves at home while being monitored, health officials said. So far, 377 completed the quarantine without falling ill, while 231 are still being monitored. ([Boston Globe](#))





## Trump put Vice President Pence in charge of the coronavirus response.

The president's choice is "an attempt to reassure the public amid growing concerns of a global health crisis and criticism that the United States has been slow to respond to the fast-moving outbreak," [Toluse Olorunnipa, Josh Dawsey and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#). "We've had tremendous success, tremendous success beyond what many people would've thought," the president said during a White House news conference that followed days of mixed messages, tumbling stocks and rising death tolls abroad driven by the coronavirus. 'We're very, very ready for this.' The president declared that the risk to America was 'very low' and predicted a swift end to the outbreak. ...

**"The president was contradicted almost in real time by some of the government experts who flanked him as he stood in the White House press briefing room.** 'We could be just one or two people over the next short period of time,' Trump said of the virus's impact in the United States. Minutes later, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and CDC Principal Deputy Director Anne Schuchat warned Americans to prepare for the number of cases to grow. 'We can expect to see more cases in the United States,' Azar said. 'We do expect more cases,' Schuchat said. ...

“The president said he would be willing to accept more emergency funding than the \$2.5 billion requested by his administration after lawmakers pushed for a more robust federal response. **He also said he would consider new travel restrictions on other countries struggling to contain the outbreak, including South Korea and Italy.** ... He partly blamed Democrats for the drop in the stock market and attacked House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) as ‘incompetent’ after she had made disparaging comments about his handling of the coronavirus outbreak ... **Trump has made a direct connection between the virus and his political fortunes, accusing Democrats and the media of trying to harm his reelection chances by focusing on the outbreak.** Trump took to Twitter early Wednesday to accuse cable news channels of ‘doing everything possible to make the Coronavirus look as bad as possible, including panicking markets, if possible.’ ...

“The White House considered appointing a ‘czar’ to oversee the government-wide response effort, a move that would essentially demote Azar from his role as the head of the coronavirus task force. ... **Trump said his decision to put Pence in charge was not tantamount to appointing a czar, despite him taking a role that serves the same purpose.** ‘Mike is not a czar, he’s vice president,’ the president said. ‘I’m having them report to Mike. Mike will report to me.’”

### **As Indiana's governor, Pence badly mishandled a 2016 HIV outbreak in his state.**

“Pence came under fire for resisting the CDC's urging to allow clean needles to be distributed because of his conservative, religious beliefs. At the time, needle exchanges were illegal in Indiana. But after mounting pressure from health officials and praying on it, the Republican eventually lifted the ban,” [BuzzFeed News reports](#).

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## **Quote of the day**

“*We’re doing great. Other countries have not been doing*”

*great,” Trump said about the U.S. government's coronavirus response. ([Aaron Blake](#))*

## **The outbreak is flaring up around Asia, as it eases inside China.**

“While China's official numbers continued to show a drop in new cases and deaths in the country, in other parts of the world the problem appeared to be getting worse. **South Korea announced 505 new cases on Thursday, bringing its total to 1,766, including one U.S. soldier stationed on the peninsula,**” [Adam Taylor and Rick Noack report](#). “Elsewhere, officials canceled or postponed events including religious pilgrimages in Saudi Arabia, as doubts grow over Tokyo's plans to host the 2020 Olympics.”

**A flight attendant diagnosed with coronavirus might have worked trips between Seoul and Los Angeles.** South Korea's Center for Disease Control said the attendant, who had serviced a flight between Seoul and Tel Aviv, had tested positive. Neither Korean Air nor local officials immediately confirmed reports that she serviced two flights to L.A. ([L.A. Times](#))

**South Korea called off joint military exercises with U.S. troops because of the virus.** ([WSJ](#))

## **A Japanese woman who had recovered from the virus tested positive again.**

The woman was one of the first cases of coronavirus in the country but was released from the hospital nearly four weeks ago, apparently cured. Now she's testing positive again. This is a bad sign for containment efforts. ([Simon Denyer](#))

## **Iran is struggling to contain the disease, putting other Middle East nations at risk.**

“In Iran, 139 people have contracted the virus, including the deputy health minister and a prominent member of parliament. Nineteen people have

died, according to the Health Ministry,” [Erin Cunningham and Louisa Loveluck report](#). “The virus has appeared in multiple Iranian cities, and infections in Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and Oman have been traced back to Iran. ... But even as regional governments moved to control the outbreak, Iranian authorities came under fire for what critics said is an inadequate response to the threat. Officials have rejected calls to quarantine major cities and have allowed communal prayer services to continue in places such as Qom, where the virus first emerged in Iran.”

### **Italy’s economy was already struggling. Then came the virus.**

“Trams rattle by half-empty. Office buildings are vacant. Top-flight soccer matches are played in empty stadiums behind closed doors,” [Loveday Morris and Chico Harlan report](#). “For Italy, the coronavirus could hardly have broken out in a more damaging economic area. The country’s two largest northern regions, Lombardy and Veneto, account for 30 percent of the employment and 40 percent of the exports. Milan is the economic hub, and to the east, Venice is a tourism mega-draw for a country that depends on visitors for 13 percent of its gross domestic product.”

### **The World Health Organization says China isn’t sharing enough data on infections.**

“The WHO said it has repeatedly asked Chinese officials for ‘disaggregated’ data — meaning specific figures broken out from the overall numbers — that could shed light on hospital transmission and help assess the level of risk front-line workers face,” [Emily Rauhala reports](#) “It is not clear whether political sensitivities have shaped China’s reporting on sick doctors and other health-care professionals. It is possible that data gaps simply reflect the challenge of gathering information in the middle of a crisis, experts said. What is clear is that China is not sending details that WHO officials and other experts expect and need.”

### **Russia and China are taking different, but equally dangerous, approaches to the virus.**

So says The Post's [Editorial Board](#): “Open governments are struggling to

encourage responsibility about a growing pandemic without inspiring panic. Russia appears to be trying to do just the opposite. [Evidence suggests Moscow is spreading propaganda designed to stoke anxiety about the virus and distrust in authorities' efforts to fight it.](#) Meanwhile, citizens in China are suffering not from a deluge of misleading material but from a dearth of open discussion. ... Either tactic, with stakes as high as they are today, could get people killed.”

## **The coronavirus has forced religious leaders to reconsider Lenten traditions.**

“Ash Wednesday is a chance for clergy to remind Christians of their mortality, often with a swipe of thumb-to-forehead ashes,” [Sarah Pulliam Bailey reports.](#) “But this year, the holy day came one day after federal health officials said the country should brace for [the ‘inevitable’ spread of the virus]. Pastors and ministers ... found themselves asking: Should we tweak our rituals? ‘It’s a very intimate moment,’ said Teer Hardy, an associate pastor at Mount Olivet United Methodist Church in Arlington, Va. .... ‘You’re a couple of inches from someone’s face.’ ... **Spokespeople for many of the largest Christian denominations in the U.S. said this week that they have not issued special directives for their churches but are closely monitoring guidance from government officials.** The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey told clergy and lay leaders Tuesday that anyone administering Communion should wash their hands, preferably with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and keep their distance during the greeting ritual known as the ‘passing of the peace.’”

## **You really don’t need to buy anything new or special to brace for the virus.**

Doctors gave [Reis Thebault and Alex Horton](#) a few recommendations: “Don’t go crazy,” said Timothy Brewer, an epidemiologist at UCLA. “You don’t need to go out and stock up on lots of things.” If you’re not sick, you don’t need a surgical mask – and you don’t need to buy every box your pharmacy has in stock. “The main point of the mask is to keep someone who is infected with the virus from spreading it to others,” Brewer said.

- **Wash your hands regularly.** Cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze. And when you're sick, stay home from work or school and drink lots of fluids.
  - **It's worth considering limiting exposure to large groups,** said Stanley Perlman, an infectious-disease expert at the University of Iowa.
  - **Avoid the middle of a packed train car,** and turn away if someone is coughing nearby, said Saskia V. Popescu, a senior infection-prevention epidemiologist for a Phoenix-based hospital system.
- 

## 2020 watch



Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.) endorses Joe Biden on Wednesday in North Charleston. (Gerald Herbert/AP)

**Joe Biden had a good day in South Carolina, where he's favored to win.**

“South Carolina chooses presidents,” Biden said as he accepted House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn’s endorsement. “You decided to launch Bill

Clinton to the White House, and up to that time, it didn't look like he was going very far — but you did. You launched my buddy Barack Obama to the White House. I firmly believe, once again on Saturday, you hold in your hands, in South Carolina, the power to choose the next president of the United States.”

**“Even as he holds a small lead in polls, Biden is being vastly outspent on television and radio ads here,”** [Matt Viser and Cleve Wootson report from North Charleston, S.C.](#) "While the Clyburn endorsement could prove influential, Biden also secured the top endorsements in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada, and that helped little. And there is no certainty that even a convincing win could translate to victory when 14 other states and American Samoa vote on Super Tuesday three days later. **Biden has laid little groundwork in the next states**, forced to spend almost all of his time in South Carolina this week as other candidates scatter to the next set of states. Strapped for cash, he is only now starting to buy advertising in some Super Tuesday states — and is spending a fraction of what his rivals are. That puts even more pressure on South Carolina to give Biden a bounce. ... Rep. David E. Price (D-N.C.) had sat on the sidelines and watched the primary contest unfold. But after growing concerned about the unsettled field, he endorsed Biden this week.

### **Barack Obama demanded TV stations stop airing a misleading attack against Biden.**

The ad from a pro-Trump super PAC, which has been running around South Carolina, uses the former president's words out of context in a misleading attack on Biden. [Michael Scherer and Anu Narayanswamy report.](#) “The Committee to Defend the President, a pro-Trump group, circulated [an ad that falsely suggests](#) that words Obama spoke in the narration of his own 1995 book were meant to describe Biden.” Katie Hill, Obama’s communications director, denounced the ad as being “straight out of the Republican disinformation playbook” and added that Obama has “no plans to endorse in the primary.”

## **Bernie Sanders is a challenge to Nancy Pelosi's majority that's beyond her control.**

“While a cadre of lawmakers and strategists are sounding alarms about the risks the senator from Vermont and democratic socialist would pose to down-ballot candidates, **Pelosi is moving carefully publicly and privately to avoid even the perception that she is putting her thumb on the presidential scales,**” [Mike DeBonis reports](#). “I think whoever our nominee is, we will enthusiastically embrace, and we will win the White House, the Senate and the House of Representatives,’ she told reporters ... It would be a mistake to expect Pelosi to follow Clyburn’s lead and insert herself into the presidential race. ... Asked Wednesday about whether she thought she had the power to help cull the field, Pelosi said, “The power is with the people.”

## **Warren said she'll stay in the race until the convention, even if Sanders has more delegates.**

[During a CNN town hall in South Carolina](#), Warren said “she would be willing to lobby superdelegates, who have votes on the second ballot if there's no outright winner, when asked if she would continue her candidacy even if she were trailing in the delegate count. Asked by an audience member why the person who gets the most votes shouldn't be awarded the nomination, Warren said the rules set a higher bar -- and that she intended to fight to the last. Warren also suggested that the argument by [Sanders] that a candidate with a plurality should be declared the nominee was disingenuous, noting that his 2016 campaign, despite losing to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, publicly argued that convention superdelegates should consider swinging the contest in his favor.”

## **The Trump campaign plans to open community centers to woo black voters.**

Campaign officials showed reporters posters featuring the glossy facades of their proposed “Black Voices for Trump community centers,” [Ashley Parker reports](#). They described them as functioning as a cross between a traditional campaign field office and a sleek retail space in a heavily



trafficked pedestrian area, such as a mall. “You’re never going to get the votes you don’t ask for,” the president’s son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner said, describing the outreach as “more than a toe in the water. It’s a whole foot in the water.”

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## Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked



### A shooting in Wisconsin left six dead.

“Wisconsin’s largest city is grieving after an employee at a historic brewery shot and killed five co-workers and then turned the gun on himself. Police say the 51-year-old assailant — who has not been publicly named by the authorities — opened fire on the sprawling Molson Coors campus Wednesday afternoon,” [Dan Simmons, Hannah Knowles, Mark Berman and Reis Thebault report](#). They did not discuss a possible motive for the killings and did not name the victims. **“The rampage is the first shooting to kill four or more people in 2020,** according to a Post [database](#).”

**The House passed legislation that would finally make lynching a federal hate crime.**

“H.R. 35, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, was approved on a bipartisan 410-to-4 vote after a sometimes emotional debate in the House,” [Felicia Sonmez reports](#). “Rep. Bobby L. Rush (D-Ill.), who sponsored the legislation, said the bill will ‘send a strong message that violence, and race-based violence in particular, has no place in American society.’ The measure’s passage comes after lawmakers tried, and failed, to pass anti-lynching bills nearly 200 times. The earliest such attempt came in 1900, when Rep. George Henry White (R-N.C.), then the country’s only black member of Congress, stood on the floor of the House and read the text of his unprecedented measure, which would have prosecuted lynchings at the federal level. The bill later died in committee. Years later, Rep. Leonidas C. Dyer (R-Mo.) introduced an anti-lynching measure that passed the House but was filibustered in the Senate by Southern Democrats ...

**“At least 4,742 people, mostly African Americans, were reported lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1968 in all but four states ...** Ninety-nine percent of perpetrators escaped state or local punishment ... A separate version of the measure, the Justice for Victims of Lynching Act, passed the Senate last year. It was introduced by the chamber’s three black senators: Kamala D. Harris (D-Calif.), Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.). ... There are minor differences between the two measures, and House Democrats are optimistic the Senate will approve the House-passed version and send it to President Trump’s desk.”

## **Mexican reverse migration is shrinking the undocumented population.**

“José cared for the bottle-fed babies, 700 of them in all. He knew a calf was healthy if her eyes were bright and her appetite hearty,” [the Times reports](#). “His job was to do all things a mom would do to look after her young,’ said Mary Kraft, who employed José and his brother, Juan, both undocumented immigrants from Mexico, for a decade at her Quail Ridge Dairy in Colorado. Then about a year ago, the brothers informed Ms. Kraft that they were returning to Mexico. They had amassed enough savings in

the land of opportunity to resume their lives back where they had started. The pair are among a growing number of Mexicans who have been departing the United States in recent years ... [New data that was released](#) on Wednesday by the Center for Migration Studies shows there were 10.6 million immigrants living unlawfully in the United States in 2018 compared with 11.75 million in 2010, a decline propelled primarily by Mexicans returning south.”

## **ICE ran facial-recognition searches on millions of Marylanders.**

Agency officials “have been permitted to run facial-recognition searches on millions of Maryland driver’s license photos without first seeking state or court approval, state officials said — access that goes far beyond what other states allow and that alarms immigration activists in a state that grants special driver’s licenses to undocumented immigrants,” [Drew Harwell and Erin Cox report](#). “The technology now under scrutiny could let an ICE official run a photograph of an unknown person through the system and see if any potentially undocumented immigrants are returned as a match.”

## **A facial-recognition company that works with law enforcement said its client list was stolen.**

“The startup Clearview AI disclosed to its customers that an intruder ‘gained unauthorized access’ to its list of customers, to the number of user accounts those customers had set up, and to the number of searches its customers have conducted,” the [Daily Beast reports](#). “The notification said the company’s servers were not breached and that there was ‘no compromise of Clearview’s systems or network.’”

## **Five were arrested for allegedly targeting reporters as part of a neo-Nazi group.**

Federal officials “arrested several alleged members of a white-supremacist group called Atomwaffen Division, including its two leaders, accusing them of plotting to intimidate journalists by calling police to their homes and offices and dropping off threatening fliers,” [Rachel Weiner and Matt](#)

[Zapotosky report](#). “John Cameron Denton, of Montgomery, Tex., is charged in U.S. District Court in Alexandria with conspiring to call in fake threats targeting a ProPublica reporter and his office. ... In federal court in Seattle, prosecutors say Kaleb Cole and three others hatched a different intimidation plan: finding out where journalists live and leaving posters at their homes with messages featuring swastikas, weapons and the vague threat that they were being watched.”

## **Giuliani wanted the 2001 mayoral election cancelled so he could stay on as mayor after 9/11.**

“Rudy Giuliani secretly asked then-New York Gov. George Pataki to cancel New York City’s 2001 mayoral election so he could remain in office following the Sept. 11 terror attack,” [the New York Post reports](#). **“The bombshell disclosure is contained in Pataki’s upcoming memoir of 9/11, ‘Beyond the Great Divide: How A Nation Became A Neighborhood.’ ... Giuliani ‘dropped a bomb,’ Pataki writes. ‘Governor, you have extraordinary powers to extend my term in office,’ Giuliani said. Pataki’s ‘heart sank,’ he writes, noting that he initially backed the idea of repealing term limits so Giuliani, a fellow Republican, could seek a third term, but quickly realized it was a ‘bad idea both as a matter of principle and politically.’”**

## **Giuliani complained about having “five friends left” after forgetting to hang up on a reporter.**

Giuliani forgot to hang up on a [New York Daily News reporter](#) after being asked about Pataki’s claims. He started trash-talking Pataki while complaining that he only has “five friends left.” “There were people who wanted me to do it,” Giuliani told the News, when he was aware he was on the phone. “I thought about it for two days, but I never asked him to do it. I never made the decision to do it.”

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## **Social media speed read**

India's prime minister called for deescalation of riots that have left more

than 30 dead in Delhi:



“Mobs of Hindus and Muslims had clashed on roads and alleyways in northeast Delhi, throwing stones and crude gasoline bombs. At least three mosques were torched, as were scores of homes and businesses. Witnesses said that instead of stopping the violence, police joined crowds shouting Hindu nationalist slogans and fired indiscriminately,” Joanna Slater and Niha Masih report.

Reuters reporters shared devastating images from the attacks:

**Reuters**   
@Reuters



This mid-afternoon attack in India's capital New Delhi, captured in a dramatic @Reuters photograph, came against a backdrop of tension and violence. More: [reut.rs/32G8Vgd](https://reut.rs/32G8Vgd)



114 6:42 AM - Feb 27, 2020



110 people are talking about this



**Simon Robinson**  @iron\_emu · 43m



Here's the aftermath for Mohammad Zubair: "They saw I was alone, they saw my cap, beard, shalwar kameez (clothes) and saw me as a Muslim. They just started attacking, shouting slogans. What kind of humanity is this?"

Pic by Danish Siddiqui for Reuters. #delhivoilence  
[#DelhiRiots twitter.com/iron\\_emu/statu...](https://twitter.com/iron_emu/status...)



**Simon Robinson**  @iron\_emu



Another conspiracy theory is circulating in the fever swamps of the fringe right, per a CNN reporter:



Once again, there's always a tweet:

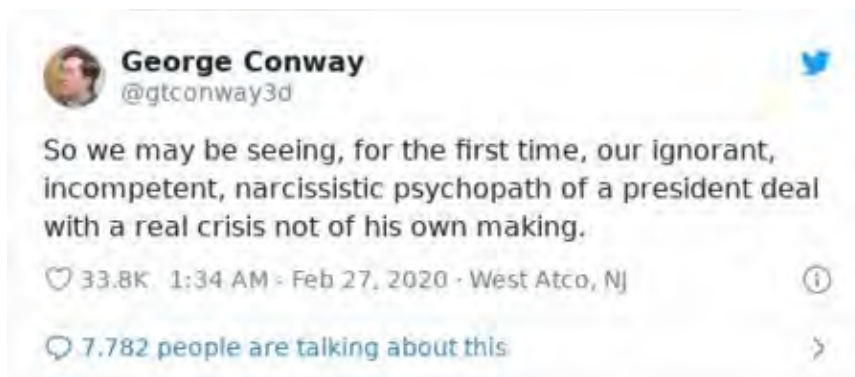


A Hawaii Democratic senator expressed concern that Pence is taking point on the coronavirus:



The husband of one of Trump's top advisers noted that this is a rare crisis not of the president's own creation:





Biden shared a moving answer about his faith:



## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert doesn't feel very reassured by Trump's plan to fight the coronavirus:



Seth Meyers said Trump likes cozying up to authoritarian leaders:



In a break from politics, Trevor Noah took a look at other news, including how the heiress of the Hot Pockets fortune was sentenced to prison:



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**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: SEIU will spend \$150 million on 2020 elections, focused on mobilizing infrequent voters  
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# The Daily 202


Intelligence for leaders.

Presented by 



By **James Hohmann**

with Mariana Alfaro

 Email

## **SEIU will spend \$150 million on 2020 elections, focused on mobilizing infrequent voters**

The Service Employees International Union plans to spend \$150 million this year to get out the vote for Democrats in November, its largest political investment ever.

The union will deploy canvassers across more than 40 states, but its efforts will mainly focus on turning out infrequent voters from the African American and Latino communities across the eight battleground states of

Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin.

SEIU President Mary Kay Henry previewed the strategy to defeat President Trump during an extended interview in her office off Dupont Circle in Washington. The union, which represents 2 million members, has opted not to endorse in the presidential primary, at least for now, but to focus instead on building a massive field operation to help whoever emerges from the convention this summer, as well as Democrats down the ballot.

The decision to focus on low-propensity voters grew out of Trump's victory in the 2016 election. In urban centers like Milwaukee, Detroit and Philadelphia, many minorities who cast ballots for Barack Obama in 2008 and/or 2012 did not come out again for Hillary Clinton. In 2018, the SEIU spent tens of millions of dollars trying to convince these folks that it was worth their time to participate in the midterm elections. [The success of that effort](#) has shaped 2020 planning.

“People have to be persuaded that it matters. We’re up against a sense of either hopelessness or disillusionment,” said Henry. “Our experience in ‘18 was that we were able to take infrequent voters that most campaigns and parties never talk to and demonstrate, through data, that when you go early, and you communicate frequently, and you engage people on wages and health care and investment in their communities, they’re going to show up and vote.”



Service Employees International Union President Mary Kay Henry speaks to the audience before the Democratic presidential debate in Detroit last July. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)

**By Election Day on Nov. 3, the SEIU's goal is to attempt face-to-face conversations with 6 million individuals, send text messages to 20 million people and reach another 1 million possible voters online through a digital ad program in the battleground states.**

**The SEIU plans targeted Latino outreach programs in Wisconsin, Colorado, Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Nevada. The union is building out programs to mobilize Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Pennsylvania and Nevada. In Philadelphia, this will be concentrated in the Chinese community. In Las Vegas, it's more Filipinos. In Florida, the SEIU has partnered with the same four organizations it worked with in 2018 to expand turnout in black and Hispanic communities, including Puerto Ricans and others from the Caribbean. All told, canvassers are being hired to communicate at people's front doors in five different languages.**

**The SEIU will invest significant resources to turn out Somali and Hmong voters around the Twin Cities after Trump came within 1.5 percentage points of beating Clinton in Minnesota, a state no Republican presidential**

candidate has carried since Richard Nixon in 1972. “They're part of this infrequent voter pool, and we know they need to show up in order to win in Minnesota,” said Henry, who got her start in the labor movement as a field organizer in the state.

Outreach to black voters in Detroit and Milwaukee has been happening since the fall, building on the work that helped elect Democratic governors Gretchen Whitmer in Michigan and Tony Evers in Wisconsin. Canvassers have knocked on 251,000 doors in those two states since the beginning of January.

With limited resources, campaigns and outside groups usually reach out to people who are most likely to vote. The best predictor of whether someone is likely to vote has always been whether they voted in the previous election. But with tight races expected across the industrial Midwest, the SEIU decided in 2018 to focus on minorities who are registered but participated in one or none of the past four federal elections. The first pass that canvassers make will be aimed at cleaning up the union's list of targeted voters. In a lot of cases, people have stopped voting because they passed away or moved away.

“Once you get to somebody, they're like ‘Whoa, this is incredible. No one has knocked on my door before,’” said SEIU political director Maria Peralta. “A lot of groups thought we were crazy, but we were committed to engaging voters that really aren't talked to at all or contacted at all. We saw the impact when we looked at the voter turnout: Folks on the lowest end of the scale turned out at higher rates than those on the higher end after being contacted by us. That's why we're doubling down on that strategy this year.”



Members of the SEIU, which represents 6,500 Twin Cities janitors and security guards, vote earlier this month to authorize a strike at the SEIU Local 26 headquarters in Minneapolis. (Matt Sepic/Minnesota Public Radio/AP)



**The SEIU has conducted and commissioned extensive research over the past several months to figure out what messages resonate with minorities who have not been voting. They've discovered a widespread perception that the economy is strong, even**



among blue-collar workers who haven't felt the benefits directly. They've also discovered that Latino and African American men are more likely to think favorably of both Trump and the economy than women in those communities. The SEIU has tested various messages to cut through this gender divide to persuade men and mobilize women to both vote and support Democrats when they do. At least until Labor Day, the field program will focus more on pocketbook issues than Trump himself.

The SEIU's broader goal is to couple the movements for racial justice and economic equality. Half the union's members are racial and ethnic minorities, and about 60 percent are women. "Race is being used by the right to divide and conquer," said Henry. "We don't think candidates ... can win without talking about how white, black [and] brown have to join together because we have another voice in the nation that is hammering on divide and conquer, saying that criminals are coming across our border and taking our jobs, which is his way of dividing the electorate based on race."

Research has also shown them that an especially effective way to reach these low-frequency voters is with peer-to-peer text messaging. In all 2018, SEIU organizers sent about 500,000 texts nationwide. They've already surpassed that number since January. In fact, nearly 500,000 texts have already been sent in Florida alone since the start of this year urging communities of color to register so they can vote.

**To be sure, union leaders emphasize they are not writing off working-class white voters.** Part of the \$150 million effort this year will go toward supporting an initiative with other organized labor groups to appeal to former union members in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. "We have a million voters that used to be in unions in these states, but because of the right-wing attacks, people have fallen out," said Henry. "If people have been in a union, they're more likely to support who the union and economic issues tied to unionization."

SEIU leaders are also engaging their own members. By their estimates, about 20 percent of the 2 million dues-paying members are conservatives.

Union officials plan to contact all members about voting approximately five times. For those who lean to the right, there will be emphasis on where candidates stand on issues related to supporting unions. “Wages and health care are still the top two issues, no matter what community we're in,” said Henry.



Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) speaks at an SEIU forum on labor issues last April in Las Vegas. (John Locher/AP)

**The SEIU has no current plans to endorse in the Democratic presidential contest, but this could change.** Several of the candidates have joined picket lines, spent time with workers in their service industry jobs and spoke at one of [the SEIU’s two cattle calls](#) over the past year. At their January board meeting, Henry said the officers of the union – which endorsed Clinton in November 2015 – agreed they should stay neutral for now. “There’s no push inside our union for me to convene an in-person meeting to endorse,” Henry said. “The current understanding amongst the leadership of our union is that any leader can put their hand up and say to me or any of our officers, ‘I think it's time for us to convene.’ The one commitment we've made to each other is that we'll get in a room. It won't be done on a phone call.”

The SEIU continues to push the candidates to commit to support

unionization efforts. “We think any plan to provide health care for all, college for all and child care for all ought to make it possible for workers to join unions,” said Henry. “The rules are rigged against us: The rules in the economy that block workers from joining unions and the rules in the democracy that don't allow everybody who should be able to vote to vote.”

Henry sits on the DNC’s platform committee. In 2016, she used that position to successfully push for the Democratic Party’s platform to endorse a \$15-an-hour federal minimum wage. Asked whether she’s concerned about a contested convention, Henry said they’re “factoring it in,” but that her members are more concerned about issues than personalities. She also emphasized that down-ballot races will stay a major focus. In Pennsylvania, for example, they’re not just trying to help the Democratic presidential candidate win but also seeking to take control of the state’s legislature. “In some cases,” she said, “our members are telling us that the down-ballot races are far more motivational for them than the top of the ticket because they feel kind of flooded by the presidential in states where there's lots of TV advertising happening.”

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## The coronavirus



Travis Air Force base is one of the two California military installations accepting flights carrying U.S. citizens evacuated from China and serving as a quarantine center. (Pete Dasilva/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

### **The first sign the disease may be spreading within a U.S. community**

The CDC reported last night that a person in Northern California has

contracted the coronavirus without traveling to regions hit by the outbreak or coming in contact with anyone known to have the infection. “How the person acquired the virus is unknown,” [Lenny Bernstein, Laurie McGinley and Lena Sun report](#). “The health agency left open the possibility ‘that the patient may have been exposed to a returned traveler who was infected.’ The state of California, however, called the case its first instance of community transmission. ... Community spread would represent a significant turn for the worse in the battle against the virus. To date, the United States has 60 known cases of the infection, with 59 among people who traveled to Asia or were close contacts of people who went there. The vast majority, 42, picked up the virus while quarantined on the Diamond Princess cruise ship off Japan. ...

**“The individual is a resident of Solano County, according to the California Department of Public Health. The patient is being treated at UC Davis Medical Center. Two officials from that hospital sent an email to employees Wednesday that said the patient arrived at the medical center Feb. 19 but was not tested until Sunday, despite an immediate request to the CDC.** The patient arrived from another hospital in Northern California ...

**“There are indications that other hospitals could be involved in the case.** Kris Concepcion, fire chief and acting public information officer in Vacaville, Calif., said county officials had issued a directive not to transport any new patients to two local hospitals — NorthBay VacaValley Hospital in Vacaville and NorthBay Medical Center in nearby Fairfield. ... **The two hospitals are in Solano County, home to Travis Air Force Base, where hundreds of Americans repatriated from China and others brought home from the Diamond Princess cruise ship have been kept in quarantine.** Many of them have been released. The health department said it has already begun tracing people who may have come in contact with the coronavirus-infected individual. ... The virus, which originated in Wuhan, China, has killed 2,801 people and sickened more than 82,000 as it has spread around the globe, reaching every continent except Antarctica.”

Key quote: If the infection is confirmed to be a case of “community spread,” “it would confirm what we have long suspected — that **there is a good chance there already are people infected in this country and that the virus is circulating undetected,**” said Jennifer Nuzzo, epidemiologist and senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

### **Virginia officials are waiting for test results for two patients.**

Nine possible coronavirus cases have been investigated in Virginia since Jan. 21, health officials said. No positive test results have been returned, per [Justin Wm. Moyer](#).

### **Schools are also preparing for a possible contagion by canceling foreign trips.**

For example, in Virginia, the Fairfax County school system – with 188,000 students, one of the largest – posted website updates with the same instructions it has offered since the virus surfaced – frequent hand-washing and disinfectant everywhere. The school system has canceled international field trips to countries where residents have fallen ill from the coronavirus. Class closures are unlikely in the near future, experts said, because relatively few cases have been diagnosed in the United States. ([Hannah Natanson](#))

**Officials revealed that more than 600 are being monitored for the virus in Massachusetts.** All had recently traveled to China and voluntarily quarantined themselves at home while being monitored, health officials said. So far, 377 completed the quarantine without falling ill, while 231 are still being monitored. ([Boston Globe](#))



## **Trump put Vice President Pence in charge of the coronavirus response.**

The president's choice is "an attempt to reassure the public amid growing concerns of a global health crisis and criticism that the United States has been slow to respond to the fast-moving outbreak," [Toluse Olorunnipa, Josh Dawsey and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#). "We've had tremendous success, tremendous success beyond what many people would've thought," the president said during a White House news conference that followed days of mixed messages, tumbling stocks and rising death tolls abroad driven by the coronavirus. 'We're very, very ready for this.' The president declared that the risk to America was 'very low' and predicted a swift end to the outbreak. ...

**"The president was contradicted almost in real time by some of the government experts who flanked him as he stood in the White House press briefing room.** 'We could be just one or two people over the next short period of time,' Trump said of the virus's impact in the United States. Minutes later, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and CDC Principal Deputy Director Anne Schuchat warned Americans to prepare for the number of cases to grow. 'We can expect to see more cases in the United States,' Azar said. 'We do expect more cases,' Schuchat said. ...

“The president said he would be willing to accept more emergency funding than the \$2.5 billion requested by his administration after lawmakers pushed for a more robust federal response. **He also said he would consider new travel restrictions on other countries struggling to contain the outbreak, including South Korea and Italy.** ... He partly blamed Democrats for the drop in the stock market and attacked House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) as ‘incompetent’ after she had made disparaging comments about his handling of the coronavirus outbreak ... **Trump has made a direct connection between the virus and his political fortunes, accusing Democrats and the media of trying to harm his reelection chances by focusing on the outbreak.** Trump took to Twitter early Wednesday to accuse cable news channels of ‘doing everything possible to make the Coronavirus look as bad as possible, including panicking markets, if possible.’ ...

“The White House considered appointing a ‘czar’ to oversee the government-wide response effort, a move that would essentially demote Azar from his role as the head of the coronavirus task force. ... **Trump said his decision to put Pence in charge was not tantamount to appointing a czar, despite him taking a role that serves the same purpose.** ‘Mike is not a czar, he’s vice president,’ the president said. ‘I’m having them report to Mike. Mike will report to me.’”

### **As Indiana's governor, Pence badly mishandled a 2016 HIV outbreak in his state.**

“Pence came under fire for resisting the CDC's urging to allow clean needles to be distributed because of his conservative, religious beliefs. At the time, needle exchanges were illegal in Indiana. But after mounting pressure from health officials and praying on it, the Republican eventually lifted the ban,” [BuzzFeed News reports](#).

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## **Quote of the day**

“*We’re doing great. Other countries have not been doing*”



*great,” Trump said about the U.S. government's coronavirus response. ([Aaron Blake](#))*

## **The outbreak is flaring up around Asia, as it eases inside China.**

“While China's official numbers continued to show a drop in new cases and deaths in the country, in other parts of the world the problem appeared to be getting worse. **South Korea announced 505 new cases on Thursday, bringing its total to 1,766, including one U.S. soldier stationed on the peninsula,**” [Adam Taylor and Rick Noack report](#). “Elsewhere, officials canceled or postponed events including religious pilgrimages in Saudi Arabia, as doubts grow over Tokyo's plans to host the 2020 Olympics.”

**A flight attendant diagnosed with coronavirus might have worked trips between Seoul and Los Angeles.** South Korea's Center for Disease Control said the attendant, who had serviced a flight between Seoul and Tel Aviv, had tested positive. Neither Korean Air nor local officials immediately confirmed reports that she serviced two flights to L.A. ([L.A. Times](#))

**South Korea called off joint military exercises with U.S. troops because of the virus.** ([WSJ](#))

## **A Japanese woman who had recovered from the virus tested positive again.**

The woman was one of the first cases of coronavirus in the country but was released from the hospital nearly four weeks ago, apparently cured. Now she's testing positive again. This is a bad sign for containment efforts. ([Simon Denyer](#))

## **Iran is struggling to contain the disease, putting other Middle East nations at risk.**

“In Iran, 139 people have contracted the virus, including the deputy health minister and a prominent member of parliament. Nineteen people have

died, according to the Health Ministry,” [Erin Cunningham and Louisa Loveluck report](#). “The virus has appeared in multiple Iranian cities, and infections in Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and Oman have been traced back to Iran. ... But even as regional governments moved to control the outbreak, Iranian authorities came under fire for what critics said is an inadequate response to the threat. Officials have rejected calls to quarantine major cities and have allowed communal prayer services to continue in places such as Qom, where the virus first emerged in Iran.”

### **Italy’s economy was already struggling. Then came the virus.**

“Trams rattle by half-empty. Office buildings are vacant. Top-flight soccer matches are played in empty stadiums behind closed doors,” [Loveday Morris and Chico Harlan report](#). “For Italy, the coronavirus could hardly have broken out in a more damaging economic area. The country’s two largest northern regions, Lombardy and Veneto, account for 30 percent of the employment and 40 percent of the exports. Milan is the economic hub, and to the east, Venice is a tourism mega-draw for a country that depends on visitors for 13 percent of its gross domestic product.”

### **The World Health Organization says China isn’t sharing enough data on infections.**

“The WHO said it has repeatedly asked Chinese officials for ‘disaggregated’ data — meaning specific figures broken out from the overall numbers — that could shed light on hospital transmission and help assess the level of risk front-line workers face,” [Emily Rauhala reports](#) “It is not clear whether political sensitivities have shaped China’s reporting on sick doctors and other health-care professionals. It is possible that data gaps simply reflect the challenge of gathering information in the middle of a crisis, experts said. What is clear is that China is not sending details that WHO officials and other experts expect and need.”

### **Russia and China are taking different, but equally dangerous, approaches to the virus.**

So says The Post's [Editorial Board](#): “Open governments are struggling to

encourage responsibility about a growing pandemic without inspiring panic. Russia appears to be trying to do just the opposite. [Evidence suggests Moscow is spreading propaganda designed to stoke anxiety about the virus and distrust in authorities' efforts to fight it.](#) Meanwhile, citizens in China are suffering not from a deluge of misleading material but from a dearth of open discussion. ... Either tactic, with stakes as high as they are today, could get people killed.”

## **The coronavirus has forced religious leaders to reconsider Lenten traditions.**

“Ash Wednesday is a chance for clergy to remind Christians of their mortality, often with a swipe of thumb-to-forehead ashes,” [Sarah Pulliam Bailey reports.](#) “But this year, the holy day came one day after federal health officials said the country should brace for [the ‘inevitable’ spread of the virus]. Pastors and ministers ... found themselves asking: Should we tweak our rituals? ‘It’s a very intimate moment,’ said Teer Hardy, an associate pastor at Mount Olivet United Methodist Church in Arlington, Va. .... ‘You’re a couple of inches from someone’s face.’ ... **Spokespeople for many of the largest Christian denominations in the U.S. said this week that they have not issued special directives for their churches but are closely monitoring guidance from government officials.** The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey told clergy and lay leaders Tuesday that anyone administering Communion should wash their hands, preferably with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and keep their distance during the greeting ritual known as the ‘passing of the peace.’”

## **You really don’t need to buy anything new or special to brace for the virus.**

Doctors gave [Reis Thebault and Alex Horton](#) a few recommendations: “Don’t go crazy,” said Timothy Brewer, an epidemiologist at UCLA. “You don’t need to go out and stock up on lots of things.” If you’re not sick, you don’t need a surgical mask – and you don’t need to buy every box your pharmacy has in stock. “The main point of the mask is to keep someone who is infected with the virus from spreading it to others,” Brewer said.

- **Wash your hands regularly.** Cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze. And when you're sick, stay home from work or school and drink lots of fluids.
  - **It's worth considering limiting exposure to large groups,** said Stanley Perlman, an infectious-disease expert at the University of Iowa.
  - **Avoid the middle of a packed train car,** and turn away if someone is coughing nearby, said Saskia V. Popescu, a senior infection-prevention epidemiologist for a Phoenix-based hospital system.
- 

## 2020 watch



Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.) endorses Joe Biden on Wednesday in North Charleston. (Gerald Herbert/AP)

**Joe Biden had a good day in South Carolina, where he's favored to win.**

“South Carolina chooses presidents,” Biden said as he accepted House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn’s endorsement. “You decided to launch Bill

Clinton to the White House, and up to that time, it didn't look like he was going very far — but you did. You launched my buddy Barack Obama to the White House. I firmly believe, once again on Saturday, you hold in your hands, in South Carolina, the power to choose the next president of the United States.”

**“Even as he holds a small lead in polls, Biden is being vastly outspent on television and radio ads here,”** [Matt Viser and Cleve Wootson report from North Charleston, S.C.](#) "While the Clyburn endorsement could prove influential, Biden also secured the top endorsements in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada, and that helped little. And there is no certainty that even a convincing win could translate to victory when 14 other states and American Samoa vote on Super Tuesday three days later. **Biden has laid little groundwork in the next states**, forced to spend almost all of his time in South Carolina this week as other candidates scatter to the next set of states. Strapped for cash, he is only now starting to buy advertising in some Super Tuesday states — and is spending a fraction of what his rivals are. That puts even more pressure on South Carolina to give Biden a bounce. ... Rep. David E. Price (D-N.C.) had sat on the sidelines and watched the primary contest unfold. But after growing concerned about the unsettled field, he endorsed Biden this week.

### **Barack Obama demanded TV stations stop airing a misleading attack against Biden.**

The ad from a pro-Trump super PAC, which has been running around South Carolina, uses the former president's words out of context in a misleading attack on Biden. [Michael Scherer and Anu Narayanswamy report.](#) “The Committee to Defend the President, a pro-Trump group, circulated [an ad that falsely suggests](#) that words Obama spoke in the narration of his own 1995 book were meant to describe Biden.” Katie Hill, Obama’s communications director, denounced the ad as being “straight out of the Republican disinformation playbook” and added that Obama has “no plans to endorse in the primary.”

## **Bernie Sanders is a challenge to Nancy Pelosi's majority that's beyond her control.**

“While a cadre of lawmakers and strategists are sounding alarms about the risks the senator from Vermont and democratic socialist would pose to down-ballot candidates, **Pelosi is moving carefully publicly and privately to avoid even the perception that she is putting her thumb on the presidential scales,**” [Mike DeBonis reports](#). “I think whoever our nominee is, we will enthusiastically embrace, and we will win the White House, the Senate and the House of Representatives,’ she told reporters ... It would be a mistake to expect Pelosi to follow Clyburn’s lead and insert herself into the presidential race. ... Asked Wednesday about whether she thought she had the power to help cull the field, Pelosi said, ‘The power is with the people.’”

## **Warren said she'll stay in the race until the convention, even if Sanders has more delegates.**

[During a CNN town hall in South Carolina](#), Warren said “she would be willing to lobby superdelegates, who have votes on the second ballot if there's no outright winner, when asked if she would continue her candidacy even if she were trailing in the delegate count. Asked by an audience member why the person who gets the most votes shouldn't be awarded the nomination, Warren said the rules set a higher bar -- and that she intended to fight to the last. Warren also suggested that the argument by [Sanders] that a candidate with a plurality should be declared the nominee was disingenuous, noting that his 2016 campaign, despite losing to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, publicly argued that convention superdelegates should consider swinging the contest in his favor.”

## **The Trump campaign plans to open community centers to woo black voters.**

Campaign officials showed reporters posters featuring the glossy facades of their proposed “Black Voices for Trump community centers,” [Ashley Parker reports](#). They described them as functioning as a cross between a traditional campaign field office and a sleek retail space in a heavily

trafficked pedestrian area, such as a mall. “You’re never going to get the votes you don’t ask for,” the president’s son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner said, describing the outreach as “more than a toe in the water. It’s a whole foot in the water.”

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## Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked



### A shooting in Wisconsin left six dead.

“Wisconsin’s largest city is grieving after an employee at a historic brewery shot and killed five co-workers and then turned the gun on himself. Police say the 51-year-old assailant — who has not been publicly named by the authorities — opened fire on the sprawling Molson Coors campus Wednesday afternoon,” [Dan Simmons, Hannah Knowles, Mark Berman and Reis Thebault report](#). They did not discuss a possible motive for the killings and did not name the victims. **“The rampage is the first shooting to kill four or more people in 2020,** according to a [Post database](#).”

**The House passed legislation that would finally make lynching a federal hate crime.**

“H.R. 35, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, was approved on a bipartisan 410-to-4 vote after a sometimes emotional debate in the House,” [Felicia Sonmez reports](#). “Rep. Bobby L. Rush (D-Ill.), who sponsored the legislation, said the bill will ‘send a strong message that violence, and race-based violence in particular, has no place in American society.’ The measure’s passage comes after lawmakers tried, and failed, to pass anti-lynching bills nearly 200 times. The earliest such attempt came in 1900, when Rep. George Henry White (R-N.C.), then the country’s only black member of Congress, stood on the floor of the House and read the text of his unprecedented measure, which would have prosecuted lynchings at the federal level. The bill later died in committee. Years later, Rep. Leonidas C. Dyer (R-Mo.) introduced an anti-lynching measure that passed the House but was filibustered in the Senate by Southern Democrats ...

**“At least 4,742 people, mostly African Americans, were reported lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1968 in all but four states ...** Ninety-nine percent of perpetrators escaped state or local punishment ... A separate version of the measure, the Justice for Victims of Lynching Act, passed the Senate last year. It was introduced by the chamber’s three black senators: Kamala D. Harris (D-Calif.), Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.). ... There are minor differences between the two measures, and House Democrats are optimistic the Senate will approve the House-passed version and send it to President Trump’s desk.”

## **Mexican reverse migration is shrinking the undocumented population.**

“José cared for the bottle-fed babies, 700 of them in all. He knew a calf was healthy if her eyes were bright and her appetite hearty,” [the Times reports](#). “‘His job was to do all things a mom would do to look after her young,’ said Mary Kraft, who employed José and his brother, Juan, both undocumented immigrants from Mexico, for a decade at her Quail Ridge Dairy in Colorado. Then about a year ago, the brothers informed Ms. Kraft that they were returning to Mexico. They had amassed enough savings in the land of opportunity to resume their lives back where they had started.



The pair are among a growing number of Mexicans who have been departing the United States in recent years ... [New data that was released](#) on Wednesday by the Center for Migration Studies shows there were 10.6 million immigrants living unlawfully in the United States in 2018 compared with 11.75 million in 2010, a decline propelled primarily by Mexicans returning south.”

## **ICE ran facial-recognition searches on millions of Marylanders.**

Agency officials “have been permitted to run facial-recognition searches on millions of Maryland driver’s license photos without first seeking state or court approval, state officials said — access that goes far beyond what other states allow and that alarms immigration activists in a state that grants special driver’s licenses to undocumented immigrants,” [Drew Harwell and Erin Cox report](#). “The technology now under scrutiny could let an ICE official run a photograph of an unknown person through the system and see if any potentially undocumented immigrants are returned as a match.”

## **A facial-recognition company that works with law enforcement said its client list was stolen.**

“The startup Clearview AI disclosed to its customers that an intruder ‘gained unauthorized access’ to its list of customers, to the number of user accounts those customers had set up, and to the number of searches its customers have conducted,” the [Daily Beast reports](#). “The notification said the company’s servers were not breached and that there was ‘no compromise of Clearview’s systems or network.’”

## **Five were arrested for allegedly targeting reporters as part of a neo-Nazi group.**

Federal officials “arrested several alleged members of a white-supremacist group called Atomwaffen Division, including its two leaders, accusing them of plotting to intimidate journalists by calling police to their homes and offices and dropping off threatening fliers,” [Rachel Weiner and Matt Zapposky report](#). “John Cameron Denton, of Montgomery, Tex., is

charged in U.S. District Court in Alexandria with conspiring to call in fake threats targeting a ProPublica reporter and his office. ... In federal court in Seattle, prosecutors say Kaleb Cole and three others hatched a different intimidation plan: finding out where journalists live and leaving posters at their homes with messages featuring swastikas, weapons and the vague threat that they were being watched.”

### **Giuliani wanted the 2001 mayoral election cancelled so he could stay on as mayor after 9/11.**

“Rudy Giuliani secretly asked then-New York Gov. George Pataki to cancel New York City’s 2001 mayoral election so he could remain in office following the Sept. 11 terror attack,” [the New York Post reports](#). **“The bombshell disclosure is contained in Pataki’s upcoming memoir of 9/11, ‘Beyond the Great Divide: How A Nation Became A Neighborhood.’** ... Giuliani ‘dropped a bomb,’ Pataki writes. ‘Governor, you have extraordinary powers to extend my term in office,’ Giuliani said. Pataki’s ‘heart sank,’ he writes, noting that he initially backed the idea of repealing term limits so Giuliani, a fellow Republican, could seek a third term, but quickly realized it was a ‘bad idea both as a matter of principle and politically.’”

### **Giuliani complained about having “five friends left” after forgetting to hang up on a reporter.**

Giuliani forgot to hang up on a [New York Daily News reporter](#) after being asked about Pataki’s claims. He started trash-talking Pataki while complaining that he only has “five friends left.” “There were people who wanted me to do it,” Giuliani told the News, when he was aware he was on the phone. “I thought about it for two days, but I never asked him to do it. I never made the decision to do it.”

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## **Social media speed read**

India's prime minister called for deescalation of riots that have left more than 30 dead in Delhi:



“Mobs of Hindus and Muslims had clashed on roads and alleyways in northeast Delhi, throwing stones and crude gasoline bombs. At least three mosques were torched, as were scores of homes and businesses. Witnesses said that instead of stopping the violence, police joined crowds shouting Hindu nationalist slogans and fired indiscriminately," Joanna Slater and Niha Masih report.

Reuters reporters shared devastating images from the attacks:





**Simon Robinson** ✓ @iron\_emu · 43m



Here's the aftermath for Mohammad Zubair: "They saw I was alone, they saw my cap, beard, shalwar kameez (clothes) and saw me as a Muslim. They just started attacking, shouting slogans. What kind of humanity is this?"

Pic by Danish Siddiqui for Reuters. #delhivoilence  
#DelhiRiots [twitter.com/iron\\_emu/statu...](https://twitter.com/iron_emu/status...)



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A mob out for blood: India's protests pit Hindus against Muslims [reut.rs/2VkJIC](https://reut.rs/2VkJIC)



**Simon Robinson** ✓

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More from Delhi: Policemen move through a riot-affected area after clashes between people demonstrating for and against India's new citizenship law. REUTERS/Adnan Abidi



8:57 AM - Feb 27, 2020



[See Simon Robinson's other Tweets](#)

Another conspiracy theory is circulating in the fever swamps of the fringe right, per a CNN reporter:



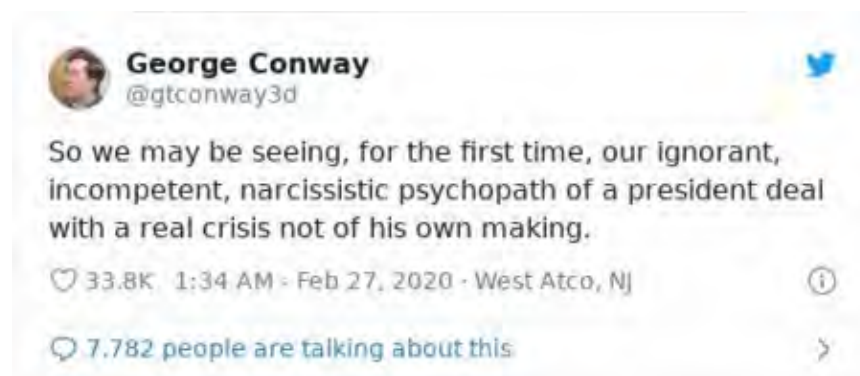
Once again, there's always a tweet:



A Hawaii Democratic senator expressed concern that Pence is taking point on the coronavirus:



The husband of one of Trump's top advisers noted that this is a rare crisis not of the president's own creation:



Biden shared a moving answer about his faith:



**CNN Politics**   
@CNNPolitics



Joe Biden on his faith: "For me, it's important because it gives me some reason to have hope. And purpose. ... It took a long time for me to get to the point to realize that that purpose is the thing that would save me. And it has" [#CNNTownHall](#) [cnn.it/2PtWnTv](http://cnn.it/2PtWnTv)



 11.9K 1:33 AM - Feb 27, 2020 

 3,692 people are talking about this 

## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert doesn't feel very reassured by Trump's plan to fight the coronavirus:



Seth Meyers said Trump likes cozying up to authoritarian leaders:



In a break from politics, Trevor Noah took a look at other news, including how the heiress of the Hot Pockets fortune was sentenced to prison:





### We think you'll like this newsletter

Check out **Book Club** for our weekly selection of book reviews and recommendations from Book World editor Ron Charles. [Sign up »](#)

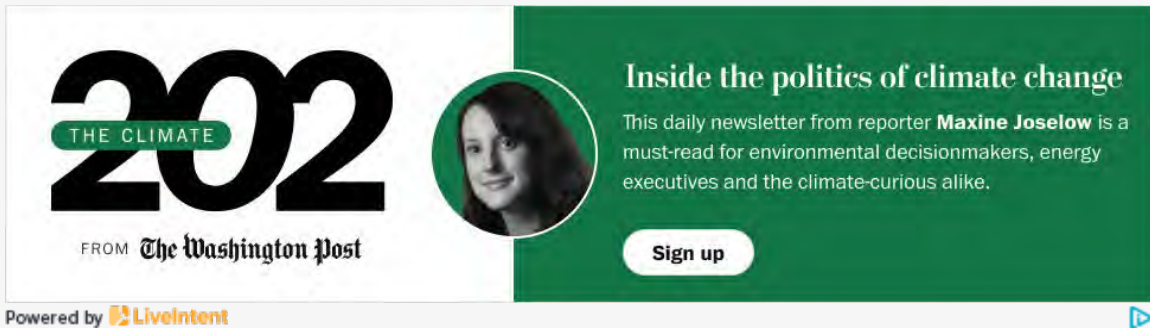
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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Book Club: Bernie Sanders praises Fidel Castro's literacy programs, and "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" finally gets an audiobook  
**Date:** Friday, February 28, 2020 8:10:33 AM



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The Washington Post

# Book Club

Reviews and recommendations from critic Ron Charles.



By **Ron Charles**

 [Email](#)



**Twice this week, presidential candidate Bernie Sanders praised Cuba's 1961 literacy initiative.** On **"Sixty Minutes,"** Sen. Sanders said, "We're very opposed to the authoritarian nature of Cuba. But you know, it's unfair to simply say, 'Everything is bad.' When Fidel Castro came into office, you know what he did? He had a massive literacy program. Is that a bad thing, even though Fidel Castro did it?" The next day at a **CNN town hall,** Sanders was asked about that bit of historical cherry-picking. He picked harder: "When Fidel Castro first came to power . . . there was a lot of folks in Cuba at that point who were illiterate, and he formed a literacy brigade. They went out and they helped people learn to read and write. You know what? I think teaching people to read and write is a good thing." You know what? I think making the trains run on time is a good thing, too, but context is everything. Yes, soon after the revolution, the Cuban government did virtually eradicate illiteracy using about 250,000 teachers and volunteers. But that program was clearly part political indoctrination. The teaching manual included lessons such as "Fidel Is Our Leader," "The Land Is Ours" and "The Revolution Wins All the Battles." Sanders should stop digging this hole with his Havana-issued shovel. True literacy isn't merely the ability to decode words on a page; it's the liberty to read and write freely.



Then-national security adviser John Bolton in the Oval Office in 2019. (Photo by Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post). Former ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch during an impeachment hearing in November. (Photo by Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

**Washington is watching a piece of absurdist theater called "Waiting for Bolton."** President Trump **reportedly** thinks former national security adviser John Bolton is a "traitor" whose forthcoming

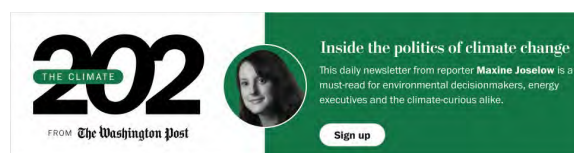
memoir, “The Room Where It Happened,” should not be published — or at least not before the next compromised election. During the impeachment trial, Senate Republicans refused to subpoena Bolton or the manuscript lest his knowledge of presidential corruption prejudice their immaculate acquittal. Even as the **security review process drags on**, Simon & Schuster continues to say that “The Room Where It Happened” will be released on March 17. But with Trump dead set against that and less than three weeks remaining till St. Patrick’s Day, it would take an army of leprechauns farting four-leaf clovers across the National Mall to meet that deadline.

**Meanwhile, Marie Yovanovitch, the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, has announced plans to publish her memoir.**

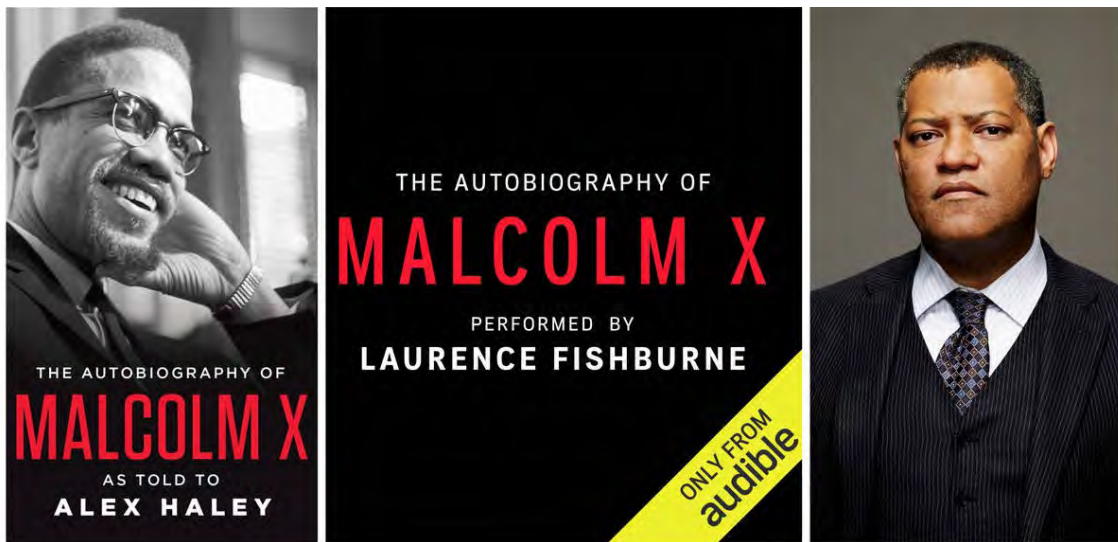
Yovanovitch was recalled in May after President Trump and Chief Henchman Rudy Giuliani decided she was impeding their efforts to get Ukrainian officials to smear Joe Biden. Two months later, doing his best imitation of Tony Soprano, Trump told Ukrainian President Zelensky during **that perfect phone call**, “She’s going to go through some things.” Presumably, she’s now going through some memories. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt editor Alexander Littlefield tells me, “Most Americans only came to know Ambassador Yovanovitch because of the impeachment drama, but that was just one chapter in an accomplished and storied life. In this book, she will confront the shocking abuse she endured in the final year of her diplomatic career, while also taking control of her own narrative and sharing tales and hard-won insights from her many years of public service and postings overseas — especially about the preciousness of democracy and the dangers of corruption. Her memoir will aim to inspire and empower readers as we move together into our post-election future.” Her book will be published in Spring 2021.

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The advertisement features a white background on the left with the text '202 THE CLIMATE' in large, bold, black letters, and 'FROM The Washington Post' in smaller text below. On the right, there is a green background with a circular portrait of Maxine Joselow. Text on the green background reads: 'Inside the politics of climate change', 'This daily newsletter from reporter Maxine Joselow is a must-read for environmental decisionmakers, energy executives and the climate-curious alike.', and a 'Sign up' button.



Ballantine Books; temporary cover art from Audible; actor Laurence Fishburne (Photo by Art Streiber).

**EXCLUSIVE: For the first time since “The Autobiography of Malcolm X” was published in 1965, an unabridged audiobook version will soon be available.** The recording of the activist’s life story, “as told to Alex Haley,” will be narrated by Oscar nominee and Tony winner Laurence Fishburne. It will be released by [Audible on May 19](#), the 95th anniversary of Malcolm X’s birth. (Audible is a subsidiary of Amazon, whose CEO, Jeff Bezos, owns The Washington Post.) “It’s a great honor to have the opportunity to tell Malcolm X’s story,” Fishburne said in a statement from Audible. “This is a man who lived multiple lifetimes in the span of 40 years. An inspiration, ‘The Autobiography of Malcolm X’ remains a definitive statement within an ever-evolving civil rights and human rights movement.” Haley, a freelance journalist at the time, conducted dozens of interviews with Malcolm X as part of their complex collaboration. He knew the book would be extraordinarily popular — he promised his editor “millions or more sales potential” — but after Malcolm X was assassinated on Feb. 21, 1965, Doubleday, fearing more violence, canceled the contract. Grove Press boldly offered to publish the book instead. As Haley predicted, it has since sold millions. This May, we’ll finally get to hear those words aloud.

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An Underwood typewriter c. 1950. (Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Suzanne Dundee Bonner)

**Mammas, don't let your babies grow up to be writers. That's the [grim take-away](#) from [a report issued by the Authors Guild](#).**

Incomes earned by writing have dropped 24 percent since 2013, and half of all full-time authors earn less than the federal poverty level of \$12,488. “The days of authors supporting themselves from writing may be coming to an end,” says Christine Larson, an assistant professor of journalism at the University of Colorado who wrote the study. She contends that the 20th century was a rare historical era in which a relatively large number of people — including women and people of color — enjoyed success as writers. Those halcyon days are over. The closure of thousands of newspapers, magazines and websites leaves fewer places for writers to place their work. And ebooks — sold mostly by Amazon — earn less revenue than print books. Bestselling writers are surviving fine, but the real victims in this new economy are midlist literary authors, who are seeing their livelihoods evaporate. For instance, Katharine Weber, the author of seven well-received books, speaks candidly in the report about what that means. Back in the day, Weber used to earn six-figure advances; her most recent novel brought \$2,000. “I feel I’m at the end of a tradition, the last of my kind,” she says. To slow or even reverse this trend, Larson recommends:

- publishers support physical bookstores more aggressively.
- legislators rein in Amazon’s dominance.
- authors work together to ensure fairer contracts.

- foundations fund serious literature that the free market won't.



Sandra Oh at the Oscars in Los Angeles on Feb. 9. (AP Photo/John Locher)

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An advertisement for a newsletter titled "202 THE CLIMATE". The text "202" is large and bold, with "THE CLIMATE" in smaller letters below it. To the right is a circular portrait of Maxine Joselow. Text next to the portrait says "Inside the politics of climate change" and "This daily newsletter from reporter Maxine Joselow is a must-read for environmental decisionmakers, energy executives and the climate-curious alike." Below the portrait is a "Sign up" button. At the bottom left, it says "FROM The Washington Post" and "Powered by LiveIntent". At the bottom right is a small blue play button icon.

**Sandra Oh** will star in a dramedy called **“The Chair”** about a **university English department**. The upcoming six-part series ordered by Netflix comes from Amanda Peet, last seen in **“The Romanoffs,”** and David Benioff and D.B. Weiss, co-creators of **“Game of Thrones.”** Considering my own stint in a college English department, I think Russian revolution and medieval fantasy are perfect preparation. Feminist scholar Elaine Showalter **tweeted**, **“New Netflix series about woman chair of a major university English department. Where the real action is, and I can only wonder it took them so long to figure it out.”** Showalter’s friend and former colleague Joyce Carol Oates **tweeted back**, **“No matter what happens in this ‘dramedy’ it will scarcely approach the scandalous/ludicrous melodrama of the Princeton English Dept. in the late 1980s.”** I’m not so sure. Annie Julia Wyman, one of the co-writers of **“The Chair,”** earned a Ph.D. from the Harvard English department, so she

probably has a long shelf of scandalous/ludicrous melodrama to draw on.



"Mystery Bag" from SEKRÈ (\$3,612) contains a tiny fragment of a letter written by Charles Dickens in 1851 (Courtesy of SEKRÈ)

**This week's worst idea comes from a German luxury brand called SEKRÈ, which sells "distinctive handbags that hold a genuine piece of world history."** The company buys rare letters by such figures as Napoleon, Queen Victoria and Charles Dickens, cuts them up and then embeds the little scraps in expensive purses. This April, SEKRÈ plans to release a handbag carrying a bit of **Alexandre Dumas fils for \$1,825**. Leon Litvack, a **Dickens scholar** at Queen's University in Belfast, tells me these purses represent "cultural vandalism of the worst kind." Litvack was appalled to discover that some SEKRÈ handbags contain fragments of an 1851 letter by Dickens that Litvack himself had once helped authenticate. "I don't think we can stop this practice," he laments, but he makes a strong historical argument: "The information in each and every letter is precious and potentially revealing; the physical documents provide a tangible connection to the man, and their preservation is important, because they communicate to present and future generations important lessons about the verifiability of the past." **Simon Beattie**, an antiquarian bookseller in England, tells me, "Dismembering manuscripts for commercial purposes is morally wrong. It



strikes one with horror, just as much as the wilful destruction of any cultural artefact would.”

Spokesperson Anja von Bentheim assures me that SEKRÈ only cuts up papers “not included in the UNESCO list of cultural assets worthy of protection, nor in the EU list or any other national lists of cultural assets worthy of protection.” She says the company avoids “documents representing creative accomplishments” or “letters with literary content,” focusing instead on “everyday topics such as thank-you letters, private appointments, chats or other mainly private aspects.” (That sound you hear is the world’s biographers screaming into a pillow.) Remarkably, von Bentheim goes on to argue that putting bits of rare letters in purses gives these precious documents “a broader audience” than they would find if they were locked up in private collections. “By the way,” she adds, “cutting up originals is not an invention of SEKRÈ. For hundreds of years, the Roman Catholic Church has been selling relics to faithful followers allowing them to get in close touch with their adored idols.” Yes, that worked out well. . . .



Story Prize finalists Zadie Smith and Kali Fajardo-Anstine, and Story Prize winner Edwidge Danticat in New York, Feb. 26. (Courtesy of the Story Prize).

**Haitian-American writer Edwidge Danticat won the \$20,000 Story Prize on Wednesday night for her collection “Everything Inside.”** Danticat is the first person ever to win the Story Prize twice. She took home the contest’s inaugural award in 2005 for “The Dew Breaker.”

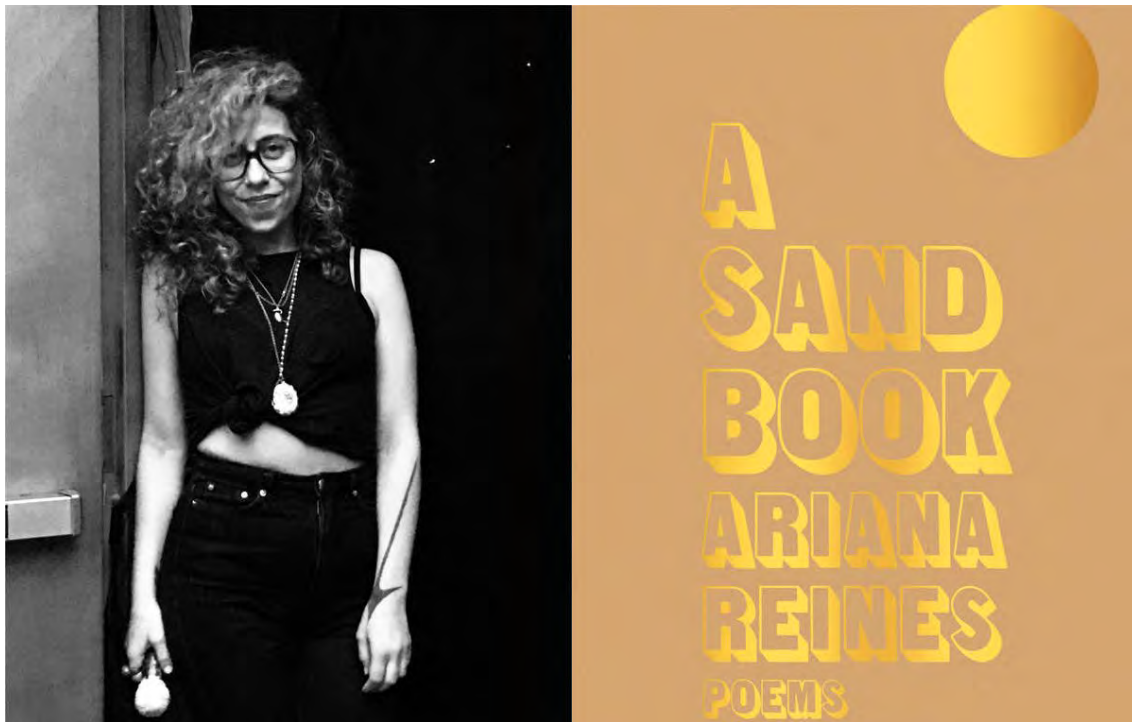
In a statement, the judges said, “These stories zoom from the globality of immigration and natural disaster to see the human being beneath the news stories and the humanity within each tragedy. Death is a major theme of these stories, and hope does not always prevail, but there remains a belief in human dignity and the importance of acknowledging the humanity in others.” Almost 100 short story collections were submitted for this year’s Story Prize. At the ceremony in New York, two finalists, Kali Fajardo-Anstine, author of “Sabrina & Corina,” and Zadie Smith, author of “Grand Union,” each received \$5,000.



Rosa Parks c. 1975 (Photo by F. Williams/Rosa Parks Papers, Prints and Photographs Division in the Library of Congress); “Rosa Parks: In Her Own Words” is a current exhibit at the Library of Congress. (Photo by Shawn Miller/Library of Congress)

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### **WOMEN SEEM LIKE A LABOR**

He was doing that diet where you eat a brick  
Of Irish butter. Women seem like a labor  
To convince someone anyone of something  
At all times. A kind of dusty tawny dried  
And greenish pelt. Looking at the small  
Colors starting to emerge

From under the surface of your arms  
You would have gone somewhere but  
In those days there was no escape rounding  
The bend of the globe—you could maybe  
Say something—or sustain a kind of  
Alkalinity eating whatever it was you were  
Supposed to be eating. You could have  
Sex if you still wanted to. You could even  
Romanticize it. The tools were still freely  
Available. You could do things to your  
Appearance and get to work on weaponizing  
Any aspect of your experience you could rouse  
Yourself to witness. Oh and you were free  
You were absolutely free to have Experiences  
Of Art

*From "A Sand Book," by Ariana Reines (Tin House). Reprinted by permission of the publisher.*

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**and merciless thief. Then he got caught.**

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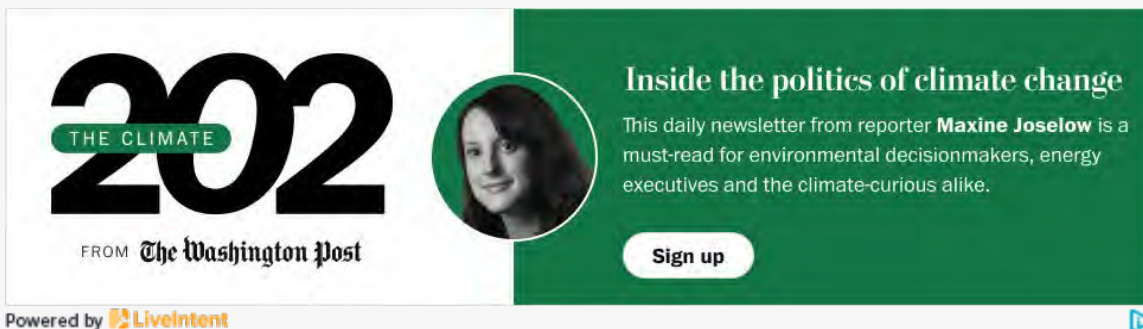
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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Book Club: Bernie Sanders praises Fidel Castro's literacy programs, and "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" finally gets an audiobook  
**Date:** Friday, February 28, 2020 8:10:47 AM



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The Washington Post

# Book Club

Reviews and recommendations from critic Ron Charles.



By **Ron Charles**

 [Email](#)



**Twice this week, presidential candidate Bernie Sanders praised Cuba's 1961 literacy initiative.** On "**Sixty Minutes**," Sen. Sanders said, "We're very opposed to the authoritarian nature of Cuba. But you know, it's unfair to simply say, 'Everything is bad.' When Fidel Castro came into office, you know what he did? He had a massive literacy program. Is that a bad thing, even though Fidel Castro did it?" The next day at a **CNN town hall**, Sanders was asked about that bit of historical cherry-picking. He picked harder: "When Fidel Castro first came to power . . . there was a lot of folks in Cuba at that point who were illiterate, and he formed a literacy brigade. They went out and they helped people learn to read and write. You know what? I think teaching people to read and write is a good thing." You know what? I think making the trains run on time is a good thing, too, but context is everything. Yes, soon after the revolution, the Cuban government did virtually eradicate illiteracy using about 250,000 teachers and volunteers. But that program was clearly part political indoctrination. The teaching manual included lessons such as "Fidel Is Our Leader," "The Land Is Ours" and "The Revolution Wins All the Battles." Sanders should stop digging this hole with his Havana-issued shovel. True literacy isn't merely the ability to decode words on a page; it's the liberty to read and write freely.



Then-national security adviser John Bolton in the Oval Office in 2019. (Photo by Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post). Former ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch during an impeachment hearing in November. (Photo by Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

**Washington is watching a piece of absurdist theater called "Waiting for Bolton."** President Trump **reportedly** thinks former national security adviser John Bolton is a "traitor" whose forthcoming



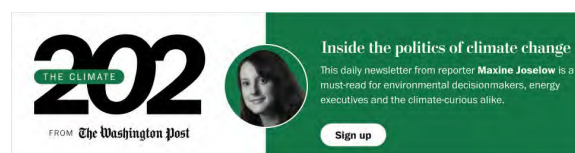
memoir, “The Room Where It Happened,” should not be published — or at least not before the next compromised election. During the impeachment trial, Senate Republicans refused to subpoena Bolton or the manuscript lest his knowledge of presidential corruption prejudice their immaculate acquittal. Even as the **security review process drags on**, Simon & Schuster continues to say that “The Room Where It Happened” will be released on March 17. But with Trump dead set against that and less than three weeks remaining till St. Patrick’s Day, it would take an army of leprechauns farting four-leaf clovers across the National Mall to meet that deadline.

**Meanwhile, Marie Yovanovitch, the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, has announced plans to publish her memoir.**

Yovanovitch was recalled in May after President Trump and Chief Henchman Rudy Giuliani decided she was impeding their efforts to get Ukrainian officials to smear Joe Biden. Two months later, doing his best imitation of Tony Soprano, Trump told Ukrainian President Zelensky during **that perfect phone call**, “She’s going to go through some things.” Presumably, she’s now going through some memories. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt editor Alexander Littlefield tells me, “Most Americans only came to know Ambassador Yovanovitch because of the impeachment drama, but that was just one chapter in an accomplished and storied life. In this book, she will confront the shocking abuse she endured in the final year of her diplomatic career, while also taking control of her own narrative and sharing tales and hard-won insights from her many years of public service and postings overseas — especially about the preciousness of democracy and the dangers of corruption. Her memoir will aim to inspire and empower readers as we move together into our post-election future.” Her book will be published in Spring 2021.

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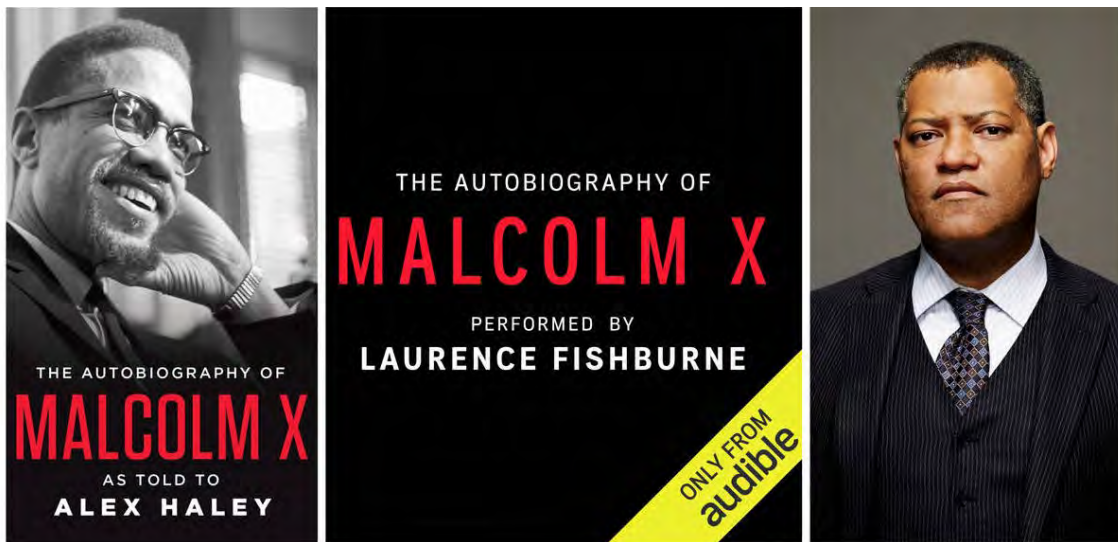
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Ballantine Books; temporary cover art from Audible; actor Laurence Fishburne (Photo by Art Streiber).

**EXCLUSIVE: For the first time since “The Autobiography of Malcolm X” was published in 1965, an unabridged audiobook version will soon be available.** The recording of the activist’s life story, “as told to Alex Haley,” will be narrated by Oscar nominee and Tony winner Laurence Fishburne. It will be released by [Audible on May 19](#), the 95th anniversary of Malcolm X’s birth. (Audible is a subsidiary of Amazon, whose CEO, Jeff Bezos, owns The Washington Post.) “It’s a great honor to have the opportunity to tell Malcolm X’s story,” Fishburne said in a statement from Audible. “This is a man who lived multiple lifetimes in the span of 40 years. An inspiration, ‘The Autobiography of Malcolm X’ remains a definitive statement within an ever-evolving civil rights and human rights movement.” Haley, a freelance journalist at the time, conducted dozens of interviews with Malcolm X as part of their complex collaboration. He knew the book would be extraordinarily popular — he promised his editor “millions or more sales potential” — but after Malcolm X was assassinated on Feb. 21, 1965, Doubleday, fearing more violence, canceled the contract. Grove Press boldly offered to publish the book instead. As Haley predicted, it has since sold millions. This May, we’ll finally get to hear those words aloud.

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An Underwood typewriter c. 1950. (Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Suzanne Dundee Bonner)

**Mammas, don't let your babies grow up to be writers. That's the [grim take-away](#) from [a report issued by the Authors Guild](#).**

Incomes earned by writing have dropped 24 percent since 2013, and half of all full-time authors earn less than the federal poverty level of \$12,488. “The days of authors supporting themselves from writing may be coming to an end,” says Christine Larson, an assistant professor of journalism at the University of Colorado who wrote the study. She contends that the 20th century was a rare historical era in which a relatively large number of people — including women and people of color — enjoyed success as writers. Those halcyon days are over. The closure of thousands of newspapers, magazines and websites leaves fewer places for writers to place their work. And ebooks — sold mostly by Amazon — earn less revenue than print books. Bestselling writers are surviving fine, but the real victims in this new economy are midlist literary authors, who are seeing their livelihoods evaporate. For instance, Katharine Weber, the author of seven well-received books, speaks candidly in the report about what that means. Back in the day, Weber used to earn six-figure advances; her most recent novel brought \$2,000. “I feel I’m at the end of a tradition, the last of my kind,” she says. To slow or even reverse this trend, Larson recommends:

- publishers support physical bookstores more aggressively.
- legislators rein in Amazon’s dominance.
- authors work together to ensure fairer contracts.

- foundations fund serious literature that the free market won't.



Sandra Oh at the Oscars in Los Angeles on Feb. 9. (AP Photo/John Locher)

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**Sandra Oh** will star in a dramedy called **“The Chair”** about a **university English department**. The upcoming six-part series ordered by Netflix comes from Amanda Peet, last seen in **“The Romanoffs,”** and David Benioff and D.B. Weiss, co-creators of **“Game of Thrones.”** Considering my own stint in a college English department, I think Russian revolution and medieval fantasy are perfect preparation. Feminist scholar Elaine Showalter **tweeted**, **“New Netflix series about woman chair of a major university English department. Where the real action is, and I can only wonder it took them so long to figure it out.”** Showalter’s friend and former colleague Joyce Carol Oates **tweeted back**, **“No matter what happens in this ‘dramedy’ it will scarcely approach the scandalous/ludicrous melodrama of the Princeton English Dept. in the late 1980s.”** I’m not so sure. Annie Julia Wyman, one of the co-writers of **“The Chair,”** earned a Ph.D. from the Harvard English department, so she

probably has a long shelf of scandalous/ludicrous melodrama to draw on.



"Mystery Bag" from SEKRÈ (\$3,612) contains a tiny fragment of a letter written by Charles Dickens in 1851 (Courtesy of SEKRÈ)

**This week's worst idea comes from a German luxury brand called SEKRÈ, which sells "distinctive handbags that hold a genuine piece of world history."** The company buys rare letters by such figures as Napoleon, Queen Victoria and Charles Dickens, cuts them up and then embeds the little scraps in expensive purses. This April, SEKRÈ plans to release a handbag carrying a bit of **Alexandre Dumas fils for \$1,825**. Leon Litvack, a **Dickens scholar** at Queen's University in Belfast, tells me these purses represent "cultural vandalism of the worst kind." Litvack was appalled to discover that some SEKRÈ handbags contain fragments of an 1851 letter by Dickens that Litvack himself had once helped authenticate. "I don't think we can stop this practice," he laments, but he makes a strong historical argument: "The information in each and every letter is precious and potentially revealing; the physical documents provide a tangible connection to the man, and their preservation is important, because they communicate to present and future generations important lessons about the verifiability of the past." **Simon Beattie**, an antiquarian bookseller in England, tells me, "Dismembering manuscripts for commercial purposes is morally wrong. It

strikes one with horror, just as much as the wilful destruction of any cultural artefact would.”

Spokesperson Anja von Bentheim assures me that SEKRÈ only cuts up papers “not included in the UNESCO list of cultural assets worthy of protection, nor in the EU list or any other national lists of cultural assets worthy of protection.” She says the company avoids “documents representing creative accomplishments” or “letters with literary content,” focusing instead on “everyday topics such as thank-you letters, private appointments, chats or other mainly private aspects.” (That sound you hear is the world’s biographers screaming into a pillow.) Remarkably, von Bentheim goes on to argue that putting bits of rare letters in purses gives these precious documents “a broader audience” than they would find if they were locked up in private collections. “By the way,” she adds, “cutting up originals is not an invention of SEKRÈ. For hundreds of years, the Roman Catholic Church has been selling relics to faithful followers allowing them to get in close touch with their adored idols.” Yes, that worked out well. . . .



Story Prize finalists Zadie Smith and Kali Fajardo-Anstine, and Story Prize winner Edwidge Danticat in New York, Feb. 26. (Courtesy of the Story Prize).

**Haitian-American writer Edwidge Danticat won the \$20,000 Story Prize on Wednesday night for her collection “Everything Inside.”** Danticat is the first person ever to win the Story Prize twice. She took home the contest’s inaugural award in 2005 for “The Dew Breaker.”

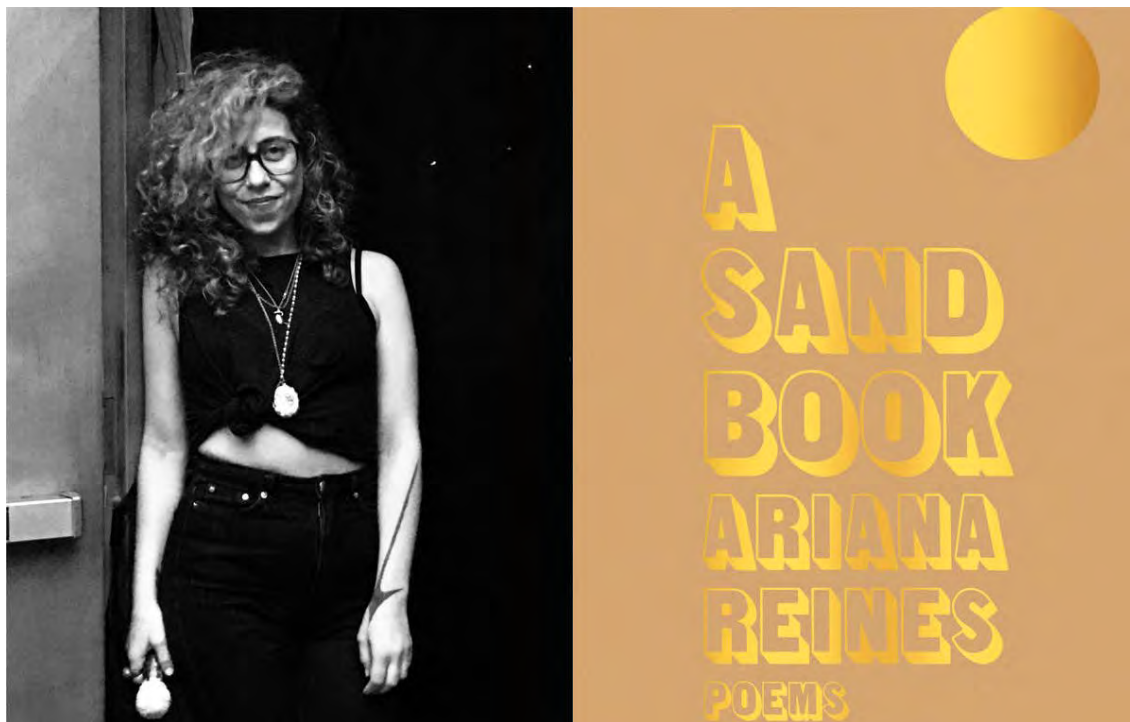
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In those days there was no escape rounding  
The bend of the globe—you could maybe  
Say something—or sustain a kind of  
Alkalinity eating whatever it was you were  
Supposed to be eating. You could have  
Sex if you still wanted to. You could even  
Romanticize it. The tools were still freely  
Available. You could do things to your  
Appearance and get to work on weaponizing  
Any aspect of your experience you could rouse  
Yourself to witness. Oh and you were free  
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*From "A Sand Book," by Ariana Reines (Tin House). Reprinted by permission of the publisher.*

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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Why Bernie Sanders, the oldest presidential candidate, struggles so much with older voters  
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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Why Bernie Sanders, the oldest presidential candidate, struggles so much with older voters

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Throughout world history, seniors have rarely led revolutions. It's often younger idealists who storm barricades, draft declarations and topple established orders. Until Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.).

The 78-year-old front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination is an unlikely figurehead for a movement that advocates political

revolution. The self-described democratic socialist captivates millennials, but he has largely failed to inspire voters in his own generation. At least so far.

Older people tend to be more settled in their political beliefs. They're **more affluent** than their younger counterparts, a factor that might make them warier of big structural changes. They tend to worry more about Sanders's age – and **his heart attack** – than younger voters who mostly haven't faced their own serious health struggles yet.

Mostly, though, elderly Democratic voters fear Sanders is too far to the left to defeat President Trump. Unlike the young whippersnappers who flock to Sanders's rallies, older folks remember the blowouts of 1988 and 1972 when their party nominated candidates who were more liberal than the country was ready to accept. In scores of interviews, they've expressed worry about repeating the mistakes of the past.

"I like Bernie, but I'm just afraid him tooting his socialist horn so much is going to hurt him," said Karen Griffin, 66, a volunteer for the local Democratic Party here who remains undecided about which alternative to Sanders she will vote for in Saturday's South Carolina primary. "A lot of the people that are my age vote. Growing up, we always heard socialism was scary, scary, scary. When my generation hears that term, it's scary!"



Bernie Sanders campaigns on Wednesday at Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, N.C. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**While Sanders won big in the Nevada caucuses last Saturday, the entrance polls highlighted a striking age gap. The septuagenarian won 65 percent of voters under the age of 30, 49 percent of 30- to 44-year-olds, 27 percent among 45- to 64-year-olds and just 12 percent among voters over 65.** In that oldest cohort, which accounted for 28 percent of those voting, Sanders finished fourth – behind former vice president Joe Biden, Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Ind.

Sanders similarly underperformed among seniors in [the New Hampshire primary](#). And in the Iowa caucuses, which remain too close for the Associated Press to call even after the state Democratic Party completed [a partial recount](#), [the entrance polls](#) show that **Sanders received only 4 percent among Hawkeye State Democrats over the age of 65,** compared to 48 percent of those under 30.

**A new [Monmouth University poll](#) shows Biden leading in South Carolina among likely Democratic primary voters, with 36 percent, and a neck-and-neck contest for second place between**

**Sanders (16 percent) and billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer (15 percent).** Sanders received 10 percent support among voters over 65 in the Palmetto State, per Monmouth, compared to 18 percent among those under 50.

**During a rally on Thursday afternoon, Sanders declared that “we will beat Trump in a landslide” and “we will transform America” – if younger people vote at the same level as those 65 and older.** “So I say to young people here, don’t complain about your student debt, don’t complain about climate change, don’t complain about racism or sexism or homophobia. Your complaints don’t mean anything. What means something is standing up and fighting,” the senator told [a crowd of 4,700 in Richmond](#). Virginia is one of 14 states, plus the territory of American Samoa, that vote next Tuesday.



George McGovern, right, holds a snowball he made while campaigning as the Democratic nominee for president in September 1972 in Billings, Mont. (Bob Daugherty/AP)



**George McGovern’s 1972 presidential campaign got Bruce Cunningham engaged in politics for the first time.** He grew up in a Republican family in a conservative part of New York state, but the massacre of anti-war protesters at Kent State University in 1970 pushed Cunningham hard to the left. Now 65, he and his wife moved a few years ago to this affordable and adorable port city, where they dote on their four grandchildren who live nearby and plan to vote together for Biden in Saturday’s primary.

**“McGovern was the Bernie Sanders of his day,” said Cunningham, a retired higher education administrator.** “Bernie has also captivated the young folks, too, but I can’t really figure out how. McGovern was a steady guy. He had a real sense of dignity. To me, Bernie seems like a crotchety old man who is just shouting all the time.”

**Cunningham remembers his family telling him, as he volunteered for McGovern almost half a century ago, that he’d become less liberal as he aged. He now sees truth in that old cliché, except when it comes to Sanders.** “Bernie’s got some interesting ideas. I think they’re very unrealistic, though,” said Cunningham. “Like McGovern, I’m not sure Bernie can win. And, to me, the highest priority has got to be getting rid of the clown in the White House.”



**His wife, Carol Cunningham, 62, suffers from multiple myeloma, an incurable but treatable form of blood cancer. The retired real estate agent worries that Sanders's Medicare-for-all proposal could push her off her private insurance plan** and jeopardize her access to the doctors who she thinks do a great job taking care of her. "I'm just not sure Medicare-for-all is the right answer to the problems in health care," she said. "It's certainly not going to be great for everybody." The couple considered voting for Cory Booker until the senator from New Jersey dropped out. Now they both believe the former vice president has the best chance to topple Trump.

**McGovern's name has been coming up a lot lately on the campaign trail, as Sanders's opponents across the Democratic establishment raise the specter that he's so liberal that he could get wiped out in a 1972-style landslide.** McGovern lost 49 states that year, including his home state of South Dakota, which he represented in the Senate. Massachusetts was the only state Richard Nixon lost as he cruised to reelection for a second term, which he'd serve only 19 months of before resigning in disgrace.

**Biden brings the 1972 election up in his stump speech.** That's the year he got elected to the Senate as a 29-year-old. He likes to note that he toppled a GOP incumbent, even as Nixon carried his home state of Delaware with 60 percent. Making the case for his electability, Sanders has taken to reciting polls that show him leading the president in head-to-head matchups across Midwestern battleground states that flipped from backing Barack Obama in 2012 to Trump in 2016.



Check out how young the crowd was at Sanders's rally on Thursday in Spartanburg, S.C. (Matt Rourke/AP)

**The Sanders campaign has stepped up efforts to make inroads with older voters.** As he discusses Medicare-for-all, for example, Sanders has tweaked his pitch somewhat to emphasize ways that it would help older people. In Richmond, for example, he talked about how the government would now cover hearing aids, eyeglasses and home health care. Sanders's emphasis on his plan to expand Social Security in digital ads a few weeks ago was aimed at improving his standing with the 65-plus crowd. While Sanders once talked about socialist Eugene Debs as his [political hero](#), now he praises mainstream Democrats like Franklin Roosevelt and his campaign has run commercials suggesting that his bold proposals follow in the footsteps of John F. Kennedy, someone Sanders ridiculed in decades past.

Before Thanksgiving and Christmas, the campaign even [blasted out](#) messaging advice to thousands of student supporters on how to persuade their parents and grandparents that they should vote for Sanders. "It's up to us as ... young people to make the moral appeal to our older relatives to join us in voting for Bernie," the document said, "because let's face it: they

won't be around for as long to deal with the consequences of this election, but we will be.”

**More recent polling, however, shows how much work Sanders still has his cut out for himself as he tries to expand his ceiling of support inside the Democratic Party.** Last week's [Washington Post-ABC News poll](#) showed Sanders leading nationally among Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters – with twice as much support (at 32 percent) as second-place Biden (16 percent). The survey found Sanders winning 50 percent of those under 50 years old. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) was in second place with this under-50 cohort, with only 15 percent. But Sanders got just 14 percent of support from those over 50, putting him in third place behind former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg and Biden.

**These are warning flags for Sanders because older voters tend to turn out at higher rates.** For example, in the 2016 general election, [the Pew Research Center calculated](#) that baby boomers, and those in older generations, together accounted for 43 percent of eligible voters but cast 49 percent of the votes.

**Sanders's [theory of the case](#), which he outlines in every speech, is that he would be able to activate millions of young people to vote for the first time and therefore reduce the average age of the electorate.** He struggled to do this in Iowa or New Hampshire but showed some evidence of success in Nevada. South Carolina, where most voters in the primary are expected to be African American, will be [a tougher test](#).



The crowds at Pete Buttigieg's events, such as this one in North Charleston on Monday, tend to be much older. (Matt Rourke/AP)

**South Carolina doesn't have partisan voter registration, which means Saturday's Democratic primary is open to everyone. A sizable swath of the electorate will therefore be moderate-minded independents who are uncomfortable with Sanders's revolutionary rhetoric.**

Max McDuffie, 78, voted for Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) in the GOP primary four years ago but didn't vote in the general election because he disliked Trump and Hillary Clinton. **"I thought I was a Republican – until Trump," said the retired military officer, who now considers himself an independent and lives in Goose Creek, which is home to a naval installation. He's voting for Buttigieg** because he thinks the 38-year-old former mayor remains "uncorrupted."

The two issues McDuffie cares about the most are tackling climate change and reducing the national debt. On the hustings, you often meet highly informed voters like McDuffie who don't fit neatly in traditional boxes that pundits like to force voters into. Student loan debt isn't a top-of-mind concern for seniors. They're not agitating for tuition-free college, universal

pre-K or anything that would change how they get their health care.

**The trillions in new spending proposed by Sanders makes McDuffie and many other older voters I've spoken with here this week deeply uncomfortable.** “All they do in Washington is spend money and money and money, and now he wants to spend more money,” he said. “It'll catch up with us eventually. I feel so sorry for our children and grandchildren.”

McDuffie's wife, Kathy, 75, remains undecided. She said she's interested in Buttigieg, Klobuchar and Steyer. “There's three people I don't want: Trump, Sanders or Warren,” said the retired postal worker. “All the others I'm pretty open to. But Trump, Sanders and Warren are too far out there. They're too divisive.”

**Biden, 77, has been trying to reach voters like the McDuffies by emphasizing his desire to restore America to what it was like before Trump.** When he was asked Thursday on NBC's “Today” show what it will mean if he doesn't win the nomination, Biden replied: “It says to me that we have moved away from our roots.” Speaking with a tone of disbelief, he added: “The idea that there's going to be this revolution? Americans aren't looking for a revolution. They're looking for progress.”

**Coming Sunday:** We will publish a special edition of The Daily 202, with insight and analysis on South Carolina's primary results and what they mean for Super Tuesday.





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## More from South Carolina



Trevor, Mattie, Shawn and Julian Mitchell pose for a portrait on Wadmalaw Island, S.C., where a predominantly black population is weighing the best way forward from a past filled with migration and inequality. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

**Black voters here [aren't particularly enthused](#) about their options.**

“Wadmalaw Island, about 23 miles south of Charleston, has roughly 5,000

residents, more than half of whom are black. After the Union Army seized South Carolina in the Civil War, white plantation owners fled the islands, leaving behind their lucrative rice fields and enslaved African Americans, many of whom were given plots of land,” [Vanessa Williams reports](#).

“Presidential candidates rarely venture out to Wadmalaw or neighboring islands. Voters who want to see the candidates in person usually have to go to Charleston. That’s where Mildred Mitchell first saw Barack Obama ... She thought Obama’s policies ... were good for the country, and she hates that Trump seems intent on undoing his legacy. That was why she was leaning toward Biden, even though she was concerned about his age. ... ‘I want somebody that can beat Donald Trump,’ she said. Right now, she is not sure who that is. ... The Wadmalaw families have one thing in common: None expressed excitement about their choices, even as all vow to vote. They said they were frustrated by the large, chaotic field of candidates ... Mostly, they said, they felt a duty to participate in the election and a desire to defeat Trump. But there is no swooning like they all recalled from 2008, when they helped boost Obama’s candidacy at a critical moment.”

### **And they are worried about racism.**

“Here in my hometown, voters I’ve talked to are worried and conflicted — and see the stakes in November as going far beyond ideology to involve history, legacy and the return of a kind of frank racism that many hoped was dead and buried,” [columnist Eugene Robinson](#) writes from Orangeburg, S.C. “It’s like racism is just coming out of the woodwork,’ said Bill Hamilton, 70, the retired sports information director at South Carolina State University, one of two historically black colleges in Orangeburg. ... ‘I just have a lot of disdain for Donald Trump,’ Hamilton said. ... Across town at the Kuckery — a popular lunch spot where the fried chicken is, well, just as fried chicken should be — I heard much the same thing from Juan L. Maulsby: ‘This election is a referendum on Trump. Trying to get him out.’ ... Maulsby said he believed ‘Biden has it in the bag here.’ ... The little I’ve heard about Bloomberg will not gladden the hearts of his campaign advisers. His debate performances discouraged a few voters I talked to and even left an impression of Trump-ishness among a

couple of others.”

## **Miss Black America is trying to help Buttigieg gain support among black voters.**

Ryann Richardson has been canvassing for Buttigieg in Charleston. “This was a packed 68 hours for the pageant queen, including a speech at a Mexican restaurant, two galas, three canvassing launches, a church service and roundtables with black female voters,” [Jada Yuan reports](#). “The folks here take the reigning Miss Black America seriously. ... After South Carolina, she will head to Alabama for Super Tuesday. She was also stiletto-boots-on-the-ground for Buttigieg in Iowa, where she appeared at his victory party alongside other black women in the row behind him, cheering him on — which led Twitter critics and media outlets to accuse the campaign of using black women as political props. ... ‘It’s rather offensive,’ Richardson says, ‘this notion that adult black women lack the agency to decide where they stand and for whom they stand — and that when they stand there, they must only be stage scenery.’ ... She grilled Buttigieg about the shooting of Eric Logan, a black man in South Bend, by a white police officer. ‘I’ve never heard a politician accept accountability for a mistake ever, for a failure ever,’ she says. But Buttigieg did.”

## **Steyer has bet his campaign in this state on climate change.**

“His argument that global warming will be felt most bluntly by black and brown communities is meant to resonate in a state where residents are already feeling its effects and where about 60 percent of voters in Saturday’s Democratic primary are African American,” [Dino Grandoni reports](#). “Steyer may be making his last stand here, where polls show him running third ... Steyer’s strong showing in South Carolina is not just because of his message. He spent \$52.9 million nationwide on his presidential campaign in January alone. ... Elsie Graves, a retired real estate agent who lives in Myrtle Beach, appreciates how she is not pestered with requests for donations when she visits Steyer’s website. ‘So I kind of like rich people in the race,’ she joked. Her bigger concern was depriving Biden of a vote in his bid to beat Sanders. But Graves, whose



home suffered more than \$20,000 in damage during Hurricane Matthew in 2016, said she was reassured by Steyer’s commitment to act immediately on climate change. She said she will vote for him.”

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## Looking to Super Tuesday and beyond



Joe Biden takes a selfie after a rally on Thursday in Conway, S.C. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)

### **Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) endorsed Biden this morning.**

The 2016 vice presidential nominee hopes to give him a boost before Virginia’s primary on Super Tuesday. “He reminds me of Harry S. Truman, an outwardly ordinary man whose work ethic, faith in the goodness of everyday Americans, and love of country made him a great President,” Kaine said in a statement. [A Wason Center poll](#) of likely Democratic voters in Virginia released Friday shows Biden with a modest lead in the state, with Sanders in second and Bloomberg in third. ([Jenna Portnoy](#))

**Most Virginia moderates are not gravitating toward any particular Sanders alternative.**

“In the affluent Northern Virginia suburbs that will be ground zero for Democratic turnout in November, an ‘anybody but Bernie’ movement is struggling to take hold,” [Antonio Olivo reports](#). “Moderate Virginia voters have turned out in droves for Democratic candidates since [Trump’s] election. ... Now, those same voters are bouncing between presidential candidates, hoping that someone — anyone — can generate enough excitement to foil a November matchup between Sanders and Trump that they believe would be disastrous. ... Outside a Warren rally in Arlington ... Marguerite Metzler said that ‘it’s disturbing’ to think of Bloomberg, a former Republican, as the only viable alternative to Sanders. ... [She said Warren] may have blown her chances of winning in Virginia ... ‘by building such a strong association with free college and Medicare-for-all.’ After ticking off a list of misgivings over the other Democratic candidates — Biden lacks energy, Buttigieg is inexperienced — Metzler, who lives in Springfield, landed on a possible choice: ‘Maybe Amy?’”

## **Sanders shows few signs of making nice with fellow Democrats.**

The front-runner this week has angered Florida Democrats with praise for Fidel Castro, upset some Jewish leaders with sharp criticism of the pro-Israel group AIPAC and preemptively spurned Bloomberg’s offer to help fund his campaign in the general election. “These disputes with other Democrats, even as he cements a position atop the presidential primary field, are prompting nervousness and alarm among many of them over whether Sanders can set aside decades-old habits of combativeness and confrontation and bring the party together to take on a president they revile,” [Sean Sullivan and Michael Scherer report](#). “Adding to the Democratic anxiety, some are concerned about the small number of black voters among his audiences in South Carolina this week, suggesting he still may be struggling to attract that pillar of the Democratic coalition. ...

**“In a recognition of these fractures, Democratic leaders have begun saying openly that some down-ballot party candidates may run on non-Sanders positions if he is the nominee.** ‘It is not unusual for a party platform, or candidates for president, to have their

own agenda they would put forth,' House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) told reporters Thursday. 'And it is not unusual for the House of Representatives to have its agenda to win as well.' Minutes earlier, Rep. Donna Shalala (D-Fla.) spoke on the House floor in support of a bill condemning Sanders's comments praising Castro's literacy program, which she called 'misguided, ill-informed, hurtful and unacceptable.'"

## **Democratic leaders are willing to risk damage to the party to stop Sanders.**

The [New York Times](#) interviewed 93 of the 771 superdelegates and reports that the "vast majority" predicted no candidate would clinch the nomination during the primaries, which could result in a brokered convention. Only nine of those interviewed said Sanders should become the nominee purely on the basis of arriving at the convention with a plurality of pledged delegates. "House members share their Sanders fears on text-messaging chains. Bill Clinton, in calls with old friends, vents about the party getting wiped out in the general election. And officials in the national and state parties are increasingly anxious about splintered primaries on Super Tuesday and beyond," per the Times. Obama said he will "wholeheartedly support" the eventual nominee in a new fundraising pitch for the Democratic National Committee, per [John Wagner](#).

## **Warren is in real danger of losing her home state.**

"Sanders is outpacing Warren in polls across the Super Tuesday map. But one state stings more than the others: Massachusetts," [Politico reports](#). "As recently as October, the two-term senator held a 20-percentage point lead over Sanders, according to a WBUR poll. In the latest version of the poll, released Friday, she trailed him by 8 points. Now, in the run-up to the March 3 primary, Sanders is going all in on his bid to pick off Massachusetts, culminating in a four-day music and canvassing festival in Worcester that begins Friday. ... It's not clear whether Warren will campaign in Massachusetts in the run-up to the primary."

## **A Ukrainian court has forced a probe into Biden.**

"A court ruling in Ukraine has forced state investigators to open a probe into alleged pressure by then-vice president Joe Biden that led to the 2016 dismissal of Viktor Shokin as the country's prosecutor general," [David Stern and Robyn Dixon report from Kyiv](#). "Trump last year pressed Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky for an investigation of this kind, leading to Trump's impeachment ... Shokin's firing, however, was not a unilateral action directed by Biden. It was prompted by a push for anti-corruption reforms developed at the State Department and coordinated with the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. Shokin's lawyer, Oleksandr Teleshetsky, said the probe was launched in response to a court order, after an appeal for action by Shokin. The State Bureau of Investigations confirmed a case was opened. ... Shokin has long been angered by what he sees as an unfair dismissal following foreign pressure."

### **Bloomberg released information about his heart health.**

According to Bloomberg's doctor, Stephen Sisson at Johns Hopkins, "Bloomberg's left ventricular ejection fraction was 'normal' at 60-65%; his left ventricular cavity size and left ventricular function were also deemed 'normal.'" Bloomberg's campaign said Sanders should release the same left ventricular ejection fraction data. ([CNN](#))

### **Bloomberg's campaign dangled the vice presidency in pursuit of Andrew Yang's endorsement.**

Yang "didn't commit to join forces, as he considers his own political future," [the Wall Street Journal reports](#). "A senior Bloomberg aide said Mr. Yang wasn't being seriously considered to be the former mayor's running mate if he secured the nomination."

### **Bloomberg says "stop and frisk" decreased crime. Data suggests it wasn't a major factor.**

"A Washington Post analysis of crime patterns and other academic research found that major felonies declined during Bloomberg's three terms from 2002 through 2013, but the reduction did not correspond to the increase in stops by police," [Dan Keating and Harry Stevens report](#).

“Crime has continued to fall since a federal judge deemed the practice an unconstitutional violation of civil rights in 2013. The disconnect suggests that an increase or decrease in crime happened largely for reasons independent of the aggressive expansion of the policy.”

### **As the opioid crisis grew, Bloomberg helped the Sackler family with some PR advice.**

“The billionaire family whose company created and pushed the addictive painkiller OxyContin had managed to escape connection with the opioid crisis for years, but now two magazine pieces were portraying them as pain profiteers. ... Mortimer D.A. Sackler ... was openly furious. And so he turned to a person he knew and admired in the media industry,” [writes Hannah Dreier for ProPublica](#). “I am meeting with Michael Bloomberg tomorrow morning at 10 am to seek his help and guidance on the current issues we are facing,’ Sackler wrote to Purdue’s top executives in December 2017. ‘I plan to discuss the following with him: 1. Current narrative vs the truth. 2. What advice does he have on how best to deal with it? 3. Does he have a journalist that he would recommend who could get the FULL story out there?’ ... Bloomberg advised Mortimer Sackler on how to handle negative coverage in 2017, and steered the family to a crisis communications specialist who had been his mayoral press secretary. In 2018, Bloomberg Philanthropies staff met with Sackler to discuss launching a joint initiative to combat the opioid crisis.”

### **An SEC coach became a Trump-loving Senate hopeful. His players no longer recognize him.**

Former Auburn University coach Tommy Tuberville is competing with Jeff Sessions and others ahead of the GOP primary in Alabama next Tuesday to take on Sen. Doug Jones (D). At Auburn, Tuberville established a reputation as a mild-mannered coach and charming recruiter who led the Tigers to an undefeated record in 2004. But he's transformed himself, adopting some of the president's favorite language and Trump's propensity for exaggerations and falsehoods. "Perhaps more notably, Tuberville, who sold football recruits and built the Auburn program on a foundation of unity, has now taken on many of the

president's more hard-line — and, often, xenophobic — talking points,” [Kent Babb reports](#). “Some of Tuberville’s former Auburn players have noticed, pointing out that his persona on the campaign trail is strikingly different than the man who recruited and coached them. ‘That doesn’t reflect the person that I knew,’ said Devin Aromashodu, a former Auburn wide receiver who usually votes Democrat. ‘It sounds like two different people.’”

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## The coronavirus



### **Federal workers allegedly assisted evacuees without protective gear.**

“Officials at the Department of Health and Human Services sent more than a dozen workers to receive the first Americans evacuated from Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak, without proper training for infection control or appropriate protective gear, according to a whistleblower complaint,” [Lena Sun and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#). “The workers did not show symptoms of infection and were not tested for the virus, according to lawyers for the whistleblower, a senior HHS official based in Washington who oversees workers at the Administration for Children and Families, a unit within HHS. The whistleblower is seeking

federal protection, alleging she was unfairly and improperly reassigned after raising concerns about the safety of these workers to HHS officials, including those within the office of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar. She was told Feb. 19 that if she does not accept the new position in 15 days, which is March 5, she would be terminated. ...

“The complaint alleges HHS staffers were ‘improperly deployed’ and were ‘not properly trained or equipped to operate in a public health emergency situation.’ The complaint also alleges the workers were potentially exposed to coronavirus because appropriate steps were not taken to protect them and staffers were not trained in wearing personal protective equipment, even though they had face-to-face contact with returning passengers. ... In some instances, the teams were working alongside personnel from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in ‘full gown, gloves and hazmat attire,’ the complaint said. ... Several people within HHS voiced objections to sending the ACF personnel to receive passengers, according to a person familiar with the conversations ... A second person familiar with the situation said the workers were not tested for coronavirus because none of them met the criteria, which was restricted at that time to people with symptoms and either a recent trip to China or close contact with a person confirmed to be infected with covid19. If the workers had exhibited symptoms, appropriate protocol would have been followed.”

### **Vice President Pence took control of messaging amid criticism of his qualifications.**

“Pence tried to project a sense of steady control over the government’s response to the coronavirus,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Josh Dawsey and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#). “Pence appointed a doctor, Ambassador Debbie Birx, to serve as White House response coordinator for the virus, enforced tight control of the government’s public communications and [added new members](#) to a task force aimed at containing the spread of the outbreak. ... Trump on Thursday continued to downplay the threat, blaming the media and Democrats for creating a panic over the virus. ... In an effort to combat further fragmented messaging, **Pence moved to seize control of all federal communications on the virus, requiring Cabinet**

**officials and government experts to get clearance from his office before making public remarks**, according to two senior administration officials.

“The move came after Trump grew frustrated about some of the public statements made by government officials warning the public, which the president viewed as overly alarmist ... The move drew immediate criticism from Democrats, who warned that **Pence’s attempt at message control could quickly turn into an effort to suppress critical health information that the public needs.** ... Adding economy-focused figures to the task force, Pence appointed Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and top White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow ... Pence suggested ... that both he and Azar would lead the government’s effort ... **A former senior HHS official ... said Azar, public health officials and department employees have been ‘doing the measured playbook response’ to the coronavirus, while the White House has been obsessed with a ‘communications problem.’** For Azar, this created ‘a sense of irritation,’ the official said. ...

**“One senior administration official involved in the response said many people were confused about how the response will be run. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, used a combination of expletives to describe the situation.** The official said problems with a government-created coronavirus test have limited the United States’ capacity to rapidly increase testing.”

**Trump said he put Pence in charge because he didn’t “have anything else to do.”**

“White House aides, led by Mick Mulvaney, the president’s acting chief of staff, had debated for days whether the administration needed a point person to be the face of the response,” [the Times reports](#). “The decision to put Mr. Pence in charge was made on Wednesday after the president told some people that the vice president did not ‘have anything else to do,’ according to people familiar with Mr. Trump’s comments.”

**Trump said he can quickly bring in coronavirus experts.**



## That's not how it works.

“The White House official charged with leading the U.S. response to deadly pandemics left nearly two years ago as his global health security team was disbanded ... Despite the mounting threat of a coronavirus outbreak in the United States, Trump said he has no regrets about those actions and that expertise and resources can be quickly ramped up to meet the current needs,” [Beth Reinhard, Emma Brown and Neena Satija report](#).  
Experts disagree:

- “They have stable jobs with retirement plans,” said physician Cyrus Shahpar, who served at the CDC under Obama and during the first year of the Trump administration. “They are not going to quit their job at the university or quit their job in the local government to go join the U.S. federal government for six months because of coronavirus. It doesn't work like that.”
- “You build a fire department ahead of time. You don't wait for a fire,” said Tom Inglesby, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.
- “What you're seeing play out is that this response is starting from a standing start instead of a running start,” said Ron Klain, who served as “Ebola czar” under Obama in 2014. Klain noted that Pence and Azar already have full-time jobs. “Running this response is not like driving Uber. You don't do it a couple hours a day.”

**Bigger picture, the virus is pushing Trump to rely on experts he has long maligned.** “Throughout his more than three years as president, Trump has obsessed, at times conspiratorially, over what he calls the ‘deep state’ — the thousands of career government specialists in national security, intelligence, science and other areas whose expertise he shuns in part because he suspects they are disloyal saboteurs,” [Ashley Parker and Philip Rucker note](#). (Our [Fact Checker](#) team reviews 13 of the most noteworthy coronavirus comments Trump made during his news conference.)

**Trump's CDC chief, Robert Redfield, is under growing**

## **scrutiny, internally and externally.**

“Hundreds of Americans were left stuck on a cruise ship that later became the single biggest source of U.S. coronavirus cases — a CDC decision,” [Politico reports](#). “Dozens of public health labs are still waiting for tests that will allow them to diagnose coronavirus — a CDC responsibility. One of Redfield’s deputies on Monday urged businesses and schools to start preparing for the disease’s inevitable spread — stamping the CDC’s imprint on public fears ... Inside the health department, officials have complained that Redfield and CDC have been slow to resolve essential problems, like clarifying whether dozens of public health labs around the nation will soon have diagnostics capable of testing for coronavirus.”

## **Virus testing is widening after the first U.S. case of community transmission.**

“The four-day delay in testing a California woman for coronavirus highlights how a faulty test and, until Thursday, a narrow definition of who should be tested have hindered the United States’ ability to track how widely the disease has spread,” [Carolyn Y. Johnson and Laurie McGinley report](#). “Those concerns were stoked by the emergence of the nation’s first case of community transmission in Northern California, where hospital administrators say the patient, a woman, was not tested when clinicians requested it because she did not meet strict [CDC] criteria ... ‘We have just a few hundred testing kits in the state of California,’ Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) said Thursday at a news conference. ‘That’s simply inadequate to do justice to the kind of testing that is required to address this issue head on.’ ... Newsom said the state was working with the CDC to get more testing kits and the ability to do tests without shipping samples across the country.” New York is making its own coronavirus test after the CDC's test repeatedly failed, per [BuzzFeed News](#).

## **Markets are on track for their worst week since the financial crisis.**

“European indexes fell sharply, led by losses in the travel and resources sectors, continuing the slump in Asia earlier in the day,” [Adam Taylor and](#)

[Rick Noack report](#). “U.S. futures pointed to further losses on Wall Street at the open.”

**South Korea now has 2,337 confirmed cases, the largest hot spot outside of China.**

There are 78,824 confirmed cases in mainland China. South Korea is trying to rapidly test a large number of people, including more than 200,000 people who are members of a church in Daegu where the virus appeared to have spread widely, per [Min Joo Kim and Adam Taylor](#).

**Mongolia's president was put under a 14-day quarantine after traveling to China for one day.** ([Taylor](#))

**Japan is scaling back the Olympic torch relay.** It was due to start in Fukushima on March 26. A spokesman says that, though the procession may be downsized, it won't be cancelled. The International Olympic Committee said it remains fully committed to moving ahead with the Games as scheduled. ([Simon Denyer](#))

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## Quote of the day

*Former Baltimore mayor Catherine Pugh (D) was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy. Responding to the contention by her defense attorneys that the public humiliation she endured should be considered as part of the punishment, U.S. District Judge Deborah K. Chasanow said: “Yes, the impact on Ms. Pugh has been great. But the impact on the city is also very great and very tragic.”* ([Paul Schwartzman](#))

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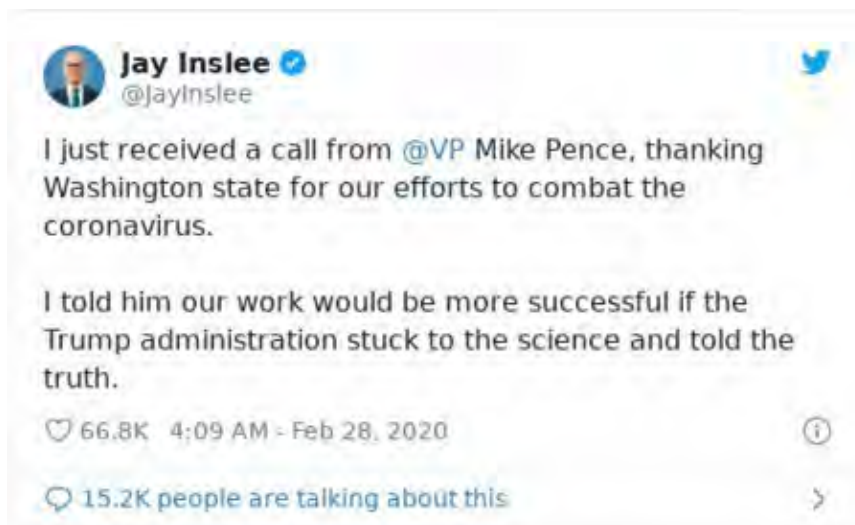
## Social media speed read

Trump tried to pin the spread of the virus on Democrats in a now-deleted

tweet:



Washington's Democratic governor gave this readout of his call with the V.P.:



All the leading Democratic presidential candidates attacked Trump's decisions:



## Videos of the day

“The Daily Show” sent two correspondents to check in with black voters in South Carolina:



Stephen Colbert is not impressed by Trump's coronavirus plan:



Seth Meyers said this situation should give Trump pause about his cuts to health funding:



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Email

## Why Bernie Sanders, the oldest presidential candidate, struggles so much with older voters

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Throughout world history, seniors have rarely led revolutions. It's often younger idealists who storm barricades, draft declarations and topple established orders. Until Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.).

The 78-year-old front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination is an unlikely figurehead for a movement that advocates political



revolution. The self-described democratic socialist captivates millennials, but he has largely failed to inspire voters in his own generation. At least so far.

Older people tend to be more settled in their political beliefs. They're **more affluent** than their younger counterparts, a factor that might make them warier of big structural changes. They tend to worry more about Sanders's age – and **his heart attack** – than younger voters who mostly haven't faced their own serious health struggles yet.

Mostly, though, elderly Democratic voters fear Sanders is too far to the left to defeat President Trump. Unlike the young whippersnappers who flock to Sanders's rallies, older folks remember the blowouts of 1988 and 1972 when their party nominated candidates who were more liberal than the country was ready to accept. In scores of interviews, they've expressed worry about repeating the mistakes of the past.

"I like Bernie, but I'm just afraid him tooting his socialist horn so much is going to hurt him," said Karen Griffin, 66, a volunteer for the local Democratic Party here who remains undecided about which alternative to Sanders she will vote for in Saturday's South Carolina primary. "A lot of the people that are my age vote. Growing up, we always heard socialism was scary, scary, scary. When my generation hears that term, it's scary!"



Bernie Sanders campaigns on Wednesday at Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, N.C. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**While Sanders won big in the Nevada caucuses last Saturday, the entrance polls highlighted a striking age gap. The septuagenarian won 65 percent of voters under the age of 30, 49 percent of 30- to 44-year-olds, 27 percent among 45- to 64-year-olds and just 12 percent among voters over 65.** In that oldest cohort, which accounted for 28 percent of those voting, Sanders finished fourth – behind former vice president Joe Biden, Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Ind.

Sanders similarly underperformed among seniors in [the New Hampshire primary](#). And in the Iowa caucuses, which remain too close for the Associated Press to call even after the state Democratic Party completed [a partial recount](#), [the entrance polls](#) show that **Sanders received only 4 percent among Hawkeye State Democrats over the age of 65**, compared to 48 percent of those under 30.

**A new [Monmouth University poll](#) shows Biden leading in South Carolina among likely Democratic primary voters, with 36 percent, and a neck-and-neck contest for second place between**

**Sanders (16 percent) and billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer (15 percent).** Sanders received 10 percent support among voters over 65 in the Palmetto State, per Monmouth, compared to 18 percent among those under 50.

**During a rally on Thursday afternoon, Sanders declared that “we will beat Trump in a landslide” and “we will transform America” – if younger people vote at the same level as those 65 and older.** “So I say to young people here, don’t complain about your student debt, don’t complain about climate change, don’t complain about racism or sexism or homophobia. Your complaints don’t mean anything. What means something is standing up and fighting,” the senator told [a crowd of 4,700 in Richmond](#). Virginia is one of 14 states, plus the territory of American Samoa, that vote next Tuesday.



George McGovern, right, holds a snowball he made while campaigning as the Democratic nominee for president in September 1972 in Billings, Mont. (Bob Daugherty/AP)



**George McGovern’s 1972 presidential campaign got Bruce Cunningham engaged in politics for the first time.** He grew up in a Republican family in a conservative part of New York state, but the massacre of anti-war protesters at Kent State University in 1970 pushed Cunningham hard to the left. Now 65, he and his wife moved a few years ago to this affordable and adorable port city, where they dote on their four grandchildren who live nearby and plan to vote together for Biden in Saturday’s primary.

**“McGovern was the Bernie Sanders of his day,” said Cunningham, a retired higher education administrator.** “Bernie has also captivated the young folks, too, but I can’t really figure out how. McGovern was a steady guy. He had a real sense of dignity. To me, Bernie seems like a crotchety old man who is just shouting all the time.”

**Cunningham remembers his family telling him, as he volunteered for McGovern almost half a century ago, that he’d become less liberal as he aged. He now sees truth in that old cliché, except when it comes to Sanders.** “Bernie’s got some interesting ideas. I think they’re very unrealistic, though,” said Cunningham. “Like McGovern, I’m not sure Bernie can win. And, to me, the highest priority has got to be getting rid of the clown in the White House.”

**His wife, Carol Cunningham, 62, suffers from multiple myeloma, an incurable but treatable form of blood cancer. The retired real estate agent worries that Sanders's Medicare-for-all proposal could push her off her private insurance plan** and jeopardize her access to the doctors who she thinks do a great job taking care of her. "I'm just not sure Medicare-for-all is the right answer to the problems in health care," she said. "It's certainly not going to be great for everybody." The couple considered voting for Cory Booker until the senator from New Jersey dropped out. Now they both believe the former vice president has the best chance to topple Trump.

**McGovern's name has been coming up a lot lately on the campaign trail, as Sanders's opponents across the Democratic establishment raise the specter that he's so liberal that he could get wiped out in a 1972-style landslide.** McGovern lost 49 states that year, including his home state of South Dakota, which he represented in the Senate. Massachusetts was the only state Richard Nixon lost as he cruised to reelection for a second term, which he'd serve only 19 months of before resigning in disgrace.

**Biden brings the 1972 election up in his stump speech.** That's the year he got elected to the Senate as a 29-year-old. He likes to note that he toppled a GOP incumbent, even as Nixon carried his home state of Delaware with 60 percent. Making the case for his electability, Sanders has taken to reciting polls that show him leading the president in head-to-head matchups across Midwestern battleground states that flipped from backing Barack Obama in 2012 to Trump in 2016.



Check out how young the crowd was at Sanders's rally on Thursday in Spartanburg, S.C. (Matt Rourke/AP)

**The Sanders campaign has stepped up efforts to make inroads with older voters.** As he discusses Medicare-for-all, for example, Sanders has tweaked his pitch somewhat to emphasize ways that it would help older people. In Richmond, for example, he talked about how the government would now cover hearing aids, eyeglasses and home health care. Sanders's emphasis on his plan to expand Social Security in digital ads a few weeks ago was aimed at improving his standing with the 65-plus crowd. While Sanders once talked about socialist Eugene Debs as his [political hero](#), now he praises mainstream Democrats like Franklin Roosevelt and his campaign has run commercials suggesting that his bold proposals follow in the footsteps of John F. Kennedy, someone Sanders ridiculed in decades past.

Before Thanksgiving and Christmas, the campaign even [blasted out](#) messaging advice to thousands of student supporters on how to persuade their parents and grandparents that they should vote for Sanders. "It's up to us as ... young people to make the moral appeal to our older relatives to join us in voting for Bernie," the document said, "because let's face it: they

won't be around for as long to deal with the consequences of this election, but we will be.”

**More recent polling, however, shows how much work Sanders still has his cut out for himself as he tries to expand his ceiling of support inside the Democratic Party.** Last week's [Washington Post-ABC News poll](#) showed Sanders leading nationally among Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters – with twice as much support (at 32 percent) as second-place Biden (16 percent). The survey found Sanders winning 50 percent of those under 50 years old. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) was in second place with this under-50 cohort, with only 15 percent. But Sanders got just 14 percent of support from those over 50, putting him in third place behind former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg and Biden.

**These are warning flags for Sanders because older voters tend to turn out at higher rates.** For example, in the 2016 general election, [the Pew Research Center calculated](#) that baby boomers, and those in older generations, together accounted for 43 percent of eligible voters but cast 49 percent of the votes.

**Sanders's [theory of the case](#), which he outlines in every speech, is that he would be able to activate millions of young people to vote for the first time and therefore reduce the average age of the electorate.** He struggled to do this in Iowa or New Hampshire but showed some evidence of success in Nevada. South Carolina, where most voters in the primary are expected to be African American, will be [a tougher test](#).



The crowds at Pete Buttigieg's events, such as this one in North Charleston on Monday, tend to be much older. (Matt Rourke/AP)

**South Carolina doesn't have partisan voter registration, which means Saturday's Democratic primary is open to everyone. A sizable swath of the electorate will therefore be moderate-minded independents who are uncomfortable with Sanders's revolutionary rhetoric.**

Max McDuffie, 78, voted for Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) in the GOP primary four years ago but didn't vote in the general election because he disliked Trump and Hillary Clinton. **"I thought I was a Republican – until Trump," said the retired military officer, who now considers himself an independent and lives in Goose Creek, which is home to a naval installation. He's voting for Buttigieg** because he thinks the 38-year-old former mayor remains "uncorrupted."

The two issues McDuffie cares about the most are tackling climate change and reducing the national debt. On the hustings, you often meet highly informed voters like McDuffie who don't fit neatly in traditional boxes that pundits like to force voters into. Student loan debt isn't a top-of-mind concern for seniors. They're not agitating for tuition-free college, universal



pre-K or anything that would change how they get their health care.

**The trillions in new spending proposed by Sanders makes McDuffie and many other older voters I've spoken with here this week deeply uncomfortable.** “All they do in Washington is spend money and money and money, and now he wants to spend more money,” he said. “It'll catch up with us eventually. I feel so sorry for our children and grandchildren.”

McDuffie's wife, Kathy, 75, remains undecided. She said she's interested in Buttigieg, Klobuchar and Steyer. “There's three people I don't want: Trump, Sanders or Warren,” said the retired postal worker. “All the others I'm pretty open to. But Trump, Sanders and Warren are too far out there. They're too divisive.”

**Biden, 77, has been trying to reach voters like the McDuffies by emphasizing his desire to restore America to what it was like before Trump.** When he was asked Thursday on NBC's “Today” show what it will mean if he doesn't win the nomination, Biden replied: “It says to me that we have moved away from our roots.” Speaking with a tone of disbelief, he added: “The idea that there's going to be this revolution? Americans aren't looking for a revolution. They're looking for progress.”

**Coming Sunday:** We will publish a special edition of The Daily 202, with insight and analysis on South Carolina's primary results and what they mean for Super Tuesday.





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## More from South Carolina



Trevor, Mattie, Shawn and Julian Mitchell pose for a portrait on Wadmalaw Island, S.C., where a predominantly black population is weighing the best way forward from a past filled with migration and inequality. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

**Black voters here aren't particularly enthused about their options.**

“Wadmalaw Island, about 23 miles south of Charleston, has roughly 5,000 residents, more than half of whom are black. After the Union Army seized

South Carolina in the Civil War, white plantation owners fled the islands, leaving behind their lucrative rice fields and enslaved African Americans, many of whom were given plots of land,” [Vanessa Williams reports](#).

“Presidential candidates rarely venture out to Wadmalaw or neighboring islands. Voters who want to see the candidates in person usually have to go to Charleston. That’s where Mildred Mitchell first saw Barack Obama ... She thought Obama’s policies ... were good for the country, and she hates that Trump seems intent on undoing his legacy. That was why she was leaning toward Biden, even though she was concerned about his age. ... ‘I want somebody that can beat Donald Trump,’ she said. Right now, she is not sure who that is. ... The Wadmalaw families have one thing in common: None expressed excitement about their choices, even as all vow to vote. They said they were frustrated by the large, chaotic field of candidates ... Mostly, they said, they felt a duty to participate in the election and a desire to defeat Trump. But there is no swooning like they all recalled from 2008, when they helped boost Obama’s candidacy at a critical moment.”

### **And they are worried about racism.**

“Here in my hometown, voters I’ve talked to are worried and conflicted — and see the stakes in November as going far beyond ideology to involve history, legacy and the return of a kind of frank racism that many hoped was dead and buried,” [columnist Eugene Robinson](#) writes from Orangeburg, S.C. “It’s like racism is just coming out of the woodwork,’ said Bill Hamilton, 70, the retired sports information director at South Carolina State University, one of two historically black colleges in Orangeburg. ... ‘I just have a lot of disdain for Donald Trump,’ Hamilton said. ... Across town at the Kuckery — a popular lunch spot where the fried chicken is, well, just as fried chicken should be — I heard much the same thing from Juan L. Maulsby: ‘This election is a referendum on Trump. Trying to get him out.’ ... Maulsby said he believed ‘Biden has it in the bag here.’ ... The little I’ve heard about Bloomberg will not gladden the hearts of his campaign advisers. His debate performances discouraged a few voters I talked to and even left an impression of Trump-ishness among a couple of others.”

## **Miss Black America is trying to help Buttigieg gain support among black voters.**

Ryann Richardson has been canvassing for Buttigieg in Charleston. “This was a packed 68 hours for the pageant queen, including a speech at a Mexican restaurant, two galas, three canvassing launches, a church service and roundtables with black female voters,” [Jada Yuan reports](#). “The folks here take the reigning Miss Black America seriously. ... After South Carolina, she will head to Alabama for Super Tuesday. She was also stiletto-boots-on-the-ground for Buttigieg in Iowa, where she appeared at his victory party alongside other black women in the row behind him, cheering him on — which led Twitter critics and media outlets to accuse the campaign of using black women as political props. ... ‘It’s rather offensive,’ Richardson says, ‘this notion that adult black women lack the agency to decide where they stand and for whom they stand — and that when they stand there, they must only be stage scenery.’ ... She grilled Buttigieg about the shooting of Eric Logan, a black man in South Bend, by a white police officer. ‘I’ve never heard a politician accept accountability for a mistake ever, for a failure ever,’ she says. But Buttigieg did.”

## **Steyer has bet his campaign in this state on climate change.**

“His argument that global warming will be felt most bluntly by black and brown communities is meant to resonate in a state where residents are already feeling its effects and where about 60 percent of voters in Saturday’s Democratic primary are African American,” [Dino Grandoni reports](#). “Steyer may be making his last stand here, where polls show him running third ... Steyer’s strong showing in South Carolina is not just because of his message. He spent \$52.9 million nationwide on his presidential campaign in January alone. ... Elsie Graves, a retired real estate agent who lives in Myrtle Beach, appreciates how she is not pestered with requests for donations when she visits Steyer’s website. ‘So I kind of like rich people in the race,’ she joked. Her bigger concern was depriving Biden of a vote in his bid to beat Sanders. But Graves, whose home suffered more than \$20,000 in damage during Hurricane Matthew

in 2016, said she was reassured by Steyer’s commitment to act immediately on climate change. She said she will vote for him.”

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## Looking to Super Tuesday and beyond



Joe Biden takes a selfie after a rally on Thursday in Conway, S.C. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)

### **Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) endorsed Biden this morning.**

The 2016 vice presidential nominee hopes to give him a boost before Virginia’s primary on Super Tuesday. “He reminds me of Harry S. Truman, an outwardly ordinary man whose work ethic, faith in the goodness of everyday Americans, and love of country made him a great President,” Kaine said in a statement. [A Wason Center poll](#) of likely Democratic voters in Virginia released Friday shows Biden with a modest lead in the state, with Sanders in second and Bloomberg in third. ([Jenna Portnoy](#))

### **Most Virginia moderates are not gravitating toward any particular Sanders alternative.**

“In the affluent Northern Virginia suburbs that will be ground zero for

Democratic turnout in November, an ‘anybody but Bernie’ movement is struggling to take hold,” [Antonio Olivo reports](#). “Moderate Virginia voters have turned out in droves for Democratic candidates since [Trump’s] election. ... Now, those same voters are bouncing between presidential candidates, hoping that someone — anyone — can generate enough excitement to foil a November matchup between Sanders and Trump that they believe would be disastrous. ... Outside a Warren rally in Arlington ... Marguerite Metzler said that ‘it’s disturbing’ to think of Bloomberg, a former Republican, as the only viable alternative to Sanders. ... [She said Warren] may have blown her chances of winning in Virginia ... ‘by building such a strong association with free college and Medicare-for-all.’ After ticking off a list of misgivings over the other Democratic candidates — Biden lacks energy, Buttigieg is inexperienced — Metzler, who lives in Springfield, landed on a possible choice: ‘Maybe Amy?’”

## **Sanders shows few signs of making nice with fellow Democrats.**

The front-runner this week has angered Florida Democrats with praise for Fidel Castro, upset some Jewish leaders with sharp criticism of the pro-Israel group AIPAC and preemptively spurned Bloomberg’s offer to help fund his campaign in the general election. “These disputes with other Democrats, even as he cements a position atop the presidential primary field, are prompting nervousness and alarm among many of them over whether Sanders can set aside decades-old habits of combativeness and confrontation and bring the party together to take on a president they revile,” [Sean Sullivan and Michael Scherer report](#). “Adding to the Democratic anxiety, some are concerned about the small number of black voters among his audiences in South Carolina this week, suggesting he still may be struggling to attract that pillar of the Democratic coalition. ...

**“In a recognition of these fractures, Democratic leaders have begun saying openly that some down-ballot party candidates may run on non-Sanders positions if he is the nominee.** ‘It is not unusual for a party platform, or candidates for president, to have their own agenda they would put forth,’ House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.)

told reporters Thursday. 'And it is not unusual for the House of Representatives to have its agenda to win as well.' Minutes earlier, Rep. Donna Shalala (D-Fla.) spoke on the House floor in support of a bill condemning Sanders's comments praising Castro's literacy program, which she called 'misguided, ill-informed, hurtful and unacceptable.'"

## **Democratic leaders are willing to risk damage to the party to stop Sanders.**

The [New York Times](#) interviewed 93 of the 771 superdelegates and reports that the "vast majority" predicted no candidate would clinch the nomination during the primaries, which could result in a brokered convention. Only nine of those interviewed said Sanders should become the nominee purely on the basis of arriving at the convention with a plurality of pledged delegates. "House members share their Sanders fears on text-messaging chains. Bill Clinton, in calls with old friends, vents about the party getting wiped out in the general election. And officials in the national and state parties are increasingly anxious about splintered primaries on Super Tuesday and beyond," per the Times. Obama said he will "wholeheartedly support" the eventual nominee in a new fundraising pitch for the Democratic National Committee, per [John Wagner](#).

## **Warren is in real danger of losing her home state.**

"Sanders is outpacing Warren in polls across the Super Tuesday map. But one state stings more than the others: Massachusetts," [Politico reports](#). "As recently as October, the two-term senator held a 20-percentage point lead over Sanders, according to a WBUR poll. In the latest version of the poll, released Friday, she trailed him by 8 points. Now, in the run-up to the March 3 primary, Sanders is going all in on his bid to pick off Massachusetts, culminating in a four-day music and canvassing festival in Worcester that begins Friday. ... It's not clear whether Warren will campaign in Massachusetts in the run-up to the primary."

## **A Ukrainian court has forced a probe into Biden.**

"A court ruling in Ukraine has forced state investigators to open a probe into alleged pressure by then-vice president Joe Biden that led to the 2016

dismissal of Viktor Shokin as the country's prosecutor general," [David Stern and Robyn Dixon report from Kyiv](#). "Trump last year pressed Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky for an investigation of this kind, leading to Trump's impeachment ... Shokin's firing, however, was not a unilateral action directed by Biden. It was prompted by a push for anti-corruption reforms developed at the State Department and coordinated with the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. Shokin's lawyer, Oleksandr Teleshetsky, said the probe was launched in response to a court order, after an appeal for action by Shokin. The State Bureau of Investigations confirmed a case was opened. ... Shokin has long been angered by what he sees as an unfair dismissal following foreign pressure."

### **Bloomberg released information about his heart health.**

According to Bloomberg's doctor, Stephen Sisson at Johns Hopkins, "Bloomberg's left ventricular ejection fraction was 'normal' at 60-65%; his left ventricular cavity size and left ventricular function were also deemed 'normal.'" Bloomberg's campaign said Sanders should release the same left ventricular ejection fraction data. ([CNN](#))

### **Bloomberg's campaign dangled the vice presidency in pursuit of Andrew Yang's endorsement.**

Yang "didn't commit to join forces, as he considers his own political future," [the Wall Street Journal reports](#). "A senior Bloomberg aide said Mr. Yang wasn't being seriously considered to be the former mayor's running mate if he secured the nomination."

### **Bloomberg says "stop and frisk" decreased crime. Data suggests it wasn't a major factor.**

"A Washington Post analysis of crime patterns and other academic research found that major felonies declined during Bloomberg's three terms from 2002 through 2013, but the reduction did not correspond to the increase in stops by police," [Dan Keating and Harry Stevens report](#). "Crime has continued to fall since a federal judge deemed the practice an unconstitutional violation of civil rights in 2013. The disconnect suggests



that an increase or decrease in crime happened largely for reasons independent of the aggressive expansion of the policy.”

### **As the opioid crisis grew, Bloomberg helped the Sackler family with some PR advice.**

“The billionaire family whose company created and pushed the addictive painkiller OxyContin had managed to escape connection with the opioid crisis for years, but now two magazine pieces were portraying them as pain profiteers. ... Mortimer D.A. Sackler ... was openly furious. And so he turned to a person he knew and admired in the media industry,” [writes Hannah Dreier for ProPublica](#). “I am meeting with Michael Bloomberg tomorrow morning at 10 am to seek his help and guidance on the current issues we are facing,’ Sackler wrote to Purdue’s top executives in December 2017. ‘I plan to discuss the following with him: 1. Current narrative vs the truth. 2. What advice does he have on how best to deal with it? 3. Does he have a journalist that he would recommend who could get the FULL story out there?’ ... Bloomberg advised Mortimer Sackler on how to handle negative coverage in 2017, and steered the family to a crisis communications specialist who had been his mayoral press secretary. In 2018, Bloomberg Philanthropies staff met with Sackler to discuss launching a joint initiative to combat the opioid crisis.”

### **An SEC coach became a Trump-loving Senate hopeful. His players no longer recognize him.**

Former Auburn University coach Tommy Tuberville is competing with Jeff Sessions and others ahead of the GOP primary in Alabama next Tuesday to take on Sen. Doug Jones (D). At Auburn, Tuberville established a reputation as a mild-mannered coach and charming recruiter who led the Tigers to an undefeated record in 2004. But he's transformed himself, adopting some of the president's favorite language and Trump's propensity for exaggerations and falsehoods. "Perhaps more notably, Tuberville, who sold football recruits and built the Auburn program on a foundation of unity, has now taken on many of the president's more hard-line — and, often, xenophobic — talking points,” [Kent Babb reports](#). “Some of Tuberville’s former Auburn players have

noticed, pointing out that his persona on the campaign trail is strikingly different than the man who recruited and coached them. ‘That doesn’t reflect the person that I knew,’ said Devin Aromashodu, a former Auburn wide receiver who usually votes Democrat. ‘It sounds like two different people.’”

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## The coronavirus



### **Federal workers allegedly assisted evacuees without protective gear.**

“Officials at the Department of Health and Human Services sent more than a dozen workers to receive the first Americans evacuated from Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak, without proper training for infection control or appropriate protective gear, according to a whistleblower complaint,” [Lena Sun and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#). “The workers did not show symptoms of infection and were not tested for the virus, according to lawyers for the whistleblower, a senior HHS official based in Washington who oversees workers at the Administration for Children and Families, a unit within HHS. The whistleblower is seeking federal protection, alleging she was unfairly and improperly reassigned after raising concerns about the safety of these workers to HHS officials,

including those within the office of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar. She was told Feb. 19 that if she does not accept the new position in 15 days, which is March 5, she would be terminated. ...

“The complaint alleges HHS staffers were ‘improperly deployed’ and were ‘not properly trained or equipped to operate in a public health emergency situation.’ The complaint also alleges the workers were potentially exposed to coronavirus because appropriate steps were not taken to protect them and staffers were not trained in wearing personal protective equipment, even though they had face-to-face contact with returning passengers. ... In some instances, the teams were working alongside personnel from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in ‘full gown, gloves and hazmat attire,’ the complaint said. ... Several people within HHS voiced objections to sending the ACF personnel to receive passengers, according to a person familiar with the conversations ... A second person familiar with the situation said the workers were not tested for coronavirus because none of them met the criteria, which was restricted at that time to people with symptoms and either a recent trip to China or close contact with a person confirmed to be infected with covid19. If the workers had exhibited symptoms, appropriate protocol would have been followed.”

### **Vice President Pence took control of messaging amid criticism of his qualifications.**

“Pence tried to project a sense of steady control over the government’s response to the coronavirus,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Josh Dawsey and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#). “Pence appointed a doctor, Ambassador Debbie Birx, to serve as White House response coordinator for the virus, enforced tight control of the government’s public communications and [added new members](#) to a task force aimed at containing the spread of the outbreak. ... Trump on Thursday continued to downplay the threat, blaming the media and Democrats for creating a panic over the virus. ... In an effort to combat further fragmented messaging, **Pence moved to seize control of all federal communications on the virus, requiring Cabinet officials and government experts to get clearance from his office before making public remarks**, according to two senior

administration officials.

“The move came after Trump grew frustrated about some of the public statements made by government officials warning the public, which the president viewed as overly alarmist ... The move drew immediate criticism from Democrats, who warned that **Pence’s attempt at message control could quickly turn into an effort to suppress critical health information that the public needs.** ... Adding economy-focused figures to the task force, Pence appointed Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and top White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow ... Pence suggested ... that both he and Azar would lead the government’s effort ... **A former senior HHS official ... said Azar, public health officials and department employees have been ‘doing the measured playbook response’ to the coronavirus, while the White House has been obsessed with a ‘communications problem.’** For Azar, this created ‘a sense of irritation,’ the official said. ...

**“One senior administration official involved in the response said many people were confused about how the response will be run. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, used a combination of expletives to describe the situation.** The official said problems with a government-created coronavirus test have limited the United States’ capacity to rapidly increase testing.”

**Trump said he put Pence in charge because he didn’t “have anything else to do.”**

“White House aides, led by Mick Mulvaney, the president’s acting chief of staff, had debated for days whether the administration needed a point person to be the face of the response,” [the Times reports](#). “The decision to put Mr. Pence in charge was made on Wednesday after the president told some people that the vice president did not ‘have anything else to do,’ according to people familiar with Mr. Trump’s comments.”

**Trump said he can quickly bring in coronavirus experts. That's not how it works.**

“The White House official charged with leading the U.S. response to deadly pandemics left nearly two years ago as his global health security team was disbanded ... Despite the mounting threat of a coronavirus outbreak in the United States, Trump said he has no regrets about those actions and that expertise and resources can be quickly ramped up to meet the current needs,” [Beth Reinhard, Emma Brown and Neena Satija report](#). Experts disagree:

- “They have stable jobs with retirement plans,” said physician Cyrus Shahpar, who served at the CDC under Obama and during the first year of the Trump administration. “They are not going to quit their job at the university or quit their job in the local government to go join the U.S. federal government for six months because of coronavirus. It doesn't work like that.”
- “You build a fire department ahead of time. You don't wait for a fire,” said Tom Inglesby, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.
- “What you're seeing play out is that this response is starting from a standing start instead of a running start,” said Ron Klain, who served as “Ebola czar” under Obama in 2014. Klain noted that Pence and Azar already have full-time jobs. “Running this response is not like driving Uber. You don't do it a couple hours a day.”

**Bigger picture, the virus is pushing Trump to rely on experts he has long maligned.** “Throughout his more than three years as president, Trump has obsessed, at times conspiratorially, over what he calls the ‘deep state’ — the thousands of career government specialists in national security, intelligence, science and other areas whose expertise he shuns in part because he suspects they are disloyal saboteurs,” [Ashley Parker and Philip Rucker note](#). (Our [Fact Checker](#) team reviews 13 of the most noteworthy coronavirus comments Trump made during his news conference.)

**Trump's CDC chief, Robert Redfield, is under growing scrutiny, internally and externally.**

“Hundreds of Americans were left stuck on a cruise ship that later became

the single biggest source of U.S. coronavirus cases — a CDC decision,” [Politico reports](#). “Dozens of public health labs are still waiting for tests that will allow them to diagnose coronavirus — a CDC responsibility. One of Redfield’s deputies on Monday urged businesses and schools to start preparing for the disease’s inevitable spread — stamping the CDC’s imprint on public fears ... Inside the health department, officials have complained that Redfield and CDC have been slow to resolve essential problems, like clarifying whether dozens of public health labs around the nation will soon have diagnostics capable of testing for coronavirus.”

### **Virus testing is widening after the first U.S. case of community transmission.**

“The four-day delay in testing a California woman for coronavirus highlights how a faulty test and, until Thursday, a narrow definition of who should be tested have hindered the United States’ ability to track how widely the disease has spread,” [Carolyn Y. Johnson and Laurie McGinley report](#). “Those concerns were stoked by the emergence of the nation’s first case of community transmission in Northern California, where hospital administrators say the patient, a woman, was not tested when clinicians requested it because she did not meet strict [CDC] criteria ... ‘We have just a few hundred testing kits in the state of California,’ Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) said Thursday at a news conference. ‘That’s simply inadequate to do justice to the kind of testing that is required to address this issue head on.’ ... Newsom said the state was working with the CDC to get more testing kits and the ability to do tests without shipping samples across the country.” New York is making its own coronavirus test after the CDC's test repeatedly failed, per [BuzzFeed News](#).

### **Markets are on track for their worst week since the financial crisis.**

“European indexes fell sharply, led by losses in the travel and resources sectors, continuing the slump in Asia earlier in the day,” [Adam Taylor and Rick Noack report](#). “U.S. futures pointed to further losses on Wall Street at the open.”

**South Korea now has 2,337 confirmed cases, the largest hot spot outside of China.**

There are 78,824 confirmed cases in mainland China. South Korea is trying to rapidly test a large number of people, including more than 200,000 people who are members of a church in Daegu where the virus appeared to have spread widely, per [Min Joo Kim and Adam Taylor](#).

**Mongolia's president was put under a 14-day quarantine after traveling to China for one day.** ([Taylor](#))

**Japan is scaling back the Olympic torch relay.** It was due to start in Fukushima on March 26. A spokesman says that, though the procession may be downsized, it won't be cancelled. The International Olympic Committee said it remains fully committed to moving ahead with the Games as scheduled. ([Simon Denyer](#))

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## Quote of the day

*Former Baltimore mayor Catherine Pugh (D) was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy. Responding to the contention by her defense attorneys that the public humiliation she endured should be considered as part of the punishment, U.S. District Judge Deborah K. Chasanow said: "Yes, the impact on Ms. Pugh has been great. But the impact on the city is also very great and very tragic." ([Paul Schwartzman](#))*

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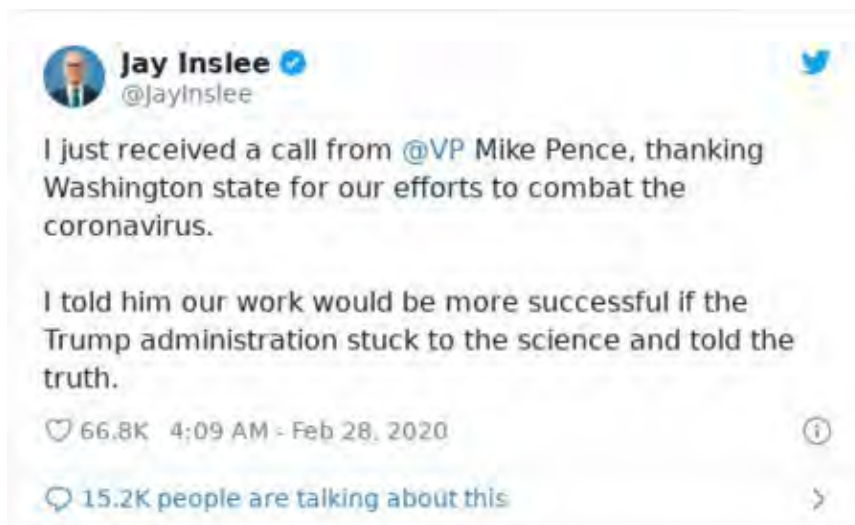
## Social media speed read

Trump tried to pin the spread of the virus on Democrats in a now-deleted tweet:



Washington's Democratic governor gave this readout of his call with the V.P.:





All the leading Democratic presidential candidates attacked Trump's decisions:



## Videos of the day

“The Daily Show” sent two correspondents to check in with black voters in South Carolina:



Stephen Colbert is not impressed by Trump's coronavirus plan:



Seth Meyers said this situation should give Trump pause about his cuts to health funding:



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## Why Bernie Sanders, the oldest presidential candidate, struggles so much with older voters

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Throughout world history, seniors have rarely led revolutions. It's often younger idealists who storm barricades, draft declarations and topple established orders. Until Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.).

The 78-year-old front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination is an unlikely figurehead for a movement that advocates political

revolution. The self-described democratic socialist captivates millennials, but he has largely failed to inspire voters in his own generation. At least so far.

Older people tend to be more settled in their political beliefs. They're **more affluent** than their younger counterparts, a factor that might make them warier of big structural changes. They tend to worry more about Sanders's age – and **his heart attack** – than younger voters who mostly haven't faced their own serious health struggles yet.

Mostly, though, elderly Democratic voters fear Sanders is too far to the left to defeat President Trump. Unlike the young whippersnappers who flock to Sanders's rallies, older folks remember the blowouts of 1988 and 1972 when their party nominated candidates who were more liberal than the country was ready to accept. In scores of interviews, they've expressed worry about repeating the mistakes of the past.

"I like Bernie, but I'm just afraid him tooting his socialist horn so much is going to hurt him," said Karen Griffin, 66, a volunteer for the local Democratic Party here who remains undecided about which alternative to Sanders she will vote for in Saturday's South Carolina primary. "A lot of the people that are my age vote. Growing up, we always heard socialism was scary, scary, scary. When my generation hears that term, it's scary!"



Bernie Sanders campaigns on Wednesday at Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, N.C. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**While Sanders won big in the Nevada caucuses last Saturday, the entrance polls highlighted a striking age gap. The septuagenarian won 65 percent of voters under the age of 30, 49 percent of 30- to 44-year-olds, 27 percent among 45- to 64-year-olds and just 12 percent among voters over 65.** In that oldest cohort, which accounted for 28 percent of those voting, Sanders finished fourth – behind former vice president Joe Biden, Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Ind.

Sanders similarly underperformed among seniors in [the New Hampshire primary](#). And in the Iowa caucuses, which remain too close for the Associated Press to call even after the state Democratic Party completed [a partial recount](#), [the entrance polls](#) show that **Sanders received only 4 percent among Hawkeye State Democrats over the age of 65,** compared to 48 percent of those under 30.

**A new [Monmouth University poll](#) shows Biden leading in South Carolina among likely Democratic primary voters, with 36 percent, and a neck-and-neck contest for second place between**

**Sanders (16 percent) and billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer (15 percent).** Sanders received 10 percent support among voters over 65 in the Palmetto State, per Monmouth, compared to 18 percent among those under 50.

**During a rally on Thursday afternoon, Sanders declared that “we will beat Trump in a landslide” and “we will transform America” – if younger people vote at the same level as those 65 and older.** “So I say to young people here, don’t complain about your student debt, don’t complain about climate change, don’t complain about racism or sexism or homophobia. Your complaints don’t mean anything. What means something is standing up and fighting,” the senator told [a crowd of 4,700 in Richmond](#). Virginia is one of 14 states, plus the territory of American Samoa, that vote next Tuesday.



George McGovern, right, holds a snowball he made while campaigning as the Democratic nominee for president in September 1972 in Billings, Mont. (Bob Daugherty/AP)



**George McGovern’s 1972 presidential campaign got Bruce Cunningham engaged in politics for the first time.** He grew up in a Republican family in a conservative part of New York state, but the massacre of anti-war protesters at Kent State University in 1970 pushed Cunningham hard to the left. Now 65, he and his wife moved a few years ago to this affordable and adorable port city, where they dote on their four grandchildren who live nearby and plan to vote together for Biden in Saturday’s primary.

**“McGovern was the Bernie Sanders of his day,” said Cunningham, a retired higher education administrator.** “Bernie has also captivated the young folks, too, but I can’t really figure out how. McGovern was a steady guy. He had a real sense of dignity. To me, Bernie seems like a crotchety old man who is just shouting all the time.”

**Cunningham remembers his family telling him, as he volunteered for McGovern almost half a century ago, that he’d become less liberal as he aged. He now sees truth in that old cliché, except when it comes to Sanders.** “Bernie’s got some interesting ideas. I think they’re very unrealistic, though,” said Cunningham. “Like McGovern, I’m not sure Bernie can win. And, to me, the highest priority has got to be getting rid of the clown in the White House.”



**His wife, Carol Cunningham, 62, suffers from multiple myeloma, an incurable but treatable form of blood cancer. The retired real estate agent worries that Sanders's Medicare-for-all proposal could push her off her private insurance plan** and jeopardize her access to the doctors who she thinks do a great job taking care of her. "I'm just not sure Medicare-for-all is the right answer to the problems in health care," she said. "It's certainly not going to be great for everybody." The couple considered voting for Cory Booker until the senator from New Jersey dropped out. Now they both believe the former vice president has the best chance to topple Trump.

**McGovern's name has been coming up a lot lately on the campaign trail, as Sanders's opponents across the Democratic establishment raise the specter that he's so liberal that he could get wiped out in a 1972-style landslide.** McGovern lost 49 states that year, including his home state of South Dakota, which he represented in the Senate. Massachusetts was the only state Richard Nixon lost as he cruised to reelection for a second term, which he'd serve only 19 months of before resigning in disgrace.

**Biden brings the 1972 election up in his stump speech.** That's the year he got elected to the Senate as a 29-year-old. He likes to note that he toppled a GOP incumbent, even as Nixon carried his home state of Delaware with 60 percent. Making the case for his electability, Sanders has taken to reciting polls that show him leading the president in head-to-head matchups across Midwestern battleground states that flipped from backing Barack Obama in 2012 to Trump in 2016.



Check out how young the crowd was at Sanders's rally on Thursday in Spartanburg, S.C. (Matt Rourke/AP)

**The Sanders campaign has stepped up efforts to make inroads with older voters.** As he discusses Medicare-for-all, for example, Sanders has tweaked his pitch somewhat to emphasize ways that it would help older people. In Richmond, for example, he talked about how the government would now cover hearing aids, eyeglasses and home health care. Sanders's emphasis on his plan to expand Social Security in digital ads a few weeks ago was aimed at improving his standing with the 65-plus crowd. While Sanders once talked about socialist Eugene Debs as his [political hero](#), now he praises mainstream Democrats like Franklin Roosevelt and his campaign has run commercials suggesting that his bold proposals follow in the footsteps of John F. Kennedy, someone Sanders ridiculed in decades past.

Before Thanksgiving and Christmas, the campaign even [blasted out](#) messaging advice to thousands of student supporters on how to persuade their parents and grandparents that they should vote for Sanders. "It's up to us as ... young people to make the moral appeal to our older relatives to join us in voting for Bernie," the document said, "because let's face it: they

won't be around for as long to deal with the consequences of this election, but we will be.”

**More recent polling, however, shows how much work Sanders still has his cut out for himself as he tries to expand his ceiling of support inside the Democratic Party.** Last week's [Washington Post-ABC News poll](#) showed Sanders leading nationally among Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters – with twice as much support (at 32 percent) as second-place Biden (16 percent). The survey found Sanders winning 50 percent of those under 50 years old. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) was in second place with this under-50 cohort, with only 15 percent. But Sanders got just 14 percent of support from those over 50, putting him in third place behind former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg and Biden.

**These are warning flags for Sanders because older voters tend to turn out at higher rates.** For example, in the 2016 general election, [the Pew Research Center calculated](#) that baby boomers, and those in older generations, together accounted for 43 percent of eligible voters but cast 49 percent of the votes.

**Sanders's [theory of the case](#), which he outlines in every speech, is that he would be able to activate millions of young people to vote for the first time and therefore reduce the average age of the electorate.** He struggled to do this in Iowa or New Hampshire but showed some evidence of success in Nevada. South Carolina, where most voters in the primary are expected to be African American, will be [a tougher test](#).



The crowds at Pete Buttigieg's events, such as this one in North Charleston on Monday, tend to be much older. (Matt Rourke/AP)

**South Carolina doesn't have partisan voter registration, which means Saturday's Democratic primary is open to everyone. A sizable swath of the electorate will therefore be moderate-minded independents who are uncomfortable with Sanders's revolutionary rhetoric.**

Max McDuffie, 78, voted for Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) in the GOP primary four years ago but didn't vote in the general election because he disliked Trump and Hillary Clinton. **"I thought I was a Republican – until Trump," said the retired military officer, who now considers himself an independent and lives in Goose Creek, which is home to a naval installation. He's voting for Buttigieg** because he thinks the 38-year-old former mayor remains "uncorrupted."

The two issues McDuffie cares about the most are tackling climate change and reducing the national debt. On the hustings, you often meet highly informed voters like McDuffie who don't fit neatly in traditional boxes that pundits like to force voters into. Student loan debt isn't a top-of-mind concern for seniors. They're not agitating for tuition-free college, universal

pre-K or anything that would change how they get their health care.

**The trillions in new spending proposed by Sanders makes McDuffie and many other older voters I've spoken with here this week deeply uncomfortable.** “All they do in Washington is spend money and money and money, and now he wants to spend more money,” he said. “It'll catch up with us eventually. I feel so sorry for our children and grandchildren.”

McDuffie's wife, Kathy, 75, remains undecided. She said she's interested in Buttigieg, Klobuchar and Steyer. “There's three people I don't want: Trump, Sanders or Warren,” said the retired postal worker. “All the others I'm pretty open to. But Trump, Sanders and Warren are too far out there. They're too divisive.”

**Biden, 77, has been trying to reach voters like the McDuffies by emphasizing his desire to restore America to what it was like before Trump.** When he was asked Thursday on NBC's “Today” show what it will mean if he doesn't win the nomination, Biden replied: “It says to me that we have moved away from our roots.” Speaking with a tone of disbelief, he added: “The idea that there's going to be this revolution? Americans aren't looking for a revolution. They're looking for progress.”

**Coming Sunday:** We will publish a special edition of The Daily 202, with insight and analysis on South Carolina's primary results and what they mean for Super Tuesday.



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## More from South Carolina



Trevor, Mattie, Shawn and Julian Mitchell pose for a portrait on Wadmalaw Island, S.C., where a predominantly black population is weighing the best way forward from a past filled with migration and inequality. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

**Black voters here [aren't particularly enthused](#) about their options.**

“Wadmalaw Island, about 23 miles south of Charleston, has roughly 5,000

residents, more than half of whom are black. After the Union Army seized South Carolina in the Civil War, white plantation owners fled the islands, leaving behind their lucrative rice fields and enslaved African Americans, many of whom were given plots of land,” [Vanessa Williams reports](#).

“Presidential candidates rarely venture out to Wadmalaw or neighboring islands. Voters who want to see the candidates in person usually have to go to Charleston. That’s where Mildred Mitchell first saw Barack Obama ... She thought Obama’s policies ... were good for the country, and she hates that Trump seems intent on undoing his legacy. That was why she was leaning toward Biden, even though she was concerned about his age. ... ‘I want somebody that can beat Donald Trump,’ she said. Right now, she is not sure who that is. ... The Wadmalaw families have one thing in common: None expressed excitement about their choices, even as all vow to vote. They said they were frustrated by the large, chaotic field of candidates ... Mostly, they said, they felt a duty to participate in the election and a desire to defeat Trump. But there is no swooning like they all recalled from 2008, when they helped boost Obama’s candidacy at a critical moment.”

### **And they are worried about racism.**

“Here in my hometown, voters I’ve talked to are worried and conflicted — and see the stakes in November as going far beyond ideology to involve history, legacy and the return of a kind of frank racism that many hoped was dead and buried,” [columnist Eugene Robinson](#) writes from Orangeburg, S.C. “It’s like racism is just coming out of the woodwork,’ said Bill Hamilton, 70, the retired sports information director at South Carolina State University, one of two historically black colleges in Orangeburg. ... ‘I just have a lot of disdain for Donald Trump,’ Hamilton said. ... Across town at the Kuckery — a popular lunch spot where the fried chicken is, well, just as fried chicken should be — I heard much the same thing from Juan L. Maulsby: ‘This election is a referendum on Trump. Trying to get him out.’ ... Maulsby said he believed ‘Biden has it in the bag here.’ ... The little I’ve heard about Bloomberg will not gladden the hearts of his campaign advisers. His debate performances discouraged a few voters I talked to and even left an impression of Trump-ishness among a

couple of others.”

## **Miss Black America is trying to help Buttigieg gain support among black voters.**

Ryann Richardson has been canvassing for Buttigieg in Charleston. “This was a packed 68 hours for the pageant queen, including a speech at a Mexican restaurant, two galas, three canvassing launches, a church service and roundtables with black female voters,” [Jada Yuan reports](#). “The folks here take the reigning Miss Black America seriously. ... After South Carolina, she will head to Alabama for Super Tuesday. She was also stiletto-boots-on-the-ground for Buttigieg in Iowa, where she appeared at his victory party alongside other black women in the row behind him, cheering him on — which led Twitter critics and media outlets to accuse the campaign of using black women as political props. ... ‘It’s rather offensive,’ Richardson says, ‘this notion that adult black women lack the agency to decide where they stand and for whom they stand — and that when they stand there, they must only be stage scenery.’ ... She grilled Buttigieg about the shooting of Eric Logan, a black man in South Bend, by a white police officer. ‘I’ve never heard a politician accept accountability for a mistake ever, for a failure ever,’ she says. But Buttigieg did.”

## **Steyer has bet his campaign in this state on climate change.**

“His argument that global warming will be felt most bluntly by black and brown communities is meant to resonate in a state where residents are already feeling its effects and where about 60 percent of voters in Saturday’s Democratic primary are African American,” [Dino Grandoni reports](#). “Steyer may be making his last stand here, where polls show him running third ... Steyer’s strong showing in South Carolina is not just because of his message. He spent \$52.9 million nationwide on his presidential campaign in January alone. ... Elsie Graves, a retired real estate agent who lives in Myrtle Beach, appreciates how she is not pestered with requests for donations when she visits Steyer’s website. ‘So I kind of like rich people in the race,’ she joked. Her bigger concern was depriving Biden of a vote in his bid to beat Sanders. But Graves, whose



home suffered more than \$20,000 in damage during Hurricane Matthew in 2016, said she was reassured by Steyer's commitment to act immediately on climate change. She said she will vote for him."

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## Looking to Super Tuesday and beyond



Joe Biden takes a selfie after a rally on Thursday in Conway, S.C. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)

### **Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) endorsed Biden this morning.**

The 2016 vice presidential nominee hopes to give him a boost before Virginia's primary on Super Tuesday. "He reminds me of Harry S. Truman, an outwardly ordinary man whose work ethic, faith in the goodness of everyday Americans, and love of country made him a great President," Kaine said in a statement. [A Wason Center poll](#) of likely Democratic voters in Virginia released Friday shows Biden with a modest lead in the state, with Sanders in second and Bloomberg in third. ([Jenna Portnoy](#))

**Most Virginia moderates are not gravitating toward any particular Sanders alternative.**

“In the affluent Northern Virginia suburbs that will be ground zero for Democratic turnout in November, an ‘anybody but Bernie’ movement is struggling to take hold,” [Antonio Olivo reports](#). “Moderate Virginia voters have turned out in droves for Democratic candidates since [Trump’s] election. ... Now, those same voters are bouncing between presidential candidates, hoping that someone — anyone — can generate enough excitement to foil a November matchup between Sanders and Trump that they believe would be disastrous. ... Outside a Warren rally in Arlington ... Marguerite Metzler said that ‘it’s disturbing’ to think of Bloomberg, a former Republican, as the only viable alternative to Sanders. ... [She said Warren] may have blown her chances of winning in Virginia ... ‘by building such a strong association with free college and Medicare-for-all.’ After ticking off a list of misgivings over the other Democratic candidates — Biden lacks energy, Buttigieg is inexperienced — Metzler, who lives in Springfield, landed on a possible choice: ‘Maybe Amy?’”

## **Sanders shows few signs of making nice with fellow Democrats.**

The front-runner this week has angered Florida Democrats with praise for Fidel Castro, upset some Jewish leaders with sharp criticism of the pro-Israel group AIPAC and preemptively spurned Bloomberg’s offer to help fund his campaign in the general election. “These disputes with other Democrats, even as he cements a position atop the presidential primary field, are prompting nervousness and alarm among many of them over whether Sanders can set aside decades-old habits of combativeness and confrontation and bring the party together to take on a president they revile,” [Sean Sullivan and Michael Scherer report](#). “Adding to the Democratic anxiety, some are concerned about the small number of black voters among his audiences in South Carolina this week, suggesting he still may be struggling to attract that pillar of the Democratic coalition. ...

**“In a recognition of these fractures, Democratic leaders have begun saying openly that some down-ballot party candidates may run on non-Sanders positions if he is the nominee.** ‘It is not unusual for a party platform, or candidates for president, to have their

own agenda they would put forth,' House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) told reporters Thursday. 'And it is not unusual for the House of Representatives to have its agenda to win as well.' Minutes earlier, Rep. Donna Shalala (D-Fla.) spoke on the House floor in support of a bill condemning Sanders's comments praising Castro's literacy program, which she called 'misguided, ill-informed, hurtful and unacceptable.'"

## **Democratic leaders are willing to risk damage to the party to stop Sanders.**

The [New York Times](#) interviewed 93 of the 771 superdelegates and reports that the "vast majority" predicted no candidate would clinch the nomination during the primaries, which could result in a brokered convention. Only nine of those interviewed said Sanders should become the nominee purely on the basis of arriving at the convention with a plurality of pledged delegates. "House members share their Sanders fears on text-messaging chains. Bill Clinton, in calls with old friends, vents about the party getting wiped out in the general election. And officials in the national and state parties are increasingly anxious about splintered primaries on Super Tuesday and beyond," per the Times. Obama said he will "wholeheartedly support" the eventual nominee in a new fundraising pitch for the Democratic National Committee, per [John Wagner](#).

## **Warren is in real danger of losing her home state.**

"Sanders is outpacing Warren in polls across the Super Tuesday map. But one state stings more than the others: Massachusetts," [Politico reports](#). "As recently as October, the two-term senator held a 20-percentage point lead over Sanders, according to a WBUR poll. In the latest version of the poll, released Friday, she trailed him by 8 points. Now, in the run-up to the March 3 primary, Sanders is going all in on his bid to pick off Massachusetts, culminating in a four-day music and canvassing festival in Worcester that begins Friday. ... It's not clear whether Warren will campaign in Massachusetts in the run-up to the primary."

## **A Ukrainian court has forced a probe into Biden.**

"A court ruling in Ukraine has forced state investigators to open a probe into alleged pressure by then-vice president Joe Biden that led to the 2016 dismissal of Viktor Shokin as the country's prosecutor general," [David Stern and Robyn Dixon report from Kyiv](#). "Trump last year pressed Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky for an investigation of this kind, leading to Trump's impeachment ... Shokin's firing, however, was not a unilateral action directed by Biden. It was prompted by a push for anti-corruption reforms developed at the State Department and coordinated with the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. Shokin's lawyer, Oleksandr Teleshetsky, said the probe was launched in response to a court order, after an appeal for action by Shokin. The State Bureau of Investigations confirmed a case was opened. ... Shokin has long been angered by what he sees as an unfair dismissal following foreign pressure."

### **Bloomberg released information about his heart health.**

According to Bloomberg's doctor, Stephen Sisson at Johns Hopkins, "Bloomberg's left ventricular ejection fraction was 'normal' at 60-65%; his left ventricular cavity size and left ventricular function were also deemed 'normal.'" Bloomberg's campaign said Sanders should release the same left ventricular ejection fraction data. ([CNN](#))

### **Bloomberg's campaign dangled the vice presidency in pursuit of Andrew Yang's endorsement.**

Yang "didn't commit to join forces, as he considers his own political future," [the Wall Street Journal reports](#). "A senior Bloomberg aide said Mr. Yang wasn't being seriously considered to be the former mayor's running mate if he secured the nomination."

### **Bloomberg says "stop and frisk" decreased crime. Data suggests it wasn't a major factor.**

"A Washington Post analysis of crime patterns and other academic research found that major felonies declined during Bloomberg's three terms from 2002 through 2013, but the reduction did not correspond to the increase in stops by police," [Dan Keating and Harry Stevens report](#).

“Crime has continued to fall since a federal judge deemed the practice an unconstitutional violation of civil rights in 2013. The disconnect suggests that an increase or decrease in crime happened largely for reasons independent of the aggressive expansion of the policy.”

### **As the opioid crisis grew, Bloomberg helped the Sackler family with some PR advice.**

“The billionaire family whose company created and pushed the addictive painkiller OxyContin had managed to escape connection with the opioid crisis for years, but now two magazine pieces were portraying them as pain profiteers. ... Mortimer D.A. Sackler ... was openly furious. And so he turned to a person he knew and admired in the media industry,” [writes Hannah Dreier for ProPublica](#). “I am meeting with Michael Bloomberg tomorrow morning at 10 am to seek his help and guidance on the current issues we are facing,’ Sackler wrote to Purdue’s top executives in December 2017. ‘I plan to discuss the following with him: 1. Current narrative vs the truth. 2. What advice does he have on how best to deal with it? 3. Does he have a journalist that he would recommend who could get the FULL story out there?’ ... Bloomberg advised Mortimer Sackler on how to handle negative coverage in 2017, and steered the family to a crisis communications specialist who had been his mayoral press secretary. In 2018, Bloomberg Philanthropies staff met with Sackler to discuss launching a joint initiative to combat the opioid crisis.”

### **An SEC coach became a Trump-loving Senate hopeful. His players no longer recognize him.**

Former Auburn University coach Tommy Tuberville is competing with Jeff Sessions and others ahead of the GOP primary in Alabama next Tuesday to take on Sen. Doug Jones (D). At Auburn, Tuberville established a reputation as a mild-mannered coach and charming recruiter who led the Tigers to an undefeated record in 2004. But he's transformed himself, adopting some of the president's favorite language and Trump's propensity for exaggerations and falsehoods. "Perhaps more notably, Tuberville, who sold football recruits and built the Auburn program on a foundation of unity, has now taken on many of the

president's more hard-line — and, often, xenophobic — talking points,” [Kent Babb reports](#). “Some of Tuberville’s former Auburn players have noticed, pointing out that his persona on the campaign trail is strikingly different than the man who recruited and coached them. ‘That doesn’t reflect the person that I knew,’ said Devin Aromashodu, a former Auburn wide receiver who usually votes Democrat. ‘It sounds like two different people.’”

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## The coronavirus



### **Federal workers allegedly assisted evacuees without protective gear.**

“Officials at the Department of Health and Human Services sent more than a dozen workers to receive the first Americans evacuated from Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak, without proper training for infection control or appropriate protective gear, according to a whistleblower complaint,” [Lena Sun and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#). “The workers did not show symptoms of infection and were not tested for the virus, according to lawyers for the whistleblower, a senior HHS official based in Washington who oversees workers at the Administration for Children and Families, a unit within HHS. The whistleblower is seeking

federal protection, alleging she was unfairly and improperly reassigned after raising concerns about the safety of these workers to HHS officials, including those within the office of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar. She was told Feb. 19 that if she does not accept the new position in 15 days, which is March 5, she would be terminated. ...

“The complaint alleges HHS staffers were ‘improperly deployed’ and were ‘not properly trained or equipped to operate in a public health emergency situation.’ The complaint also alleges the workers were potentially exposed to coronavirus because appropriate steps were not taken to protect them and staffers were not trained in wearing personal protective equipment, even though they had face-to-face contact with returning passengers. ... In some instances, the teams were working alongside personnel from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in ‘full gown, gloves and hazmat attire,’ the complaint said. ... Several people within HHS voiced objections to sending the ACF personnel to receive passengers, according to a person familiar with the conversations ... A second person familiar with the situation said the workers were not tested for coronavirus because none of them met the criteria, which was restricted at that time to people with symptoms and either a recent trip to China or close contact with a person confirmed to be infected with covid19. If the workers had exhibited symptoms, appropriate protocol would have been followed.”

### **Vice President Pence took control of messaging amid criticism of his qualifications.**

“Pence tried to project a sense of steady control over the government’s response to the coronavirus,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Josh Dawsey and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#). “Pence appointed a doctor, Ambassador Debbie Birx, to serve as White House response coordinator for the virus, enforced tight control of the government’s public communications and [added new members](#) to a task force aimed at containing the spread of the outbreak. ... Trump on Thursday continued to downplay the threat, blaming the media and Democrats for creating a panic over the virus. ... In an effort to combat further fragmented messaging, **Pence moved to seize control of all federal communications on the virus, requiring Cabinet**

**officials and government experts to get clearance from his office before making public remarks**, according to two senior administration officials.

“The move came after Trump grew frustrated about some of the public statements made by government officials warning the public, which the president viewed as overly alarmist ... The move drew immediate criticism from Democrats, who warned that **Pence’s attempt at message control could quickly turn into an effort to suppress critical health information that the public needs.** ... Adding economy-focused figures to the task force, Pence appointed Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and top White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow ... Pence suggested ... that both he and Azar would lead the government’s effort ... **A former senior HHS official ... said Azar, public health officials and department employees have been ‘doing the measured playbook response’ to the coronavirus, while the White House has been obsessed with a ‘communications problem.’** For Azar, this created ‘a sense of irritation,’ the official said. ...

**“One senior administration official involved in the response said many people were confused about how the response will be run. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, used a combination of expletives to describe the situation.** The official said problems with a government-created coronavirus test have limited the United States’ capacity to rapidly increase testing.”

**Trump said he put Pence in charge because he didn’t “have anything else to do.”**

“White House aides, led by Mick Mulvaney, the president’s acting chief of staff, had debated for days whether the administration needed a point person to be the face of the response,” [the Times reports](#). “The decision to put Mr. Pence in charge was made on Wednesday after the president told some people that the vice president did not ‘have anything else to do,’ according to people familiar with Mr. Trump’s comments.”

**Trump said he can quickly bring in coronavirus experts.**



## That's not how it works.

“The White House official charged with leading the U.S. response to deadly pandemics left nearly two years ago as his global health security team was disbanded ... Despite the mounting threat of a coronavirus outbreak in the United States, Trump said he has no regrets about those actions and that expertise and resources can be quickly ramped up to meet the current needs,” [Beth Reinhard, Emma Brown and Neena Satija report](#). Experts disagree:

- “They have stable jobs with retirement plans,” said physician Cyrus Shahpar, who served at the CDC under Obama and during the first year of the Trump administration. “They are not going to quit their job at the university or quit their job in the local government to go join the U.S. federal government for six months because of coronavirus. It doesn't work like that.”
- “You build a fire department ahead of time. You don't wait for a fire,” said Tom Inglesby, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.
- “What you're seeing play out is that this response is starting from a standing start instead of a running start,” said Ron Klain, who served as “Ebola czar” under Obama in 2014. Klain noted that Pence and Azar already have full-time jobs. “Running this response is not like driving Uber. You don't do it a couple hours a day.”

**Bigger picture, the virus is pushing Trump to rely on experts he has long maligned.** “Throughout his more than three years as president, Trump has obsessed, at times conspiratorially, over what he calls the ‘deep state’ — the thousands of career government specialists in national security, intelligence, science and other areas whose expertise he shuns in part because he suspects they are disloyal saboteurs,” [Ashley Parker and Philip Rucker note](#). (Our [Fact Checker](#) team reviews 13 of the most noteworthy coronavirus comments Trump made during his news conference.)

**Trump's CDC chief, Robert Redfield, is under growing**

## **scrutiny, internally and externally.**

“Hundreds of Americans were left stuck on a cruise ship that later became the single biggest source of U.S. coronavirus cases — a CDC decision,” [Politico reports](#). “Dozens of public health labs are still waiting for tests that will allow them to diagnose coronavirus — a CDC responsibility. One of Redfield’s deputies on Monday urged businesses and schools to start preparing for the disease’s inevitable spread — stamping the CDC’s imprint on public fears ... Inside the health department, officials have complained that Redfield and CDC have been slow to resolve essential problems, like clarifying whether dozens of public health labs around the nation will soon have diagnostics capable of testing for coronavirus.”

## **Virus testing is widening after the first U.S. case of community transmission.**

“The four-day delay in testing a California woman for coronavirus highlights how a faulty test and, until Thursday, a narrow definition of who should be tested have hindered the United States’ ability to track how widely the disease has spread,” [Carolyn Y. Johnson and Laurie McGinley report](#). “Those concerns were stoked by the emergence of the nation’s first case of community transmission in Northern California, where hospital administrators say the patient, a woman, was not tested when clinicians requested it because she did not meet strict [CDC] criteria ... ‘We have just a few hundred testing kits in the state of California,’ Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) said Thursday at a news conference. ‘That’s simply inadequate to do justice to the kind of testing that is required to address this issue head on.’ ... Newsom said the state was working with the CDC to get more testing kits and the ability to do tests without shipping samples across the country.” New York is making its own coronavirus test after the CDC's test repeatedly failed, per [BuzzFeed News](#).

## **Markets are on track for their worst week since the financial crisis.**

“European indexes fell sharply, led by losses in the travel and resources sectors, continuing the slump in Asia earlier in the day,” [Adam Taylor and](#)

[Rick Noack report](#). “U.S. futures pointed to further losses on Wall Street at the open.”

**South Korea now has 2,337 confirmed cases, the largest hot spot outside of China.**

There are 78,824 confirmed cases in mainland China. South Korea is trying to rapidly test a large number of people, including more than 200,000 people who are members of a church in Daegu where the virus appeared to have spread widely, per [Min Joo Kim and Adam Taylor](#).

**Mongolia's president was put under a 14-day quarantine after traveling to China for one day.** ([Taylor](#))

**Japan is scaling back the Olympic torch relay.** It was due to start in Fukushima on March 26. A spokesman says that, though the procession may be downsized, it won't be cancelled. The International Olympic Committee said it remains fully committed to moving ahead with the Games as scheduled. ([Simon Denyer](#))

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## Quote of the day

*Former Baltimore mayor Catherine Pugh (D) was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy. Responding to the contention by her defense attorneys that the public humiliation she endured should be considered as part of the punishment, U.S. District Judge Deborah K. Chasanow said: “Yes, the impact on Ms. Pugh has been great. But the impact on the city is also very great and very tragic.”* ([Paul Schwartzman](#))

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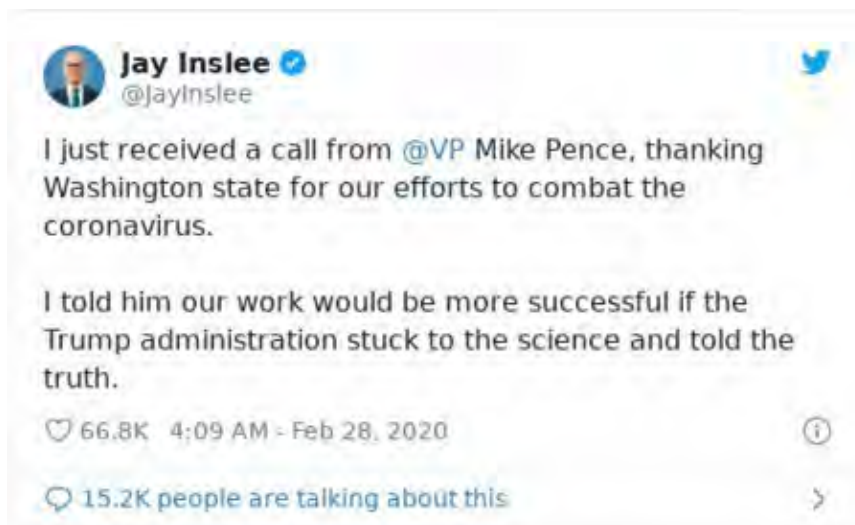
## Social media speed read

Trump tried to pin the spread of the virus on Democrats in a now-deleted

tweet:



Washington's Democratic governor gave this readout of his call with the V.P.:



All the leading Democratic presidential candidates attacked Trump's decisions:



## Videos of the day

“The Daily Show” sent two correspondents to check in with black voters in South Carolina:



Stephen Colbert is not impressed by Trump's coronavirus plan:



Seth Meyers said this situation should give Trump pause about his cuts to health funding:



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# The Daily 202

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By **James Hohmann**

with *Mariana Alfaro*

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## Why Bernie Sanders, the oldest presidential candidate, struggles so much with older voters

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Throughout world history, seniors have rarely led revolutions. It's often younger idealists who storm barricades, draft declarations and topple established orders. Until Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.).

The 78-year-old front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination is an unlikely figurehead for a movement that advocates political



revolution. The self-described democratic socialist captivates millennials, but he has largely failed to inspire voters in his own generation. At least so far.

Older people tend to be more settled in their political beliefs. They're **more affluent** than their younger counterparts, a factor that might make them warier of big structural changes. They tend to worry more about Sanders's age – and **his heart attack** – than younger voters who mostly haven't faced their own serious health struggles yet.

Mostly, though, elderly Democratic voters fear Sanders is too far to the left to defeat President Trump. Unlike the young whippersnappers who flock to Sanders's rallies, older folks remember the blowouts of 1988 and 1972 when their party nominated candidates who were more liberal than the country was ready to accept. In scores of interviews, they've expressed worry about repeating the mistakes of the past.

"I like Bernie, but I'm just afraid him tooting his socialist horn so much is going to hurt him," said Karen Griffin, 66, a volunteer for the local Democratic Party here who remains undecided about which alternative to Sanders she will vote for in Saturday's South Carolina primary. "A lot of the people that are my age vote. Growing up, we always heard socialism was scary, scary, scary. When my generation hears that term, it's scary!"



Bernie Sanders campaigns on Wednesday at Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, N.C. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**While Sanders won big in the Nevada caucuses last Saturday, the entrance polls highlighted a striking age gap. The septuagenarian won 65 percent of voters under the age of 30, 49 percent of 30- to 44-year-olds, 27 percent among 45- to 64-year-olds and just 12 percent among voters over 65.** In that oldest cohort, which accounted for 28 percent of those voting, Sanders finished fourth – behind former vice president Joe Biden, Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Ind.

Sanders similarly underperformed among seniors in [the New Hampshire primary](#). And in the Iowa caucuses, which remain too close for the Associated Press to call even after the state Democratic Party completed [a partial recount](#), [the entrance polls](#) show that **Sanders received only 4 percent among Hawkeye State Democrats over the age of 65**, compared to 48 percent of those under 30.

**A new [Monmouth University poll](#) shows Biden leading in South Carolina among likely Democratic primary voters, with 36 percent, and a neck-and-neck contest for second place between**

**Sanders (16 percent) and billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer (15 percent).** Sanders received 10 percent support among voters over 65 in the Palmetto State, per Monmouth, compared to 18 percent among those under 50.

**During a rally on Thursday afternoon, Sanders declared that “we will beat Trump in a landslide” and “we will transform America” – if younger people vote at the same level as those 65 and older.** “So I say to young people here, don’t complain about your student debt, don’t complain about climate change, don’t complain about racism or sexism or homophobia. Your complaints don’t mean anything. What means something is standing up and fighting,” the senator told [a crowd of 4,700 in Richmond](#). Virginia is one of 14 states, plus the territory of American Samoa, that vote next Tuesday.



George McGovern, right, holds a snowball he made while campaigning as the Democratic nominee for president in September 1972 in Billings, Mont. (Bob Daugherty/AP)



**George McGovern’s 1972 presidential campaign got Bruce Cunningham engaged in politics for the first time.** He grew up in a Republican family in a conservative part of New York state, but the massacre of anti-war protesters at Kent State University in 1970 pushed Cunningham hard to the left. Now 65, he and his wife moved a few years ago to this affordable and adorable port city, where they dote on their four grandchildren who live nearby and plan to vote together for Biden in Saturday’s primary.

**“McGovern was the Bernie Sanders of his day,” said Cunningham, a retired higher education administrator.** “Bernie has also captivated the young folks, too, but I can’t really figure out how. McGovern was a steady guy. He had a real sense of dignity. To me, Bernie seems like a crotchety old man who is just shouting all the time.”

**Cunningham remembers his family telling him, as he volunteered for McGovern almost half a century ago, that he’d become less liberal as he aged. He now sees truth in that old cliché, except when it comes to Sanders.** “Bernie’s got some interesting ideas. I think they’re very unrealistic, though,” said Cunningham. “Like McGovern, I’m not sure Bernie can win. And, to me, the highest priority has got to be getting rid of the clown in the White House.”

**His wife, Carol Cunningham, 62, suffers from multiple myeloma, an incurable but treatable form of blood cancer. The retired real estate agent worries that Sanders's Medicare-for-all proposal could push her off her private insurance plan** and jeopardize her access to the doctors who she thinks do a great job taking care of her. "I'm just not sure Medicare-for-all is the right answer to the problems in health care," she said. "It's certainly not going to be great for everybody." The couple considered voting for Cory Booker until the senator from New Jersey dropped out. Now they both believe the former vice president has the best chance to topple Trump.

**McGovern's name has been coming up a lot lately on the campaign trail, as Sanders's opponents across the Democratic establishment raise the specter that he's so liberal that he could get wiped out in a 1972-style landslide.** McGovern lost 49 states that year, including his home state of South Dakota, which he represented in the Senate. Massachusetts was the only state Richard Nixon lost as he cruised to reelection for a second term, which he'd serve only 19 months of before resigning in disgrace.

**Biden brings the 1972 election up in his stump speech.** That's the year he got elected to the Senate as a 29-year-old. He likes to note that he toppled a GOP incumbent, even as Nixon carried his home state of Delaware with 60 percent. Making the case for his electability, Sanders has taken to reciting polls that show him leading the president in head-to-head matchups across Midwestern battleground states that flipped from backing Barack Obama in 2012 to Trump in 2016.



Check out how young the crowd was at Sanders's rally on Thursday in Spartanburg, S.C. (Matt Rourke/AP)

**The Sanders campaign has stepped up efforts to make inroads with older voters.** As he discusses Medicare-for-all, for example, Sanders has tweaked his pitch somewhat to emphasize ways that it would help older people. In Richmond, for example, he talked about how the government would now cover hearing aids, eyeglasses and home health care. Sanders's emphasis on his plan to expand Social Security in digital ads a few weeks ago was aimed at improving his standing with the 65-plus crowd. While Sanders once talked about socialist Eugene Debs as his [political hero](#), now he praises mainstream Democrats like Franklin Roosevelt and his campaign has run commercials suggesting that his bold proposals follow in the footsteps of John F. Kennedy, someone Sanders ridiculed in decades past.

Before Thanksgiving and Christmas, the campaign even [blasted out](#) messaging advice to thousands of student supporters on how to persuade their parents and grandparents that they should vote for Sanders. "It's up to us as ... young people to make the moral appeal to our older relatives to join us in voting for Bernie," the document said, "because let's face it: they

won't be around for as long to deal with the consequences of this election, but we will be.”

**More recent polling, however, shows how much work Sanders still has his cut out for himself as he tries to expand his ceiling of support inside the Democratic Party.** Last week's [Washington Post-ABC News poll](#) showed Sanders leading nationally among Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters – with twice as much support (at 32 percent) as second-place Biden (16 percent). The survey found Sanders winning 50 percent of those under 50 years old. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) was in second place with this under-50 cohort, with only 15 percent. But Sanders got just 14 percent of support from those over 50, putting him in third place behind former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg and Biden.

**These are warning flags for Sanders because older voters tend to turn out at higher rates.** For example, in the 2016 general election, [the Pew Research Center calculated](#) that baby boomers, and those in older generations, together accounted for 43 percent of eligible voters but cast 49 percent of the votes.

**Sanders's [theory of the case](#), which he outlines in every speech, is that he would be able to activate millions of young people to vote for the first time and therefore reduce the average age of the electorate.** He struggled to do this in Iowa or New Hampshire but showed some evidence of success in Nevada. South Carolina, where most voters in the primary are expected to be African American, will be [a tougher test](#).



The crowds at Pete Buttigieg's events, such as this one in North Charleston on Monday, tend to be much older. (Matt Rourke/AP)

**South Carolina doesn't have partisan voter registration, which means Saturday's Democratic primary is open to everyone. A sizable swath of the electorate will therefore be moderate-minded independents who are uncomfortable with Sanders's revolutionary rhetoric.**

Max McDuffie, 78, voted for Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) in the GOP primary four years ago but didn't vote in the general election because he disliked Trump and Hillary Clinton. **"I thought I was a Republican – until Trump," said the retired military officer, who now considers himself an independent and lives in Goose Creek, which is home to a naval installation. He's voting for Buttigieg** because he thinks the 38-year-old former mayor remains "uncorrupted."

The two issues McDuffie cares about the most are tackling climate change and reducing the national debt. On the hustings, you often meet highly informed voters like McDuffie who don't fit neatly in traditional boxes that pundits like to force voters into. Student loan debt isn't a top-of-mind concern for seniors. They're not agitating for tuition-free college, universal



pre-K or anything that would change how they get their health care.

**The trillions in new spending proposed by Sanders makes McDuffie and many other older voters I've spoken with here this week deeply uncomfortable.** “All they do in Washington is spend money and money and money, and now he wants to spend more money,” he said. “It'll catch up with us eventually. I feel so sorry for our children and grandchildren.”

McDuffie's wife, Kathy, 75, remains undecided. She said she's interested in Buttigieg, Klobuchar and Steyer. “There's three people I don't want: Trump, Sanders or Warren,” said the retired postal worker. “All the others I'm pretty open to. But Trump, Sanders and Warren are too far out there. They're too divisive.”

**Biden, 77, has been trying to reach voters like the McDuffies by emphasizing his desire to restore America to what it was like before Trump.** When he was asked Thursday on NBC's “Today” show what it will mean if he doesn't win the nomination, Biden replied: “It says to me that we have moved away from our roots.” Speaking with a tone of disbelief, he added: “The idea that there's going to be this revolution? Americans aren't looking for a revolution. They're looking for progress.”

**Coming Sunday:** We will publish a special edition of The Daily 202, with insight and analysis on South Carolina's primary results and what they mean for Super Tuesday.





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## More from South Carolina



Trevor, Mattie, Shawn and Julian Mitchell pose for a portrait on Wadmalaw Island, S.C., where a predominantly black population is weighing the best way forward from a past filled with migration and inequality. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

**Black voters here aren't particularly enthused about their options.**

“Wadmalaw Island, about 23 miles south of Charleston, has roughly 5,000 residents, more than half of whom are black. After the Union Army seized

South Carolina in the Civil War, white plantation owners fled the islands, leaving behind their lucrative rice fields and enslaved African Americans, many of whom were given plots of land,” [Vanessa Williams reports](#).

“Presidential candidates rarely venture out to Wadmalaw or neighboring islands. Voters who want to see the candidates in person usually have to go to Charleston. That’s where Mildred Mitchell first saw Barack Obama ... She thought Obama’s policies ... were good for the country, and she hates that Trump seems intent on undoing his legacy. That was why she was leaning toward Biden, even though she was concerned about his age. ... ‘I want somebody that can beat Donald Trump,’ she said. Right now, she is not sure who that is. ... The Wadmalaw families have one thing in common: None expressed excitement about their choices, even as all vow to vote. They said they were frustrated by the large, chaotic field of candidates ... Mostly, they said, they felt a duty to participate in the election and a desire to defeat Trump. But there is no swooning like they all recalled from 2008, when they helped boost Obama’s candidacy at a critical moment.”

### **And they are worried about racism.**

“Here in my hometown, voters I’ve talked to are worried and conflicted — and see the stakes in November as going far beyond ideology to involve history, legacy and the return of a kind of frank racism that many hoped was dead and buried,” [columnist Eugene Robinson](#) writes from Orangeburg, S.C. “It’s like racism is just coming out of the woodwork,’ said Bill Hamilton, 70, the retired sports information director at South Carolina State University, one of two historically black colleges in Orangeburg. ... ‘I just have a lot of disdain for Donald Trump,’ Hamilton said. ... Across town at the Kuckery — a popular lunch spot where the fried chicken is, well, just as fried chicken should be — I heard much the same thing from Juan L. Maulsby: ‘This election is a referendum on Trump. Trying to get him out.’ ... Maulsby said he believed ‘Biden has it in the bag here.’ ... The little I’ve heard about Bloomberg will not gladden the hearts of his campaign advisers. His debate performances discouraged a few voters I talked to and even left an impression of Trump-ishness among a couple of others.”

## **Miss Black America is trying to help Buttigieg gain support among black voters.**

Ryann Richardson has been canvassing for Buttigieg in Charleston. “This was a packed 68 hours for the pageant queen, including a speech at a Mexican restaurant, two galas, three canvassing launches, a church service and roundtables with black female voters,” [Jada Yuan reports](#). “The folks here take the reigning Miss Black America seriously. ... After South Carolina, she will head to Alabama for Super Tuesday. She was also stiletto-boots-on-the-ground for Buttigieg in Iowa, where she appeared at his victory party alongside other black women in the row behind him, cheering him on — which led Twitter critics and media outlets to accuse the campaign of using black women as political props. ... ‘It’s rather offensive,’ Richardson says, ‘this notion that adult black women lack the agency to decide where they stand and for whom they stand — and that when they stand there, they must only be stage scenery.’ ... She grilled Buttigieg about the shooting of Eric Logan, a black man in South Bend, by a white police officer. ‘I’ve never heard a politician accept accountability for a mistake ever, for a failure ever,’ she says. But Buttigieg did.”

## **Steyer has bet his campaign in this state on climate change.**

“His argument that global warming will be felt most bluntly by black and brown communities is meant to resonate in a state where residents are already feeling its effects and where about 60 percent of voters in Saturday’s Democratic primary are African American,” [Dino Grandoni reports](#). “Steyer may be making his last stand here, where polls show him running third ... Steyer’s strong showing in South Carolina is not just because of his message. He spent \$52.9 million nationwide on his presidential campaign in January alone. ... Elsie Graves, a retired real estate agent who lives in Myrtle Beach, appreciates how she is not pestered with requests for donations when she visits Steyer’s website. ‘So I kind of like rich people in the race,’ she joked. Her bigger concern was depriving Biden of a vote in his bid to beat Sanders. But Graves, whose home suffered more than \$20,000 in damage during Hurricane Matthew

in 2016, said she was reassured by Steyer's commitment to act immediately on climate change. She said she will vote for him."

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## Looking to Super Tuesday and beyond



Joe Biden takes a selfie after a rally on Thursday in Conway, S.C. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)

### **Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) endorsed Biden this morning.**

The 2016 vice presidential nominee hopes to give him a boost before Virginia's primary on Super Tuesday. "He reminds me of Harry S. Truman, an outwardly ordinary man whose work ethic, faith in the goodness of everyday Americans, and love of country made him a great President," Kaine said in a statement. [A Wason Center poll](#) of likely Democratic voters in Virginia released Friday shows Biden with a modest lead in the state, with Sanders in second and Bloomberg in third. ([Jenna Portnoy](#))

### **Most Virginia moderates are not gravitating toward any particular Sanders alternative.**

"In the affluent Northern Virginia suburbs that will be ground zero for

Democratic turnout in November, an ‘anybody but Bernie’ movement is struggling to take hold,” [Antonio Olivo reports](#). “Moderate Virginia voters have turned out in droves for Democratic candidates since [Trump’s] election. ... Now, those same voters are bouncing between presidential candidates, hoping that someone — anyone — can generate enough excitement to foil a November matchup between Sanders and Trump that they believe would be disastrous. ... Outside a Warren rally in Arlington ... Marguerite Metzler said that ‘it’s disturbing’ to think of Bloomberg, a former Republican, as the only viable alternative to Sanders. ... [She said Warren] may have blown her chances of winning in Virginia ... ‘by building such a strong association with free college and Medicare-for-all.’ After ticking off a list of misgivings over the other Democratic candidates — Biden lacks energy, Buttigieg is inexperienced — Metzler, who lives in Springfield, landed on a possible choice: ‘Maybe Amy?’”

## **Sanders shows few signs of making nice with fellow Democrats.**

The front-runner this week has angered Florida Democrats with praise for Fidel Castro, upset some Jewish leaders with sharp criticism of the pro-Israel group AIPAC and preemptively spurned Bloomberg’s offer to help fund his campaign in the general election. “These disputes with other Democrats, even as he cements a position atop the presidential primary field, are prompting nervousness and alarm among many of them over whether Sanders can set aside decades-old habits of combativeness and confrontation and bring the party together to take on a president they revile,” [Sean Sullivan and Michael Scherer report](#). “Adding to the Democratic anxiety, some are concerned about the small number of black voters among his audiences in South Carolina this week, suggesting he still may be struggling to attract that pillar of the Democratic coalition. ...

**“In a recognition of these fractures, Democratic leaders have begun saying openly that some down-ballot party candidates may run on non-Sanders positions if he is the nominee.** ‘It is not unusual for a party platform, or candidates for president, to have their own agenda they would put forth,’ House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.)

told reporters Thursday. 'And it is not unusual for the House of Representatives to have its agenda to win as well.' Minutes earlier, Rep. Donna Shalala (D-Fla.) spoke on the House floor in support of a bill condemning Sanders's comments praising Castro's literacy program, which she called 'misguided, ill-informed, hurtful and unacceptable.'"

## **Democratic leaders are willing to risk damage to the party to stop Sanders.**

The [New York Times](#) interviewed 93 of the 771 superdelegates and reports that the "vast majority" predicted no candidate would clinch the nomination during the primaries, which could result in a brokered convention. Only nine of those interviewed said Sanders should become the nominee purely on the basis of arriving at the convention with a plurality of pledged delegates. "House members share their Sanders fears on text-messaging chains. Bill Clinton, in calls with old friends, vents about the party getting wiped out in the general election. And officials in the national and state parties are increasingly anxious about splintered primaries on Super Tuesday and beyond," per the Times. Obama said he will "wholeheartedly support" the eventual nominee in a new fundraising pitch for the Democratic National Committee, per [John Wagner](#).

## **Warren is in real danger of losing her home state.**

"Sanders is outpacing Warren in polls across the Super Tuesday map. But one state stings more than the others: Massachusetts," [Politico reports](#). "As recently as October, the two-term senator held a 20-percentage point lead over Sanders, according to a WBUR poll. In the latest version of the poll, released Friday, she trailed him by 8 points. Now, in the run-up to the March 3 primary, Sanders is going all in on his bid to pick off Massachusetts, culminating in a four-day music and canvassing festival in Worcester that begins Friday. ... It's not clear whether Warren will campaign in Massachusetts in the run-up to the primary."

## **A Ukrainian court has forced a probe into Biden.**

"A court ruling in Ukraine has forced state investigators to open a probe into alleged pressure by then-vice president Joe Biden that led to the 2016

dismissal of Viktor Shokin as the country's prosecutor general," [David Stern and Robyn Dixon report from Kyiv](#). "Trump last year pressed Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky for an investigation of this kind, leading to Trump's impeachment ... Shokin's firing, however, was not a unilateral action directed by Biden. It was prompted by a push for anti-corruption reforms developed at the State Department and coordinated with the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. Shokin's lawyer, Oleksandr Teleshetsky, said the probe was launched in response to a court order, after an appeal for action by Shokin. The State Bureau of Investigations confirmed a case was opened. ... Shokin has long been angered by what he sees as an unfair dismissal following foreign pressure."

### **Bloomberg released information about his heart health.**

According to Bloomberg's doctor, Stephen Sisson at Johns Hopkins, "Bloomberg's left ventricular ejection fraction was 'normal' at 60-65%; his left ventricular cavity size and left ventricular function were also deemed 'normal.'" Bloomberg's campaign said Sanders should release the same left ventricular ejection fraction data. ([CNN](#))

### **Bloomberg's campaign dangled the vice presidency in pursuit of Andrew Yang's endorsement.**

Yang "didn't commit to join forces, as he considers his own political future," [the Wall Street Journal reports](#). "A senior Bloomberg aide said Mr. Yang wasn't being seriously considered to be the former mayor's running mate if he secured the nomination."

### **Bloomberg says "stop and frisk" decreased crime. Data suggests it wasn't a major factor.**

"A Washington Post analysis of crime patterns and other academic research found that major felonies declined during Bloomberg's three terms from 2002 through 2013, but the reduction did not correspond to the increase in stops by police," [Dan Keating and Harry Stevens report](#). "Crime has continued to fall since a federal judge deemed the practice an unconstitutional violation of civil rights in 2013. The disconnect suggests



that an increase or decrease in crime happened largely for reasons independent of the aggressive expansion of the policy.”

### **As the opioid crisis grew, Bloomberg helped the Sackler family with some PR advice.**

“The billionaire family whose company created and pushed the addictive painkiller OxyContin had managed to escape connection with the opioid crisis for years, but now two magazine pieces were portraying them as pain profiteers. ... Mortimer D.A. Sackler ... was openly furious. And so he turned to a person he knew and admired in the media industry,” [writes Hannah Dreier for ProPublica](#). “I am meeting with Michael Bloomberg tomorrow morning at 10 am to seek his help and guidance on the current issues we are facing,’ Sackler wrote to Purdue’s top executives in December 2017. ‘I plan to discuss the following with him: 1. Current narrative vs the truth. 2. What advice does he have on how best to deal with it? 3. Does he have a journalist that he would recommend who could get the FULL story out there?’ ... Bloomberg advised Mortimer Sackler on how to handle negative coverage in 2017, and steered the family to a crisis communications specialist who had been his mayoral press secretary. In 2018, Bloomberg Philanthropies staff met with Sackler to discuss launching a joint initiative to combat the opioid crisis.”

### **An SEC coach became a Trump-loving Senate hopeful. His players no longer recognize him.**

Former Auburn University coach Tommy Tuberville is competing with Jeff Sessions and others ahead of the GOP primary in Alabama next Tuesday to take on Sen. Doug Jones (D). At Auburn, Tuberville established a reputation as a mild-mannered coach and charming recruiter who led the Tigers to an undefeated record in 2004. But he's transformed himself, adopting some of the president's favorite language and Trump's propensity for exaggerations and falsehoods. "Perhaps more notably, Tuberville, who sold football recruits and built the Auburn program on a foundation of unity, has now taken on many of the president's more hard-line — and, often, xenophobic — talking points,” [Kent Babb reports](#). “Some of Tuberville’s former Auburn players have

noticed, pointing out that his persona on the campaign trail is strikingly different than the man who recruited and coached them. ‘That doesn’t reflect the person that I knew,’ said Devin Aromashodu, a former Auburn wide receiver who usually votes Democrat. ‘It sounds like two different people.’”

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## The coronavirus



### **Federal workers allegedly assisted evacuees without protective gear.**

“Officials at the Department of Health and Human Services sent more than a dozen workers to receive the first Americans evacuated from Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak, without proper training for infection control or appropriate protective gear, according to a whistleblower complaint,” [Lena Sun and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#). “The workers did not show symptoms of infection and were not tested for the virus, according to lawyers for the whistleblower, a senior HHS official based in Washington who oversees workers at the Administration for Children and Families, a unit within HHS. The whistleblower is seeking federal protection, alleging she was unfairly and improperly reassigned after raising concerns about the safety of these workers to HHS officials,

including those within the office of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar. She was told Feb. 19 that if she does not accept the new position in 15 days, which is March 5, she would be terminated. ...

“The complaint alleges HHS staffers were ‘improperly deployed’ and were ‘not properly trained or equipped to operate in a public health emergency situation.’ The complaint also alleges the workers were potentially exposed to coronavirus because appropriate steps were not taken to protect them and staffers were not trained in wearing personal protective equipment, even though they had face-to-face contact with returning passengers. ... In some instances, the teams were working alongside personnel from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in ‘full gown, gloves and hazmat attire,’ the complaint said. ... Several people within HHS voiced objections to sending the ACF personnel to receive passengers, according to a person familiar with the conversations ... A second person familiar with the situation said the workers were not tested for coronavirus because none of them met the criteria, which was restricted at that time to people with symptoms and either a recent trip to China or close contact with a person confirmed to be infected with covid19. If the workers had exhibited symptoms, appropriate protocol would have been followed.”

### **Vice President Pence took control of messaging amid criticism of his qualifications.**

“Pence tried to project a sense of steady control over the government’s response to the coronavirus,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Josh Dawsey and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#). “Pence appointed a doctor, Ambassador Debbie Birx, to serve as White House response coordinator for the virus, enforced tight control of the government’s public communications and [added new members](#) to a task force aimed at containing the spread of the outbreak. ... Trump on Thursday continued to downplay the threat, blaming the media and Democrats for creating a panic over the virus. ... In an effort to combat further fragmented messaging, **Pence moved to seize control of all federal communications on the virus, requiring Cabinet officials and government experts to get clearance from his office before making public remarks**, according to two senior

administration officials.

“The move came after Trump grew frustrated about some of the public statements made by government officials warning the public, which the president viewed as overly alarmist ... The move drew immediate criticism from Democrats, who warned that **Pence’s attempt at message control could quickly turn into an effort to suppress critical health information that the public needs.** ... Adding economy-focused figures to the task force, Pence appointed Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and top White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow ... Pence suggested ... that both he and Azar would lead the government’s effort ... **A former senior HHS official ... said Azar, public health officials and department employees have been ‘doing the measured playbook response’ to the coronavirus, while the White House has been obsessed with a ‘communications problem.’** For Azar, this created ‘a sense of irritation,’ the official said. ...

**“One senior administration official involved in the response said many people were confused about how the response will be run. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, used a combination of expletives to describe the situation.** The official said problems with a government-created coronavirus test have limited the United States’ capacity to rapidly increase testing.”

**Trump said he put Pence in charge because he didn’t “have anything else to do.”**

“White House aides, led by Mick Mulvaney, the president’s acting chief of staff, had debated for days whether the administration needed a point person to be the face of the response,” [the Times reports](#). “The decision to put Mr. Pence in charge was made on Wednesday after the president told some people that the vice president did not ‘have anything else to do,’ according to people familiar with Mr. Trump’s comments.”

**Trump said he can quickly bring in coronavirus experts. That's not how it works.**

“The White House official charged with leading the U.S. response to deadly pandemics left nearly two years ago as his global health security team was disbanded ... Despite the mounting threat of a coronavirus outbreak in the United States, Trump said he has no regrets about those actions and that expertise and resources can be quickly ramped up to meet the current needs,” [Beth Reinhard, Emma Brown and Neena Satija report](#). Experts disagree:

- “They have stable jobs with retirement plans,” said physician Cyrus Shahpar, who served at the CDC under Obama and during the first year of the Trump administration. “They are not going to quit their job at the university or quit their job in the local government to go join the U.S. federal government for six months because of coronavirus. It doesn't work like that.”
- “You build a fire department ahead of time. You don't wait for a fire,” said Tom Inglesby, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.
- “What you're seeing play out is that this response is starting from a standing start instead of a running start,” said Ron Klain, who served as “Ebola czar” under Obama in 2014. Klain noted that Pence and Azar already have full-time jobs. “Running this response is not like driving Uber. You don't do it a couple hours a day.”

**Bigger picture, the virus is pushing Trump to rely on experts he has long maligned.** “Throughout his more than three years as president, Trump has obsessed, at times conspiratorially, over what he calls the ‘deep state’ — the thousands of career government specialists in national security, intelligence, science and other areas whose expertise he shuns in part because he suspects they are disloyal saboteurs,” [Ashley Parker and Philip Rucker note](#). (Our [Fact Checker](#) team reviews 13 of the most noteworthy coronavirus comments Trump made during his news conference.)

**Trump's CDC chief, Robert Redfield, is under growing scrutiny, internally and externally.**

“Hundreds of Americans were left stuck on a cruise ship that later became

the single biggest source of U.S. coronavirus cases — a CDC decision,” [Politico reports](#). “Dozens of public health labs are still waiting for tests that will allow them to diagnose coronavirus — a CDC responsibility. One of Redfield’s deputies on Monday urged businesses and schools to start preparing for the disease’s inevitable spread — stamping the CDC’s imprint on public fears ... Inside the health department, officials have complained that Redfield and CDC have been slow to resolve essential problems, like clarifying whether dozens of public health labs around the nation will soon have diagnostics capable of testing for coronavirus.”

### **Virus testing is widening after the first U.S. case of community transmission.**

“The four-day delay in testing a California woman for coronavirus highlights how a faulty test and, until Thursday, a narrow definition of who should be tested have hindered the United States’ ability to track how widely the disease has spread,” [Carolyn Y. Johnson and Laurie McGinley report](#). “Those concerns were stoked by the emergence of the nation’s first case of community transmission in Northern California, where hospital administrators say the patient, a woman, was not tested when clinicians requested it because she did not meet strict [CDC] criteria ... ‘We have just a few hundred testing kits in the state of California,’ Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) said Thursday at a news conference. ‘That’s simply inadequate to do justice to the kind of testing that is required to address this issue head on.’ ... Newsom said the state was working with the CDC to get more testing kits and the ability to do tests without shipping samples across the country.” New York is making its own coronavirus test after the CDC's test repeatedly failed, per [BuzzFeed News](#).

### **Markets are on track for their worst week since the financial crisis.**

“European indexes fell sharply, led by losses in the travel and resources sectors, continuing the slump in Asia earlier in the day,” [Adam Taylor and Rick Noack report](#). “U.S. futures pointed to further losses on Wall Street at the open.”

**South Korea now has 2,337 confirmed cases, the largest hot spot outside of China.**

There are 78,824 confirmed cases in mainland China. South Korea is trying to rapidly test a large number of people, including more than 200,000 people who are members of a church in Daegu where the virus appeared to have spread widely, per [Min Joo Kim and Adam Taylor](#).

**Mongolia's president was put under a 14-day quarantine after traveling to China for one day.** ([Taylor](#))

**Japan is scaling back the Olympic torch relay.** It was due to start in Fukushima on March 26. A spokesman says that, though the procession may be downsized, it won't be cancelled. The International Olympic Committee said it remains fully committed to moving ahead with the Games as scheduled. ([Simon Denyer](#))

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## Quote of the day

*Former Baltimore mayor Catherine Pugh (D) was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy. Responding to the contention by her defense attorneys that the public humiliation she endured should be considered as part of the punishment, U.S. District Judge Deborah K. Chasanow said: "Yes, the impact on Ms. Pugh has been great. But the impact on the city is also very great and very tragic." ([Paul Schwartzman](#))*

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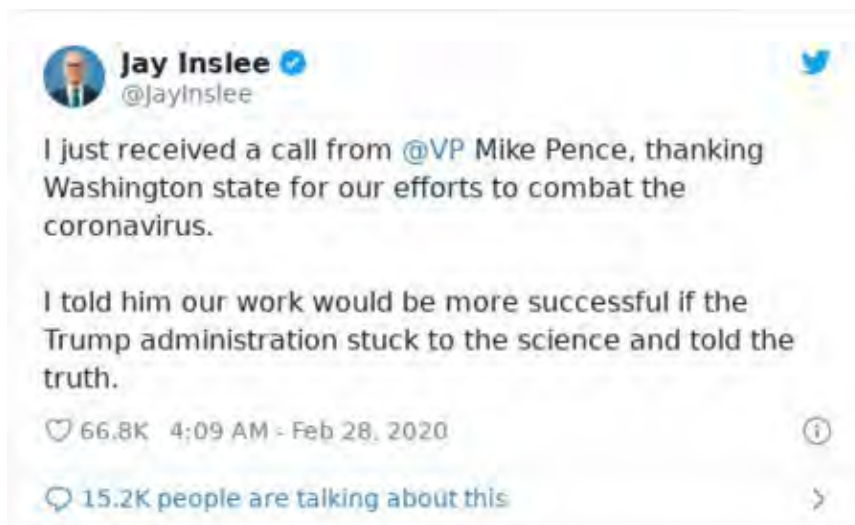
## Social media speed read

Trump tried to pin the spread of the virus on Democrats in a now-deleted tweet:



Washington's Democratic governor gave this readout of his call with the V.P.:





All the leading Democratic presidential candidates attacked Trump's decisions:



## Videos of the day

“The Daily Show” sent two correspondents to check in with black voters in South Carolina:



Stephen Colbert is not impressed by Trump's coronavirus plan:



Seth Meyers said this situation should give Trump pause about his cuts to health funding:



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By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Joe Biden's firewall holds. What his South Carolina comeback means for Super Tuesday.

Thirty-three years after launching his first of three presidential campaigns, Joe Biden finally won a primary on Saturday. The former vice president's landslide in South Carolina was sweeping enough that he received more total votes across the first four early states than Bernie Sanders. The lopsided victory bolsters Biden's argument going into Super Tuesday that he's the Democratic Party's most viable alternative to the independent senator from Vermont.

He wasn't subtle about making this case during his celebratory speech in Columbia, S.C. "If the Democrats want a nominee who's a Democrat – a lifelong Democrat, a proud Democrat, an Obama-Biden Democrat – then join us," he said. "For all those who've been knocked down, counted out, left behind, this is your campaign! Just days ago, the press and pundits declared this candidacy dead. Now, thanks to all of you, the heart of the Democratic Party, we've just won, and we've won big because of you. And we are very much alive!"



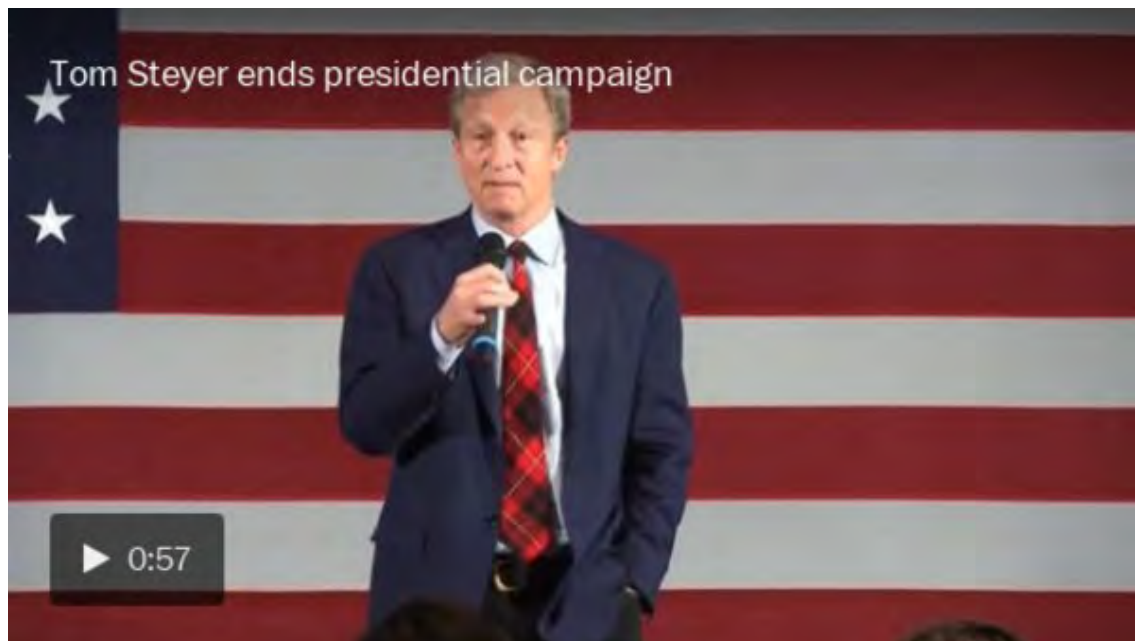
With 100 percent of precincts [reporting](#), **Biden won 48 percent in the Palmetto State – carrying every county and winning among every significant demographic group.** Sanders trailed, with 20 percent. Billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer [dropped out](#) after finishing third with 11 percent, under the 15 percent threshold required to get delegates. Former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg finished fourth, with 8 percent, followed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.), with 7 percent, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Minn.), with 3 percent. Sanders received the most votes in Nevada, New Hampshire and Iowa, but he never garnered more than 34 percent of the vote, and Buttigieg narrowly won more delegates from the Iowa caucuses.

**The most significant question in American politics at this**

**moment is whether Biden will be able to capitalize on Tuesday**, when 14 states, plus American Samoa, award 34 percent of the delegates to the Democratic convention.

**Biden has rolled out a string of endorsements since Saturday night**, including from former Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe, Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), former senator Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) and former DNC chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who remains a congresswoman from Florida. Biden also just unveiled the endorsement of Selma, Ala., Mayor Darrio Melton. Several of the candidates are in Selma today for the anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

**Biden announced Sunday morning that he had raised \$5 million in the past 24 hours, but he hasn't been advertising nearly as much as several of his rivals in the states that vote on March 3.** His victory speech was crisp and punchy, but he remains gaffe prone and uneven on the stump. Even if he manages to emerge from this week as the most obvious alternative to Sanders, the field looks certain to stay fragmented for some time – which works to Sanders's advantage.



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**Steyer's failure is a red flag for Mike Bloomberg. The former New York mayor skipped the first four states, but Steyer's play in South Carolina was Bloomberg's Super Tuesday strategy in miniature. And it didn't work.** Steyer put nearly \$200 million of his personal fortune into his campaign and focused more on South Carolina than anywhere else, advocating forcefully for paying reparations to the descendants of slaves and focusing on fighting climate change along the Eastern Seaboard in a coastal state. Steyer spent \$23.6 million on television advertising alone in South Carolina, out of a total of \$36 million spent by all the candidates, according to the tracking firm Advertising Analytics. This got him into double digits, but he underperformed where he'd been in recent polling. All told, Steyer spent about \$395 on commercials for every vote he received in South Carolina.

**Bloomberg has spent about half a billion dollars in the three months he's been running. But he has lost a lot of his luster since he fared so poorly in the first debate and faced mounting scrutiny.** That said, polls suggest that he's still poised to pick up a big chunk of delegates on Tuesday, especially in states where he's had the airwaves mostly to himself. "His advisers vowed Saturday night that Bloomberg will stay in the race at least through Super Tuesday," [Cleve Wootson and Michael Scherer reported](#). "They cited internal campaign

data showing that if Bloomberg dropped out it would strengthen Sanders, whose left-leaning policies the former mayor abhors. His campaign announced Saturday that he will buy three minutes of commercial airtime nationally at 8:30 p.m. Sunday night to present his vision for managing the current coronavirus outbreak.”

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**Biden will undoubtedly get some bounce from South Carolina, especially in the seven Southern states that vote on Tuesday, but how big will it be?** African Americans accounted for 57 percent of the electorate in South Carolina’s Democratic primary, [according to our exit polling](#). Biden won 61 percent of the black vote, followed by Sanders at 16 percent. He also beat Sanders among white voters, though only 34 percent to 23 percent, with Buttigieg pulling 16 percent.

**It’s a big break for Biden that Buttigieg, Klobuchar and Warren have so utterly failed to racially diversify their coalitions.** None of the three will get any delegates out of South Carolina, despite campaigning extensively there over the past year. Warren got 5 percent of the black vote, Buttigieg got 3 percent and Klobuchar got less than 1 percent. It’s impossible to become the Democratic nominee with those kinds of numbers. Klobuchar has been unable to translate her momentum from the overwhelmingly white states of Iowa and New Hampshire into either of the racially diverse states that followed. If demographics alone are destiny, Biden is also poised to fare well in Florida on March 17 and Georgia on March 24.

**An [NBC News-Marist poll](#) published Sunday morning shows a neck-and-neck primary in North Carolina, with 26 percent for Sanders and 24 percent for Biden.** This is well within the margin of error. The other Southern states voting Tuesday are Virginia, Tennessee,



Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. African Americans account for a sizable share of the population in all six, but with Alabama as an exception, the black vote will account for a much smaller share of the electorate than in South Carolina.



That's one of several ways that **South Carolina was uniquely favorable terrain for Biden.** The 77-year-old has literally – literally! – spent decades cultivating relationships that paid off. He's vacationed there in the summers. He traveled there constantly during his eight years as vice president. More than 3 in 4 voters in the primary viewed him favorably, according to the exit poll. Only 51 percent of voters viewed Sanders favorably. About half of voters said the endorsement of Biden by Rep. [Jim Clyburn](#) (D-S.C.) on Wednesday was an “important” factor in their vote. “You brought me back,” Biden told Clyburn in his victory speech. Biden does not have so many deep relationships in the upcoming states.

**South Carolina also lacks partisan voter registration, so it was an open primary. Many moderates who voted in the GOP primary in 2016 appear to have cast ballots in the Democratic primary for Biden.** Turnout was at least 527,728, a sharp increase from 373,063 four years ago. It's on par with the 2008 turnout of 532,151, when Barack Obama beat Hillary Clinton, but there was also a competitive

Republican primary that year. The electorate in South Carolina was far more moderate than in the first three states. Self-identified moderates and conservatives accounted for about half of all voters, compared to a third in the Iowa and Nevada caucuses and slightly more than that in the New Hampshire primary, according to analysis by Dan Keating and Scott Clement.

**South Carolinians weren't looking for a revolution.** More than half of voters overall – and two-thirds of black voters – said they want a return to the policies of the Obama administration, according to the exit polls. Biden won that group by more than 5 to 1 over Sanders. By contrast, a quarter of voters wanted to break from Obama and move to more liberal policies, and they favored Sanders over Biden by 37 percent to 22 percent.

**More than 7 in 10 South Carolina voters were 45 or older. That's the highest percentage of any of the first four states by far.** Biden [won](#) this group over Sanders by 3 to 1. Sanders won among voters under age 30, but Biden beat him by 5 percent among voters between the ages of 30 to 44, by 37 points among those ages 45 to 64 and by 55 points among seniors. (I wrote on Friday about [Sanders's struggles with older voters.](#))

**South Carolina's electorate was also particularly religious, more so than some of the upcoming states.** More than 4 out of 10 Democratic primary voters reported attending religious services once a week or more, compared to 13 percent in New Hampshire. Sanders does better among those who go to church less often. Among those who went to church at least once a week in South Carolina, Biden won 57 percent.



## Quote of the day

*“You cannot win 'em all,” Sanders said, reacting to South Carolina’s results during a rally in Virginia. “And that will not be the only defeat. There are a lot of states in this country, and nobody wins them all.”*

**Sanders remains the front-runner for the nomination, but he needs a commanding performance on Tuesday to keep that status.** He’s heavily favored in California, the biggest delegate prize of the year, where he will campaign later today. Polling published Friday [by CNN](#) showed Sanders leading in the Golden State with 35 percent. Others bunched up just below 15 percent: Warren was at 14 percent, Biden at 13 percent and Bloomberg at 12 percent. South Carolina might push Biden into viability, to collect delegates, in a bunch of districts.

**Another CNN poll showed Sanders leading in Texas, the second biggest prize on Tuesday, with 29 percent, followed by Biden at 20 percent,** Bloomberg at 18 percent, Warren at 15 percent and no one else in double digits. NBC and Marist released [a separate poll](#) this morning of Texas that showed Sanders with 34 percent and Biden trailing with 19 percent. Sanders’s lead is driven by strength among younger Latinos.

**“No day on this year’s primary-caucus calendar sets up any better for Sanders than this year’s Super Tuesday. Beyond that, primaries in the future are mostly closed, denying Sanders the votes of independents, one of his best constituencies,”** [Dan Balz explained](#). “Campaign strategists can’t say just how well Sanders will be positioned after Super Tuesday. There are simply too many variables — too many candidates, too much fluidity and too many combinations about possible outcomes. Campaigns have been modeling the states and constantly tweaking internal projections. As one strategist put it: ‘It’s an insane Rubik’s cube.’”

**On Tuesday, 1,357 delegates are up for grabs. To clinch the nomination, a candidate needs 1,991 delegates.** “Estimates of delegate totals and of Sanders’s possible margins vary significantly,” Balz reported. “At the high end, say strategists inside the campaigns as well as outside analysts, Sanders could emerge from Tuesday’s contests leading his closest competitor by 300 to as high as 400 delegates. That would put him firmly in command of the race though still might leave him short of a majority going into the convention. At the lower end of estimates, the consensus is that Sanders’s delegate margin could be in the range of 200 or 250. That would still give Sanders the advantage but could be a more manageable margin to overcome for one of the other candidates, but only if the field quickly shrinks after Tuesday.

**“One non-campaign analysis calculates that Sanders could win between 600 and 700 delegates on Tuesday with the next-highest candidate in the range of 300 to 500.** Sanders could emerge with a 2-to-1 lead over his closest challenger, but still well below 50 percent overall. But these are merely possible scenarios, not predictions, and were all based on information before South Carolina voted. Faiz Shakir, Sanders’s campaign manager, sought to play down suggestions that Sanders will come out of Super Tuesday with a lead of more than 300.”



**The Sanders campaign said this morning that it raised \$46.5 million in February.** “The cash infusion came from 2.2 million individual donations, including more than 350,000 people who gave to the Sanders campaign for the first time,” [Sean Sullivan reported](#). “On Saturday alone, the campaign said it raised \$4.5 million. When President Obama was running for office in 2008, he raised \$55 million over the same time period. For Sanders, the sum marks a significant increase from the \$25 million it collected in January. Since the start of his second campaign for president last February, the campaign said it has raised more than \$167 million. The Sanders campaign did not immediately say how much money it had in its account at the end of February. It announced that it was purchasing airtime for TV ads in nine states that vote on March 10 and March 17.”

**Candidates are on defense in their home states tomorrow.** Sanders, expected to easily carry his home state of Vermont, traveled to Massachusetts on Saturday, which Warren represents. **A new [Suffolk University-WBZ-Boston Globe poll](#) shows Sanders edging out Warren in Massachusetts 24 percent to 22 percent,** which is within the 4.4 percent margin of error, and Bloomberg, who was born in the Bay State, gets 13 percent. The poll puts Buttigieg in fourth place, with Biden in fifth.

**Sanders will go on Monday to Minnesota, which Klobuchar represents, in hopes of beating her on her home turf.** The Sanders campaign is putting on a concert in the Twin Cities at a venue that holds 18,000 people. A Star Tribune-Minnesota Public Radio [poll](#) released last weekend showed Klobuchar leading Sanders 29 percent to 23 percent in the state, with a 4.5 percentage point margin of error.



**Klobuchar seems likely to come under mounting pressure to drop out after Super Tuesday unless she fares well somewhere beyond Minnesota.** “First, she finished a surprisingly strong third in

New Hampshire, but otherwise she has been a nonentity,” [Aaron Blake explained](#). “Second, she’s the most ideologically similar to Biden, meaning her exit would most apparently accrue to his benefit. And lastly, Buttigieg has a better argument for staying in the race, given he notched a delegate win in Iowa and polls much better than her nationally. At the same time, given she is far back in the polls, it’s not clear how much Biden might gain by her dropping out. And Biden’s campaign is reportedly encouraging her to stay in, perhaps in hopes that she prevents Sanders from a significant delegate win in her home state.”

**But this seems poised to remain a multi-candidate race for a while.** Warren has not won a single delegate since the Iowa caucuses on Feb. 3. But she’s raised enough hard money to stick around for a while on account of her strong debate performances. She was, after all, a high school debate state champion in her native state of Oklahoma, which votes on Tuesday. And she’s now getting more than \$15 million of help from a super PAC after flip-flopping and reversing herself on accepting outside money.

**Warren campaign manager Roger Lau sent a memo to reporters this morning that suggests they’re focused on winning a contested convention.** “As the dust settles after March 3rd, the reality of this race will be clear: no candidate will likely have a path to the majority of delegates needed to win an outright claim to the Democratic nomination,” he wrote. “Our grassroots campaign is built to compete in every state and territory and ultimately prevail at the national convention in Milwaukee.”

**Buttigieg’s strategy is to maximize his delegate haul on Tuesday to stay in the hunt for Midwestern primaries in the following weeks.** Michigan and Missouri, for example, vote on March 10. Illinois and Ohio vote March 17. The former mayor said today on NBC’s “Meet the Press” that he’s staying in. “Nothing can take away from Vice President Biden's commanding victory,” said Buttigieg, adding that he knew “South Carolina was going to be a challenging state.”

“We have reached the conclusion that pushing forward is the best thing we can do for the country and for the party,” said the 38-year-old. “We’ll be assessing at every turn, ... making sure that every step we take is in the interest of the party and that goal of making sure we defeat Donald Trump.”

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## More from the states



**In Arkansas, there's no clear favorite.** “Arkansas, with 31 available delegates, is worth less than 3% of the total Democratic delegate share on Super Tuesday. The candidates vying for the Democratic nomination, however, have begun treating the state like a worthwhile battleground,” the [Democrat-Gazette](#) in Little Rock reports. “The reason, perhaps, is due to the lack of a clear front-runner -- or even several -- in this Republican-dominated state. In dozens of interviews with elected Democrats and other party leaders last week, [we] found that support remained split among no fewer than five candidates. Many said they are still waiting to decide for whom to vote. ‘This is really about the first time in 30 years in which there's not been a favorite daughter or favorite son in one of the contests, or someone like Al Gore, who is very clearly identified with a major figure from Arkansas,’ said Andrew Dowdle, a political science



professor at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.”

**In Colorado, many voters held back their mail-in ballots until the last minute.** “As Colorado voters have returned 1 million or so ballots in the last three weeks, Democratic ballots lagged Republican returns, suggesting that large numbers of voters planning to participate in the Democratic primary have held theirs back as they’ve watched the race’s drama play out in other states,” the [Denver Post](#) reports. “Among more than 50 undecided Colorado voters [we] surveyed or interviewed last week, it was clear many don’t fit into clear ‘liberal’ or ‘moderate’ lanes. While plenty were considering candidates in only one of those categories, others were mulling interesting combos — including several voters weighing a Sanders or a Warren (or both) against a Buttigieg or a Klobuchar.”

**Voters in California have also held on to their ballots, giving Biden additional hope.** “The portion of returned ballots at this stage is much lower than in recent elections — and his campaign is counting on a late surge of support among those holdouts after his dominant [South Carolina] performance on Saturday,” [Politico](#) reports. “Paul Mitchell, an elections expert who has tracked the number of returned vote-by-mail California ballots through Friday [said] he’s seen a significant drop-off among Democratic voters to date from the last two California presidential primaries. And the decline in returned ballots so far is occurring among the most dedicated voters: Those who have participated in the last five elections.”

**Election officials there are scrambling to address coronavirus concerns.** “While there were ‘no indications of any disruptions to California’s March 3, 2020 presidential primary,’ the California Secretary of State’s office [said] it will continue to monitor any public health alerts that could impact election administration,” [ABC News](#) reports. “Officials in Solano County, California are now taking precautionary measures and providing expanded options for voters, including offering an additional location for them to drop off ballots in advance of Super Tuesday. ... Voters ‘don’t even have to get out of their car and we’re going to expand

that on Monday and Tuesday,’ said John Gardner, the assistant registrar of voters for Solano County. ... Gardner [said] every polling place and every poll worker will receive disinfectant wipes and spray, hand sanitizer and gloves as additional precautions. In the past, only sanitary wipes were provided to clean the voting equipment itself.”

**Texans early voting has eclipsed the 2016 numbers.** “But voters in the state still cast even more early votes in the Republican primary than the Democratic contest, 1,070,278 to 954,583,” [the Houston Chronicle reports](#). “The nearly 7 percent turnout on the Democratic side for the 15 counties with the most registered voters was above the 5 percent racked up after early voting in the 2016 presidential primary.”

**Biden has long been popular with black voters in Texas. Will they stick with him?** “His lead in Texas polls has disappeared. Now many black voters in Texas and beyond are wondering aloud whether to look elsewhere. If they do en masse, it could effectively end his campaign,” [the Texas Tribune reports](#). “To be sure, Biden does have support from some prominent black Texas leaders. U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey, D-Fort Worth, an early Biden backer, said last weekend on CNN that black voters ‘here in the state of Texas — they will not forget that Bernie Sanders threatened to primary President Obama in 2012.’ But Carroll Robinson, the chairman of the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats, said Biden ‘took his support among black voters for granted, and his outreach wasn’t as assertive as, say, Bloomberg.’”

**In Minnesota, the Catholic archdiocese asked priests not to vote in the Democratic primary over concerns that they'd appear “partisan.”** Under the state’s system, voters request whichever party's ballot they want, and that preference is recorded and sent to chairs of all four political parties in the state, [the Star Tribune reports](#).

**In Maine, Klobuchar presented herself as a centrist capable of bringing the party together.** “I think Maine, that practical state that you are, understands that it’s important to have bold ideas that can actually get done,” she told a crowd of several hundred, per the Portland

[Press Herald](#). Last week, Maine's Bangor Daily News [endorsed](#) Klobuchar while ripping Sanders.

**In Tennessee, Buttigieg promised to unify the country.** "Buttigieg came to Nashville Saturday to make the case that he could unite a coalition of Democrats, independents and 'future former Republicans' strong enough to defeat [Trump]," [the Tennessean reports](#). "Buttigieg drew a crowd of about 2,700 to Public Square Park next to Nashville's city hall ... It was perhaps the largest showing a Democratic candidate has drawn in the city this cycle. ... Nashville Mayor John Cooper attended the rally a day after attending a Klobuchar fundraiser. ... Despite attending fundraisers for some candidates, Cooper said he has not donated to any. He also has not endorsed."

**Utah will participate in Super Tuesday for the first time.** "It's not even the 12th biggest prize for the Democratic presidential hopefuls vying to snatch up as many delegates as they can on their march to the nomination," [the Salt Lake Tribune reports](#). "But the state's contest matters, as shown by the rare campaign visits, the stream of ads and the excitement of voters casting a ballot in what is still a wide-open race. ... That's different from previous cycles, when Utah's primary landed later in the spring, too late in many ways to be part of the game." In 2016, Sanders beat Clinton with nearly 80 percent. Aiming for a similar outcome this time around, Sanders will visit Salt Lake City on Monday.

**Biden, Buttigieg, Bloomberg and Klobuchar will address the AIPAC conference with video messages, four years after organizers rejected an offer from Sanders to deliver a video message during his previous presidential campaign.**  
([Jerusalem Post](#))

**Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, meanwhile, assailed Sanders at the conference as an "ignorant fool."** "Whoever calls the prime minister of Israel a 'racist' is either a liar, an ignorant fool, or both," Danny Danon said. "We don't want Sanders at AIPAC. We don't want him in Israel." ([Times of Israel](#))

**A great Sunday read: What the reckonings of a suburban Southern white woman say about Trump’s chances.** Miranda Murphey “is 39, a high school English teacher with a PhD and part of a voting demographic whose rebellion could upend the political map of the country: not just suburban women, not just white suburban women, but white suburban women in the South, whose loyalty Trump will need to remain in power,” [Stephanie McCrummen reports](#). "She first started reevaluating her politics after the election of Barack Obama, even though she had voted Republican. ... Then came Trump, who Miranda found so morally repugnant that for the first time in her voting life she wrote in the name of the Libertarian Party candidate and went to bed expecting that good and decent conservatives would do the same. She woke up realizing she was wrong. Church members had voted for Trump. Her parents had gone for Trump. [Her husband]: Trump. And then came Liz, a new English teacher in her district ... She was not like anyone Miranda had met before, a Republican who’d become a Democrat and who described her Trump-era self as a ‘full-on rage machine.’ ... Miranda was surprised by how often she found herself seeing what Liz meant.”

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## The coronavirus



## Trump unveiled new travel restrictions after the first death on U.S. soil.

“A man in his 50s with an underlying health condition became the first person in the United States to die of coronavirus infection,” [William Wan, Katie Mettler, Miriam Berger and Carolyn Johnson report](#). “Along with the fatality in Washington state, health officials in the Seattle area confirmed two additional cases of the covid-19 disease and a possible outbreak at a long-term nursing facility — raising alarm because the elderly and sick are among those most vulnerable to the virus. **Officials in California’s Santa Clara County announced another case Saturday, and Illinois announced another case Saturday evening.** The new cases bring the number of people apparently infected by community spread of the disease to nine. ... One of the three new cases of infection is a health-care worker at the Life Care nursing home in Kirkland, Wash. Another is a woman in her 70s from the nursing home, now in serious condition... The man who died was not associated with the nursing home. ...

**“As news of the first fatality broke, Trump announced he would extend an existing travel ban on Iran to apply to any foreign nationals who had been in that country over the past 14 days.** He also raised the warning level for travel to Italy and South Korea, recommending Americans not travel to certain regions of those countries

with outbreaks of the virus. Trump said he is also considering restrictions across the southern U.S. border. ... At the hastily convened news conference, Trump described the patient who died as a 'wonderful woman' in her late 50s. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention later issued a statement saying it had mistakenly described the patient's gender in a briefing to Trump and Vice President Pence, and local health officials clarified the deceased patient was a man. Trump praised his administration's response to the virus, calling his earlier decision to ban foreign nationals from China 'a lifesaver,' and he urged people to remain calm and to go on living their lives normally. 'Healthy people, if you're healthy, you will probably go through a process and you'll be fine,' Trump said. ...

**“On Saturday, the Food and Drug Administration took steps to expand testing by speeding up certified hospital laboratories' ability to create and use their own tests, following complaints from many labs.** The FDA also approved a test developed by New York state laboratories, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said, making New York the first state able to use its own test. ... An unreleased report from a branch of the State Department obtained by The Washington Post on Saturday found roughly 2 million tweets already [peddling conspiracy theories about the coronavirus](#), raising worries about Silicon Valley's preparedness to combat a surge of dangerous disinformation online. Trying to avoid panic, Pence said Saturday that the average American does not need to buy face masks because of the coronavirus, echoing worries by health officials that hoarding such supplies may put health workers at risk in coming weeks.”

**The administration continues trying to contain not just the virus, but also its political damage.**

“Interviews with nearly two dozen administration officials, former White House aides, public health experts and lawmakers ... portray a White House scrambling to gain control of a rudderless response defined by bureaucratic infighting, confusion and misinformation 'It's complete chaos,' a senior administration official said. 'Everyone is just trying to get a handle on what the [expletive] is going on,'” [Yasmeen Abutaleb, Ashley](#)

[Parker and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Personal animosities between [Health Secretary Alex] Azar and senior members of the White House — including [acting chief of staff Mick] Mulvaney and Joe Grogan, the director of the Domestic Policy Council — also complicated response efforts, several senior administration officials said. Several officials said those relationships have never recovered from past battles ...

**“Administration officials [continued plowing] forward with their previous schedules, modifying them only slightly as they tried to minimize the coronavirus threat.** Mulvaney spoke, as previously planned, at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference outside Washington, where he assured the crowd, ‘We know how to handle this,’ and accused the news media of overhyping the virus to ‘bring down the president.’ Pence, too, continued with a prior commitment Friday evening — a closed-door, high-dollar fundraiser in Sarasota, Fla. — while tacking on a brief coronavirus response meeting with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) at the airport ... And Trump held a long-standing campaign rally Friday in North Charleston, S.C., where he accused Democrats of ‘politicizing’ the coronavirus. ‘And this is their new hoax,’ the president crowed from the stage.”

## **Nancy Pelosi will bring a coronavirus funding bill to the floor this week.**

The House speaker didn’t indicate a price tag, but “she said the funding package must be new money and ‘not stolen from other accounts.’ She said House appropriators will work to ensure there is a firewall around the funds so the president cannot use the money for anything other than fighting the coronavirus,” [Colby Itkowitz reports](#). “Pelosi said the funding package should also include money to make eventual vaccines available to everyone, loans for small businesses hurt by disruptions, and reimbursement for state and local governments responding to outbreaks.”

## **The outbreak is creating huge medical bills.**

“Frank Wucinski and his 3-year-old daughter, Annabel, are among the dozens of Americans the government has flown back to the country from

Wuhan, China, and put under quarantine to check for signs of coronavirus. Now they are among what could become a growing number of families hit with surprise medical bills related to government-mandated actions,” [the NYT reports](#). “Both have repeatedly tested negative for the virus. After their release from quarantine, Mr. Wucinski and his daughter went to stay with his mother in Harrisburg, Pa. That’s where they found a pile of medical bills waiting: \$3,918 in charges from hospital doctors, radiologists and an ambulance company. ‘I assumed it was all being paid for,’ Mr. Wucinski said. ‘We didn’t have a choice.’ ... The federal government has the authority to quarantine and isolate patients if officials believe them to be a public health threat. These powers, which date back to cholera outbreaks among ship passengers in the late 19th century, are rarely used. They don’t say anything about who pays when the isolation happens in a nongovernmental medical facility — or when they’re brought there by a private ambulance company.”

### **Australia also reported its first coronavirus death.**

“A 78-year-old man who contracted the coronavirus after spending time on the Diamond Princess cruise ship died Saturday in a Perth hospital, becoming Australia’s first death from the disease. The man and his 79-year-old wife were among 164 Australians who were evacuated from the cruise ship, which was docked in Japan while people on board were quarantined, and flown to Australia for treatment last week,” [Derek Hawkins reports](#). “His wife was also placed in isolation, where she tested positive Friday. Robertson said she was in stable condition. ‘She had the opportunity to talk to him prior to his death, but she’s understandably quite upset. And I obviously ask that people respect their privacy,’ Robertson told Australia’s national broadcaster.”

### **China and South Korea reported hundreds of new cases.**

“Chinese health officials early Sunday, local time, reported an additional 573 confirmed cases of the coronavirus and 35 deaths on the country’s mainland. In keeping with the pattern throughout the outbreak, the vast majority of those cases and deaths were in Hubei province, where the



virus first emerged. The total number of cases on the mainland reached 79,824, and the total number of deaths hit 2,870,” [Marisa Iati reports](#). “In nearby South Korea, health officials reported 376 additional cases of the coronavirus, 333 of which were in the southern city of Daegu. ... The total number of cases in South Korea stands at 3,526, and the death count is 17.”

### **Italy became the third country to have more than 1,000 coronavirus cases.**

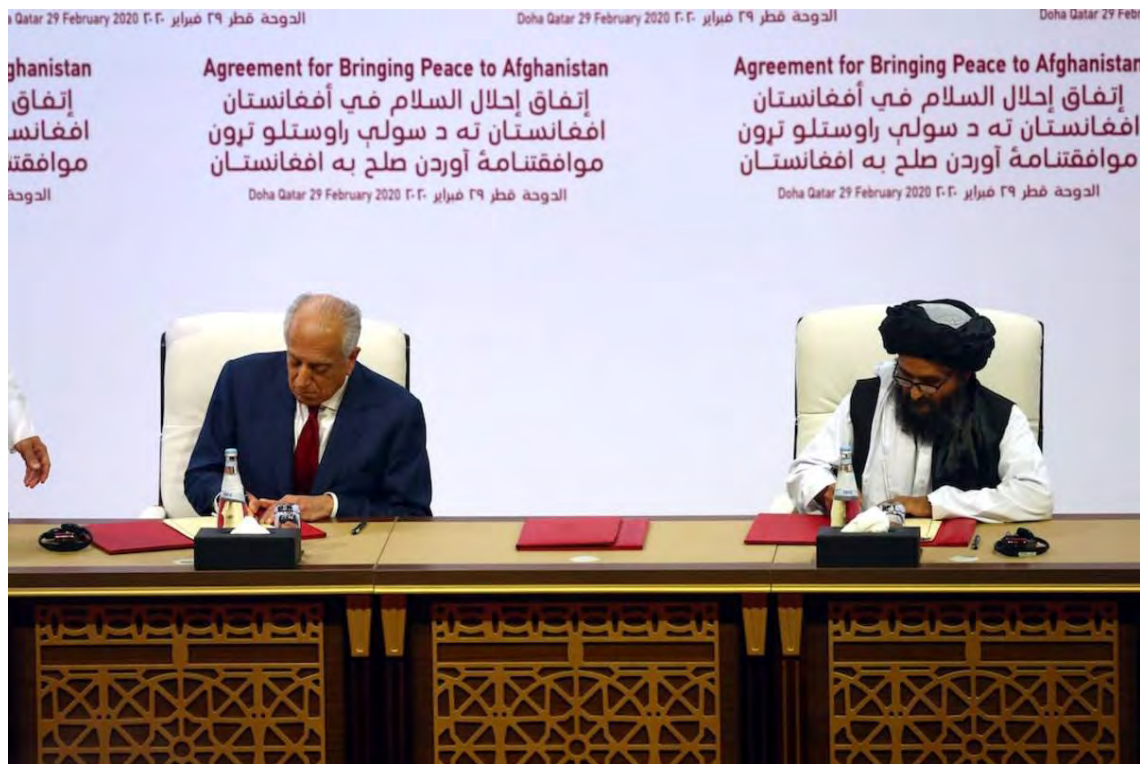
“The latest data, according to the Italian government, shows that 1,049 people nationwide are positive for the virus, and another 29 have died. More than half of the cases are in the wealthy northern region of Lombardy, which includes Milan. But a handful of cases have popped up as far south as Sicily and Puglia,” [Chico Harlan reports](#).

### **Mexico hit back at Trump’s comments on possibly closing the border.**

With polite astonishment, Mexico noted “that ‘there are four cases of covid-19 registered in our country and 22 in the U.S.’ The Foreign Ministry said the U.S. and Mexican governments were in close contact on the issue, and Mexico was willing to cooperate with Washington to protect public health,” [Mary Beth Sheridan reports](#). “Few cases of coronavirus have been reported in Latin America. Ecuador reported its first confirmed case Saturday, and two cases have been confirmed in Brazil.”

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## **A peace deal in Afghanistan**



Abdul Ghani Baradar, right, who led the Taliban delegation, and U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad sign the deal. (Ibraheem Al Omari/Reuters)

## The agreement signed with the Taliban in Doha set a timetable for U.S. withdrawal.

“The agreement to end the brutal U.S.-Taliban conflict in Afghanistan ... was signed on Saturday under the gaze of tough men in turbans, who clapped and shouted ‘Allahu akbar!’” [Karen DeYoung reports](#). “Trump hailed the accord, formalized with signatures and a handshake between U.S. negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad and his Taliban counterpart, Abdul Ghani Baradar, as historic. ... Trump said he would be ‘meeting personally with Taliban leaders in the not too distant future.’ Asked whether such a meeting would be overseas, or if he would invite them to Camp David, an idea he broached last year, he said, ‘We’re looking at that.’ Senior administration officials, while claiming success, offered slightly more tempered expressions of optimism. ...

**“Many veterans of the years-long efforts to end the war and leave a stable Afghanistan, as well as Trump supporters, questioned whether the new agreement laid a sturdy groundwork for permanent peace. Some described it as a**

capitulation to the Taliban, whose primary demand has always been the full departure of foreign troops. ... Some senior military and intelligence officials 'are concerned that the administration is putting too much stock in the promises of the Taliban,' who will 'simply sign anything to get us to leave,' [said a former senior defense official]. ...

**"The conditions in the agreement appeared to relate far more to the insurgents' promises to stop attacking the Americans as they leave, and to sever ties with other terrorist groups, rather than a long-term solution for Afghans.** ... The agreement includes a Taliban commitment to start direct negotiations with the Afghan government over a cease-fire and political settlement of the war within 10 days. Those negotiations, tentatively to be held in Norway, are already complicated by political upheaval in Kabul, where President Ashraf Ghani's recent reelection is under challenge and there are major fights over the composition of a negotiating team. The agenda for the talks is massive, including a comprehensive cease-fire, the role of the Taliban in a future government, and rights for women and civil society. No format has been established, and there is no deadline for completion. ...

**"The agreement also provides for the 'expeditious' release by March 10 of up to 5,000 Taliban prisoners and up to 1,000 prisoners held by 'the other side,' and the release of all remaining prisoners within the subsequent three months.** It does not mention whether 'the other side' includes Taliban prisoners being held by the United States, including some at the detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. ... John Bolton, Trump's former national security adviser, called the deal 'an unacceptable risk to the United States' civilian population.' ... At his news conference, Trump indicated that the Taliban would take over the fight against the Islamic State and others, although the agreement, and a separate joint declaration with the Afghan government, cite only Taliban responsibilities for preventing terrorist groups from activities within territory under Taliban control."

**The Afghan government also questioned aspects of the deal.**

“Freeing Taliban prisoners is not [under] the authority of America, but the authority of the Afghan government. There has been no commitment for the release of 5,000 prisoners,’ Ghani told reporters gathered inside the palace in Kabul on Sunday. Ghani said the prisoner swap could be discussed during talks with the Taliban but could not be a precondition,” [Susannah George reports](#). "The peace deal did not mention [the] future of the period of reduced violence that preceded the deal’s signing. Following the signing ceremony Saturday, Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen said the week-long period of reduced violence has ‘ended.’ Ghani, however, said Sunday that the reduction in violence would extend and eventually transform into a cease-fire.”

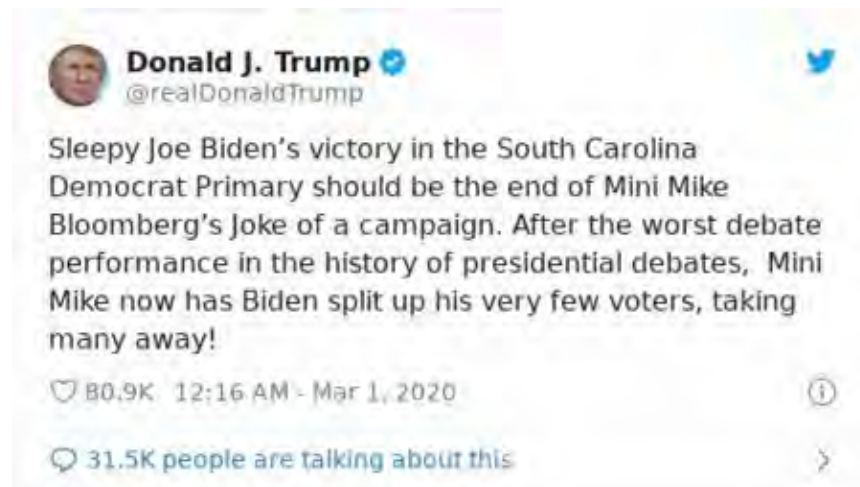
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## Social media speed read

Buttigieg met with Jimmy Carter in Georgia this morning:



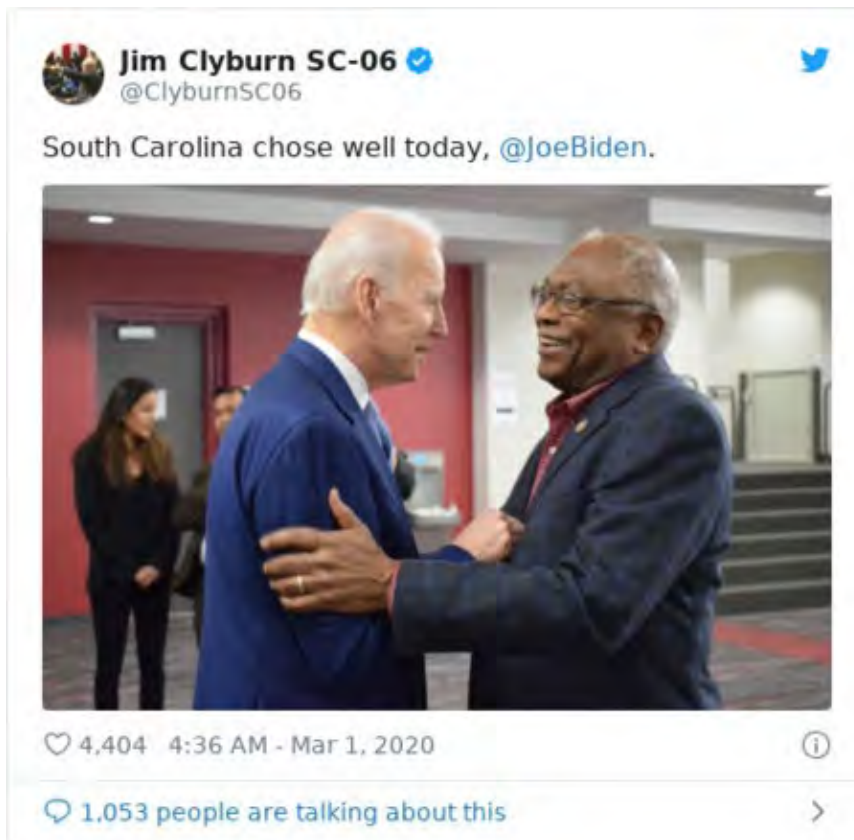
Trump reacted to the South Carolina results:



Steyer responded:



Clyburn celebrated his kingmaker status:



## Videos of the day

“Saturday Night Live” opened with a coronavirus press conference:



Colin Jost and Michael Che had thoughts about Trump's coronavirus response:



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# The Daily 202

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By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Joe Biden's firewall holds. What his South Carolina comeback means for Super Tuesday.

Thirty-three years after launching his first of three presidential campaigns, Joe Biden finally won a primary on Saturday. The former vice president's landslide in South Carolina was sweeping enough that he received more total votes across the first four early states than Bernie Sanders. The lopsided victory bolsters Biden's argument going into Super Tuesday that he's the Democratic Party's most viable alternative to the independent senator from Vermont.



He wasn't subtle about making this case during his celebratory speech in Columbia, S.C. "If the Democrats want a nominee who's a Democrat – a lifelong Democrat, a proud Democrat, an Obama-Biden Democrat – then join us," he said. "For all those who've been knocked down, counted out, left behind, this is your campaign! Just days ago, the press and pundits declared this candidacy dead. Now, thanks to all of you, the heart of the Democratic Party, we've just won, and we've won big because of you. And we are very much alive!"



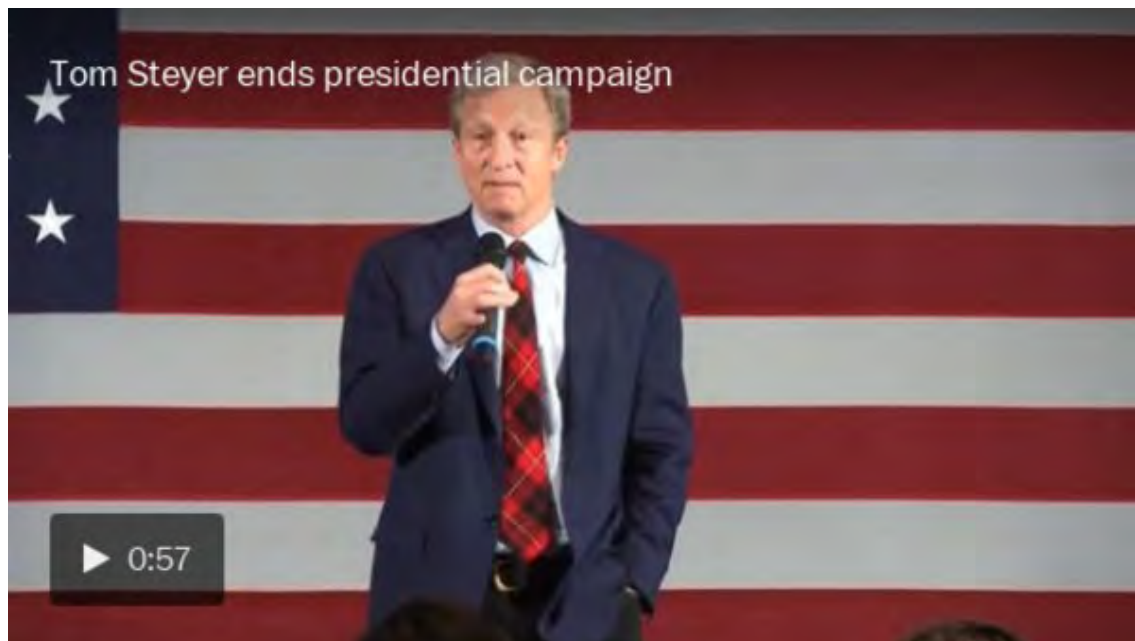
With 100 percent of precincts [reporting](#), **Biden won 48 percent in the Palmetto State – carrying every county and winning among every significant demographic group.** Sanders trailed, with 20 percent. Billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer [dropped out](#) after finishing third with 11 percent, under the 15 percent threshold required to get delegates. Former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg finished fourth, with 8 percent, followed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.), with 7 percent, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Minn.), with 3 percent. Sanders received the most votes in Nevada, New Hampshire and Iowa, but he never garnered more than 34 percent of the vote, and Buttigieg narrowly won more delegates from the Iowa caucuses.

**The most significant question in American politics at this**

**moment is whether Biden will be able to capitalize on Tuesday**, when 14 states, plus American Samoa, award 34 percent of the delegates to the Democratic convention.

**Biden has rolled out a string of endorsements since Saturday night**, including from former Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe, Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), former senator Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) and former DNC chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who remains a congresswoman from Florida. Biden also just unveiled the endorsement of Selma, Ala., Mayor Darrio Melton. Several of the candidates are in Selma today for the anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

**Biden announced Sunday morning that he had raised \$5 million in the past 24 hours, but he hasn't been advertising nearly as much as several of his rivals in the states that vote on March 3.** His victory speech was crisp and punchy, but he remains gaffe prone and uneven on the stump. Even if he manages to emerge from this week as the most obvious alternative to Sanders, the field looks certain to stay fragmented for some time – which works to Sanders's advantage.



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**Steyer's failure is a red flag for Mike Bloomberg. The former New York mayor skipped the first four states, but Steyer's play in South Carolina was Bloomberg's Super Tuesday strategy in miniature. And it didn't work.** Steyer put nearly \$200 million of his personal fortune into his campaign and focused more on South Carolina than anywhere else, advocating forcefully for paying reparations to the descendants of slaves and focusing on fighting climate change along the Eastern Seaboard in a coastal state. Steyer spent \$23.6 million on television advertising alone in South Carolina, out of a total of \$36 million spent by all the candidates, according to the tracking firm Advertising Analytics. This got him into double digits, but he underperformed where he'd been in recent polling. All told, Steyer spent about \$395 on commercials for every vote he received in South Carolina.

**Bloomberg has spent about half a billion dollars in the three months he's been running. But he has lost a lot of his luster since he fared so poorly in the first debate and faced mounting scrutiny.** That said, polls suggest that he's still poised to pick up a big chunk of delegates on Tuesday, especially in states where he's had the airwaves mostly to himself. "His advisers vowed Saturday night that Bloomberg will stay in the race at least through Super Tuesday," [Cleve Wootson and Michael Scherer reported](#). "They cited internal campaign

data showing that if Bloomberg dropped out it would strengthen Sanders, whose left-leaning policies the former mayor abhors. His campaign announced Saturday that he will buy three minutes of commercial airtime nationally at 8:30 p.m. Sunday night to present his vision for managing the current coronavirus outbreak.”

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**Biden will undoubtedly get some bounce from South Carolina, especially in the seven Southern states that vote on Tuesday, but how big will it be?** African Americans accounted for 57 percent of the electorate in South Carolina’s Democratic primary, [according to our exit polling](#). Biden won 61 percent of the black vote, followed by Sanders at 16 percent. He also beat Sanders among white voters, though only 34 percent to 23 percent, with Buttigieg pulling 16 percent.

**It’s a big break for Biden that Buttigieg, Klobuchar and Warren have so utterly failed to racially diversify their coalitions.** None of the three will get any delegates out of South Carolina, despite campaigning extensively there over the past year. Warren got 5 percent of the black vote, Buttigieg got 3 percent and Klobuchar got less than 1 percent. It’s impossible to become the Democratic nominee with those kinds of numbers. Klobuchar has been unable to translate her momentum from the overwhelmingly white states of Iowa and New Hampshire into either of the racially diverse states that followed. If demographics alone are destiny, Biden is also poised to fare well in Florida on March 17 and Georgia on March 24.

**An [NBC News-Marist poll](#) published Sunday morning shows a neck-and-neck primary in North Carolina, with 26 percent for Sanders and 24 percent for Biden.** This is well within the margin of error. The other Southern states voting Tuesday are Virginia, Tennessee,

Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. African Americans account for a sizable share of the population in all six, but with Alabama as an exception, the black vote will account for a much smaller share of the electorate than in South Carolina.



That's one of several ways that **South Carolina was uniquely favorable terrain for Biden.** The 77-year-old has literally – literally! – spent decades cultivating relationships that paid off. He's vacationed there in the summers. He traveled there constantly during his eight years as vice president. More than 3 in 4 voters in the primary viewed him favorably, according to the exit poll. Only 51 percent of voters viewed Sanders favorably. About half of voters said the endorsement of Biden by Rep. [Jim Clyburn](#) (D-S.C.) on Wednesday was an “important” factor in their vote. “You brought me back,” Biden told Clyburn in his victory speech. Biden does not have so many deep relationships in the upcoming states.

**South Carolina also lacks partisan voter registration, so it was an open primary. Many moderates who voted in the GOP primary in 2016 appear to have cast ballots in the Democratic primary for Biden.** Turnout was at least 527,728, a sharp increase from 373,063 four years ago. It's on par with the 2008 turnout of 532,151, when Barack Obama beat Hillary Clinton, but there was also a competitive

Republican primary that year. The electorate in South Carolina was far more moderate than in the first three states. Self-identified moderates and conservatives accounted for about half of all voters, compared to a third in the Iowa and Nevada caucuses and slightly more than that in the New Hampshire primary, according to analysis by Dan Keating and Scott Clement.

**South Carolinians weren't looking for a revolution.** More than half of voters overall – and two-thirds of black voters – said they want a return to the policies of the Obama administration, according to the exit polls. Biden won that group by more than 5 to 1 over Sanders. By contrast, a quarter of voters wanted to break from Obama and move to more liberal policies, and they favored Sanders over Biden by 37 percent to 22 percent.

**More than 7 in 10 South Carolina voters were 45 or older. That's the highest percentage of any of the first four states by far.** Biden [won](#) this group over Sanders by 3 to 1. Sanders won among voters under age 30, but Biden beat him by 5 percent among voters between the ages of 30 to 44, by 37 points among those ages 45 to 64 and by 55 points among seniors. (I wrote on Friday about [Sanders's struggles with older voters.](#))

**South Carolina's electorate was also particularly religious, more so than some of the upcoming states.** More than 4 out of 10 Democratic primary voters reported attending religious services once a week or more, compared to 13 percent in New Hampshire. Sanders does better among those who go to church less often. Among those who went to church at least once a week in South Carolina, Biden won 57 percent.



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## Quote of the day

*“You cannot win 'em all,” Sanders said, reacting to South Carolina’s results during a rally in Virginia. “And that will not be the only defeat. There are a lot of states in this country, and nobody wins them all.”*

**Sanders remains the front-runner for the nomination, but he needs a commanding performance on Tuesday to keep that status.** He’s heavily favored in California, the biggest delegate prize of the year, where he will campaign later today. Polling published Friday [by CNN](#) showed Sanders leading in the Golden State with 35 percent. Others bunched up just below 15 percent: Warren was at 14 percent, Biden at 13 percent and Bloomberg at 12 percent. South Carolina might push Biden into viability, to collect delegates, in a bunch of districts.

**Another CNN poll showed Sanders leading in Texas, the second biggest prize on Tuesday, with 29 percent, followed by Biden at 20 percent,** Bloomberg at 18 percent, Warren at 15 percent and no one else in double digits. NBC and Marist released [a separate poll](#) this morning of Texas that showed Sanders with 34 percent and Biden trailing with 19 percent. Sanders’s lead is driven by strength among younger Latinos.

**“No day on this year’s primary-caucus calendar sets up any better for Sanders than this year’s Super Tuesday. Beyond that, primaries in the future are mostly closed, denying Sanders the votes of independents, one of his best constituencies,”** [Dan Balz explained](#). “Campaign strategists can’t say just how well Sanders will be positioned after Super Tuesday. There are simply too many variables — too many candidates, too much fluidity and too many combinations about possible outcomes. Campaigns have been modeling the states and constantly tweaking internal projections. As one strategist put it: ‘It’s an insane Rubik’s cube.’”

**On Tuesday, 1,357 delegates are up for grabs. To clinch the nomination, a candidate needs 1,991 delegates.** “Estimates of delegate totals and of Sanders’s possible margins vary significantly,” Balz reported. “At the high end, say strategists inside the campaigns as well as outside analysts, Sanders could emerge from Tuesday’s contests leading his closest competitor by 300 to as high as 400 delegates. That would put him firmly in command of the race though still might leave him short of a majority going into the convention. At the lower end of estimates, the consensus is that Sanders’s delegate margin could be in the range of 200 or 250. That would still give Sanders the advantage but could be a more manageable margin to overcome for one of the other candidates, but only if the field quickly shrinks after Tuesday.

**“One non-campaign analysis calculates that Sanders could win between 600 and 700 delegates on Tuesday with the next-highest candidate in the range of 300 to 500.** Sanders could emerge with a 2-to-1 lead over his closest challenger, but still well below 50 percent overall. But these are merely possible scenarios, not predictions, and were all based on information before South Carolina voted. Faiz Shakir, Sanders’s campaign manager, sought to play down suggestions that Sanders will come out of Super Tuesday with a lead of more than 300.”





**The Sanders campaign said this morning that it raised \$46.5 million in February.** “The cash infusion came from 2.2 million individual donations, including more than 350,000 people who gave to the Sanders campaign for the first time,” [Sean Sullivan reported](#). “On Saturday alone, the campaign said it raised \$4.5 million. When President Obama was running for office in 2008, he raised \$55 million over the same time period. For Sanders, the sum marks a significant increase from the \$25 million it collected in January. Since the start of his second campaign for president last February, the campaign said it has raised more than \$167 million. The Sanders campaign did not immediately say how much money it had in its account at the end of February. It announced that it was purchasing airtime for TV ads in nine states that vote on March 10 and March 17.”

**Candidates are on defense in their home states tomorrow.** Sanders, expected to easily carry his home state of Vermont, traveled to Massachusetts on Saturday, which Warren represents. **A new [Suffolk University-WBZ-Boston Globe poll](#) shows Sanders edging out Warren in Massachusetts 24 percent to 22 percent,** which is within the 4.4 percent margin of error, and Bloomberg, who was born in the Bay State, gets 13 percent. The poll puts Buttigieg in fourth place, with Biden in fifth.

**Sanders will go on Monday to Minnesota, which Klobuchar represents, in hopes of beating her on her home turf.** The Sanders campaign is putting on a concert in the Twin Cities at a venue that holds 18,000 people. A Star Tribune-Minnesota Public Radio [poll](#) released last weekend showed Klobuchar leading Sanders 29 percent to 23 percent in the state, with a 4.5 percentage point margin of error.



**Klobuchar seems likely to come under mounting pressure to drop out after Super Tuesday unless she fares well somewhere beyond Minnesota.** “First, she finished a surprisingly strong third in

New Hampshire, but otherwise she has been a nonentity,” [Aaron Blake explained](#). “Second, she’s the most ideologically similar to Biden, meaning her exit would most apparently accrue to his benefit. And lastly, Buttigieg has a better argument for staying in the race, given he notched a delegate win in Iowa and polls much better than her nationally. At the same time, given she is far back in the polls, it’s not clear how much Biden might gain by her dropping out. And Biden’s campaign is reportedly encouraging her to stay in, perhaps in hopes that she prevents Sanders from a significant delegate win in her home state.”

**But this seems poised to remain a multi-candidate race for a while.** Warren has not won a single delegate since the Iowa caucuses on Feb. 3. But she’s raised enough hard money to stick around for a while on account of her strong debate performances. She was, after all, a high school debate state champion in her native state of Oklahoma, which votes on Tuesday. And she’s now getting more than \$15 million of help from a super PAC after flip-flopping and reversing herself on accepting outside money.

**Warren campaign manager Roger Lau sent a memo to reporters this morning that suggests they’re focused on winning a contested convention.** “As the dust settles after March 3rd, the reality of this race will be clear: no candidate will likely have a path to the majority of delegates needed to win an outright claim to the Democratic nomination,” he wrote. “Our grassroots campaign is built to compete in every state and territory and ultimately prevail at the national convention in Milwaukee.”

**Buttigieg’s strategy is to maximize his delegate haul on Tuesday to stay in the hunt for Midwestern primaries in the following weeks.** Michigan and Missouri, for example, vote on March 10. Illinois and Ohio vote March 17. The former mayor said today on NBC’s “Meet the Press” that he’s staying in. “Nothing can take away from Vice President Biden's commanding victory,” said Buttigieg, adding that he knew “South Carolina was going to be a challenging state.”

“We have reached the conclusion that pushing forward is the best thing we can do for the country and for the party,” said the 38-year-old. “We’ll be assessing at every turn, ... making sure that every step we take is in the interest of the party and that goal of making sure we defeat Donald Trump.”

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## More from the states



**In Arkansas, there's no clear favorite.** “Arkansas, with 31 available delegates, is worth less than 3% of the total Democratic delegate share on Super Tuesday. The candidates vying for the Democratic nomination, however, have begun treating the state like a worthwhile battleground,” the [Democrat-Gazette](#) in Little Rock reports. “The reason, perhaps, is due to the lack of a clear front-runner -- or even several -- in this Republican-dominated state. In dozens of interviews with elected Democrats and other party leaders last week, [we] found that support remained split among no fewer than five candidates. Many said they are still waiting to decide for whom to vote. ‘This is really about the first time in 30 years in which there's not been a favorite daughter or favorite son in one of the contests, or someone like Al Gore, who is very clearly identified with a major figure from Arkansas,’ said Andrew Dowdle, a political science

professor at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.”

**In Colorado, many voters held back their mail-in ballots until the last minute.** “As Colorado voters have returned 1 million or so ballots in the last three weeks, Democratic ballots lagged Republican returns, suggesting that large numbers of voters planning to participate in the Democratic primary have held theirs back as they’ve watched the race’s drama play out in other states,” the [Denver Post](#) reports. “Among more than 50 undecided Colorado voters [we] surveyed or interviewed last week, it was clear many don’t fit into clear ‘liberal’ or ‘moderate’ lanes. While plenty were considering candidates in only one of those categories, others were mulling interesting combos — including several voters weighing a Sanders or a Warren (or both) against a Buttigieg or a Klobuchar.”

**Voters in California have also held on to their ballots, giving Biden additional hope.** “The portion of returned ballots at this stage is much lower than in recent elections — and his campaign is counting on a late surge of support among those holdouts after his dominant [South Carolina] performance on Saturday,” [Politico](#) reports. “Paul Mitchell, an elections expert who has tracked the number of returned vote-by-mail California ballots through Friday [said] he’s seen a significant drop-off among Democratic voters to date from the last two California presidential primaries. And the decline in returned ballots so far is occurring among the most dedicated voters: Those who have participated in the last five elections.”

**Election officials there are scrambling to address coronavirus concerns.** “While there were ‘no indications of any disruptions to California’s March 3, 2020 presidential primary,’ the California Secretary of State’s office [said] it will continue to monitor any public health alerts that could impact election administration,” [ABC News](#) reports. “Officials in Solano County, California are now taking precautionary measures and providing expanded options for voters, including offering an additional location for them to drop off ballots in advance of Super Tuesday. ... Voters ‘don’t even have to get out of their car and we’re going to expand

that on Monday and Tuesday,' said John Gardner, the assistant registrar of voters for Solano County. ... Gardner [said] every polling place and every poll worker will receive disinfectant wipes and spray, hand sanitizer and gloves as additional precautions. In the past, only sanitary wipes were provided to clean the voting equipment itself."

**Texans early voting has eclipsed the 2016 numbers.** "But voters in the state still cast even more early votes in the Republican primary than the Democratic contest, 1,070,278 to 954,583," [the Houston Chronicle reports](#). "The nearly 7 percent turnout on the Democratic side for the 15 counties with the most registered voters was above the 5 percent racked up after early voting in the 2016 presidential primary."

**Biden has long been popular with black voters in Texas. Will they stick with him?** "His lead in Texas polls has disappeared. Now many black voters in Texas and beyond are wondering aloud whether to look elsewhere. If they do en masse, it could effectively end his campaign," [the Texas Tribune reports](#). "To be sure, Biden does have support from some prominent black Texas leaders. U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey, D-Fort Worth, an early Biden backer, said last weekend on CNN that black voters 'here in the state of Texas — they will not forget that Bernie Sanders threatened to primary President Obama in 2012.' But Carroll Robinson, the chairman of the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats, said Biden 'took his support among black voters for granted, and his outreach wasn't as assertive as, say, Bloomberg.'"

**In Minnesota, the Catholic archdiocese asked priests not to vote in the Democratic primary over concerns that they'd appear "partisan."** Under the state's system, voters request whichever party's ballot they want, and that preference is recorded and sent to chairs of all four political parties in the state, [the Star Tribune reports](#).

**In Maine, Klobuchar presented herself as a centrist capable of bringing the party together.** "I think Maine, that practical state that you are, understands that it's important to have bold ideas that can actually get done," she told a crowd of several hundred, per the Portland

[Press Herald](#). Last week, Maine's Bangor Daily News [endorsed](#) Klobuchar while ripping Sanders.

**In Tennessee, Buttigieg promised to unify the country.** "Buttigieg came to Nashville Saturday to make the case that he could unite a coalition of Democrats, independents and 'future former Republicans' strong enough to defeat [Trump]," [the Tennessean reports](#). "Buttigieg drew a crowd of about 2,700 to Public Square Park next to Nashville's city hall ... It was perhaps the largest showing a Democratic candidate has drawn in the city this cycle. ... Nashville Mayor John Cooper attended the rally a day after attending a Klobuchar fundraiser. ... Despite attending fundraisers for some candidates, Cooper said he has not donated to any. He also has not endorsed."

**Utah will participate in Super Tuesday for the first time.** "It's not even the 12th biggest prize for the Democratic presidential hopefuls vying to snatch up as many delegates as they can on their march to the nomination," [the Salt Lake Tribune reports](#). "But the state's contest matters, as shown by the rare campaign visits, the stream of ads and the excitement of voters casting a ballot in what is still a wide-open race. ... That's different from previous cycles, when Utah's primary landed later in the spring, too late in many ways to be part of the game." In 2016, Sanders beat Clinton with nearly 80 percent. Aiming for a similar outcome this time around, Sanders will visit Salt Lake City on Monday.

**Biden, Buttigieg, Bloomberg and Klobuchar will address the AIPAC conference with video messages, four years after organizers rejected an offer from Sanders to deliver a video message during his previous presidential campaign.**  
([Jerusalem Post](#))

**Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, meanwhile, assailed Sanders at the conference as an "ignorant fool."** "Whoever calls the prime minister of Israel a 'racist' is either a liar, an ignorant fool, or both," Danny Danon said. "We don't want Sanders at AIPAC. We don't want him in Israel." ([Times of Israel](#))

**A great Sunday read: What the reckonings of a suburban Southern white woman say about Trump’s chances.** Miranda Murphey “is 39, a high school English teacher with a PhD and part of a voting demographic whose rebellion could upend the political map of the country: not just suburban women, not just white suburban women, but white suburban women in the South, whose loyalty Trump will need to remain in power,” [Stephanie McCrummen reports](#). "She first started reevaluating her politics after the election of Barack Obama, even though she had voted Republican. ... Then came Trump, who Miranda found so morally repugnant that for the first time in her voting life she wrote in the name of the Libertarian Party candidate and went to bed expecting that good and decent conservatives would do the same. She woke up realizing she was wrong. Church members had voted for Trump. Her parents had gone for Trump. [Her husband]: Trump. And then came Liz, a new English teacher in her district ... She was not like anyone Miranda had met before, a Republican who’d become a Democrat and who described her Trump-era self as a ‘full-on rage machine.’ ... Miranda was surprised by how often she found herself seeing what Liz meant.”

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## The coronavirus





## Trump unveiled new travel restrictions after the first death on U.S. soil.

“A man in his 50s with an underlying health condition became the first person in the United States to die of coronavirus infection,” [William Wan, Katie Mettler, Miriam Berger and Carolyn Johnson report](#). “Along with the fatality in Washington state, health officials in the Seattle area confirmed two additional cases of the covid-19 disease and a possible outbreak at a long-term nursing facility — raising alarm because the elderly and sick are among those most vulnerable to the virus. **Officials in California’s Santa Clara County announced another case Saturday, and Illinois announced another case Saturday evening.** The new cases bring the number of people apparently infected by community spread of the disease to nine. ... One of the three new cases of infection is a health-care worker at the Life Care nursing home in Kirkland, Wash. Another is a woman in her 70s from the nursing home, now in serious condition... The man who died was not associated with the nursing home. ...

**“As news of the first fatality broke, Trump announced he would extend an existing travel ban on Iran to apply to any foreign nationals who had been in that country over the past 14 days.** He also raised the warning level for travel to Italy and South Korea, recommending Americans not travel to certain regions of those countries

with outbreaks of the virus. Trump said he is also considering restrictions across the southern U.S. border. ... At the hastily convened news conference, Trump described the patient who died as a 'wonderful woman' in her late 50s. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention later issued a statement saying it had mistakenly described the patient's gender in a briefing to Trump and Vice President Pence, and local health officials clarified the deceased patient was a man. Trump praised his administration's response to the virus, calling his earlier decision to ban foreign nationals from China 'a lifesaver,' and he urged people to remain calm and to go on living their lives normally. 'Healthy people, if you're healthy, you will probably go through a process and you'll be fine,' Trump said. ...

**“On Saturday, the Food and Drug Administration took steps to expand testing by speeding up certified hospital laboratories' ability to create and use their own tests, following complaints from many labs.** The FDA also approved a test developed by New York state laboratories, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said, making New York the first state able to use its own test. ... An unreleased report from a branch of the State Department obtained by The Washington Post on Saturday found roughly 2 million tweets already [peddling conspiracy theories about the coronavirus](#), raising worries about Silicon Valley's preparedness to combat a surge of dangerous disinformation online. Trying to avoid panic, Pence said Saturday that the average American does not need to buy face masks because of the coronavirus, echoing worries by health officials that hoarding such supplies may put health workers at risk in coming weeks.”

**The administration continues trying to contain not just the virus, but also its political damage.**

“Interviews with nearly two dozen administration officials, former White House aides, public health experts and lawmakers ... portray a White House scrambling to gain control of a rudderless response defined by bureaucratic infighting, confusion and misinformation 'It's complete chaos,' a senior administration official said. 'Everyone is just trying to get a handle on what the [expletive] is going on,’” [Yasmeen Abutaleb, Ashley](#)

[Parker and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Personal animosities between [Health Secretary Alex] Azar and senior members of the White House — including [acting chief of staff Mick] Mulvaney and Joe Grogan, the director of the Domestic Policy Council — also complicated response efforts, several senior administration officials said. Several officials said those relationships have never recovered from past battles ...

**“Administration officials [continued plowing] forward with their previous schedules, modifying them only slightly as they tried to minimize the coronavirus threat.** Mulvaney spoke, as previously planned, at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference outside Washington, where he assured the crowd, ‘We know how to handle this,’ and accused the news media of overhyping the virus to ‘bring down the president.’ Pence, too, continued with a prior commitment Friday evening — a closed-door, high-dollar fundraiser in Sarasota, Fla. — while tacking on a brief coronavirus response meeting with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) at the airport ... And Trump held a long-standing campaign rally Friday in North Charleston, S.C., where he accused Democrats of ‘politicizing’ the coronavirus. ‘And this is their new hoax,’ the president crowed from the stage.”

## **Nancy Pelosi will bring a coronavirus funding bill to the floor this week.**

The House speaker didn’t indicate a price tag, but “she said the funding package must be new money and ‘not stolen from other accounts.’ She said House appropriators will work to ensure there is a firewall around the funds so the president cannot use the money for anything other than fighting the coronavirus,” [Colby Itkowitz reports](#). “Pelosi said the funding package should also include money to make eventual vaccines available to everyone, loans for small businesses hurt by disruptions, and reimbursement for state and local governments responding to outbreaks.”

## **The outbreak is creating huge medical bills.**

“Frank Wucinski and his 3-year-old daughter, Annabel, are among the dozens of Americans the government has flown back to the country from

Wuhan, China, and put under quarantine to check for signs of coronavirus. Now they are among what could become a growing number of families hit with surprise medical bills related to government-mandated actions,” [the NYT reports](#). “Both have repeatedly tested negative for the virus. After their release from quarantine, Mr. Wucinski and his daughter went to stay with his mother in Harrisburg, Pa. That’s where they found a pile of medical bills waiting: \$3,918 in charges from hospital doctors, radiologists and an ambulance company. ‘I assumed it was all being paid for,’ Mr. Wucinski said. ‘We didn’t have a choice.’ ... The federal government has the authority to quarantine and isolate patients if officials believe them to be a public health threat. These powers, which date back to cholera outbreaks among ship passengers in the late 19th century, are rarely used. They don’t say anything about who pays when the isolation happens in a nongovernmental medical facility — or when they’re brought there by a private ambulance company.”

### **Australia also reported its first coronavirus death.**

“A 78-year-old man who contracted the coronavirus after spending time on the Diamond Princess cruise ship died Saturday in a Perth hospital, becoming Australia’s first death from the disease. The man and his 79-year-old wife were among 164 Australians who were evacuated from the cruise ship, which was docked in Japan while people on board were quarantined, and flown to Australia for treatment last week,” [Derek Hawkins reports](#). “His wife was also placed in isolation, where she tested positive Friday. Robertson said she was in stable condition. ‘She had the opportunity to talk to him prior to his death, but she’s understandably quite upset. And I obviously ask that people respect their privacy,’ Robertson told Australia’s national broadcaster.”

### **China and South Korea reported hundreds of new cases.**

“Chinese health officials early Sunday, local time, reported an additional 573 confirmed cases of the coronavirus and 35 deaths on the country’s mainland. In keeping with the pattern throughout the outbreak, the vast majority of those cases and deaths were in Hubei province, where the

virus first emerged. The total number of cases on the mainland reached 79,824, and the total number of deaths hit 2,870,” [Marisa Iati reports](#). “In nearby South Korea, health officials reported 376 additional cases of the coronavirus, 333 of which were in the southern city of Daegu. ... The total number of cases in South Korea stands at 3,526, and the death count is 17.”

### **Italy became the third country to have more than 1,000 coronavirus cases.**

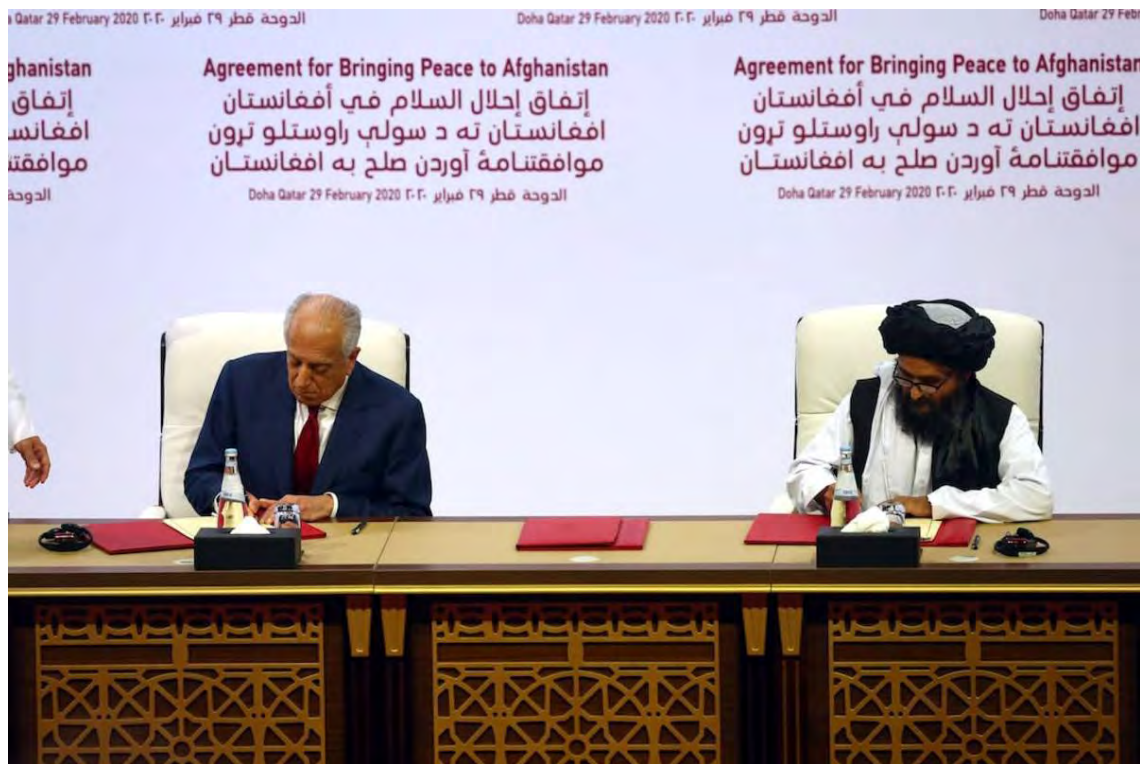
“The latest data, according to the Italian government, shows that 1,049 people nationwide are positive for the virus, and another 29 have died. More than half of the cases are in the wealthy northern region of Lombardy, which includes Milan. But a handful of cases have popped up as far south as Sicily and Puglia,” [Chico Harlan reports](#).

### **Mexico hit back at Trump’s comments on possibly closing the border.**

With polite astonishment, Mexico noted “that ‘there are four cases of covid-19 registered in our country and 22 in the U.S.’ The Foreign Ministry said the U.S. and Mexican governments were in close contact on the issue, and Mexico was willing to cooperate with Washington to protect public health,” [Mary Beth Sheridan reports](#). “Few cases of coronavirus have been reported in Latin America. Ecuador reported its first confirmed case Saturday, and two cases have been confirmed in Brazil.”

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## **A peace deal in Afghanistan**



Abdul Ghani Baradar, right, who led the Taliban delegation, and U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad sign the deal. (Ibraheem Al Omari/Reuters)

## The agreement signed with the Taliban in Doha set a timetable for U.S. withdrawal.

“The agreement to end the brutal U.S.-Taliban conflict in Afghanistan ... was signed on Saturday under the gaze of tough men in turbans, who clapped and shouted ‘Allahu akbar!’” [Karen DeYoung reports](#). “Trump hailed the accord, formalized with signatures and a handshake between U.S. negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad and his Taliban counterpart, Abdul Ghani Baradar, as historic. ... Trump said he would be ‘meeting personally with Taliban leaders in the not too distant future.’ Asked whether such a meeting would be overseas, or if he would invite them to Camp David, an idea he broached last year, he said, ‘We’re looking at that.’ Senior administration officials, while claiming success, offered slightly more tempered expressions of optimism. ...

**“Many veterans of the years-long efforts to end the war and leave a stable Afghanistan, as well as Trump supporters, questioned whether the new agreement laid a sturdy groundwork for permanent peace. Some described it as a**

capitulation to the Taliban, whose primary demand has always been the full departure of foreign troops. ... Some senior military and intelligence officials 'are concerned that the administration is putting too much stock in the promises of the Taliban,' who will 'simply sign anything to get us to leave,' [said a former senior defense official]. ...

**"The conditions in the agreement appeared to relate far more to the insurgents' promises to stop attacking the Americans as they leave, and to sever ties with other terrorist groups, rather than a long-term solution for Afghans.** ... The agreement includes a Taliban commitment to start direct negotiations with the Afghan government over a cease-fire and political settlement of the war within 10 days. Those negotiations, tentatively to be held in Norway, are already complicated by political upheaval in Kabul, where President Ashraf Ghani's recent reelection is under challenge and there are major fights over the composition of a negotiating team. The agenda for the talks is massive, including a comprehensive cease-fire, the role of the Taliban in a future government, and rights for women and civil society. No format has been established, and there is no deadline for completion. ...

**"The agreement also provides for the 'expeditious' release by March 10 of up to 5,000 Taliban prisoners and up to 1,000 prisoners held by 'the other side,' and the release of all remaining prisoners within the subsequent three months.** It does not mention whether 'the other side' includes Taliban prisoners being held by the United States, including some at the detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. ... John Bolton, Trump's former national security adviser, called the deal 'an unacceptable risk to the United States' civilian population.' ... At his news conference, Trump indicated that the Taliban would take over the fight against the Islamic State and others, although the agreement, and a separate joint declaration with the Afghan government, cite only Taliban responsibilities for preventing terrorist groups from activities within territory under Taliban control."

**The Afghan government also questioned aspects of the deal.**

“Freeing Taliban prisoners is not [under] the authority of America, but the authority of the Afghan government. There has been no commitment for the release of 5,000 prisoners,’ Ghani told reporters gathered inside the palace in Kabul on Sunday. Ghani said the prisoner swap could be discussed during talks with the Taliban but could not be a precondition,” [Susannah George reports](#). "The peace deal did not mention [the] future of the period of reduced violence that preceded the deal’s signing. Following the signing ceremony Saturday, Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen said the week-long period of reduced violence has ‘ended.’ Ghani, however, said Sunday that the reduction in violence would extend and eventually transform into a cease-fire.”

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## Social media speed read

Buttigieg met with Jimmy Carter in Georgia this morning:





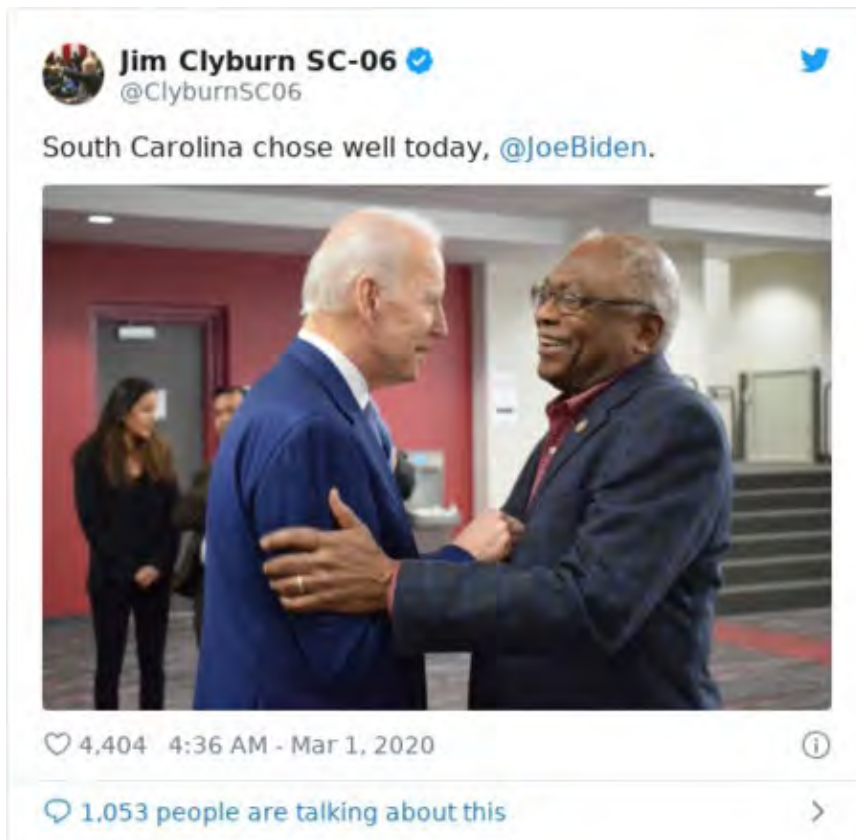
Trump reacted to the South Carolina results:



Steyer responded:



Clyburn celebrated his kingmaker status:



## Videos of the day

“Saturday Night Live” opened with a coronavirus press conference:



Colin Jost and Michael Che had thoughts about Trump's coronavirus response:



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# The Daily 202

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By **James Hohmann**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

Email

## Joe Biden's firewall holds. What his South Carolina comeback means for Super Tuesday.

Thirty-three years after launching his first of three presidential campaigns, Joe Biden finally won a primary on Saturday. The former vice president's landslide in South Carolina was sweeping enough that he received more total votes across the first four early states than Bernie Sanders. The lopsided victory bolsters Biden's argument going into Super Tuesday that he's the Democratic Party's most viable alternative to the independent senator from Vermont.

He wasn't subtle about making this case during his celebratory speech in Columbia, S.C. "If the Democrats want a nominee who's a Democrat – a lifelong Democrat, a proud Democrat, an Obama-Biden Democrat – then join us," he said. "For all those who've been knocked down, counted out, left behind, this is your campaign! Just days ago, the press and pundits declared this candidacy dead. Now, thanks to all of you, the heart of the Democratic Party, we've just won, and we've won big because of you. And we are very much alive!"



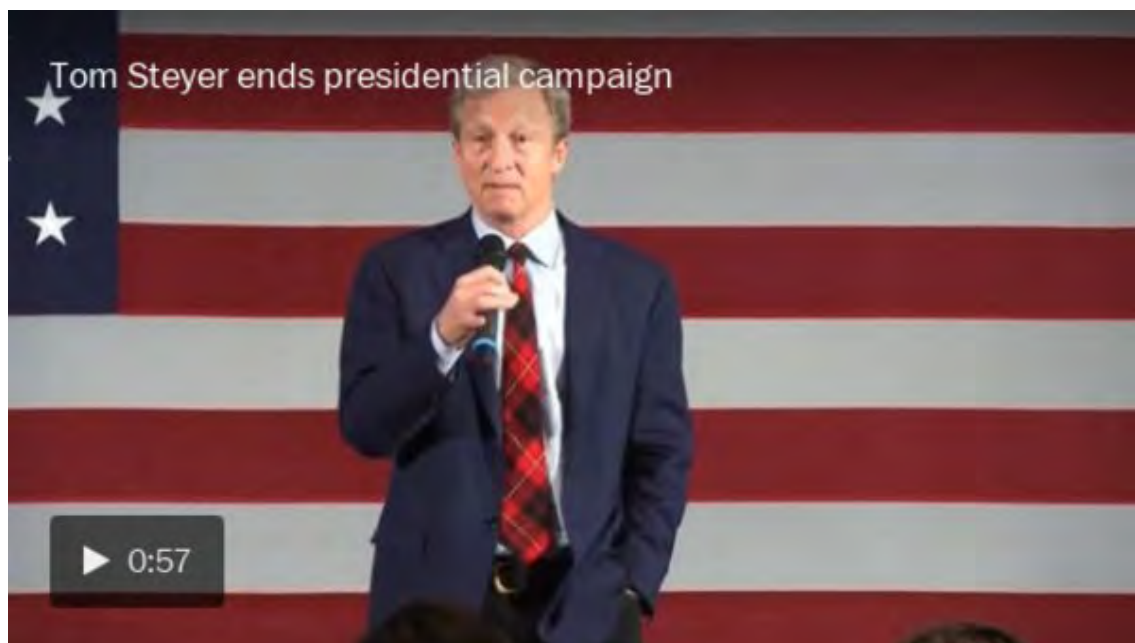
With 100 percent of precincts [reporting](#), **Biden won 48 percent in the Palmetto State – carrying every county and winning among every significant demographic group.** Sanders trailed, with 20 percent. Billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer [dropped out](#) after finishing third with 11 percent, under the 15 percent threshold required to get delegates. Former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg finished fourth, with 8 percent, followed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.), with 7 percent, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Minn.), with 3 percent. Sanders received the most votes in Nevada, New Hampshire and Iowa, but he never garnered more than 34 percent of the vote, and Buttigieg narrowly won more delegates from the Iowa caucuses.

**The most significant question in American politics at this**

**moment is whether Biden will be able to capitalize on Tuesday**, when 14 states, plus American Samoa, award 34 percent of the delegates to the Democratic convention.

**Biden has rolled out a string of endorsements since Saturday night**, including from former Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe, Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), former senator Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) and former DNC chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who remains a congresswoman from Florida. Biden also just unveiled the endorsement of Selma, Ala., Mayor Darrio Melton. Several of the candidates are in Selma today for the anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

**Biden announced Sunday morning that he had raised \$5 million in the past 24 hours, but he hasn't been advertising nearly as much as several of his rivals in the states that vote on March 3.** His victory speech was crisp and punchy, but he remains gaffe prone and uneven on the stump. Even if he manages to emerge from this week as the most obvious alternative to Sanders, the field looks certain to stay fragmented for some time – which works to Sanders's advantage.



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**Steyer's failure is a red flag for Mike Bloomberg. The former New York mayor skipped the first four states, but Steyer's play in South Carolina was Bloomberg's Super Tuesday strategy in miniature. And it didn't work.** Steyer put nearly \$200 million of his personal fortune into his campaign and focused more on South Carolina than anywhere else, advocating forcefully for paying reparations to the descendants of slaves and focusing on fighting climate change along the Eastern Seaboard in a coastal state. Steyer spent \$23.6 million on television advertising alone in South Carolina, out of a total of \$36 million spent by all the candidates, according to the tracking firm Advertising Analytics. This got him into double digits, but he underperformed where he'd been in recent polling. All told, Steyer spent about \$395 on commercials for every vote he received in South Carolina.

**Bloomberg has spent about half a billion dollars in the three months he's been running. But he has lost a lot of his luster since he fared so poorly in the first debate and faced mounting scrutiny.** That said, polls suggest that he's still poised to pick up a big chunk of delegates on Tuesday, especially in states where he's had the airwaves mostly to himself. "His advisers vowed Saturday night that Bloomberg will stay in the race at least through Super Tuesday," [Cleve Wootson and Michael Scherer reported](#). "They cited internal campaign

data showing that if Bloomberg dropped out it would strengthen Sanders, whose left-leaning policies the former mayor abhors. His campaign announced Saturday that he will buy three minutes of commercial airtime nationally at 8:30 p.m. Sunday night to present his vision for managing the current coronavirus outbreak.”

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**Biden will undoubtedly get some bounce from South Carolina, especially in the seven Southern states that vote on Tuesday, but how big will it be?** African Americans accounted for 57 percent of the electorate in South Carolina’s Democratic primary, [according to our exit polling](#). Biden won 61 percent of the black vote, followed by Sanders at 16 percent. He also beat Sanders among white voters, though only 34 percent to 23 percent, with Buttigieg pulling 16 percent.

**It’s a big break for Biden that Buttigieg, Klobuchar and Warren have so utterly failed to racially diversify their coalitions.** None of the three will get any delegates out of South Carolina, despite campaigning extensively there over the past year. Warren got 5 percent of the black vote, Buttigieg got 3 percent and Klobuchar got less than 1 percent. It’s impossible to become the Democratic nominee with those kinds of numbers. Klobuchar has been unable to translate her momentum from the overwhelmingly white states of Iowa and New Hampshire into either of the racially diverse states that followed. If demographics alone are destiny, Biden is also poised to fare well in Florida on March 17 and Georgia on March 24.

**An [NBC News-Marist poll](#) published Sunday morning shows a neck-and-neck primary in North Carolina, with 26 percent for Sanders and 24 percent for Biden.** This is well within the margin of error. The other Southern states voting Tuesday are Virginia, Tennessee,



Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. African Americans account for a sizable share of the population in all six, but with Alabama as an exception, the black vote will account for a much smaller share of the electorate than in South Carolina.



That's one of several ways that **South Carolina was uniquely favorable terrain for Biden.** The 77-year-old has literally – literally! – spent decades cultivating relationships that paid off. He's vacationed there in the summers. He traveled there constantly during his eight years as vice president. More than 3 in 4 voters in the primary viewed him favorably, according to the exit poll. Only 51 percent of voters viewed Sanders favorably. About half of voters said the endorsement of Biden by Rep. [Jim Clyburn](#) (D-S.C.) on Wednesday was an “important” factor in their vote. “You brought me back,” Biden told Clyburn in his victory speech. Biden does not have so many deep relationships in the upcoming states.

**South Carolina also lacks partisan voter registration, so it was an open primary. Many moderates who voted in the GOP primary in 2016 appear to have cast ballots in the Democratic primary for Biden.** Turnout was at least 527,728, a sharp increase from 373,063 four years ago. It's on par with the 2008 turnout of 532,151, when Barack Obama beat Hillary Clinton, but there was also a competitive

Republican primary that year. The electorate in South Carolina was far more moderate than in the first three states. Self-identified moderates and conservatives accounted for about half of all voters, compared to a third in the Iowa and Nevada caucuses and slightly more than that in the New Hampshire primary, according to analysis by Dan Keating and Scott Clement.

**South Carolinians weren't looking for a revolution.** More than half of voters overall – and two-thirds of black voters – said they want a return to the policies of the Obama administration, according to the exit polls. Biden won that group by more than 5 to 1 over Sanders. By contrast, a quarter of voters wanted to break from Obama and move to more liberal policies, and they favored Sanders over Biden by 37 percent to 22 percent.

**More than 7 in 10 South Carolina voters were 45 or older. That's the highest percentage of any of the first four states by far.** Biden [won](#) this group over Sanders by 3 to 1. Sanders won among voters under age 30, but Biden beat him by 5 percent among voters between the ages of 30 to 44, by 37 points among those ages 45 to 64 and by 55 points among seniors. (I wrote on Friday about [Sanders's struggles with older voters.](#))

**South Carolina's electorate was also particularly religious, more so than some of the upcoming states.** More than 4 out of 10 Democratic primary voters reported attending religious services once a week or more, compared to 13 percent in New Hampshire. Sanders does better among those who go to church less often. Among those who went to church at least once a week in South Carolina, Biden won 57 percent.



## Quote of the day

*“You cannot win 'em all,” Sanders said, reacting to South Carolina’s results during a rally in Virginia. “And that will not be the only defeat. There are a lot of states in this country, and nobody wins them all.”*

**Sanders remains the front-runner for the nomination, but he needs a commanding performance on Tuesday to keep that status.** He’s heavily favored in California, the biggest delegate prize of the year, where he will campaign later today. Polling published Friday [by CNN](#) showed Sanders leading in the Golden State with 35 percent. Others bunched up just below 15 percent: Warren was at 14 percent, Biden at 13 percent and Bloomberg at 12 percent. South Carolina might push Biden into viability, to collect delegates, in a bunch of districts.

**Another CNN poll showed Sanders leading in Texas, the second biggest prize on Tuesday, with 29 percent, followed by Biden at 20 percent,** Bloomberg at 18 percent, Warren at 15 percent and no one else in double digits. NBC and Marist released [a separate poll](#) this morning of Texas that showed Sanders with 34 percent and Biden trailing with 19 percent. Sanders’s lead is driven by strength among younger Latinos.

**“No day on this year’s primary-caucus calendar sets up any better for Sanders than this year’s Super Tuesday. Beyond that, primaries in the future are mostly closed, denying Sanders the votes of independents, one of his best constituencies,”** [Dan Balz explained](#). “Campaign strategists can’t say just how well Sanders will be positioned after Super Tuesday. There are simply too many variables — too many candidates, too much fluidity and too many combinations about possible outcomes. Campaigns have been modeling the states and constantly tweaking internal projections. As one strategist put it: ‘It’s an insane Rubik’s cube.’”

**On Tuesday, 1,357 delegates are up for grabs. To clinch the nomination, a candidate needs 1,991 delegates.** “Estimates of delegate totals and of Sanders’s possible margins vary significantly,” Balz reported. “At the high end, say strategists inside the campaigns as well as outside analysts, Sanders could emerge from Tuesday’s contests leading his closest competitor by 300 to as high as 400 delegates. That would put him firmly in command of the race though still might leave him short of a majority going into the convention. At the lower end of estimates, the consensus is that Sanders’s delegate margin could be in the range of 200 or 250. That would still give Sanders the advantage but could be a more manageable margin to overcome for one of the other candidates, but only if the field quickly shrinks after Tuesday.

**“One non-campaign analysis calculates that Sanders could win between 600 and 700 delegates on Tuesday with the next-highest candidate in the range of 300 to 500.** Sanders could emerge with a 2-to-1 lead over his closest challenger, but still well below 50 percent overall. But these are merely possible scenarios, not predictions, and were all based on information before South Carolina voted. Faiz Shakir, Sanders’s campaign manager, sought to play down suggestions that Sanders will come out of Super Tuesday with a lead of more than 300.”



**The Sanders campaign said this morning that it raised \$46.5 million in February.** “The cash infusion came from 2.2 million individual donations, including more than 350,000 people who gave to the Sanders campaign for the first time,” [Sean Sullivan reported](#). “On Saturday alone, the campaign said it raised \$4.5 million. When President Obama was running for office in 2008, he raised \$55 million over the same time period. For Sanders, the sum marks a significant increase from the \$25 million it collected in January. Since the start of his second campaign for president last February, the campaign said it has raised more than \$167 million. The Sanders campaign did not immediately say how much money it had in its account at the end of February. It announced that it was purchasing airtime for TV ads in nine states that vote on March 10 and March 17.”

**Candidates are on defense in their home states tomorrow.**

Sanders, expected to easily carry his home state of Vermont, traveled to Massachusetts on Saturday, which Warren represents. **A new [Suffolk University-WBZ-Boston Globe poll](#) shows Sanders edging out Warren in Massachusetts 24 percent to 22 percent**, which is within the 4.4 percent margin of error, and Bloomberg, who was born in the Bay State, gets 13 percent. The poll puts Buttigieg in fourth place, with Biden in fifth.

**Sanders will go on Monday to Minnesota, which Klobuchar represents, in hopes of beating her on her home turf.** The Sanders campaign is putting on a concert in the Twin Cities at a venue that holds 18,000 people. A Star Tribune-Minnesota Public Radio [poll](#) released last weekend showed Klobuchar leading Sanders 29 percent to 23 percent in the state, with a 4.5 percentage point margin of error.



**Klobuchar seems likely to come under mounting pressure to drop out after Super Tuesday unless she fares well somewhere beyond Minnesota.** “First, she finished a surprisingly strong third in

New Hampshire, but otherwise she has been a nonentity,” [Aaron Blake explained](#). “Second, she’s the most ideologically similar to Biden, meaning her exit would most apparently accrue to his benefit. And lastly, Buttigieg has a better argument for staying in the race, given he notched a delegate win in Iowa and polls much better than her nationally. At the same time, given she is far back in the polls, it’s not clear how much Biden might gain by her dropping out. And Biden’s campaign is reportedly encouraging her to stay in, perhaps in hopes that she prevents Sanders from a significant delegate win in her home state.”

**But this seems poised to remain a multi-candidate race for a while.** Warren has not won a single delegate since the Iowa caucuses on Feb. 3. But she’s raised enough hard money to stick around for a while on account of her strong debate performances. She was, after all, a high school debate state champion in her native state of Oklahoma, which votes on Tuesday. And she’s now getting more than \$15 million of help from a super PAC after flip-flopping and reversing herself on accepting outside money.

**Warren campaign manager Roger Lau sent a memo to reporters this morning that suggests they’re focused on winning a contested convention.** “As the dust settles after March 3rd, the reality of this race will be clear: no candidate will likely have a path to the majority of delegates needed to win an outright claim to the Democratic nomination,” he wrote. “Our grassroots campaign is built to compete in every state and territory and ultimately prevail at the national convention in Milwaukee.”

**Buttigieg’s strategy is to maximize his delegate haul on Tuesday to stay in the hunt for Midwestern primaries in the following weeks.** Michigan and Missouri, for example, vote on March 10. Illinois and Ohio vote March 17. The former mayor said today on NBC’s “Meet the Press” that he’s staying in. “Nothing can take away from Vice President Biden's commanding victory,” said Buttigieg, adding that he knew “South Carolina was going to be a challenging state.”

“We have reached the conclusion that pushing forward is the best thing we can do for the country and for the party,” said the 38-year-old. “We’ll be assessing at every turn, ... making sure that every step we take is in the interest of the party and that goal of making sure we defeat Donald Trump.”

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## More from the states



**In Arkansas, there's no clear favorite.** “Arkansas, with 31 available delegates, is worth less than 3% of the total Democratic delegate share on Super Tuesday. The candidates vying for the Democratic nomination, however, have begun treating the state like a worthwhile battleground,” the [Democrat-Gazette](#) in Little Rock reports. “The reason, perhaps, is due to the lack of a clear front-runner -- or even several -- in this Republican-dominated state. In dozens of interviews with elected Democrats and other party leaders last week, [we] found that support remained split among no fewer than five candidates. Many said they are still waiting to decide for whom to vote. ‘This is really about the first time in 30 years in which there's not been a favorite daughter or favorite son in one of the contests, or someone like Al Gore, who is very clearly identified with a major figure from Arkansas,’ said Andrew Dowdle, a political science



professor at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.”

**In Colorado, many voters held back their mail-in ballots until the last minute.** “As Colorado voters have returned 1 million or so ballots in the last three weeks, Democratic ballots lagged Republican returns, suggesting that large numbers of voters planning to participate in the Democratic primary have held theirs back as they’ve watched the race’s drama play out in other states,” the [Denver Post](#) reports. “Among more than 50 undecided Colorado voters [we] surveyed or interviewed last week, it was clear many don’t fit into clear ‘liberal’ or ‘moderate’ lanes. While plenty were considering candidates in only one of those categories, others were mulling interesting combos — including several voters weighing a Sanders or a Warren (or both) against a Buttigieg or a Klobuchar.”

**Voters in California have also held on to their ballots, giving Biden additional hope.** “The portion of returned ballots at this stage is much lower than in recent elections — and his campaign is counting on a late surge of support among those holdouts after his dominant [South Carolina] performance on Saturday,” [Politico](#) reports. “Paul Mitchell, an elections expert who has tracked the number of returned vote-by-mail California ballots through Friday [said] he’s seen a significant drop-off among Democratic voters to date from the last two California presidential primaries. And the decline in returned ballots so far is occurring among the most dedicated voters: Those who have participated in the last five elections.”

**Election officials there are scrambling to address coronavirus concerns.** “While there were ‘no indications of any disruptions to California’s March 3, 2020 presidential primary,’ the California Secretary of State’s office [said] it will continue to monitor any public health alerts that could impact election administration,” [ABC News](#) reports. “Officials in Solano County, California are now taking precautionary measures and providing expanded options for voters, including offering an additional location for them to drop off ballots in advance of Super Tuesday. ... Voters ‘don’t even have to get out of their car and we’re going to expand

that on Monday and Tuesday,' said John Gardner, the assistant registrar of voters for Solano County. ... Gardner [said] every polling place and every poll worker will receive disinfectant wipes and spray, hand sanitizer and gloves as additional precautions. In the past, only sanitary wipes were provided to clean the voting equipment itself."

**Texans early voting has eclipsed the 2016 numbers.** "But voters in the state still cast even more early votes in the Republican primary than the Democratic contest, 1,070,278 to 954,583," [the Houston Chronicle reports](#). "The nearly 7 percent turnout on the Democratic side for the 15 counties with the most registered voters was above the 5 percent racked up after early voting in the 2016 presidential primary."

**Biden has long been popular with black voters in Texas. Will they stick with him?** "His lead in Texas polls has disappeared. Now many black voters in Texas and beyond are wondering aloud whether to look elsewhere. If they do en masse, it could effectively end his campaign," [the Texas Tribune reports](#). "To be sure, Biden does have support from some prominent black Texas leaders. U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey, D-Fort Worth, an early Biden backer, said last weekend on CNN that black voters 'here in the state of Texas — they will not forget that Bernie Sanders threatened to primary President Obama in 2012.' But Carroll Robinson, the chairman of the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats, said Biden 'took his support among black voters for granted, and his outreach wasn't as assertive as, say, Bloomberg.'"

**In Minnesota, the Catholic archdiocese asked priests not to vote in the Democratic primary over concerns that they'd appear "partisan."** Under the state's system, voters request whichever party's ballot they want, and that preference is recorded and sent to chairs of all four political parties in the state, [the Star Tribune reports](#).

**In Maine, Klobuchar presented herself as a centrist capable of bringing the party together.** "I think Maine, that practical state that you are, understands that it's important to have bold ideas that can actually get done," she told a crowd of several hundred, per the Portland

[Press Herald](#). Last week, Maine's Bangor Daily News [endorsed](#) Klobuchar while ripping Sanders.

**In Tennessee, Buttigieg promised to unify the country.** "Buttigieg came to Nashville Saturday to make the case that he could unite a coalition of Democrats, independents and 'future former Republicans' strong enough to defeat [Trump]," [the Tennessean reports](#). "Buttigieg drew a crowd of about 2,700 to Public Square Park next to Nashville's city hall ... It was perhaps the largest showing a Democratic candidate has drawn in the city this cycle. ... Nashville Mayor John Cooper attended the rally a day after attending a Klobuchar fundraiser. ... Despite attending fundraisers for some candidates, Cooper said he has not donated to any. He also has not endorsed."

**Utah will participate in Super Tuesday for the first time.** "It's not even the 12th biggest prize for the Democratic presidential hopefuls vying to snatch up as many delegates as they can on their march to the nomination," [the Salt Lake Tribune reports](#). "But the state's contest matters, as shown by the rare campaign visits, the stream of ads and the excitement of voters casting a ballot in what is still a wide-open race. ... That's different from previous cycles, when Utah's primary landed later in the spring, too late in many ways to be part of the game." In 2016, Sanders beat Clinton with nearly 80 percent. Aiming for a similar outcome this time around, Sanders will visit Salt Lake City on Monday.

**Biden, Buttigieg, Bloomberg and Klobuchar will address the AIPAC conference with video messages, four years after organizers rejected an offer from Sanders to deliver a video message during his previous presidential campaign.** ([Jerusalem Post](#))

**Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, meanwhile, assailed Sanders at the conference as an "ignorant fool."** "Whoever calls the prime minister of Israel a 'racist' is either a liar, an ignorant fool, or both," Danny Danon said. "We don't want Sanders at AIPAC. We don't want him in Israel." ([Times of Israel](#))

**A great Sunday read: What the reckonings of a suburban Southern white woman say about Trump’s chances.** Miranda Murphey “is 39, a high school English teacher with a PhD and part of a voting demographic whose rebellion could upend the political map of the country: not just suburban women, not just white suburban women, but white suburban women in the South, whose loyalty Trump will need to remain in power,” [Stephanie McCrummen reports](#). "She first started reevaluating her politics after the election of Barack Obama, even though she had voted Republican. ... Then came Trump, who Miranda found so morally repugnant that for the first time in her voting life she wrote in the name of the Libertarian Party candidate and went to bed expecting that good and decent conservatives would do the same. She woke up realizing she was wrong. Church members had voted for Trump. Her parents had gone for Trump. [Her husband]: Trump. And then came Liz, a new English teacher in her district ... She was not like anyone Miranda had met before, a Republican who’d become a Democrat and who described her Trump-era self as a ‘full-on rage machine.’ ... Miranda was surprised by how often she found herself seeing what Liz meant.”

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## The coronavirus



## Trump unveiled new travel restrictions after the first death on U.S. soil.

“A man in his 50s with an underlying health condition became the first person in the United States to die of coronavirus infection,” [William Wan, Katie Mettler, Miriam Berger and Carolyn Johnson report](#). “Along with the fatality in Washington state, health officials in the Seattle area confirmed two additional cases of the covid-19 disease and a possible outbreak at a long-term nursing facility — raising alarm because the elderly and sick are among those most vulnerable to the virus. **Officials in California’s Santa Clara County announced another case Saturday, and Illinois announced another case Saturday evening.** The new cases bring the number of people apparently infected by community spread of the disease to nine. ... One of the three new cases of infection is a health-care worker at the Life Care nursing home in Kirkland, Wash. Another is a woman in her 70s from the nursing home, now in serious condition... The man who died was not associated with the nursing home. ...

**“As news of the first fatality broke, Trump announced he would extend an existing travel ban on Iran to apply to any foreign nationals who had been in that country over the past 14 days.** He also raised the warning level for travel to Italy and South Korea, recommending Americans not travel to certain regions of those countries

with outbreaks of the virus. Trump said he is also considering restrictions across the southern U.S. border. ... At the hastily convened news conference, Trump described the patient who died as a 'wonderful woman' in her late 50s. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention later issued a statement saying it had mistakenly described the patient's gender in a briefing to Trump and Vice President Pence, and local health officials clarified the deceased patient was a man. Trump praised his administration's response to the virus, calling his earlier decision to ban foreign nationals from China 'a lifesaver,' and he urged people to remain calm and to go on living their lives normally. 'Healthy people, if you're healthy, you will probably go through a process and you'll be fine,' Trump said. ...

**“On Saturday, the Food and Drug Administration took steps to expand testing by speeding up certified hospital laboratories' ability to create and use their own tests, following complaints from many labs.** The FDA also approved a test developed by New York state laboratories, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said, making New York the first state able to use its own test. ... An unreleased report from a branch of the State Department obtained by The Washington Post on Saturday found roughly 2 million tweets already [peddling conspiracy theories about the coronavirus](#), raising worries about Silicon Valley's preparedness to combat a surge of dangerous disinformation online. Trying to avoid panic, Pence said Saturday that the average American does not need to buy face masks because of the coronavirus, echoing worries by health officials that hoarding such supplies may put health workers at risk in coming weeks.”

**The administration continues trying to contain not just the virus, but also its political damage.**

“Interviews with nearly two dozen administration officials, former White House aides, public health experts and lawmakers ... portray a White House scrambling to gain control of a rudderless response defined by bureaucratic infighting, confusion and misinformation 'It's complete chaos,' a senior administration official said. 'Everyone is just trying to get a handle on what the [expletive] is going on,'” [Yasmeen Abutaleb, Ashley](#)

[Parker and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Personal animosities between [Health Secretary Alex] Azar and senior members of the White House — including [acting chief of staff Mick] Mulvaney and Joe Grogan, the director of the Domestic Policy Council — also complicated response efforts, several senior administration officials said. Several officials said those relationships have never recovered from past battles ...

**“Administration officials [continued plowing] forward with their previous schedules, modifying them only slightly as they tried to minimize the coronavirus threat.** Mulvaney spoke, as previously planned, at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference outside Washington, where he assured the crowd, ‘We know how to handle this,’ and accused the news media of overhyping the virus to ‘bring down the president.’ Pence, too, continued with a prior commitment Friday evening — a closed-door, high-dollar fundraiser in Sarasota, Fla. — while tacking on a brief coronavirus response meeting with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) at the airport ... And Trump held a long-standing campaign rally Friday in North Charleston, S.C., where he accused Democrats of ‘politicizing’ the coronavirus. ‘And this is their new hoax,’ the president crowed from the stage.”

## **Nancy Pelosi will bring a coronavirus funding bill to the floor this week.**

The House speaker didn’t indicate a price tag, but “she said the funding package must be new money and ‘not stolen from other accounts.’ She said House appropriators will work to ensure there is a firewall around the funds so the president cannot use the money for anything other than fighting the coronavirus,” [Colby Itkowitz reports](#). “Pelosi said the funding package should also include money to make eventual vaccines available to everyone, loans for small businesses hurt by disruptions, and reimbursement for state and local governments responding to outbreaks.”

## **The outbreak is creating huge medical bills.**

“Frank Wucinski and his 3-year-old daughter, Annabel, are among the dozens of Americans the government has flown back to the country from

Wuhan, China, and put under quarantine to check for signs of coronavirus. Now they are among what could become a growing number of families hit with surprise medical bills related to government-mandated actions,” [the NYT reports](#). “Both have repeatedly tested negative for the virus. After their release from quarantine, Mr. Wucinski and his daughter went to stay with his mother in Harrisburg, Pa. That’s where they found a pile of medical bills waiting: \$3,918 in charges from hospital doctors, radiologists and an ambulance company. ‘I assumed it was all being paid for,’ Mr. Wucinski said. ‘We didn’t have a choice.’ ... The federal government has the authority to quarantine and isolate patients if officials believe them to be a public health threat. These powers, which date back to cholera outbreaks among ship passengers in the late 19th century, are rarely used. They don’t say anything about who pays when the isolation happens in a nongovernmental medical facility — or when they’re brought there by a private ambulance company.”

### **Australia also reported its first coronavirus death.**

“A 78-year-old man who contracted the coronavirus after spending time on the Diamond Princess cruise ship died Saturday in a Perth hospital, becoming Australia’s first death from the disease. The man and his 79-year-old wife were among 164 Australians who were evacuated from the cruise ship, which was docked in Japan while people on board were quarantined, and flown to Australia for treatment last week,” [Derek Hawkins reports](#). “His wife was also placed in isolation, where she tested positive Friday. Robertson said she was in stable condition. ‘She had the opportunity to talk to him prior to his death, but she’s understandably quite upset. And I obviously ask that people respect their privacy,’ Robertson told Australia’s national broadcaster.”

### **China and South Korea reported hundreds of new cases.**

“Chinese health officials early Sunday, local time, reported an additional 573 confirmed cases of the coronavirus and 35 deaths on the country’s mainland. In keeping with the pattern throughout the outbreak, the vast majority of those cases and deaths were in Hubei province, where the



virus first emerged. The total number of cases on the mainland reached 79,824, and the total number of deaths hit 2,870,” [Marisa Iati reports](#). “In nearby South Korea, health officials reported 376 additional cases of the coronavirus, 333 of which were in the southern city of Daegu. ... The total number of cases in South Korea stands at 3,526, and the death count is 17.”

### **Italy became the third country to have more than 1,000 coronavirus cases.**

“The latest data, according to the Italian government, shows that 1,049 people nationwide are positive for the virus, and another 29 have died. More than half of the cases are in the wealthy northern region of Lombardy, which includes Milan. But a handful of cases have popped up as far south as Sicily and Puglia,” [Chico Harlan reports](#).

### **Mexico hit back at Trump’s comments on possibly closing the border.**

With polite astonishment, Mexico noted “that ‘there are four cases of covid-19 registered in our country and 22 in the U.S.’ The Foreign Ministry said the U.S. and Mexican governments were in close contact on the issue, and Mexico was willing to cooperate with Washington to protect public health,” [Mary Beth Sheridan reports](#). “Few cases of coronavirus have been reported in Latin America. Ecuador reported its first confirmed case Saturday, and two cases have been confirmed in Brazil.”

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## **A peace deal in Afghanistan**



Abdul Ghani Baradar, right, who led the Taliban delegation, and U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad sign the deal. (Ibraheem Al Omari/Reuters)

## The agreement signed with the Taliban in Doha set a timetable for U.S. withdrawal.

“The agreement to end the brutal U.S.-Taliban conflict in Afghanistan ... was signed on Saturday under the gaze of tough men in turbans, who clapped and shouted ‘Allahu akbar!’” [Karen DeYoung reports](#). “Trump hailed the accord, formalized with signatures and a handshake between U.S. negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad and his Taliban counterpart, Abdul Ghani Baradar, as historic. ... Trump said he would be ‘meeting personally with Taliban leaders in the not too distant future.’ Asked whether such a meeting would be overseas, or if he would invite them to Camp David, an idea he broached last year, he said, ‘We’re looking at that.’ Senior administration officials, while claiming success, offered slightly more tempered expressions of optimism. ...

**“Many veterans of the years-long efforts to end the war and leave a stable Afghanistan, as well as Trump supporters, questioned whether the new agreement laid a sturdy groundwork for permanent peace. Some described it as a**

capitulation to the Taliban, whose primary demand has always been the full departure of foreign troops. ... Some senior military and intelligence officials 'are concerned that the administration is putting too much stock in the promises of the Taliban,' who will 'simply sign anything to get us to leave,' [said a former senior defense official]. ...

**"The conditions in the agreement appeared to relate far more to the insurgents' promises to stop attacking the Americans as they leave, and to sever ties with other terrorist groups, rather than a long-term solution for Afghans.** ... The agreement includes a Taliban commitment to start direct negotiations with the Afghan government over a cease-fire and political settlement of the war within 10 days. Those negotiations, tentatively to be held in Norway, are already complicated by political upheaval in Kabul, where President Ashraf Ghani's recent reelection is under challenge and there are major fights over the composition of a negotiating team. The agenda for the talks is massive, including a comprehensive cease-fire, the role of the Taliban in a future government, and rights for women and civil society. No format has been established, and there is no deadline for completion. ...

**"The agreement also provides for the 'expeditious' release by March 10 of up to 5,000 Taliban prisoners and up to 1,000 prisoners held by 'the other side,' and the release of all remaining prisoners within the subsequent three months.** It does not mention whether 'the other side' includes Taliban prisoners being held by the United States, including some at the detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. ... John Bolton, Trump's former national security adviser, called the deal 'an unacceptable risk to the United States' civilian population.' ... At his news conference, Trump indicated that the Taliban would take over the fight against the Islamic State and others, although the agreement, and a separate joint declaration with the Afghan government, cite only Taliban responsibilities for preventing terrorist groups from activities within territory under Taliban control."

**The Afghan government also questioned aspects of the deal.**

“Freeing Taliban prisoners is not [under] the authority of America, but the authority of the Afghan government. There has been no commitment for the release of 5,000 prisoners,’ Ghani told reporters gathered inside the palace in Kabul on Sunday. Ghani said the prisoner swap could be discussed during talks with the Taliban but could not be a precondition,” [Susannah George reports](#). "The peace deal did not mention [the] future of the period of reduced violence that preceded the deal’s signing. Following the signing ceremony Saturday, Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen said the week-long period of reduced violence has ‘ended.’ Ghani, however, said Sunday that the reduction in violence would extend and eventually transform into a cease-fire.”

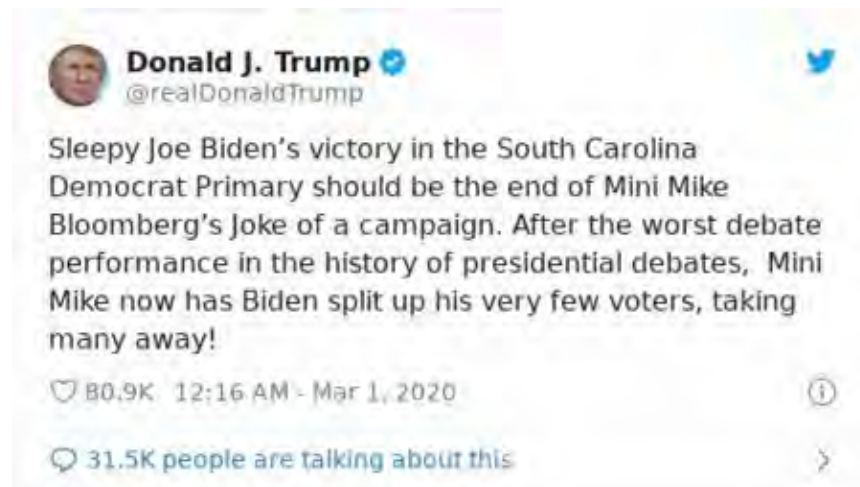
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## Social media speed read

Buttigieg met with Jimmy Carter in Georgia this morning:



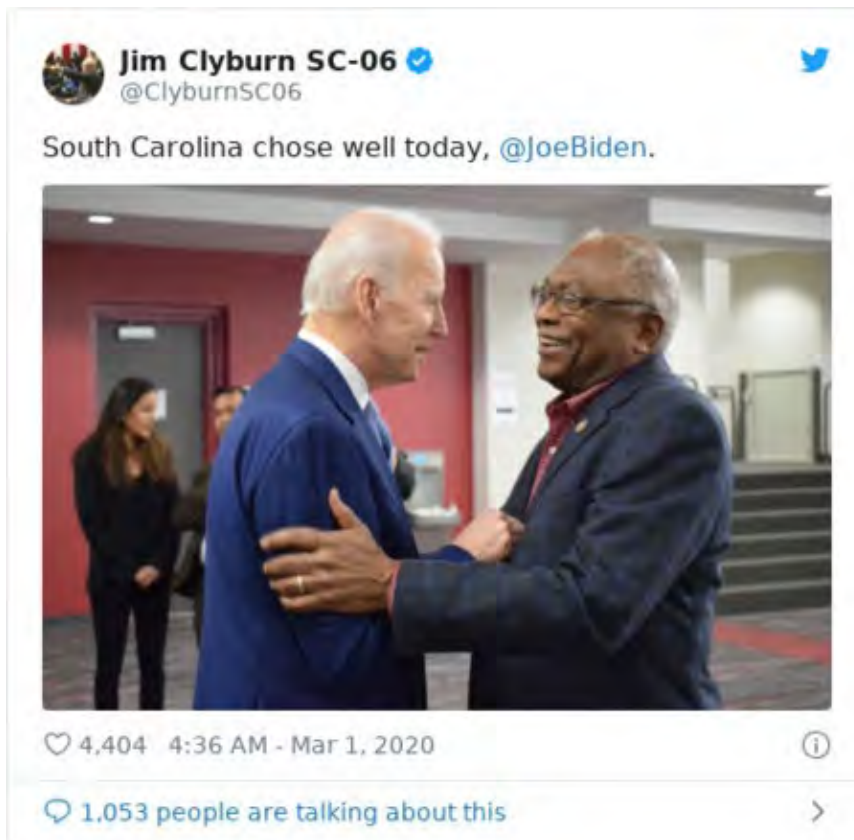
Trump reacted to the South Carolina results:



Steyer responded:



Clyburn celebrated his kingmaker status:



## Videos of the day

“Saturday Night Live” opened with a coronavirus press conference:



Colin Jost and Michael Che had thoughts about Trump's coronavirus response:



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# The Daily 202

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By **James Hohmann**

*with Mariana Alfaro*

Email

## Joe Biden's firewall holds. What his South Carolina comeback means for Super Tuesday.

Thirty-three years after launching his first of three presidential campaigns, Joe Biden finally won a primary on Saturday. The former vice president's landslide in South Carolina was sweeping enough that he received more total votes across the first four early states than Bernie Sanders. The lopsided victory bolsters Biden's argument going into Super Tuesday that he's the Democratic Party's most viable alternative to the independent senator from Vermont.



He wasn't subtle about making this case during his celebratory speech in Columbia, S.C. "If the Democrats want a nominee who's a Democrat – a lifelong Democrat, a proud Democrat, an Obama-Biden Democrat – then join us," he said. "For all those who've been knocked down, counted out, left behind, this is your campaign! Just days ago, the press and pundits declared this candidacy dead. Now, thanks to all of you, the heart of the Democratic Party, we've just won, and we've won big because of you. And we are very much alive!"



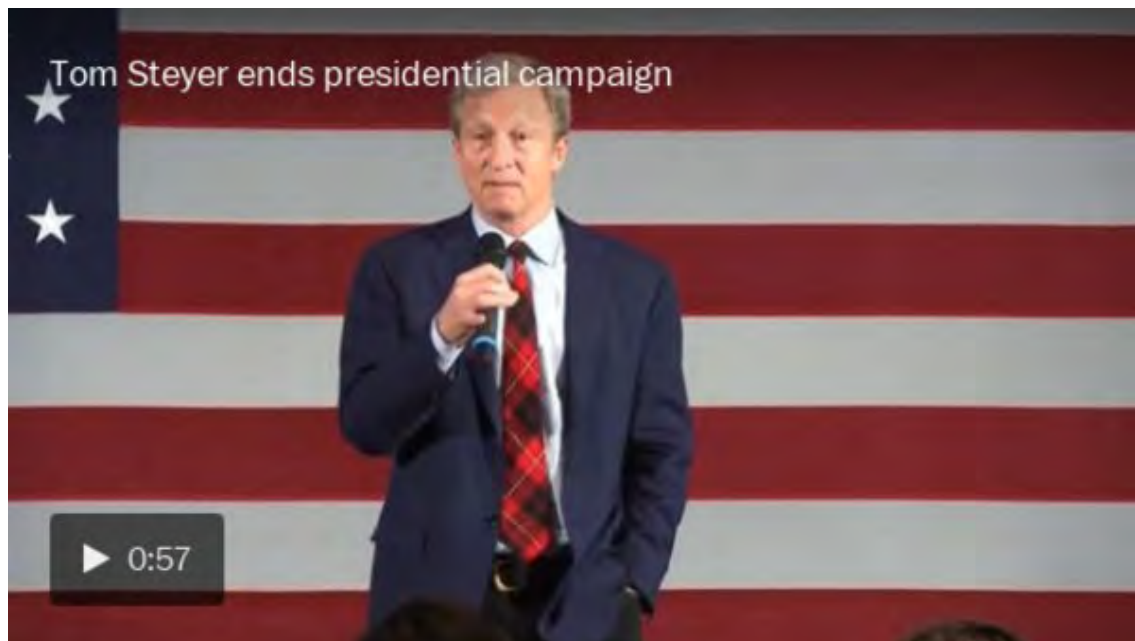
With 100 percent of precincts [reporting](#), **Biden won 48 percent in the Palmetto State – carrying every county and winning among every significant demographic group.** Sanders trailed, with 20 percent. Billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer [dropped out](#) after finishing third with 11 percent, under the 15 percent threshold required to get delegates. Former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg finished fourth, with 8 percent, followed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.), with 7 percent, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Minn.), with 3 percent. Sanders received the most votes in Nevada, New Hampshire and Iowa, but he never garnered more than 34 percent of the vote, and Buttigieg narrowly won more delegates from the Iowa caucuses.

**The most significant question in American politics at this**

**moment is whether Biden will be able to capitalize on Tuesday**, when 14 states, plus American Samoa, award 34 percent of the delegates to the Democratic convention.

**Biden has rolled out a string of endorsements since Saturday night**, including from former Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe, Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), former senator Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) and former DNC chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who remains a congresswoman from Florida. Biden also just unveiled the endorsement of Selma, Ala., Mayor Darrio Melton. Several of the candidates are in Selma today for the anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

**Biden announced Sunday morning that he had raised \$5 million in the past 24 hours, but he hasn't been advertising nearly as much as several of his rivals in the states that vote on March 3.** His victory speech was crisp and punchy, but he remains gaffe prone and uneven on the stump. Even if he manages to emerge from this week as the most obvious alternative to Sanders, the field looks certain to stay fragmented for some time – which works to Sanders's advantage.



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**Steyer's failure is a red flag for Mike Bloomberg. The former New York mayor skipped the first four states, but Steyer's play in South Carolina was Bloomberg's Super Tuesday strategy in miniature. And it didn't work.** Steyer put nearly \$200 million of his personal fortune into his campaign and focused more on South Carolina than anywhere else, advocating forcefully for paying reparations to the descendants of slaves and focusing on fighting climate change along the Eastern Seaboard in a coastal state. Steyer spent \$23.6 million on television advertising alone in South Carolina, out of a total of \$36 million spent by all the candidates, according to the tracking firm Advertising Analytics. This got him into double digits, but he underperformed where he'd been in recent polling. All told, Steyer spent about \$395 on commercials for every vote he received in South Carolina.

**Bloomberg has spent about half a billion dollars in the three months he's been running. But he has lost a lot of his luster since he fared so poorly in the first debate and faced mounting scrutiny.** That said, polls suggest that he's still poised to pick up a big chunk of delegates on Tuesday, especially in states where he's had the airwaves mostly to himself. "His advisers vowed Saturday night that Bloomberg will stay in the race at least through Super Tuesday," [Cleve Wootson and Michael Scherer reported](#). "They cited internal campaign

data showing that if Bloomberg dropped out it would strengthen Sanders, whose left-leaning policies the former mayor abhors. His campaign announced Saturday that he will buy three minutes of commercial airtime nationally at 8:30 p.m. Sunday night to present his vision for managing the current coronavirus outbreak.”

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**Biden will undoubtedly get some bounce from South Carolina, especially in the seven Southern states that vote on Tuesday, but how big will it be?** African Americans accounted for 57 percent of the electorate in South Carolina’s Democratic primary, [according to our exit polling](#). Biden won 61 percent of the black vote, followed by Sanders at 16 percent. He also beat Sanders among white voters, though only 34 percent to 23 percent, with Buttigieg pulling 16 percent.

**It’s a big break for Biden that Buttigieg, Klobuchar and Warren have so utterly failed to racially diversify their coalitions.** None of the three will get any delegates out of South Carolina, despite campaigning extensively there over the past year. Warren got 5 percent of the black vote, Buttigieg got 3 percent and Klobuchar got less than 1 percent. It’s impossible to become the Democratic nominee with those kinds of numbers. Klobuchar has been unable to translate her momentum from the overwhelmingly white states of Iowa and New Hampshire into either of the racially diverse states that followed. If demographics alone are destiny, Biden is also poised to fare well in Florida on March 17 and Georgia on March 24.

**An [NBC News-Marist poll](#) published Sunday morning shows a neck-and-neck primary in North Carolina, with 26 percent for Sanders and 24 percent for Biden.** This is well within the margin of error. The other Southern states voting Tuesday are Virginia, Tennessee,

Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. African Americans account for a sizable share of the population in all six, but with Alabama as an exception, the black vote will account for a much smaller share of the electorate than in South Carolina.



That's one of several ways that **South Carolina was uniquely favorable terrain for Biden.** The 77-year-old has literally – literally! – spent decades cultivating relationships that paid off. He's vacationed there in the summers. He traveled there constantly during his eight years as vice president. More than 3 in 4 voters in the primary viewed him favorably, according to the exit poll. Only 51 percent of voters viewed Sanders favorably. About half of voters said the endorsement of Biden by Rep. [Jim Clyburn](#) (D-S.C.) on Wednesday was an “important” factor in their vote. “You brought me back,” Biden told Clyburn in his victory speech. Biden does not have so many deep relationships in the upcoming states.

**South Carolina also lacks partisan voter registration, so it was an open primary. Many moderates who voted in the GOP primary in 2016 appear to have cast ballots in the Democratic primary for Biden.** Turnout was at least 527,728, a sharp increase from 373,063 four years ago. It's on par with the 2008 turnout of 532,151, when Barack Obama beat Hillary Clinton, but there was also a competitive

Republican primary that year. The electorate in South Carolina was far more moderate than in the first three states. Self-identified moderates and conservatives accounted for about half of all voters, compared to a third in the Iowa and Nevada caucuses and slightly more than that in the New Hampshire primary, according to analysis by Dan Keating and Scott Clement.

**South Carolinians weren't looking for a revolution.** More than half of voters overall – and two-thirds of black voters – said they want a return to the policies of the Obama administration, according to the exit polls. Biden won that group by more than 5 to 1 over Sanders. By contrast, a quarter of voters wanted to break from Obama and move to more liberal policies, and they favored Sanders over Biden by 37 percent to 22 percent.

**More than 7 in 10 South Carolina voters were 45 or older. That's the highest percentage of any of the first four states by far.** Biden [won](#) this group over Sanders by 3 to 1. Sanders won among voters under age 30, but Biden beat him by 5 percent among voters between the ages of 30 to 44, by 37 points among those ages 45 to 64 and by 55 points among seniors. (I wrote on Friday about [Sanders's struggles with older voters.](#))

**South Carolina's electorate was also particularly religious, more so than some of the upcoming states.** More than 4 out of 10 Democratic primary voters reported attending religious services once a week or more, compared to 13 percent in New Hampshire. Sanders does better among those who go to church less often. Among those who went to church at least once a week in South Carolina, Biden won 57 percent.



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## Quote of the day

*“You cannot win 'em all,” Sanders said, reacting to South Carolina’s results during a rally in Virginia. “And that will not be the only defeat. There are a lot of states in this country, and nobody wins them all.”*

**Sanders remains the front-runner for the nomination, but he needs a commanding performance on Tuesday to keep that status.** He’s heavily favored in California, the biggest delegate prize of the year, where he will campaign later today. Polling published Friday [by CNN](#) showed Sanders leading in the Golden State with 35 percent. Others bunched up just below 15 percent: Warren was at 14 percent, Biden at 13 percent and Bloomberg at 12 percent. South Carolina might push Biden into viability, to collect delegates, in a bunch of districts.

**Another CNN poll showed Sanders leading in Texas, the second biggest prize on Tuesday, with 29 percent, followed by Biden at 20 percent,** Bloomberg at 18 percent, Warren at 15 percent and no one else in double digits. NBC and Marist released [a separate poll](#) this morning of Texas that showed Sanders with 34 percent and Biden trailing with 19 percent. Sanders’s lead is driven by strength among younger Latinos.

**“No day on this year’s primary-caucus calendar sets up any better for Sanders than this year’s Super Tuesday. Beyond that, primaries in the future are mostly closed, denying Sanders the votes of independents, one of his best constituencies,”** [Dan Balz explained](#). “Campaign strategists can’t say just how well Sanders will be positioned after Super Tuesday. There are simply too many variables — too many candidates, too much fluidity and too many combinations about possible outcomes. Campaigns have been modeling the states and constantly tweaking internal projections. As one strategist put it: ‘It’s an insane Rubik’s cube.’”

**On Tuesday, 1,357 delegates are up for grabs. To clinch the nomination, a candidate needs 1,991 delegates.** “Estimates of delegate totals and of Sanders’s possible margins vary significantly,” Balz reported. “At the high end, say strategists inside the campaigns as well as outside analysts, Sanders could emerge from Tuesday’s contests leading his closest competitor by 300 to as high as 400 delegates. That would put him firmly in command of the race though still might leave him short of a majority going into the convention. At the lower end of estimates, the consensus is that Sanders’s delegate margin could be in the range of 200 or 250. That would still give Sanders the advantage but could be a more manageable margin to overcome for one of the other candidates, but only if the field quickly shrinks after Tuesday.

**“One non-campaign analysis calculates that Sanders could win between 600 and 700 delegates on Tuesday with the next-highest candidate in the range of 300 to 500.** Sanders could emerge with a 2-to-1 lead over his closest challenger, but still well below 50 percent overall. But these are merely possible scenarios, not predictions, and were all based on information before South Carolina voted. Faiz Shakir, Sanders’s campaign manager, sought to play down suggestions that Sanders will come out of Super Tuesday with a lead of more than 300.”





**The Sanders campaign said this morning that it raised \$46.5 million in February.** “The cash infusion came from 2.2 million individual donations, including more than 350,000 people who gave to the Sanders campaign for the first time,” [Sean Sullivan reported](#). “On Saturday alone, the campaign said it raised \$4.5 million. When President Obama was running for office in 2008, he raised \$55 million over the same time period. For Sanders, the sum marks a significant increase from the \$25 million it collected in January. Since the start of his second campaign for president last February, the campaign said it has raised more than \$167 million. The Sanders campaign did not immediately say how much money it had in its account at the end of February. It announced that it was purchasing airtime for TV ads in nine states that vote on March 10 and March 17.”

**Candidates are on defense in their home states tomorrow.**

Sanders, expected to easily carry his home state of Vermont, traveled to Massachusetts on Saturday, which Warren represents. **A new [Suffolk University-WBZ-Boston Globe](#) poll shows Sanders edging out Warren in Massachusetts 24 percent to 22 percent**, which is within the 4.4 percent margin of error, and Bloomberg, who was born in the Bay State, gets 13 percent. The poll puts Buttigieg in fourth place, with Biden in fifth.

**Sanders will go on Monday to Minnesota, which Klobuchar represents, in hopes of beating her on her home turf.** The Sanders campaign is putting on a concert in the Twin Cities at a venue that holds 18,000 people. A Star Tribune-Minnesota Public Radio [poll](#) released last weekend showed Klobuchar leading Sanders 29 percent to 23 percent in the state, with a 4.5 percentage point margin of error.



**Klobuchar seems likely to come under mounting pressure to drop out after Super Tuesday unless she fares well somewhere beyond Minnesota.** “First, she finished a surprisingly strong third in

New Hampshire, but otherwise she has been a nonentity,” [Aaron Blake explained](#). “Second, she’s the most ideologically similar to Biden, meaning her exit would most apparently accrue to his benefit. And lastly, Buttigieg has a better argument for staying in the race, given he notched a delegate win in Iowa and polls much better than her nationally. At the same time, given she is far back in the polls, it’s not clear how much Biden might gain by her dropping out. And Biden’s campaign is reportedly encouraging her to stay in, perhaps in hopes that she prevents Sanders from a significant delegate win in her home state.”

**But this seems poised to remain a multi-candidate race for a while.** Warren has not won a single delegate since the Iowa caucuses on Feb. 3. But she’s raised enough hard money to stick around for a while on account of her strong debate performances. She was, after all, a high school debate state champion in her native state of Oklahoma, which votes on Tuesday. And she’s now getting more than \$15 million of help from a super PAC after flip-flopping and reversing herself on accepting outside money.

**Warren campaign manager Roger Lau sent a memo to reporters this morning that suggests they’re focused on winning a contested convention.** “As the dust settles after March 3rd, the reality of this race will be clear: no candidate will likely have a path to the majority of delegates needed to win an outright claim to the Democratic nomination,” he wrote. “Our grassroots campaign is built to compete in every state and territory and ultimately prevail at the national convention in Milwaukee.”

**Buttigieg’s strategy is to maximize his delegate haul on Tuesday to stay in the hunt for Midwestern primaries in the following weeks.** Michigan and Missouri, for example, vote on March 10. Illinois and Ohio vote March 17. The former mayor said today on NBC’s “Meet the Press” that he’s staying in. “Nothing can take away from Vice President Biden's commanding victory,” said Buttigieg, adding that he knew “South Carolina was going to be a challenging state.”

“We have reached the conclusion that pushing forward is the best thing we can do for the country and for the party,” said the 38-year-old. “We’ll be assessing at every turn, ... making sure that every step we take is in the interest of the party and that goal of making sure we defeat Donald Trump.”

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## More from the states



**In Arkansas, there's no clear favorite.** “Arkansas, with 31 available delegates, is worth less than 3% of the total Democratic delegate share on Super Tuesday. The candidates vying for the Democratic nomination, however, have begun treating the state like a worthwhile battleground,” the [Democrat-Gazette](#) in Little Rock reports. “The reason, perhaps, is due to the lack of a clear front-runner -- or even several -- in this Republican-dominated state. In dozens of interviews with elected Democrats and other party leaders last week, [we] found that support remained split among no fewer than five candidates. Many said they are still waiting to decide for whom to vote. ‘This is really about the first time in 30 years in which there's not been a favorite daughter or favorite son in one of the contests, or someone like Al Gore, who is very clearly identified with a major figure from Arkansas,’ said Andrew Dowdle, a political science

professor at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.”

**In Colorado, many voters held back their mail-in ballots until the last minute.** “As Colorado voters have returned 1 million or so ballots in the last three weeks, Democratic ballots lagged Republican returns, suggesting that large numbers of voters planning to participate in the Democratic primary have held theirs back as they’ve watched the race’s drama play out in other states,” the [Denver Post](#) reports. “Among more than 50 undecided Colorado voters [we] surveyed or interviewed last week, it was clear many don’t fit into clear ‘liberal’ or ‘moderate’ lanes. While plenty were considering candidates in only one of those categories, others were mulling interesting combos — including several voters weighing a Sanders or a Warren (or both) against a Buttigieg or a Klobuchar.”

**Voters in California have also held on to their ballots, giving Biden additional hope.** “The portion of returned ballots at this stage is much lower than in recent elections — and his campaign is counting on a late surge of support among those holdouts after his dominant [South Carolina] performance on Saturday,” [Politico](#) reports. “Paul Mitchell, an elections expert who has tracked the number of returned vote-by-mail California ballots through Friday [said] he’s seen a significant drop-off among Democratic voters to date from the last two California presidential primaries. And the decline in returned ballots so far is occurring among the most dedicated voters: Those who have participated in the last five elections.”

**Election officials there are scrambling to address coronavirus concerns.** “While there were ‘no indications of any disruptions to California’s March 3, 2020 presidential primary,’ the California Secretary of State’s office [said] it will continue to monitor any public health alerts that could impact election administration,” [ABC News](#) reports. “Officials in Solano County, California are now taking precautionary measures and providing expanded options for voters, including offering an additional location for them to drop off ballots in advance of Super Tuesday. ... Voters ‘don’t even have to get out of their car and we’re going to expand

that on Monday and Tuesday,' said John Gardner, the assistant registrar of voters for Solano County. ... Gardner [said] every polling place and every poll worker will receive disinfectant wipes and spray, hand sanitizer and gloves as additional precautions. In the past, only sanitary wipes were provided to clean the voting equipment itself."

**Texans early voting has eclipsed the 2016 numbers.** "But voters in the state still cast even more early votes in the Republican primary than the Democratic contest, 1,070,278 to 954,583," [the Houston Chronicle reports](#). "The nearly 7 percent turnout on the Democratic side for the 15 counties with the most registered voters was above the 5 percent racked up after early voting in the 2016 presidential primary."

**Biden has long been popular with black voters in Texas. Will they stick with him?** "His lead in Texas polls has disappeared. Now many black voters in Texas and beyond are wondering aloud whether to look elsewhere. If they do en masse, it could effectively end his campaign," [the Texas Tribune reports](#). "To be sure, Biden does have support from some prominent black Texas leaders. U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey, D-Fort Worth, an early Biden backer, said last weekend on CNN that black voters 'here in the state of Texas — they will not forget that Bernie Sanders threatened to primary President Obama in 2012.' But Carroll Robinson, the chairman of the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats, said Biden 'took his support among black voters for granted, and his outreach wasn't as assertive as, say, Bloomberg.'"

**In Minnesota, the Catholic archdiocese asked priests not to vote in the Democratic primary over concerns that they'd appear "partisan."** Under the state's system, voters request whichever party's ballot they want, and that preference is recorded and sent to chairs of all four political parties in the state, [the Star Tribune reports](#).

**In Maine, Klobuchar presented herself as a centrist capable of bringing the party together.** "I think Maine, that practical state that you are, understands that it's important to have bold ideas that can actually get done," she told a crowd of several hundred, per the Portland

[Press Herald](#). Last week, Maine's Bangor Daily News [endorsed](#) Klobuchar while ripping Sanders.

**In Tennessee, Buttigieg promised to unify the country.** "Buttigieg came to Nashville Saturday to make the case that he could unite a coalition of Democrats, independents and 'future former Republicans' strong enough to defeat [Trump]," [the Tennessean reports](#). "Buttigieg drew a crowd of about 2,700 to Public Square Park next to Nashville's city hall ... It was perhaps the largest showing a Democratic candidate has drawn in the city this cycle. ... Nashville Mayor John Cooper attended the rally a day after attending a Klobuchar fundraiser. ... Despite attending fundraisers for some candidates, Cooper said he has not donated to any. He also has not endorsed."

**Utah will participate in Super Tuesday for the first time.** "It's not even the 12th biggest prize for the Democratic presidential hopefuls vying to snatch up as many delegates as they can on their march to the nomination," [the Salt Lake Tribune reports](#). "But the state's contest matters, as shown by the rare campaign visits, the stream of ads and the excitement of voters casting a ballot in what is still a wide-open race. ... That's different from previous cycles, when Utah's primary landed later in the spring, too late in many ways to be part of the game." In 2016, Sanders beat Clinton with nearly 80 percent. Aiming for a similar outcome this time around, Sanders will visit Salt Lake City on Monday.

**Biden, Buttigieg, Bloomberg and Klobuchar will address the AIPAC conference with video messages, four years after organizers rejected an offer from Sanders to deliver a video message during his previous presidential campaign.** ([Jerusalem Post](#))

**Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, meanwhile, assailed Sanders at the conference as an "ignorant fool."** "Whoever calls the prime minister of Israel a 'racist' is either a liar, an ignorant fool, or both," Danny Danon said. "We don't want Sanders at AIPAC. We don't want him in Israel." ([Times of Israel](#))

**A great Sunday read: What the reckonings of a suburban Southern white woman say about Trump’s chances.** Miranda Murphey “is 39, a high school English teacher with a PhD and part of a voting demographic whose rebellion could upend the political map of the country: not just suburban women, not just white suburban women, but white suburban women in the South, whose loyalty Trump will need to remain in power,” [Stephanie McCrummen reports](#). “She first started reevaluating her politics after the election of Barack Obama, even though she had voted Republican. ... Then came Trump, who Miranda found so morally repugnant that for the first time in her voting life she wrote in the name of the Libertarian Party candidate and went to bed expecting that good and decent conservatives would do the same. She woke up realizing she was wrong. Church members had voted for Trump. Her parents had gone for Trump. [Her husband]: Trump. And then came Liz, a new English teacher in her district ... She was not like anyone Miranda had met before, a Republican who’d become a Democrat and who described her Trump-era self as a ‘full-on rage machine.’ ... Miranda was surprised by how often she found herself seeing what Liz meant.”

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## The coronavirus





## Trump unveiled new travel restrictions after the first death on U.S. soil.

“A man in his 50s with an underlying health condition became the first person in the United States to die of coronavirus infection,” [William Wan, Katie Mettler, Miriam Berger and Carolyn Johnson report](#). “Along with the fatality in Washington state, health officials in the Seattle area confirmed two additional cases of the covid-19 disease and a possible outbreak at a long-term nursing facility — raising alarm because the elderly and sick are among those most vulnerable to the virus. **Officials in California’s Santa Clara County announced another case Saturday, and Illinois announced another case Saturday evening.** The new cases bring the number of people apparently infected by community spread of the disease to nine. ... One of the three new cases of infection is a health-care worker at the Life Care nursing home in Kirkland, Wash. Another is a woman in her 70s from the nursing home, now in serious condition... The man who died was not associated with the nursing home. ...

**“As news of the first fatality broke, Trump announced he would extend an existing travel ban on Iran to apply to any foreign nationals who had been in that country over the past 14 days.** He also raised the warning level for travel to Italy and South Korea, recommending Americans not travel to certain regions of those countries

with outbreaks of the virus. Trump said he is also considering restrictions across the southern U.S. border. ... At the hastily convened news conference, Trump described the patient who died as a 'wonderful woman' in her late 50s. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention later issued a statement saying it had mistakenly described the patient's gender in a briefing to Trump and Vice President Pence, and local health officials clarified the deceased patient was a man. Trump praised his administration's response to the virus, calling his earlier decision to ban foreign nationals from China 'a lifesaver,' and he urged people to remain calm and to go on living their lives normally. 'Healthy people, if you're healthy, you will probably go through a process and you'll be fine,' Trump said. ...

**“On Saturday, the Food and Drug Administration took steps to expand testing by speeding up certified hospital laboratories' ability to create and use their own tests, following complaints from many labs.** The FDA also approved a test developed by New York state laboratories, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said, making New York the first state able to use its own test. ... An unreleased report from a branch of the State Department obtained by The Washington Post on Saturday found roughly 2 million tweets already [peddling conspiracy theories about the coronavirus](#), raising worries about Silicon Valley's preparedness to combat a surge of dangerous disinformation online. Trying to avoid panic, Pence said Saturday that the average American does not need to buy face masks because of the coronavirus, echoing worries by health officials that hoarding such supplies may put health workers at risk in coming weeks.”

**The administration continues trying to contain not just the virus, but also its political damage.**

“Interviews with nearly two dozen administration officials, former White House aides, public health experts and lawmakers ... portray a White House scrambling to gain control of a rudderless response defined by bureaucratic infighting, confusion and misinformation 'It's complete chaos,' a senior administration official said. 'Everyone is just trying to get a handle on what the [expletive] is going on,’” [Yasmeen Abutaleb, Ashley](#)

[Parker and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Personal animosities between [Health Secretary Alex] Azar and senior members of the White House — including [acting chief of staff Mick] Mulvaney and Joe Grogan, the director of the Domestic Policy Council — also complicated response efforts, several senior administration officials said. Several officials said those relationships have never recovered from past battles ...

**“Administration officials [continued plowing] forward with their previous schedules, modifying them only slightly as they tried to minimize the coronavirus threat.** Mulvaney spoke, as previously planned, at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference outside Washington, where he assured the crowd, ‘We know how to handle this,’ and accused the news media of overhyping the virus to ‘bring down the president.’ Pence, too, continued with a prior commitment Friday evening — a closed-door, high-dollar fundraiser in Sarasota, Fla. — while tacking on a brief coronavirus response meeting with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) at the airport ... And Trump held a long-standing campaign rally Friday in North Charleston, S.C., where he accused Democrats of ‘politicizing’ the coronavirus. ‘And this is their new hoax,’ the president crowed from the stage.”

## **Nancy Pelosi will bring a coronavirus funding bill to the floor this week.**

The House speaker didn’t indicate a price tag, but “she said the funding package must be new money and ‘not stolen from other accounts.’ She said House appropriators will work to ensure there is a firewall around the funds so the president cannot use the money for anything other than fighting the coronavirus,” [Colby Itkowitz reports](#). “Pelosi said the funding package should also include money to make eventual vaccines available to everyone, loans for small businesses hurt by disruptions, and reimbursement for state and local governments responding to outbreaks.”

## **The outbreak is creating huge medical bills.**

“Frank Wucinski and his 3-year-old daughter, Annabel, are among the dozens of Americans the government has flown back to the country from

Wuhan, China, and put under quarantine to check for signs of coronavirus. Now they are among what could become a growing number of families hit with surprise medical bills related to government-mandated actions,” [the NYT reports](#). “Both have repeatedly tested negative for the virus. After their release from quarantine, Mr. Wucinski and his daughter went to stay with his mother in Harrisburg, Pa. That’s where they found a pile of medical bills waiting: \$3,918 in charges from hospital doctors, radiologists and an ambulance company. ‘I assumed it was all being paid for,’ Mr. Wucinski said. ‘We didn’t have a choice.’ ... The federal government has the authority to quarantine and isolate patients if officials believe them to be a public health threat. These powers, which date back to cholera outbreaks among ship passengers in the late 19th century, are rarely used. They don’t say anything about who pays when the isolation happens in a nongovernmental medical facility — or when they’re brought there by a private ambulance company.”

### **Australia also reported its first coronavirus death.**

“A 78-year-old man who contracted the coronavirus after spending time on the Diamond Princess cruise ship died Saturday in a Perth hospital, becoming Australia’s first death from the disease. The man and his 79-year-old wife were among 164 Australians who were evacuated from the cruise ship, which was docked in Japan while people on board were quarantined, and flown to Australia for treatment last week,” [Derek Hawkins reports](#). “His wife was also placed in isolation, where she tested positive Friday. Robertson said she was in stable condition. ‘She had the opportunity to talk to him prior to his death, but she’s understandably quite upset. And I obviously ask that people respect their privacy,’ Robertson told Australia’s national broadcaster.”

### **China and South Korea reported hundreds of new cases.**

“Chinese health officials early Sunday, local time, reported an additional 573 confirmed cases of the coronavirus and 35 deaths on the country’s mainland. In keeping with the pattern throughout the outbreak, the vast majority of those cases and deaths were in Hubei province, where the

virus first emerged. The total number of cases on the mainland reached 79,824, and the total number of deaths hit 2,870,” [Marisa Iati reports](#). “In nearby South Korea, health officials reported 376 additional cases of the coronavirus, 333 of which were in the southern city of Daegu. ... The total number of cases in South Korea stands at 3,526, and the death count is 17.”

### **Italy became the third country to have more than 1,000 coronavirus cases.**

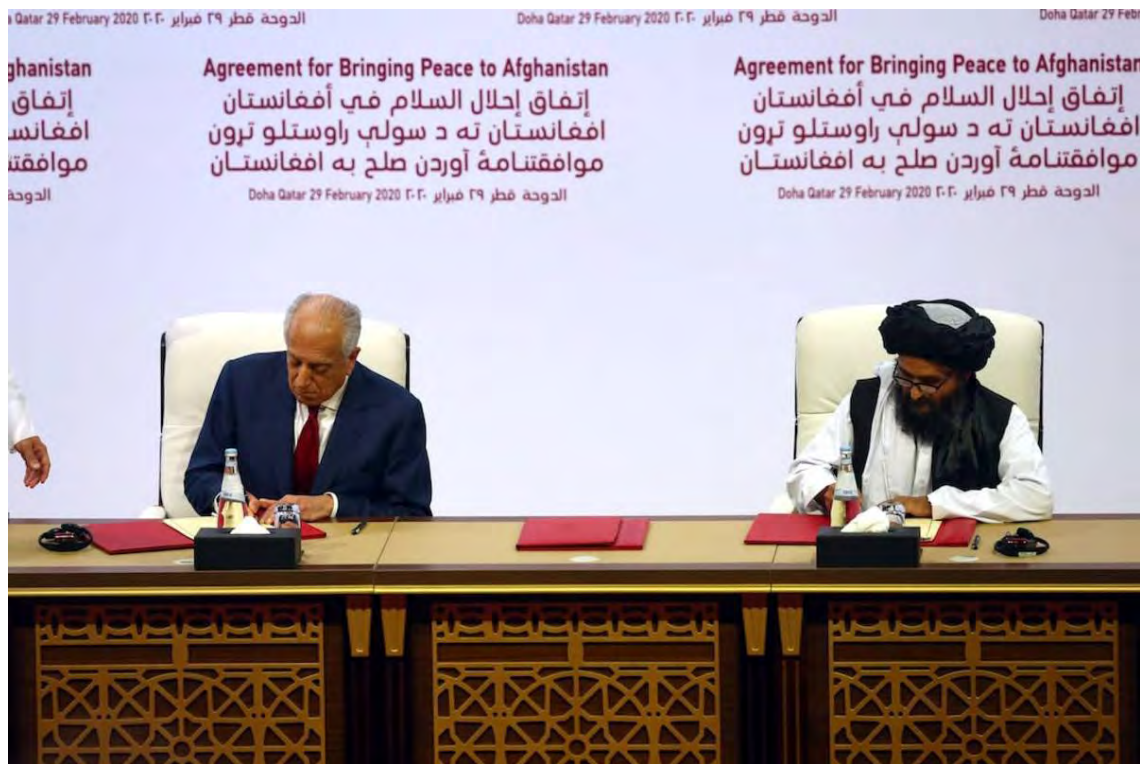
“The latest data, according to the Italian government, shows that 1,049 people nationwide are positive for the virus, and another 29 have died. More than half of the cases are in the wealthy northern region of Lombardy, which includes Milan. But a handful of cases have popped up as far south as Sicily and Puglia,” [Chico Harlan reports](#).

### **Mexico hit back at Trump’s comments on possibly closing the border.**

With polite astonishment, Mexico noted “that ‘there are four cases of covid-19 registered in our country and 22 in the U.S.’ The Foreign Ministry said the U.S. and Mexican governments were in close contact on the issue, and Mexico was willing to cooperate with Washington to protect public health,” [Mary Beth Sheridan reports](#). “Few cases of coronavirus have been reported in Latin America. Ecuador reported its first confirmed case Saturday, and two cases have been confirmed in Brazil.”

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## **A peace deal in Afghanistan**



Abdul Ghani Baradar, right, who led the Taliban delegation, and U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad sign the deal. (Ibraheem Al Omari/Reuters)

## The agreement signed with the Taliban in Doha set a timetable for U.S. withdrawal.

“The agreement to end the brutal U.S.-Taliban conflict in Afghanistan ... was signed on Saturday under the gaze of tough men in turbans, who clapped and shouted ‘Allahu akbar!’” [Karen DeYoung reports](#). “Trump hailed the accord, formalized with signatures and a handshake between U.S. negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad and his Taliban counterpart, Abdul Ghani Baradar, as historic. ... Trump said he would be ‘meeting personally with Taliban leaders in the not too distant future.’ Asked whether such a meeting would be overseas, or if he would invite them to Camp David, an idea he broached last year, he said, ‘We’re looking at that.’ Senior administration officials, while claiming success, offered slightly more tempered expressions of optimism. ...

**“Many veterans of the years-long efforts to end the war and leave a stable Afghanistan, as well as Trump supporters, questioned whether the new agreement laid a sturdy groundwork for permanent peace. Some described it as a**

capitulation to the Taliban, whose primary demand has always been the full departure of foreign troops. ... Some senior military and intelligence officials 'are concerned that the administration is putting too much stock in the promises of the Taliban,' who will 'simply sign anything to get us to leave,' [said a former senior defense official]. ...

**"The conditions in the agreement appeared to relate far more to the insurgents' promises to stop attacking the Americans as they leave, and to sever ties with other terrorist groups, rather than a long-term solution for Afghans.** ... The agreement includes a Taliban commitment to start direct negotiations with the Afghan government over a cease-fire and political settlement of the war within 10 days. Those negotiations, tentatively to be held in Norway, are already complicated by political upheaval in Kabul, where President Ashraf Ghani's recent reelection is under challenge and there are major fights over the composition of a negotiating team. The agenda for the talks is massive, including a comprehensive cease-fire, the role of the Taliban in a future government, and rights for women and civil society. No format has been established, and there is no deadline for completion. ...

**"The agreement also provides for the 'expeditious' release by March 10 of up to 5,000 Taliban prisoners and up to 1,000 prisoners held by 'the other side,' and the release of all remaining prisoners within the subsequent three months.** It does not mention whether 'the other side' includes Taliban prisoners being held by the United States, including some at the detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. ... John Bolton, Trump's former national security adviser, called the deal 'an unacceptable risk to the United States' civilian population.' ... At his news conference, Trump indicated that the Taliban would take over the fight against the Islamic State and others, although the agreement, and a separate joint declaration with the Afghan government, cite only Taliban responsibilities for preventing terrorist groups from activities within territory under Taliban control."

**The Afghan government also questioned aspects of the deal.**

“Freeing Taliban prisoners is not [under] the authority of America, but the authority of the Afghan government. There has been no commitment for the release of 5,000 prisoners,’ Ghani told reporters gathered inside the palace in Kabul on Sunday. Ghani said the prisoner swap could be discussed during talks with the Taliban but could not be a precondition,” [Susannah George reports](#). "The peace deal did not mention [the] future of the period of reduced violence that preceded the deal’s signing. Following the signing ceremony Saturday, Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen said the week-long period of reduced violence has ‘ended.’ Ghani, however, said Sunday that the reduction in violence would extend and eventually transform into a cease-fire.”

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## Social media speed read

Buttigieg met with Jimmy Carter in Georgia this morning:





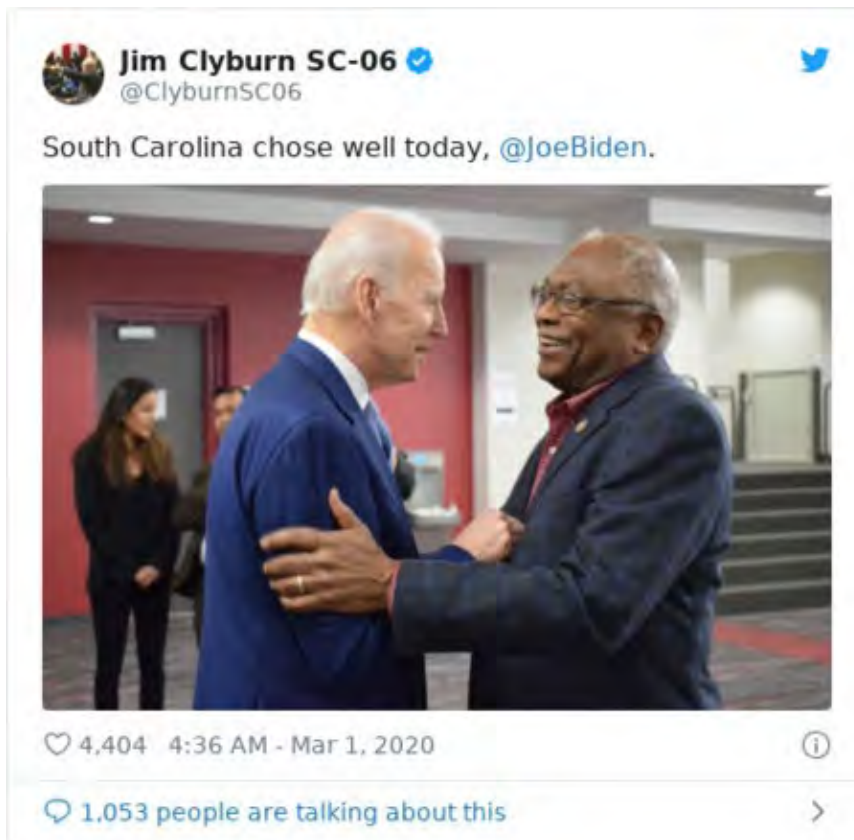
Trump reacted to the South Carolina results:



Steyer responded:



Clyburn celebrated his kingmaker status:



## Videos of the day

“Saturday Night Live” opened with a coronavirus press conference:



Colin Jost and Michael Che had thoughts about Trump's coronavirus response:



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AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**ENERGYWIRE — Mon., March 2, 2020**

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Big Oil CEOs, Cabinet officials and international dignitaries won't gather in Texas next week for one of the world's top energy conferences because of growing concerns about the COVID-19 virus. The announcement came as President Trump implemented new travel restrictions and analysts warned of additional threats to the energy sector.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

#### **Trump says turbines are 'rotting.' Is that true?**

### 3. INTERIOR:

#### **Bernhardt: ANWR drilling plan coming**

### 4. OIL AND GAS:

#### **Methane battle flares up in N.M.**

## FEDERAL AGENCIES

### 5. DOE:

#### **Brouillette: Coal can build 'better batteries'**

## ENERGY TRANSITIONS

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#### **Why isn't the Ivy League divesting from fossil fuels?**

## ELECTRICITY

### 7. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

#### **Developer to open hub to grow U.S. offshore wind industry**

## TECHNOLOGY

### 8. AUSTRALIA:

#### **2 years on, Elon Musk's battery bet pays off**

### 9. ELECTRIC VEHICLES:

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#### 10. ENERGY MARKETS:

### U.S. gas pioneers forced to sell shares amid market slump

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By [James Hohmann](#)  
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## Democratic fears that Bernie Sanders would hurt down-ballot candidates influence suburban voters

HOUSTON – Joanne Armstrong was tired of screaming at the television. It's why she volunteered for Lizzie Fletcher in 2018. And it's why she doesn't want Bernie Sanders to be the Democratic nominee for president in 2020.

Armstrong, a physician in her 50s, decided to channel her anger at

President Trump two years ago by going door-knocking, for the first time ever, to help Fletcher, a Democratic congressional candidate in the suburban Houston district where she lives. In the midterms, Fletcher toppled nine-term Republican congressman John Culberson, a powerful appropriator, picking up a seat that had been comfortably in GOP hands after George H.W. Bush won it in 1966.

Armstrong worries that Fletcher, still a freshman, would lose her quest for a second term if Sanders (I-Vt.) is at the top of the ticket and that Trump would handily win a second term. She said it was hard enough to convince voters to take a chance on a Democratic candidate last time when she could warn while canvassing about how Republicans were trying to destroy the Affordable Care Act without a replacement plan, putting people with preexisting conditions at risk. But Sanders's Medicare-for-all plan also threatens to upend the system, jeopardizing people's private health-insurance coverage. Houston is world-renowned for its medical centers, especially related to cancer treatment.

"People looked at Trump in 2018 and said this is not who we are. But Bernie also isn't who we in Houston are," said Armstrong. "I'm still tired of screaming at the TV after three years. I don't want four more years."



Bernie Sanders reacts to cheering supporters during a rally on Sunday in San Jose, Calif. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Texas is the second-biggest prize on Super Tuesday, behind California, with 228 delegates up for grabs.** Houston, the fourth-most populous city in the country, has become a battleground within the battleground. Harris County, home to Houston, has more than 4 million residents, a bigger population than 26 states.

**Joe Biden is flying here this afternoon for a rally at Texas Southern University.** Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) spoke to a crowd of 2,000 at an outdoor rally on Saturday night. Former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg stumped here this past Thursday with the mayor of Houston, who endorsed him. Sanders visited the University of Houston last weekend, where he celebrated his triumph in the Nevada caucuses.

**Two polls published Sunday put Sanders ahead but by significantly different margins among likely voters in the Lone Star State,** reflecting the degree to which the contest remains fluid and also how hard it is to predict what the electorate will look like in this evolving megastate. Sanders led Biden 34 percent to 19 percent in an [NBC-Marist poll](#), with Bloomberg at 15 percent and Warren at 10 percent.



But Sanders led Biden by only 4 percentage points, 30 percent to 26 percent, in a [CBS-YouGov poll](#), which was within the margin of error, with Warren at 17 percent and Bloomberg at 13 percent.

**But Sanders fares particularly poorly in the same well-to-do suburban areas that fueled the Democratic wave in the midterms and where Trump remains most vulnerable.** The 7th District, where Fletcher already faces a tough reelection fight, is the sort of place that national Democrats fear they'd lose if Sanders leads the ticket. Mitt Romney carried the district with 60 percent of the vote in the 2012 presidential election, but Trump lost it to Hillary Clinton in 2016 with 47 percent. Establishment-minded Democrats worry that voters who don't like Trump or Sanders might stay home, especially moderates who voted for candidates like Fletcher in 2018. They fear that Sanders would galvanize more Republicans than he'd bring in the new voters he promises to mobilize.

**Armstrong is undecided but anxious to vote for a Democrat in Texas's presidential primary on Tuesday who can block Sanders from winning the nomination.** She really likes Warren, but she's mainly concerned about beating Trump. She's texted all weekend with friends as far away as New Jersey and Massachusetts to mull what she should do. "I would vote for Joe Biden. He's not my first choice, but I would if I thought he was the only one who could beat Bernie," she said. "I just don't want Bernie. There's a big contingent that doesn't want Bernie, but they're all splitting. ... Do I vote my conscience, which is Warren? Or do I vote strategically, which is Biden?"



Elizabeth Warren acknowledges the crowd of 2,000 after a rally on Saturday night in Houston. (Brian Snyder/Reuters)

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**The Galleria, in the heart of Fletcher's district, is one of the largest and ritziest malls in the United States.** It has every fancy

chain store you can think of, plus an indoor ice-skating rink. It was packed this weekend as I interviewed more than 30 voters.

**Charlotte Sullivan, 70, the retired human resources director of an oil and gas company, plans to vote for Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) because she seems reasonable and willing to compromise to get results.** “I’m a fiscally responsible Democrat, and I don’t go for Bernie’s socialism,” Sullivan said as she shopped with her daughter. “I will go for Bernie if he’s the nominee because I cannot tolerate Trump at all. But Bernie has dug himself into a trench, and he’s not going to be able to get out of it.”

**Sullivan lives in the richest Zip code of Houston, a traditionally Republican neighborhood in Fletcher’s district that’s full of multimillion-dollar homes. “My neighbors will all vote for Trump before they’ll vote for Bernie, but they’d love to see someone moderate so they could make the switch,” she said.** “If Klobuchar was the nominee, they’d vote for her.”

**She looked at Bloomberg but concluded that he’s a Democratic version of Trump.** “All my antennae go up,” Sullivan said. “It’s the feeling that tells me something’s not right about him. I’ve had very few circumstances in my life where that instinct took me in the wrong direction. My gut says, ‘Don’t go with Bloomberg.’”

**Carol Alvarado, a Democratic state senator who represents Houston, endorsed Biden on Sunday after his sweeping win in the South Carolina primary.** Democrats picked up a dozen state House seats in 2018 and could win control of the chamber if they gain nine more in 2020. Several of their best pick-up opportunities are around Houston. Alvarado, who chairs the Senate Democratic Caucus, identified certain seats in both the state House and Senate that they’re more likely to win if the former vice president is their standard-bearer.

**“We could lose seats if we’re having to talk about democratic socialism,” she explained in an interview. “And if we lose those**

**seats, that gives Republicans a larger majority – which matters for the next decade.”** She’s referring to redistricting. The outcome of the 2020 state elections will impact who draws the boundaries that will be in effect until 2031. Alvarado said a Democratic-controlled legislature could also vote to expand Medicaid under the ACA, something Republicans have declined to do. “There’s just so much riding on this election for the future of Texas,” she said.



Joe Biden attends a Sunday church service at Brown Chapel AME Church to commemorate the 55th anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Selma, Ala. (Toni L. Sandys/The Washington Post)

**Houston is also the epicenter of the American energy industry, and Sanders’s plan to ban fracking and pass a Green New Deal makes moderates jittery.** When you fly into town, you see the scope of the region’s dependence on fossil fuels in the form of tankers and refineries.

**“People’s livelihoods are directly tied to that industry,” said Rep. Marc Veasey (D-Tex.).** He represents a Fort Worth district,

where he notes that many African Americans and Latinos depend on energy industry jobs that Sanders could put in jeopardy. He said union members also regularly express “worry and concern” to him that Sanders’s Medicare-for-all proposal would take away health-care benefits they’ve negotiated hard to secure from their employers.

**Veasey lamented that Sanders being at the top of the ticket would make it harder to play offense against House Republicans like freshman Dan Crenshaw in the Houston suburbs.** Veasey, who endorsed Biden in November, added that many of his Democratic colleagues would have little choice but to distance themselves from Sanders if he’s the nominee in order to get reelected. “There’s absolutely no question about that,” he told me on Sunday evening.

The CBS-YouGov poll released asked likely Democratic voters in Texas which candidate has the best chance of beating Trump, regardless of whom they support. Interestingly, **Latino voters said Sanders has the best chance of winning the general, topping Biden by a 24-point margin. Black voters thought Biden had the best chance, besting Sanders by a 25-point margin.** White voters were more evenly split: 32 percent said Biden, 28 percent said Sanders, 18 percent said Bloomberg and 13 percent said Warren.

**Anthony Blake, a 35-year-old management consultant, will vote for Sanders in the primary.** “Sometimes I think you’ve got to fight fire with fire, as terrible as that sounds,” he said. When I asked about the electability fears expressed by his fellow Houstonians, **he pointed to several recent polls that showed Sanders leading Trump in head-to-head matchups and in many cases outperforming other Democrats.** “The data doesn’t really show that,” he said, downplaying the concerns of elected lawmakers.

Blake, a political junkie who is white, came to watch Warren’s outdoor rally on Discovery Green in the heart of downtown Houston on Saturday night. He observed that Sanders’s rally at the same venue last April drew a

bigger and, he believes, more energetic crowd. He said he was especially impressed that the Sanders crowd included so many diverse faces, especially Latinos, and young people who told him they've never been engaged with politics. **“I know they say it's a fool's errand, but Bernie's going to bring new people out,” said Blake. “I've never seen energy like I have for Bernie.”**

He added that he comes from a conservative family. “They've been Republicans for 30 years now, but they dislike Trump,” he said. “They're terrified of Bernie right now, but they'll vote for him over Trump.”



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner introduces Mike Bloomberg during a rally last Thursday in Houston. (Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

**The NBC-Marist poll showed 1 in 4 likely voters in Texas remained undecided. Sarita Gomez-Mola, 70, is among them.** The foreign-language interpreter, who lives in the 7th District, said she will cast her ballot for whomever she concludes on primary day has the best chance of blocking Sanders from clinching the nomination, which she acknowledged may be Biden. A friend visiting from New York encouraged her to think about Bloomberg, but she's “angsting” over which of the Democratic alternatives to Sanders could best unify the party.

**“Will the Sanders voters support Bloomberg? I worry,” she said.** “But Bernie cannot hijack the Democratic Party. He’s divisive, and we’re lurching from one extreme to the other. There would be nothing but gridlock. If Barack Obama couldn’t get his priorities passed, how is Sanders going to?”

Gomez-Mola’s husband is a geologist who works for an oil company. “All his colleagues are Trumppers,” she said. “They will all vote for Trump, no matter who he’s up against.” Likewise, she said, she’ll vote for any Democratic nominee over Trump. **“I was born in Cuba, and I’m very afraid of Sanders because of all the changes he wants to make,” said Gomez-Mola. “But even if Fidel Castro came back from the grave and was the nominee, I’d support him over Trump. Castro was my nemesis all my life, but Trump is just *that* bad.”**

This is exactly what the Sanders campaign is counting on. The senator’s strategists express confidence that dislike for Trump is so strong among Democrats that even moderates will coalesce and consolidate behind Sanders if he wins the nomination.

The 7th District is a majority-minority district: 43 percent white, 31 percent Latino, 13 percent black and 11 percent Asian. One in five residents of this district has a postgraduate degree. Another 30 percent have a bachelor’s.

**Salvador Delmundo, 56, is an ordained minister who works as a chaplain at one of the hospitals in the district. His political evolution over the past 20 years tracks with the community’s broader shift.** He was a Republican who voted for George W. Bush when he carried the district with 66 percent in 2004, but Obama’s barrier-breaking candidacy lured him away. Now he considers himself a “middle-of-the-road” Democrat. “Over the last 10 to 15 years, what was good for me and my wife was developing a deeper appreciation and understanding of the importance of diversity,” he explained as he ate a cheesesteak in the food court while his wife shopped.

**Delumndo emphasized that winning as a Democrat in these parts is still an uphill battle that requires carefully challenging deeply ingrained mindsets.** “The hurdle before Sanders is educating the general American public about what socialism is,” he said. “I have a lot of ‘friends’ – and I say friends with air quotes – saying that North Korea shot dead a coronavirus patient, and that’s what they do to people in socialist countries. It’s totally crazy, but that’s what they say.”

**Delmundo and his wife considered Biden, Sanders and Warren before deciding to vote for the senator from Massachusetts because she seemed like a bridge between the left and the middle of the party.** “We decided Warren was in the middle between Biden and Sanders,” he said. “That said, regardless of who wins the primary, we’re going to go with the Democratic nominee.”







Lizzie Fletcher, on the left in the white blouse, joins other Democrats who were elected to Congress in 2018 for a group portrait in front of the Capitol. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

**Fletcher has not endorsed in the presidential race, and she declined an interview request to discuss her thinking.** A spokeswoman said she didn't have open events over the weekend. She's been building a large war chest, with close to \$2 million cash on hand. Around the district, she'd been emphasizing a drug pricing bill she sponsored, which the House passed and got pigeonholed in the Senate, to show she's focused on pocketbook issues.

**The 2020 election will be the first in modern Texas history where ballots no longer include the option to just vote the Republican or Democratic line straight down the ticket.** "Political consultants here don't know how to model for this," said Jim Henson, director of the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin. "It stands to reason that drop-off will be higher down the ballot, and that's causing some anxiety on both sides."

**Henson thinks Fletcher might be "somewhat more insulated" than other Democrats in frontline House races if Sanders is the nominee.** She'll be well funded, has time to build out her own field

operation and represents an informed electorate capable of distinguishing between her and Sanders. “There’s also a lot of ifs about what kind of a campaign Sanders is going to run if he’s actually the nominee,” said Henson.

**Many House Republicans who lost in 2018, including Culberson, survived when Trump was at the top of the ticket two years before because voters saw them as distinct from the GOP nominee.** Two years later, this was a harder sell because they’d mostly voted in lockstep with his agenda. House Democratic strategists hope to benefit from a similar dynamic in 2020 if Sanders wins the nomination because he’s seen as an outsider taking over the party. National Republican strategists counter that they expect Trump to outperform his 2016 numbers in the district no matter the Democratic nominee, so long as the coronavirus doesn’t push the economy into recession, because voters here have benefitted disproportionately from the 2017 tax cuts and various business-friendly policies, such as deregulation.

**Six Republicans are running in their own primary on Tuesday to challenge Fletcher this fall.** The national party favors Wesley Hunt, an African American in his 30s who piloted Apache helicopters in Iraq as an Army captain after graduating from West Point. He’s trying to break 50 percent to avoid a runoff. His closet competitor is former Bellaire mayor Cindy Siegel, who has spent more than half a million dollars and launched [attack ads](#) against Hunt.



Laura Moser campaigns in Houston in May 2017. She lost a runoff to Fletcher. (Michael Stravato/For The Washington Post)

**Two years ago, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee intervened to boost Fletcher over the more liberal Laura Moser in the primary.** National party operatives even took the unusual step of publishing a tranche of opposition research against Moser because they thought the moderate Fletcher would have an easier time ousting Culberson. (We wrote [several](#) Big Ideas about [the ensuing kerfuffle](#).)

**Moser voted early for Sanders, but interestingly she doesn't believe the polls that show him ahead in the Texas primary.** Many Democrats she knows in the district planned to vote for Bloomberg a few weeks ago, but she said he's faded since his bad debate performance in Las Vegas. Moser said she does not know anyone who loves Biden, but she expects many will vote for him anyway to stop Sanders. And Warren remains popular among many of the most devoted volunteers on her congressional campaign. "I was sort of supporting Warren for a lot of the primary, and it was basically my mother's book club at her events," Moser explained on Sunday afternoon. "Then I went to

a Bernie event, and they were all 20-years old, Muslims, Latinx and people I hadn't seen at political events before. That's why I decided to go all in for Bernie."

**Democrats haven't won a statewide race in Texas since 1994, and Moser said she'd be surprised if that changes this**

**November.** "I don't think Texas is going to flip this year anyway, but if it doesn't, it's not Bernie's fault," she said. "The whole point is either new people come – or they don't. It's a very hard gamble. But the old thing isn't working. ... If the people Bernie is betting on actually come out, we have a lot of them in Texas. But will they come out? I don't know. ... I really banked on those people coming out in my race. And they didn't. ... The infrastructure is not fully there yet. People aren't used to mattering, and people aren't used to voting. That's changing, but it takes time."

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## More on 2020



### **Buttigieg ended his presidential bid.**

“The normally stoic Buttigieg appeared to be steadying himself throughout his farewell remarks in his hometown of South Bend, bringing to an end what was for a time an electrifying candidacy,” [Chelsea Janes and Amy B Wang report](#). “After a year of going everywhere, meeting everyone, defying every expectation, seeking every vote, the truth is that the path has narrowed to a close for our candidacy, if not for our cause,’ Buttigieg said. ... Despite attracting enormous attention, significant support and often enthusiastic crowds, Buttigieg was not polling well in the upcoming primary states and never found a way to reverse the antipathy he generated in the black community. Earlier Sunday, his campaign held a call with reporters in which senior adviser Michael Halle and deputy campaign manager Hari Sevugan made the case that while Buttigieg likely wouldn’t win any of the 14 states that vote Tuesday, he could still accumulate enough delegates to keep Sanders’s lead to a minimum. ... LGBTQ leaders had no doubt that Buttigieg’s candidacy had widened the path for gay Americans in politics and other areas of life in the United States. ... The crowd interrupted him with a new chant: ‘2024! 2024!’”

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## Quote of the day

*“We sent a message to every kid out there wondering if whatever marks them out as different means they are somehow destined to be less than. [They saw] that someone who once felt that exact same way can become a leading American presidential candidate — with his husband at his side,” Buttigieg said in his concession speech.*

### **Sanders is hoping California will deliver him the nomination.**

“There are 415 delegates at stake here Tuesday, the largest haul on a day when 14 other states and territories will also go to the polls,” [Scott Wilson reports](#). **“The campaign has a state organization far larger than those of his opponents — 22 offices and more than 100 paid staffers.** And it has been targeting Latinos, Asian Americans and young voters, key demographics in the Democratic electorate. ... A Suffolk University/USA Today poll showed Sanders with a double-digit lead. He was at 35 percent among likely Democratic primary voters, well ahead of [Bloomberg] at 16 percent, [Biden] at 14 percent and [Warren] at 12 percent. ... Officials say they’re confident. ‘The campaign really prioritized California in a way that we hadn’t before,’ said Rafael Návar, the Sanders campaign’s state director. ‘Most people looked at the first four states. I looked at it as five states, and so California had a prioritization from the start.’

**“One key rival for Sanders is Warren, who is hovering around the 15 percent vote threshold,** according to some recent polls. ... Julián Castro ... recently appeared at a Warren event in San Francisco that drew about 150 staff members, volunteers and others. It seems part of an effort to cut into Sanders’s lead among Latinos, especially older ones less liberal on issues of ethnic identity and more suspect of Sanders’s Medicare-for-all proposal. **Several polls show Sanders drawing nearly half the state’s Latino support.** ... Some of his better-funded

rivals have also looked hopefully toward television. California is a place where intensive advertising usually proves essential in winning statewide races. But those rich enough to afford big buys in multiple markets are then often resented, especially the self-financed candidates. ... But it's not clear whether endorsements or heavy spending will dent Sanders's lead, nor whether Biden's surge in South Carolina will itself alter the trajectory of California. Biden has spent little time in the state, traveling here more for fundraising than for organizing."

## **Biden moved aggressively to capitalize on his South Carolina win.**

"Several influential Democrats from Super Tuesday states also gave Biden a lift on Sunday as they announced their support, including former senator Barbara Boxer of California. In Virginia, Rep. Jennifer Wexton — who won her suburban district in 2018, turning the seat blue for the first time in 38 years — endorsed Biden, calling him a 'steady, empathetic leader,'" , " [Robert Costa reports](#). "For many Biden allies, Bloomberg — the billionaire centrist whose name will appear on ballots for the first time Tuesday — remains the biggest headache, and they are hopeful that he may soon decide to bow out. On Sunday, they passed around a clip from MSNBC in which David Plouffe, Barack Obama's 2008 campaign manager, said, 'The reality is Bloomberg needed Biden to lose South Carolina to have any chance.' ... Although Biden's campaign would welcome a narrowed field, several allies are also informally telling allies of Klobuchar and Warren to consider staying in the race until Tuesday night, to deny Sanders a major delegate haul in the Super Tuesday states of Minnesota and Massachusetts ...

**"Bloomberg has attempted to make inroads with African American voters but has encountered continued problems over his past support of stop-and-frisk,** a police strategy that opponents say is a form of racial profiling. Before announcing his candidacy, he apologized for defending the practice. As Bloomberg spoke Sunday in Selma, Ala., at Brown Chapel AME Church, about 10 people stood and silently turned their backs to him. They returned to their seats after the

former mayor stepped away from the podium. The incident caused a stir in the church, but Bloomberg continued his remarks without interruption. Other attendees continued to listen, some cheering and applauding.”

**Obama called Biden to congratulate him on winning South Carolina,** [Bloomberg News reports](#). Two people familiar with the former president’s thinking said he still doesn’t plan to make an endorsement early in the nominating process. Costa reports in his story that, in interviews with more than a dozen operatives, lawmakers and campaign aides, it was clear that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Obama, among others, are reluctant to do anything at this point that would seem heavy-handed.

### **A Klobuchar rally in Minnesota was canceled amid protests.**

“Klobuchar canceled a rally in her home state Sunday night as several dozen protesters chanted ‘Black Lives Matter,’ ‘Klobuchar has got to go’ and ‘Free Myon’ — referencing the case of a black teenager convicted of murder after a flawed police investigation,” [Politico reports](#). “WCCO-CBS Minnesota reported that the protesters made their way into the rally and on stage, where they continued chanting. After a 40-minute delay, the rally was canceled. A campaign spokesperson told the press: ‘The campaign offered a meeting with the Senator if they (protesters) would leave the stage after being on stage for more than an hour. After the group initially agreed, they backed out of the agreement and we are canceling the event.’”

### **Sanders said he would only pick a running mate who backs Medicare-for-all.**

He [told the San Francisco Chronicle](#) his running mate must support his signature issue: “‘We will pick somebody who knows the experience of working families in this country, who has a history of fighting for those families, and somebody whose politics are similar to mine,’ [Sanders said]. ... Sanders sounded a warning against the party trying to deny him the nomination if he comes to Milwaukee with a plurality of pledged



delegates. 'I think that would look terrible, and I think that would lay the groundwork for a Trump victory,' Sanders said in the interview. 'It would reflect on the Democratic Party in a very, very terrible way.' ... He attributed Biden's dominance among black voters to the endorsement he received from South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn ... 'Clyburn played a very significant role,' Sanders said. But, he added, 'there is a difference in how African Americans vote in California, Michigan or North Carolina.'"

## **The coronavirus response shows a common thread between Warren and Bloomberg.**

"Both are using this moment to paint themselves as highly competent technocrats who would use data to guide policy," [Annie Linskey reports](#). "Bloomberg's coronavirus response came in the form of a taped three-minute address aired on two networks Sunday night, thanks to a \$1.5 million ad buy. ... Bloomberg's plan to address the virus includes inviting doctors who've been pushed out of government back to their old jobs ... Warren released her first proposal to address the coronavirus last week and was quick to point out that she was offering a plan before any of the other candidates — and even before the White House ... she previewed her ideas, saying she wants the federal government to provide all Americans with free screening for the virus and free vaccines if one is developed."

## **Trump's campaign manager hijacked social media to win the 2016 election. He's trying to do it again.**

Brad Parscale relied on Facebook to help him accomplish several campaign objectives, including persuasion, fund-raising, and G.O.T.V., or 'get out the vote.' Finding and motivating likely voters through traditional means, such as TV ads or door-to-door canvassing, is expensive and time-consuming compared with social media," [the New Yorker's Andrew Marantz writes in a new profile](#). "'We have almost two hundred and fifteen million hard-I.D. voter records in our database now,' Parscale claimed last year, although his definition of 'hard I.D.' is not clear. **Even if Trump were banned from every social network, his campaign would be able to reach supporters by text.** According to Parscale, the campaign is on track to send 'almost a billion texts, the most in history'—and texts

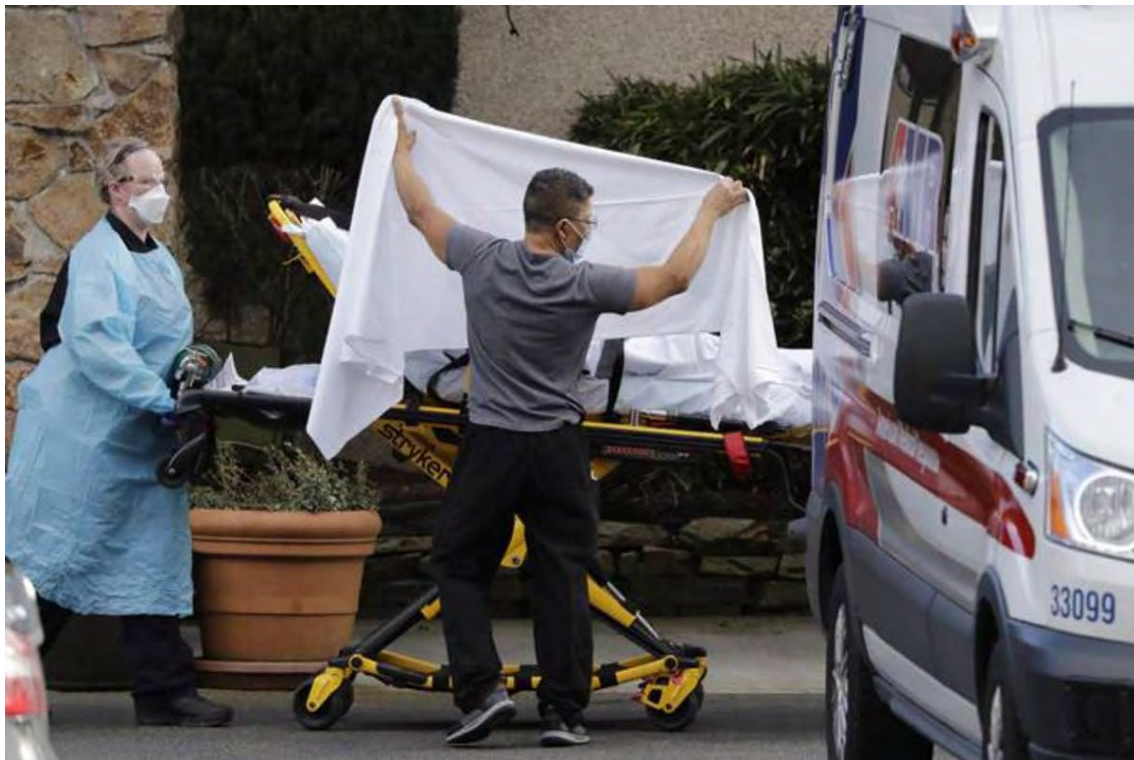
are far more likely to be opened than e-mails, social-media posts, or news articles. 'We've been working on this around the clock for three years,' a senior official who works on the 2020 digital campaign told me. He acknowledged that the campaign doesn't have the same scrappy, subversive energy as in 2016—'It's hard to feel like a total underdog when you have the White House'—but, he added, 'we're not slowing down. We're ramping up.'"

## **A North Carolina Democrat running for Senate is frustrated with both parties.**

"Democrat Erica Smith, a two-term North Carolina state senator, was so inspired by women who beat the odds and won seats in Congress in 2018 that she decided to run in this year's U.S. Senate race. The party establishment chose another candidate," [Vanessa Williams reports](#). "The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee endorsed Cal Cunningham, a former state lawmaker and an Army veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars who had run unsuccessfully for the Senate a decade ago. Smith was disappointed but didn't bow out ... Smith got an unexpected and unwelcome benefactor: a Republican-affiliated political action committee that started running ads touting Smith as the 'true progressive,' while suggesting Cunningham does not support addressing climate change and LGBTQ rights. Smith, 50, who is African American, says she feels she has been disrespected by both political parties: Republicans who are using her to damage the perceived front-runner in the primary and Democratic leaders who endorsed Cunningham because they didn't think she could win."

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## **The coronavirus**



A staffer blocks the view of a person being taken by a stretcher to a waiting ambulance from a nursing facility where more than 50 people are sick and being tested for the coronavirus in Kirkland, Wash. (Elaine Thompson/AP)

## **The coronavirus may have spread undetected for weeks in Washington state.**

It "has been circulating undetected and has possibly infected scores of people over the past six weeks in Washington state, according to a genetic analysis of virus samples that has sobering implications for the entire country amid heightening anxiety about the likely spread of the disease," [Joel Achenbach, Katie Mettler, Lena Sun and Ben Guarino report](#). "The researchers conducted genetic sequencing of two virus samples. One is from a patient who traveled from China to Snohomish County in mid-January and was the first person diagnosed with the disease in the United States. The other came from a recently diagnosed patient in the same county, a high school student with no travel-related or other known exposure to the coronavirus. **The two samples look almost identical genetically, said Trevor Bedford, a computational biologist at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle ...** 'I believe we're facing an already substantial outbreak in Washington State that was not detected until now due to narrow case definition requiring direct

travel to China,' [Bedford said].

**“Officials in Seattle and King County on Sunday announced that four more people have tested positive for the coronavirus, including the second person in the state to die of the virus.** That brings the outbreak in Washington state to 13 cases. Of the four new cases, the three surviving patients range in age from their 70s to 90s, have underlying health conditions and are in critical condition, health officials said. ... Health officials in Washington state and across the nation said they expect that numbers will continue to rise in the wake of the decision by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last week to widen testing guidelines. **Over the weekend, new cases were reported in Americans who had recently traveled to South Korea and Italy, including one person in Rhode Island, the state’s first case.** ... Late Sunday, the office of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announced two ‘presumptively positive’ cases of the coronavirus, in Manatee and Hillsborough counties, and declared a public health emergency.” In New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo [confirmed](#) the state’s first case of the virus.

### **Kirkland, Wash., has suddenly become the epicenter of the virus.**

“One church canceled Communion on Sunday and banned handshakes and hugs. More than two dozen firefighters, and some police officers, are under quarantine. The hospital urged visitors to stay home. And Lake Washington Institute of Technology said it is shutting down for two days to disinfect the campus,” [Maria Sacchetti and Ashley Nguyen report](#). “This outdoorsy city of 90,000 just northeast of Seattle, known for its piney woods, water sports and a Google campus with a meandering bike path running through it, has become the epicenter of the U.S. response to the deadly coronavirus as it begins to spread along the West Coast. ... **With a quarter of the city’s 100 firefighters under quarantine, Kirkland city officials scrambled to prepare amid a host of unknowns.** It remains unclear how many residents have been exposed to the virus, though its spread seems inevitable.”

## **Rumors and chaos in Alabama point to the big issues facing the government.**

“Not long before local leaders decided, in the words of one of them, that federal health officials ‘didn’t know what they were doing’ with their plan to quarantine novel coronavirus patients in [Anniston, Ala.], a doctor here set out in a biohazard suit to stage a one-man protest along the highway with a sign. ‘The virus has arrived. Are you ready?’ it asked. The town didn’t think it was,” [Todd Frankel reports](#). “Residents already were unnerved by strange stories posted on Facebook and shared via text messages about helicopters secretly flying in sick patients, that the virus was grown in a Chinese lab, that someone — either the media or the government — was lying to them about what was really going on. The quarantine plan hastily hatched by the federal Department of Health and Human Services was soon scrapped by Trump, who faced intense pushback from Alabama’s congressional delegation ...

“‘I was shocked,’ Anniston Mayor Jack Draper said. ‘I was shocked by the lack of planning. I was shocked by the manner in which it was presented to us.’” HHS planned on housing patients at an old FEMA facility in town, which doesn’t have any special capabilities for handling infectious diseases, local officials said. “Meanwhile, federal officials never contacted the town’s hospital, Regional Medical Center, about handling covid-19 patients, said Louis Bass, the hospital’s chief executive.”

## **HHS is investigating problems with the CDC’s first round of diagnostic tests.**

“It is unclear which senior health officials, at which agencies, knew about the CDC test problems and when they learned of them. HHS is convening a team of scientists from outside the CDC to investigate the test development and its flaws, according to an HHS spokesperson,” [Politico reports](#). “It remains unclear why CDC developed its own coronavirus test, rather than relying on one distributed by the World Health Organization, but some experts suggest the agency wanted a test that would do a better job of ruling out other viruses.”

## **The CDC has failed to release crucial information that doctors say could save lives.**

“Several US patients have recovered from coronavirus, but so far, the CDC has shared detailed clinical information about only one of those patients. That information includes what treatments the patients received and how they fared,” [CNN reports](#). “The federal agency possesses such information about several US coronavirus patients, but has not released it. That means doctors who now unexpectedly find themselves treating new coronavirus patients aren't able to benefit from the findings of doctors who preceded them.”

## **The virus continues spreading globally.**

“South Korea said Monday it has confirmed 599 new cases, far higher than the daily tally reported in China,” [Adam Taylor, Teo Armus, Simon Denyer and Rick Noack report](#). “With 4,335 confirmed infections and at least 22 deaths, South Korea has the second-largest national caseload. However, it has tested more than 100,000 people, far more than most nations. ... **Italy now has more than 1,600 confirmed cases**, while Iran surpassed 1,500, with 66 deaths. ... Elsewhere, Indonesia, one of the few large nations thought to be free of the virus, announced on Monday that it had two confirmed cases. ... In China, the number of new cases was 202, bringing its total to 80,026, including 2,912 deaths.”

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## **Divided America**



Acting deputy Homeland Security secretary Ken Cuccinelli arrives at the Capitol to brief senators on the coronavirus response. (Mark Wilson/Getty Images)

## **A court ruled that Ken Cuccinelli's appointment as head of USCIS was unlawful.**

U.S. District Judge Randolph Moss, an Obama appointee, said Trump's "appointment last year of [Cuccinelli] to be head of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services was a violation of federal vacancy laws, and that Cuccinelli lacked the authority to issue policy directives tightening asylum rules," [Nick Miroff reports](#). "The ruling amounts to a rebuke of Trump's stated preference for filling top administration jobs with officials serving in an 'acting' capacity. ... The Trump administration is expected to appeal the decision."

## **The Supreme Court will hear a third challenge to ACA.**

This time, it will be at the request of Democratic-controlled states that are fighting a lower court decision that said the entire law must fall. "The court's review will come in the term that begins in October, which would

not leave time for a decision before the November presidential election,” [Robert Barnes reports](#). “The law remains in effect during the legal challenges.”

## **Trump is winning a war on American institutions.**

[The Atlantic's](#) George Packer tells the story of how Erica Newland, a Yale Law School graduate, fell out of love with her job at the Justice Department: “Newland went to work at the Department of Justice in the last summer of the Obama administration. ... She decided to serve under Trump. She liked her work and her colleagues ... Things got worse in the second year. ... No one risked getting fired. No one would become the target of a Trump tweet. The danger might be a mediocre performance review or a poor reference. ... She hated going to work. ... At night she slept poorly, plagued by regrets. Should she have pushed harder on a legal issue? ... How could she live with the cruelty and bigotry of executive orders and other proposals, even legal ones, that crossed her desk? She was angry and miserable, and her friends told her to leave. ...

“As the executive orders and other requests for the office’s approval piled up, many of them of dubious legality, **one of Newland’s supervisors took to saying, ‘We’re just following orders.’ He said it without irony, as a way of reminding everyone ... When she gave him a look he added, ‘I know that’s what the Nazis said, but we’re not Nazis.’** ... On October 27, an anti-Semitic extremist killed 11 people at a synagogue in Pittsburgh. Before the shooting, he berated Jews online for enabling ‘invaders’ to enter the United States from Mexico. ... Newland, who could imagine being shot in a synagogue, felt that her office’s work was sanctioning rhetoric that had inspired a mass killer. She tendered her resignation three days later.”

## **The Navy SEAL [acquitted](#) of killing an ISIS prisoner talked to “[60 Minutes](#)” about his case.**

Edward Gallagher, the former SEAL, “acknowledges that people either love him as an American hero or despise him as a war criminal.”

Correspondent David Martin told Gallagher that his picture with the dead



prisoner is a “trophy photo if I ever saw one.” “Yeah, that what it was taken as,” Gallagher said, before adding he was “trying to make it look tough. I know how bad it looks when it gets out into the public, which it never was supposed to. ... It was like a joke text. Dark humor.”

## **Charlottesville won't celebrate Thomas Jefferson's birthday. It will instead celebrate the end of slavery.**

“His name still adorns much of the city, from the public library to a private winery. And from the foot of a mountain dedicated to him, his statue still gazes out over the university he founded. But lately, in ways both small and seismic, Thomas Jefferson's town has started to feel like it belongs to someone else,” [Michael Miller reports](#). “For the first time since World War II, Charlottesville won't honor the Founding Father's birthday this spring. Instead, on Tuesday, the city will celebrate the demise of the institution with which Jefferson increasingly has become associated: slavery. Liberation and Freedom Day, as the new holiday is known, will commemorate when Union troops arrived here on March 3, 1865, and freed the enslaved people who made up a majority of Charlottesville's residents.”

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## **Social media speed read**

Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) is battling pancreatic cancer, but he decided to make the pilgrimage back to the Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma, Ala., on the anniversary of his vicious beating on Bloody Sunday:



**John Lewis** ✓  
@repjohnlewis



We were beaten, we were tear-gassed. I thought I was going to die on this bridge. But somehow and some way, God almighty helped me here. We cannot give up now. We cannot give in. We must keep the faith, keep our eyes on the prize.



♥ 60.3K 12:40 AM - Mar 2, 2020



💬 13.4K people are talking about this



All the candidates wished Buttigieg well as he dropped out, even Klobuchar, who clashed often with the 38-year-old:



Former candidate Marianne Williamson, who endorsed Sanders last week, offered this analysis:



Chasten Buttigieg commemorated his husband's historic bid:



Now that Buttigieg is gone, Biden gets a new title:



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## Videos of the day

John Oliver tackled the coronavirus and examined the ways it has highlighted government weaknesses around the world:



Trevor Noah shared his extended thoughts on Bloomberg:



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## Democratic fears that Bernie Sanders would hurt down-ballot candidates influence suburban voters

HOUSTON – Joanne Armstrong was tired of screaming at the television. It's why she volunteered for Lizzie Fletcher in 2018. And it's why she doesn't want Bernie Sanders to be the Democratic nominee for president in 2020.

Armstrong, a physician in her 50s, decided to channel her anger at

President Trump two years ago by going door-knocking, for the first time ever, to help Fletcher, a Democratic congressional candidate in the suburban Houston district where she lives. In the midterms, Fletcher toppled nine-term Republican congressman John Culberson, a powerful appropriator, picking up a seat that had been comfortably in GOP hands after George H.W. Bush won it in 1966.

Armstrong worries that Fletcher, still a freshman, would lose her quest for a second term if Sanders (I-Vt.) is at the top of the ticket and that Trump would handily win a second term. She said it was hard enough to convince voters to take a chance on a Democratic candidate last time when she could warn while canvassing about how Republicans were trying to destroy the Affordable Care Act without a replacement plan, putting people with preexisting conditions at risk. But Sanders's Medicare-for-all plan also threatens to upend the system, jeopardizing people's private health-insurance coverage. Houston is world-renowned for its medical centers, especially related to cancer treatment.

"People looked at Trump in 2018 and said this is not who we are. But Bernie also isn't who we in Houston are," said Armstrong. "I'm still tired of screaming at the TV after three years. I don't want four more years."





Bernie Sanders reacts to cheering supporters during a rally on Sunday in San Jose, Calif. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Texas is the second-biggest prize on Super Tuesday, behind California, with 228 delegates up for grabs.** Houston, the fourth-most populous city in the country, has become a battleground within the battleground. Harris County, home to Houston, has more than 4 million residents, a bigger population than 26 states.

**Joe Biden is flying here this afternoon for a rally at Texas Southern University.** Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) spoke to a crowd of 2,000 at an outdoor rally on Saturday night. Former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg stumped here this past Thursday with the mayor of Houston, who endorsed him. Sanders visited the University of Houston last weekend, where he celebrated his triumph in the Nevada caucuses.

**Two polls published Sunday put Sanders ahead but by significantly different margins among likely voters in the Lone Star State,** reflecting the degree to which the contest remains fluid and also how hard it is to predict what the electorate will look like in this evolving megastate. Sanders led Biden 34 percent to 19 percent in an [NBC-Marist poll](#), with Bloomberg at 15 percent and Warren at 10 percent.

But Sanders led Biden by only 4 percentage points, 30 percent to 26 percent, in a [CBS-YouGov poll](#), which was within the margin of error, with Warren at 17 percent and Bloomberg at 13 percent.

**But Sanders fares particularly poorly in the same well-to-do suburban areas that fueled the Democratic wave in the midterms and where Trump remains most vulnerable.** The 7th District, where Fletcher already faces a tough reelection fight, is the sort of place that national Democrats fear they'd lose if Sanders leads the ticket. Mitt Romney carried the district with 60 percent of the vote in the 2012 presidential election, but Trump lost it to Hillary Clinton in 2016 with 47 percent. Establishment-minded Democrats worry that voters who don't like Trump or Sanders might stay home, especially moderates who voted for candidates like Fletcher in 2018. They fear that Sanders would galvanize more Republicans than he'd bring in the new voters he promises to mobilize.

**Armstrong is undecided but anxious to vote for a Democrat in Texas's presidential primary on Tuesday who can block Sanders from winning the nomination.** She really likes Warren, but she's mainly concerned about beating Trump. She's texted all weekend with friends as far away as New Jersey and Massachusetts to mull what she should do. "I would vote for Joe Biden. He's not my first choice, but I would if I thought he was the only one who could beat Bernie," she said. "I just don't want Bernie. There's a big contingent that doesn't want Bernie, but they're all splitting. ... Do I vote my conscience, which is Warren? Or do I vote strategically, which is Biden?"



Elizabeth Warren acknowledges the crowd of 2,000 after a rally on Saturday night in Houston. (Brian Snyder/Reuters)

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**The Galleria, in the heart of Fletcher's district, is one of the largest and ritziest malls in the United States.** It has every fancy

chain store you can think of, plus an indoor ice-skating rink. It was packed this weekend as I interviewed more than 30 voters.

**Charlotte Sullivan, 70, the retired human resources director of an oil and gas company, plans to vote for Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) because she seems reasonable and willing to compromise to get results.** “I’m a fiscally responsible Democrat, and I don’t go for Bernie’s socialism,” Sullivan said as she shopped with her daughter. “I will go for Bernie if he’s the nominee because I cannot tolerate Trump at all. But Bernie has dug himself into a trench, and he’s not going to be able to get out of it.”

**Sullivan lives in the richest Zip code of Houston, a traditionally Republican neighborhood in Fletcher’s district that’s full of multimillion-dollar homes. “My neighbors will all vote for Trump before they’ll vote for Bernie, but they’d love to see someone moderate so they could make the switch,” she said.** “If Klobuchar was the nominee, they’d vote for her.”

**She looked at Bloomberg but concluded that he’s a Democratic version of Trump.** “All my antennae go up,” Sullivan said. “It’s the feeling that tells me something’s not right about him. I’ve had very few circumstances in my life where that instinct took me in the wrong direction. My gut says, ‘Don’t go with Bloomberg.’”

**Carol Alvarado, a Democratic state senator who represents Houston, endorsed Biden on Sunday after his sweeping win in the South Carolina primary.** Democrats picked up a dozen state House seats in 2018 and could win control of the chamber if they gain nine more in 2020. Several of their best pick-up opportunities are around Houston. Alvarado, who chairs the Senate Democratic Caucus, identified certain seats in both the state House and Senate that they’re more likely to win if the former vice president is their standard-bearer.

**“We could lose seats if we’re having to talk about democratic socialism,” she explained in an interview. “And if we lose those**

**seats, that gives Republicans a larger majority – which matters for the next decade.”** She’s referring to redistricting. The outcome of the 2020 state elections will impact who draws the boundaries that will be in effect until 2031. Alvarado said a Democratic-controlled legislature could also vote to expand Medicaid under the ACA, something Republicans have declined to do. “There’s just so much riding on this election for the future of Texas,” she said.



Joe Biden attends a Sunday church service at Brown Chapel AME Church to commemorate the 55th anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Selma, Ala. (Toni L. Sandys/The Washington Post)

**Houston is also the epicenter of the American energy industry, and Sanders’s plan to ban fracking and pass a Green New Deal makes moderates jittery.** When you fly into town, you see the scope of the region’s dependence on fossil fuels in the form of tankers and refineries.

**“People’s livelihoods are directly tied to that industry,” said Rep. Marc Veasey (D-Tex.).** He represents a Fort Worth district,

where he notes that many African Americans and Latinos depend on energy industry jobs that Sanders could put in jeopardy. He said union members also regularly express “worry and concern” to him that Sanders’s Medicare-for-all proposal would take away health-care benefits they’ve negotiated hard to secure from their employers.

**Veasey lamented that Sanders being at the top of the ticket would make it harder to play offense against House Republicans like freshman Dan Crenshaw in the Houston suburbs.** Veasey, who endorsed Biden in November, added that many of his Democratic colleagues would have little choice but to distance themselves from Sanders if he’s the nominee in order to get reelected. “There’s absolutely no question about that,” he told me on Sunday evening.

The CBS-YouGov poll released asked likely Democratic voters in Texas which candidate has the best chance of beating Trump, regardless of whom they support. Interestingly, **Latino voters said Sanders has the best chance of winning the general, topping Biden by a 24-point margin. Black voters thought Biden had the best chance, besting Sanders by a 25-point margin.** White voters were more evenly split: 32 percent said Biden, 28 percent said Sanders, 18 percent said Bloomberg and 13 percent said Warren.

**Anthony Blake, a 35-year-old management consultant, will vote for Sanders in the primary.** “Sometimes I think you’ve got to fight fire with fire, as terrible as that sounds,” he said. When I asked about the electability fears expressed by his fellow Houstonians, **he pointed to several recent polls that showed Sanders leading Trump in head-to-head matchups and in many cases outperforming other Democrats.** “The data doesn’t really show that,” he said, downplaying the concerns of elected lawmakers.

Blake, a political junkie who is white, came to watch Warren’s outdoor rally on Discovery Green in the heart of downtown Houston on Saturday night. He observed that Sanders’s rally at the same venue last April drew a

bigger and, he believes, more energetic crowd. He said he was especially impressed that the Sanders crowd included so many diverse faces, especially Latinos, and young people who told him they've never been engaged with politics. **“I know they say it's a fool's errand, but Bernie's going to bring new people out,” said Blake. “I've never seen energy like I have for Bernie.”**

He added that he comes from a conservative family. “They've been Republicans for 30 years now, but they dislike Trump,” he said. “They're terrified of Bernie right now, but they'll vote for him over Trump.”



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner introduces Mike Bloomberg during a rally last Thursday in Houston. (Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

**The NBC-Marist poll showed 1 in 4 likely voters in Texas remained undecided. Sarita Gomez-Mola, 70, is among them.** The foreign-language interpreter, who lives in the 7th District, said she will cast her ballot for whomever she concludes on primary day has the best chance of blocking Sanders from clinching the nomination, which she acknowledged may be Biden. A friend visiting from New York encouraged her to think about Bloomberg, but she's “angsting” over which of the Democratic alternatives to Sanders could best unify the party.

**“Will the Sanders voters support Bloomberg? I worry,” she said.** “But Bernie cannot hijack the Democratic Party. He’s divisive, and we’re lurching from one extreme to the other. There would be nothing but gridlock. If Barack Obama couldn’t get his priorities passed, how is Sanders going to?”

Gomez-Mola’s husband is a geologist who works for an oil company. “All his colleagues are Trumppers,” she said. “They will all vote for Trump, no matter who he’s up against.” Likewise, she said, she’ll vote for any Democratic nominee over Trump. **“I was born in Cuba, and I’m very afraid of Sanders because of all the changes he wants to make,” said Gomez-Mola. “But even if Fidel Castro came back from the grave and was the nominee, I’d support him over Trump. Castro was my nemesis all my life, but Trump is just *that* bad.”**

This is exactly what the Sanders campaign is counting on. The senator’s strategists express confidence that dislike for Trump is so strong among Democrats that even moderates will coalesce and consolidate behind Sanders if he wins the nomination.

The 7th District is a majority-minority district: 43 percent white, 31 percent Latino, 13 percent black and 11 percent Asian. One in five residents of this district has a postgraduate degree. Another 30 percent have a bachelor’s.

**Salvador Delmundo, 56, is an ordained minister who works as a chaplain at one of the hospitals in the district. His political evolution over the past 20 years tracks with the community’s broader shift.** He was a Republican who voted for George W. Bush when he carried the district with 66 percent in 2004, but Obama’s barrier-breaking candidacy lured him away. Now he considers himself a “middle-of-the-road” Democrat. “Over the last 10 to 15 years, what was good for me and my wife was developing a deeper appreciation and understanding of the importance of diversity,” he explained as he ate a cheesesteak in the food court while his wife shopped.



**Delumndo emphasized that winning as a Democrat in these parts is still an uphill battle that requires carefully challenging deeply ingrained mindsets.** “The hurdle before Sanders is educating the general American public about what socialism is,” he said. “I have a lot of ‘friends’ – and I say friends with air quotes – saying that North Korea shot dead a coronavirus patient, and that’s what they do to people in socialist countries. It’s totally crazy, but that’s what they say.”

**Delmundo and his wife considered Biden, Sanders and Warren before deciding to vote for the senator from Massachusetts because she seemed like a bridge between the left and the middle of the party.** “We decided Warren was in the middle between Biden and Sanders,” he said. “That said, regardless of who wins the primary, we’re going to go with the Democratic nominee.”





Lizzie Fletcher, on the left in the white blouse, joins other Democrats who were elected to Congress in 2018 for a group portrait in front of the Capitol. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

**Fletcher has not endorsed in the presidential race, and she declined an interview request to discuss her thinking.** A spokeswoman said she didn't have open events over the weekend. She's been building a large war chest, with close to \$2 million cash on hand. Around the district, she'd been emphasizing a drug pricing bill she sponsored, which the House passed and got pigeonholed in the Senate, to show she's focused on pocketbook issues.

**The 2020 election will be the first in modern Texas history where ballots no longer include the option to just vote the Republican or Democratic line straight down the ticket.** "Political consultants here don't know how to model for this," said Jim Henson, director of the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin. "It stands to reason that drop-off will be higher down the ballot, and that's causing some anxiety on both sides."

**Henson thinks Fletcher might be "somewhat more insulated" than other Democrats in frontline House races if Sanders is the nominee.** She'll be well funded, has time to build out her own field

operation and represents an informed electorate capable of distinguishing between her and Sanders. “There’s also a lot of ifs about what kind of a campaign Sanders is going to run if he’s actually the nominee,” said Henson.

**Many House Republicans who lost in 2018, including Culberson, survived when Trump was at the top of the ticket two years before because voters saw them as distinct from the GOP nominee.** Two years later, this was a harder sell because they’d mostly voted in lockstep with his agenda. House Democratic strategists hope to benefit from a similar dynamic in 2020 if Sanders wins the nomination because he’s seen as an outsider taking over the party. National Republican strategists counter that they expect Trump to outperform his 2016 numbers in the district no matter the Democratic nominee, so long as the coronavirus doesn’t push the economy into recession, because voters here have benefitted disproportionately from the 2017 tax cuts and various business-friendly policies, such as deregulation.

**Six Republicans are running in their own primary on Tuesday to challenge Fletcher this fall.** The national party favors Wesley Hunt, an African American in his 30s who piloted Apache helicopters in Iraq as an Army captain after graduating from West Point. He’s trying to break 50 percent to avoid a runoff. His closet competitor is former Bellaire mayor Cindy Siegel, who has spent more than half a million dollars and launched [attack ads](#) against Hunt.



Laura Moser campaigns in Houston in May 2017. She lost a runoff to Fletcher. (Michael Stravato/For The Washington Post)

**Two years ago, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee intervened to boost Fletcher over the more liberal Laura Moser in the primary.** National party operatives even took the unusual step of publishing a tranche of opposition research against Moser because they thought the moderate Fletcher would have an easier time ousting Culberson. (We wrote [several](#) Big Ideas about [the ensuing kerfuffle.](#))

**Moser voted early for Sanders, but interestingly she doesn't believe the polls that show him ahead in the Texas primary.** Many Democrats she knows in the district planned to vote for Bloomberg a few weeks ago, but she said he's faded since his bad debate performance in Las Vegas. Moser said she does not know anyone who loves Biden, but she expects many will vote for him anyway to stop Sanders. And Warren remains popular among many of the most devoted volunteers on her congressional campaign. "I was sort of supporting Warren for a lot of the primary, and it was basically my mother's book club at her events," Moser explained on Sunday afternoon. "Then I went to

a Bernie event, and they were all 20-years old, Muslims, Latinx and people I hadn't seen at political events before. That's why I decided to go all in for Bernie."

**Democrats haven't won a statewide race in Texas since 1994, and Moser said she'd be surprised if that changes this**

**November.** "I don't think Texas is going to flip this year anyway, but if it doesn't, it's not Bernie's fault," she said. "The whole point is either new people come – or they don't. It's a very hard gamble. But the old thing isn't working. ... If the people Bernie is betting on actually come out, we have a lot of them in Texas. But will they come out? I don't know. ... I really banked on those people coming out in my race. And they didn't. ... The infrastructure is not fully there yet. People aren't used to mattering, and people aren't used to voting. That's changing, but it takes time."

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## More on 2020



### **Buttigieg ended his presidential bid.**

“The normally stoic Buttigieg appeared to be steadying himself throughout his farewell remarks in his hometown of South Bend, bringing to an end what was for a time an electrifying candidacy,” [Chelsea Janes and Amy B Wang report](#). “After a year of going everywhere, meeting everyone, defying every expectation, seeking every vote, the truth is that the path has narrowed to a close for our candidacy, if not for our cause,” Buttigieg said. ... Despite attracting enormous attention, significant support and often enthusiastic crowds, Buttigieg was not polling well in the upcoming primary states and never found a way to reverse the antipathy he generated in the black community. Earlier Sunday, his campaign held a call with reporters in which senior adviser Michael Halle and deputy campaign manager Hari Sevugan made the case that while Buttigieg likely wouldn’t win any of the 14 states that vote Tuesday, he could still accumulate enough delegates to keep Sanders’s lead to a minimum. ... LGBTQ leaders had no doubt that Buttigieg’s candidacy had widened the path for gay Americans in politics and other areas of life in the United States. ... The crowd interrupted him with a new chant: ‘2024! 2024!’”

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## Quote of the day

*“We sent a message to every kid out there wondering if whatever marks them out as different means they are somehow destined to be less than. [They saw] that someone who once felt that exact same way can become a leading American presidential candidate — with his husband at his side,” Buttigieg said in his concession speech.*

### **Sanders is hoping California will deliver him the nomination.**

“There are 415 delegates at stake here Tuesday, the largest haul on a day when 14 other states and territories will also go to the polls,” [Scott Wilson reports](#). **“The campaign has a state organization far larger than those of his opponents — 22 offices and more than 100 paid staffers.** And it has been targeting Latinos, Asian Americans and young voters, key demographics in the Democratic electorate. ... A Suffolk University/USA Today poll showed Sanders with a double-digit lead. He was at 35 percent among likely Democratic primary voters, well ahead of [Bloomberg] at 16 percent, [Biden] at 14 percent and [Warren] at 12 percent. ... Officials say they’re confident. ‘The campaign really prioritized California in a way that we hadn’t before,’ said Rafael Návar, the Sanders campaign’s state director. ‘Most people looked at the first four states. I looked at it as five states, and so California had a prioritization from the start.’

**“One key rival for Sanders is Warren, who is hovering around the 15 percent vote threshold,** according to some recent polls. ... Julián Castro ... recently appeared at a Warren event in San Francisco that drew about 150 staff members, volunteers and others. It seems part of an effort to cut into Sanders’s lead among Latinos, especially older ones less liberal on issues of ethnic identity and more suspect of Sanders’s Medicare-for-all proposal. **Several polls show Sanders drawing nearly half the state’s Latino support.** ... Some of his better-funded

rivals have also looked hopefully toward television. California is a place where intensive advertising usually proves essential in winning statewide races. But those rich enough to afford big buys in multiple markets are then often resented, especially the self-financed candidates. ... But it's not clear whether endorsements or heavy spending will dent Sanders's lead, nor whether Biden's surge in South Carolina will itself alter the trajectory of California. Biden has spent little time in the state, traveling here more for fundraising than for organizing."

## **Biden moved aggressively to capitalize on his South Carolina win.**

"Several influential Democrats from Super Tuesday states also gave Biden a lift on Sunday as they announced their support, including former senator Barbara Boxer of California. In Virginia, Rep. Jennifer Wexton — who won her suburban district in 2018, turning the seat blue for the first time in 38 years — endorsed Biden, calling him a 'steady, empathetic leader,'" , " [Robert Costa reports](#). "For many Biden allies, Bloomberg — the billionaire centrist whose name will appear on ballots for the first time Tuesday — remains the biggest headache, and they are hopeful that he may soon decide to bow out. On Sunday, they passed around a clip from MSNBC in which David Plouffe, Barack Obama's 2008 campaign manager, said, 'The reality is Bloomberg needed Biden to lose South Carolina to have any chance.' ... Although Biden's campaign would welcome a narrowed field, several allies are also informally telling allies of Klobuchar and Warren to consider staying in the race until Tuesday night, to deny Sanders a major delegate haul in the Super Tuesday states of Minnesota and Massachusetts ...

**"Bloomberg has attempted to make inroads with African American voters but has encountered continued problems over his past support of stop-and-frisk,** a police strategy that opponents say is a form of racial profiling. Before announcing his candidacy, he apologized for defending the practice. As Bloomberg spoke Sunday in Selma, Ala., at Brown Chapel AME Church, about 10 people stood and silently turned their backs to him. They returned to their seats after the



former mayor stepped away from the podium. The incident caused a stir in the church, but Bloomberg continued his remarks without interruption. Other attendees continued to listen, some cheering and applauding.”

**Obama called Biden to congratulate him on winning South Carolina,** [Bloomberg News reports](#). Two people familiar with the former president’s thinking said he still doesn’t plan to make an endorsement early in the nominating process. Costa reports in his story that, in interviews with more than a dozen operatives, lawmakers and campaign aides, it was clear that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Obama, among others, are reluctant to do anything at this point that would seem heavy-handed.

### **A Klobuchar rally in Minnesota was canceled amid protests.**

“Klobuchar canceled a rally in her home state Sunday night as several dozen protesters chanted ‘Black Lives Matter,’ ‘Klobuchar has got to go’ and ‘Free Myon’ — referencing the case of a black teenager convicted of murder after a flawed police investigation,” [Politico reports](#). “WCCO-CBS Minnesota reported that the protesters made their way into the rally and on stage, where they continued chanting. After a 40-minute delay, the rally was canceled. A campaign spokesperson told the press: ‘The campaign offered a meeting with the Senator if they (protesters) would leave the stage after being on stage for more than an hour. After the group initially agreed, they backed out of the agreement and we are canceling the event.’”

### **Sanders said he would only pick a running mate who backs Medicare-for-all.**

He [told the San Francisco Chronicle](#) his running mate must support his signature issue: “‘We will pick somebody who knows the experience of working families in this country, who has a history of fighting for those families, and somebody whose politics are similar to mine,’ [Sanders said]. ... Sanders sounded a warning against the party trying to deny him the nomination if he comes to Milwaukee with a plurality of pledged

delegates. 'I think that would look terrible, and I think that would lay the groundwork for a Trump victory,' Sanders said in the interview. 'It would reflect on the Democratic Party in a very, very terrible way.' ... He attributed Biden's dominance among black voters to the endorsement he received from South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn ... 'Clyburn played a very significant role,' Sanders said. But, he added, 'there is a difference in how African Americans vote in California, Michigan or North Carolina.'"

## **The coronavirus response shows a common thread between Warren and Bloomberg.**

"Both are using this moment to paint themselves as highly competent technocrats who would use data to guide policy," [Annie Linskey reports](#). "Bloomberg's coronavirus response came in the form of a taped three-minute address aired on two networks Sunday night, thanks to a \$1.5 million ad buy. ... Bloomberg's plan to address the virus includes inviting doctors who've been pushed out of government back to their old jobs ... Warren released her first proposal to address the coronavirus last week and was quick to point out that she was offering a plan before any of the other candidates — and even before the White House ... she previewed her ideas, saying she wants the federal government to provide all Americans with free screening for the virus and free vaccines if one is developed."

## **Trump's campaign manager hijacked social media to win the 2016 election. He's trying to do it again.**

Brad Parscale relied on Facebook to help him accomplish several campaign objectives, including persuasion, fund-raising, and G.O.T.V., or 'get out the vote.' Finding and motivating likely voters through traditional means, such as TV ads or door-to-door canvassing, is expensive and time-consuming compared with social media," [the New Yorker's Andrew Marantz writes in a new profile](#). "'We have almost two hundred and fifteen million hard-I.D. voter records in our database now,' Parscale claimed last year, although his definition of 'hard I.D.' is not clear. **Even if Trump were banned from every social network, his campaign would be able to reach supporters by text.** According to Parscale, the campaign is on track to send 'almost a billion texts, the most in history'—and texts

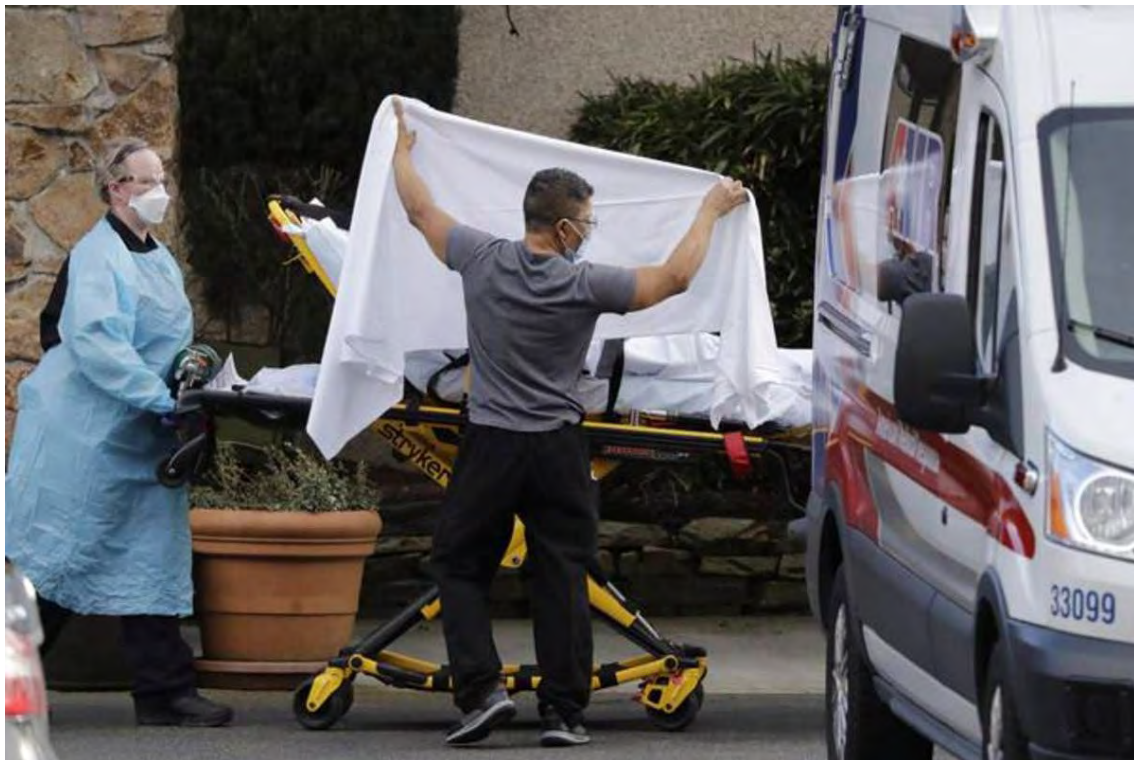
are far more likely to be opened than e-mails, social-media posts, or news articles. 'We've been working on this around the clock for three years,' a senior official who works on the 2020 digital campaign told me. He acknowledged that the campaign doesn't have the same scrappy, subversive energy as in 2016—'It's hard to feel like a total underdog when you have the White House'—but, he added, 'we're not slowing down. We're ramping up.'"

## **A North Carolina Democrat running for Senate is frustrated with both parties.**

"Democrat Erica Smith, a two-term North Carolina state senator, was so inspired by women who beat the odds and won seats in Congress in 2018 that she decided to run in this year's U.S. Senate race. The party establishment chose another candidate," [Vanessa Williams reports](#). "The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee endorsed Cal Cunningham, a former state lawmaker and an Army veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars who had run unsuccessfully for the Senate a decade ago. Smith was disappointed but didn't bow out ... Smith got an unexpected and unwelcome benefactor: a Republican-affiliated political action committee that started running ads touting Smith as the 'true progressive,' while suggesting Cunningham does not support addressing climate change and LGBTQ rights. Smith, 50, who is African American, says she feels she has been disrespected by both political parties: Republicans who are using her to damage the perceived front-runner in the primary and Democratic leaders who endorsed Cunningham because they didn't think she could win."

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## **The coronavirus**



A staffer blocks the view of a person being taken by a stretcher to a waiting ambulance from a nursing facility where more than 50 people are sick and being tested for the coronavirus in Kirkland, Wash. (Elaine Thompson/AP)

## **The coronavirus may have spread undetected for weeks in Washington state.**

It "has been circulating undetected and has possibly infected scores of people over the past six weeks in Washington state, according to a genetic analysis of virus samples that has sobering implications for the entire country amid heightening anxiety about the likely spread of the disease," [Joel Achenbach, Katie Mettler, Lena Sun and Ben Guarino report](#). "The researchers conducted genetic sequencing of two virus samples. One is from a patient who traveled from China to Snohomish County in mid-January and was the first person diagnosed with the disease in the United States. The other came from a recently diagnosed patient in the same county, a high school student with no travel-related or other known exposure to the coronavirus. **The two samples look almost identical genetically, said Trevor Bedford, a computational biologist at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle ...** 'I believe we're facing an already substantial outbreak in Washington State that was not detected until now due to narrow case definition requiring direct

travel to China,' [Bedford said].

**“Officials in Seattle and King County on Sunday announced that four more people have tested positive for the coronavirus, including the second person in the state to die of the virus.** That brings the outbreak in Washington state to 13 cases. Of the four new cases, the three surviving patients range in age from their 70s to 90s, have underlying health conditions and are in critical condition, health officials said. ... Health officials in Washington state and across the nation said they expect that numbers will continue to rise in the wake of the decision by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last week to widen testing guidelines. **Over the weekend, new cases were reported in Americans who had recently traveled to South Korea and Italy, including one person in Rhode Island, the state’s first case.** ... Late Sunday, the office of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announced two ‘presumptively positive’ cases of the coronavirus, in Manatee and Hillsborough counties, and declared a public health emergency.” In New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo [confirmed](#) the state’s first case of the virus.

### **Kirkland, Wash., has suddenly become the epicenter of the virus.**

“One church canceled Communion on Sunday and banned handshakes and hugs. More than two dozen firefighters, and some police officers, are under quarantine. The hospital urged visitors to stay home. And Lake Washington Institute of Technology said it is shutting down for two days to disinfect the campus,” [Maria Sacchetti and Ashley Nguyen report](#). “This outdoorsy city of 90,000 just northeast of Seattle, known for its piney woods, water sports and a Google campus with a meandering bike path running through it, has become the epicenter of the U.S. response to the deadly coronavirus as it begins to spread along the West Coast. ... **With a quarter of the city’s 100 firefighters under quarantine, Kirkland city officials scrambled to prepare amid a host of unknowns.** It remains unclear how many residents have been exposed to the virus, though its spread seems inevitable.”

## **Rumors and chaos in Alabama point to the big issues facing the government.**

“Not long before local leaders decided, in the words of one of them, that federal health officials ‘didn’t know what they were doing’ with their plan to quarantine novel coronavirus patients in [Anniston, Ala.], a doctor here set out in a biohazard suit to stage a one-man protest along the highway with a sign. ‘The virus has arrived. Are you ready?’ it asked. The town didn’t think it was,” [Todd Frankel reports](#). “Residents already were unnerved by strange stories posted on Facebook and shared via text messages about helicopters secretly flying in sick patients, that the virus was grown in a Chinese lab, that someone — either the media or the government — was lying to them about what was really going on. The quarantine plan hastily hatched by the federal Department of Health and Human Services was soon scrapped by Trump, who faced intense pushback from Alabama’s congressional delegation ...

“‘I was shocked,’ Anniston Mayor Jack Draper said. ‘I was shocked by the lack of planning. I was shocked by the manner in which it was presented to us.’” HHS planned on housing patients at an old FEMA facility in town, which doesn’t have any special capabilities for handling infectious diseases, local officials said. “Meanwhile, federal officials never contacted the town’s hospital, Regional Medical Center, about handling covid-19 patients, said Louis Bass, the hospital’s chief executive.”

## **HHS is investigating problems with the CDC’s first round of diagnostic tests.**

“It is unclear which senior health officials, at which agencies, knew about the CDC test problems and when they learned of them. HHS is convening a team of scientists from outside the CDC to investigate the test development and its flaws, according to an HHS spokesperson,” [Politico reports](#). “It remains unclear why CDC developed its own coronavirus test, rather than relying on one distributed by the World Health Organization, but some experts suggest the agency wanted a test that would do a better job of ruling out other viruses.”

## **The CDC has failed to release crucial information that doctors say could save lives.**

“Several US patients have recovered from coronavirus, but so far, the CDC has shared detailed clinical information about only one of those patients. That information includes what treatments the patients received and how they fared,” [CNN reports](#). “The federal agency possesses such information about several US coronavirus patients, but has not released it. That means doctors who now unexpectedly find themselves treating new coronavirus patients aren't able to benefit from the findings of doctors who preceded them.”

## **The virus continues spreading globally.**

“South Korea said Monday it has confirmed 599 new cases, far higher than the daily tally reported in China,” [Adam Taylor, Teo Armus, Simon Denyer and Rick Noack report](#). “With 4,335 confirmed infections and at least 22 deaths, South Korea has the second-largest national caseload. However, it has tested more than 100,000 people, far more than most nations. ... **Italy now has more than 1,600 confirmed cases**, while Iran surpassed 1,500, with 66 deaths. ... Elsewhere, Indonesia, one of the few large nations thought to be free of the virus, announced on Monday that it had two confirmed cases. ... In China, the number of new cases was 202, bringing its total to 80,026, including 2,912 deaths.”

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## **Divided America**



Acting deputy Homeland Security secretary Ken Cuccinelli arrives at the Capitol to brief senators on the coronavirus response. (Mark Wilson/Getty Images)

## **A court ruled that Ken Cuccinelli's appointment as head of USCIS was unlawful.**

U.S. District Judge Randolph Moss, an Obama appointee, said Trump's "appointment last year of [Cuccinelli] to be head of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services was a violation of federal vacancy laws, and that Cuccinelli lacked the authority to issue policy directives tightening asylum rules," [Nick Miroff reports](#). "The ruling amounts to a rebuke of Trump's stated preference for filling top administration jobs with officials serving in an 'acting' capacity. ... The Trump administration is expected to appeal the decision."

## **The Supreme Court will hear a third challenge to ACA.**

This time, it will be at the request of Democratic-controlled states that are fighting a lower court decision that said the entire law must fall. "The court's review will come in the term that begins in October, which would



not leave time for a decision before the November presidential election,” [Robert Barnes reports](#). “The law remains in effect during the legal challenges.”

## **Trump is winning a war on American institutions.**

[The Atlantic's](#) George Packer tells the story of how Erica Newland, a Yale Law School graduate, fell out of love with her job at the Justice Department: “Newland went to work at the Department of Justice in the last summer of the Obama administration. ... She decided to serve under Trump. She liked her work and her colleagues ... Things got worse in the second year. ... No one risked getting fired. No one would become the target of a Trump tweet. The danger might be a mediocre performance review or a poor reference. ... She hated going to work. ... At night she slept poorly, plagued by regrets. Should she have pushed harder on a legal issue? ... How could she live with the cruelty and bigotry of executive orders and other proposals, even legal ones, that crossed her desk? She was angry and miserable, and her friends told her to leave. ...

“As the executive orders and other requests for the office’s approval piled up, many of them of dubious legality, **one of Newland’s supervisors took to saying, ‘We’re just following orders.’ He said it without irony, as a way of reminding everyone ... When she gave him a look he added, ‘I know that’s what the Nazis said, but we’re not Nazis.’** ... On October 27, an anti-Semitic extremist killed 11 people at a synagogue in Pittsburgh. Before the shooting, he berated Jews online for enabling ‘invaders’ to enter the United States from Mexico. ... Newland, who could imagine being shot in a synagogue, felt that her office’s work was sanctioning rhetoric that had inspired a mass killer. She tendered her resignation three days later.”

## **The Navy SEAL [acquitted](#) of killing an ISIS prisoner talked to “[60 Minutes](#)” about his case.**

Edward Gallagher, the former SEAL, “acknowledges that people either love him as an American hero or despise him as a war criminal.”

Correspondent David Martin told Gallagher that his picture with the dead

prisoner is a “trophy photo if I ever saw one.” “Yeah, that what it was taken as,” Gallagher said, before adding he was “trying to make it look tough. I know how bad it looks when it gets out into the public, which it never was supposed to. ... It was like a joke text. Dark humor.”

## **Charlottesville won't celebrate Thomas Jefferson's birthday. It will instead celebrate the end of slavery.**

“His name still adorns much of the city, from the public library to a private winery. And from the foot of a mountain dedicated to him, his statue still gazes out over the university he founded. But lately, in ways both small and seismic, Thomas Jefferson's town has started to feel like it belongs to someone else,” [Michael Miller reports](#). “For the first time since World War II, Charlottesville won't honor the Founding Father's birthday this spring. Instead, on Tuesday, the city will celebrate the demise of the institution with which Jefferson increasingly has become associated: slavery. Liberation and Freedom Day, as the new holiday is known, will commemorate when Union troops arrived here on March 3, 1865, and freed the enslaved people who made up a majority of Charlottesville's residents.”

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## **Social media speed read**

Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) is battling pancreatic cancer, but he decided to make the pilgrimage back to the Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma, Ala., on the anniversary of his vicious beating on Bloody Sunday:



**John Lewis** ✓  
@repjohnlewis



We were beaten, we were tear-gassed. I thought I was going to die on this bridge. But somehow and some way, God almighty helped me here. We cannot give up now. We cannot give in. We must keep the faith, keep our eyes on the prize.



♥ 60.3K 12:40 AM - Mar 2, 2020



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All the candidates wished Buttigieg well as he dropped out, even Klobuchar, who clashed often with the 38-year-old:



Former candidate Marianne Williamson, who endorsed Sanders last week, offered this analysis:



Chasten Buttigieg commemorated his husband's historic bid:



Now that Buttigieg is gone, Biden gets a new title:



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## Videos of the day

John Oliver tackled the coronavirus and examined the ways it has highlighted government weaknesses around the world:



Trevor Noah shared his extended thoughts on Bloomberg:



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# The Daily 202

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By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Democratic fears that Bernie Sanders would hurt down-ballot candidates influence suburban voters

HOUSTON – Joanne Armstrong was tired of screaming at the television. It's why she volunteered for Lizzie Fletcher in 2018. And it's why she doesn't want Bernie Sanders to be the Democratic nominee for president in 2020.

Armstrong, a physician in her 50s, decided to channel her anger at



President Trump two years ago by going door-knocking, for the first time ever, to help Fletcher, a Democratic congressional candidate in the suburban Houston district where she lives. In the midterms, Fletcher toppled nine-term Republican congressman John Culberson, a powerful appropriator, picking up a seat that had been comfortably in GOP hands after George H.W. Bush won it in 1966.

Armstrong worries that Fletcher, still a freshman, would lose her quest for a second term if Sanders (I-Vt.) is at the top of the ticket and that Trump would handily win a second term. She said it was hard enough to convince voters to take a chance on a Democratic candidate last time when she could warn while canvassing about how Republicans were trying to destroy the Affordable Care Act without a replacement plan, putting people with preexisting conditions at risk. But Sanders's Medicare-for-all plan also threatens to upend the system, jeopardizing people's private health-insurance coverage. Houston is world-renowned for its medical centers, especially related to cancer treatment.

"People looked at Trump in 2018 and said this is not who we are. But Bernie also isn't who we in Houston are," said Armstrong. "I'm still tired of screaming at the TV after three years. I don't want four more years."



Bernie Sanders reacts to cheering supporters during a rally on Sunday in San Jose, Calif. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Texas is the second-biggest prize on Super Tuesday, behind California, with 228 delegates up for grabs.** Houston, the fourth-most populous city in the country, has become a battleground within the battleground. Harris County, home to Houston, has more than 4 million residents, a bigger population than 26 states.

**Joe Biden is flying here this afternoon for a rally at Texas Southern University.** Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) spoke to a crowd of 2,000 at an outdoor rally on Saturday night. Former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg stumped here this past Thursday with the mayor of Houston, who endorsed him. Sanders visited the University of Houston last weekend, where he celebrated his triumph in the Nevada caucuses.

**Two polls published Sunday put Sanders ahead but by significantly different margins among likely voters in the Lone Star State,** reflecting the degree to which the contest remains fluid and also how hard it is to predict what the electorate will look like in this evolving megastate. Sanders led Biden 34 percent to 19 percent in an [NBC-Marist poll](#), with Bloomberg at 15 percent and Warren at 10 percent.

But Sanders led Biden by only 4 percentage points, 30 percent to 26 percent, in a [CBS-YouGov poll](#), which was within the margin of error, with Warren at 17 percent and Bloomberg at 13 percent.

**But Sanders fares particularly poorly in the same well-to-do suburban areas that fueled the Democratic wave in the midterms and where Trump remains most vulnerable.** The 7th District, where Fletcher already faces a tough reelection fight, is the sort of place that national Democrats fear they'd lose if Sanders leads the ticket. Mitt Romney carried the district with 60 percent of the vote in the 2012 presidential election, but Trump lost it to Hillary Clinton in 2016 with 47 percent. Establishment-minded Democrats worry that voters who don't like Trump or Sanders might stay home, especially moderates who voted for candidates like Fletcher in 2018. They fear that Sanders would galvanize more Republicans than he'd bring in the new voters he promises to mobilize.

**Armstrong is undecided but anxious to vote for a Democrat in Texas's presidential primary on Tuesday who can block Sanders from winning the nomination.** She really likes Warren, but she's mainly concerned about beating Trump. She's texted all weekend with friends as far away as New Jersey and Massachusetts to mull what she should do. "I would vote for Joe Biden. He's not my first choice, but I would if I thought he was the only one who could beat Bernie," she said. "I just don't want Bernie. There's a big contingent that doesn't want Bernie, but they're all splitting. ... Do I vote my conscience, which is Warren? Or do I vote strategically, which is Biden?"



Elizabeth Warren acknowledges the crowd of 2,000 after a rally on Saturday night in Houston. (Brian Snyder/Reuters)

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**The Galleria, in the heart of Fletcher's district, is one of the largest and ritziest malls in the United States.** It has every fancy

chain store you can think of, plus an indoor ice-skating rink. It was packed this weekend as I interviewed more than 30 voters.

**Charlotte Sullivan, 70, the retired human resources director of an oil and gas company, plans to vote for Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) because she seems reasonable and willing to compromise to get results.** “I’m a fiscally responsible Democrat, and I don’t go for Bernie’s socialism,” Sullivan said as she shopped with her daughter. “I will go for Bernie if he’s the nominee because I cannot tolerate Trump at all. But Bernie has dug himself into a trench, and he’s not going to be able to get out of it.”

**Sullivan lives in the richest Zip code of Houston, a traditionally Republican neighborhood in Fletcher’s district that’s full of multimillion-dollar homes. “My neighbors will all vote for Trump before they’ll vote for Bernie, but they’d love to see someone moderate so they could make the switch,” she said.** “If Klobuchar was the nominee, they’d vote for her.”

**She looked at Bloomberg but concluded that he’s a Democratic version of Trump.** “All my antennae go up,” Sullivan said. “It’s the feeling that tells me something’s not right about him. I’ve had very few circumstances in my life where that instinct took me in the wrong direction. My gut says, ‘Don’t go with Bloomberg.’”

**Carol Alvarado, a Democratic state senator who represents Houston, endorsed Biden on Sunday after his sweeping win in the South Carolina primary.** Democrats picked up a dozen state House seats in 2018 and could win control of the chamber if they gain nine more in 2020. Several of their best pick-up opportunities are around Houston. Alvarado, who chairs the Senate Democratic Caucus, identified certain seats in both the state House and Senate that they’re more likely to win if the former vice president is their standard-bearer.

**“We could lose seats if we’re having to talk about democratic socialism,” she explained in an interview. “And if we lose those**

**seats, that gives Republicans a larger majority – which matters for the next decade.”** She’s referring to redistricting. The outcome of the 2020 state elections will impact who draws the boundaries that will be in effect until 2031. Alvarado said a Democratic-controlled legislature could also vote to expand Medicaid under the ACA, something Republicans have declined to do. “There’s just so much riding on this election for the future of Texas,” she said.



Joe Biden attends a Sunday church service at Brown Chapel AME Church to commemorate the 55th anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Selma, Ala. (Toni L. Sandys/The Washington Post)

**Houston is also the epicenter of the American energy industry, and Sanders’s plan to ban fracking and pass a Green New Deal makes moderates jittery.** When you fly into town, you see the scope of the region’s dependence on fossil fuels in the form of tankers and refineries.

**“People’s livelihoods are directly tied to that industry,” said Rep. Marc Veasey (D-Tex.).** He represents a Fort Worth district,

where he notes that many African Americans and Latinos depend on energy industry jobs that Sanders could put in jeopardy. He said union members also regularly express “worry and concern” to him that Sanders’s Medicare-for-all proposal would take away health-care benefits they’ve negotiated hard to secure from their employers.

**Veasey lamented that Sanders being at the top of the ticket would make it harder to play offense against House Republicans like freshman Dan Crenshaw in the Houston suburbs.** Veasey, who endorsed Biden in November, added that many of his Democratic colleagues would have little choice but to distance themselves from Sanders if he’s the nominee in order to get reelected. “There’s absolutely no question about that,” he told me on Sunday evening.

The CBS-YouGov poll released asked likely Democratic voters in Texas which candidate has the best chance of beating Trump, regardless of whom they support. Interestingly, **Latino voters said Sanders has the best chance of winning the general, topping Biden by a 24-point margin. Black voters thought Biden had the best chance, besting Sanders by a 25-point margin.** White voters were more evenly split: 32 percent said Biden, 28 percent said Sanders, 18 percent said Bloomberg and 13 percent said Warren.

**Anthony Blake, a 35-year-old management consultant, will vote for Sanders in the primary.** “Sometimes I think you’ve got to fight fire with fire, as terrible as that sounds,” he said. When I asked about the electability fears expressed by his fellow Houstonians, **he pointed to several recent polls that showed Sanders leading Trump in head-to-head matchups and in many cases outperforming other Democrats.** “The data doesn’t really show that,” he said, downplaying the concerns of elected lawmakers.

Blake, a political junkie who is white, came to watch Warren’s outdoor rally on Discovery Green in the heart of downtown Houston on Saturday night. He observed that Sanders’s rally at the same venue last April drew a

bigger and, he believes, more energetic crowd. He said he was especially impressed that the Sanders crowd included so many diverse faces, especially Latinos, and young people who told him they've never been engaged with politics. **“I know they say it’s a fool’s errand, but Bernie’s going to bring new people out,” said Blake. “I’ve never seen energy like I have for Bernie.”**

He added that he comes from a conservative family. “They’ve been Republicans for 30 years now, but they dislike Trump,” he said. “They’re terrified of Bernie right now, but they’ll vote for him over Trump.”



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner introduces Mike Bloomberg during a rally last Thursday in Houston. (Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

**The NBC-Marist poll showed 1 in 4 likely voters in Texas remained undecided. Sarita Gomez-Mola, 70, is among them.** The foreign-language interpreter, who lives in the 7th District, said she will cast her ballot for whomever she concludes on primary day has the best chance of blocking Sanders from clinching the nomination, which she acknowledged may be Biden. A friend visiting from New York encouraged her to think about Bloomberg, but she’s “angsting” over which of the Democratic alternatives to Sanders could best unify the party.



**“Will the Sanders voters support Bloomberg? I worry,” she said.** “But Bernie cannot hijack the Democratic Party. He’s divisive, and we’re lurching from one extreme to the other. There would be nothing but gridlock. If Barack Obama couldn’t get his priorities passed, how is Sanders going to?”

Gomez-Mola’s husband is a geologist who works for an oil company. “All his colleagues are Trumppers,” she said. “They will all vote for Trump, no matter who he’s up against.” Likewise, she said, she’ll vote for any Democratic nominee over Trump. **“I was born in Cuba, and I’m very afraid of Sanders because of all the changes he wants to make,” said Gomez-Mola. “But even if Fidel Castro came back from the grave and was the nominee, I’d support him over Trump. Castro was my nemesis all my life, but Trump is just *that* bad.”**

This is exactly what the Sanders campaign is counting on. The senator’s strategists express confidence that dislike for Trump is so strong among Democrats that even moderates will coalesce and consolidate behind Sanders if he wins the nomination.

The 7th District is a majority-minority district: 43 percent white, 31 percent Latino, 13 percent black and 11 percent Asian. One in five residents of this district has a postgraduate degree. Another 30 percent have a bachelor’s.

**Salvador Delmundo, 56, is an ordained minister who works as a chaplain at one of the hospitals in the district. His political evolution over the past 20 years tracks with the community’s broader shift.** He was a Republican who voted for George W. Bush when he carried the district with 66 percent in 2004, but Obama’s barrier-breaking candidacy lured him away. Now he considers himself a “middle-of-the-road” Democrat. “Over the last 10 to 15 years, what was good for me and my wife was developing a deeper appreciation and understanding of the importance of diversity,” he explained as he ate a cheesesteak in the food court while his wife shopped.

**Delumndo emphasized that winning as a Democrat in these parts is still an uphill battle that requires carefully challenging deeply ingrained mindsets.** “The hurdle before Sanders is educating the general American public about what socialism is,” he said. “I have a lot of ‘friends’ – and I say friends with air quotes – saying that North Korea shot dead a coronavirus patient, and that’s what they do to people in socialist countries. It’s totally crazy, but that’s what they say.”

**Delmundo and his wife considered Biden, Sanders and Warren before deciding to vote for the senator from Massachusetts because she seemed like a bridge between the left and the middle of the party.** “We decided Warren was in the middle between Biden and Sanders,” he said. “That said, regardless of who wins the primary, we’re going to go with the Democratic nominee.”





Lizzie Fletcher, on the left in the white blouse, joins other Democrats who were elected to Congress in 2018 for a group portrait in front of the Capitol. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

**Fletcher has not endorsed in the presidential race, and she declined an interview request to discuss her thinking.** A spokeswoman said she didn't have open events over the weekend. She's been building a large war chest, with close to \$2 million cash on hand. Around the district, she'd been emphasizing a drug pricing bill she sponsored, which the House passed and got pigeonholed in the Senate, to show she's focused on pocketbook issues.

**The 2020 election will be the first in modern Texas history where ballots no longer include the option to just vote the Republican or Democratic line straight down the ticket.** "Political consultants here don't know how to model for this," said Jim Henson, director of the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin. "It stands to reason that drop-off will be higher down the ballot, and that's causing some anxiety on both sides."

**Henson thinks Fletcher might be "somewhat more insulated" than other Democrats in frontline House races if Sanders is the nominee.** She'll be well funded, has time to build out her own field

operation and represents an informed electorate capable of distinguishing between her and Sanders. “There’s also a lot of ifs about what kind of a campaign Sanders is going to run if he’s actually the nominee,” said Henson.

**Many House Republicans who lost in 2018, including Culberson, survived when Trump was at the top of the ticket two years before because voters saw them as distinct from the GOP nominee.** Two years later, this was a harder sell because they’d mostly voted in lockstep with his agenda. House Democratic strategists hope to benefit from a similar dynamic in 2020 if Sanders wins the nomination because he’s seen as an outsider taking over the party. National Republican strategists counter that they expect Trump to outperform his 2016 numbers in the district no matter the Democratic nominee, so long as the coronavirus doesn’t push the economy into recession, because voters here have benefitted disproportionately from the 2017 tax cuts and various business-friendly policies, such as deregulation.

**Six Republicans are running in their own primary on Tuesday to challenge Fletcher this fall.** The national party favors Wesley Hunt, an African American in his 30s who piloted Apache helicopters in Iraq as an Army captain after graduating from West Point. He’s trying to break 50 percent to avoid a runoff. His closet competitor is former Bellaire mayor Cindy Siegel, who has spent more than half a million dollars and launched [attack ads](#) against Hunt.



Laura Moser campaigns in Houston in May 2017. She lost a runoff to Fletcher. (Michael Stravato/For The Washington Post)

**Two years ago, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee intervened to boost Fletcher over the more liberal Laura Moser in the primary.** National party operatives even took the unusual step of publishing a tranche of opposition research against Moser because they thought the moderate Fletcher would have an easier time ousting Culberson. (We wrote [several](#) Big Ideas about [the ensuing kerfuffle.](#))

**Moser voted early for Sanders, but interestingly she doesn't believe the polls that show him ahead in the Texas primary.** Many Democrats she knows in the district planned to vote for Bloomberg a few weeks ago, but she said he's faded since his bad debate performance in Las Vegas. Moser said she does not know anyone who loves Biden, but she expects many will vote for him anyway to stop Sanders. And Warren remains popular among many of the most devoted volunteers on her congressional campaign. "I was sort of supporting Warren for a lot of the primary, and it was basically my mother's book club at her events," Moser explained on Sunday afternoon. "Then I went to a Bernie event, and they

were all 20-years old, Muslims, Latinx and people I hadn't seen at political events before. That's why I decided to go all in for Bernie."

**Democrats haven't won a statewide race in Texas since 1994, and Moser said she'd be surprised if that changes this November.** "I don't think Texas is going to flip this year anyway, but if it doesn't, it's not Bernie's fault," she said. "The whole point is either new people come – or they don't. It's a very hard gamble. But the old thing isn't working. ... If the people Bernie is betting on actually come out, we have a lot of them in Texas. But will they come out? I don't know. ... I really banked on those people coming out in my race. And they didn't. ... The infrastructure is not fully there yet. People aren't used to mattering, and people aren't used to voting. That's changing, but it takes time."

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## More on 2020



### **Buttigieg ended his presidential bid.**

“The normally stoic Buttigieg appeared to be steady himself throughout his farewell remarks in his hometown of South Bend, bringing to an end what was for a time an electrifying candidacy,” [Chelsea Janes and Amy B Wang report](#). “After a year of going everywhere, meeting everyone, defying every expectation, seeking every vote, the truth is that the path has narrowed to a close for our candidacy, if not for our cause,’ Buttigieg said. ... Despite attracting enormous attention, significant support and often enthusiastic crowds, Buttigieg was not polling well in the upcoming primary states and never found a way to reverse the antipathy he generated in the black community. Earlier Sunday, his campaign held a call with reporters in which senior adviser Michael Halle and deputy campaign manager Hari Sevugan made the case that while Buttigieg likely wouldn’t win any of the 14 states that vote Tuesday, he could still accumulate enough delegates to keep Sanders’s lead to a minimum. ... LGBTQ leaders had no doubt that Buttigieg’s candidacy had widened the path for gay Americans in politics and other areas of life in the United States. ... The crowd interrupted him with a new chant: ‘2024! 2024!’”

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## Quote of the day

*“We sent a message to every kid out there wondering if whatever marks them out as different means they are somehow destined to be less than. [They saw] that someone who once felt that exact same way can become a leading American presidential candidate — with his husband at his side,” Buttigieg said in his concession speech.*

### **Sanders is hoping California will deliver him the nomination.**

“There are 415 delegates at stake here Tuesday, the largest haul on a day when 14 other states and territories will also go to the polls,” [Scott Wilson reports](#). **“The campaign has a state organization far larger than those of his opponents — 22 offices and more than 100 paid staffers.** And it has been targeting Latinos, Asian Americans and young voters, key demographics in the Democratic electorate. ... A Suffolk University/USA Today poll showed Sanders with a double-digit lead. He was at 35 percent among likely Democratic primary voters, well ahead of [Bloomberg] at 16 percent, [Biden] at 14 percent and [Warren] at 12 percent. ... Officials say they’re confident. ‘The campaign really prioritized California in a way that we hadn’t before,’ said Rafael Nívar, the Sanders campaign’s state director. ‘Most people looked at the first four states. I looked at it as five states, and so California had a prioritization from the start.’

**“One key rival for Sanders is Warren, who is hovering around the 15 percent vote threshold,** according to some recent polls. ... Julián Castro ... recently appeared at a Warren event in San Francisco that drew about 150 staff members, volunteers and others. It seems part of an effort to cut into Sanders’s lead among Latinos, especially older ones less liberal on issues of ethnic identity and more suspect of Sanders’s Medicare-for-all proposal. **Several polls show Sanders drawing nearly half the state’s Latino support.** ... Some of his better-funded rivals have also looked hopefully toward television. California is a place



where intensive advertising usually proves essential in winning statewide races. But those rich enough to afford big buys in multiple markets are then often resented, especially the self-financed candidates. ... But it's not clear whether endorsements or heavy spending will dent Sanders's lead, nor whether Biden's surge in South Carolina will itself alter the trajectory of California. Biden has spent little time in the state, traveling here more for fundraising than for organizing."

## **Biden moved aggressively to capitalize on his South Carolina win.**

"Several influential Democrats from Super Tuesday states also gave Biden a lift on Sunday as they announced their support, including former senator Barbara Boxer of California. In Virginia, Rep. Jennifer Wexton — who won her suburban district in 2018, turning the seat blue for the first time in 38 years — endorsed Biden, calling him a 'steady, empathetic leader,'" , " [Robert Costa reports](#). "For many Biden allies, Bloomberg — the billionaire centrist whose name will appear on ballots for the first time Tuesday — remains the biggest headache, and they are hopeful that he may soon decide to bow out. On Sunday, they passed around a clip from MSNBC in which David Plouffe, Barack Obama's 2008 campaign manager, said, 'The reality is Bloomberg needed Biden to lose South Carolina to have any chance.' ... Although Biden's campaign would welcome a narrowed field, several allies are also informally telling allies of Klobuchar and Warren to consider staying in the race until Tuesday night, to deny Sanders a major delegate haul in the Super Tuesday states of Minnesota and Massachusetts ...

**"Bloomberg has attempted to make inroads with African American voters but has encountered continued problems over his past support of stop-and-frisk,** a police strategy that opponents say is a form of racial profiling. Before announcing his candidacy, he apologized for defending the practice. As Bloomberg spoke Sunday in Selma, Ala., at Brown Chapel AME Church, about 10 people stood and silently turned their backs to him. They returned to their seats after the former mayor stepped away from the podium. The incident caused a stir

in the church, but Bloomberg continued his remarks without interruption. Other attendees continued to listen, some cheering and applauding.”

**Obama called Biden to congratulate him on winning South Carolina, Bloomberg News reports.** Two people familiar with the former president’s thinking said he still doesn’t plan to make an endorsement early in the nominating process. Costa reports in his story that, in interviews with more than a dozen operatives, lawmakers and campaign aides, it was clear that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Obama, among others, are reluctant to do anything at this point that would seem heavy-handed.

### **A Klobuchar rally in Minnesota was canceled amid protests.**

“Klobuchar canceled a rally in her home state Sunday night as several dozen protesters chanted ‘Black Lives Matter,’ ‘Klobuchar has got to go’ and ‘Free Myon’ — referencing the case of a black teenager convicted of murder after a flawed police investigation,” [Politico reports](#). “WCCO-CBS Minnesota reported that the protesters made their way into the rally and on stage, where they continued chanting. After a 40-minute delay, the rally was canceled. A campaign spokesperson told the press: ‘The campaign offered a meeting with the Senator if they (protesters) would leave the stage after being on stage for more than an hour. After the group initially agreed, they backed out of the agreement and we are canceling the event.’”

### **Sanders said he would only pick a running mate who backs Medicare-for-all.**

He [told the San Francisco Chronicle](#) his running mate must support his signature issue: “We will pick somebody who knows the experience of working families in this country, who has a history of fighting for those families, and somebody whose politics are similar to mine,” [Sanders said]. ... Sanders sounded a warning against the party trying to deny him the nomination if he comes to Milwaukee with a plurality of pledged delegates. ‘I think that would look terrible, and I think that would lay the

groundwork for a Trump victory,' Sanders said in the interview. 'It would reflect on the Democratic Party in a very, very terrible way.' ... He attributed Biden's dominance among black voters to the endorsement he received from South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn ... 'Clyburn played a very significant role,' Sanders said. But, he added, 'there is a difference in how African Americans vote in California, Michigan or North Carolina.'"

## **The coronavirus response shows a common thread between Warren and Bloomberg.**

"Both are using this moment to paint themselves as highly competent technocrats who would use data to guide policy," [Annie Linskey reports](#). "Bloomberg's coronavirus response came in the form of a taped three-minute address aired on two networks Sunday night, thanks to a \$1.5 million ad buy. ... Bloomberg's plan to address the virus includes inviting doctors who've been pushed out of government back to their old jobs ... Warren released her first proposal to address the coronavirus last week and was quick to point out that she was offering a plan before any of the other candidates — and even before the White House ... she previewed her ideas, saying she wants the federal government to provide all Americans with free screening for the virus and free vaccines if one is developed."

## **Trump's campaign manager hijacked social media to win the 2016 election. He's trying to do it again.**

Brad Parscale relied on Facebook to help him accomplish several campaign objectives, including persuasion, fund-raising, and G.O.T.V., or 'get out the vote.' Finding and motivating likely voters through traditional means, such as TV ads or door-to-door canvassing, is expensive and time-consuming compared with social media," [the New Yorker's Andrew Marantz writes in a new profile](#). "We have almost two hundred and fifteen million hard-I.D. voter records in our database now,' Parscale claimed last year, although his definition of 'hard I.D.' is not clear. **Even if Trump were banned from every social network, his campaign would be able to reach supporters by text.** According to Parscale, the campaign is on track to send 'almost a billion texts, the most in history'—and texts are far more likely to be opened than e-mails, social-media posts, or news

articles. ‘We’ve been working on this around the clock for three years,’ a senior official who works on the 2020 digital campaign told me. He acknowledged that the campaign doesn’t have the same scrappy, subversive energy as in 2016—‘It’s hard to feel like a total underdog when you have the White House’—but, he added, ‘we’re not slowing down. We’re ramping up.’”

## **A North Carolina Democrat running for Senate is frustrated with both parties.**

“Democrat Erica Smith, a two-term North Carolina state senator, was so inspired by women who beat the odds and won seats in Congress in 2018 that she decided to run in this year’s U.S. Senate race. The party establishment chose another candidate,” [Vanessa Williams reports](#). “The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee endorsed Cal Cunningham, a former state lawmaker and an Army veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars who had run unsuccessfully for the Senate a decade ago. Smith was disappointed but didn’t bow out ... Smith got an unexpected and unwelcome benefactor: a Republican-affiliated political action committee that started running ads touting Smith as the ‘true progressive,’ while suggesting Cunningham does not support addressing climate change and LGBTQ rights. Smith, 50, who is African American, says she feels she has been disrespected by both political parties: Republicans who are using her to damage the perceived front-runner in the primary and Democratic leaders who endorsed Cunningham because they didn’t think she could win.”

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## **The coronavirus**



A staffer blocks the view of a person being taken by a stretcher to a waiting ambulance from a nursing facility where more than 50 people are sick and being tested for the coronavirus in Kirkland, Wash. (Elaine Thompson/AP)

## **The coronavirus may have spread undetected for weeks in Washington state.**

It "has been circulating undetected and has possibly infected scores of people over the past six weeks in Washington state, according to a genetic analysis of virus samples that has sobering implications for the entire country amid heightening anxiety about the likely spread of the disease," [Joel Achenbach, Katie Mettler, Lena Sun and Ben Guarino report](#). "The researchers conducted genetic sequencing of two virus samples. One is from a patient who traveled from China to Snohomish County in mid-January and was the first person diagnosed with the disease in the United States. The other came from a recently diagnosed patient in the same county, a high school student with no travel-related or other known exposure to the coronavirus. **The two samples look almost identical genetically, said Trevor Bedford, a computational biologist at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle ...** 'I believe we're facing an already substantial outbreak in Washington State that was not detected until now due to narrow case definition requiring direct

travel to China,' [Bedford said].

**“Officials in Seattle and King County on Sunday announced that four more people have tested positive for the coronavirus, including the second person in the state to die of the virus.** That brings the outbreak in Washington state to 13 cases. Of the four new cases, the three surviving patients range in age from their 70s to 90s, have underlying health conditions and are in critical condition, health officials said. ... Health officials in Washington state and across the nation said they expect that numbers will continue to rise in the wake of the decision by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last week to widen testing guidelines. **Over the weekend, new cases were reported in Americans who had recently traveled to South Korea and Italy, including one person in Rhode Island, the state’s first case.** ... Late Sunday, the office of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announced two ‘presumptively positive’ cases of the coronavirus, in Manatee and Hillsborough counties, and declared a public health emergency.” In New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo [confirmed](#) the state’s first case of the virus.

### **Kirkland, Wash., has suddenly become the epicenter of the virus.**

“One church canceled Communion on Sunday and banned handshakes and hugs. More than two dozen firefighters, and some police officers, are under quarantine. The hospital urged visitors to stay home. And Lake Washington Institute of Technology said it is shutting down for two days to disinfect the campus,” [Maria Sacchetti and Ashley Nguyen report](#). “This outdoorsy city of 90,000 just northeast of Seattle, known for its piney woods, water sports and a Google campus with a meandering bike path running through it, has become the epicenter of the U.S. response to the deadly coronavirus as it begins to spread along the West Coast. ... **With a quarter of the city’s 100 firefighters under quarantine, Kirkland city officials scrambled to prepare amid a host of unknowns.** It remains unclear how many residents have been exposed to the virus, though its spread seems inevitable.”

## **Rumors and chaos in Alabama point to the big issues facing the government.**

“Not long before local leaders decided, in the words of one of them, that federal health officials ‘didn’t know what they were doing’ with their plan to quarantine novel coronavirus patients in [Anniston, Ala.], a doctor here set out in a biohazard suit to stage a one-man protest along the highway with a sign. ‘The virus has arrived. Are you ready?’ it asked. The town didn’t think it was,” [Todd Frankel reports](#). “Residents already were unnerved by strange stories posted on Facebook and shared via text messages about helicopters secretly flying in sick patients, that the virus was grown in a Chinese lab, that someone — either the media or the government — was lying to them about what was really going on. The quarantine plan hastily hatched by the federal Department of Health and Human Services was soon scrapped by Trump, who faced intense pushback from Alabama’s congressional delegation ...

“‘I was shocked,’ Anniston Mayor Jack Draper said. ‘I was shocked by the lack of planning. I was shocked by the manner in which it was presented to us.’” HHS planned on housing patients at an old FEMA facility in town, which doesn’t have any special capabilities for handling infectious diseases, local officials said. “Meanwhile, federal officials never contacted the town’s hospital, Regional Medical Center, about handling covid-19 patients, said Louis Bass, the hospital’s chief executive.”

## **HHS is investigating problems with the CDC’s first round of diagnostic tests.**

“It is unclear which senior health officials, at which agencies, knew about the CDC test problems and when they learned of them. HHS is convening a team of scientists from outside the CDC to investigate the test development and its flaws, according to an HHS spokesperson,” [Politico reports](#). “It remains unclear why CDC developed its own coronavirus test, rather than relying on one distributed by the World Health Organization, but some experts suggest the agency wanted a test that would do a better job of ruling out other viruses.”

## **The CDC has failed to release crucial information that doctors say could save lives.**

“Several US patients have recovered from coronavirus, but so far, the CDC has shared detailed clinical information about only one of those patients. That information includes what treatments the patients received and how they fared,” [CNN reports](#). “The federal agency possesses such information about several US coronavirus patients, but has not released it. That means doctors who now unexpectedly find themselves treating new coronavirus patients aren't able to benefit from the findings of doctors who preceded them.”

## **The virus continues spreading globally.**

“South Korea said Monday it has confirmed 599 new cases, far higher than the daily tally reported in China,” [Adam Taylor, Teo Armus, Simon Denyer and Rick Noack report](#). “With 4,335 confirmed infections and at least 22 deaths, South Korea has the second-largest national caseload. However, it has tested more than 100,000 people, far more than most nations. ... **Italy now has more than 1,600 confirmed cases**, while Iran surpassed 1,500, with 66 deaths. ... Elsewhere, Indonesia, one of the few large nations thought to be free of the virus, announced on Monday that it had two confirmed cases. ... In China, the number of new cases was 202, bringing its total to 80,026, including 2,912 deaths.”

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## **Divided America**





Acting deputy Homeland Security secretary Ken Cuccinelli arrives at the Capitol to brief senators on the coronavirus response. (Mark Wilson/Getty Images)

## **A court ruled that Ken Cuccinelli's appointment as head of USCIS was unlawful.**

U.S. District Judge Randolph Moss, an Obama appointee, said Trump's "appointment last year of [Cuccinelli] to be head of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services was a violation of federal vacancy laws, and that Cuccinelli lacked the authority to issue policy directives tightening asylum rules," [Nick Miroff reports](#). "The ruling amounts to a rebuke of Trump's stated preference for filling top administration jobs with officials serving in an 'acting' capacity. ... The Trump administration is expected to appeal the decision."

## **The Supreme Court will hear a third challenge to ACA.**

This time, it will be at the request of Democratic-controlled states that are fighting a lower court decision that said the entire law must fall. "The court's review will come in the term that begins in October, which would

not leave time for a decision before the November presidential election,” [Robert Barnes reports](#). “The law remains in effect during the legal challenges.”

## **Trump is winning a war on American institutions.**

[The Atlantic's](#) George Packer tells the story of how Erica Newland, a Yale Law School graduate, fell out of love with her job at the Justice Department: “Newland went to work at the Department of Justice in the last summer of the Obama administration. ... She decided to serve under Trump. She liked her work and her colleagues ... Things got worse in the second year. ... No one risked getting fired. No one would become the target of a Trump tweet. The danger might be a mediocre performance review or a poor reference. ... She hated going to work. ... At night she slept poorly, plagued by regrets. Should she have pushed harder on a legal issue? ... How could she live with the cruelty and bigotry of executive orders and other proposals, even legal ones, that crossed her desk? She was angry and miserable, and her friends told her to leave. ...

“As the executive orders and other requests for the office’s approval piled up, many of them of dubious legality, **one of Newland’s supervisors took to saying, ‘We’re just following orders.’ He said it without irony, as a way of reminding everyone ... When she gave him a look he added, ‘I know that’s what the Nazis said, but we’re not Nazis.’** ... On October 27, an anti-Semitic extremist killed 11 people at a synagogue in Pittsburgh. Before the shooting, he berated Jews online for enabling ‘invaders’ to enter the United States from Mexico. ... Newland, who could imagine being shot in a synagogue, felt that her office’s work was sanctioning rhetoric that had inspired a mass killer. She tendered her resignation three days later.”

## **The Navy SEAL [acquitted](#) of killing an ISIS prisoner talked to “[60 Minutes](#)” about his case.**

Edward Gallagher, the former SEAL, “acknowledges that people either love him as an American hero or despise him as a war criminal.”

Correspondent David Martin told Gallagher that his picture with the dead

prisoner is a “trophy photo if I ever saw one.” “Yeah, that what it was taken as,” Gallagher said, before adding he was “trying to make it look tough. I know how bad it looks when it gets out into the public, which it never was supposed to. ... It was like a joke text. Dark humor.”

## **Charlottesville won't celebrate Thomas Jefferson's birthday. It will instead celebrate the end of slavery.**

“His name still adorns much of the city, from the public library to a private winery. And from the foot of a mountain dedicated to him, his statue still gazes out over the university he founded. But lately, in ways both small and seismic, Thomas Jefferson's town has started to feel like it belongs to someone else,” [Michael Miller reports](#). “For the first time since World War II, Charlottesville won't honor the Founding Father's birthday this spring. Instead, on Tuesday, the city will celebrate the demise of the institution with which Jefferson increasingly has become associated: slavery. Liberation and Freedom Day, as the new holiday is known, will commemorate when Union troops arrived here on March 3, 1865, and freed the enslaved people who made up a majority of Charlottesville's residents.”

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## **Social media speed read**

Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) is battling pancreatic cancer, but he decided to make the pilgrimage back to the Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma, Ala., on the anniversary of his vicious beating on Bloody Sunday:



**John Lewis** ✓  
@repjohnlewis



We were beaten, we were tear-gassed. I thought I was going to die on this bridge. But somehow and some way, God almighty helped me here. We cannot give up now. We cannot give in. We must keep the faith, keep our eyes on the prize.



♥ 60.3K 12:40 AM - Mar 2, 2020



💬 13.4K people are talking about this



All the candidates wished Buttigieg well as he dropped out, even Klobuchar, who clashed often with the 38-year-old:



Former candidate Marianne Williamson, who endorsed Sanders last week, offered this analysis:



Chasten Buttigieg commemorated his husband's historic bid:



Now that Buttigieg is gone, Biden gets a new title:



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## Videos of the day

John Oliver tackled the coronavirus and examined the ways it has highlighted government weaknesses around the world:



Trevor Noah shared his extended thoughts on Bloomberg:



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By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Super Tuesday tests Mike Bloomberg's money against Joe Biden's momentum

OKLAHOMA CITY – Pete Buttigieg dropped out of the presidential race while I was flying here to cover a rally he had scheduled for Monday. To salvage the trip, I decided to drive to Tulsa to see Amy Klobuchar. She suspended her campaign just as I hit the road. Instead, both trekked to Dallas to endorse Joe Biden.

As [the field winnows](#), the former vice president is [riding momentum](#) from his win in South Carolina on Saturday and benefiting from the Democratic

establishment's [desperation to stop Bernie Sanders](#) from securing an insurmountable delegate lead on Super Tuesday. Former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke, who dropped out in November, also endorsed Biden in Dallas, a few hours after former Senate majority leader Harry Reid announced his support in Nevada.

**In presidential politics, momentum historically is worth more than money. But no one has ever spent the kind of money that Mike Bloomberg has.** Today is the first time the former New York mayor's name will appear on the ballot. He skipped the four early states to invest in the 14 states, plus American Samoa, that vote on [Super Tuesday](#). Nearly a third of the delegates to the nominating convention will be awarded, the biggest haul of the year. "I'm in it to win it," Bloomberg said at a Monday event in Virginia, noting that he connected by phone with both Buttigieg and Klobuchar, who he said "behaved themselves well" in the race.

**Biden is playing catch-up in his quest to consolidate support among moderates.** He's been struggling to raise money – until \$10 million poured in over the weekend. He has some of the weakest organizations in the states that vote on Super Tuesday. And his rivals were on the ground in the states that vote today while he was laser-focused on the Palmetto State.



**Bloomberg has put about half a billion dollars into building the Death Star of campaigns.** He has hired more than 2,400 paid staffers, including 400 at his Manhattan headquarters and 2,000 spread across 43 states and territories, including all that vote today. He has deployed more than 40 staffers in each of 19 states and more than 100 in each of six states. The campaign has opened more than 200 field offices, including more than 100 in the 14 states that vote today.

**Three of those offices, and 23 of those full-time staffers, are here in Oklahoma. This state is far from Super Tuesday's biggest prize, but there are 37 delegates up for grabs.** For context, the Iowa caucuses awarded 41 delegates. The state offers an interesting window into Bloomberg's strategy and a handy gauge of whether the gusher of investment, when his rivals were focused elsewhere, pays dividends.

After Klobuchar canceled her Tulsa rally, **I dropped by Bloomberg's Oklahoma City field office on Monday afternoon. The campaign had advertised online that it was open for volunteers to come work the phone bank. There were four paid staffers in the office but just one volunteer actually making calls.** One staffer sat at the front desk to check people in. Another assisted the volunteer as she used a

campaign cellphone to work through a list of voters.

**Regina Sabatini, the volunteer, turned out to be an amiable Bloomberg superfan.** The 55-year-old from Mustang, on the outskirts of town, took the day off work as a project manager for software development so she could urge fellow Oklahomans to back Bloomberg. She also took off parts of last Thursday and Friday to come make calls. And over the weekend, from home, she texted a list of numbers given to her by the campaign. She said she's never volunteered before on a presidential campaign.

**“The primary reason is I do feel he can truly beat Trump,” said Sabatini,** wearing a Bloomberg campaign T-shirt. “Others talk about getting things done. He can actually get things done. ... I'm just horrified by how things are going with this administration. I truly believe we need to bring back civility to restore our democracy. ... I can sit and complain about it or I can do something about it.” Sabatini emphasized that she will support any Democratic nominee. “Vote blue,” she said, “no matter who.”

**Bloomberg has spent at least \$3.9 million on TV ads in Oklahoma,** which has allowed him to run commercials more than 6,300 times. None of the other candidates spent more than a few hundred thousand dollars in the state. That could ultimately matter more than the fact that the office wasn't full of volunteers making calls, but there's a storied history of self-funders spending millions on television and having little to show for it. Just ask Tom Steyer, the billionaire environmentalist who dropped out of the race on Saturday night after he failed to earn any delegates, despite spending more than \$250 million of his own money on his campaign and airing more ads in South Carolina than anyone else.

**Sanders defeated Hillary Clinton in the Oklahoma primary four years ago by 10 points,** 52 percent to 42 percent, carrying 75 of the state's 77 counties. But no one seems to have a strong sense of what will happen this time in the Sooner State. There's been no high-quality public [polling](#). One local survey two weeks ago put Biden up 1 point over Bloomberg, well within the margin of error. Another poll the week before

that had Bloomberg up 6 points, but that was before his bad debate performance in Las Vegas. Both surveys showed Sanders, the independent senator from Vermont, just under the 15 percent threshold required to get delegates. Obviously, the race is fluid. It's unclear where those who have been backing Klobuchar and Buttigieg will go. The senator from Minnesota and the former mayor from South Bend, Ind., both hoped to fare well here.



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**Bloomberg has visited Oklahoma three times on his private jet since launching his campaign in November**, including a speech in Oklahoma City last week. He unveiled what he calls [his Greenwood Initiative](#) during a trip to Tulsa on the eve of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It's a plan to improve economic opportunities for African Americans. Greenwood was one of the most affluent black communities in the country until it was devastated in [the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre](#). About 8 percent of Oklahoma's population is black.

Bloomberg also held a roundtable with tribal leaders to solicit input on a Native American policy he subsequently unveiled. He has also secured endorsements from former governor Brad Henry, former Tulsa mayor Kathy Taylor and state Sen. Kevin Matthews, who represents Greenwood.

Bloomberg campaign officials said they've hosted 400 grass-roots events for voters around Oklahoma. They also said that there were more volunteers earlier in the afternoon at the field office in Oklahoma City, as well as Tulsa and Lawton, a rural area in southwestern Oklahoma where national campaigns don't typically invest.

**Sanders benefits from a grass-roots army that's hard to buy.** When I drove to his Oklahoma City office from Bloomberg's, there was one staffer present but that's because 26 volunteers were out door-knocking. The field organizer showed me the sign-in sheet to prove it. Sanders volunteers were also canvassing Monday afternoon in Tulsa and Norman, home to the University of Oklahoma. Neither [Biden](#) nor Elizabeth [Warren](#) have field offices in the state.

**Jill Biden will drop by an elementary school in Oklahoma City later today to get out the vote for her husband**, and actor Danny Glover will speak at a phone bank for Sanders in his field office here. Jane Sanders stumped last Thursday for her husband in Greenwood, the black neighborhood of Tulsa.

**Warren was born and raised in Oklahoma, which she mentions**

**every chance she gets, and she visited here shortly before Christmas.** She hung out with her brothers and tried to smooth over tensions with Native Americans who are upset that she spent decades falsely claiming to be one of them. Notably, the pro-Warren super PAC is not spending any money on TV here, a reflection of her prospects.

**Today, though, Warren is focused on trying to survive by winning her adopted state of Massachusetts,** where she taught law at Harvard and which she represents in the Senate. Sanders held big rallies in the Bay State over the weekend. Warren staying in the race **hurts** the senator from Vermont far more than anyone else, so he hopes to score a victory over her there.

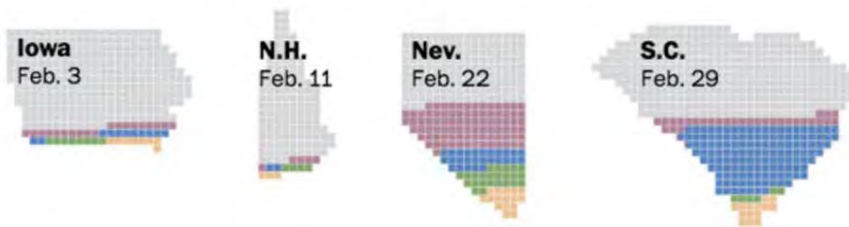
### Super Tuesday states have 10 times the population of earlier-voting states

Nearly 130 million people live in the 14 states with nominating contests on Super Tuesday – more than 10 times as many people who live in the four states with caucuses and primaries before Super Tuesday.

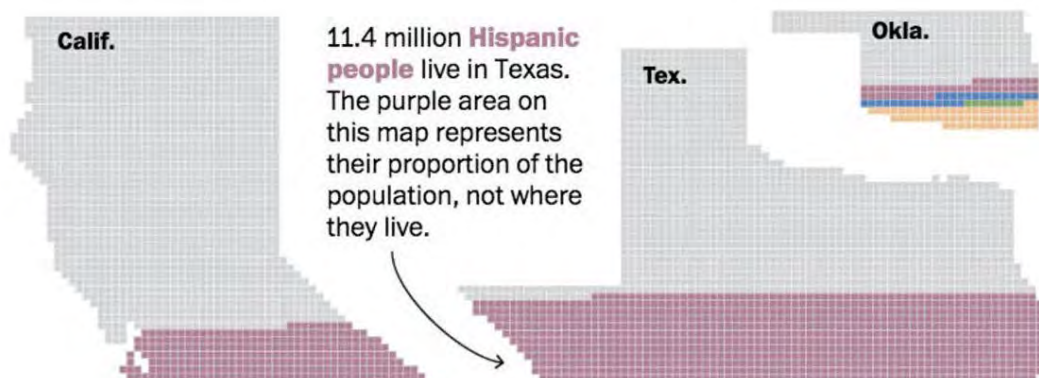
Each square ■ represents 10,000 people.

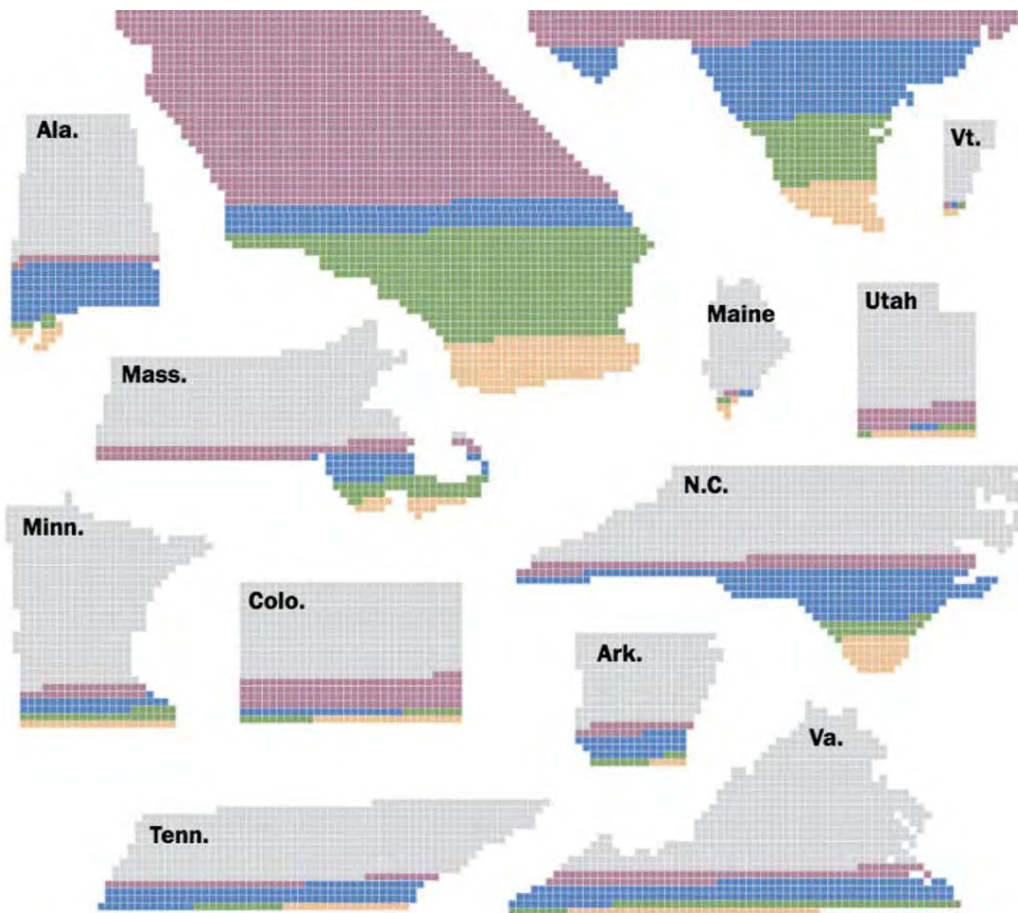
White non-Hispanic Black Asian Hispanic Other

#### Primaries or caucuses before Super Tuesday



#### Primaries on Super Tuesday





**Super Tuesday states are more diverse than states that follow**



"Other" includes Native Americans, people of multiple races and other races. U.S. territories other than Puerto Rico are not included.

Source: American Community Survey

ALYSSA FOWERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

**During a town hall in Manassas, Va., that aired last night on Fox News, Bloomberg seemed a little annoyed when asked why he doesn't step aside for Biden. Fox host Martha MacCallum asked him whether he should follow the lead of Buttigieg and Klobuchar if he's as**



concerned about Sanders as he says. “I haven't even faced the voters once at a national level,” Bloomberg replied.

**Fox’s Bret Baier pressed Bloomberg to name states where he might actually win the primary.** “Well, keep in mind you don't have to win states, you have to win delegates,” Bloomberg replied. “The most likely scenario for the Democratic Party is that nobody has a majority, and then it goes to a convention, where there's horse-trading and everybody decides to compromise. It doesn't even have to be one of the two leading candidates.”

“The Sanders people would say they're trying to steal it,” Baier noted.

“Look, if the rules say that you can swap votes or make deals, then you can swap votes and make deals,” countered Bloomberg. “And if you don't like those rules, don't play.”

**Bloomberg will spend tonight in Florida, which votes in two weeks, to signal that he plans to stick around no matter what happens tonight.** He has events scheduled later this week in Michigan, which votes next Tuesday, and Pennsylvania, whose primary isn't until April 28.

**Biden attacked Bloomberg during an interview last night on CNN.** “He’s not a Democrat,” the former vice president told Anderson Cooper. “You can spend a billion dollars, but you can’t move away from what your record is.” Bloomberg was elected mayor of New York as a Republican and independent but never a Democrat. Asked about these criticisms on Fox, Bloomberg replied that he’s “in sync” with Democrats on taxes, climate change, and gun control. And he highlighted his generous contributions to liberal causes.

**On Fox, asked to describe key differences between himself and Biden, Bloomberg touted his executive experience** – building a company and leading a city for 12 years – as he argued that being former vice president is not really a managerial job. Mostly, though, Bloomberg focused his attacks on Sanders. “He’s not electable,” the billionaire said of

the self-described democratic socialist. He described some of Sanders's ideas as "crazy," though he reiterated that he would vote for Sanders over Trump. "I would not be happy doing it," Bloomberg said. "But I have said I would."

**The Sanders campaign seems to anticipate a two-way race with Biden coming out of Super Tuesday.** "We are now entering the phase of the primary in which the differences between Bernie and Biden will take center stage," Sanders manager Faiz Shakir and senior adviser Jeff Weaver write in [a new memo](#) to surrogates and staff. "These differences make clear that the choice between these two candidates is stark — it is a choice between the party's core economic and social justice agenda, and the Washington establishment's agenda that aims to protect and enrich the wealthy and well-connected. The differences also spotlight how Bernie's agenda is a far more popular general election agenda than Biden."

**Biden also seems to be itching to go mano a mano with Sanders.** "The country is hungry — hungry, hungry, hungry — to be united," he said in Houston on Monday. "Most Americans ... don't want a promise of a revolution. They want a guarantee of results."

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## More from the states

**Many Super Tuesday voters who already cast their ballots want a do-over.** In California, Buttigieg’s exit “sparked some brief interest on social media about the rules governing a possible revote. ... The answer, in a word: no,” [the Los Angeles Times reports](#). “There’s no provision in California election law for a second chance once a ballot has been mailed or cast in person at a polling place or regional vote center. ... There are no firm numbers on how many of California’s 20.7 million registered voters have already weighed in. Paul Mitchell, whose for-profit campaign research firm, Political Data Inc., tracks ballots as they are returned, said about 20% of all mailed ballots had been received by local elections officials as of Friday. But he said that underestimates how much of the race is already over, as millions of ballots that were mailed out won’t be returned. ‘Our data suggests 40% of those who will participate have already voted,’ Mitchell said.”

**In Colorado, the procrastinators have the greatest shot at making a difference.** “Colorado is switching back to a presidential primary system this year after several cycles of caucuses. As of mid-afternoon Monday, about 1.2 million ballots had been returned, and Democratic ballots overtook Republican ballots,” [the Denver Post reports](#). “The total number of returned ballots nearly matched the total votes cast

during the entirety of the 2018 primaries, when both parties had competitive statewide races. The slower pace for Democratic ballots this time signaled a likely avalanche of Democratic ballots coming late Monday and Tuesday, election watchers said. ... **If the race is close here, it may take a day or two to learn if Sanders has held Warren, Biden and Bloomberg at bay.**”

**In Minnesota, tens of thousands of people have already probably cast ballots for Klobuchar.** “Secretary of State Steve Simon released the final pre-election batch of early voting numbers on Friday, showing 94,287 people had requested early ballots,” [the Star Tribune reports](#). “Simon said he’s been warning voters that the presidential primary isn’t like any other election. ‘I’ve been saying everywhere I go around the state, keep in mind, this kind of contest is different from an August primary election because candidates routinely drop out,’ he said.”

**In North Carolina, 800,000 voters – mostly Democrats – voted early.** “North Carolina allowed [recasts] for four years in the ’70s,” Wake County Board of Elections member Gerry Cohen [told the News & Observer](#). “It was a nightmare for election officials.”

**In Virginia, Biden is counting on suburban and African American voters to forge a coalition that can keep his momentum going.** “Many of the state’s top Democrats have endorsed him, including top African American officials,” [the Associated Press reports](#). “Bloomberg has been a regular visitor to Virginia and launched his race here. He’s spent millions of dollars helping elect Democrats in Virginia and spent lavishly on campaign staff and advertising. Sanders doesn’t need to win Virginia to have a good day ... A surprise showing in Virginia [for Warren] could be a much-needed boost.”

**In Maine, Sanders rolled out endorsements from several local liberal leaders.** Still, Warren has the most endorsements from state-level officials, [the Bangor Daily News reports](#).

**In Utah, Sanders spoke to a crowd of about 5,800 as he hopes**

**for a repeat of his 2016 success.** He has outraised Trump in the Beehive State, \$728,000 to \$463,000, [the Salt Lake Tribune reports](#).

**In Alabama, most of the focus is on the Republican Senate primary.** Polling of the Democratic primary in the state has been almost nonexistent. Most attention is instead on the fight between seven Republicans to take on Sen. Doug Jones (D). Former attorney general Jeff Sessions, Rep. Bradley Byrne and former Auburn head football coach Tommy Tuberville appear most likely to make it to a runoff, [the Montgomery Advertiser reports](#).

**In Texas, Reps. Kay Granger (R) and Henry Cuellar (D) excel at securing federal funding for their districts, but they're struggling to beat back strong primary challenges from the insurgent wings of their parties.** “Cuellar and Granger, both powerful players on Capitol Hill, are the Texas incumbents most at risk of losing reelection on Tuesday, in what will be the first primary contest for members of Congress anywhere in the United States,” [the Texas Tribune reports](#). “Whether these districts’ voters opt to keep them in office or throw out their seniority, favoring ideological purity over congressional clout, will have sweeping consequences for Texans across the state.”

**In New York, Ivanka Trump changed her voter registration from Democrat to Republican so she could vote for her dad in the state's April primary.** In 2016, the president's daughter missed the deadline to do so and couldn't vote for her dad. Her “transformation from a New York socialite who donated to Democratic politicians and vocally supported gay rights to a card-carrying member of her father’s ‘Make America Great Again’ coalition is now complete,” [the New York Times reports](#). “Online, her persona has also become more aggressive and raw, a reflection of her own anger, aides said, over her father’s impeachment. ... Ms. Trump declined to say which Democrat she would like to see face off against Mr. Trump in a general election. ... But, Ms. Trump said, she felt ‘good about our chances of beating all of them.’”

**Like clockwork, Senate Republicans are preparing their**

**first subpoena to Burisma, a Ukrainian oil and gas firm.**

**“Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) is preparing to subpoena a witness tied to Ukrainian natural gas company Burisma, in an escalation of the GOP probe of the firm,”** [Felicia Sonmez and Paul Kane report](#). “Johnson, the chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, sent a letter Sunday to members of the panel informing them of his plan to force a vote on subpoenaing the witness, political consultant and former Ukrainian diplomat Andrii Telizhenko, who worked for a company called Blue Star Strategies that was a representative for Burisma in the United States. Hunter Biden, Joe Biden’s son, sat on the board of Burisma while his father was the Obama administration’s point person on Ukraine policy. Trump and Republicans have claimed, without evidence, that there was something nefarious in the Bidens’ dealings with Ukraine. ...

**“Two other GOP senators — Charles E. Grassley (Iowa) and Lindsey O. Graham (S.C.) — have also launched investigations into Hunter Biden.** In an interview Monday night, **Johnson denied that Biden’s win [in South Carolina] sparked his subpoena request**, noting that ‘we’d still be asking for the same information’ regardless of Biden’s status as a Democratic presidential candidate. ... Last Monday, Johnson sent a letter to Sen. Gary Peters (Mich.), the top Democrat on the panel, advising him of his intent to issue the subpoena. Three days later, Peters wrote back to Johnson voicing his objections ... Johnson argued that the news of the planned subpoena would not have been made public on Monday had Peters not objected to his proposal.”

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## Quote of the day

*“Look, we are taking on the establishment. And I fully understand — no great surprise to me — that establishment politicians are not going to endorse us,” Sanders told reporters in Salt Lake City. “The establishment will rally around the establishment candidate. That’s the simple*

*reality.”*

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## The new world order



A grocery store is out of hand sanitizer and face masks in Kirkland, Wash., the center of the nation's most serious coronavirus outbreak. (Jovelle Tamayo for The Washington Post)

## The Fed is making emergency moves.

“The Federal Reserve slashed the benchmark U.S. interest rate by half a percentage point Tuesday, the biggest cut since the financial crisis and a sign that global central banks are prepared to act to contain the economic fallout from the coronavirus,” [Heather Long reports](#). “The U.S. central bank has not made an emergency cut like this since 2008. Fed leaders voted unanimously in favor of the rate reduction. The highly unusual move comes on the heels of other central banks around the world lowering rates and calls by President Trump for a ‘big’ Fed rate cut. ‘The coronavirus poses evolving risks to economic activity. In light of these risks and in support of achieving its maximum employment and price stability goals, the [Fed] decided today to lower the target range for the federal funds rate by 1/2 percentage point,’ the Fed wrote in a statement. The move would reduce the current interest rate to just below 1.25 percent, down from 1.75 percent.”



## **The coronavirus has claimed six American lives. Patients are being treated in at least 15 states.**

“Four deaths announced Monday and two others this weekend all occurred in Washington state, the center of the nation’s most serious outbreak,” [Maria Sacchetti](#), [Arelis Hernández](#), [Siobhán O’Grady](#) and [William Wan](#) report. **“Nationwide, the number of cases topped 100,** and U.S. officials used increasingly dire language, even as they sought to push back against waves of panic and misinformation online. ‘We know there will be more cases,’ Vice President Pence said at a White House news conference. ‘Now we’re focused on mitigation of the spread as well as treatment of people that are affected.’ Trump administration officials stressed Monday that the risk posed to the public by the coronavirus remains low but cautioned the outbreak could change course as the disease spreads through person-to-person contact.

“Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Washington state either have cases confirmed by health officials or have been treating patients with coronavirus-like symptoms. ... **[Lawmakers on Capitol Hill] were closing in Monday on a \$7.5 billion coronavirus package** ... The legislation is likely to be unveiled on Tuesday and pass the House later this week before moving on to the Senate.

“At a meeting with leaders of the world’s largest pharmaceutical companies, **[Trump] hinted he may enact new travel restrictions on unnamed nations with large outbreaks** and touted his administration’s steps to fight the virus. The president listened and occasionally interjected to press pharmaceutical executives on how quickly a vaccine and treatments could be developed. **Therapeutic human trials could begin as early as April, but a vaccine would take roughly 12 to 18 months to develop,** said Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. ...

**“In Texas, San Antonio lambasted the [CDC] after the agency**

**released a woman who later was found to have the novel coronavirus.** The city unsuccessfully sought a temporary restraining order to prevent the release of dozens of people scheduled to leave quarantine in the San Antonio area and demanded another round of tests be performed. San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg noted that the released woman had visited a mall, eaten at the food court and stayed at the Holiday Inn Express near the city's airport. The woman arrived in Texas last month from Wuhan, China, and was part of a 91-person group evacuated from Asia. ... 'We simply cannot have a screw-up like this from our federal partners,' said Nirenberg."

**Worsening conditions abroad offered troubling signs for what may lie ahead:** "Schools across Japan mostly closed their doors Monday [while] South Korea said it would extend its school closures by two weeks." The E.U.'s internal market commissioner said the virus "has led to about \$1.1 billion in losses per month for the European tourism industry since the start of 2020. British Airways is cancelling hundreds of flights, including a dozen between London and New York. An adviser to Iran's supreme leader died after contracting the coronavirus, state media reported Monday. Iraq and Egypt confirmed more cases, many of them linked to Iran. Senegal confirmed its first case, marking the second one found in sub-Saharan Africa."

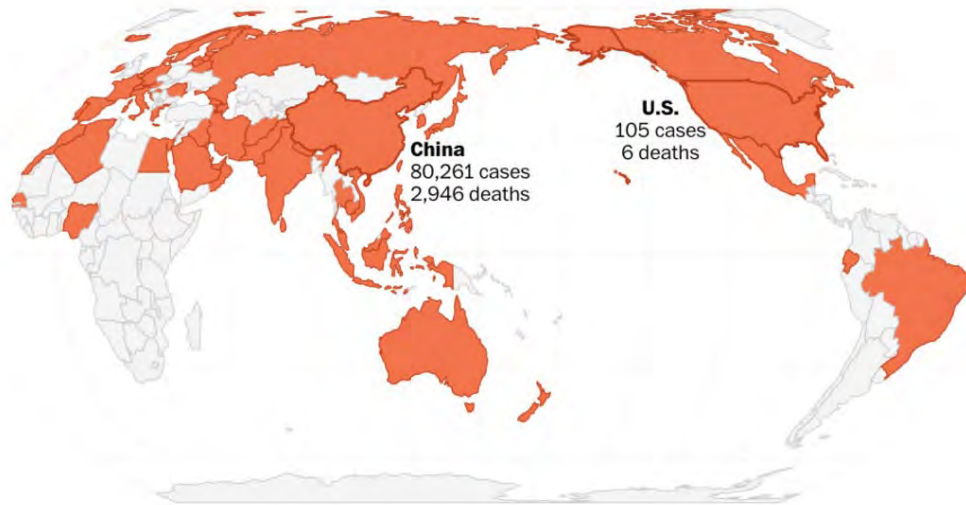
**North Korea is holding at least 7,000 people under quarantine,** a South Korean news agency reported. ([Min Joo Kim](#))

**India suspended entry to visitors from Italy, Iran, South Korea and Japan.** It also suspended the visas of people of any nationality who have visited those four countries, plus China, since Feb. 1. India canceled the visas of Chinese citizens last month. ([Joanna Slater](#))

**A Washington state woman said she can't get answers about her husband, who is inside the facility experiencing the possible outbreak.** The 73-year-old man was checked into the long-term Kirkland nursing facility that's been linked to four of the nation's six deaths. His wife said she's been unable to contact the hospital or its nursing station

about his condition, per [Teo Armus](#).

**The number of cases worldwide has increased to about 90,000.**



(The Washington Post)

**U.S. officials are pressuring airlines to turn over more contact information for passengers.**

“Government officials have said they need the data so they can warn local authorities about who might have been exposed to the virus,” [Jeff Stein](#), [Lena Sun](#), [Lori Aratani](#) report. “But the airline industry has balked, saying the federal government should instead share information it already collects among different agencies and come up with a system for obtaining the rest.”

**Medical bill worries and fears of lost pay may hamper efforts to slow the spread.**

“As the test for the virus becomes more widely available, health-care experts predict that some people with flu-like illnesses — or those who may have been exposed — will avoid finding out whether they have been infected because they are uninsured or have health plans that saddle them with much of the cost of their care,” [Amy Goldstein](#) reports. “The government has not yet begun to tell Americans where to go for testing, and neither public nor private insurers are changing their rules to buffer

people from testing-related charges. Some preparations recommended by the [CDC] are incompatible with the way benefits work. Officials have urged people to keep an adequate supply of their routine medicines in case they end up quarantined. But insurance companies seldom permit refills until a patient is nearly out of pills. The agency also urges people with respiratory illnesses to stay home from work. But with no federal sick leave requirements, some experts predict the virus will spread more rapidly.”

**Our colleagues Angela Fritz and Reis Thebault have launched a special newsletter focused on the coronavirus.** (You can subscribe [here](#).)

### **FEMA is preparing for a possible emergency declaration.**

“FEMA officials are preparing for an ‘infectious disease emergency declaration’ by the president that would allow the agency to provide disaster relief funding to state and local governments, as well as federal assistance to support the coronavirus response,” per [NBC News](#).

### **Congressional leaders are preparing for the virus to infect the Capitol.**

Speaker Nancy Pelosi invited her fellow congressional leaders to a briefing to discuss a plan for congressional operations should the virus threaten Washington, [Fox News reports](#). There have already been conversations among congressional staffers about potentially mandating that only “essential staff” come to work.

### **The Defense Intelligence Agency directed all employees not to travel.**

“The DIA is the first known government agency to ban travel domestically in the face of the global outbreak, raising questions about whether other federal offices will issue the same guidance,” [the Daily Beast reports](#).

**At least the Pope is okay.**

Pope Francis, who has been unwell in recent days, tested negative for the coronavirus. The pope had a cough and fever after spending most of last Wednesday outdoors in St. Peter's Square. His doctors immediately swabbed him to conduct tests, showing that his symptoms were "a slight indisposition," a Rome newspaper reported. ([Armus](#))

**In response to the virus, the NBA told players to avoid high-fiving fans or strangers and avoid taking items for autographs, the AP reported.**

**In Israel, Netanyahu scored a comeback in the latest election but fell short of a majority.**

"The poll results put [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's right-wing bloc two seats shy of achieving that governing majority in the 120-seat parliament, or Knesset, and breaking a year-long impasse in Israeli politics. Official results being tabulated overnight could hand his coalition an outright victory — or leave it even further out of reach," [Steve Hendrix and Ruth Eglash report](#). "With Israelis voting in national elections for the third time in less than year, the unexpectedly strong performance was a victory for Netanyahu, who had failed to wrest a governing majority in the past two votes and was indicted in November on charges of bribery, fraud and abuse of trust. His corruption trial is scheduled to start later this month. ... The exit poll results came as a jarring disappointment to Netanyahu's main rival, Benny Gantz, a ramrod-straight former military chief who presented himself as the ethical antithesis of Netanyahu. While Gantz's performance as a political newcomer produced solid results in the first two elections, he seems to have fallen short Monday. Gantz was defiant early Tuesday, telling supporters that he would fight on. ...

**"Turnout outpaced the previous two elections, a surprise for many political observers who had predicted voters would stay away because of spiking coronavirus fears and electoral exhaustion.** The final tally put turnout at 71 percent, the highest since 2015. Hundreds of voters who are in precautionary quarantine because of possible exposure to coronavirus donned masks and gloves and went to

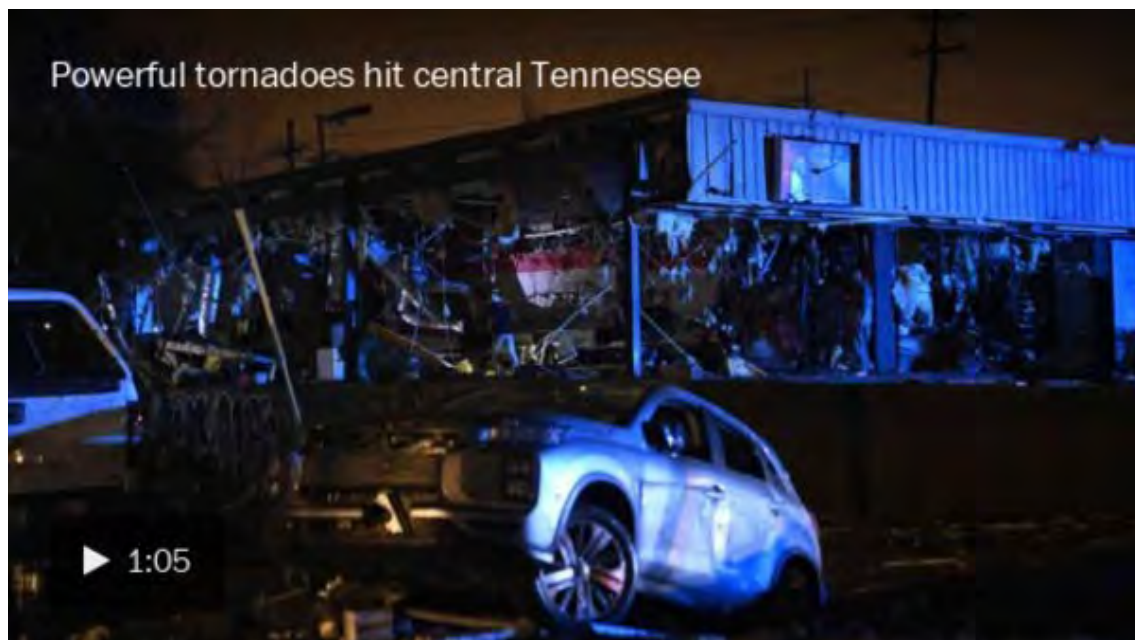
more than a dozen special biohazard voting places staffed by paramedics. The fears of infectious disease had been only the latest worry for an electorate anxious from nonstop politicking, adding hand-washing to the hand-wringing.”

### **The Trump administration ordered four Chinese news outlets in the U.S. to reduce their staffs.**

Xinhua News Agency and the China Global Television Network, the parent company of the China Daily and China Radio International, were asked to “reduce the number of Chinese nationals working on their staffs by more than a third,” [Carol Morello reports](#). **The action comes after China expelled three Beijing-based Wall Street Journal reporters, condemning as “racist” an essay that ran in the newspaper’s opinion section criticizing China’s response to the coronavirus outbreak.** “In announcing the move, senior administration officials cited the disappearance of citizen journalists chronicling the outbreak of the coronavirus in Wuhan.”

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## **Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



## Tornadoes in Nashville killed at least nine.

“Tornadoes ripped through central Tennessee early Tuesday, killing at least nine people, demolishing homes and businesses, causing multiple injuries and leaving tens of thousands of residents without power,” [Timothy Bella, Kim Bellware and Andrew Freedman report](#). “The tornado touched down northwest of Nashville shortly before 12:40 a.m. Eastern time, the National Weather Service said. Damage was reported along a path that ended about 10 miles east of the city, in Hermitage, Tenn., according to the [Associated Press](#). ... At least 20 people have been hospitalized ... Thirty-first responders have been injured, according to the fire department.”

## Chris Matthews is out at MSNBC.

The long-running host of “Hardball” announced he’s retiring, an abrupt exit prompted by a series of recent gaffes and controversies. The 74-year-old made the surprise announcement at the top of his weeknight program. **“He appeared for about two minutes at the start of his 7 p.m. program and effectively signed off on his television career,”** [Paul Farhi reports](#). “He thanked viewers and added, ‘The younger generations ... are improving the workplace, we’re talking here about better standards than we grew up with, fair standards. A lot of it has to do with how we talk to each other, compliments on a woman’s appearance that some men — including me — might have once incorrectly thought were okay were never okay. Not then and certainly not today, and for making such comments in the past, I’m sorry.’ ... The network immediately went to a commercial break. When the show resumed, political correspondent Steve Kornacki had taken Matthews’s seat. ... MSNBC has not announced Matthews’s replacement, which suggests his resignation was as sudden and unexpected as it appeared to viewers. A series of interim hosts will fill in for him ...

**“His departure capped a week of embarrassments.** Matthews apologized last week for comparing [Sanders’s] victory in the Nevada Democratic caucuses to the Nazi invasion of France. He also was criticized

for a skeptical interview with [Warren] last week. Matthews asked Warren why she believes a female employee who sued [Bloomberg] accusing him of telling her to 'kill' her unborn child. Bloomberg denied making the statement, and Matthews asked Warren, 'You believe he's lying? Why would he lie?' ... Warren replied: 'Why shouldn't I believe her?' ... And on Saturday, journalist Laura Bassett wrote on GQ.com that Matthews made inappropriate comments to her and other women when they were guests on his show."

### **Trump's post-impeachment retaliation tour continues.**

The White House yanked the nomination of a Pentagon official who raised questions about withholding military aid for Ukraine. "In a statement, the White House said it had withdrawn the nomination of Elaine McCusker as Pentagon comptroller, a position she has held on an acting basis," [Missy Ryan reports](#). "It follows the departure last month of John Rood, a top policy official who likewise was a leading figure in the Pentagon's response to the delay of security aid to Ukraine ... Emails made public in recent months show that McCusker voiced concerns to White House budget officials last year about the delay in delivering congressional approved aid to Ukraine."

Sen. Jack Reed (R.I.), the top Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, called McCusker "another casualty of the Trump Administration's efforts to purge public servants who put country before fealty to the President."

### **Another big piece of Warren's legacy is on the line today.**

The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a challenge to the constitutionality of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the brainchild of Warren. The case could determine whether a president can fire the director of the agency "at will," and the ruling could shape the future of the 1,600-person bureau, as well as "throw into question the legitimacy of the billions of dollars in fines it has imposed on mortgage lenders, credit card companies and banks over the past eight years,"



[Renaë Merle reports](#). “At the center of the fight is Richard Cordray, the bureau’s former director, who had long been a target of Republicans frustrated by the agency’s power, including the limits on the president’s ability to fire him. ... The court will be hearing the case of a California law firm, Seila Law, which has refused to cooperate with a CFPB investigation, arguing that the bureau’s leadership structure is unconstitutional. ...

"A 2007 paper by Warren, written when she was a Harvard law professor, was the guiding force behind what became the CFPB in the wake of a global financial crisis. But the bureau was controversial from the start ...

“Among justices deciding the bureau’s fate is Brett M. Kavanaugh, who while on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit said in a different case that the bureau’s structure was unconstitutional. Independent agencies such as the CFPB constitute ‘a headless fourth branch of the U.S. Government. They hold enormous power over the economic and social life of the United States,’ he wrote in a 73-page dissent. Kavanaugh is not obligated to recuse himself in the Seila case.”

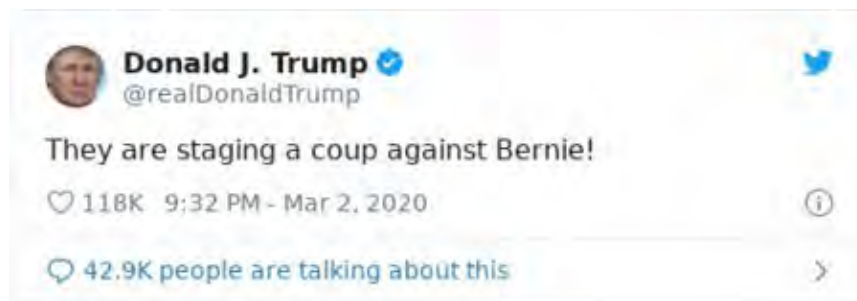
## **The Supreme Court appears split over judicial review for asylum seekers facing quick removal.**

“During [oral arguments on Monday], conservative justices were concerned over what a government lawyer said would be a ‘flood’ of such requests, frustrating Congress’s intention of subjecting those found quickly after crossing the border to expedited removal if their claims were unwarranted,” [Robert Barnes reports](#). “The court’s liberals seemed worried about giving such power to administration officials without some check on whether they are following the rules.”

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## **Social media speed read**



Trump reacted to moderates consolidating behind Biden:



Rep. Abigail Spanberger, one of three freshman congresswomen who flipped red seats blue in Virginia in 2018, said she chose Klobuchar. The former CIA officer planned to keep her absentee ballot vote to herself, but she revealed her choice a few hours after Klobuchar dropped out. The other two Virginia freshmen, Elaine Luria and Jennifer Wexton, are backing Biden:




Biden and O'Rourke headed to Whataburger after their Dallas rally and met a young supporter:



 **Dan Merica**   
@merica 

Sofia, a seven-year old from Broken Bow, Oklahoma, asked Joe Biden and Beto O'Rourke for autographs at Whataburger on Monday night. They both wrote her notes.

Biden: "You are a lovely, bright young lady."

O'Rourke: "I am expecting great things from you."



 834  4:59 AM - Mar 3, 2020 

 286 people are talking about this 

Trump admitted that he wants to get on Democrats' nerves:

 **Seung Min Kim**   
@seungminkim 

Noting how he had traveled to the four early states to hold rallies just as Democrats were voting, Trump notes: "We like to troll."

 693  12:49 AM - Mar 3, 2020 

 215 people are talking about this 

## Videos of the day

Seth Meyers went after Trump for saying the coronavirus is a Democratic hoax:



Stephen Colbert explained how Biden's South Carolina win changed the Democratic race:



Trevor Noah pictured what Biden debating Trump would look like:



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By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Super Tuesday tests Mike Bloomberg's money against Joe Biden's momentum

OKLAHOMA CITY – Pete Buttigieg dropped out of the presidential race while I was flying here to cover a rally he had scheduled for Monday. To salvage the trip, I decided to drive to Tulsa to see Amy Klobuchar. She suspended her campaign just as I hit the road. Instead, both trekked to Dallas to endorse Joe Biden.

As [the field winnows](#), the former vice president is [riding momentum](#) from his win in South Carolina on Saturday and benefiting from the Democratic

establishment's [desperation to stop Bernie Sanders](#) from securing an insurmountable delegate lead on Super Tuesday. Former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke, who dropped out in November, also endorsed Biden in Dallas, a few hours after former Senate majority leader Harry Reid announced his support in Nevada.

**In presidential politics, momentum historically is worth more than money. But no one has ever spent the kind of money that Mike Bloomberg has.** Today is the first time the former New York mayor's name will appear on the ballot. He skipped the four early states to invest in the 14 states, plus American Samoa, that vote on [Super Tuesday](#). Nearly a third of the delegates to the nominating convention will be awarded, the biggest haul of the year. "I'm in it to win it," Bloomberg said at a Monday event in Virginia, noting that he connected by phone with both Buttigieg and Klobuchar, who he said "behaved themselves well" in the race.

**Biden is playing catch-up in his quest to consolidate support among moderates.** He's been struggling to raise money – until \$10 million poured in over the weekend. He has some of the weakest organizations in the states that vote on Super Tuesday. And his rivals were on the ground in the states that vote today while he was laser-focused on the Palmetto State.



**Bloomberg has put about half a billion dollars into building the Death Star of campaigns.** He has hired more than 2,400 paid staffers, including 400 at his Manhattan headquarters and 2,000 spread across 43 states and territories, including all that vote today. He has deployed more than 40 staffers in each of 19 states and more than 100 in each of six states. The campaign has opened more than 200 field offices, including more than 100 in the 14 states that vote today.

**Three of those offices, and 23 of those full-time staffers, are here in Oklahoma. This state is far from Super Tuesday's biggest prize, but there are 37 delegates up for grabs.** For context, the Iowa caucuses awarded 41 delegates. The state offers an interesting window into Bloomberg's strategy and a handy gauge of whether the gusher of investment, when his rivals were focused elsewhere, pays dividends.

After Klobuchar canceled her Tulsa rally, **I dropped by Bloomberg's Oklahoma City field office on Monday afternoon. The campaign had advertised online that it was open for volunteers to come work the phone bank. There were four paid staffers in the office but just one volunteer actually making calls.** One staffer sat at the front desk to check people in. Another assisted the volunteer as she used a



campaign cellphone to work through a list of voters.

**Regina Sabatini, the volunteer, turned out to be an amiable Bloomberg superfan.** The 55-year-old from Mustang, on the outskirts of town, took the day off work as a project manager for software development so she could urge fellow Oklahomans to back Bloomberg. She also took off parts of last Thursday and Friday to come make calls. And over the weekend, from home, she texted a list of numbers given to her by the campaign. She said she's never volunteered before on a presidential campaign.

**“The primary reason is I do feel he can truly beat Trump,” said Sabatini,** wearing a Bloomberg campaign T-shirt. “Others talk about getting things done. He can actually get things done. ... I'm just horrified by how things are going with this administration. I truly believe we need to bring back civility to restore our democracy. ... I can sit and complain about it or I can do something about it.” Sabatini emphasized that she will support any Democratic nominee. “Vote blue,” she said, “no matter who.”

**Bloomberg has spent at least \$3.9 million on TV ads in Oklahoma,** which has allowed him to run commercials more than 6,300 times. None of the other candidates spent more than a few hundred thousand dollars in the state. That could ultimately matter more than the fact that the office wasn't full of volunteers making calls, but there's a storied history of self-funders spending millions on television and having little to show for it. Just ask Tom Steyer, the billionaire environmentalist who dropped out of the race on Saturday night after he failed to earn any delegates, despite spending more than \$250 million of his own money on his campaign and airing more ads in South Carolina than anyone else.

**Sanders defeated Hillary Clinton in the Oklahoma primary four years ago by 10 points,** 52 percent to 42 percent, carrying 75 of the state's 77 counties. But no one seems to have a strong sense of what will happen this time in the Sooner State. There's been no high-quality public [polling](#). One local survey two weeks ago put Biden up 1 point over Bloomberg, well within the margin of error. Another poll the week before

that had Bloomberg up 6 points, but that was before his bad debate performance in Las Vegas. Both surveys showed Sanders, the independent senator from Vermont, just under the 15 percent threshold required to get delegates. Obviously, the race is fluid. It's unclear where those who have been backing Klobuchar and Buttigieg will go. The senator from Minnesota and the former mayor from South Bend, Ind., both hoped to fare well here.



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**Bloomberg has visited Oklahoma three times on his private jet since launching his campaign in November**, including a speech in Oklahoma City last week. He unveiled what he calls [his Greenwood Initiative](#) during a trip to Tulsa on the eve of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It's a plan to improve economic opportunities for African Americans. Greenwood was one of the most affluent black communities in the country until it was devastated in [the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre](#). About 8 percent of Oklahoma's population is black.

Bloomberg also held a roundtable with tribal leaders to solicit input on a Native American policy he subsequently unveiled. He has also secured endorsements from former governor Brad Henry, former Tulsa mayor Kathy Taylor and state Sen. Kevin Matthews, who represents Greenwood.

Bloomberg campaign officials said they've hosted 400 grass-roots events for voters around Oklahoma. They also said that there were more volunteers earlier in the afternoon at the field office in Oklahoma City, as well as Tulsa and Lawton, a rural area in southwestern Oklahoma where national campaigns don't typically invest.

**Sanders benefits from a grass-roots army that's hard to buy.** When I drove to his Oklahoma City office from Bloomberg's, there was one staffer present but that's because 26 volunteers were out door-knocking. The field organizer showed me the sign-in sheet to prove it. Sanders volunteers were also canvassing Monday afternoon in Tulsa and Norman, home to the University of Oklahoma. Neither [Biden](#) nor Elizabeth [Warren](#) have field offices in the state.

**Jill Biden will drop by an elementary school in Oklahoma City later today to get out the vote for her husband**, and actor Danny Glover will speak at a phone bank for Sanders in his field office here. Jane Sanders stumped last Thursday for her husband in Greenwood, the black neighborhood of Tulsa.

**Warren was born and raised in Oklahoma, which she mentions**

**every chance she gets, and she visited here shortly before Christmas.** She hung out with her brothers and tried to smooth over tensions with Native Americans who are upset that she spent decades falsely claiming to be one of them. Notably, the pro-Warren super PAC is not spending any money on TV here, a reflection of her prospects.

**Today, though, Warren is focused on trying to survive by winning her adopted state of Massachusetts,** where she taught law at Harvard and which she represents in the Senate. Sanders held big rallies in the Bay State over the weekend. Warren staying in the race **hurts** the senator from Vermont far more than anyone else, so he hopes to score a victory over her there.

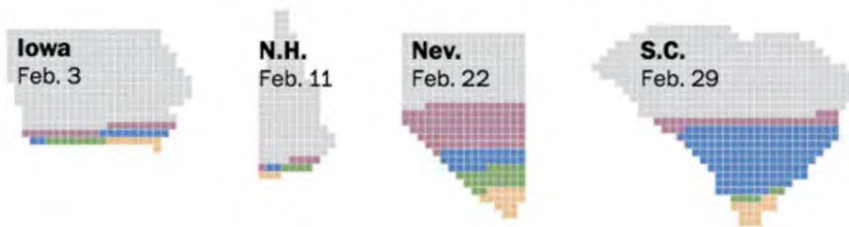
### Super Tuesday states have 10 times the population of earlier-voting states

Nearly 130 million people live in the 14 states with nominating contests on Super Tuesday – more than 10 times as many people who live in the four states with caucuses and primaries before Super Tuesday.

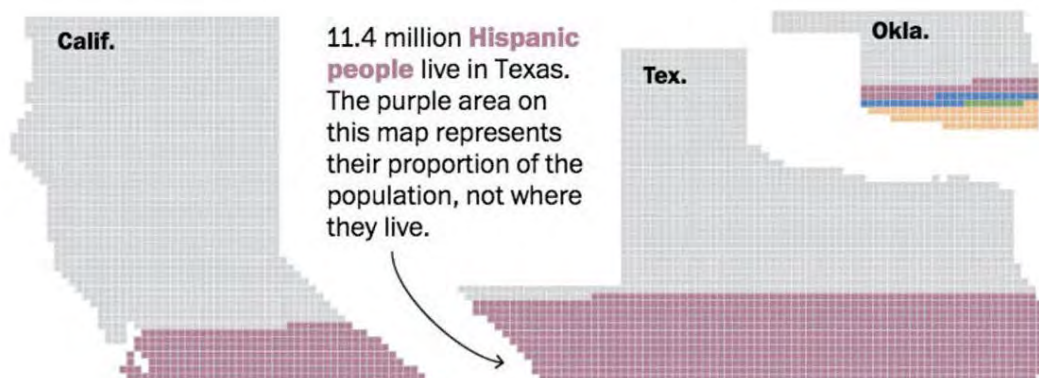
Each square ■ represents 10,000 people.

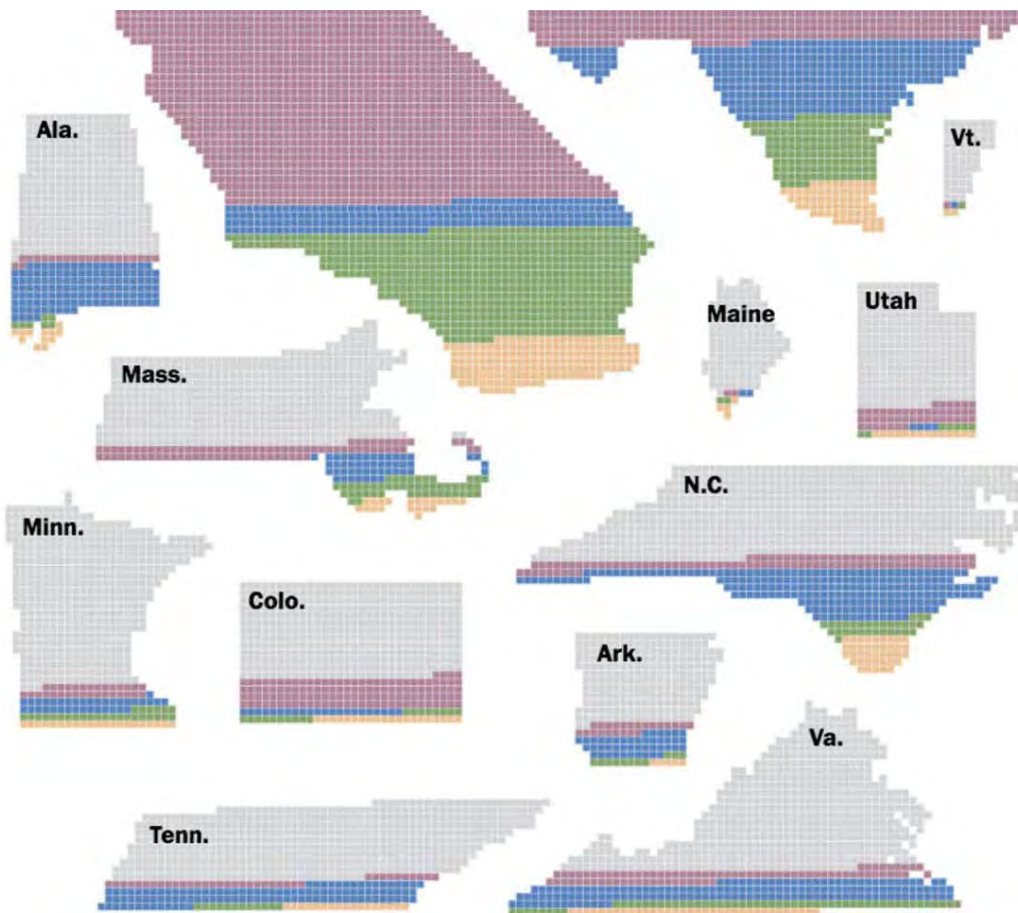
White non-Hispanic
  Black
  Asian
  Hispanic
  Other

#### Primaries or caucuses before Super Tuesday



#### Primaries on Super Tuesday





**Super Tuesday states are more diverse than states that follow**



"Other" includes Native Americans, people of multiple races and other races. U.S. territories other than Puerto Rico are not included.

Source: American Community Survey

ALYSSA FOWERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

**During a town hall in Manassas, Va., that aired last night on Fox News, Bloomberg seemed a little annoyed when asked why he doesn't step aside for Biden. Fox host Martha MacCallum asked him whether he should follow the lead of Buttigieg and Klobuchar if he's as**

concerned about Sanders as he says. “I haven't even faced the voters once at a national level,” Bloomberg replied.

**Fox’s Bret Baier pressed Bloomberg to name states where he might actually win the primary.** “Well, keep in mind you don't have to win states, you have to win delegates,” Bloomberg replied. “The most likely scenario for the Democratic Party is that nobody has a majority, and then it goes to a convention, where there's horse-trading and everybody decides to compromise. It doesn't even have to be one of the two leading candidates.”

“The Sanders people would say they're trying to steal it,” Baier noted.

“Look, if the rules say that you can swap votes or make deals, then you can swap votes and make deals,” countered Bloomberg. “And if you don't like those rules, don't play.”

**Bloomberg will spend tonight in Florida, which votes in two weeks, to signal that he plans to stick around no matter what happens tonight.** He has events scheduled later this week in Michigan, which votes next Tuesday, and Pennsylvania, whose primary isn't until April 28.

**Biden attacked Bloomberg during an interview last night on CNN.** “He’s not a Democrat,” the former vice president told Anderson Cooper. “You can spend a billion dollars, but you can’t move away from what your record is.” Bloomberg was elected mayor of New York as a Republican and independent but never a Democrat. Asked about these criticisms on Fox, Bloomberg replied that he’s “in sync” with Democrats on taxes, climate change, and gun control. And he highlighted his generous contributions to liberal causes.

**On Fox, asked to describe key differences between himself and Biden, Bloomberg touted his executive experience** – building a company and leading a city for 12 years – as he argued that being former vice president is not really a managerial job. Mostly, though, Bloomberg focused his attacks on Sanders. “He’s not electable,” the billionaire said of

the self-described democratic socialist. He described some of Sanders's ideas as "crazy," though he reiterated that he would vote for Sanders over Trump. "I would not be happy doing it," Bloomberg said. "But I have said I would."

**The Sanders campaign seems to anticipate a two-way race with Biden coming out of Super Tuesday.** "We are now entering the phase of the primary in which the differences between Bernie and Biden will take center stage," Sanders manager Faiz Shakir and senior adviser Jeff Weaver write in [a new memo](#) to surrogates and staff. "These differences make clear that the choice between these two candidates is stark — it is a choice between the party's core economic and social justice agenda, and the Washington establishment's agenda that aims to protect and enrich the wealthy and well-connected. The differences also spotlight how Bernie's agenda is a far more popular general election agenda than Biden."

**Biden also seems to be itching to go mano a mano with Sanders.** "The country is hungry — hungry, hungry, hungry — to be united," he said in Houston on Monday. "Most Americans ... don't want a promise of a revolution. They want a guarantee of results."

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## More from the states

**Many Super Tuesday voters who already cast their ballots want a do-over.** In California, Buttigieg’s exit “sparked some brief interest on social media about the rules governing a possible revote. ... The answer, in a word: no,” [the Los Angeles Times reports](#). “There’s no provision in California election law for a second chance once a ballot has been mailed or cast in person at a polling place or regional vote center. ... There are no firm numbers on how many of California’s 20.7 million registered voters have already weighed in. Paul Mitchell, whose for-profit campaign research firm, Political Data Inc., tracks ballots as they are returned, said about 20% of all mailed ballots had been received by local elections officials as of Friday. But he said that underestimates how much of the race is already over, as millions of ballots that were mailed out won’t be returned. ‘Our data suggests 40% of those who will participate have already voted,’ Mitchell said.”

**In Colorado, the procrastinators have the greatest shot at making a difference.** “Colorado is switching back to a presidential primary system this year after several cycles of caucuses. As of mid-afternoon Monday, about 1.2 million ballots had been returned, and Democratic ballots overtook Republican ballots,” [the Denver Post reports](#). “The total number of returned ballots nearly matched the total votes cast



during the entirety of the 2018 primaries, when both parties had competitive statewide races. The slower pace for Democratic ballots this time signaled a likely avalanche of Democratic ballots coming late Monday and Tuesday, election watchers said. ... **If the race is close here, it may take a day or two to learn if Sanders has held Warren, Biden and Bloomberg at bay.**”

**In Minnesota, tens of thousands of people have already probably cast ballots for Klobuchar.** “Secretary of State Steve Simon released the final pre-election batch of early voting numbers on Friday, showing 94,287 people had requested early ballots,” [the Star Tribune reports](#). “Simon said he’s been warning voters that the presidential primary isn’t like any other election. ‘I’ve been saying everywhere I go around the state, keep in mind, this kind of contest is different from an August primary election because candidates routinely drop out,’ he said.”

**In North Carolina, 800,000 voters – mostly Democrats – voted early.** “North Carolina allowed [recasts] for four years in the ’70s,” Wake County Board of Elections member Gerry Cohen [told the News & Observer](#). “It was a nightmare for election officials.”

**In Virginia, Biden is counting on suburban and African American voters to forge a coalition that can keep his momentum going.** “Many of the state’s top Democrats have endorsed him, including top African American officials,” [the Associated Press reports](#). “Bloomberg has been a regular visitor to Virginia and launched his race here. He’s spent millions of dollars helping elect Democrats in Virginia and spent lavishly on campaign staff and advertising. Sanders doesn’t need to win Virginia to have a good day ... A surprise showing in Virginia [for Warren] could be a much-needed boost.”

**In Maine, Sanders rolled out endorsements from several local liberal leaders.** Still, Warren has the most endorsements from state-level officials, [the Bangor Daily News reports](#).

**In Utah, Sanders spoke to a crowd of about 5,800 as he hopes**

**for a repeat of his 2016 success.** He has outraised Trump in the Beehive State, \$728,000 to \$463,000, [the Salt Lake Tribune reports](#).

**In Alabama, most of the focus is on the Republican Senate primary.** Polling of the Democratic primary in the state has been almost nonexistent. Most attention is instead on the fight between seven Republicans to take on Sen. Doug Jones (D). Former attorney general Jeff Sessions, Rep. Bradley Byrne and former Auburn head football coach Tommy Tuberville appear most likely to make it to a runoff, [the Montgomery Advertiser reports](#).

**In Texas, Reps. Kay Granger (R) and Henry Cuellar (D) excel at securing federal funding for their districts, but they're struggling to beat back strong primary challenges from the insurgent wings of their parties.** "Cuellar and Granger, both powerful players on Capitol Hill, are the Texas incumbents most at risk of losing reelection on Tuesday, in what will be the first primary contest for members of Congress anywhere in the United States," [the Texas Tribune reports](#). "Whether these districts' voters opt to keep them in office or throw out their seniority, favoring ideological purity over congressional clout, will have sweeping consequences for Texans across the state."

**In New York, Ivanka Trump changed her voter registration from Democrat to Republican so she could vote for her dad in the state's April primary.** In 2016, the president's daughter missed the deadline to do so and couldn't vote for her dad. Her "transformation from a New York socialite who donated to Democratic politicians and vocally supported gay rights to a card-carrying member of her father's 'Make America Great Again' coalition is now complete," [the New York Times reports](#). "Online, her persona has also become more aggressive and raw, a reflection of her own anger, aides said, over her father's impeachment. ... Ms. Trump declined to say which Democrat she would like to see face off against Mr. Trump in a general election. ... But, Ms. Trump said, she felt 'good about our chances of beating all of them.'"

**Like clockwork, Senate Republicans are preparing their**

**first subpoena to Burisma, a Ukrainian oil and gas firm.**

**“Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) is preparing to subpoena a witness tied to Ukrainian natural gas company Burisma, in an escalation of the GOP probe of the firm,”** [Felicia Sonmez and Paul Kane report](#). “Johnson, the chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, sent a letter Sunday to members of the panel informing them of his plan to force a vote on subpoenaing the witness, political consultant and former Ukrainian diplomat Andrii Telizhenko, who worked for a company called Blue Star Strategies that was a representative for Burisma in the United States. Hunter Biden, Joe Biden’s son, sat on the board of Burisma while his father was the Obama administration’s point person on Ukraine policy. Trump and Republicans have claimed, without evidence, that there was something nefarious in the Bidens’ dealings with Ukraine. ...

**“Two other GOP senators — Charles E. Grassley (Iowa) and Lindsey O. Graham (S.C.) — have also launched investigations into Hunter Biden.** In an interview Monday night, **Johnson denied that Biden’s win [in South Carolina] sparked his subpoena request**, noting that ‘we’d still be asking for the same information’ regardless of Biden’s status as a Democratic presidential candidate. ... Last Monday, Johnson sent a letter to Sen. Gary Peters (Mich.), the top Democrat on the panel, advising him of his intent to issue the subpoena. Three days later, Peters wrote back to Johnson voicing his objections ... Johnson argued that the news of the planned subpoena would not have been made public on Monday had Peters not objected to his proposal.”

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## Quote of the day

*“Look, we are taking on the establishment. And I fully understand — no great surprise to me — that establishment politicians are not going to endorse us,” Sanders told reporters in Salt Lake City. “The establishment will rally around the establishment candidate. That’s the simple*

*reality.”*

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An advertisement featuring a photograph of a woman smiling and holding a young child. Overlaid on the image is the text "BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM" in large, bold, white letters. In the bottom left corner, the BlueCross BlueShield Association logo is displayed. In the bottom right corner, there is a blue button with the text "PASS THE MOMNIBUS" and a right-pointing arrow. Below the advertisement, it says "Powered by LiveIntent" with the LiveIntent logo and a small play button icon.

## The new world order



A grocery store is out of hand sanitizer and face masks in Kirkland, Wash., the center of the nation's most serious coronavirus outbreak. (Jovelle Tamayo for The Washington Post)

## The Fed is making emergency moves.

“The Federal Reserve slashed the benchmark U.S. interest rate by half a percentage point Tuesday, the biggest cut since the financial crisis and a sign that global central banks are prepared to act to contain the economic fallout from the coronavirus,” [Heather Long reports](#). “The U.S. central bank has not made an emergency cut like this since 2008. Fed leaders voted unanimously in favor of the rate reduction. The highly unusual move comes on the heels of other central banks around the world lowering rates and calls by President Trump for a ‘big’ Fed rate cut. ‘The coronavirus poses evolving risks to economic activity. In light of these risks and in support of achieving its maximum employment and price stability goals, the [Fed] decided today to lower the target range for the federal funds rate by 1/2 percentage point,’ the Fed wrote in a statement. The move would reduce the current interest rate to just below 1.25 percent, down from 1.75 percent.”

## **The coronavirus has claimed six American lives. Patients are being treated in at least 15 states.**

“Four deaths announced Monday and two others this weekend all occurred in Washington state, the center of the nation’s most serious outbreak,” [Maria Sacchetti, Arelis Hernández, Siobhán O’Grady and William Wan report](#). **“Nationwide, the number of cases topped 100,** and U.S. officials used increasingly dire language, even as they sought to push back against waves of panic and misinformation online. ‘We know there will be more cases,’ Vice President Pence said at a White House news conference. ‘Now we’re focused on mitigation of the spread as well as treatment of people that are affected.’ Trump administration officials stressed Monday that the risk posed to the public by the coronavirus remains low but cautioned the outbreak could change course as the disease spreads through person-to-person contact.

“Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Washington state either have cases confirmed by health officials or have been treating patients with coronavirus-like symptoms. ... **[Lawmakers on Capitol Hill] were closing in Monday on a \$7.5 billion coronavirus package** ... The legislation is likely to be unveiled on Tuesday and pass the House later this week before moving on to the Senate.

“At a meeting with leaders of the world’s largest pharmaceutical companies, **[Trump] hinted he may enact new travel restrictions on unnamed nations with large outbreaks** and touted his administration’s steps to fight the virus. The president listened and occasionally interjected to press pharmaceutical executives on how quickly a vaccine and treatments could be developed. **Therapeutic human trials could begin as early as April, but a vaccine would take roughly 12 to 18 months to develop,** said Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. ...

**“In Texas, San Antonio lambasted the [CDC] after the agency**

**released a woman who later was found to have the novel coronavirus.** The city unsuccessfully sought a temporary restraining order to prevent the release of dozens of people scheduled to leave quarantine in the San Antonio area and demanded another round of tests be performed. San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg noted that the released woman had visited a mall, eaten at the food court and stayed at the Holiday Inn Express near the city's airport. The woman arrived in Texas last month from Wuhan, China, and was part of a 91-person group evacuated from Asia. ... 'We simply cannot have a screw-up like this from our federal partners,' said Nirenberg."

**Worsening conditions abroad offered troubling signs for what may lie ahead:** "Schools across Japan mostly closed their doors Monday [while] South Korea said it would extend its school closures by two weeks." The E.U.'s internal market commissioner said the virus "has led to about \$1.1 billion in losses per month for the European tourism industry since the start of 2020. British Airways is cancelling hundreds of flights, including a dozen between London and New York. An adviser to Iran's supreme leader died after contracting the coronavirus, state media reported Monday. Iraq and Egypt confirmed more cases, many of them linked to Iran. Senegal confirmed its first case, marking the second one found in sub-Saharan Africa."

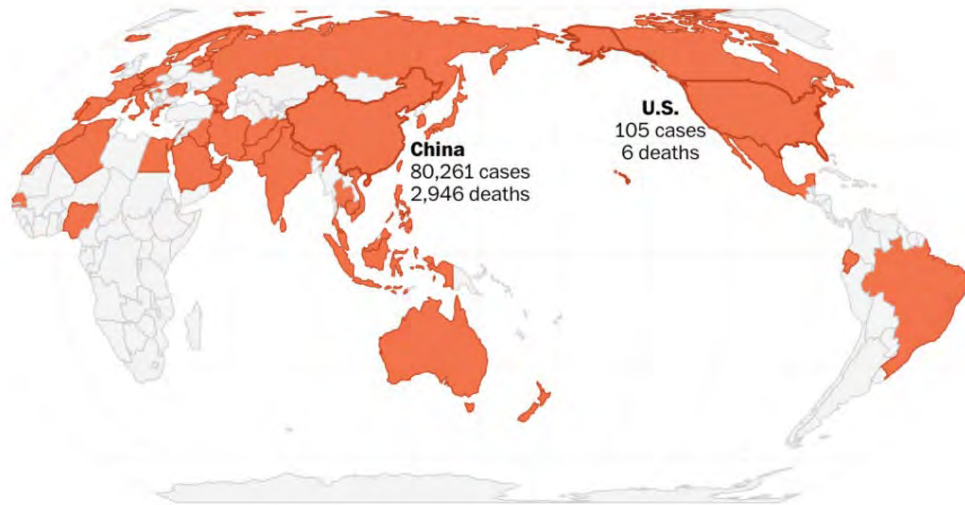
**North Korea is holding at least 7,000 people under quarantine,** a South Korean news agency reported. ([Min Joo Kim](#))

**India suspended entry to visitors from Italy, Iran, South Korea and Japan.** It also suspended the visas of people of any nationality who have visited those four countries, plus China, since Feb. 1. India canceled the visas of Chinese citizens last month. ([Joanna Slater](#))

**A Washington state woman said she can't get answers about her husband, who is inside the facility experiencing the possible outbreak.** The 73-year-old man was checked into the long-term Kirkland nursing facility that's been linked to four of the nation's six deaths. His wife said she's been unable to contact the hospital or its nursing station

about his condition, per [Teo Armus](#).

**The number of cases worldwide has increased to about 90,000.**



(The Washington Post)

**U.S. officials are pressuring airlines to turn over more contact information for passengers.**

“Government officials have said they need the data so they can warn local authorities about who might have been exposed to the virus,” [Jeff Stein](#), [Lena Sun](#), [Lori Aratani](#) report. “But the airline industry has balked, saying the federal government should instead share information it already collects among different agencies and come up with a system for obtaining the rest.”

**Medical bill worries and fears of lost pay may hamper efforts to slow the spread.**

“As the test for the virus becomes more widely available, health-care experts predict that some people with flu-like illnesses — or those who may have been exposed — will avoid finding out whether they have been infected because they are uninsured or have health plans that saddle them with much of the cost of their care,” [Amy Goldstein](#) reports. “The government has not yet begun to tell Americans where to go for testing, and neither public nor private insurers are changing their rules to buffer



people from testing-related charges. Some preparations recommended by the [CDC] are incompatible with the way benefits work. Officials have urged people to keep an adequate supply of their routine medicines in case they end up quarantined. But insurance companies seldom permit refills until a patient is nearly out of pills. The agency also urges people with respiratory illnesses to stay home from work. But with no federal sick leave requirements, some experts predict the virus will spread more rapidly.”

**Our colleagues Angela Fritz and Reis Thebault have launched a special newsletter focused on the coronavirus.** (You can subscribe [here](#).)

### **FEMA is preparing for a possible emergency declaration.**

“FEMA officials are preparing for an ‘infectious disease emergency declaration’ by the president that would allow the agency to provide disaster relief funding to state and local governments, as well as federal assistance to support the coronavirus response,” per [NBC News](#).

### **Congressional leaders are preparing for the virus to infect the Capitol.**

Speaker Nancy Pelosi invited her fellow congressional leaders to a briefing to discuss a plan for congressional operations should the virus threaten Washington, [Fox News reports](#). There have already been conversations among congressional staffers about potentially mandating that only “essential staff” come to work.

### **The Defense Intelligence Agency directed all employees not to travel.**

“The DIA is the first known government agency to ban travel domestically in the face of the global outbreak, raising questions about whether other federal offices will issue the same guidance,” [the Daily Beast reports](#).

### **At least the Pope is okay.**

Pope Francis, who has been unwell in recent days, tested negative for the coronavirus. The pope had a cough and fever after spending most of last Wednesday outdoors in St. Peter's Square. His doctors immediately swabbed him to conduct tests, showing that his symptoms were "a slight indisposition," a Rome newspaper reported. ([Armus](#))

**In response to the virus, the NBA told players to avoid high-fiving fans or strangers and avoid taking items for autographs, the AP reported.**

**In Israel, Netanyahu scored a comeback in the latest election but fell short of a majority.**

"The poll results put [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's right-wing bloc two seats shy of achieving that governing majority in the 120-seat parliament, or Knesset, and breaking a year-long impasse in Israeli politics. Official results being tabulated overnight could hand his coalition an outright victory — or leave it even further out of reach," [Steve Hendrix and Ruth Eglash report](#). "With Israelis voting in national elections for the third time in less than year, the unexpectedly strong performance was a victory for Netanyahu, who had failed to wrest a governing majority in the past two votes and was indicted in November on charges of bribery, fraud and abuse of trust. His corruption trial is scheduled to start later this month. ... The exit poll results came as a jarring disappointment to Netanyahu's main rival, Benny Gantz, a ramrod-straight former military chief who presented himself as the ethical antithesis of Netanyahu. While Gantz's performance as a political newcomer produced solid results in the first two elections, he seems to have fallen short Monday. Gantz was defiant early Tuesday, telling supporters that he would fight on. ...

**"Turnout outpaced the previous two elections, a surprise for many political observers who had predicted voters would stay away because of spiking coronavirus fears and electoral exhaustion.** The final tally put turnout at 71 percent, the highest since 2015. Hundreds of voters who are in precautionary quarantine because of possible exposure to coronavirus donned masks and gloves and went to

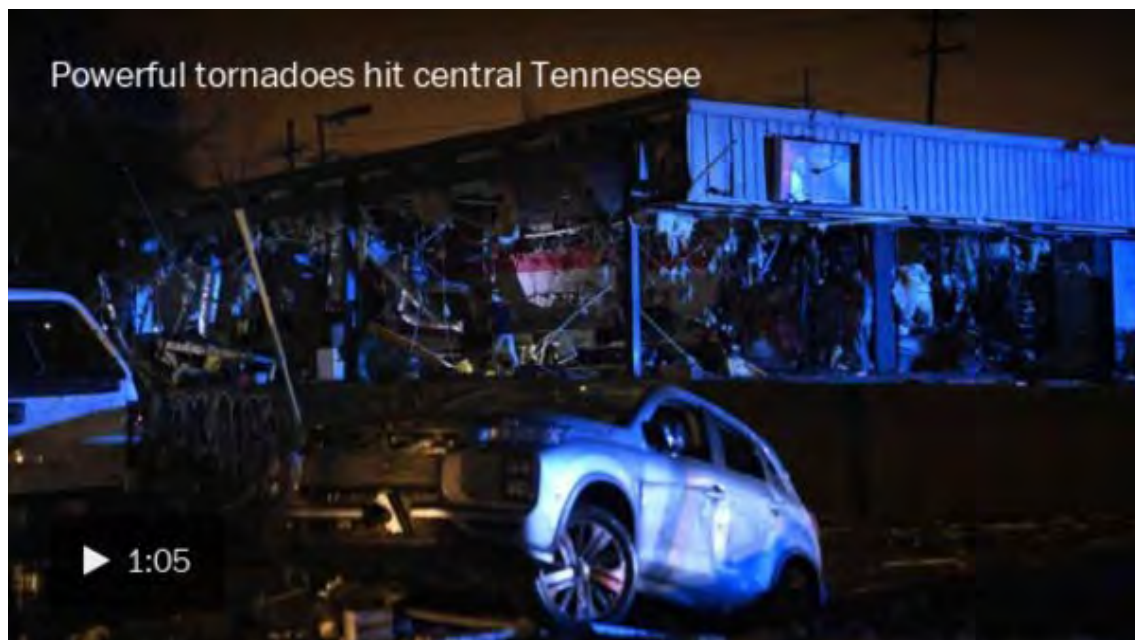
more than a dozen special biohazard voting places staffed by paramedics. The fears of infectious disease had been only the latest worry for an electorate anxious from nonstop politicking, adding hand-washing to the hand-wringing.”

### **The Trump administration ordered four Chinese news outlets in the U.S. to reduce their staffs.**

Xinhua News Agency and the China Global Television Network, the parent company of the China Daily and China Radio International, were asked to “reduce the number of Chinese nationals working on their staffs by more than a third,” [Carol Morello reports](#). **The action comes after China expelled three Beijing-based Wall Street Journal reporters, condemning as “racist” an essay that ran in the newspaper’s opinion section criticizing China’s response to the coronavirus outbreak.** “In announcing the move, senior administration officials cited the disappearance of citizen journalists chronicling the outbreak of the coronavirus in Wuhan.”

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## **Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



## Tornadoes in Nashville killed at least nine.

“Tornadoes ripped through central Tennessee early Tuesday, killing at least nine people, demolishing homes and businesses, causing multiple injuries and leaving tens of thousands of residents without power,” [Timothy Bella, Kim Bellware and Andrew Freedman report](#). “The tornado touched down northwest of Nashville shortly before 12:40 a.m. Eastern time, the National Weather Service said. Damage was reported along a path that ended about 10 miles east of the city, in Hermitage, Tenn., according to the [Associated Press](#). ... At least 20 people have been hospitalized ... Thirty-first responders have been injured, according to the fire department.”

## Chris Matthews is out at MSNBC.

The long-running host of “Hardball” announced he’s retiring, an abrupt exit prompted by a series of recent gaffes and controversies. The 74-year-old made the surprise announcement at the top of his weeknight program. **“He appeared for about two minutes at the start of his 7 p.m. program and effectively signed off on his television career,”** [Paul Farhi reports](#). “He thanked viewers and added, ‘The younger generations ... are improving the workplace, we’re talking here about better standards than we grew up with, fair standards. A lot of it has to do with how we talk to each other, compliments on a woman’s appearance that some men — including me — might have once incorrectly thought were okay were never okay. Not then and certainly not today, and for making such comments in the past, I’m sorry.’ ... The network immediately went to a commercial break. When the show resumed, political correspondent Steve Kornacki had taken Matthews’s seat. ... MSNBC has not announced Matthews’s replacement, which suggests his resignation was as sudden and unexpected as it appeared to viewers. A series of interim hosts will fill in for him ...

**“His departure capped a week of embarrassments.** Matthews apologized last week for comparing [Sanders’s] victory in the Nevada Democratic caucuses to the Nazi invasion of France. He also was criticized

for a skeptical interview with [Warren] last week. Matthews asked Warren why she believes a female employee who sued [Bloomberg] accusing him of telling her to 'kill' her unborn child. Bloomberg denied making the statement, and Matthews asked Warren, 'You believe he's lying? Why would he lie?' ... Warren replied: 'Why shouldn't I believe her?' ... And on Saturday, journalist Laura Bassett wrote on GQ.com that Matthews made inappropriate comments to her and other women when they were guests on his show."

### **Trump's post-impeachment retaliation tour continues.**

The White House yanked the nomination of a Pentagon official who raised questions about withholding military aid for Ukraine. "In a statement, the White House said it had withdrawn the nomination of Elaine McCusker as Pentagon comptroller, a position she has held on an acting basis," [Missy Ryan reports](#). "It follows the departure last month of John Rood, a top policy official who likewise was a leading figure in the Pentagon's response to the delay of security aid to Ukraine ... Emails made public in recent months show that McCusker voiced concerns to White House budget officials last year about the delay in delivering congressional approved aid to Ukraine."

Sen. Jack Reed (R.I.), the top Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, called McCusker "another casualty of the Trump Administration's efforts to purge public servants who put country before fealty to the President."

### **Another big piece of Warren's legacy is on the line today.**

The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a challenge to the constitutionality of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the brainchild of Warren. The case could determine whether a president can fire the director of the agency "at will," and the ruling could shape the future of the 1,600-person bureau, as well as "throw into question the legitimacy of the billions of dollars in fines it has imposed on mortgage lenders, credit card companies and banks over the past eight years,"

[Renaë Merle reports](#). “At the center of the fight is Richard Cordray, the bureau’s former director, who had long been a target of Republicans frustrated by the agency’s power, including the limits on the president’s ability to fire him. ... The court will be hearing the case of a California law firm, Seila Law, which has refused to cooperate with a CFPB investigation, arguing that the bureau’s leadership structure is unconstitutional. ...

"A 2007 paper by Warren, written when she was a Harvard law professor, was the guiding force behind what became the CFPB in the wake of a global financial crisis. But the bureau was controversial from the start ...

“Among justices deciding the bureau’s fate is Brett M. Kavanaugh, who while on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit said in a different case that the bureau’s structure was unconstitutional. Independent agencies such as the CFPB constitute ‘a headless fourth branch of the U.S. Government. They hold enormous power over the economic and social life of the United States,’ he wrote in a 73-page dissent. Kavanaugh is not obligated to recuse himself in the Seila case.”

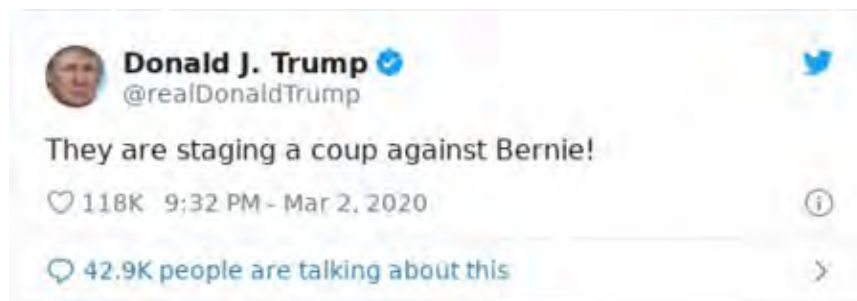
## **The Supreme Court appears split over judicial review for asylum seekers facing quick removal.**

“During [oral arguments on Monday], conservative justices were concerned over what a government lawyer said would be a ‘flood’ of such requests, frustrating Congress’s intention of subjecting those found quickly after crossing the border to expedited removal if their claims were unwarranted,” [Robert Barnes reports](#). “The court’s liberals seemed worried about giving such power to administration officials without some check on whether they are following the rules.”

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## **Social media speed read**



Trump reacted to moderates consolidating behind Biden:



Rep. Abigail Spanberger, one of three freshman congresswomen who flipped red seats blue in Virginia in 2018, said she chose Klobuchar. The former CIA officer planned to keep her absentee ballot vote to herself, but she revealed her choice a few hours after Klobuchar dropped out. The other two Virginia freshmen, Elaine Luria and Jennifer Wexton, are backing Biden:




Biden and O'Rourke headed to Whataburger after their Dallas rally and met a young supporter:




 **Dan Merica**   
@merica 


Sofia, a seven-year old from Broken Bow, Oklahoma, asked Joe Biden and Beto O'Rourke for autographs at Whataburger on Monday night. They both wrote her notes.

Biden: "You are a lovely, bright young lady."

O'Rourke: "I am expecting great things from you."



 834  4:59 AM - Mar 3, 2020 

 286 people are talking about this 

Trump admitted that he wants to get on Democrats' nerves:

 **Seung Min Kim**   
@seungminkim 

Noting how he had traveled to the four early states to hold rallies just as Democrats were voting, Trump notes: "We like to troll."

 693  12:49 AM - Mar 3, 2020 

 215 people are talking about this 

## Videos of the day

Seth Meyers went after Trump for saying the coronavirus is a Democratic hoax:





Stephen Colbert explained how Biden's South Carolina win changed the Democratic race:



Trevor Noah pictured what Biden debating Trump would look like:



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AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

GREENWIRE — Tue., March 3, 2020

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## 1. PUBLIC LANDS:

### Coal leasing sputters despite Trump's promises

The Trump administration frequently claims it ended the "war on coal." But the numbers tell a different story: Since former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke officially halted President Obama's leasing pause, national coal production has fallen and so has demand for new coal.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. AGRICULTURE:

#### 'Climatic events': How farm groups skirt global warming

### 3. SUPREME COURT:

#### Fight over financial oversight places FERC in the crosshairs

### 4. ENDANGERED SPECIES:

#### Spotlight turns to states as critics slam feds' salmon plan

## POLITICS

### 5. PEOPLE:

#### Former EPA deputy, Hill aide joins Koch-backed group

## CONGRESS

### 6. NOMINATIONS:

#### Democrats grumble as committee approves GOP FERC pick

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### 7. LAW ENFORCEMENT:

#### Texas farmer pays the price for poisoning bald eagle

### 8. WILDLIFE:

#### E.U. warns of biodiversity loss

### 9. SEVERE WEATHER:

#### Super Tuesday tornadoes shred buildings, kill 22 in Tenn.

### 10. FISHERIES:

## **NOAA says anglers must take fewer overfished bluefish**

### **LAW**

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#### **11. COAL:**

**Court scraps Colo. roadless exception — again**

#### **12. WILDFIRES:**

**PG&E says it can't commit to expanding tree-trimming force**

### **AIR AND WATER**

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#### **13. CHEMICALS:**

**DOD burns toxic foam, worrying nearby communities**

#### **14. AIR POLLUTION:**

**Emissions offer 'pandemic' level health problems — study**

### **STATES**

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#### **15. FLORIDA:**

**NOAA increases reward for info on slain dolphins to \$54,000**

#### **16. INDIANA:**

**Senate panel alters bill that would slow coal plant closures**

#### **17. VIRGINIA:**

**Lawmakers split over bill banning foam to-go containers**

#### **18. CONNECTICUT:**

**Researchers ask for help in finding bobcat tracking collars**

### **INTERNATIONAL**

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#### **19. BRAZIL:**

**Torrential rains kill 12 on coast; dozens missing**

#### **20. INDONESIA:**

**Nation's most active volcano erupts, spews ash into sky**

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### **ABOUT GREENWIRE – THE LEADER IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS**

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The Trump administration frequently claims it ended the "war on coal." But the numbers tell a different story: Since former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke officially halted President Obama's leasing pause, national coal production has fallen and so has demand for new coal.

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### 5. PEOPLE:

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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] March 3 -- Greenwire is ready  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 11:40:55 AM

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# GREENWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**GREENWIRE — Tue., March 3, 2020**

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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Your guide to Super Tuesday and the next 24 hours  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 12:17:09 PM

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# The Washington Post

*Democracy Dies in Darkness*



## Your guide to Super Tuesday

Voters in 14 states and American Samoa will cast ballots in Democratic primaries today.

Exactly 1,357 delegates are up for grabs, and it could be a make-or-break moment for a few candidates. Here's what you need to know.

### WHO'S VOTING?

Primaries are being held in delegate-rich California (415 delegates), Texas (228), North Carolina (110), Virginia (99), Massachusetts (91), and nine other states. [Click here to see the full list.](#)

### WHEN DO THE POLLS CLOSE?

The first ones close at 7 p.m. EST.

### WHERE TO FIND RESULTS:

[Click the results page now.](#) Bookmark it. Come back tonight. Refresh it.

We created an election data team dedicated to bringing you complete results continuously with data from three sources so you'll always be in the know.

### WATCH OUR LIVE SHOW AT 7 p.m. EST

Take a break from the cable pundits and watch the results roll in with The Post's political reporters. The show launches [on our homepage at 7.](#) Our election data team will present results when they become available.

### TODAY IS IMPORTANT, BUT THE RACE IS FAR FROM OVER

Democratic candidates need 1,991 delegates to win the party's nomination. Today's primaries won't get anyone over that threshold, but it could help determine who has a chance and who drops out. [Here's where things stand right now.](#)


### WHAT IF YOUR CANDIDATE DROPS OUT?


[Take this quiz](#) to see which of the remaining candidates agrees with you most.

If you've already taken the quiz, [watch this video](#) to see how people reacted when they got their results.



## More Super Tuesday coverage:

 Get alerts when there's a major development. Enable politics alerts in The Washington Post app. If you don't already have the app, [download it now](#).

 [Listen to voters](#) talk about the issues that matter to them. "Post Reports" interviews people in every Super Tuesday state for a completely enlightening but unscientific survey.

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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

Presented by [Blue Cross Blue Shield Association](#)



By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
[✉ Email](#)

## Joe Biden forged a Super Tuesday coalition that could win the Democratic nomination – and presidency

With a victory in Texas giving him a [sweep](#) of the South, plus the exclamation marks from winning outright in Massachusetts and Minnesota, Joe Biden is suddenly the front-runner again for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Bernie Sanders [leads](#) in California, the biggest prize of Super Tuesday,

which will keep the delegate count tight and probably ensures the contest drags on for a few more months. The independent senator carried his home state of Vermont, as well as Colorado and Utah. But Sanders crashed into a brick wall down South, just as he did four years ago [against Hillary Clinton](#), despite his [efforts](#) to court African Americans.

Biden won Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama and Oklahoma by double digits. Maine, which the Sanders camp expected to carry, remains too close to call. Sanders won the Pine Tree State decisively in 2016.

“We increased turnout,” Biden told supporters in Los Angeles. “The turnout turned out for us!”



Joe Biden takes the stage at his victory party at Baldwin Hills Recreation Center in Los Angeles. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

**Turnout grew not because of Biden’s ground game, which was essentially nonexistent in the 14 states and one U.S. territory that voted on Tuesday.** In fact, he won big in several places where he spent little time and made no real investment in a field program.

Momentum mattered **more than money**. After spending more than half a billion dollars of his personal fortune, former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg's only win came in American Samoa, where Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) also got a delegate.

**Turnout also did not appear to grow because of a surge in young voters that Sanders keeps promising will materialize any time now.** Exit polls show about 1 in 8 voters in Super Tuesday states were 18- to 29-year-olds, compared to 3 in 10 who were 65 or older. Sanders struggles with these older voters.

**Instead, turnout appears to have spiked from 2016 to 2020 in key general election battlegrounds because antipathy toward President Trump continues to galvanize suburban moderates to get engaged in Democratic politics.** A Washington Post statistical model suggests Biden won nearly 60 percent of voters who sat out the 2016 primary but cast ballots on Tuesday. Our turnout analysis, conducted by in-house data scientist Lenny Bronner, also shows that Biden possibly received nearly 90 percent of Clinton's 2016 voters.

**Biden romped in the suburbs, excelling with the constituencies that fueled the Democratic takeover of the House in 2018.** In addition to his stalwart base of African American voters, the foundation of his wins across the South, Biden fared well with white voters in suburbs from Richmond and Raleigh, N.C., to Houston and Hampton Roads, as well as Nashville and Minneapolis.





Bernie Sanders watches Super Tuesday results in a holding area before his speech in Essex Junction, Vt. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

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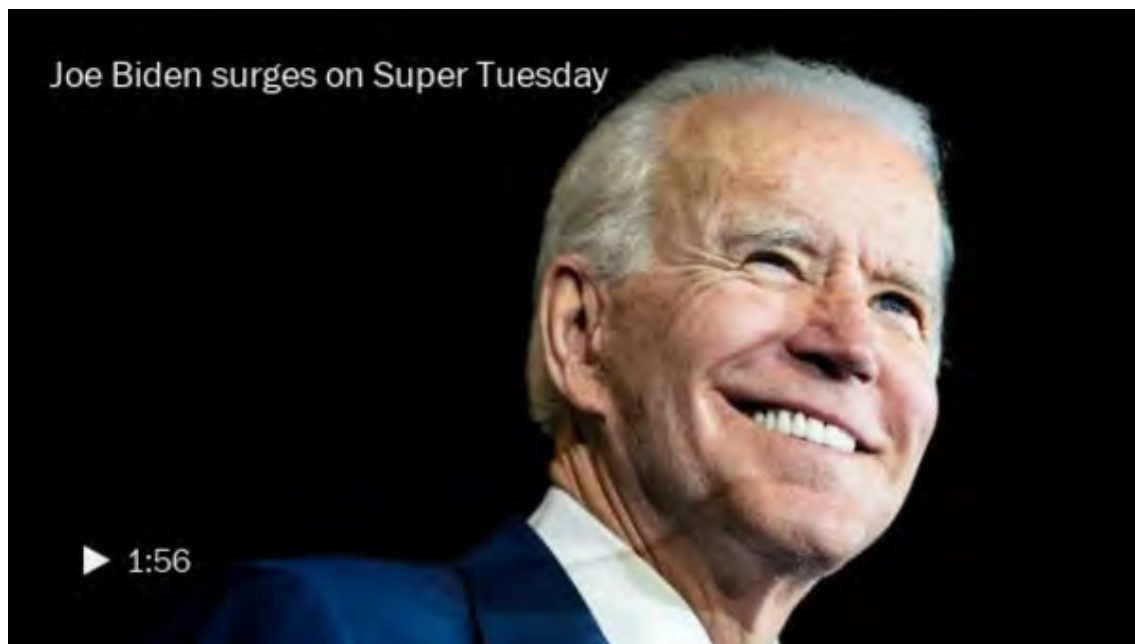
**Exit polls show that many decided to back the former vice president in the days after his South Carolina landslide.** These

voters think he's the most electable choice to take back the White House and that beating Trump is more important to them than agreeing with a candidate on the issues. It also helped Biden that the field winnowed, and he received endorsements on Monday from former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.).

**Biden credited his win in Minnesota, where Sanders invested heavily and held a massive rally on Monday night, to Klobuchar.** Exit polls there showed 6 in 10 voters decided whom to vote for in the past few days. Biden won about half that group.

**Consider Virginia as a window into why turnout grew.** In 2016, 785,000 people participated in the Democratic primary. On Tuesday, about 1.3 million people did. This broke the turnout record set in the 2008 primary that pitted Clinton against Barack Obama. About a quarter of Virginia primary voters were African American, and roughly 6 in 10 chose Biden, according to the exit polls. But Biden also won 6 in 10 white voters older than 45. While Sanders won 3 to 1 among all younger voters, Biden still won the primary in Virginia by 30 points.

“The precincts that saw the biggest increases were largely clustered in Northern Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area,” [Greg Schneider reports](#) from Richmond. “In Henrico, Kate Giska, 39, a small-business owner and political independent, described Sanders as ‘just too extreme, just like Trump is a little too extreme. We’re kind of, like, in the middle, just, like, status quo, just get along.’ She voted for Biden, someone she thinks has appeal for ‘the middle voter, a candidate that can attract the masses.’ **None of more than 50 voters interviewed at three Virginia Beach precincts on Tuesday said they planned to vote for Sanders, even if they liked some of his positions.** Many said they simply thought Biden had a better chance of winning in November.”



**Biden won from coast to coast among those who identify as “somewhat liberal.”** He dominated among conservative and moderate primary voters across most of the 14 states that voted, with the exceptions of Colorado and Vermont. But he also fared very well among the large share of voters who self-identify as “somewhat liberal.” Biden won that group by a roughly 2 to 1 margin over Sanders in Alabama, Virginia and North Carolina. Those latter two states will both be battlegrounds this fall.

**Sanders’s coalition is built around liberals and Latinos.** One reason he’s widely expected to win California, although the race has not been called with 81 percent of precincts reporting, is that two-thirds of voters described themselves as liberal in the exit polling, and this group voted more than 2 to 1 for Sanders.

**Hispanic voters also showed a strong preference for Sanders in the states where they made up the largest shares of the Democratic electorate.** About 3 in 10 voters in Texas identified themselves as Hispanic, and just under half of them voted for Sanders. Biden got about 1 in 4 Hispanic votes in the Lone Star State. The share of Hispanic voters was slightly smaller in California, but Sanders won the group by a larger margin, capturing a majority. Biden got about 1 in 5 Latinos in the Golden State, giving Sanders a margin of about 30

percentage points, according to the exits.

**Elsewhere, though, Biden made inroads with non-college-educated whites who backed Sanders four years ago.** Exit polls suggested Biden had a greater than 2 to 1 lead among white voters in Alabama, and nearly as wide an edge in Virginia. Biden had a smaller but still visible lead among white voters in Minnesota and Oklahoma and a smaller edge in Tennessee, North Carolina and Massachusetts. In Maine and Texas, Biden and Sanders were neck and neck among white voters. And Sanders led among white voters in Vermont, Colorado and California.



**Elizabeth Warren's humiliating third-place finish in Massachusetts, a state she's represented in the Senate for eight years, makes continuing her campaign increasingly difficult to rationalize.** Warren also finished fourth in her native Oklahoma, with 13.4 percent, under the 15 percent threshold required to win any delegates, although not all the precincts have reported. Speaking early Tuesday evening in Detroit as polls remained open in several states, Warren pledged to forge ahead and seemed to plead with late deciders not to keep breaking for Biden. "What I see happening is a lot of folks trying to turn voting into some complicated strategy," she said, acting almost as if Super Tuesday hadn't happened. "They are playing games about

prediction and strategy. Prediction has been a terrible business.”

**After polls closed, Bloomberg campaign manager Kevin Sheekey backed away from his insistence that the former New York mayor would fight on until the Democratic convention in Milwaukee.** “You make an assessment in any campaign like this after any time there is a vote,” he said. “As of right now we are committing to stay in, but we will see what happens tonight.” Another campaign aide [told Michael Scherer](#) that the campaign is regularly reevaluated, and that process would continue Wednesday, when Bloomberg is expected to return to New York from Florida.

**Whether Warren and Bloomberg stay in or not, this has effectively become a two-man race,** pitting the 77-year-old Biden – first elected to the Senate in 1972 – against the 78-year-old Sanders, who was first elected mayor of Burlington 39 years ago Tuesday and who has been in Congress since 1991. But the ideological contrast between the septuagenarians is stark. Sanders promises revolution. Biden pledges restoration.

**Sanders is also struggling in some states he won last time because Biden is a less effective foil for him than Clinton.** The self-described democratic socialist benefited four years ago in several red states like Indiana, West Virginia and Montana from being the sole alternative to Clinton. He ran up the score among self-identified conservative Democrats. With the benefit of hindsight, many of these folks were probably voting more *against* Clinton than they were voting *for* Sanders. But she’s not on the ballot this time. Biden has higher favorability ratings among conservative Democrats than she did, and there were other alternatives, including Bloomberg.

**Consider Oklahoma.** Sanders won the primary there four years ago by 10 points. “Clinton won self-identified Democrats by 9 points, according to exit polls. But independents, who were free to cross over, backed Sanders by 48 points,” [Dave Weigel notes](#). “While Sanders ran to Clinton’s left, he beat her among self-identified ‘moderate or conservative’ voters by 11

points. Without Clinton as a foil, the Sanders vote fell apart. ... Sanders badly lost moderate and conservative voters [on Tuesday], losing them to Biden by 28 points. ... Bloomberg won 24 percent of the moderate vote, to just 11 percent for Sanders.”



**The fight for the nomination could still drag into the convention in Milwaukee in July, even if Biden continues to consolidate support among moderate voters.** Most delegates still have not been awarded, and 32 states still need to vote. Sanders expressed optimism in Vermont last night. “I tell you, with absolute confidence, we’re going to win the Democratic nomination,” he told thousands of supporters.

**But, but, but: The calendar is going to get harder for Sanders.** “The marquee primary next week will be in Michigan,” [Dan Balz explains](#). “Sanders scored a major upset there four years ago against Clinton, although his victory margin was narrow. Also on the calendar next week is Missouri, a state Sanders lost by less than a percentage point and where the delegates split almost evenly. Missouri will provide another test of Biden’s and Sanders’s support among African Americans, who make up about a fifth of Democratic turnout in that state. Because Washington state has switched from a caucus to a primary, Sanders, though favored, will have a more difficult time piling up the kind of delegate margin he did in 2016. Meanwhile, Mississippi should be fertile ground for Biden, as African Americans made up about 70 percent of the Democratic electorate there in 2016 — even more than in South Carolina.

**“The round of primaries on March 17 includes Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Ohio.** Sanders lost Florida badly to Clinton and will face serious resistance again this year because of qualms about his left-wing agenda. He also lost Arizona and Ohio decisively. Only Illinois was close, though Sanders was on the losing end there, as well. A week after that, on March 24, Georgia holds a stand-alone primary, and there again, Biden will be favored based on the size of the African American vote.”

**For his part, Biden will face growing scrutiny that he’s mostly avoided since stumbling in Iowa.** He faced few attacks in the last three debates. His performances on the stump can be uneven. Trying to stay disciplined, he delivered his speech in Los Angeles from a teleprompter. Most of it duplicated what he said on Saturday night in his victory speech in South Carolina. “They don’t call it Super Tuesday for nothing,” he said. “For those who have been knocked down, counted out, left behind, this is your campaign.”

*Scott Clement contributed exit poll analysis.*

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## More from the states



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Supporters cheer Jeff Sessions as he reacts to being forced into a runoff on Tuesday night in Mobile, Ala. (Elijah Nouvelage/Reuters)

**In Alabama, Jeff Sessions is headed to a March 31 Republican runoff against former Auburn University football coach Tommy Tuberville in his quest to win back his old Senate seat.** “Other Republicans, including Rep. Bradley Byrne and former state Supreme Court chief justice Roy Moore, significantly trailed,” [Mike DeBonis reports](#). “Trump has so far remained silent on the race, and Republicans in both Alabama and Washington are speculating whether he might now get involved to block Sessions. ... Meanwhile, in North Carolina, Democrats nominated a centrist favorite of national party leaders to take on GOP Sen. Thom Tillis in what promises to be a much more competitive race.”

**Texas Reps. Key Granger (R) and Henry Cuellar (D) both claimed victory over primary challengers.** “‘You know, we can keep waiting, but it remains 60-40 so far, so I’ll stay here,’ Granger said Tuesday evening ... Asked if she was declaring victory, she said ‘yes,’” [the Texas Tribune reports](#). Cuellar “was still fighting a primary challenge from attorney Jessica Cisneros ... As of early Wednesday morning, Cuellar garnered 51.6% of the vote to Cisneros’ 48.4%, with incomplete returns. The Cuellar victory is a setback for a massive coalition of Democratic allied groups, ranging from the Justice Democrats to EMILY’s List to the League of Conservation Voters.”

- Pierce Bush, a grandson of George H.W. Bush, didn’t make the runoff in a crowded GOP race to represent Texas’s 22nd District. Early results indicated that he was headed to either a third- or fourth-place finish in a 15-way primary race. ([Texas Tribune](#))
- Former White House physician Ronny Jackson advanced to a Republican runoff for Texas’s 13th District, a comfortably Republican seat. ([AP](#))

**Long lines kept some Texans waiting to vote until late into the night.** “Dozens of Democratic voters were still waiting to cast ballots at midnight in Houston, turning Super Tuesday into a painful slog for some citizens amid questions about how the County Clerk’s office had allocated

its voting machines across the county,” [the Houston Chronicle reports](#). “Some people in line gave up and walked away ... Polls closed at 7 p.m., but voters still can cast ballots as long as they stay in line. ... After waiting four hours to cast his own ballot at TSU, Bryan Escobedo walked outside to a crowd cheering his patience. He spoke of voters sharing painkillers and water to keep their neighbors engaged. ... The nonprofit Texas Civil Rights Project took issue with the delays, noting that many polling places with long waits were in predominantly black and Latino neighborhoods.”

**The special election in California to replace Katie Hill, the freshman Democratic congresswoman who resigned after [admitting an extramarital affair](#), will head to a runoff.**

“Democratic Assemblywoman Christy Smith of Santa Clarita and Republican defense contractor Mike Garcia were in a tight race ... in one of California’s most competitive congressional districts,” [the Los Angeles Times reports](#). “Former Rep. Steve Knight, the Republican who was ousted in 2018 by Hill, a Democrat, was running third and on the verge of losing his shot at recapturing his seat representing the northern suburbs of Los Angeles. The primary appeared likely to yield two runoffs between Smith and Garcia, a former Navy pilot — one in May to fill Hill’s seat for the rest of the year and another in November for the full two-year term that starts in January. Trailing far behind [was] George Papadopoulos, a 2016 Trump campaign advisor who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI in the Russia scandal.”

**Commentary from the opinion page:**

- [Dana Milbank](#): “The Sanders revolution has stalled.”
  - [David Byler](#): “The real winner of Super Tuesday is the Democratic Party itself.”
  - [Megan McArdle](#): “Elizabeth Warren focused on her core voters. There weren’t enough of them.”
  - [Jennifer Rubin](#): “Super Tuesday gave Joe Biden the historic surge he needed.”
-

## The new world order



### **Vice President Pence said any American can get tested for coronavirus if a doctor orders it.**

The comments “perplexed some public health officials, as physicians already have discretion to order testing. The announcement also raised questions about whether the government can rapidly accelerate the production of testing kits, as well as how much patients will ultimately have to pay for getting tested,” [Seung Min Kim, Maria Sacchetti and Brady Dennis report](#). “Pence said roughly 2,500 testing kits approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention should be distributed by the end of the week, primarily to hospitals in affected areas as well as to others that have requested them. Those kits collectively represent about 1.5 million individual tests. Seema Verma, the administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said testing for the coronavirus is covered under Medicare, Medicaid and health-care exchanges established under the Affordable Care Act, but it remained unclear how the costs would be handled for the estimated 27 million Americans who are uninsured.”

**Washington state confirmed three additional fatalities, bringing the total to nine:** “Overall, the U.S. has reported more than

100 confirmed cases. The previously unreported deaths were former residents of the Life Care Center of Kirkland, a nursing home facility that has emerged as the epicenter of the outbreak in the city northeast of Seattle. ... Meanwhile, **North Carolina reported its first coronavirus case** Tuesday, bringing the total to 14 states ... New York disclosed on Tuesday its second confirmed case. Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D) described the patient as a 50-year-old man from Westchester County, who had no recent history of foreign travel.”

### **Trump’s coronavirus effort has been undermined by mixed messages and falsehoods.**

“The White House is handling the rapidly expanding coronavirus as a public relations problem as much as a public health crisis. Officials are insisting on message discipline among government scientists and political aides alike, part of what they say is a responsible effort to try to calm jittery Americans and provide uniform and transparent information,” [Philip Rucker, Yasmeen Abutaleb and Ashley Parker report](#). **Trump “has privately griped about what he considers to be hysteria from both the media and his own public health officials ...** White House aides managing the response have also sought to focus on tamping down what they consider to be alarmist rhetoric. ...

“As Trump toured a laboratory at the National Institutes of Health on Tuesday afternoon, he and [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director] Anthony Fauci appeared chummy. The president heaped praise on the infectious-diseases expert, telling him, ‘The world is extremely happy that you’re involved.’ But their bonhomie belied the tensions in an administration where the president tolerates only one star: himself. Public health experts and other government officials have found themselves struggling to manage the delicate balance of performing their jobs while not angering the president or his political aides.”

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## **Quote of the day**

*“You should never destroy your own credibility. And you don’t want to go to war with a president,” Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Anthony Fauci [told Politico](#). “But you got to walk the fine balance of making sure you continue to tell the truth.”*

## **Across America, the virus has triggered cancellations, closures and contingency planning.**

Trump has “said he did not agree with contingency plans being considered for the NCAA’s March Madness basketball tournament, including a proposal to play games in empty arenas,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Heather Kelly, Hannah Natanson and Julie Zauzmer report](#). “I don’t think it would be necessary,’ [he said]. With the lack of a coordinated national approach, local officials and individual communities are rushing to make their own plans. Some schools are considering closures, some companies have implemented restrictions on travel for employees, and religious organizations are altering how they conduct services.”

## **In turf warfare, the CDC temporarily blocked a top FDA scientist from its campus.**

“Timothy Stenzel, who is the director of the Food and Drug Administration’s Office of In Vitro Diagnostics and Radiological Health, was made to wait overnight on the weekend of Feb. 22 — as senior health department officials negotiated his access in a series of calls — before Centers for Disease Control granted him permission to be on campus. Stenzel’s visit had been expected ... The FDA had dispatched Stenzel to the CDC in an effort to expedite the development of lab tests for the novel coronavirus outbreak,” [Politico reported](#).

## **The outbreak continues to spread widely in the Middle East, Asia and Europe.**

Iran has confirmed 92 deaths and 2,992 cases, while South Korea has 5,238 cases and Italy 2,263. China, which remains the worst-hit nation, announced 38 new deaths. Chile and Argentina reported their first cases yesterday, widening the numbers across Latin America. ([Adam Taylor](#),

[Teo Armus and Rick Noack](#))

The U.S. Travel Association anticipates international inbound travel to the country will drop 6 percent between now and May, the largest dip in global visitation since the financial crisis in 2007 and 2008. "The forecast takes into account factors including hotel bookings, airline data and consumer sentiment data," [Hannah Sampson reports](#).

### **North Korea's isolation is a possible virus buffer – but also a concern.**

"Kim Jong Un's insular world also could face a major crisis if the virus that causes covid-19 finds its way in. An outbreak could overwhelm the feeble health system — ranked 193 out of 195 on the Global Health Security Index — in a country already stalked by malnutrition and diseases such as tuberculosis," [Simon Denyer reports](#).

### **Doctors in Italy are turning into patients.**

"In an effort to cope, Italy is graduating nurses early and calling medical workers out of retirement. Hospitals in the hardest-hit regions are delaying nonessential surgeries and scrambling to add 50 percent more intensive-care beds," [Loveday Morris reports](#).

### **Trump spoke with a senior Taliban leader by phone.**

This was apparently the first direct verbal communication between a U.S. president and the Afghan insurgent force since the Afghanistan war began. [Anne Gearan reports](#): "Trump confirmed the Taliban's announcement Tuesday that he had spoken by phone with Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban's top political leader. 'I spoke to the leader of the Taliban today. We had a good conversation. We've agreed there's no violence, we don't want violence; we'll see what happens,' Trump told reporters at the White House. 'They're dealing with Afghanistan, but we'll see what happens. We had actually a very good talk.' Baradar is a senior figure representing the insurgent group in talks with the United States in Doha, Qatar. ...

"The phone call is notable for the stature it confers on Baradar. U.S. presidents typically deal directly with other heads of state or government ... In a statement, Baradar welcomed the phone call and said that 'we assure with full confidence that if the U.S. implements the agreement, this will have positive impact on the bilateral relations in future.' ... The Taliban statement quotes Trump as saying the Taliban has been 'fighting for your country' and that the time has come for the United States to leave. The Taliban said Trump also pledged that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will speak to [Afghan President Ashraf] Ghani 'to remove hurdles in the way of intra-Afghan dialogue.'"

**The Pentagon said overnight the U.S. military has conducted an airstrike against Taliban forces in southern Afghanistan, [the AP reports](#):** "Spokesman Col Sonny Leggett said in a tweet Wednesday that it was the first U.S. strike against the militant group in 11 days. He said the attack was to counter a Taliban assault on Afghan government forces in Nahr-e Saraj in the Helmand province."

**Iran has sharply increased its uranium stockpile since Trump blew up the nuclear accord.**

"Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency reported a near-tripling of Iran's stockpile of low-enriched uranium just since November, with total holdings more than three times the 300-kilogram limit set by the nuclear accord," [Joby Warrick reports](#). "Iran also substantially increased the number of machines it is using to enrich uranium, the agency said, allowing it to make more of the nuclear fuel faster. ... Iran's low-enriched uranium, the kind typically used in nuclear power plants, would have to undergo further processing to be converted into the highly enriched uranium needed for nuclear bombs. Independent analysts said the bigger stockpile and faster enrichment rate has substantially decreased Iran's theoretical 'breakout' time — the span needed for acquiring enough weapons-grade material for a single nuclear bomb."

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**Domestic developments that shouldn't be**

## overlooked



### **The tornadoes in Tennessee killed at least 24.**

“An EF-3 tornado with winds up to 165 mph tore across the Nashville area,” [Brandon Gee, Meryl Kornfield and Kim Bellware report](#). Some of the dead were children. **“Dozens more are still missing as of Wednesday morning.** The [destruction stretched for 50 miles across four counties](#), and Gov. Bill Lee (R), who surveyed the area via helicopter, said it will take days just to assess the scope of the damage.”

### **A Louisiana case is the first abortion test for the new Supreme Court.**

Since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, no state has passed more abortion restrictions than Louisiana. Today, a repopulated and more conservative Supreme Court will consider one of those laws. “Some politicians here wonder if it might be the breakthrough they’ve been waiting for in a decades-long effort to rid the state, and the nation, of abortion,” [Robert Barnes reports](#) from the Pelican State. “‘I prayed one day that it would come, but I never thought it would be with this bill,’ said state Sen. Katrina Jackson, a Democrat who calls herself ‘pro-whole life’ and says she has been ‘very aggressive’ in pursuing legislation to impose more restrictions. ... Abortion providers say Jackson’s law would force two of the state’s three abortion



clinics to close. It's hard to overstate what a decision about this law — requiring difficult-to-obtain hospital admitting privileges for doctors who perform abortions in clinics — will reveal about this Supreme Court and its jurisprudence on [abortion] ... It will be the first time the two justices selected by President Trump, Neil M. Gorsuch and Brett M. Kavanaugh, confront the merits of an abortion case. It marks a key moment for Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., who has never voted against an abortion restriction, in his pivotal role at the court's center.”

### **A new White House questionnaire includes a litmus test for prospective appointees.**

“Candidates applying to join [Trump's] administration will now have to explain what part of Trump's campaign message ‘most appealed’ to them and why,” [CNN reports](#). “The new questionnaire, distributed by the White House's Presidential Personnel Office to federal departments on Monday, ... is the latest move by the office's new head John McEntee to emphasize loyalty to the President in the hiring process.”

**Speaking of loyalty, John Bolton's book release date was pushed back to May amid Trump's efforts to block publication, per [Tom Hamburger](#).**

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## **Social media speed read**

A former National Security Council spokesman under Obama noted the American people only learned about Trump's conversation with a Taliban official because the Taliban posted about it:



**Ned Price** ✓

@nedprice



The American President had a phone call with the head of the Taliban... and the American people learn about it from the Taliban. [twitter.com/Zabehulah\\_M33/...](https://twitter.com/Zabehulah_M33/)

**Zabihullah ( ذبیح الله م )** @Zabehulah\_M33

#Breaking

The President of the United States Trump @realDonaldTrump held a phone conversation with the Political Deputy of the Islamic Emirate, the respected Mullah Baradar Akhund. Details later.



♥ 15.8K 6:50 PM - Mar 3, 2020



💬 9.899 people are talking about this



Mike Pompeo tried to avoid being photographed with Taliban leaders, but a Wall Street Journal reporter obtained this picture:



The DNC's communications director pushed back on the idea that Tulsi Gabbard will appear in the next debate because she won a delegate in American Samoa. She noted that the bar will be raised to appear onstage in Phoenix:

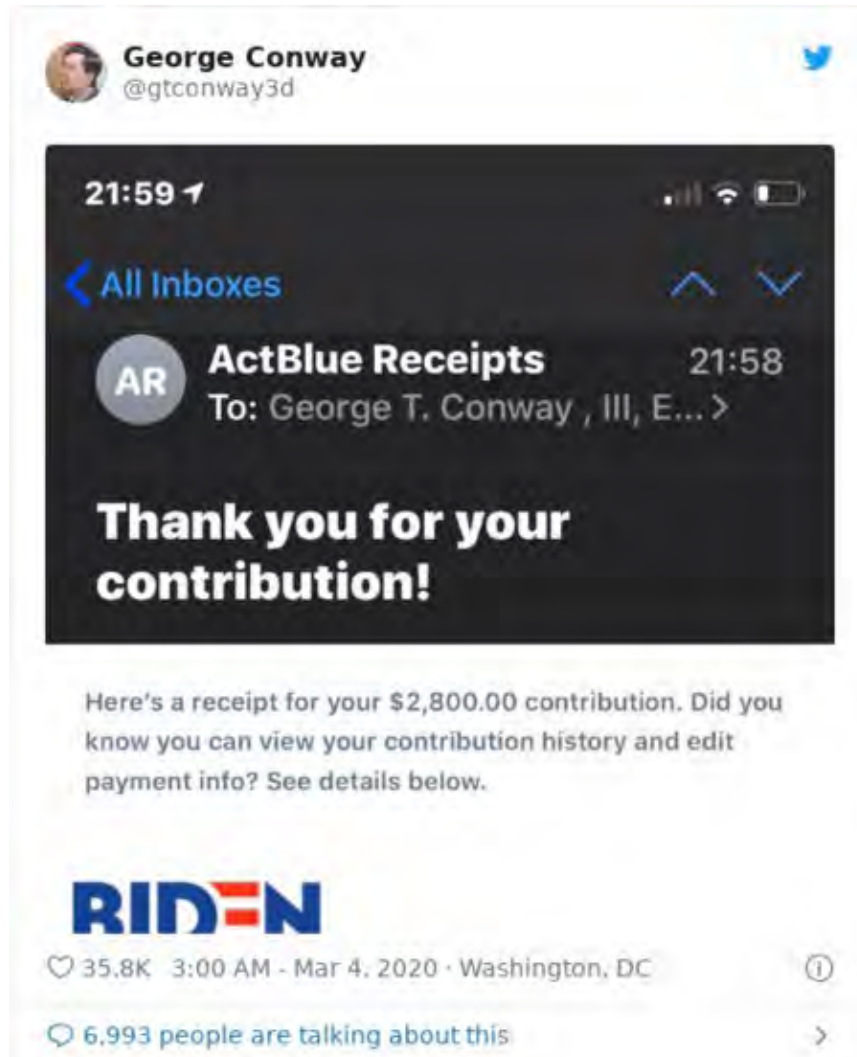


The former FBI director, a Republican until Trump fired him, voted for

## Biden in Virginia:



Never Trumper George Conway, husband of counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway, maxed out to Biden:



And Amy Klobuchar said goodbye to her “Saturday Night Live” counterpart:



A screenshot of a Twitter thread. The top tweet is from Amy Klobuchar (@amyklobuchar), who says she always said Rachel Dratch plays a good game and thanks her for memories, including their matching maroon dresses and moving bangs. Below it is a reply from Rachel Dratch (@TheRealDratch) thanking Amy for being a good sport during the SNL campaign season and admiring her, even suggesting she would have made a great president. A video thumbnail shows Rachel Dratch in a maroon dress peeking through a doorway. The tweet has 20.3K likes and was posted on March 3, 2020, at 2:11 PM. It also shows that 1,564 people are talking about it.

**Amy Klobuchar** @amyklobuchar

As I've always said @TheRealDratch you play a good game. Thanks for the memories (and our matching maroon dresses, not to mention the moving bangs).  
[twitter.com/therealdratch/...](https://twitter.com/therealdratch/)

**Rachel Dratch** @TheRealDratch

Thanks @amyklobuchar for being such a good sport throughout the SNL campaign season. I admire the heck out of you. and I think you would have made a great president.

20.3K 2:11 PM - Mar 3, 2020

1,564 people are talking about this

**Videos of the day**

A group of anti-dairy protesters rushed the stage during Biden's speech, but Jill Biden and campaign spokeswoman Symone Sanders stopped them cold:



"I broke a nail," Sanders quipped on Twitter afterward.

Stephen Colbert denounced the Trump administration's coronavirus response:



Seth Meyers held his own Democratic debate:



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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Joe Biden forged a Super Tuesday coalition that could win the Democratic nomination – and presidency  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 4, 2020 7:45:17 AM



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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

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By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
✉ [Email](#)

## Joe Biden forged a Super Tuesday coalition that could win the Democratic nomination – and presidency

With a victory in Texas giving him a [sweep](#) of the South, plus the exclamation marks from winning outright in Massachusetts and Minnesota, Joe Biden is suddenly the front-runner again for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Bernie Sanders [leads](#) in California, the biggest prize of Super Tuesday,



which will keep the delegate count tight and probably ensures the contest drags on for a few more months. The independent senator carried his home state of Vermont, as well as Colorado and Utah. But Sanders crashed into a brick wall down South, just as he did four years ago [against Hillary Clinton](#), despite his [efforts](#) to court African Americans.

Biden won Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama and Oklahoma by double digits. Maine, which the Sanders camp expected to carry, remains too close to call. Sanders won the Pine Tree State decisively in 2016.

“We increased turnout,” Biden told supporters in Los Angeles. “The turnout turned out for us!”



Joe Biden takes the stage at his victory party at Baldwin Hills Recreation Center in Los Angeles. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

**Turnout grew not because of Biden’s ground game, which was essentially nonexistent in the 14 states and one U.S. territory that voted on Tuesday.** In fact, he won big in several places where he spent little time and made no real investment in a field program.

Momentum mattered **more than money**. After spending more than half a billion dollars of his personal fortune, former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg's only win came in American Samoa, where Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) also got a delegate.

**Turnout also did not appear to grow because of a surge in young voters that Sanders keeps promising will materialize any time now.** Exit polls show about 1 in 8 voters in Super Tuesday states were 18- to 29-year-olds, compared to 3 in 10 who were 65 or older. Sanders struggles with these older voters.

**Instead, turnout appears to have spiked from 2016 to 2020 in key general election battlegrounds because antipathy toward President Trump continues to galvanize suburban moderates to get engaged in Democratic politics.** A Washington Post statistical model suggests Biden won nearly 60 percent of voters who sat out the 2016 primary but cast ballots on Tuesday. Our turnout analysis, conducted by in-house data scientist Lenny Bronner, also shows that Biden possibly received nearly 90 percent of Clinton's 2016 voters.

**Biden romped in the suburbs, excelling with the constituencies that fueled the Democratic takeover of the House in 2018.** In addition to his stalwart base of African American voters, the foundation of his wins across the South, Biden fared well with white voters in suburbs from Richmond and Raleigh, N.C., to Houston and Hampton Roads, as well as Nashville and Minneapolis.



Bernie Sanders watches Super Tuesday results in a holding area before his speech in Essex Junction, Vt. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

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**Exit polls show that many decided to back the former vice president in the days after his South Carolina landslide.** These

voters think he's the most electable choice to take back the White House and that beating Trump is more important to them than agreeing with a candidate on the issues. It also helped Biden that the field winnowed, and he received endorsements on Monday from former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.).

**Biden credited his win in Minnesota, where Sanders invested heavily and held a massive rally on Monday night, to Klobuchar.** Exit polls there showed 6 in 10 voters decided whom to vote for in the past few days. Biden won about half that group.

**Consider Virginia as a window into why turnout grew.** In 2016, 785,000 people participated in the Democratic primary. On Tuesday, about 1.3 million people did. This broke the turnout record set in the 2008 primary that pitted Clinton against Barack Obama. About a quarter of Virginia primary voters were African American, and roughly 6 in 10 chose Biden, according to the exit polls. But Biden also won 6 in 10 white voters older than 45. While Sanders won 3 to 1 among all younger voters, Biden still won the primary in Virginia by 30 points.

“The precincts that saw the biggest increases were largely clustered in Northern Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area,” [Greg Schneider reports](#) from Richmond. “In Henrico, Kate Giska, 39, a small-business owner and political independent, described Sanders as ‘just too extreme, just like Trump is a little too extreme. We’re kind of, like, in the middle, just, like, status quo, just get along.’ She voted for Biden, someone she thinks has appeal for ‘the middle voter, a candidate that can attract the masses.’ **None of more than 50 voters interviewed at three Virginia Beach precincts on Tuesday said they planned to vote for Sanders, even if they liked some of his positions.** Many said they simply thought Biden had a better chance of winning in November.”



**Biden won from coast to coast among those who identify as “somewhat liberal.”** He dominated among conservative and moderate primary voters across most of the 14 states that voted, with the exceptions of Colorado and Vermont. But he also fared very well among the large share of voters who self-identify as “somewhat liberal.” Biden won that group by a roughly 2 to 1 margin over Sanders in Alabama, Virginia and North Carolina. Those latter two states will both be battlegrounds this fall.

**Sanders’s coalition is built around liberals and Latinos.** One reason he’s widely expected to win California, although the race has not been called with 81 percent of precincts reporting, is that two-thirds of voters described themselves as liberal in the exit polling, and this group voted more than 2 to 1 for Sanders.

**Hispanic voters also showed a strong preference for Sanders in the states where they made up the largest shares of the Democratic electorate.** About 3 in 10 voters in Texas identified themselves as Hispanic, and just under half of them voted for Sanders. Biden got about 1 in 4 Hispanic votes in the Lone Star State. The share of Hispanic voters was slightly smaller in California, but Sanders won the group by a larger margin, capturing a majority. Biden got about 1 in 5 Latinos in the Golden State, giving Sanders a margin of about 30

percentage points, according to the exits.

**Elsewhere, though, Biden made inroads with non-college-educated whites who backed Sanders four years ago.** Exit polls suggested Biden had a greater than 2 to 1 lead among white voters in Alabama, and nearly as wide an edge in Virginia. Biden had a smaller but still visible lead among white voters in Minnesota and Oklahoma and a smaller edge in Tennessee, North Carolina and Massachusetts. In Maine and Texas, Biden and Sanders were neck and neck among white voters. And Sanders led among white voters in Vermont, Colorado and California.



**Elizabeth Warren’s humiliating third-place finish in Massachusetts, a state she’s represented in the Senate for eight years, makes continuing her campaign increasingly difficult to rationalize.** Warren also finished fourth in her native Oklahoma, with 13.4 percent, under the 15 percent threshold required to win any delegates, although not all the precincts have reported. Speaking early Tuesday evening in Detroit as polls remained open in several states, Warren pledged to forge ahead and seemed to plead with late deciders not to keep breaking for Biden. “What I see happening is a lot of folks trying to turn voting into some complicated strategy,” she said, acting almost as if Super Tuesday hadn’t happened. “They are playing games about

prediction and strategy. Prediction has been a terrible business.”

**After polls closed, Bloomberg campaign manager Kevin Sheekey backed away from his insistence that the former New York mayor would fight on until the Democratic convention in Milwaukee.** “You make an assessment in any campaign like this after any time there is a vote,” he said. “As of right now we are committing to stay in, but we will see what happens tonight.” Another campaign aide [told Michael Scherer](#) that the campaign is regularly reevaluated, and that process would continue Wednesday, when Bloomberg is expected to return to New York from Florida.

**Whether Warren and Bloomberg stay in or not, this has effectively become a two-man race,** pitting the 77-year-old Biden – first elected to the Senate in 1972 – against the 78-year-old Sanders, who was first elected mayor of Burlington 39 years ago Tuesday and who has been in Congress since 1991. But the ideological contrast between the septuagenarians is stark. Sanders promises revolution. Biden pledges restoration.

**Sanders is also struggling in some states he won last time because Biden is a less effective foil for him than Clinton.** The self-described democratic socialist benefited four years ago in several red states like Indiana, West Virginia and Montana from being the sole alternative to Clinton. He ran up the score among self-identified conservative Democrats. With the benefit of hindsight, many of these folks were probably voting more *against* Clinton than they were voting *for* Sanders. But she’s not on the ballot this time. Biden has higher favorability ratings among conservative Democrats than she did, and there were other alternatives, including Bloomberg.

**Consider Oklahoma.** Sanders won the primary there four years ago by 10 points. “Clinton won self-identified Democrats by 9 points, according to exit polls. But independents, who were free to cross over, backed Sanders by 48 points,” [Dave Weigel notes](#). “While Sanders ran to Clinton’s left, he beat her among self-identified ‘moderate or conservative’ voters by 11

points. Without Clinton as a foil, the Sanders vote fell apart. ... Sanders badly lost moderate and conservative voters [on Tuesday], losing them to Biden by 28 points. ... Bloomberg won 24 percent of the moderate vote, to just 11 percent for Sanders.”



**The fight for the nomination could still drag into the convention in Milwaukee in July, even if Biden continues to consolidate support among moderate voters.** Most delegates still have not been awarded, and 32 states still need to vote. Sanders expressed optimism in Vermont last night. “I tell you, with absolute confidence, we’re going to win the Democratic nomination,” he told thousands of supporters.



**But, but, but: The calendar is going to get harder for Sanders.**

“The marquee primary next week will be in Michigan,” [Dan Balz explains](#).

“Sanders scored a major upset there four years ago against Clinton, although his victory margin was narrow. Also on the calendar next week is Missouri, a state Sanders lost by less than a percentage point and where the delegates split almost evenly. Missouri will provide another test of Biden’s and Sanders’s support among African Americans, who make up about a fifth of Democratic turnout in that state. Because Washington state has switched from a caucus to a primary, Sanders, though favored, will have a more difficult time piling up the kind of delegate margin he did in 2016. Meanwhile, Mississippi should be fertile ground for Biden, as African Americans made up about 70 percent of the Democratic electorate there in 2016 — even more than in South Carolina.

**“The round of primaries on March 17 includes Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Ohio.** Sanders lost Florida badly to Clinton and will face serious resistance again this year because of qualms about his left-wing agenda. He also lost Arizona and Ohio decisively. Only Illinois was close, though Sanders was on the losing end there, as well. A week after that, on March 24, Georgia holds a stand-alone primary, and there again, Biden will be favored based on the size of the African American vote.”

**For his part, Biden will face growing scrutiny that he’s mostly avoided since stumbling in Iowa.** He faced few attacks in the last three debates. His performances on the stump can be uneven. Trying to stay disciplined, he delivered his speech in Los Angeles from a teleprompter. Most of it duplicated what he said on Saturday night in his victory speech in South Carolina. “They don’t call it Super Tuesday for nothing,” he said. “For those who have been knocked down, counted out, left behind, this is your campaign.”

*Scott Clement contributed exit poll analysis.*

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## More from the states



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Supporters cheer Jeff Sessions as he reacts to being forced into a runoff on Tuesday night in Mobile,

**In Alabama, Jeff Sessions is headed to a March 31 Republican runoff against former Auburn University football coach Tommy Tuberville in his quest to win back his old Senate seat.** “Other Republicans, including Rep. Bradley Byrne and former state Supreme Court chief justice Roy Moore, significantly trailed,” [Mike DeBonis reports](#). “Trump has so far remained silent on the race, and Republicans in both Alabama and Washington are speculating whether he might now get involved to block Sessions. ... Meanwhile, in North Carolina, Democrats nominated a centrist favorite of national party leaders to take on GOP Sen. Thom Tillis in what promises to be a much more competitive race.”

**Texas Reps. Key Granger (R) and Henry Cuellar (D) both claimed victory over primary challengers.** “‘You know, we can keep waiting, but it remains 60-40 so far, so I’ll stay here,’ Granger said Tuesday evening ... Asked if she was declaring victory, she said ‘yes,’” [the Texas Tribune reports](#). Cuellar “was still fighting a primary challenge from attorney Jessica Cisneros ... As of early Wednesday morning, Cuellar garnered 51.6% of the vote to Cisneros’ 48.4%, with incomplete returns. The Cuellar victory is a setback for a massive coalition of Democratic allied groups, ranging from the Justice Democrats to EMILY’s List to the League of Conservation Voters.”

- Pierce Bush, a grandson of George H.W. Bush, didn’t make the runoff in a crowded GOP race to represent Texas’s 22nd District. Early results indicated that he was headed to either a third- or fourth-place finish in a 15-way primary race. ([Texas Tribune](#))
- Former White House physician Ronny Jackson advanced to a Republican runoff for Texas’s 13th District, a comfortably Republican seat. ([AP](#))

**Long lines kept some Texans waiting to vote until late into the night.** “Dozens of Democratic voters were still waiting to cast ballots at midnight in Houston, turning Super Tuesday into a painful slog for some citizens amid questions about how the County Clerk’s office had allocated

its voting machines across the county,” [the Houston Chronicle reports](#). “Some people in line gave up and walked away ... Polls closed at 7 p.m., but voters still can cast ballots as long as they stay in line. ... After waiting four hours to cast his own ballot at TSU, Bryan Escobedo walked outside to a crowd cheering his patience. He spoke of voters sharing painkillers and water to keep their neighbors engaged. ... The nonprofit Texas Civil Rights Project took issue with the delays, noting that many polling places with long waits were in predominantly black and Latino neighborhoods.”

**The special election in California to replace Katie Hill, the freshman Democratic congresswoman who resigned after [admitting an extramarital affair](#), will head to a runoff.**

“Democratic Assemblywoman Christy Smith of Santa Clarita and Republican defense contractor Mike Garcia were in a tight race ... in one of California’s most competitive congressional districts,” [the Los Angeles Times reports](#). “Former Rep. Steve Knight, the Republican who was ousted in 2018 by Hill, a Democrat, was running third and on the verge of losing his shot at recapturing his seat representing the northern suburbs of Los Angeles. The primary appeared likely to yield two runoffs between Smith and Garcia, a former Navy pilot — one in May to fill Hill’s seat for the rest of the year and another in November for the full two-year term that starts in January. Trailing far behind [was] George Papadopoulos, a 2016 Trump campaign advisor who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI in the Russia scandal.”

**Commentary from the opinion page:**

- [Dana Milbank](#): “The Sanders revolution has stalled.”
  - [David Byler](#): “The real winner of Super Tuesday is the Democratic Party itself.”
  - [Megan McArdle](#): “Elizabeth Warren focused on her core voters. There weren’t enough of them.”
  - [Jennifer Rubin](#): “Super Tuesday gave Joe Biden the historic surge he needed.”
-

## The new world order



### **Vice President Pence said any American can get tested for coronavirus if a doctor orders it.**

The comments “perplexed some public health officials, as physicians already have discretion to order testing. The announcement also raised questions about whether the government can rapidly accelerate the production of testing kits, as well as how much patients will ultimately have to pay for getting tested,” [Seung Min Kim, Maria Sacchetti and Brady Dennis report](#). “Pence said roughly 2,500 testing kits approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention should be distributed by the end of the week, primarily to hospitals in affected areas as well as to others that have requested them. Those kits collectively represent about 1.5 million individual tests. Seema Verma, the administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said testing for the coronavirus is covered under Medicare, Medicaid and health-care exchanges established under the Affordable Care Act, but it remained unclear how the costs would be handled for the estimated 27 million Americans who are uninsured.”

**Washington state confirmed three additional fatalities, bringing the total to nine:** “Overall, the U.S. has reported more than

100 confirmed cases. The previously unreported deaths were former residents of the Life Care Center of Kirkland, a nursing home facility that has emerged as the epicenter of the outbreak in the city northeast of Seattle. ... Meanwhile, **North Carolina reported its first coronavirus case** Tuesday, bringing the total to 14 states ... New York disclosed on Tuesday its second confirmed case. Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D) described the patient as a 50-year-old man from Westchester County, who had no recent history of foreign travel.”

### **Trump’s coronavirus effort has been undermined by mixed messages and falsehoods.**

“The White House is handling the rapidly expanding coronavirus as a public relations problem as much as a public health crisis. Officials are insisting on message discipline among government scientists and political aides alike, part of what they say is a responsible effort to try to calm jittery Americans and provide uniform and transparent information,” [Philip Rucker, Yasmeen Abutaleb and Ashley Parker report](#). **Trump “has privately griped about what he considers to be hysteria from both the media and his own public health officials ...** White House aides managing the response have also sought to focus on tamping down what they consider to be alarmist rhetoric. ...

“As Trump toured a laboratory at the National Institutes of Health on Tuesday afternoon, he and [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director] Anthony Fauci appeared chummy. The president heaped praise on the infectious-diseases expert, telling him, ‘The world is extremely happy that you’re involved.’ But their bonhomie belied the tensions in an administration where the president tolerates only one star: himself. Public health experts and other government officials have found themselves struggling to manage the delicate balance of performing their jobs while not angering the president or his political aides.”

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## **Quote of the day**



*“You should never destroy your own credibility. And you don’t want to go to war with a president,” Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Anthony Fauci [told Politico](#). “But you got to walk the fine balance of making sure you continue to tell the truth.”*

## **Across America, the virus has triggered cancellations, closures and contingency planning.**

Trump has “said he did not agree with contingency plans being considered for the NCAA’s March Madness basketball tournament, including a proposal to play games in empty arenas,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Heather Kelly, Hannah Natanson and Julie Zauzmer report](#). “I don’t think it would be necessary,’ [he said]. With the lack of a coordinated national approach, local officials and individual communities are rushing to make their own plans. Some schools are considering closures, some companies have implemented restrictions on travel for employees, and religious organizations are altering how they conduct services.”

## **In turf warfare, the CDC temporarily blocked a top FDA scientist from its campus.**

“Timothy Stenzel, who is the director of the Food and Drug Administration’s Office of In Vitro Diagnostics and Radiological Health, was made to wait overnight on the weekend of Feb. 22 — as senior health department officials negotiated his access in a series of calls — before Centers for Disease Control granted him permission to be on campus. Stenzel’s visit had been expected ... The FDA had dispatched Stenzel to the CDC in an effort to expedite the development of lab tests for the novel coronavirus outbreak,” [Politico reported](#).

## **The outbreak continues to spread widely in the Middle East, Asia and Europe.**

Iran has confirmed 92 deaths and 2,992 cases, while South Korea has 5,238 cases and Italy 2,263. China, which remains the worst-hit nation, announced 38 new deaths. Chile and Argentina reported their first cases yesterday, widening the numbers across Latin America. ([Adam Taylor](#),

[Teo Armus and Rick Noack](#))

The U.S. Travel Association anticipates international inbound travel to the country will drop 6 percent between now and May, the largest dip in global visitation since the financial crisis in 2007 and 2008. "The forecast takes into account factors including hotel bookings, airline data and consumer sentiment data," [Hannah Sampson reports](#).

### **North Korea's isolation is a possible virus buffer – but also a concern.**

"Kim Jong Un's insular world also could face a major crisis if the virus that causes covid-19 finds its way in. An outbreak could overwhelm the feeble health system — ranked 193 out of 195 on the Global Health Security Index — in a country already stalked by malnutrition and diseases such as tuberculosis," [Simon Denyer reports](#).

### **Doctors in Italy are turning into patients.**

"In an effort to cope, Italy is graduating nurses early and calling medical workers out of retirement. Hospitals in the hardest-hit regions are delaying nonessential surgeries and scrambling to add 50 percent more intensive-care beds," [Loveday Morris reports](#).

### **Trump spoke with a senior Taliban leader by phone.**

This was apparently the first direct verbal communication between a U.S. president and the Afghan insurgent force since the Afghanistan war began. [Anne Gearan reports](#): "Trump confirmed the Taliban's announcement Tuesday that he had spoken by phone with Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban's top political leader. 'I spoke to the leader of the Taliban today. We had a good conversation. We've agreed there's no violence, we don't want violence; we'll see what happens,' Trump told reporters at the White House. 'They're dealing with Afghanistan, but we'll see what happens. We had actually a very good talk.' Baradar is a senior figure representing the insurgent group in talks with the United States in Doha, Qatar. ...



"The phone call is notable for the stature it confers on Baradar. U.S. presidents typically deal directly with other heads of state or government ... In a statement, Baradar welcomed the phone call and said that 'we assure with full confidence that if the U.S. implements the agreement, this will have positive impact on the bilateral relations in future.' ... The Taliban statement quotes Trump as saying the Taliban has been 'fighting for your country' and that the time has come for the United States to leave. The Taliban said Trump also pledged that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will speak to [Afghan President Ashraf] Ghani 'to remove hurdles in the way of intra-Afghan dialogue.'"

**The Pentagon said overnight the U.S. military has conducted an airstrike against Taliban forces in southern Afghanistan, [the AP reports](#):** "Spokesman Col Sonny Leggett said in a tweet Wednesday that it was the first U.S. strike against the militant group in 11 days. He said the attack was to counter a Taliban assault on Afghan government forces in Nahr-e Saraj in the Helmand province."

**Iran has sharply increased its uranium stockpile since Trump blew up the nuclear accord.**

"Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency reported a near-tripling of Iran's stockpile of low-enriched uranium just since November, with total holdings more than three times the 300-kilogram limit set by the nuclear accord," [Joby Warrick reports](#). "Iran also substantially increased the number of machines it is using to enrich uranium, the agency said, allowing it to make more of the nuclear fuel faster. ... Iran's low-enriched uranium, the kind typically used in nuclear power plants, would have to undergo further processing to be converted into the highly enriched uranium needed for nuclear bombs. Independent analysts said the bigger stockpile and faster enrichment rate has substantially decreased Iran's theoretical 'breakout' time — the span needed for acquiring enough weapons-grade material for a single nuclear bomb."

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**Domestic developments that shouldn't be**

## overlooked



### **The tornadoes in Tennessee killed at least 24.**

“An EF-3 tornado with winds up to 165 mph tore across the Nashville area,” [Brandon Gee, Meryl Kornfield and Kim Bellware report](#). Some of the dead were children. **“Dozens more are still missing as of Wednesday morning.** The [destruction stretched for 50 miles across four counties](#), and Gov. Bill Lee (R), who surveyed the area via helicopter, said it will take days just to assess the scope of the damage.”

### **A Louisiana case is the first abortion test for the new Supreme Court.**

Since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, no state has passed more abortion restrictions than Louisiana. Today, a repopulated and more conservative Supreme Court will consider one of those laws. “Some politicians here wonder if it might be the breakthrough they’ve been waiting for in a decades-long effort to rid the state, and the nation, of abortion,” [Robert Barnes reports](#) from the Pelican State. “I prayed one day that it would come, but I never thought it would be with this bill,” said state Sen. Katrina Jackson, a Democrat who calls herself ‘pro-whole life’ and says she has been ‘very aggressive’ in pursuing legislation to impose more restrictions. ... Abortion providers say Jackson’s law would force two of the state’s three abortion

clinics to close. It's hard to overstate what a decision about this law — requiring difficult-to-obtain hospital admitting privileges for doctors who perform abortions in clinics — will reveal about this Supreme Court and its jurisprudence on [abortion] ... It will be the first time the two justices selected by President Trump, Neil M. Gorsuch and Brett M. Kavanaugh, confront the merits of an abortion case. It marks a key moment for Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., who has never voted against an abortion restriction, in his pivotal role at the court's center.”

### **A new White House questionnaire includes a litmus test for prospective appointees.**

“Candidates applying to join [Trump's] administration will now have to explain what part of Trump's campaign message ‘most appealed’ to them and why,” [CNN reports](#). “The new questionnaire, distributed by the White House's Presidential Personnel Office to federal departments on Monday, ... is the latest move by the office's new head John McEntee to emphasize loyalty to the President in the hiring process.”

**Speaking of loyalty, John Bolton's book release date was pushed back to May amid Trump's efforts to block publication, per [Tom Hamburger](#).**

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## **Social media speed read**

A former National Security Council spokesman under Obama noted the American people only learned about Trump's conversation with a Taliban official because the Taliban posted about it:



**Ned Price** ✓

@nedprice



The American President had a phone call with the head of the Taliban... and the American people learn about it from the Taliban. [twitter.com/Zabehulah\\_M33/...](https://twitter.com/Zabehulah_M33/)

**Zabihullah ( ذبیح اللہ م )** @Zabehulah\_M33

#Breaking

The President of the United States Trump @realDonaldTrump held a phone conversation with the Political Deputy of the Islamic Emirate, the respected Mullah Baradar Akhund. Details later.



♥ 15.8K 6:50 PM - Mar 3, 2020



💬 9.899 people are talking about this



Mike Pompeo tried to avoid being photographed with Taliban leaders, but a Wall Street Journal reporter obtained this picture:



The DNC's communications director pushed back on the idea that Tulsi Gabbard will appear in the next debate because she won a delegate in American Samoa. She noted that the bar will be raised to appear onstage in Phoenix:

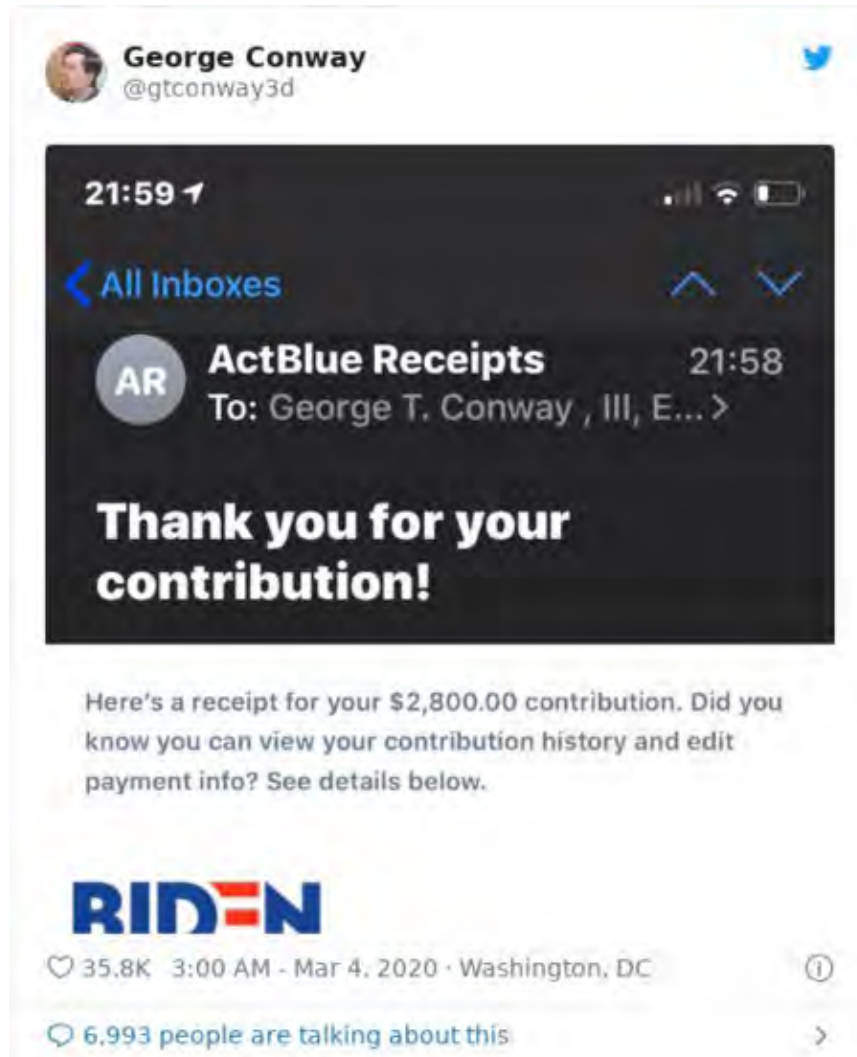


The former FBI director, a Republican until Trump fired him, voted for

## Biden in Virginia:



Never Trumper George Conway, husband of counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway, maxed out to Biden:



And Amy Klobuchar said goodbye to her “Saturday Night Live” counterpart:



A screenshot of a Twitter thread. The top tweet is from Amy Klobuchar (@amyklobuchar), who says she always said Rachel Dratch plays a good me and thanks her for memories, including their matching maroon dresses and moving bangs. The bottom tweet is a reply from Rachel Dratch (@TheRealDratch), who thanks Amy for being a good sport during the SNL campaign season and says she admires her and thinks she would have made a great president. Below the tweets is a video thumbnail showing Rachel Dratch in a maroon dress peeking through a doorway. The video has 20.3K likes and was posted on March 3, 2020, at 2:11 PM. There are 1,564 people talking about this video.

**Amy Klobuchar** @amyklobuchar

As I've always said @TheRealDratch you play a good me. Thanks for the memories (and our matching maroon dresses, not to mention the moving bangs). [twitter.com/therealdratch/...](https://twitter.com/therealdratch/)

**Rachel Dratch** @TheRealDratch

Thanks @amyklobuchar for being such a good sport throughout the SNL campaign season. I admire the heck out of you. and I think you would have made a great president.

20.3K 2:11 PM - Mar 3, 2020

1,564 people are talking about this

**Videos of the day**

A group of anti-dairy protesters rushed the stage during Biden's speech, but Jill Biden and campaign spokeswoman Symone Sanders stopped them cold:



"I broke a nail," Sanders quipped on Twitter afterward.

Stephen Colbert denounced the Trump administration's coronavirus response:



Seth Meyers held his own Democratic debate:





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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Joe Biden forged a Super Tuesday coalition that could win the Democratic nomination – and presidency  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 4, 2020 7:52:47 AM



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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

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By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
[✉ Email](#)

## Joe Biden forged a Super Tuesday coalition that could win the Democratic nomination – and presidency

With a victory in Texas giving him a [sweep](#) of the South, plus the exclamation marks from winning outright in Massachusetts and Minnesota, Joe Biden is suddenly the front-runner again for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Bernie Sanders [leads](#) in California, the biggest prize of Super Tuesday,

which will keep the delegate count tight and probably ensures the contest drags on for a few more months. The independent senator carried his home state of Vermont, as well as Colorado and Utah. But Sanders crashed into a brick wall down South, just as he did four years ago [against Hillary Clinton](#), despite his [efforts](#) to court African Americans.

Biden won Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama and Oklahoma by double digits. Maine, which the Sanders camp expected to carry, remains too close to call. Sanders won the Pine Tree State decisively in 2016.

“We increased turnout,” Biden told supporters in Los Angeles. “The turnout turned out for us!”



Joe Biden takes the stage at his victory party at Baldwin Hills Recreation Center in Los Angeles. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

**Turnout grew not because of Biden’s ground game, which was essentially nonexistent in the 14 states and one U.S. territory that voted on Tuesday.** In fact, he won big in several places where he spent little time and made no real investment in a field program.

Momentum mattered **more than money**. After spending more than half a billion dollars of his personal fortune, former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg's only win came in American Samoa, where Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) also got a delegate.

**Turnout also did not appear to grow because of a surge in young voters that Sanders keeps promising will materialize any time now.** Exit polls show about 1 in 8 voters in Super Tuesday states were 18- to 29-year-olds, compared to 3 in 10 who were 65 or older. Sanders struggles with these older voters.

**Instead, turnout appears to have spiked from 2016 to 2020 in key general election battlegrounds because antipathy toward President Trump continues to galvanize suburban moderates to get engaged in Democratic politics.** A Washington Post statistical model suggests Biden won nearly 60 percent of voters who sat out the 2016 primary but cast ballots on Tuesday. Our turnout analysis, conducted by in-house data scientist Lenny Bronner, also shows that Biden possibly received nearly 90 percent of Clinton's 2016 voters.

**Biden romped in the suburbs, excelling with the constituencies that fueled the Democratic takeover of the House in 2018.** In addition to his stalwart base of African American voters, the foundation of his wins across the South, Biden fared well with white voters in suburbs from Richmond and Raleigh, N.C., to Houston and Hampton Roads, as well as Nashville and Minneapolis.



Bernie Sanders watches Super Tuesday results in a holding area before his speech in Essex Junction, Vt. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

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Content from [Blue Cross Blue Shield Association](#)

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Americans pay too much for prescription drugs. Even generics can be too expensive. So we're investing in a non-profit company to produce the drugs people need at a price they can afford. [Learn more.](#)

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**Exit polls show that many decided to back the former vice president in the days after his South Carolina landslide.** These

voters think he's the most electable choice to take back the White House and that beating Trump is more important to them than agreeing with a candidate on the issues. It also helped Biden that the field winnowed, and he received endorsements on Monday from former South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.).

**Biden credited his win in Minnesota, where Sanders invested heavily and held a massive rally on Monday night, to Klobuchar.** Exit polls there showed 6 in 10 voters decided whom to vote for in the past few days. Biden won about half that group.

**Consider Virginia as a window into why turnout grew.** In 2016, 785,000 people participated in the Democratic primary. On Tuesday, about 1.3 million people did. This broke the turnout record set in the 2008 primary that pitted Clinton against Barack Obama. About a quarter of Virginia primary voters were African American, and roughly 6 in 10 chose Biden, according to the exit polls. But Biden also won 6 in 10 white voters older than 45. While Sanders won 3 to 1 among all younger voters, Biden still won the primary in Virginia by 30 points.

“The precincts that saw the biggest increases were largely clustered in Northern Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area,” [Greg Schneider reports](#) from Richmond. “In Henrico, Kate Giska, 39, a small-business owner and political independent, described Sanders as ‘just too extreme, just like Trump is a little too extreme. We’re kind of, like, in the middle, just, like, status quo, just get along.’ She voted for Biden, someone she thinks has appeal for ‘the middle voter, a candidate that can attract the masses.’ **None of more than 50 voters interviewed at three Virginia Beach precincts on Tuesday said they planned to vote for Sanders, even if they liked some of his positions.** Many said they simply thought Biden had a better chance of winning in November.”



**Biden won from coast to coast among those who identify as “somewhat liberal.”** He dominated among conservative and moderate primary voters across most of the 14 states that voted, with the exceptions of Colorado and Vermont. But he also fared very well among the large share of voters who self-identify as “somewhat liberal.” Biden won that group by a roughly 2 to 1 margin over Sanders in Alabama, Virginia and North Carolina. Those latter two states will both be battlegrounds this fall.

**Sanders’s coalition is built around liberals and Latinos.** One reason he’s widely expected to win California, although the race has not been called with 81 percent of precincts reporting, is that two-thirds of voters described themselves as liberal in the exit polling, and this group voted more than 2 to 1 for Sanders.

**Hispanic voters also showed a strong preference for Sanders in the states where they made up the largest shares of the Democratic electorate.** About 3 in 10 voters in Texas identified themselves as Hispanic, and just under half of them voted for Sanders. Biden got about 1 in 4 Hispanic votes in the Lone Star State. The share of Hispanic voters was slightly smaller in California, but Sanders won the group by a larger margin, capturing a majority. Biden got about 1 in 5 Latinos in the Golden State, giving Sanders a margin of about 30

percentage points, according to the exits.

**Elsewhere, though, Biden made inroads with non-college-educated whites who backed Sanders four years ago.** Exit polls suggested Biden had a greater than 2 to 1 lead among white voters in Alabama, and nearly as wide an edge in Virginia. Biden had a smaller but still visible lead among white voters in Minnesota and Oklahoma and a smaller edge in Tennessee, North Carolina and Massachusetts. In Maine and Texas, Biden and Sanders were neck and neck among white voters. And Sanders led among white voters in Vermont, Colorado and California.



**Elizabeth Warren’s humiliating third-place finish in Massachusetts, a state she’s represented in the Senate for eight years, makes continuing her campaign increasingly difficult to rationalize.** Warren also finished fourth in her native Oklahoma, with 13.4 percent, under the 15 percent threshold required to win any delegates, although not all the precincts have reported. Speaking early Tuesday evening in Detroit as polls remained open in several states, Warren pledged to forge ahead and seemed to plead with late deciders not to keep breaking for Biden. “What I see happening is a lot of folks trying to turn voting into some complicated strategy,” she said, acting almost as if Super Tuesday hadn’t happened. “They are playing games about



prediction and strategy. Prediction has been a terrible business.”

**After polls closed, Bloomberg campaign manager Kevin Sheekey backed away from his insistence that the former New York mayor would fight on until the Democratic convention in Milwaukee.** “You make an assessment in any campaign like this after any time there is a vote,” he said. “As of right now we are committing to stay in, but we will see what happens tonight.” Another campaign aide [told Michael Scherer](#) that the campaign is regularly reevaluated, and that process would continue Wednesday, when Bloomberg is expected to return to New York from Florida.

**Whether Warren and Bloomberg stay in or not, this has effectively become a two-man race,** pitting the 77-year-old Biden – first elected to the Senate in 1972 – against the 78-year-old Sanders, who was first elected mayor of Burlington 39 years ago Tuesday and who has been in Congress since 1991. But the ideological contrast between the septuagenarians is stark. Sanders promises revolution. Biden pledges restoration.

**Sanders is also struggling in some states he won last time because Biden is a less effective foil for him than Clinton.** The self-described democratic socialist benefited four years ago in several red states like Indiana, West Virginia and Montana from being the sole alternative to Clinton. He ran up the score among self-identified conservative Democrats. With the benefit of hindsight, many of these folks were probably voting more *against* Clinton than they were voting *for* Sanders. But she’s not on the ballot this time. Biden has higher favorability ratings among conservative Democrats than she did, and there were other alternatives, including Bloomberg.

**Consider Oklahoma.** Sanders won the primary there four years ago by 10 points. “Clinton won self-identified Democrats by 9 points, according to exit polls. But independents, who were free to cross over, backed Sanders by 48 points,” [Dave Weigel notes](#). “While Sanders ran to Clinton’s left, he beat her among self-identified ‘moderate or conservative’ voters by 11

points. Without Clinton as a foil, the Sanders vote fell apart. ... Sanders badly lost moderate and conservative voters [on Tuesday], losing them to Biden by 28 points. ... Bloomberg won 24 percent of the moderate vote, to just 11 percent for Sanders.”



**The fight for the nomination could still drag into the convention in Milwaukee in July, even if Biden continues to consolidate support among moderate voters.** Most delegates still have not been awarded, and 32 states still need to vote. Sanders expressed optimism in Vermont last night. “I tell you, with absolute confidence, we’re going to win the Democratic nomination,” he told thousands of supporters.

**But, but, but: The calendar is going to get harder for Sanders.** “The marquee primary next week will be in Michigan,” [Dan Balz explains](#). “Sanders scored a major upset there four years ago against Clinton, although his victory margin was narrow. Also on the calendar next week is Missouri, a state Sanders lost by less than a percentage point and where the delegates split almost evenly. Missouri will provide another test of Biden’s and Sanders’s support among African Americans, who make up about a fifth of Democratic turnout in that state. Because Washington state has switched from a caucus to a primary, Sanders, though favored, will have a more difficult time piling up the kind of delegate margin he did in 2016. Meanwhile, Mississippi should be fertile ground for Biden, as African Americans made up about 70 percent of the Democratic electorate there in 2016 — even more than in South Carolina.

**“The round of primaries on March 17 includes Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Ohio.** Sanders lost Florida badly to Clinton and will face serious resistance again this year because of qualms about his left-wing agenda. He also lost Arizona and Ohio decisively. Only Illinois was close, though Sanders was on the losing end there, as well. A week after that, on March 24, Georgia holds a stand-alone primary, and there again, Biden will be favored based on the size of the African American vote.”

**For his part, Biden will face growing scrutiny that he’s mostly avoided since stumbling in Iowa.** He faced few attacks in the last three debates. His performances on the stump can be uneven. Trying to stay disciplined, he delivered his speech in Los Angeles from a teleprompter. Most of it duplicated what he said on Saturday night in his victory speech in South Carolina. “They don’t call it Super Tuesday for nothing,” he said. “For those who have been knocked down, counted out, left behind, this is your campaign.”


*Scott Clement contributed exit poll analysis.*

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## More from the states



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Supporters cheer Jeff Sessions as he reacts to being forced into a runoff on Tuesday night in Mobile, Ala. (Elijah Nouvelage/Reuters)

**In Alabama, Jeff Sessions is headed to a March 31 Republican runoff against former Auburn University football coach Tommy Tuberville in his quest to win back his old Senate seat.** “Other Republicans, including Rep. Bradley Byrne and former state Supreme Court chief justice Roy Moore, significantly trailed,” [Mike DeBonis reports](#). “Trump has so far remained silent on the race, and Republicans in both Alabama and Washington are speculating whether he might now get involved to block Sessions. ... Meanwhile, in North Carolina, Democrats nominated a centrist favorite of national party leaders to take on GOP Sen. Thom Tillis in what promises to be a much more competitive race.”

**Texas Reps. Key Granger (R) and Henry Cuellar (D) both claimed victory over primary challengers.** “‘You know, we can keep waiting, but it remains 60-40 so far, so I’ll stay here,’ Granger said Tuesday evening ... Asked if she was declaring victory, she said ‘yes,’” [the Texas Tribune reports](#). Cuellar “was still fighting a primary challenge from attorney Jessica Cisneros ... As of early Wednesday morning, Cuellar garnered 51.6% of the vote to Cisneros’ 48.4%, with incomplete returns. The Cuellar victory is a setback for a massive coalition of Democratic allied groups, ranging from the Justice Democrats to EMILY’s List to the League of Conservation Voters.”

- Pierce Bush, a grandson of George H.W. Bush, didn’t make the runoff in a crowded GOP race to represent Texas’s 22nd District. Early results indicated that he was headed to either a third- or fourth-place finish in a 15-way primary race. ([Texas Tribune](#))
- Former White House physician Ronny Jackson advanced to a Republican runoff for Texas’s 13th District, a comfortably Republican seat. ([AP](#))

**Long lines kept some Texans waiting to vote until late into the night.** “Dozens of Democratic voters were still waiting to cast ballots at midnight in Houston, turning Super Tuesday into a painful slog for some citizens amid questions about how the County Clerk’s office had allocated

its voting machines across the county,” [the Houston Chronicle reports](#). “Some people in line gave up and walked away ... Polls closed at 7 p.m., but voters still can cast ballots as long as they stay in line. ... After waiting four hours to cast his own ballot at TSU, Bryan Escobedo walked outside to a crowd cheering his patience. He spoke of voters sharing painkillers and water to keep their neighbors engaged. ... The nonprofit Texas Civil Rights Project took issue with the delays, noting that many polling places with long waits were in predominantly black and Latino neighborhoods.”

**The special election in California to replace Katie Hill, the freshman Democratic congresswoman who resigned after [admitting an extramarital affair](#), will head to a runoff.**

“Democratic Assemblywoman Christy Smith of Santa Clarita and Republican defense contractor Mike Garcia were in a tight race ... in one of California’s most competitive congressional districts,” [the Los Angeles Times reports](#). “Former Rep. Steve Knight, the Republican who was ousted in 2018 by Hill, a Democrat, was running third and on the verge of losing his shot at recapturing his seat representing the northern suburbs of Los Angeles. The primary appeared likely to yield two runoffs between Smith and Garcia, a former Navy pilot — one in May to fill Hill’s seat for the rest of the year and another in November for the full two-year term that starts in January. Trailing far behind [was] George Papadopoulos, a 2016 Trump campaign advisor who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI in the Russia scandal.”

**Commentary from the opinion page:**

- [Dana Milbank](#): “The Sanders revolution has stalled.”
  - [David Byler](#): “The real winner of Super Tuesday is the Democratic Party itself.”
  - [Megan McArdle](#): “Elizabeth Warren focused on her core voters. There weren’t enough of them.”
  - [Jennifer Rubin](#): “Super Tuesday gave Joe Biden the historic surge he needed.”
-

## The new world order



### **Vice President Pence said any American can get tested for coronavirus if a doctor orders it.**

The comments “perplexed some public health officials, as physicians already have discretion to order testing. The announcement also raised questions about whether the government can rapidly accelerate the production of testing kits, as well as how much patients will ultimately have to pay for getting tested,” [Seung Min Kim, Maria Sacchetti and Brady Dennis report](#). “Pence said roughly 2,500 testing kits approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention should be distributed by the end of the week, primarily to hospitals in affected areas as well as to others that have requested them. Those kits collectively represent about 1.5 million individual tests. Seema Verma, the administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said testing for the coronavirus is covered under Medicare, Medicaid and health-care exchanges established under the Affordable Care Act, but it remained unclear how the costs would be handled for the estimated 27 million Americans who are uninsured.”

**Washington state confirmed three additional fatalities, bringing the total to nine:** “Overall, the U.S. has reported more than

100 confirmed cases. The previously unreported deaths were former residents of the Life Care Center of Kirkland, a nursing home facility that has emerged as the epicenter of the outbreak in the city northeast of Seattle. ... Meanwhile, **North Carolina reported its first coronavirus case** Tuesday, bringing the total to 14 states ... New York disclosed on Tuesday its second confirmed case. Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D) described the patient as a 50-year-old man from Westchester County, who had no recent history of foreign travel.”

### **Trump’s coronavirus effort has been undermined by mixed messages and falsehoods.**

“The White House is handling the rapidly expanding coronavirus as a public relations problem as much as a public health crisis. Officials are insisting on message discipline among government scientists and political aides alike, part of what they say is a responsible effort to try to calm jittery Americans and provide uniform and transparent information,” [Philip Rucker, Yasmeen Abutaleb and Ashley Parker report](#). **Trump “has privately griped about what he considers to be hysteria from both the media and his own public health officials ...** White House aides managing the response have also sought to focus on tamping down what they consider to be alarmist rhetoric. ...

“As Trump toured a laboratory at the National Institutes of Health on Tuesday afternoon, he and [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director] Anthony Fauci appeared chummy. The president heaped praise on the infectious-diseases expert, telling him, ‘The world is extremely happy that you’re involved.’ But their bonhomie belied the tensions in an administration where the president tolerates only one star: himself. Public health experts and other government officials have found themselves struggling to manage the delicate balance of performing their jobs while not angering the president or his political aides.”

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## **Quote of the day**



*“You should never destroy your own credibility. And you don’t want to go to war with a president,” Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Anthony Fauci [told Politico](#). “But you got to walk the fine balance of making sure you continue to tell the truth.”*

## **Across America, the virus has triggered cancellations, closures and contingency planning.**

Trump has “said he did not agree with contingency plans being considered for the NCAA’s March Madness basketball tournament, including a proposal to play games in empty arenas,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Heather Kelly, Hannah Natanson and Julie Zauzmer report](#). “I don’t think it would be necessary,’ [he said]. With the lack of a coordinated national approach, local officials and individual communities are rushing to make their own plans. Some schools are considering closures, some companies have implemented restrictions on travel for employees, and religious organizations are altering how they conduct services.”

## **In turf warfare, the CDC temporarily blocked a top FDA scientist from its campus.**

“Timothy Stenzel, who is the director of the Food and Drug Administration’s Office of In Vitro Diagnostics and Radiological Health, was made to wait overnight on the weekend of Feb. 22 — as senior health department officials negotiated his access in a series of calls — before Centers for Disease Control granted him permission to be on campus. Stenzel’s visit had been expected ... The FDA had dispatched Stenzel to the CDC in an effort to expedite the development of lab tests for the novel coronavirus outbreak,” [Politico reported](#).

## **The outbreak continues to spread widely in the Middle East, Asia and Europe.**

Iran has confirmed 92 deaths and 2,992 cases, while South Korea has 5,238 cases and Italy 2,263. China, which remains the worst-hit nation, announced 38 new deaths. Chile and Argentina reported their first cases yesterday, widening the numbers across Latin America. ([Adam Taylor](#),

[Teo Armus and Rick Noack](#))

The U.S. Travel Association anticipates international inbound travel to the country will drop 6 percent between now and May, the largest dip in global visitation since the financial crisis in 2007 and 2008. "The forecast takes into account factors including hotel bookings, airline data and consumer sentiment data," [Hannah Sampson reports](#).

### **North Korea's isolation is a possible virus buffer – but also a concern.**

"Kim Jong Un's insular world also could face a major crisis if the virus that causes covid-19 finds its way in. An outbreak could overwhelm the feeble health system — ranked 193 out of 195 on the Global Health Security Index — in a country already stalked by malnutrition and diseases such as tuberculosis," [Simon Denyer reports](#).

### **Doctors in Italy are turning into patients.**

"In an effort to cope, Italy is graduating nurses early and calling medical workers out of retirement. Hospitals in the hardest-hit regions are delaying nonessential surgeries and scrambling to add 50 percent more intensive-care beds," [Loveday Morris reports](#).

### **Trump spoke with a senior Taliban leader by phone.**

This was apparently the first direct verbal communication between a U.S. president and the Afghan insurgent force since the Afghanistan war began. [Anne Gearan reports](#): "Trump confirmed the Taliban's announcement Tuesday that he had spoken by phone with Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban's top political leader. 'I spoke to the leader of the Taliban today. We had a good conversation. We've agreed there's no violence, we don't want violence; we'll see what happens,' Trump told reporters at the White House. 'They're dealing with Afghanistan, but we'll see what happens. We had actually a very good talk.' Baradar is a senior figure representing the insurgent group in talks with the United States in Doha, Qatar. ...

"The phone call is notable for the stature it confers on Baradar. U.S. presidents typically deal directly with other heads of state or government ... In a statement, Baradar welcomed the phone call and said that 'we assure with full confidence that if the U.S. implements the agreement, this will have positive impact on the bilateral relations in future.' ... The Taliban statement quotes Trump as saying the Taliban has been 'fighting for your country' and that the time has come for the United States to leave. The Taliban said Trump also pledged that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will speak to [Afghan President Ashraf] Ghani 'to remove hurdles in the way of intra-Afghan dialogue.'"

**The Pentagon said overnight the U.S. military has conducted an airstrike against Taliban forces in southern Afghanistan, [the AP reports](#):** "Spokesman Col Sonny Leggett said in a tweet Wednesday that it was the first U.S. strike against the militant group in 11 days. He said the attack was to counter a Taliban assault on Afghan government forces in Nahr-e Saraj in the Helmand province."

**Iran has sharply increased its uranium stockpile since Trump blew up the nuclear accord.**

"Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency reported a near-tripling of Iran's stockpile of low-enriched uranium just since November, with total holdings more than three times the 300-kilogram limit set by the nuclear accord," [Joby Warrick reports](#). "Iran also substantially increased the number of machines it is using to enrich uranium, the agency said, allowing it to make more of the nuclear fuel faster. ... Iran's low-enriched uranium, the kind typically used in nuclear power plants, would have to undergo further processing to be converted into the highly enriched uranium needed for nuclear bombs. Independent analysts said the bigger stockpile and faster enrichment rate has substantially decreased Iran's theoretical 'breakout' time — the span needed for acquiring enough weapons-grade material for a single nuclear bomb."

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**Domestic developments that shouldn't be**

## overlooked



### **The tornadoes in Tennessee killed at least 24.**

“An EF-3 tornado with winds up to 165 mph tore across the Nashville area,” [Brandon Gee, Meryl Kornfield and Kim Bellware report](#). Some of the dead were children. **“Dozens more are still missing as of Wednesday morning.** The [destruction stretched for 50 miles across four counties](#), and Gov. Bill Lee (R), who surveyed the area via helicopter, said it will take days just to assess the scope of the damage.”

### **A Louisiana case is the first abortion test for the new Supreme Court.**

Since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, no state has passed more abortion restrictions than Louisiana. Today, a repopulated and more conservative Supreme Court will consider one of those laws. “Some politicians here wonder if it might be the breakthrough they’ve been waiting for in a decades-long effort to rid the state, and the nation, of abortion,” [Robert Barnes reports](#) from the Pelican State. “‘I prayed one day that it would come, but I never thought it would be with this bill,’ said state Sen. Katrina Jackson, a Democrat who calls herself ‘pro-whole life’ and says she has been ‘very aggressive’ in pursuing legislation to impose more restrictions. ... Abortion providers say Jackson’s law would force two of the state’s three abortion

clinics to close. It's hard to overstate what a decision about this law — requiring difficult-to-obtain hospital admitting privileges for doctors who perform abortions in clinics — will reveal about this Supreme Court and its jurisprudence on [abortion] ... It will be the first time the two justices selected by President Trump, Neil M. Gorsuch and Brett M. Kavanaugh, confront the merits of an abortion case. It marks a key moment for Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., who has never voted against an abortion restriction, in his pivotal role at the court's center.”

### **A new White House questionnaire includes a litmus test for prospective appointees.**

“Candidates applying to join [Trump's] administration will now have to explain what part of Trump's campaign message ‘most appealed’ to them and why,” [CNN reports](#). “The new questionnaire, distributed by the White House's Presidential Personnel Office to federal departments on Monday, ... is the latest move by the office's new head John McEntee to emphasize loyalty to the President in the hiring process.”

**Speaking of loyalty, John Bolton's book release date was pushed back to May amid Trump's efforts to block publication, per [Tom Hamburger](#).**

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## **Social media speed read**

A former National Security Council spokesman under Obama noted the American people only learned about Trump's conversation with a Taliban official because the Taliban posted about it:



**Ned Price** ✓

@nedprice



The American President had a phone call with the head of the Taliban... and the American people learn about it from the Taliban. [twitter.com/Zabehulah\\_M33/...](https://twitter.com/Zabehulah_M33/)

**Zabihullah ( ذبیح اللہ م )** @Zabehulah\_M33

#Breaking

The President of the United States Trump @realDonaldTrump held a phone conversation with the Political Deputy of the Islamic Emirate, the respected Mullah Baradar Akhund. Details later.



♥ 15.8K 6:50 PM - Mar 3, 2020



💬 9.899 people are talking about this



Mike Pompeo tried to avoid being photographed with Taliban leaders, but a Wall Street Journal reporter obtained this picture:



The DNC's communications director pushed back on the idea that Tulsi Gabbard will appear in the next debate because she won a delegate in American Samoa. She noted that the bar will be raised to appear onstage in Phoenix:

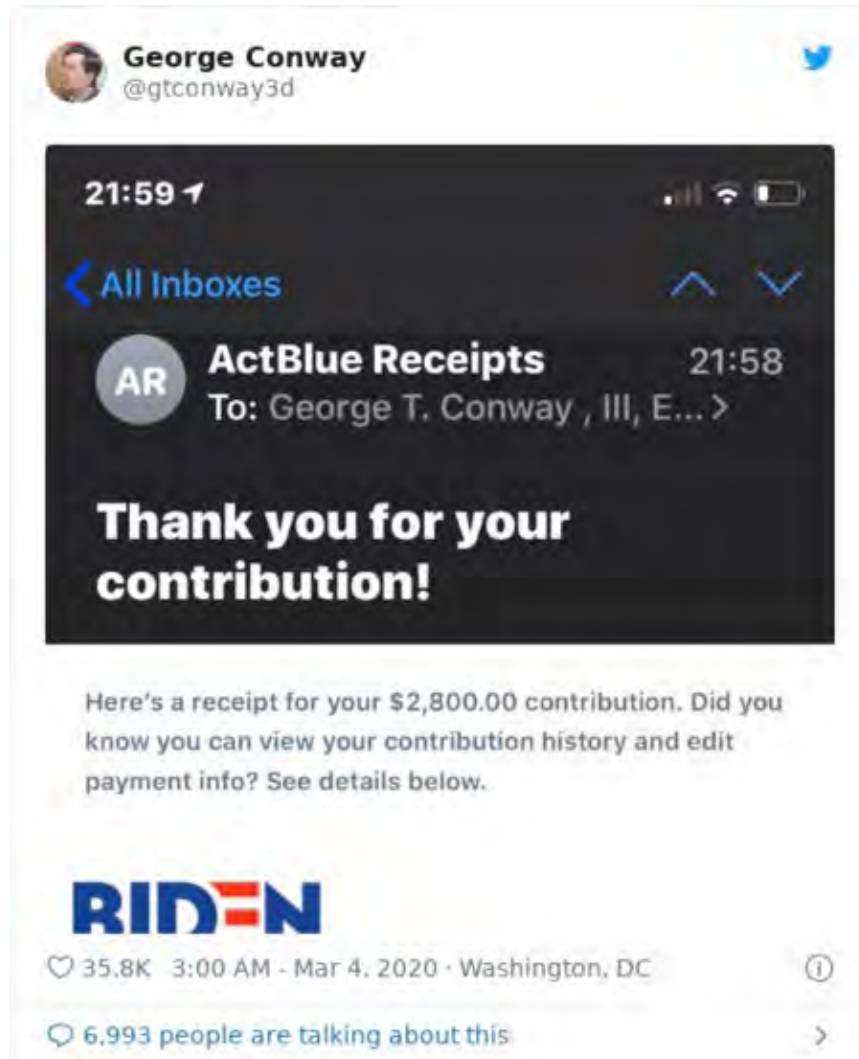


The former FBI director, a Republican until Trump fired him, voted for

Biden in Virginia:



Never Trumper George Conway, husband of counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway, maxed out to Biden:





And Amy Klobuchar said goodbye to her “Saturday Night Live” counterpart:



A screenshot of a Twitter thread. The top tweet is from Amy Klobuchar (@amyklobuchar), who says she always said Rachel Dratch plays a good game and thanks her for memories, including their matching maroon dresses and moving bangs. The bottom tweet is a reply from Rachel Dratch (@TheRealDratch), who thanks Amy for being a good sport during the SNL campaign season and says she admires her and thinks she would have made a great president. Below the tweets is a video thumbnail showing Rachel Dratch in a maroon dress peeking through a doorway.

**Amy Klobuchar** @amyklobuchar

As I've always said @TheRealDratch you play a good me. Thanks for the memories (and our matching maroon dresses, not to mention the moving bangs). [twitter.com/therealdratch/...](https://twitter.com/therealdratch/)

**Rachel Dratch** @TheRealDratch

Thanks @amyklobuchar for being such a good sport throughout the SNL campaign season. I admire the heck out of you. and I think you would have made a great president.

20.3K 2:11 PM - Mar 3, 2020

1,564 people are talking about this

**Videos of the day**

A group of anti-dairy protesters rushed the stage during Biden's speech, but Jill Biden and campaign spokeswoman Symone Sanders stopped them cold:



“I broke a nail,” Sanders quipped on Twitter afterward.

Stephen Colbert denounced the Trump administration's coronavirus response:



Seth Meyers held his own Democratic debate:



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: With Elizabeth Warren out, Bernie Sanders hankers for a one-on-one debate with Joe Biden  
**Date:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 9:41:19 AM



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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## With Elizabeth Warren out, Bernie Sanders hankers for a one-on-one debate with Joe Biden

Sen. Elizabeth Warren [suspended](#) her presidential campaign this morning, probably clearing the way for Bernie Sanders to get the head-to-head debate with Joe Biden that he craves in Phoenix on March 15. It's the next obvious moment when the independent senator from Vermont might be able to rewrite the narrative of the contest for the Democratic nomination.

After moderates consolidated behind the former vice president, Sanders finds himself back in the role of underdog, just as he was against Hillary Clinton at this moment four years ago. Last week, he seemed poised – and pleased – to avoid this position. But Biden won 10 of the 14 states that voted on Super Tuesday, forging the kind of **broad coalition** that could win the nomination and **presidency**. Then former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg dropped out on Wednesday and endorsed the former vice president after his \$600 million bet failed to pay off. With California still tallying results, Biden has 433 delegates to Sanders's 388.

With Warren (D-Mass.) out, the only other major candidate left is Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii). She earned a delegate from American Samoa on Tuesday, but Democratic National Committee officials signaled that they will raise the threshold to qualify for the Phoenix debate so that this is no longer sufficient to get onstage.

Sanders's messaging against Biden grew unfocused during the impeachment trial and stayed muddled in the run-up to South Carolina, which allowed Biden to get off the mat. Recognizing this, Sanders has crystalized what will be his five-part case against Biden. He previewed the message during a news conference yesterday afternoon in Burlington, Vt.

“Joe is going to have to explain to the people, the union workers in the Midwest, why he's supported disastrous trade agreements,” Sanders said. “Joe is going to have to explain to the American people why he voted for a Wall Street bailout, something that I vigorously opposed.” Sanders added that “Joe is also going to have to explain” his vote to authorize the Iraq War, “a disastrous bankruptcy bill which benefited the credit card companies” and his onetime advocacy for freezing Social Security benefits.



**Sanders is up on the air now in Michigan and other states voting next week with two new attack ads against Biden, focused on [trade](#) and [Social Security](#).** He hopes to use Biden's vote for the North American Free Trade Agreement [as a cudgel](#) to prevent white working-class voters from rallying behind Biden in the Wolverine State's primary next Tuesday. This constituency allowed Sanders to win an upset over Clinton there in 2016. "Only one candidate for president has consistently opposed every disastrous trade deal, and that candidate is Bernie Sanders," a narrator says.

**Glenn Kessler has [a new fact check](#) this morning of Sanders's attack against Biden over Social Security:** "[It] mostly relates to a mid-1990s effort to rein in budget deficits through adoption of a balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution. Biden voted for it in 1996, though it did not pass. A balanced-budget amendment by itself would not require cuts in certain programs, but in the 1980s, Biden had co-sponsored a bill calling for a one-year across-the-board freeze in spending, including eliminating cost-of-living increases for one year for Social Security and Medicare.

"During the balanced-budget debate a decade later, Biden cited that

proposal to show that he cared about budget deficits. ‘When I argued that we should freeze federal spending, I meant Social Security as well. I meant Medicare and Medicaid. I meant veterans benefits. I meant every single solitary thing in the government,’ Biden said in a Jan. 31, 1995, speech on the Senate floor. But the Biden campaign also cites dozens of examples of votes cast by Biden to shield Social Security from cuts or to expand benefits.”



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**Sanders does not have much time to change the trajectory of this race.** Michigan is one of the six states voting next Tuesday that will collectively award 352 delegates. Biden is expected to win Mississippi, on account of its sizable African American population, though Sanders will fly there on Friday to deliver a speech aimed at black voters. Missouri, Washington state, Idaho and North Dakota are the other four prizes. The following Tuesday, two days after the Phoenix debate, brings primaries in four states, with 577 delegates on the line: Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Ohio. By the end of March, about two-thirds of delegates will have been awarded.

**Sanders said he wants a substantive debate over policy differences, not “Trump-type” personal attacks.** “Joe and I have a very different vision for the future of this country, and Joe and I are running very different campaigns,” he said on Wednesday. “My hope is that, in the coming months, we will be able to debate and discuss the very significant differences that we have.”

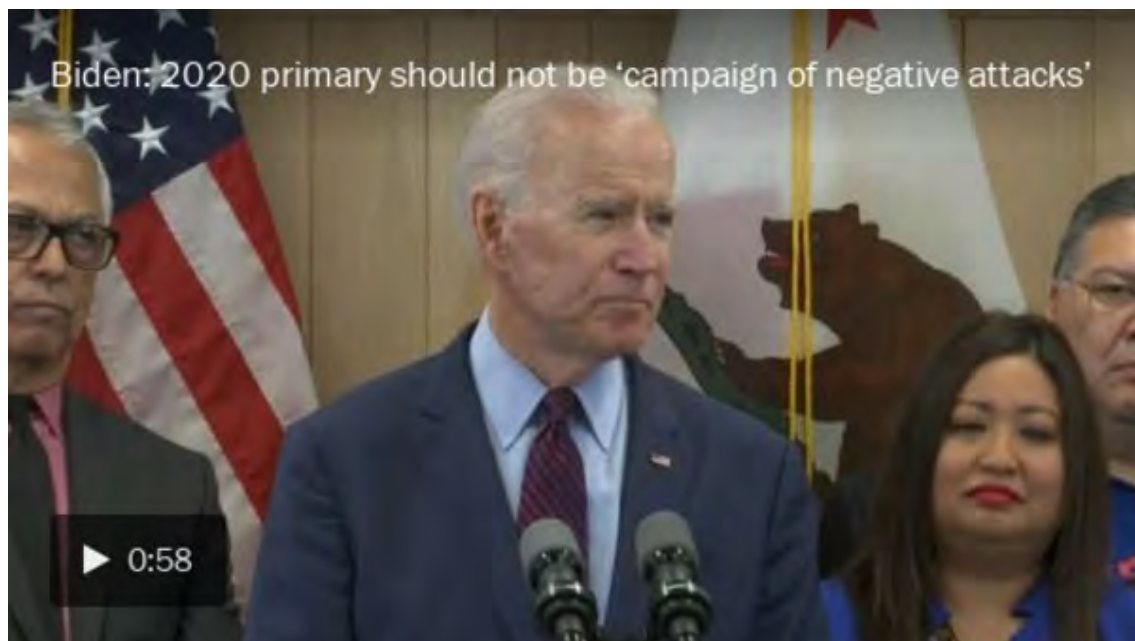
**Biden appears determined to portray Sanders as divisive and eager to avoid getting bogged down in a back-and-forth over issues of his opponent’s choosing.** “What we can’t let happen in the next few weeks is let this primary turn into a campaign of negative attacks,” he told reporters in Los Angeles around the time Sanders spoke in Vermont. “The only thing that will do is help Donald Trump.”

**There are clear echoes from Biden of Clinton’s messaging after Super Tuesday four years ago.** In an interview that aired this morning on NBC’s “Today” show, Biden said “it’s ridiculous” for Sanders to say that “the establishment” was responsible for his wins on Super Tuesday. “You got beaten by overwhelming support I have from the African American community, Bernie,” said Biden. “You got beaten



because of suburban women, Bernie. You got beaten because of the middle-class, hardworking folks out there, Bernie. You've raised a lot more money than I have, Bernie.”

**Meanwhile, members of the Democratic establishment continue to endorse Biden. Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer became the latest to jump on the Biden bandwagon this morning.** She delivered the Democratic response to the State of the Union last month and sometimes gets mentioned as a possible running mate. Biden also rolled out support this morning from Rep. Val Demings (D-Fla.), one of the House impeachment managers, as well as Reps. Dutch Ruppersberger and David Trone, both Maryland Democrats.



Biden spent most of the past year focused on President Trump in his public comments. In recent weeks, he pivoted to present himself as the Democratic Party’s best alternative to stop Sanders from securing the nomination. Now that he’s essentially won that argument, **Biden shifted back toward the Trump-focused message and seems intent to ignore Sanders’s attacks as much as possible while issuing vague calls for the party to unify.** “Rhetorical question,” Biden said on the “Today” show, “have you ever, ever seen a sitting president get so

involved in a Democratic primary and focus so much attention on not wanting a single person, me, to become the nominee?”

**During a fundraiser last night in the Bel Air neighborhood of Los Angeles, Biden never referred to Sanders’s challenge during 20 minutes of remarks.** Speaking to 350 people in a former studio executive’s backyard – Leonardo DiCaprio and his mother were in the crowd – he reminisced instead on the accomplishments of Barack Obama’s administration, including Obamacare, the auto industry bailout and the Paris climate accord. He remembered how bad the economy was when they took power in 2009. “Everything but locusts landed on his desk,” Biden said. Suggesting that Sanders’s attacks were on his mind, Biden mused as an aside at one point about his support for raising Social Security benefits for people over 85.

**A third commercial released by Sanders on Wednesday features audio of Obama praising him in 2016 and footage of the two men walking chummily together along the White House colonnade.** Asked about the ad, Sanders acknowledged that he and Obama aren’t best friends but added that they “talk every now and then.” Sanders said he signed off on the commercial to clear up “a lot of dishonesty” about his relationship with Obama, an apparent reference to news reports that he considered launching a primary challenge against the then-president in 2012.



**Some of Warren’s aides privately hoped she would stay in the race through the Phoenix debate.** The former high school debate state champion excelled in that format and raised money after recent strong performances. But she received only 28 of the 1,338 delegates that were available on Tuesday, finishing third in Massachusetts (which she represents in the Senate) and fourth in Oklahoma (where she grew up), although that number may rise slightly from the Golden State.

**As she prepared to suspend her campaign, top surrogates and allies of Warren and Sanders started preliminary discussions about ways their two camps could unite and push a common liberal agenda.** Annie Linskey and Sean Sullivan [reported](#) that these conversations largely involved members of Congress who back Sanders reaching out to those in Warren's camp to explore the prospect that she might endorse him. But Warren associates and Biden’s camp were also talking about a potential endorsement.

“It is not clear that Warren would immediately — or ever — back Sanders,” Annie and Sean report. “She stayed on the sidelines during the 2016 Democratic primary ... eventually throwing her support to Clinton and hoping to be selected as her running mate. Warren also met with Biden in

2015 as he was considering a presidential bid of his own. At the time Biden floated the idea that they could join forces on the same ticket, but soon he decided not to challenge Clinton.”

**A silver lining of Sanders’s continuing attacks could be that Biden looks more moderate, which might work to his advantage in a general election match-up against Trump.** It certainly makes it harder for the GOP to portray Biden as some kind of crypto socialist.

**Sanders was candid during his news conference in Burlington about his failure to bring new voters into the process the way he needs.** “I will be honest with you: We have not done as well in bringing young people into the political process,” he told reporters. “It is not easy.”

**“In some parts of the Sanders orbit, there have been private discussions about how to reassure Democrats,”** Sean Sullivan and Bob Costa report. “Some close Sanders allies believe the distance between the Sanders movement and the party have caused broader issues, especially when Biden is portraying himself as a unifier. ... As Sanders spoke in Vermont on Wednesday afternoon, a handful of his prominent supporters quietly connected by phone and text message ... In these discussions, some debated whether Sanders's anti-establishment message was enough. ‘We've got to be ready for when the party gets cold feet on Biden and looks to us,’ one of the Democrats said. ‘We can't just keep running the same playbook again and again.’ A second ... added that there are some leading liberals in Sanders's orbit who would like to see ‘less Michael Moore and the Squad’ on the campaign trail.”











**It's a small consolation for Warren, but she outlasted Bloomberg in the race after torpedoing his candidacy during the Las Vegas debate.** That's a moral victory of sorts for Warren, who ran as a populist, just as it was for Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) when she stayed in the race half a day longer than Pete Buttigieg, whose success in the race as the former mayor of a small town deeply annoyed her because she didn't think a woman with his same profile would have made it that far.

**A billion-dollar question: How much does Bloomberg now help Biden in the upcoming primaries?** "Bloomberg has pledged to employ large field staffs in six swing states in the general election, even though he is no longer a candidate. The billionaire's data operation, Hawkfish, will also continue operating to elect Democrats up and down the ballot," [Matt Viser and Amy Wang report](#). "Bloomberg's aides, however, have not announced whether they will take out ads in the primary campaign to help Biden or whether Bloomberg campaign staffers in upcoming primary states will work for Biden's nomination. Campaign finance rules generally give self-funded campaigns significant leeway to spend money, even if the funds support other candidates. Bloomberg also has the option of renaming or rehiring his staff as part of a separate independent group to help Biden."

## Where Bloomberg spent on ads, and where he won votes

In states with at least 95 percent of precincts reporting

| STATE | VOTE SHARE | AD SPENDING | VOTES   | SPENDING PER VOTE |   |
|-------|------------|-------------|---------|-------------------|---|
| Minn. | 8.3%       | \$13M       | 62,000  | <b>\$220</b>      |    |
| Tex.  | 14.9%      | \$54M       | 313,000 | <b>\$170</b>      |    |
| Vt.   | 9.1%       | \$2.3M      | 13,000  | <b>\$170</b>      |    |
| Ala.  | 11.7%      | \$8.9M      | 53,000  | <b>\$170</b>      |    |
| Okla. | 13.9%      | \$5.6M      | 42,000  | <b>\$130</b>      |    |
| Tenn. | 15.4%      | \$7.9M      | 80,000  | <b>\$100</b>      |    |
| N.C.  | 13.0%      | \$15M       | 172,000 | <b>\$90</b>       |    |
| Va.   | 9.7%       | \$7.4M      | 128,000 | <b>\$60</b>       |  |

Note: Vote totals as of March 4 at 1:14 p.m.

Sources: Advertising Analytics and Edison Research.

## Biden is considering whether to ask for Secret Service protection.

The campaign began privately deliberating whether to formally request Secret Service protection for the candidate after protesters [rushed the stage](#) at his Tuesday night event in Los Angeles in what experts called a major security breach. “Both Biden and [Sanders] rely on private security firms to handle their public appearances, which is unusual this late in a presidential campaign cycle in comparison with 2016, 2012 and 2008,” [David Nakamura and Carol Leonnig report](#). “Campaigns must request protection from the DHS, and a bipartisan congressional advisory committee — led by the Senate majority leader, currently Sen. Mitch

McConnell (R-Ky.) — helps review the request before the DHS secretary makes a decision. Outsourcing security to the federal government can be a boon for cash-strapped campaigns and also bestow a heightened legitimacy on candidates. But some candidates in past presidential campaign cycles have tried to hold off over concerns that a large security entourage could hamper their ability to interact more directly with supporters.” Sanders had protection for several months during the 2016 primaries, but his campaign did not immediately respond to questions on the subject.

### **Gov. Steve Bullock is expected to run for Senate in Montana.**

In a recruiting coup for national Democrats, the former presidential candidate is telling people that “he is now inclined to run” against Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.), [the New York Times reports](#). “Bullock has only a few days to finalize his decision: The filing deadline to run in Montana is Monday.”

### **A former prisoner of Cuba said Sanders asked him “what’s so wrong” with the country.**

During a one-hour meeting in 2014, Sanders told American prisoner Alan Gross, who was jailed by the communist regime for five years, that he didn't understand why others criticized Cuba, [Gross alleged in an interview with NPR](#): “He said, quote: 'I don't know what's so wrong with this country.'" Sanders's campaign declined to comment about the meeting with Gross, who said two other senators were present. Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) said he did not recall the discussion. A source close to former senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) told NPR she remembers Sanders seemed to disregard the meeting with Gross and that an uncomfortable exchange occurred, but she did not recall the exact remark.

## Female activists are setting their sights on the No. 2 spot.

“They’re insisting that a woman — specifically a woman of color — be the running mate for whichever white man will probably be challenging Trump in November,” [the 19th reports](#). “Rep. Marcia L. Fudge (D-Ohio) said she hears from voters nationwide who want a black woman as vice president. She said such a pick is ‘the only chance the Democratic Party has to win the presidency and to win down ballot.’”

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## The coronavirus





## **The House passed an \$8.3 billion package, as the U.S. death toll reached 11.**

The Senate could act on the measure to fund the coronavirus response as soon as today. "Trump is expected to sign the legislation, which is more than triple the size of the White House's budget request from last week," [Erica Werner and Mike DeBonis report](#). "The vote in the House was 415-2. ... The political deal helped push financial markets to surge on Wednesday." The two "no" votes came from GOP Reps. Andy Biggs (Ariz.) and Ken Buck (Colo.), who argued that the bill's spending levels were excessive. "The package includes more than \$3 billion for research and development on vaccines, therapeutics and other treatments, as well as \$2.2 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support the response from federal, state, and local public health agencies, including for lab testing and infection control. Other parts of the deal include close to \$1 billion for medical supplies, health-care preparedness and community health centers, among other things. Also included is \$1 billion in loan subsidies for small businesses ... Some 85 percent of the money in the bill would be spent domestically, but there is also \$1.25 billion for the State Department to assist in battling the spread of the coronavirus overseas. This would include evacuation expenses and

humanitarian aid, among other things.”

### **Expanded coronavirus testing may overwhelm lab capacity, experts say.**

“A day after Vice President Pence touted a new policy allowing ‘any American’ to be tested for the novel coronavirus with a doctor’s order ... Health experts warned the action might inadvertently send the wrong message, prompting a surge in demand for tests from people with mild symptoms who should simply stay home until they recover. They also noted that laboratory capacity for virus testing, while on the rise, is still lagging. Tests that can be done in doctor’s offices don’t exist,” [Amy Goldstein, Carolyn Johnson, Lena Sun and Laurie McGinley report](#). “Sixty public health labs are now running the just-fixed CDC test. In the next several days and weeks, testing capacity is expected to increase as more labs come online and private companies ship thousands of test kits. Pence’s announcement took many officials at [HHS] and the CDC by surprise, according to an HHS official.”

### **In New York, the virus spread quickly from a man to his family to a neighbor to friends.**

“By Wednesday afternoon, another friend, his wife and three of their children were also infected,” [Ben Guarino, Sarah Pulliam Bailey and Paul Schwartzmann report](#). “In the span of 48 hours, what began as one family’s medical crisis had spiraled well beyond their Westchester County home, shuttering Jewish schools and synagogues and crystallizing the virus’s power to propel anxiety across a region that is among the nation’s most densely populated.”

**Nearly 300 million kids are out of school right now.** So far, 11 countries, plus Hong Kong and Macao, have shut down all schools to stop the spread of the virus. ([Valerie Strauss](#))

## **America's health system is showing why it's not ready for a pandemic.**

“Ventilators and intensive care units, necessary to keep the most acutely ill patients alive, are largely limited to larger hospitals and academic medical centers in cities. ... Nationwide, worries are growing about a lack of hospital beds to quarantine and treat infected patients. Major medical centers are typically full even without a flood of coronavirus patients,” [Christopher Rowland and Peter Whoriskey report](#). “Despite weeks of preparations, health planners continue to fret about shortages of masks and gowns for hospital staff, as well as lifesaving mechanical respirators for patients with severe cases of the disease. ... Budget-conscious health systems do not maintain large volumes of reserve supplies just for the possibility of a pandemic, said William Jaquis, president of the American College of Emergency Physicians. That leaves the system vulnerable. ... Federal funding for emergency preparedness in health care has been in a slow, steady decline for more than 15 years.”

## **Coronavirus anxiety is everywhere, and there is no cure.**

“Last week, you pressed elevator buttons with abandon. You weren't afraid of the free weights in the gym. You washed your hands for barely enough time to say 'Happy Birthday' once, let alone sing it twice. How bold are you now?” [Maura Judkis and Avi Selk write](#). “Coronavirus anxiety has outpaced the virus itself. ... Nikhil Merchant, 38, has taken to meticulously wiping down the treadmill at his suburban Los Angeles gym before he uses it. ‘Your senses are heightened to kind of superimpose germs sitting on that machine,’ he says. Merchant had completed the ritual on Monday and was about to begin his run when he spotted a wad of chewing gum in the treadmill's cellphone pocket and fled the gym in ~~over~~overwhelming mysophobic disgust. ... Suspicion of treadmills and elevators mutates into suspicion of fellow humans: Are other people washing their hands for two Happy Birthdays? How much do I really know about the habits and histories all these friends and co-workers and strangers who are touching

all the things I'm touching right before I forget not to touch my face?"

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## Quote of the day

*"I haven't touched my face in weeks. It's been weeks. I miss it," Trump said during a White House update on the coronavirus response. (JM Rieger)*

**The virus spread from China. Now, China doesn't want the world to spread it back.**

"Health authorities in the prosperous province of Zhejiang had finally lowered the alert level from one to two after six weeks, satisfied their draconian measures to contain the novel coronavirus had worked," [Anna Fifield reports](#). "Then Wang, a 31-year-old waitress who had been working in the northern Italian city of Bergamo, came home to Qingtian county, west of the city of Wenzhou. ... Traveling with five others from the same restaurant, she changed planes in Moscow and took off for Shanghai. ... When Wang, whom authorities have identified only by her family name, arrived in China, she was immediately put into quarantine. On Sunday, she tested positive for the [virus] ... Seven others who worked in the Bergamo restaurant and flew back home were diagnosed this week, the Qingtian government said. This is China's new coronavirus challenge."

**Conspiracy theorists claim the U.S. is to blame for the virus. China is happy to encourage them.** "In recent days, run-of-the-mill mockery of the White House has taken a darker turn as the Chinese Internet became inundated by the theory, subtly stoked by the Chinese government, that the coronavirus originated in the United States. The U.S. government, one version of the theory goes, has been covering up mounting cases, and perhaps thousands of deaths, by classifying them as regular flu," [Gerry Shih reports](#).

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## Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked



### **John Roberts released a statement criticizing Chuck Schumer.**

The chief justice issued a rare rebuke of a sitting member of Congress, chastising the Senate's top Democrat for saying at a rally outside the Supreme Court that Trump's two nominees to the court would "pay the price" if they vote against abortion rights. "Justices know that criticism comes with the territory, but threatening statements of this sort from the highest levels of government are not only inappropriate, they are dangerous," Roberts said. "All members of the court will continue to do their job, without fear or favor, from whatever quarter." Schumer, speaking as the Supreme Court heard arguments in an important abortion case from Louisiana, called out Brett M. Kavanaugh and Neil M. Gorsuch by name: "I want to tell you, Gorsuch; I want to tell you, Kavanaugh: You have released the whirlwind, and you will pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions."

“The GOP denounced Schumer and criticized the media for what they said was a lack of outrage,” [Robert Barnes and Colby Itkowitz report](#).

“Democrats demanded to know why Roberts had not spoken out last week when Trump singled out liberal Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor for criticism, or why he did not defend the federal judge Trump denounced for her oversight of the trial of the president’s friend Roger Stone. The episode underscored the partisan politics that have engulfed the fight over the judiciary, which is supposed to be the nonpartisan branch of the government.”

### **With *Roe v. Wade* in jeopardy, the Louisiana case will probably come down to Roberts.**

“The court’s four liberals appeared convinced that [the Louisiana law at issue](#), requiring admitting privileges at nearby hospitals for abortion-clinic doctors, is identical to one from Texas that the Supreme Court struck down four years ago. That appeared to leave Roberts, now at the court’s ideological center, holding the deciding vote,” [Barnes and Ann Marimow report](#). “As the case was argued, he asked a variation of the same question to all three lawyers addressing the justices: Should the court undertake a fact-dependent, state-by-state analysis when reviewing such restrictions? That could indicate he felt he could distinguish Louisiana’s law from the Texas statute. Or it could mean he agreed with challengers that similar laws were doomed because of the court’s precedent from 2016. Roberts, a dissenter in the Texas case, did not indicate what he believed was the proper answer. ... Among Wednesday’s spectators was Roberts’s wife, Jane Roberts, who before the chief justice joined the court was legal counsel for Feminists for Life of America, a group that opposes abortion.”

### **The FBI fell short in assessing homegrown terror threats.**

“In a 41-page report, Inspector General Michael Horowitz wrote that while the bureau seemed to recognize its failings, it had ‘not taken sufficient action’ to fix the problems,” [Matt Zapposky reports](#). “Horowitz noted that

in the more than 20 homegrown terrorist attacks in the United States since Sept. 11, 2001, several suspects had been previously assessed by the bureau as a potential threat but not fully investigated.”

**A noose was found on the gunman’s locker at a Milwaukee Coors facility years before his shooting rampage there last week.** “Current and former employees of the Molson Coors brewery here say there is a long-held culture of racism, including racist cartoons placed in workspaces, the n-word scrawled in break rooms and bathrooms and nooses hung at the facility — one on the locker of an employee who killed five co-workers there last week,” [Annie Gowen and Katie Zezima report](#). While police have not provided a motive for the Feb. 26 rampage, they said in a statement that, based on a preliminary investigation, neither race nor racism played a role in the shooting.

**A Pentagon contract linguist was charged with espionage.**

The woman, assigned to a U.S. Special Operations task force in Iraq, was charged with turning over the names of human informants and other classified data to a Lebanese man with ties to the militant group Hezbollah. “The Justice Department said Mariam Taha Thompson, 61, formerly of Rochester, Minn., was charged with one count of conspiracy and one count of delivering defense information to aid a foreign government. Prosecutors alleged that she passed the information to a man in whom she had a romantic interest,” [Spencer Hsu reports](#). “Thompson appeared in federal court in Washington on Wednesday. The FBI arrested her Feb. 27 at a U.S. military facility in Irbil, Iraq, where she worked.”

**A federal judge ordered attorneys for 9/11 victims to detail threats allegedly made against potential witnesses in a lawsuit targeting Saudi Arabia.** The victims' attorneys have argued they need to protect the identities of potential witnesses, pointing to the murder of Washington Post contributing columnist Jamal Khashoggi as an example

of the kind of danger faced by those who speak out against the regime in Riyadh, [Shayna Jacobs reports](#).

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## Social media speed read

Trump mocked Bloomberg for dropping out of the race, and Bloomberg responded with a clip from “Star Wars”:



Trump, saying the quiet part out loud, admitted that he opposes Jeff Sessions because he didn't take control of the Russia probe:





Washington state asked voters not to lick envelopes to mail in their ballots, in light of the coronavirus:



**WA Secretary of State** ✓

@secstatewa



As recommended by @WADeptHealth, please use alternative methods to seal your ballot return envelopes, such as a wet sponge or cloth.

Washington's Presidential Primary is March 10. Use a ballot drop box to return your ballot by 8 p.m. Election Day. #waelex



♥ 64 10:58 PM - Mar 3, 2020



🗨 91 people are talking about this



And Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) wore this to the House floor as members voted on the coronavirus spending bill:



**Jim Himes** ✓

@jahimes



You won't believe the shoes Matt Gaetz is wearing today.  
[#FloridaMan](#)



♥ 8,458 9:26 PM - Mar 4, 2020



💬 3,356 people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

“Jeopardy” host Alex Trebek provided an inspiring update a year after his pancreatic cancer diagnosis:



Seth Meyers thinks Trump is lying when he claims that he hasn't touched his face in weeks:



Sam Bee joked that Democrats now face a close race between Sanders, Biden and the coronavirus:



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 Email

## With Elizabeth Warren out, Bernie Sanders hankers for a one-on-one debate with Joe Biden

Sen. Elizabeth Warren [suspended](#) her presidential campaign this morning, probably clearing the way for Bernie Sanders to get the head-to-head debate with Joe Biden that he craves in Phoenix on March 15. It's the next obvious moment when the independent senator from Vermont might be able to rewrite the narrative of the contest for the Democratic nomination.

After moderates consolidated behind the former vice president, Sanders finds himself back in the role of underdog, just as he was against Hillary Clinton at this moment four years ago. Last week, he seemed poised – and pleased – to avoid this position. But Biden won 10 of the 14 states that voted on Super Tuesday, forging the kind of **broad coalition** that could win the nomination and **presidency**. Then former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg dropped out on Wednesday and endorsed the former vice president after his \$600 million bet failed to pay off. With California still tallying results, Biden has 433 delegates to Sanders's 388.

With Warren (D-Mass.) out, the only other major candidate left is Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii). She earned a delegate from American Samoa on Tuesday, but Democratic National Committee officials signaled that they will raise the threshold to qualify for the Phoenix debate so that this is no longer sufficient to get onstage.

Sanders's messaging against Biden grew unfocused during the impeachment trial and stayed muddled in the run-up to South Carolina, which allowed Biden to get off the mat. Recognizing this, Sanders has crystalized what will be his five-part case against Biden. He previewed the message during a news conference yesterday afternoon in Burlington, Vt.

“Joe is going to have to explain to the people, the union workers in the Midwest, why he's supported disastrous trade agreements,” Sanders said. “Joe is going to have to explain to the American people why he voted for a Wall Street bailout, something that I vigorously opposed.” Sanders added that “Joe is also going to have to explain” his vote to authorize the Iraq War, “a disastrous bankruptcy bill which benefited the credit card companies” and his onetime advocacy for freezing Social Security benefits.



**Sanders is up on the air now in Michigan and other states voting next week with two new attack ads against Biden, focused on [trade](#) and [Social Security](#).** He hopes to use Biden's vote for the North American Free Trade Agreement [as a cudgel](#) to prevent white working-class voters from rallying behind Biden in the Wolverine State's primary next Tuesday. This constituency allowed Sanders to win an upset over Clinton there in 2016. "Only one candidate for president has consistently opposed every disastrous trade deal, and that candidate is Bernie Sanders," a narrator says.

**Glenn Kessler has [a new fact check](#) this morning of Sanders's attack against Biden over Social Security:** "[It] mostly relates to a mid-1990s effort to rein in budget deficits through adoption of a balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution. Biden voted for it in 1996, though it did not pass. A balanced-budget amendment by itself would not require cuts in certain programs, but in the 1980s, Biden had co-sponsored a bill calling for a one-year across-the-board freeze in spending, including eliminating cost-of-living increases for one year for Social Security and Medicare.

"During the balanced-budget debate a decade later, Biden cited that



proposal to show that he cared about budget deficits. ‘When I argued that we should freeze federal spending, I meant Social Security as well. I meant Medicare and Medicaid. I meant veterans benefits. I meant every single solitary thing in the government,’ Biden said in a Jan. 31, 1995, speech on the Senate floor. But the Biden campaign also cites dozens of examples of votes cast by Biden to shield Social Security from cuts or to expand benefits.”



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**Sanders does not have much time to change the trajectory of this race.** Michigan is one of the six states voting next Tuesday that will collectively award 352 delegates. Biden is expected to win Mississippi, on account of its sizable African American population, though Sanders will fly there on Friday to deliver a speech aimed at black voters. Missouri, Washington state, Idaho and North Dakota are the other four prizes. The following Tuesday, two days after the Phoenix debate, brings primaries in four states, with 577 delegates on the line: Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Ohio. By the end of March, about two-thirds of delegates will have been awarded.

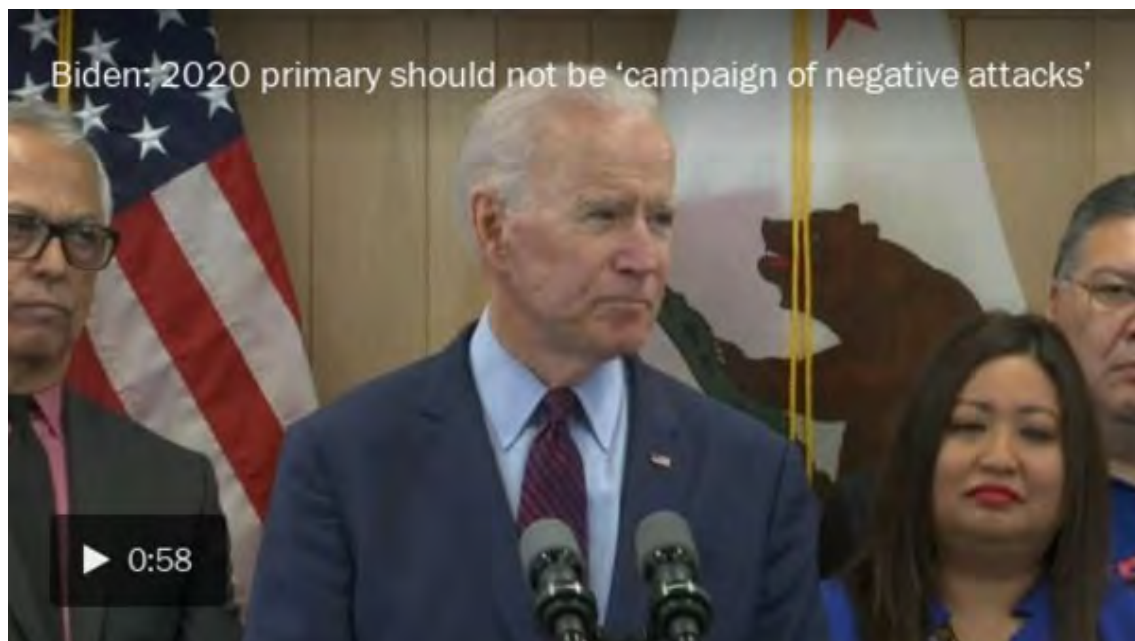
**Sanders said he wants a substantive debate over policy differences, not “Trump-type” personal attacks.** “Joe and I have a very different vision for the future of this country, and Joe and I are running very different campaigns,” he said on Wednesday. “My hope is that, in the coming months, we will be able to debate and discuss the very significant differences that we have.”

**Biden appears determined to portray Sanders as divisive and eager to avoid getting bogged down in a back-and-forth over issues of his opponent’s choosing.** “What we can’t let happen in the next few weeks is let this primary turn into a campaign of negative attacks,” he told reporters in Los Angeles around the time Sanders spoke in Vermont. “The only thing that will do is help Donald Trump.”

**There are clear echoes from Biden of Clinton’s messaging after Super Tuesday four years ago.** In an interview that aired this morning on NBC’s “Today” show, Biden said “it’s ridiculous” for Sanders to say that “the establishment” was responsible for his wins on Super Tuesday. “You got beaten by overwhelming support I have from the African American community, Bernie,” said Biden. “You got beaten

because of suburban women, Bernie. You got beaten because of the middle-class, hardworking folks out there, Bernie. You've raised a lot more money than I have, Bernie.”

**Meanwhile, members of the Democratic establishment continue to endorse Biden. Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer became the latest to jump on the Biden bandwagon this morning.** She delivered the Democratic response to the State of the Union last month and sometimes gets mentioned as a possible running mate. Biden also rolled out support this morning from Rep. Val Demings (D-Fla.), one of the House impeachment managers, as well as Reps. Dutch Ruppersberger and David Trone, both Maryland Democrats.



Biden spent most of the past year focused on President Trump in his public comments. In recent weeks, he pivoted to present himself as the Democratic Party’s best alternative to stop Sanders from securing the nomination. Now that he’s essentially won that argument, **Biden shifted back toward the Trump-focused message and seems intent to ignore Sanders’s attacks as much as possible while issuing vague calls for the party to unify.** “Rhetorical question,” Biden said on the “Today” show, “have you ever, ever seen a sitting president get so

involved in a Democratic primary and focus so much attention on not wanting a single person, me, to become the nominee?”

**During a fundraiser last night in the Bel Air neighborhood of Los Angeles, Biden never referred to Sanders’s challenge during 20 minutes of remarks.** Speaking to 350 people in a former studio executive’s backyard – Leonardo DiCaprio and his mother were in the crowd – he reminisced instead on the accomplishments of Barack Obama’s administration, including Obamacare, the auto industry bailout and the Paris climate accord. He remembered how bad the economy was when they took power in 2009. “Everything but locusts landed on his desk,” Biden said. Suggesting that Sanders’s attacks were on his mind, Biden mused as an aside at one point about his support for raising Social Security benefits for people over 85.

**A third commercial released by Sanders on Wednesday features audio of Obama praising him in 2016 and footage of the two men walking chummily together along the White House colonnade.** Asked about the ad, Sanders acknowledged that he and Obama aren’t best friends but added that they “talk every now and then.” Sanders said he signed off on the commercial to clear up “a lot of dishonesty” about his relationship with Obama, an apparent reference to news reports that he considered launching a primary challenge against the then-president in 2012.



**Some of Warren’s aides privately hoped she would stay in the race through the Phoenix debate.** The former high school debate state champion excelled in that format and raised money after recent strong performances. But she received only 28 of the 1,338 delegates that were available on Tuesday, finishing third in Massachusetts (which she represents in the Senate) and fourth in Oklahoma (where she grew up), although that number may rise slightly from the Golden State.

**As she prepared to suspend her campaign, top surrogates and allies of Warren and Sanders started preliminary discussions about ways their two camps could unite and push a common liberal agenda.** Annie Linskey and Sean Sullivan [reported](#) that these conversations largely involved members of Congress who back Sanders reaching out to those in Warren's camp to explore the prospect that she might endorse him. But Warren associates and Biden’s camp were also talking about a potential endorsement.

“It is not clear that Warren would immediately — or ever — back Sanders,” Annie and Sean report. “She stayed on the sidelines during the 2016 Democratic primary ... eventually throwing her support to Clinton and hoping to be selected as her running mate. Warren also met with Biden in

2015 as he was considering a presidential bid of his own. At the time Biden floated the idea that they could join forces on the same ticket, but soon he decided not to challenge Clinton.”

**A silver lining of Sanders’s continuing attacks could be that Biden looks more moderate, which might work to his advantage in a general election match-up against Trump.** It certainly makes it harder for the GOP to portray Biden as some kind of crypto socialist.

**Sanders was candid during his news conference in Burlington about his failure to bring new voters into the process the way he needs.** “I will be honest with you: We have not done as well in bringing young people into the political process,” he told reporters. “It is not easy.”

**“In some parts of the Sanders orbit, there have been private discussions about how to reassure Democrats,”** Sean Sullivan and Bob Costa report. “Some close Sanders allies believe the distance between the Sanders movement and the party have caused broader issues, especially when Biden is portraying himself as a unifier. ... As Sanders spoke in Vermont on Wednesday afternoon, a handful of his prominent supporters quietly connected by phone and text message ... In these discussions, some debated whether Sanders's anti-establishment message was enough. ‘We've got to be ready for when the party gets cold feet on Biden and looks to us,’ one of the Democrats said. ‘We can't just keep running the same playbook again and again.’ A second ... added that there are some leading liberals in Sanders's orbit who would like to see ‘less Michael Moore and the Squad’ on the campaign trail.”











**It's a small consolation for Warren, but she outlasted Bloomberg in the race after torpedoing his candidacy during the Las Vegas debate.** That's a moral victory of sorts for Warren, who ran as a populist, just as it was for Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) when she stayed in the race half a day longer than Pete Buttigieg, whose success in the race as the former mayor of a small town deeply annoyed her because she didn't think a woman with his same profile would have made it that far.

**A billion-dollar question: How much does Bloomberg now help Biden in the upcoming primaries?** "Bloomberg has pledged to employ large field staffs in six swing states in the general election, even though he is no longer a candidate. The billionaire's data operation, Hawkfish, will also continue operating to elect Democrats up and down the ballot," [Matt Viser and Amy Wang report](#). "Bloomberg's aides, however, have not announced whether they will take out ads in the primary campaign to help Biden or whether Bloomberg campaign staffers in upcoming primary states will work for Biden's nomination. Campaign finance rules generally give self-funded campaigns significant leeway to spend money, even if the funds support other candidates. Bloomberg also has the option of renaming or rehiring his staff as part of a separate independent group to help Biden."

## Where Bloomberg spent on ads, and where he won votes

In states with at least 95 percent of precincts reporting

| STATE | VOTE SHARE | AD SPENDING | VOTES   | SPENDING PER VOTE |   |
|-------|------------|-------------|---------|-------------------|---|
| Minn. | 8.3%       | \$13M       | 62,000  | <b>\$220</b>      |    |
| Tex.  | 14.9%      | \$54M       | 313,000 | <b>\$170</b>      |    |
| Vt.   | 9.1%       | \$2.3M      | 13,000  | <b>\$170</b>      |    |
| Ala.  | 11.7%      | \$8.9M      | 53,000  | <b>\$170</b>      |    |
| Okla. | 13.9%      | \$5.6M      | 42,000  | <b>\$130</b>      |    |
| Tenn. | 15.4%      | \$7.9M      | 80,000  | <b>\$100</b>      |    |
| N.C.  | 13.0%      | \$15M       | 172,000 | <b>\$90</b>       |    |
| Va.   | 9.7%       | \$7.4M      | 128,000 | <b>\$60</b>       |  |

Note: Vote totals as of March 4 at 1:14 p.m.

Sources: Advertising Analytics and Edison Research.

## Biden is considering whether to ask for Secret Service protection.

The campaign began privately deliberating whether to formally request Secret Service protection for the candidate after protesters [rushed the stage](#) at his Tuesday night event in Los Angeles in what experts called a major security breach. “Both Biden and [Sanders] rely on private security firms to handle their public appearances, which is unusual this late in a presidential campaign cycle in comparison with 2016, 2012 and 2008,” [David Nakamura and Carol Leonnig report](#). “Campaigns must request protection from the DHS, and a bipartisan congressional advisory committee — led by the Senate majority leader, currently Sen. Mitch



McConnell (R-Ky.) — helps review the request before the DHS secretary makes a decision. Outsourcing security to the federal government can be a boon for cash-strapped campaigns and also bestow a heightened legitimacy on candidates. But some candidates in past presidential campaign cycles have tried to hold off over concerns that a large security entourage could hamper their ability to interact more directly with supporters.” Sanders had protection for several months during the 2016 primaries, but his campaign did not immediately respond to questions on the subject.

### **Gov. Steve Bullock is expected to run for Senate in Montana.**

In a recruiting coup for national Democrats, the former presidential candidate is telling people that “he is now inclined to run” against Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.), [the New York Times reports](#). “Bullock has only a few days to finalize his decision: The filing deadline to run in Montana is Monday.”

### **A former prisoner of Cuba said Sanders asked him “what’s so wrong” with the country.**

During a one-hour meeting in 2014, Sanders told American prisoner Alan Gross, who was jailed by the communist regime for five years, that he didn't understand why others criticized Cuba, [Gross alleged in an interview with NPR](#): “He said, quote: 'I don't know what's so wrong with this country.'" Sanders's campaign declined to comment about the meeting with Gross, who said two other senators were present. Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) said he did not recall the discussion. A source close to former senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) told NPR she remembers Sanders seemed to disregard the meeting with Gross and that an uncomfortable exchange occurred, but she did not recall the exact remark.

## Female activists are setting their sights on the No. 2 spot.

“They’re insisting that a woman — specifically a woman of color — be the running mate for whichever white man will probably be challenging Trump in November,” [the 19th reports](#). “Rep. Marcia L. Fudge (D-Ohio) said she hears from voters nationwide who want a black woman as vice president. She said such a pick is ‘the only chance the Democratic Party has to win the presidency and to win down ballot.’”

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## The coronavirus



## **The House passed an \$8.3 billion package, as the U.S. death toll reached 11.**

The Senate could act on the measure to fund the coronavirus response as soon as today. "Trump is expected to sign the legislation, which is more than triple the size of the White House's budget request from last week," [Erica Werner and Mike DeBonis report](#). "The vote in the House was 415-2. ... The political deal helped push financial markets to surge on Wednesday." The two "no" votes came from GOP Reps. Andy Biggs (Ariz.) and Ken Buck (Colo.), who argued that the bill's spending levels were excessive. "The package includes more than \$3 billion for research and development on vaccines, therapeutics and other treatments, as well as \$2.2 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support the response from federal, state, and local public health agencies, including for lab testing and infection control. Other parts of the deal include close to \$1 billion for medical supplies, health-care preparedness and community health centers, among other things. Also included is \$1 billion in loan subsidies for small businesses ... Some 85 percent of the money in the bill would be spent domestically, but there is also \$1.25 billion for the State Department to assist in battling the spread of the coronavirus overseas. This would include evacuation expenses and

humanitarian aid, among other things.”

### **Expanded coronavirus testing may overwhelm lab capacity, experts say.**

“A day after Vice President Pence touted a new policy allowing ‘any American’ to be tested for the novel coronavirus with a doctor’s order ... Health experts warned the action might inadvertently send the wrong message, prompting a surge in demand for tests from people with mild symptoms who should simply stay home until they recover. They also noted that laboratory capacity for virus testing, while on the rise, is still lagging. Tests that can be done in doctor’s offices don’t exist,” [Amy Goldstein, Carolyn Johnson, Lena Sun and Laurie McGinley report](#). “Sixty public health labs are now running the just-fixed CDC test. In the next several days and weeks, testing capacity is expected to increase as more labs come online and private companies ship thousands of test kits. Pence’s announcement took many officials at [HHS] and the CDC by surprise, according to an HHS official.”

### **In New York, the virus spread quickly from a man to his family to a neighbor to friends.**

“By Wednesday afternoon, another friend, his wife and three of their children were also infected,” [Ben Guarino, Sarah Pulliam Bailey and Paul Schwartzmann report](#). “In the span of 48 hours, what began as one family’s medical crisis had spiraled well beyond their Westchester County home, shuttering Jewish schools and synagogues and crystallizing the virus’s power to propel anxiety across a region that is among the nation’s most densely populated.”

**Nearly 300 million kids are out of school right now.** So far, 11 countries, plus Hong Kong and Macao, have shut down all schools to stop the spread of the virus. ([Valerie Strauss](#))

## **America's health system is showing why it's not ready for a pandemic.**

“Ventilators and intensive care units, necessary to keep the most acutely ill patients alive, are largely limited to larger hospitals and academic medical centers in cities. ... Nationwide, worries are growing about a lack of hospital beds to quarantine and treat infected patients. Major medical centers are typically full even without a flood of coronavirus patients,” [Christopher Rowland and Peter Whoriskey report](#). “Despite weeks of preparations, health planners continue to fret about shortages of masks and gowns for hospital staff, as well as lifesaving mechanical respirators for patients with severe cases of the disease. ... Budget-conscious health systems do not maintain large volumes of reserve supplies just for the possibility of a pandemic, said William Jaquis, president of the American College of Emergency Physicians. That leaves the system vulnerable. ... Federal funding for emergency preparedness in health care has been in a slow, steady decline for more than 15 years.”

## **Coronavirus anxiety is everywhere, and there is no cure.**

“Last week, you pressed elevator buttons with abandon. You weren't afraid of the free weights in the gym. You washed your hands for barely enough time to say 'Happy Birthday' once, let alone sing it twice. How bold are you now?” [Maura Judkis and Avi Selk write](#). “Coronavirus anxiety has outpaced the virus itself. ... Nikhil Merchant, 38, has taken to meticulously wiping down the treadmill at his suburban Los Angeles gym before he uses it. ‘Your senses are heightened to kind of superimpose germs sitting on that machine,’ he says. Merchant had completed the ritual on Monday and was about to begin his run when he spotted a wad of chewing gum in the treadmill's cellphone pocket and fled the gym in ~~over~~overwhelming mysophobic disgust. ... Suspicion of treadmills and elevators mutates into suspicion of fellow humans: Are other people washing their hands for two Happy Birthdays? How much do I really know about the habits and histories all these friends and co-workers and strangers who are touching

all the things I'm touching right before I forget not to touch my face?"

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## Quote of the day

*"I haven't touched my face in weeks. It's been weeks. I miss it," Trump said during a White House update on the coronavirus response. (JM Rieger)*

**The virus spread from China. Now, China doesn't want the world to spread it back.**

"Health authorities in the prosperous province of Zhejiang had finally lowered the alert level from one to two after six weeks, satisfied their draconian measures to contain the novel coronavirus had worked," [Anna Fifield reports](#). "Then Wang, a 31-year-old waitress who had been working in the northern Italian city of Bergamo, came home to Qingtian county, west of the city of Wenzhou. ... Traveling with five others from the same restaurant, she changed planes in Moscow and took off for Shanghai. ... When Wang, whom authorities have identified only by her family name, arrived in China, she was immediately put into quarantine. On Sunday, she tested positive for the [virus] ... Seven others who worked in the Bergamo restaurant and flew back home were diagnosed this week, the Qingtian government said. This is China's new coronavirus challenge."

**Conspiracy theorists claim the U.S. is to blame for the virus. China is happy to encourage them.** "In recent days, run-of-the-mill mockery of the White House has taken a darker turn as the Chinese Internet became inundated by the theory, subtly stoked by the Chinese government, that the coronavirus originated in the United States. The U.S. government, one version of the theory goes, has been covering up mounting cases, and perhaps thousands of deaths, by classifying them as regular flu," [Gerry Shih reports](#).

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## Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked



### **John Roberts released a statement criticizing Chuck Schumer.**

The chief justice issued a rare rebuke of a sitting member of Congress, chastising the Senate's top Democrat for saying at a rally outside the Supreme Court that Trump's two nominees to the court would "pay the price" if they vote against abortion rights. "Justices know that criticism comes with the territory, but threatening statements of this sort from the highest levels of government are not only inappropriate, they are dangerous," Roberts said. "All members of the court will continue to do their job, without fear or favor, from whatever quarter." Schumer, speaking as the Supreme Court heard arguments in an important abortion case from Louisiana, called out Brett M. Kavanaugh and Neil M. Gorsuch by name: "I want to tell you, Gorsuch; I want to tell you, Kavanaugh: You have released the whirlwind, and you will pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions."

“The GOP denounced Schumer and criticized the media for what they said was a lack of outrage,” [Robert Barnes and Colby Itkowitz report](#).

“Democrats demanded to know why Roberts had not spoken out last week when Trump singled out liberal Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor for criticism, or why he did not defend the federal judge Trump denounced for her oversight of the trial of the president’s friend Roger Stone. The episode underscored the partisan politics that have engulfed the fight over the judiciary, which is supposed to be the nonpartisan branch of the government.”

### **With *Roe v. Wade* in jeopardy, the Louisiana case will probably come down to Roberts.**

“The court’s four liberals appeared convinced that [the Louisiana law at issue](#), requiring admitting privileges at nearby hospitals for abortion-clinic doctors, is identical to one from Texas that the Supreme Court struck down four years ago. That appeared to leave Roberts, now at the court’s ideological center, holding the deciding vote,” [Barnes and Ann Marimow report](#). “As the case was argued, he asked a variation of the same question to all three lawyers addressing the justices: Should the court undertake a fact-dependent, state-by-state analysis when reviewing such restrictions? That could indicate he felt he could distinguish Louisiana’s law from the Texas statute. Or it could mean he agreed with challengers that similar laws were doomed because of the court’s precedent from 2016. Roberts, a dissenter in the Texas case, did not indicate what he believed was the proper answer. ... Among Wednesday’s spectators was Roberts’s wife, Jane Roberts, who before the chief justice joined the court was legal counsel for Feminists for Life of America, a group that opposes abortion.”

### **The FBI fell short in assessing homegrown terror threats.**

“In a 41-page report, Inspector General Michael Horowitz wrote that while the bureau seemed to recognize its failings, it had ‘not taken sufficient action’ to fix the problems,” [Matt Zapposky reports](#). “Horowitz noted that



in the more than 20 homegrown terrorist attacks in the United States since Sept. 11, 2001, several suspects had been previously assessed by the bureau as a potential threat but not fully investigated.”

**A noose was found on the gunman’s locker at a Milwaukee Coors facility years before his shooting rampage there last week.** “Current and former employees of the Molson Coors brewery here say there is a long-held culture of racism, including racist cartoons placed in workspaces, the n-word scrawled in break rooms and bathrooms and nooses hung at the facility — one on the locker of an employee who killed five co-workers there last week,” [Annie Gowen and Katie Zezima report](#). While police have not provided a motive for the Feb. 26 rampage, they said in a statement that, based on a preliminary investigation, neither race nor racism played a role in the shooting.

**A Pentagon contract linguist was charged with espionage.**

The woman, assigned to a U.S. Special Operations task force in Iraq, was charged with turning over the names of human informants and other classified data to a Lebanese man with ties to the militant group Hezbollah. “The Justice Department said Mariam Taha Thompson, 61, formerly of Rochester, Minn., was charged with one count of conspiracy and one count of delivering defense information to aid a foreign government. Prosecutors alleged that she passed the information to a man in whom she had a romantic interest,” [Spencer Hsu reports](#). “Thompson appeared in federal court in Washington on Wednesday. The FBI arrested her Feb. 27 at a U.S. military facility in Irbil, Iraq, where she worked.”

**A federal judge ordered attorneys for 9/11 victims to detail threats allegedly made against potential witnesses in a lawsuit targeting Saudi Arabia.** The victims' attorneys have argued they need to protect the identities of potential witnesses, pointing to the murder of Washington Post contributing columnist Jamal Khashoggi as an example

of the kind of danger faced by those who speak out against the regime in Riyadh, [Shayna Jacobs reports](#).

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## Social media speed read

Trump mocked Bloomberg for dropping out of the race, and Bloomberg responded with a clip from “Star Wars”:



Trump, saying the quiet part out loud, admitted that he opposes Jeff Sessions because he didn't take control of the Russia probe:



Washington state asked voters not to lick envelopes to mail in their ballots, in light of the coronavirus:



**WA Secretary of State** ✓

@secstatewa



As recommended by @WADeptHealth, please use alternative methods to seal your ballot return envelopes, such as a wet sponge or cloth.

Washington's Presidential Primary is March 10. Use a ballot drop box to return your ballot by 8 p.m. Election Day. #waelex



♥ 64 10:58 PM - Mar 3, 2020



🗨 91 people are talking about this



And Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) wore this to the House floor as members voted on the coronavirus spending bill:



**Jim Himes** ✓

@jahimes



You won't believe the shoes Matt Gaetz is wearing today.  
[#FloridaMan](#)



♥ 8,458 9:26 PM - Mar 4, 2020



💬 3,356 people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

“Jeopardy” host Alex Trebek provided an inspiring update a year after his pancreatic cancer diagnosis:



Seth Meyers thinks Trump is lying when he claims that he hasn't touched his face in weeks:



Sam Bee joked that Democrats now face a close race between Sanders, Biden and the coronavirus:



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# The Daily 202

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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
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## Most of Trump's own supporters think he's self-centered. His coronavirus response helps show why.

A national survey published Thursday by the Pew Research Center showed that 73 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents believe "self-centered" describes President Trump either very or fairly well. Overall, 8 in 10 U.S. adults agree.



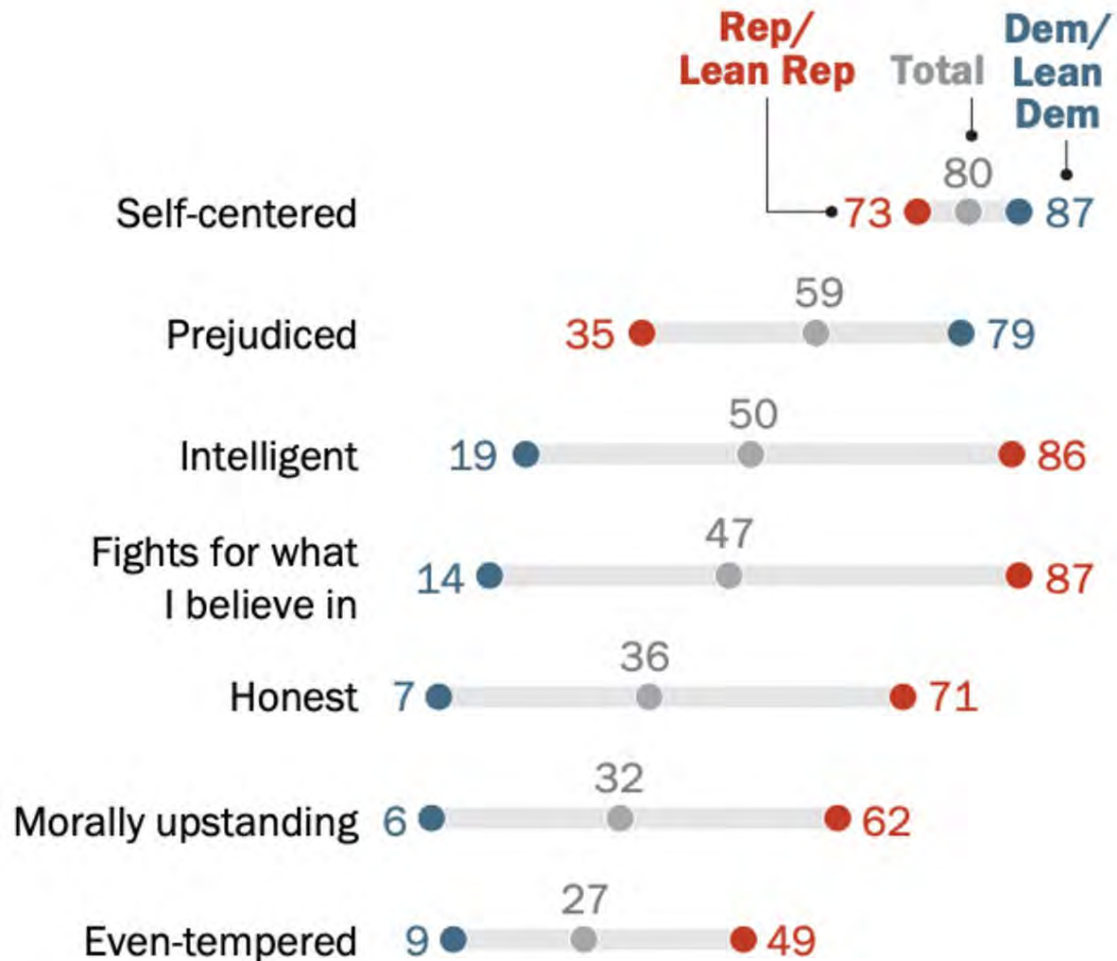
Eighty percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said they agree with Trump on many or nearly all of the important issues facing the country; the same percentage approve of his job performance [in the poll](#). But only 31 percent said they like the way Trump conducts himself as president. Half said they have mixed feelings, and 16 percent say they don't like his conduct.

Among the Republicans and GOP-leaning independents surveyed by Pew, 35 percent said he's prejudiced, 49 percent said he's even-tempered, 62 percent said he's morally upstanding and 71 percent said he's honest. But 87 percent said he fights for what they believe in. That's the key to his reservoir of support on the right.

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## Republicans widely view Trump as a fighter, but also self-centered

*% who say each describes Trump very or fairly well*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 4-15, 2020.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**

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**Trump's town hall on Thursday night in Scranton, Pa., which aired live on Fox News and focused extensively on the novel coronavirus outbreak, captured these dynamics in miniature.** The first audience question came from Katherine Pugh, an undecided voter, who said the Trump administration's initial response to

the coronavirus “seemed to some as being confusing or minimizing.” She wondered “what plans are being considered on a federal level for the possibility of a long-term disruption” from its spread. Rather than discuss what’s next, Trump focused on touting his initial response.

He credited his own moves with the relatively small death toll – he said 11 Americans have died, though the number is now 12 – compared to other countries. “Well, actually, we are being given really tremendous marks – you look at Gallup, you look at other polls – for the way we have handled it,” he said. “And one of the things I did is I closed down the borders to China and to other areas that are very badly affected. ... And I closed them down very early against the advice of almost everybody. And we have been given rave reviews.”

There is no public evidence that there was widespread opposition to the travel restrictions in the administration. Moreover, [the Gallup poll](#) Trump referred to, conducted from Feb. 3 to Feb. 16, did not ask about Trump’s handling of the situation. Instead, it asked Americans about their confidence in the federal government’s ability to handle an outbreak in the United States. A lot has changed in the past three weeks, including the seesawing stock market and a spike in the number of confirmed cases in the country. The Dow [fell](#) 700 points Friday morning in the first few minutes after the opening bell.

An Economist-YouGov poll conducted earlier this week found that 41 percent of Americans thought Trump’s policies were not taking the risks seriously enough. Another 34 percent said his policy was appropriate. This poll finds that 68 percent of Americans are now either “somewhat” or “very” concerned about a coronavirus epidemic in the United States, up from 62 percent in an Economist-YouGov survey last month.

**Trump himself has emerged as the administration’s greatest obstacle to sending a clear and consistent message about the**

**coronavirus.** Leading public health experts from across the government have found their messages undercut, drowned out and muddled by Trump’s push to downplay the outbreak with a mix of optimism, bombast and pseudoscience, [Toluse Olorunnipa reports](#): “The president has repeatedly misstated the number of Americans who have tested positive for the virus and claimed it would ‘miraculously’ disappear in the spring. He has given a false timeline for the development of a vaccine, publicly questioned whether vaccinations for the flu could be used to treat the novel coronavirus and dismissed the World Health Organization’s coronavirus death rate estimate, substituting a much lower figure and citing a ‘hunch.’ On Wednesday night, Trump made an uncritical reference to people who continue to go to work while infected with the coronavirus — placing himself at odds with doctors who have strongly urged those with even minor symptoms to stay home.”



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Americans pay too much for prescription drugs. Even generics can be too expensive. So we're investing in a non-profit company to produce the drugs people need at a price they can afford. [Learn more.](#)

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**Fox News anchor Bret Baier told Trump during the town hall that, while he's said he wants to take politics out of the crisis, the president also keeps blaming former president Barack Obama for delays in distributing test kits.** “Well, I don't blame anybody,” he said, before blaming Obama. “I want to get everybody to understand they made some decisions which were not good decisions. We inherited decisions that they made.”

**Trump added that his own performance will get criticized no matter what.** “If we found a cure, and everybody's better tomorrow morning at nine o'clock, they would say, he's done a terrible job,” he said. “It's just automatic. ... And we have done a great job. Again, we have gotten the highest poll numbers of anybody for this kind of a thing.”

**Fact-checker Glenn Kessler awards **Four Pinocchios** to Trump for his “bogus” effort to blame Obama for sluggish coronavirus testing:** “The administration has been under fire for its failure to quickly expand testing for coronavirus across the United States; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had distributed flawed tests to state and local health departments. The lack of tests, compared with countries like South Korea that have tested tens of thousands of people, has meant the

possible spread of the virus in the United States may be hidden.

“Trump suggested the problem instead was an ‘Obama rule’ on testing that his administration had recently overturned. But this turns out to be completely wrong. ...There was no Obama rule, simply ‘guidance’ that was never acted on because Congress stepped in and decided it would craft the necessary legislation, according to experts we consulted. The Trump administration, in fact, has been working with Congress on such legislation.”

**Baier asked Trump why he didn’t expedite testing when the world learned of the virus spreading in January.** “I’m thinking about a lot of other things too, like trade and millions of other things,” the president answered. “I mean, we are doing some job with the economy and all. So I’m not thinking about this. But as soon as I heard that China had a problem, I said, what’s going on with China? How many people are coming in? Nobody but me asked that question. ... And we were given A-pluses for that. ... Saved a lot of lives.”

Later in the town hall, a self-described “big supporter” of the president – identified by the network only as Robert – thanked Trump effusively for “everything that you have done for this country and continue to do for this country.” But then he lamented how “insult politics have become a staple of this political environment.” And he wondered: **“Could there be a way that we can deliver your message without the controversial rhetoric in efforts to reunite this country during these divisive times?”**

**Trump’s answer boiled down to no.** “When they hit us, we have to hit back,” he said. “I wouldn’t be sitting up here if I turned my cheek.” He added that Fox News wouldn’t be interviewing him if he wasn’t a counterpuncher because it’s good for ratings. “We get hit so hard,” Trump added. “If we don’t fight back, you won’t be a fan of mine very long. But I

appreciate the question. Thank you.” The crowd cheered. Robert applauded. And the Trump campaign war room quickly blasted out the clip.

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## The latest on the spread of coronavirus



### **A cruise ship with thousands aboard awaits test results.**

“The Grand Princess, which was returning to San Francisco after a two-week cruise to Hawaii, remained offshore and in limbo at the request of California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D). About 100 people were expected to be tested, among them 11 passengers and 10 crew members who have shown potential signs of covid-19,” [Reed Albergotti, Hannah Sampson and Brady Dennis report](#). “Even as the military ferried tests to the cruise ship and thousands of passengers waited uneasily on board, public health officials on land were investigating a cluster of coronavirus cases among the roughly 2,500 people who had taken an earlier cruise on the same ship. One of those passengers, a 71-year-old man, has since died of covid-19.

**...The virus spread to new states — including three cases in**

**Montgomery County, Md.** ... Meanwhile, the Senate on Thursday voted nearly unanimously to approve emergency spending to combat the coronavirus outbreak [and the president signed the measure on Friday morning.]

“But **many questions remain about just how prepared the country is for an expanded outbreak.** Vice President Pence, who on Tuesday said that any American with a doctor’s orders could get tested for the coronavirus, acknowledged Thursday that ‘we don’t have enough tests today to meet what we anticipate will be the demand going forward.’ Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told lawmakers Thursday that the government will have shipped enough tests by the end of the week for 75,000 people to be tested. ... Earlier in the week, the Trump administration said it could have 1 million tests ready by the end of the week.”

**Pence is reportedly sidelining Azar.** The health secretary wasn’t at a Wednesday televised briefing because officials wanted to make space for housing secretary Ben Carson on stage, [Politico reports](#). He was also left out of a Thursday trip to Washington state, which Pence and Azar allies said was because of “other commitments.”

**Globally, the virus has infected nearly 100,000 people and caused 3,200 deaths.**

“A French lawmaker tested positive; the Vatican reported its first case; the Netherlands recorded its first fatality; a rabbi was infected in New York state,” [Adam Taylor, Teo Armus and Rick Noack report](#). “Health officials in the Houston area reported two likely cases.”

- California ordered insurers to waive out-of-pocket costs for coronavirus testing. ([San Francisco Chronicle](#))
- A Chinese health expert said he expects the number of new infections in Wuhan, where the outbreak started, to decline to “near zero” by



the end of the month. ([Lyric Li](#))

- Coronavirus cases jumped from zero to four in Senegal this week, raising fears that upcoming religious festivals could fuel a wider outbreak. ([Danielle Paquette and Borso Tall](#))

## **Health-care workers are worried about protections against the virus.**

“Some advocates for health-care workers say hospital administrators are not adequately protecting their staff members. This week, National Nurses United (NNU), the largest labor union for nurses, said that only 30 percent of the 6,000 nurses it has surveyed in 48 states think their workplace has sufficient protective gear to handle an influx of coronavirus patients. Only 29 percent said their hospital or clinic has plans for isolating patients if they are infected,” [Katie Mettler, Arelis Hernández, William Wan and Lenny Bernstein](#) report.

## **A proposed regulation could protect these workers from the virus. It’s hanging in limbo.**

“The draft regulation would require employers to provide protective gear for health-care workers and to create infection-control plans, which could include building isolation rooms. The Obama administration was working to adopt the regulation, but the Trump administration in 2017 moved it to a less urgent, long-term agenda and work on it stopped,” [Kimberly Kindy](#) reports.

## **A New York college closed and others cancelled classes.**

Yeshiva University’s president announced a student had tested positive and classes would be canceled at their Washington Heights and Midtown campuses until after March 10. Lake Washington Institute of Technology closed on Sunday outside Seattle. [Susan Svrluga](#) reports that workers cleaned and disinfected the school on Monday and Tuesday, and the more than 20 students and faculty possibly exposed were advised to remain in

isolation for two weeks. The campus briefly reopened Wednesday — before closing again that night. A faculty member had tested positive for covid-19, the school announced, and the campus will close at least through the weekend.

**The Education Department issued guidance providing schools with the flexibility to accommodate students who studies are being upended by the outbreak.** For example, to help students continue their classes, the Education Department is allowing schools to temporarily expand their online learning programs or partner with other schools that can meet the demands, without requiring federal approval. ([Danielle Douglas-Gabriel](#))

### **A dog tested positive in Hong Kong.**

A pet dog in Hong Kong has a “low-level” infection of the coronavirus, in what may be the first known case. Public health officials say the virus “does not appear to infect or be spread by pets. But experts say much remains unknown about the dog’s infection, and they emphasized the lone case is not yet cause for alarm or reassessments about interactions with pets,” [Karin Brulliard reports](#).

### **Scientists were close to a coronavirus vaccine years ago. Then money dried up.**

“Dr. Peter Hotez says he made the pitch to anyone who would listen. After years of research, his team of scientists in Texas had helped develop a vaccine to protect against a deadly strain of coronavirus. Now they needed money to begin testing it in humans,” [NBC News reports](#). “But this was 2016. More than a decade had passed since the viral disease known as severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, had spread through China, killing more than 770 people. That disease, an earlier coronavirus similar to the one now sweeping the globe, was a distant memory by the time Hotez and his team sought funding to test whether their vaccine would

work in humans.”

## If you're quarantined, you can still eat well.

The Post's culinary team surveyed some of the country's best-known cooks for ideas on what people might stock up on in their pantries to prepare for a coronavirus quarantine. Celebrity author Padma Lakshmi suggests families stock up on frozen veggies and pick a weekend to cook huge batches of different dishes that are stew-y and freeze well, like turkey chili. Chef Nina Compton suggested keeping lots of snacks in the fridge, including pickles, nuts and frozen pizzas. For the pantry, have some bags of dried pasta, dried beans and rice. Chef and author Edward Lee said you should buy a few packets of instant ramen and glamorize them with frozen green beans, curry powder and some cheese.



## While you were sleeping



Afghan health workers walk with a wounded man from a hospital after gunmen attacked a political gathering in Kabul on Friday. (Jawad Jalali/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

**Gunfire at a Shiite gathering in Kabul left more than 20 dead and dozens wounded.** Afghan opposition leader Abdullah Abdullah was there, but he escaped the scene unhurt, according to his spokesman. The attack comes amid heightened political tensions in Afghanistan following disputed election results. Both the Afghan president and Abdullah had declared victory last month. ([Susannah George](#))

**Explosives that detonated near the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia were part of an apparent attack by two suicide bombers.** The large explosion injured six people, including five security agents and a woman, Tunisia's Interior Ministry said. ([Claire Parker and Sudarsan Raghavan](#))

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**2020 watch**



## Elizabeth Warren's exit raises questions about the role of women in politics.

“Now as Warren ... decides whether to endorse either of the two male candidates remaining, her supporters are left to contemplate a factor that many believe contributed significantly to her loss: She's female." [Annie Linskey and Amy Wang report](#). “It's not that Warren ran an error-free campaign... But her male counterparts made big mistakes as well. ... The exit by Warren, who spent much of 2019 leading in many polls, was a reminder of four years ago, when Hillary Clinton's loss sparked a national debate over whether a woman could ever win election to the country's

highest political office. ... 'Women will not be perceived by some as electable until we're elected,' said Valerie Jarrett, a top adviser to former president Barack Obama and a friend of Warren's."

Linskey asked Warren outside her home in Cambridge, Mass., about the role gender played in the race. "That is the trap question for every woman," the senator answered. "If you say, 'Yeah, there was sexism in this race,' everyone says, 'Whiner!' And if you say, 'No, there was no sexism,' about a bazillion women think, 'What planet do you live on?'"

"Warren's withdrawal also prompted other leading women in Washington to reflect on why the 'highest and hardest' glass ceiling that Clinton once talked about was still intact. 'Every time I get introduced as the most powerful woman in the United States, I almost cry, because I'm thinking, 'I wish that were not true,'" House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) told reporters. 'I so wish that we had a woman president.' ... Still, the Democratic primary has been unusually complicated this year, and many argue that other factors besides sexism were at play in Warren's fate. Her initial strategy rested on quickly consolidating the left, for example, [but many liberals] were more drawn to [Bernie] Sanders's brand of fiery democratic socialism."

Speaking to Rachel Maddow on MSNBC last night, Warren called out Sanders for not taking steps to control the "organized nastiness" of some of his supporters. ([Fred Barbash](#))

Many women saw Warren as one of them, [writes columnist Monica Hesse](#). "Finally, a presidential candidate who took things like maternal health and paid parental leave seriously, and who also knew exactly what Nora Ephron meant when she wrote that she felt bad about her neck. It was an impossible tightrope, but she made it look easy; she made most things look easy."

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## Quote of the day

*Bill Clinton discussed his extramarital affair with intern Monica Lewinsky in a new four-part documentary, "Hillary," that premiered this morning on Hulu. "You feel like you're staggering around — you've been in a 15-round prizefight that was extended to 30 rounds, and here's something that'll take your mind off it for a while. Everybody's life has pressures and disappointments and terrors, fears of whatever, things I did to manage my anxieties for years," the former president explained. "Nobody sits down and thinks, 'I think I'll take a really irresponsible risk.'" (NYT)*

### **Mike Bloomberg is forming an outside group to support the Democratic nominee.**

"Bloomberg has decided to form an independent expenditure campaign that will absorb hundreds of his presidential campaign staffers in six swing states to work to elect the Democratic nominee this fall," [Michael Scherer reports](#). "The group, with a name that is still undisclosed because its trademark application is in process, would also be a vehicle for Bloomberg to spend money on advertising to attack [Trump] and support the Democratic nominee..."

### **Monday was the day everything went Joe Biden's way, but the two days before that were full of intrigue.**

With news that Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar and Beto O'Rourke were interested in endorsing Biden, his campaign scrambled to "maximize a sense of drama and momentum that Biden's campaign had rarely, if ever, enjoyed," [Jenna Johnson, Matt Viser and Chelsea Janes report](#) in a tick-tock on the hours before the fateful day that secured Biden front-runner

status.

**Sanders canceled a speech scheduled for later today in Mississippi, where Biden is heavily favored, so he can focus on winning Michigan next Tuesday.** [The Detroit Free Press](#) endorsed Biden ahead of Michigan's primary next week. Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.) also backed the former vice president. Also happening in Michigan: "Former United Auto Workers President Gary Jones was charged with embezzling more than \$1 million, according to a criminal filing that indicates he will plead guilty," [the Detroit News reports](#).

**Previously unseen documents from a Soviet archive show how Moscow saw a chance for propaganda in Sanders's attempts to find a sister city in Russia when he was a Vermont mayor in the 1980s.** Sanders "wrote to a Soviet counterpart in a provincial city that he wanted the United States and the Soviet Union to 'live together as friends.' Unbeknown to him, his desire for friendship meshed with the efforts of Soviet officials in Moscow to 'reveal American imperialism as the main source of the danger of war,'" [the Times reports](#).

**Biden's team is eager to expand staff.** The campaign is scaling up and looking to tap into the pool of Democratic talent now available because of all the candidates who have recently dropped out, [the Times reports](#). "In the Democratic contest, any candidate who gets at least 15 percent statewide or in any congressional district gets a cut of the delegates at stake. In the abstract, it's a feature that rewards candidates who stick around and continue to campaign. In practice, though, it very quickly means that a candidate with a lead can hold it," [Philip Bump explains](#). "That's one of the reasons that [Biden] now has a significant advantage over [Sanders]."

**Mitt Romney could derail a GOP subpoena targeting the Bidens.**



“The Senate Homeland Security Committee is set to vote next Wednesday on a subpoena for records from a Democratic public relations firm related to the panel’s investigation of conflict-of-interest allegations against the Bidens. But [the Republican senator from Utah], a member of the panel, has hinted that he could vote against issuing the subpoena, noting the committee’s investigation might look political in nature given Biden’s resurgence and the increasing likelihood that he’ll become the Democratic presidential nominee,” [Politico reports](#).

### **Facebook took down deceptive Trump campaign ads – after initially allowing them.**

“The Trump ads urged Facebook users to ‘take the official 2020 Congressional District Census today,’ but despite the look and language of the ad, they were not related to the once-a-decade national count of U.S. citizens happening this year,” [Craig Timberg and Tara Bahrapour report](#). “Instead, the ads linked to a survey on the ‘Certified Website of President Donald J. Trump,’ which collected information and requested a donation. Facebook initially said it would permit the ads, ruling that they were clearly not a part of the U.S. census ... Facebook reversed its position hours later, saying that the ads indeed violated its policy against ‘misrepresentation of the dates, locations, times and methods for census participation.’”

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### **Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



Attorney General Bill Barr speaks during a news conference at the Department of Justice. (Mandel Ngan/AFP)

## **A federal judge criticized Barr's “lack of candor” in his summary of Mueller's conclusions.**

“U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton, overseeing a lawsuit brought by EPIC, a watchdog group, and BuzzFeed News, said he saw serious discrepancies between [Bill] Barr’s public statements about [Bob] Mueller’s findings and the public, partially redacted version of that report detailing the special counsel’s investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election,” [Spencer Hsu and Devlin Barrett report](#). “Because of those discrepancies, Walton ruled, the judge would conduct an independent review of Mueller’s full report to see whether the Justice Department’s redactions were appropriate. ... In his 23-page opinion, Walton said he had ‘grave concerns about the objectivity of the process’ that led up to the public release of the Mueller report. ... ‘Barr’s lack of candor specifically, call into question Attorney General Barr’s credibility,’ [he wrote]. The judge said he would not take Justice Department lawyers at their word that redactions in the report were all done for appropriate reasons.” [Walton was appointed by George W. Bush.]

## **On immigration, Barr is acting like his own Supreme Court.**

"Barr quietly intervened in an immigration asylum case last week when he issued a decision that narrowed the definition of torture for asylum seekers who invoke it as a grounds for staying in the United States," [Kim Bellware reports](#). "Barr used a process known as 'certification,' a historically little-used power of the attorney general that allows him to overrule decisions made by the Board of Immigration Appeals and set binding precedent. Immigration lawyers and judges say the Trump administration is using the power with greater frequency — to the point of abuse — as it seeks to severely limit the number of immigrants who can remain in the United States. The administration is also using it as a check on immigration judges whose decisions don't align with the administration's immigration agenda, experts say."

## **Trump's border crackdown stalled as illegal crossings increased for the first time in nine months.**

"U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials said 37,119 unauthorized border crossers were taken into custody in February, up from 36,660 in January. While the number of migrants arriving in family groups continues to decline, the number of single adult migrants from Mexico and unaccompanied children rose last month, the figures show," [Nick Miroff and Abigail Hauslohner report](#). Meanwhile, ICE is targeting "sanctuary cities" with increased surveillance. The agency's leadership has requested at least 500 special agents to joined an enhanced arrest campaign rolling out in these cities, per the [NYT](#).

## **A blind man failed the U.S. citizenship test because he couldn't read in English.**

"Born 100 percent blind, the 23-year-old legal permanent resident had been studying English for the past six years since coming to the United States from Mexico as a teenager," [Meagan Flynn reports](#). "He got a vision

exam by an optometrist so he could prove he is legally blind, asking in his application that he be given the test in Braille. ... But then came the big problem: the reading portion of the exam. The agent said they received his request for Braille, but, unfortunately, USCIS did not have Braille available. ... For the record, the officer gave him 'three attempts to read a sentence' in English, as USCIS describes it in a letter Delgado provided. And, predictably, whether the print was large or small, Delgado couldn't read what he couldn't see."

**An ex-Nazi concentration camp guard, who's lived in the U.S. since 1959, faces deportation.** An index card found submerged in a sunken ship in the Baltic Sea helped federal prosecutors prove their case that Friedrich Karl Berger, a German citizen and longtime Tennessee resident who acknowledged having served as a guard at a German concentration camp, had to be deported. He's still receiving a German pension for work that includes his wartime service, per [Debbie Cenziper](#) and [Rachel Baldauf](#).

**Chuck Schumer expressed regret for calling out two Supreme Court justices.**

The Senate minority leader, a Democrat from New York, said Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh would "pay the price" for a vote against abortion rights on Wednesday, drawing the ire of Chief Justice John Roberts. While he defended his passion on the issue on the Senate floor on Thursday, Schumer conceded that his comments went too far. ([Paul Kane](#), [John Wagner](#), [Felicia Sonmez](#))

**Trump's company charged the Secret Service \$157,000 more than was previously known.**

According to a new trove of receipts released by the agency, Trump billed taxpayers for rooms at his clubs at rates far higher than his company has claimed. [David Fahrenthold](#), [Joshua Partlow](#), [Jonathan O'Connell](#) and

**Carol D. Leonnig report:** “Many of the new receipts were obtained by the watchdog group Public Citizen, which spent three years battling the Secret Service over a public-records request from January 2017. When added to dozens of charges already reported by The Post, the new documents show that Trump’s company has charged the Secret Service more than \$628,000 since he took office in 2017. The payments show Trump has an unprecedented — and still partially hidden — business relationship with his own government. The full scope of that relationship is still unknown because the publicly available records are largely from 2017 and 2018, leaving huge gaps in the data.”

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## **Social media speed read**

A protester brought Nazi propaganda to a Sanders rally last night:

**Ruby Cramer** @rubycramer · 5h  
Reporters at Bernie Sanders's rally tonight in Phoenix witnessed multiple incidents involving protesters, including one who waved a large flag with a swastika on it. The man was immediately removed. Disturbing and scary.

Unclear if Sen. Sanders saw the flag.

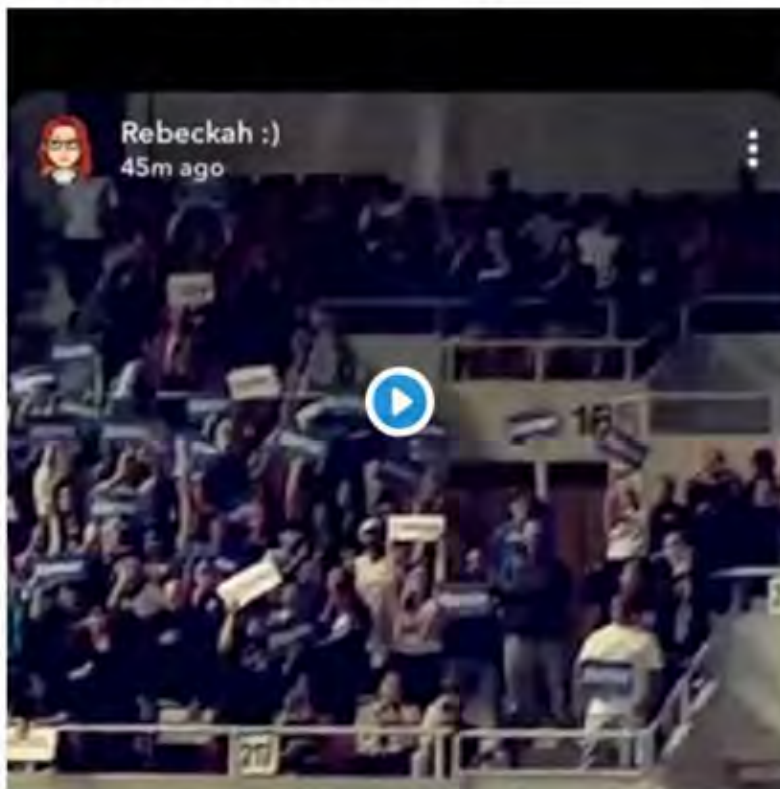
**Ruby Cramer** @rubycramer

Here is video of the incident. Incredibly disturbing. [twitter.com/siddakahuja/st...](https://twitter.com/siddakahuja/status/123456789)  
[twitter.com/siddakahuja/st...](https://twitter.com/siddakahuja/status/123456789)

**Siddak Ahuja** @SiddakAhuja

A man brought a literal Nazi flag to the rally of a Jewish Socialist candidate for President

He was escorted out by security forces



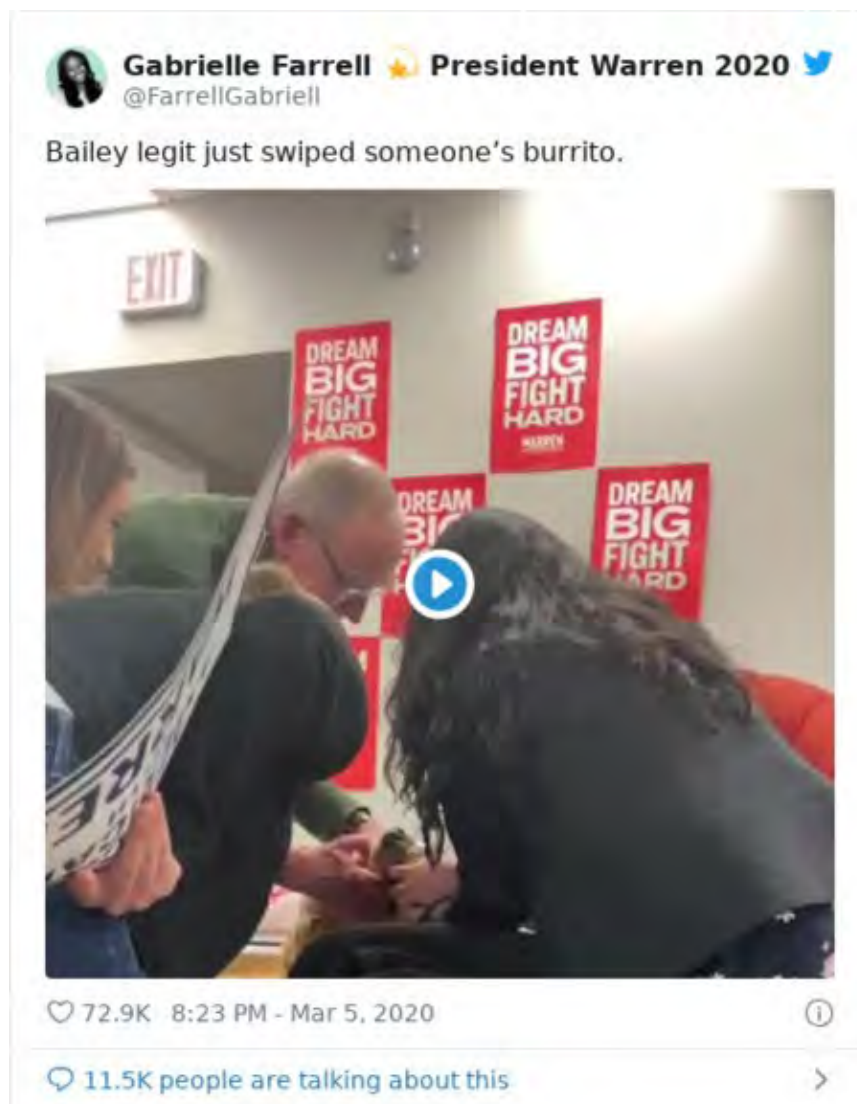
1,206 4:35 AM - Mar 6, 2020 · Phoenix, AZ

532 people are talking about this

“The moment, captured in videos and photos that circulated on social media Thursday night, was denounced as an act of anti-Semitism and

prompted increased concerns about Sanders’s safety on the campaign trail,” Allyson Chiu reports. “Sanders did not appear to see the flag as he thanked the crowd for coming out Thursday night. Videos showed him only turning around in time to witness the man being escorted out. ‘Whoever it was, I think they’re a little outnumbered tonight,’ he told the crowd with a smile.”

Warren’s dog, seemingly aware that he no longer has to be in the spotlight, broke his diet:



Harvard Law honored one of its former professors:



**Drew Goins** ✓

@drewgoins



The Elizabeth Warren portrait at Harvard Law right now



♥ 24.1K 11:22 PM - Mar 5, 2020



💬 3,646 people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert said Warren's exit from the race is proof that America "can't have nice things":





Trevor Noah said goodbye to Warren's campaign:



Seth Meyers said we need truth, transparency and testing when it comes to coronavirus, and he doesn't think we're going to get that from Trump:



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with *Mariana Alfaro*  
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## Most of Trump's own supporters think he's self-centered. His coronavirus response helps show why.

A national survey published Thursday by the Pew Research Center showed that 73 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents believe "self-centered" describes President Trump either very or fairly well. Overall, 8 in 10 U.S. adults agree.

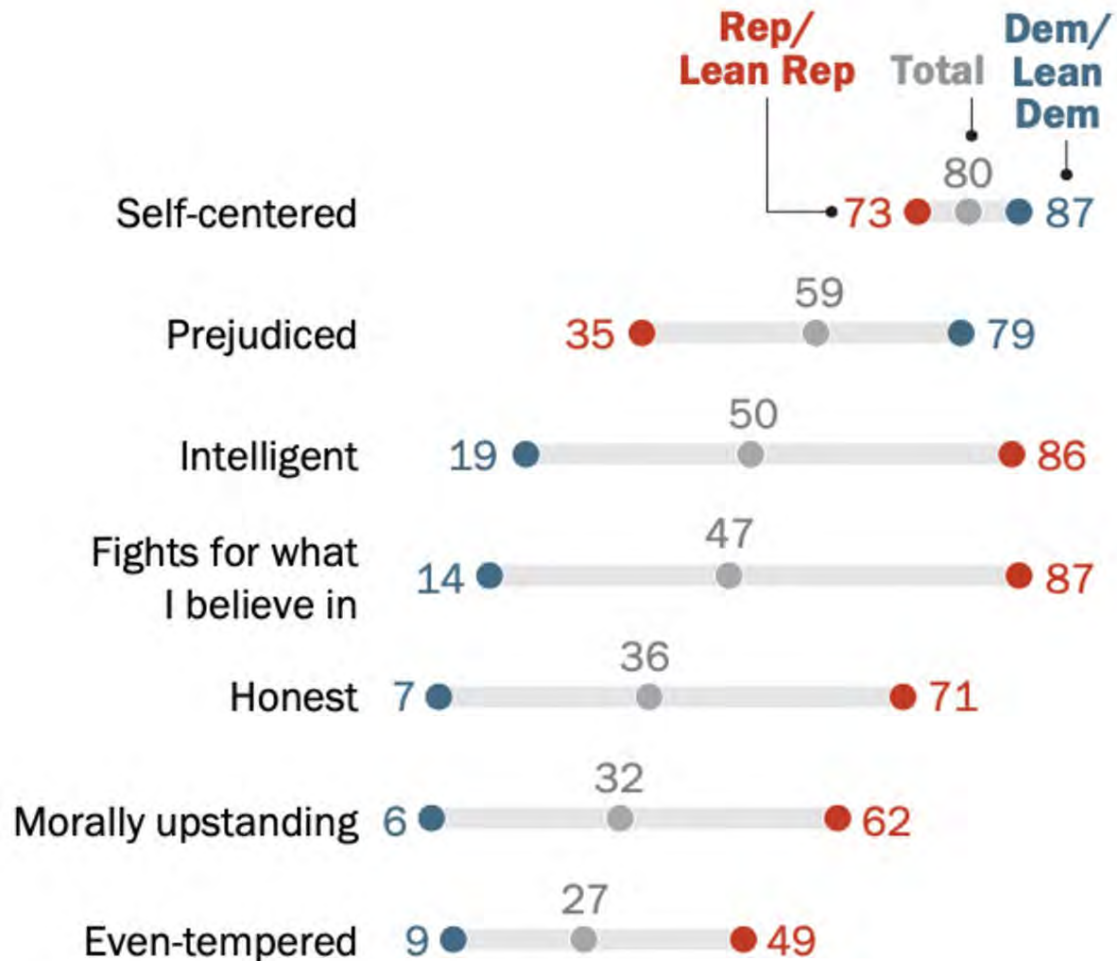
Eighty percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said they agree with Trump on many or nearly all of the important issues facing the country; the same percentage approve of his job performance [in the poll](#). But only 31 percent said they like the way Trump conducts himself as president. Half said they have mixed feelings, and 16 percent say they don't like his conduct.

Among the Republicans and GOP-leaning independents surveyed by Pew, 35 percent said he's prejudiced, 49 percent said he's even-tempered, 62 percent said he's morally upstanding and 71 percent said he's honest. But 87 percent said he fights for what they believe in. That's the key to his reservoir of support on the right.

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## Republicans widely view Trump as a fighter, but also self-centered

*% who say each describes Trump very or fairly well*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 4-15, 2020.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**

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**Trump's town hall on Thursday night in Scranton, Pa., which aired live on Fox News and focused extensively on the novel coronavirus outbreak, captured these dynamics in miniature.** The first audience question came from Katherine Pugh, an undecided voter, who said the Trump administration's initial response to

the coronavirus “seemed to some as being confusing or minimizing.” She wondered “what plans are being considered on a federal level for the possibility of a long-term disruption” from its spread. Rather than discuss what’s next, Trump focused on touting his initial response.

He credited his own moves with the relatively small death toll – he said 11 Americans have died, though the number is now 12 – compared to other countries. “Well, actually, we are being given really tremendous marks – you look at Gallup, you look at other polls – for the way we have handled it,” he said. “And one of the things I did is I closed down the borders to China and to other areas that are very badly affected. ... And I closed them down very early against the advice of almost everybody. And we have been given rave reviews.”

There is no public evidence that there was widespread opposition to the travel restrictions in the administration. Moreover, [the Gallup poll](#) Trump referred to, conducted from Feb. 3 to Feb. 16, did not ask about Trump’s handling of the situation. Instead, it asked Americans about their confidence in the federal government’s ability to handle an outbreak in the United States. A lot has changed in the past three weeks, including the seesawing stock market and a spike in the number of confirmed cases in the country. The Dow [fell](#) 700 points Friday morning in the first few minutes after the opening bell.

An Economist-YouGov poll conducted earlier this week found that 41 percent of Americans thought Trump’s policies were not taking the risks seriously enough. Another 34 percent said his policy was appropriate. This poll finds that 68 percent of Americans are now either “somewhat” or “very” concerned about a coronavirus epidemic in the United States, up from 62 percent in an Economist-YouGov survey last month.

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**Fox News anchor Bret Baier told Trump during the town hall that, while he's said he wants to take politics out of the crisis, the president also keeps blaming former president Barack Obama for delays in distributing test kits.** “Well, I don't blame anybody,” he said, before blaming Obama. “I want to get everybody to understand they made some decisions which were not good decisions. We inherited decisions that they made.”

**Trump added that his own performance will get criticized no matter what.** “If we found a cure, and everybody's better tomorrow morning at nine o'clock, they would say, he's done a terrible job,” he said. “It's just automatic. ... And we have done a great job. Again, we have gotten the highest poll numbers of anybody for this kind of a thing.”

**Fact-checker Glenn Kessler awards **Four Pinocchios** to Trump for his “bogus” effort to blame Obama for sluggish coronavirus testing:** “The administration has been under fire for its failure to quickly expand testing for coronavirus across the United States; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had distributed flawed tests to state and local health departments. The lack of tests, compared with countries like South Korea that have tested tens of thousands of people, has meant the



possible spread of the virus in the United States may be hidden.

“Trump suggested the problem instead was an ‘Obama rule’ on testing that his administration had recently overturned. But this turns out to be completely wrong. ...There was no Obama rule, simply ‘guidance’ that was never acted on because Congress stepped in and decided it would craft the necessary legislation, according to experts we consulted. The Trump administration, in fact, has been working with Congress on such legislation.”

**Baier asked Trump why he didn’t expedite testing when the world learned of the virus spreading in January.** “I’m thinking about a lot of other things too, like trade and millions of other things,” the president answered. “I mean, we are doing some job with the economy and all. So I’m not thinking about this. But as soon as I heard that China had a problem, I said, what’s going on with China? How many people are coming in? Nobody but me asked that question. ... And we were given A-pluses for that. ... Saved a lot of lives.”

Later in the town hall, a self-described “big supporter” of the president – identified by the network only as Robert – thanked Trump effusively for “everything that you have done for this country and continue to do for this country.” But then he lamented how “insult politics have become a staple of this political environment.” And he wondered: **“Could there be a way that we can deliver your message without the controversial rhetoric in efforts to reunite this country during these divisive times?”**

**Trump’s answer boiled down to no.** “When they hit us, we have to hit back,” he said. “I wouldn’t be sitting up here if I turned my cheek.” He added that Fox News wouldn’t be interviewing him if he wasn’t a counterpuncher because it’s good for ratings. “We get hit so hard,” Trump added. “If we don’t fight back, you won’t be a fan of mine very long. But I

appreciate the question. Thank you.” The crowd cheered. Robert applauded. And the Trump campaign war room quickly blasted out the clip.

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## The latest on the spread of coronavirus



### **A cruise ship with thousands aboard awaits test results.**

“The Grand Princess, which was returning to San Francisco after a two-week cruise to Hawaii, remained offshore and in limbo at the request of California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D). About 100 people were expected to be tested, among them 11 passengers and 10 crew members who have shown potential signs of covid-19,” [Reed Albergotti, Hannah Sampson and Brady Dennis report](#). “Even as the military ferried tests to the cruise ship and thousands of passengers waited uneasily on board, public health officials on land were investigating a cluster of coronavirus cases among the roughly 2,500 people who had taken an earlier cruise on the same ship. One of those passengers, a 71-year-old man, has since died of covid-19.

...**The virus spread to new states — including three cases in**

**Montgomery County, Md.** ... Meanwhile, the Senate on Thursday voted nearly unanimously to approve emergency spending to combat the coronavirus outbreak [and the president signed the measure on Friday morning.]

“But **many questions remain about just how prepared the country is for an expanded outbreak.** Vice President Pence, who on Tuesday said that any American with a doctor’s orders could get tested for the coronavirus, acknowledged Thursday that ‘we don’t have enough tests today to meet what we anticipate will be the demand going forward.’ Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told lawmakers Thursday that the government will have shipped enough tests by the end of the week for 75,000 people to be tested. ... Earlier in the week, the Trump administration said it could have 1 million tests ready by the end of the week.”

**Pence is reportedly sidelining Azar.** The health secretary wasn’t at a Wednesday televised briefing because officials wanted to make space for housing secretary Ben Carson on stage, [Politico reports](#). He was also left out of a Thursday trip to Washington state, which Pence and Azar allies said was because of “other commitments.”

**Globally, the virus has infected nearly 100,000 people and caused 3,200 deaths.**

“A French lawmaker tested positive; the Vatican reported its first case; the Netherlands recorded its first fatality; a rabbi was infected in New York state,” [Adam Taylor, Teo Armus and Rick Noack report](#). “Health officials in the Houston area reported two likely cases.”

- California ordered insurers to waive out-of-pocket costs for coronavirus testing. ([San Francisco Chronicle](#))
- A Chinese health expert said he expects the number of new infections in Wuhan, where the outbreak started, to decline to “near zero” by

the end of the month. ([Lyric Li](#))

- Coronavirus cases jumped from zero to four in Senegal this week, raising fears that upcoming religious festivals could fuel a wider outbreak. ([Danielle Paquette and Borso Tall](#))

## **Health-care workers are worried about protections against the virus.**

“Some advocates for health-care workers say hospital administrators are not adequately protecting their staff members. This week, National Nurses United (NNU), the largest labor union for nurses, said that only 30 percent of the 6,000 nurses it has surveyed in 48 states think their workplace has sufficient protective gear to handle an influx of coronavirus patients. Only 29 percent said their hospital or clinic has plans for isolating patients if they are infected,” [Katie Mettler, Arelis Hernández, William Wan and Lenny Bernstein](#) report.

## **A proposed regulation could protect these workers from the virus. It’s hanging in limbo.**

“The draft regulation would require employers to provide protective gear for health-care workers and to create infection-control plans, which could include building isolation rooms. The Obama administration was working to adopt the regulation, but the Trump administration in 2017 moved it to a less urgent, long-term agenda and work on it stopped,” [Kimberly Kindy](#) reports.

## **A New York college closed and others cancelled classes.**

Yeshiva University’s president announced a student had tested positive and classes would be canceled at their Washington Heights and Midtown campuses until after March 10. Lake Washington Institute of Technology closed on Sunday outside Seattle. [Susan Svrluga](#) reports that workers cleaned and disinfected the school on Monday and Tuesday, and the more than 20 students and faculty possibly exposed were advised to remain in

isolation for two weeks. The campus briefly reopened Wednesday — before closing again that night. A faculty member had tested positive for covid-19, the school announced, and the campus will close at least through the weekend.

**The Education Department issued guidance providing schools with the flexibility to accommodate students who studies are being upended by the outbreak.** For example, to help students continue their classes, the Education Department is allowing schools to temporarily expand their online learning programs or partner with other schools that can meet the demands, without requiring federal approval. ([Danielle Douglas-Gabriel](#))

### **A dog tested positive in Hong Kong.**

A pet dog in Hong Kong has a “low-level” infection of the coronavirus, in what may be the first known case. Public health officials say the virus “does not appear to infect or be spread by pets. But experts say much remains unknown about the dog’s infection, and they emphasized the lone case is not yet cause for alarm or reassessments about interactions with pets,” [Karin Brulliard reports](#).

### **Scientists were close to a coronavirus vaccine years ago. Then money dried up.**

“Dr. Peter Hotez says he made the pitch to anyone who would listen. After years of research, his team of scientists in Texas had helped develop a vaccine to protect against a deadly strain of coronavirus. Now they needed money to begin testing it in humans,” [NBC News reports](#). “But this was 2016. More than a decade had passed since the viral disease known as severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, had spread through China, killing more than 770 people. That disease, an earlier coronavirus similar to the one now sweeping the globe, was a distant memory by the time Hotez and his team sought funding to test whether their vaccine would

work in humans.”

## If you're quarantined, you can still eat well.

The Post's culinary team surveyed some of the country's best-known cooks for ideas on what people might stock up on in their pantries to prepare for a coronavirus quarantine. Celebrity author Padma Lakshmi suggests families stock up on frozen veggies and pick a weekend to cook huge batches of different dishes that are stew-y and freeze well, like turkey chili. Chef Nina Compton suggested keeping lots of snacks in the fridge, including pickles, nuts and frozen pizzas. For the pantry, have some bags of dried pasta, dried beans and rice. Chef and author Edward Lee said you should buy a few packets of instant ramen and glamorize them with frozen green beans, curry powder and some cheese.



## While you were sleeping



Afghan health workers walk with a wounded man from a hospital after gunmen attacked a political gathering in Kabul on Friday. (Jawad Jalali/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

**Gunfire at a Shiite gathering in Kabul left more than 20 dead and dozens wounded.** Afghan opposition leader Abdullah Abdullah was there, but he escaped the scene unhurt, according to his spokesman. The attack comes amid heightened political tensions in Afghanistan following disputed election results. Both the Afghan president and Abdullah had declared victory last month. ([Susannah George](#))

**Explosives that detonated near the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia were part of an apparent attack by two suicide bombers.** The large explosion injured six people, including five security agents and a woman, Tunisia's Interior Ministry said. ([Claire Parker and Sudarsan Raghavan](#))

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**2020 watch**



## Elizabeth Warren's exit raises questions about the role of women in politics.

“Now as Warren ... decides whether to endorse either of the two male candidates remaining, her supporters are left to contemplate a factor that many believe contributed significantly to her loss: She's female." [Annie Linskey and Amy Wang report](#). “It's not that Warren ran an error-free campaign... But her male counterparts made big mistakes as well. ... The exit by Warren, who spent much of 2019 leading in many polls, was a reminder of four years ago, when Hillary Clinton's loss sparked a national debate over whether a woman could ever win election to the country's



highest political office. ... 'Women will not be perceived by some as electable until we're elected,' said Valerie Jarrett, a top adviser to former president Barack Obama and a friend of Warren's."

Linskey asked Warren outside her home in Cambridge, Mass., about the role gender played in the race. "That is the trap question for every woman," the senator answered. "If you say, 'Yeah, there was sexism in this race,' everyone says, 'Whiner!' And if you say, 'No, there was no sexism,' about a bazillion women think, 'What planet do you live on?'"

"Warren's withdrawal also prompted other leading women in Washington to reflect on why the 'highest and hardest' glass ceiling that Clinton once talked about was still intact. 'Every time I get introduced as the most powerful woman in the United States, I almost cry, because I'm thinking, 'I wish that were not true,'" House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) told reporters. 'I so wish that we had a woman president.' ... Still, the Democratic primary has been unusually complicated this year, and many argue that other factors besides sexism were at play in Warren's fate. Her initial strategy rested on quickly consolidating the left, for example, [but many liberals] were more drawn to [Bernie] Sanders's brand of fiery democratic socialism."

Speaking to Rachel Maddow on MSNBC last night, Warren called out Sanders for not taking steps to control the "organized nastiness" of some of his supporters. ([Fred Barbash](#))

Many women saw Warren as one of them, [writes columnist Monica Hesse](#). "Finally, a presidential candidate who took things like maternal health and paid parental leave seriously, and who also knew exactly what Nora Ephron meant when she wrote that she felt bad about her neck. It was an impossible tightrope, but she made it look easy; she made most things look easy."

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## Quote of the day

*Bill Clinton discussed his extramarital affair with intern Monica Lewinsky in a new four-part documentary, "Hillary," that premiered this morning on Hulu. "You feel like you're staggering around — you've been in a 15-round prizefight that was extended to 30 rounds, and here's something that'll take your mind off it for a while. Everybody's life has pressures and disappointments and terrors, fears of whatever, things I did to manage my anxieties for years," the former president explained. "Nobody sits down and thinks, 'I think I'll take a really irresponsible risk.'" (NYT)*

### **Mike Bloomberg is forming an outside group to support the Democratic nominee.**

"Bloomberg has decided to form an independent expenditure campaign that will absorb hundreds of his presidential campaign staffers in six swing states to work to elect the Democratic nominee this fall," [Michael Scherer reports](#). "The group, with a name that is still undisclosed because its trademark application is in process, would also be a vehicle for Bloomberg to spend money on advertising to attack [Trump] and support the Democratic nominee..."

### **Monday was the day everything went Joe Biden's way, but the two days before that were full of intrigue.**

With news that Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar and Beto O'Rourke were interested in endorsing Biden, his campaign scrambled to "maximize a sense of drama and momentum that Biden's campaign had rarely, if ever, enjoyed," [Jenna Johnson, Matt Viser and Chelsea Janes report](#) in a tick-tock on the hours before the fateful day that secured Biden front-runner

status.

**Sanders canceled a speech scheduled for later today in Mississippi, where Biden is heavily favored, so he can focus on winning Michigan next Tuesday.** [The Detroit Free Press](#) endorsed Biden ahead of Michigan's primary next week. Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.) also backed the former vice president. Also happening in Michigan: "Former United Auto Workers President Gary Jones was charged with embezzling more than \$1 million, according to a criminal filing that indicates he will plead guilty," [the Detroit News reports](#).

**Previously unseen documents from a Soviet archive show how Moscow saw a chance for propaganda in Sanders's attempts to find a sister city in Russia when he was a Vermont mayor in the 1980s.** Sanders "wrote to a Soviet counterpart in a provincial city that he wanted the United States and the Soviet Union to 'live together as friends.' Unbeknown to him, his desire for friendship meshed with the efforts of Soviet officials in Moscow to 'reveal American imperialism as the main source of the danger of war,'" [the Times reports](#).

**Biden's team is eager to expand staff.** The campaign is scaling up and looking to tap into the pool of Democratic talent now available because of all the candidates who have recently dropped out, [the Times reports](#). "In the Democratic contest, any candidate who gets at least 15 percent statewide or in any congressional district gets a cut of the delegates at stake. In the abstract, it's a feature that rewards candidates who stick around and continue to campaign. In practice, though, it very quickly means that a candidate with a lead can hold it," [Philip Bump explains](#). "That's one of the reasons that [Biden] now has a significant advantage over [Sanders]."

**Mitt Romney could derail a GOP subpoena targeting the Bidens.**

“The Senate Homeland Security Committee is set to vote next Wednesday on a subpoena for records from a Democratic public relations firm related to the panel’s investigation of conflict-of-interest allegations against the Bidens. But [the Republican senator from Utah], a member of the panel, has hinted that he could vote against issuing the subpoena, noting the committee’s investigation might look political in nature given Biden’s resurgence and the increasing likelihood that he’ll become the Democratic presidential nominee,” [Politico reports](#).

### **Facebook took down deceptive Trump campaign ads – after initially allowing them.**

“The Trump ads urged Facebook users to ‘take the official 2020 Congressional District Census today,’ but despite the look and language of the ad, they were not related to the once-a-decade national count of U.S. citizens happening this year,” [Craig Timberg and Tara Bahrapour report](#). “Instead, the ads linked to a survey on the ‘Certified Website of President Donald J. Trump,’ which collected information and requested a donation. Facebook initially said it would permit the ads, ruling that they were clearly not a part of the U.S. census ... Facebook reversed its position hours later, saying that the ads indeed violated its policy against ‘misrepresentation of the dates, locations, times and methods for census participation.’”

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### **Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



Attorney General Bill Barr speaks during a news conference at the Department of Justice. (Mandel Ngan/AFP)

## **A federal judge criticized Barr's “lack of candor” in his summary of Mueller's conclusions.**

“U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton, overseeing a lawsuit brought by EPIC, a watchdog group, and BuzzFeed News, said he saw serious discrepancies between [Bill] Barr’s public statements about [Bob] Mueller’s findings and the public, partially redacted version of that report detailing the special counsel’s investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election,” [Spencer Hsu and Devlin Barrett report](#). “Because of those discrepancies, Walton ruled, the judge would conduct an independent review of Mueller’s full report to see whether the Justice Department’s redactions were appropriate. ... In his 23-page opinion, Walton said he had ‘grave concerns about the objectivity of the process’ that led up to the public release of the Mueller report. ... ‘Barr’s lack of candor specifically, call into question Attorney General Barr’s credibility,’ [he wrote]. The judge said he would not take Justice Department lawyers at their word that redactions in the report were all done for appropriate reasons.” [Walton was appointed by George W. Bush.]

## **On immigration, Barr is acting like his own Supreme Court.**

"Barr quietly intervened in an immigration asylum case last week when he issued a decision that narrowed the definition of torture for asylum seekers who invoke it as a grounds for staying in the United States," [Kim Bellware reports](#). "Barr used a process known as 'certification,' a historically little-used power of the attorney general that allows him to overrule decisions made by the Board of Immigration Appeals and set binding precedent. Immigration lawyers and judges say the Trump administration is using the power with greater frequency — to the point of abuse — as it seeks to severely limit the number of immigrants who can remain in the United States. The administration is also using it as a check on immigration judges whose decisions don't align with the administration's immigration agenda, experts say."

## **Trump's border crackdown stalled as illegal crossings increased for the first time in nine months.**

"U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials said 37,119 unauthorized border crossers were taken into custody in February, up from 36,660 in January. While the number of migrants arriving in family groups continues to decline, the number of single adult migrants from Mexico and unaccompanied children rose last month, the figures show," [Nick Miroff and Abigail Hauslohner report](#). Meanwhile, ICE is targeting "sanctuary cities" with increased surveillance. The agency's leadership has requested at least 500 special agents to joined an enhanced arrest campaign rolling out in these cities, per the [NYT](#).

## **A blind man failed the U.S. citizenship test because he couldn't read in English.**

"Born 100 percent blind, the 23-year-old legal permanent resident had been studying English for the past six years since coming to the United States from Mexico as a teenager," [Meagan Flynn reports](#). "He got a vision

exam by an optometrist so he could prove he is legally blind, asking in his application that he be given the test in Braille. ... But then came the big problem: the reading portion of the exam. The agent said they received his request for Braille, but, unfortunately, USCIS did not have Braille available. ... For the record, the officer gave him ‘three attempts to read a sentence’ in English, as USCIS describes it in a letter Delgado provided. And, predictably, whether the print was large or small, Delgado couldn’t read what he couldn’t see.”

**An ex-Nazi concentration camp guard, who’s lived in the U.S. since 1959, faces deportation.** An index card found submerged in a sunken ship in the Baltic Sea helped federal prosecutors prove their case that Friedrich Karl Berger, a German citizen and longtime Tennessee resident who acknowledged having served as a guard at a German concentration camp, had to be deported. He’s still receiving a German pension for work that includes his wartime service, per [Debbie Cenziper](#) and [Rachel Baldauf](#).

**Chuck Schumer expressed regret for calling out two Supreme Court justices.**

The Senate minority leader, a Democrat from New York, said Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh would “pay the price” for a vote against abortion rights on Wednesday, drawing the ire of Chief Justice John Roberts. While he defended his passion on the issue on the Senate floor on Thursday, Schumer conceded that his comments went too far. ([Paul Kane](#), [John Wagner](#), [Felicia Sonmez](#))

**Trump’s company charged the Secret Service \$157,000 more than was previously known.**

According to a new trove of receipts released by the agency, Trump billed taxpayers for rooms at his clubs at rates far higher than his company has claimed. [David Fahrenthold](#), [Joshua Partlow](#), [Jonathan O’Connell](#) and

**Carol D. Leonnig report:** “Many of the new receipts were obtained by the watchdog group Public Citizen, which spent three years battling the Secret Service over a public-records request from January 2017. When added to dozens of charges already reported by The Post, the new documents show that Trump’s company has charged the Secret Service more than \$628,000 since he took office in 2017. The payments show Trump has an unprecedented — and still partially hidden — business relationship with his own government. The full scope of that relationship is still unknown because the publicly available records are largely from 2017 and 2018, leaving huge gaps in the data.”

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## **Social media speed read**

A protester brought Nazi propaganda to a Sanders rally last night:



**Ruby Cramer** @rubycramer · 5h  
Reporters at Bernie Sanders's rally tonight in Phoenix witnessed multiple incidents involving protesters, including one who waved a large flag with a swastika on it. The man was immediately removed. Disturbing and scary.

Unclear if Sen. Sanders saw the flag.

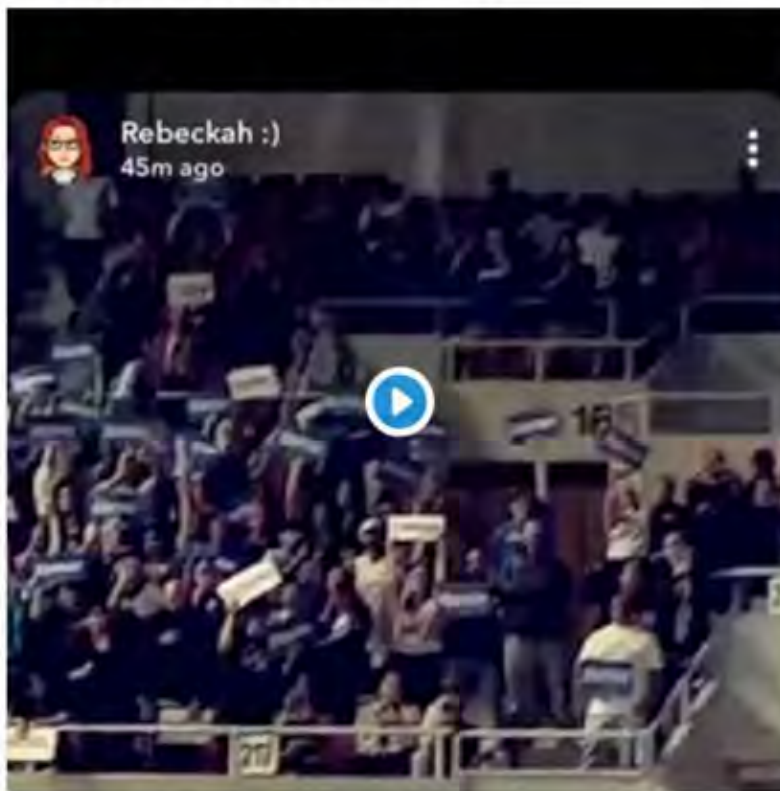
**Ruby Cramer** @rubycramer

Here is video of the incident. Incredibly disturbing. [twitter.com/siddakahuja/st...](https://twitter.com/siddakahuja/status/123456789)  
[twitter.com/siddakahuja/st...](https://twitter.com/siddakahuja/status/123456789)

**Siddak Ahuja** @SiddakAhuja

A man brought a literal Nazi flag to the rally of a Jewish Socialist candidate for President

He was escorted out by security forces



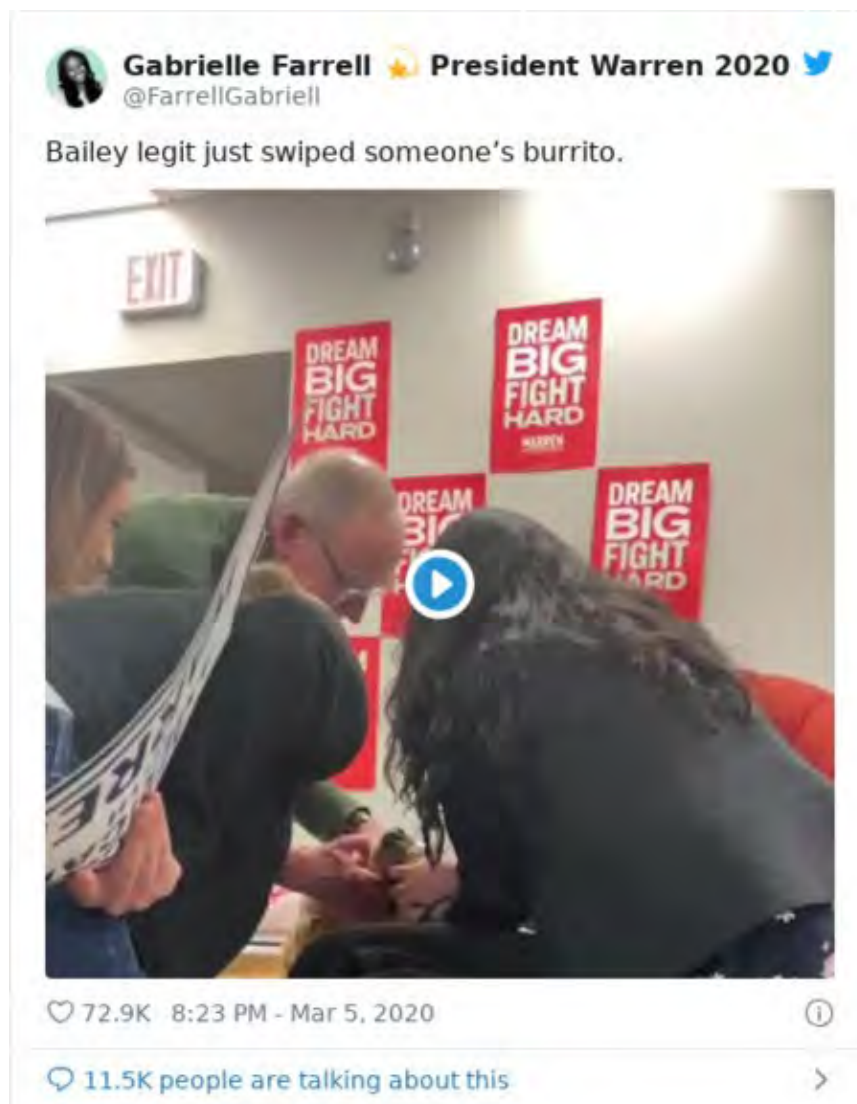
1,206 4:35 AM - Mar 6, 2020 · Phoenix, AZ

532 people are talking about this

“The moment, captured in videos and photos that circulated on social media Thursday night, was denounced as an act of anti-Semitism and

prompted increased concerns about Sanders’s safety on the campaign trail,” Allyson Chiu reports. “Sanders did not appear to see the flag as he thanked the crowd for coming out Thursday night. Videos showed him only turning around in time to witness the man being escorted out. ‘Whoever it was, I think they’re a little outnumbered tonight,’ he told the crowd with a smile.”

Warren’s dog, seemingly aware that he no longer has to be in the spotlight, broke his diet:



Harvard Law honored one of its former professors:



**Drew Goins** ✓

@drewgoins



The Elizabeth Warren portrait at Harvard Law right now



♥ 24.1K 11:22 PM - Mar 5, 2020



💬 3,646 people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert said Warren's exit from the race is proof that America "can't have nice things":



Trevor Noah said goodbye to Warren's campaign:



Seth Meyers said we need truth, transparency and testing when it comes to coronavirus, and he doesn't think we're going to get that from Trump:



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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

Presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield Association



By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Most of Trump's own supporters think he's self-centered. His coronavirus response helps show why.

A national survey published Thursday by the Pew Research Center showed that 73 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents believe “self-centered” describes President Trump either very or fairly well. Overall, 8 in 10 U.S. adults agree.

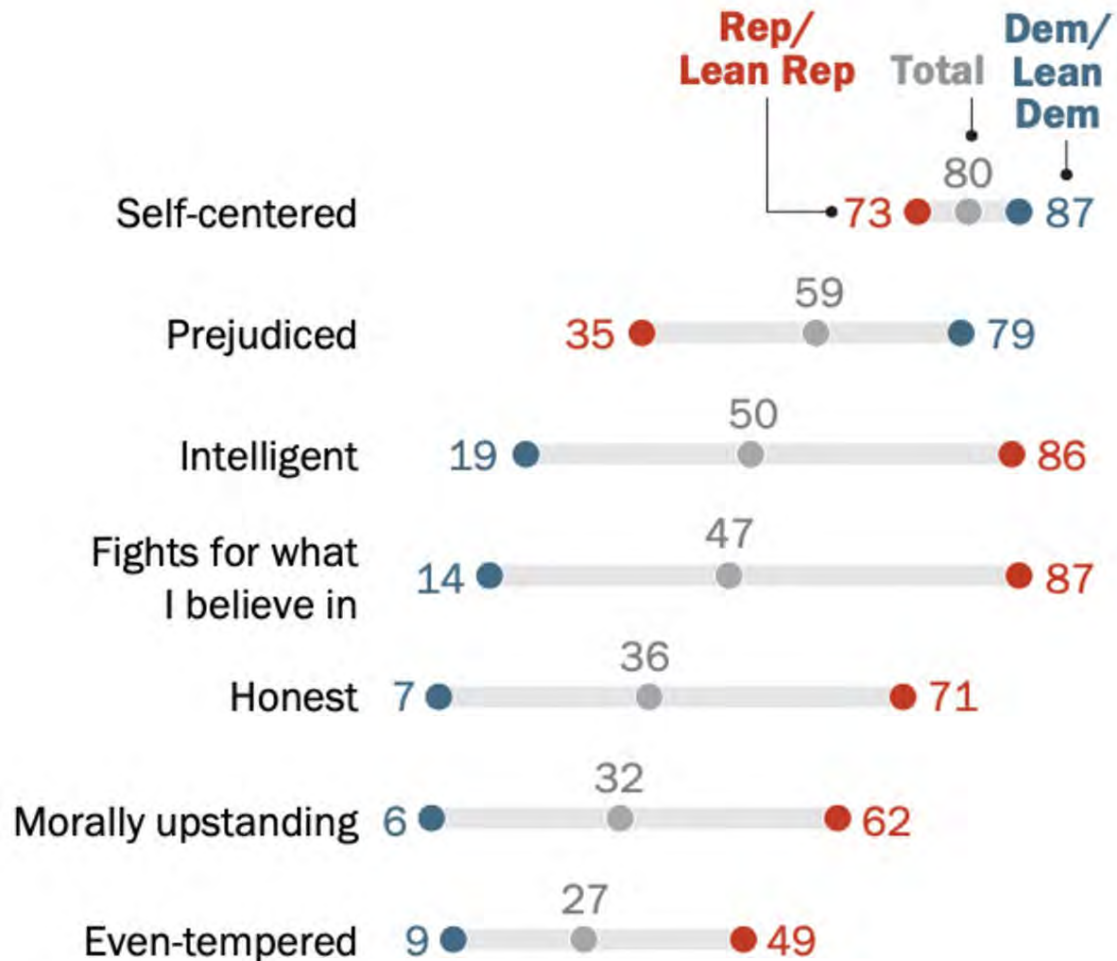
Eighty percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said they agree with Trump on many or nearly all of the important issues facing the country; the same percentage approve of his job performance [in the poll](#). But only 31 percent said they like the way Trump conducts himself as president. Half said they have mixed feelings, and 16 percent say they don't like his conduct.

Among the Republicans and GOP-leaning independents surveyed by Pew, 35 percent said he's prejudiced, 49 percent said he's even-tempered, 62 percent said he's morally upstanding and 71 percent said he's honest. But 87 percent said he fights for what they believe in. That's the key to his reservoir of support on the right.

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## Republicans widely view Trump as a fighter, but also self-centered

*% who say each describes Trump very or fairly well*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 4-15, 2020.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**

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**Trump's town hall on Thursday night in Scranton, Pa., which aired live on Fox News and focused extensively on the novel coronavirus outbreak, captured these dynamics in miniature.**

The first audience question came from Katherine Pugh, an undecided voter, who said the Trump administration's initial response to the



coronavirus “seemed to some as being confusing or minimizing.” She wondered “what plans are being considered on a federal level for the possibility of a long-term disruption” from its spread. Rather than discuss what’s next, Trump focused on touting his initial response.

He credited his own moves with the relatively small death toll – he said 11 Americans have died, though the number is now 12 – compared to other countries. “Well, actually, we are being given really tremendous marks – you look at Gallup, you look at other polls – for the way we have handled it,” he said. “And one of the things I did is I closed down the borders to China and to other areas that are very badly affected. ... And I closed them down very early against the advice of almost everybody. And we have been given rave reviews.”

There is no public evidence that there was widespread opposition to the travel restrictions in the administration. Moreover, [the Gallup poll](#) Trump referred to, conducted from Feb. 3 to Feb. 16, did not ask about Trump’s handling of the situation. Instead, it asked Americans about their confidence in the federal government’s ability to handle an outbreak in the United States. A lot has changed in the past three weeks, including the seesawing stock market and a spike in the number of confirmed cases in the country. The Dow [fell](#) 700 points Friday morning in the first few minutes after the opening bell.

An Economist-YouGov poll conducted earlier this week found that 41 percent of Americans thought Trump’s policies were not taking the risks seriously enough. Another 34 percent said his policy was appropriate. This poll finds that 68 percent of Americans are now either “somewhat” or “very” concerned about a coronavirus epidemic in the United States, up from 62 percent in an Economist-YouGov survey last month.

**Trump himself has emerged as the administration’s greatest obstacle to sending a clear and consistent message about the**

**coronavirus.** Leading public health experts from across the government have found their messages undercut, drowned out and muddled by Trump’s push to downplay the outbreak with a mix of optimism, bombast and pseudoscience, [Toluse Olorunnipa reports](#): “The president has repeatedly misstated the number of Americans who have tested positive for the virus and claimed it would ‘miraculously’ disappear in the spring. He has given a false timeline for the development of a vaccine, publicly questioned whether vaccinations for the flu could be used to treat the novel coronavirus and dismissed the World Health Organization’s coronavirus death rate estimate, substituting a much lower figure and citing a ‘hunch.’ On Wednesday night, Trump made an uncritical reference to people who continue to go to work while infected with the coronavirus — placing himself at odds with doctors who have strongly urged those with even minor symptoms to stay home.”



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**Fox News anchor Bret Baier told Trump during the town hall that, while he's said he wants to take politics out of the crisis, the president also keeps blaming former president Barack Obama for delays in distributing test kits.** “Well, I don't blame anybody,” he said, before blaming Obama. “I want to get everybody to understand they made some decisions which were not good decisions. We inherited decisions that they made.”

**Trump added that his own performance will get criticized no matter what.** “If we found a cure, and everybody's better tomorrow morning at nine o'clock, they would say, he's done a terrible job,” he said. “It's just automatic. ... And we have done a great job. Again, we have gotten the highest poll numbers of anybody for this kind of a thing.”

**Fact-checker Glenn Kessler awards **Four Pinocchios** to Trump for his “bogus” effort to blame Obama for sluggish coronavirus testing:** “The administration has been under fire for its failure to quickly expand testing for coronavirus across the United States; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had distributed flawed tests to state and local health departments. The lack of tests, compared with countries like South Korea that have tested tens of thousands of people, has meant the

possible spread of the virus in the United States may be hidden.

“Trump suggested the problem instead was an ‘Obama rule’ on testing that his administration had recently overturned. But this turns out to be completely wrong. ...There was no Obama rule, simply ‘guidance’ that was never acted on because Congress stepped in and decided it would craft the necessary legislation, according to experts we consulted. The Trump administration, in fact, has been working with Congress on such legislation.”


**Baier asked Trump why he didn’t expedite testing when the world learned of the virus spreading in January.** “I’m thinking about a lot of other things too, like trade and millions of other things,” the president answered. “I mean, we are doing some job with the economy and all. So I’m not thinking about this. But as soon as I heard that China had a problem, I said, what’s going on with China? How many people are coming in? Nobody but me asked that question. ... And we were given A-pluses for that. ... Saved a lot of lives.”

Later in the town hall, a self-described “big supporter” of the president – identified by the network only as Robert – thanked Trump effusively for “everything that you have done for this country and continue to do for this country.” But then he lamented how “insult politics have become a staple of this political environment.” And he wondered: **“Could there be a way that we can deliver your message without the controversial rhetoric in efforts to reunite this country during these divisive times?”**

**Trump’s answer boiled down to no.** “When they hit us, we have to hit back,” he said. “I wouldn’t be sitting up here if I turned my cheek.” He added that Fox News wouldn’t be interviewing him if he wasn’t a counterpuncher because it’s good for ratings. “We get hit so hard,” Trump added. “If we don’t fight back, you won’t be a fan of mine very long. But I

appreciate the question. Thank you.” The crowd cheered. Robert applauded. And the Trump campaign war room quickly blasted out the clip.

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## The latest on the spread of coronavirus



### **A cruise ship with thousands aboard awaits test results.**

“The Grand Princess, which was returning to San Francisco after a two-week cruise to Hawaii, remained offshore and in limbo at the request of California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D). About 100 people were expected to be tested, among them 11 passengers and 10 crew members who have shown potential signs of covid-19,” [Reed Albergotti, Hannah Sampson and Brady Dennis report](#). “Even as the military ferried tests to the cruise ship and thousands of passengers waited uneasily on board, public health officials on land were investigating a cluster of coronavirus cases among the roughly 2,500 people who had taken an earlier cruise on the same ship. One of those passengers, a 71-year-old man, has since died of covid-19.

...**The virus spread to new states — including three cases in**

**Montgomery County, Md.** ... Meanwhile, the Senate on Thursday voted nearly unanimously to approve emergency spending to combat the coronavirus outbreak [and the president signed the measure on Friday morning.]

“But **many questions remain about just how prepared the country is for an expanded outbreak.** Vice President Pence, who on Tuesday said that any American with a doctor’s orders could get tested for the coronavirus, acknowledged Thursday that ‘we don’t have enough tests today to meet what we anticipate will be the demand going forward.’ Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told lawmakers Thursday that the government will have shipped enough tests by the end of the week for 75,000 people to be tested. ... Earlier in the week, the Trump administration said it could have 1 million tests ready by the end of the week.”

**Pence is reportedly sidelining Azar.** The health secretary wasn’t at a Wednesday televised briefing because officials wanted to make space for housing secretary Ben Carson on stage, [Politico reports](#). He was also left out of a Thursday trip to Washington state, which Pence and Azar allies said was because of “other commitments.”

**Globally, the virus has infected nearly 100,000 people and caused 3,200 deaths.**

“A French lawmaker tested positive; the Vatican reported its first case; the Netherlands recorded its first fatality; a rabbi was infected in New York state,” [Adam Taylor, Teo Armus and Rick Noack report](#). “Health officials in the Houston area reported two likely cases.”

- California ordered insurers to waive out-of-pocket costs for coronavirus testing. ([San Francisco Chronicle](#))
- A Chinese health expert said he expects the number of new infections in Wuhan, where the outbreak started, to decline to “near zero” by

the end of the month. ([Lyric Li](#))

- Coronavirus cases jumped from zero to four in Senegal this week, raising fears that upcoming religious festivals could fuel a wider outbreak. ([Danielle Paquette and Borso Tall](#))

## **Health-care workers are worried about protections against the virus.**

“Some advocates for health-care workers say hospital administrators are not adequately protecting their staff members. This week, National Nurses United (NNU), the largest labor union for nurses, said that only 30 percent of the 6,000 nurses it has surveyed in 48 states think their workplace has sufficient protective gear to handle an influx of coronavirus patients. Only 29 percent said their hospital or clinic has plans for isolating patients if they are infected,” [Katie Mettler, Arelis Hernández, William Wan and Lenny Bernstein](#) report.

## **A proposed regulation could protect these workers from the virus. It’s hanging in limbo.**

“The draft regulation would require employers to provide protective gear for health-care workers and to create infection-control plans, which could include building isolation rooms. The Obama administration was working to adopt the regulation, but the Trump administration in 2017 moved it to a less urgent, long-term agenda and work on it stopped,” [Kimberly Kindy](#) reports.

## **A New York college closed and others cancelled classes.**

Yeshiva University’s president announced a student had tested positive and classes would be canceled at their Washington Heights and Midtown campuses until after March 10. Lake Washington Institute of Technology closed on Sunday outside Seattle. [Susan Svrluga](#) reports that workers cleaned and disinfected the school on Monday and Tuesday, and the more than 20 students and faculty possibly exposed were advised to remain in

isolation for two weeks. The campus briefly reopened Wednesday — before closing again that night. A faculty member had tested positive for covid-19, the school announced, and the campus will close at least through the weekend.

**The Education Department issued guidance providing schools with the flexibility to accommodate students who studies are being upended by the outbreak.** For example, to help students continue their classes, the Education Department is allowing schools to temporarily expand their online learning programs or partner with other schools that can meet the demands, without requiring federal approval. ([Danielle Douglas-Gabriel](#))

### **A dog tested positive in Hong Kong.**

A pet dog in Hong Kong has a “low-level” infection of the coronavirus, in what may be the first known case. Public health officials say the virus “does not appear to infect or be spread by pets. But experts say much remains unknown about the dog’s infection, and they emphasized the lone case is not yet cause for alarm or reassessments about interactions with pets,” [Karin Brulliard reports](#).

### **Scientists were close to a coronavirus vaccine years ago. Then money dried up.**

“Dr. Peter Hotez says he made the pitch to anyone who would listen. After years of research, his team of scientists in Texas had helped develop a vaccine to protect against a deadly strain of coronavirus. Now they needed money to begin testing it in humans,” [NBC News reports](#). “But this was 2016. More than a decade had passed since the viral disease known as severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, had spread through China, killing more than 770 people. That disease, an earlier coronavirus similar to the one now sweeping the globe, was a distant memory by the time Hotez and his team sought funding to test whether their vaccine would



work in humans.”

## If you're quarantined, you can still eat well.

The Post's culinary team surveyed some of the country's best-known cooks for ideas on what people might stock up on in their pantries to prepare for a coronavirus quarantine. Celebrity author Padma Lakshmi suggests families stock up on frozen veggies and pick a weekend to cook huge batches of different dishes that are stew-y and freeze well, like turkey chili. Chef Nina Compton suggested keeping lots of snacks in the fridge, including pickles, nuts and frozen pizzas. For the pantry, have some bags of dried pasta, dried beans and rice. Chef and author Edward Lee said you should buy a few packets of instant ramen and glamorize them with frozen green beans, curry powder and some cheese.



## While you were sleeping



Afghan health workers walk with a wounded man from a hospital after gunmen attacked a political gathering in Kabul on Friday. (Jawad Jalali/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

**Gunfire at a Shiite gathering in Kabul left more than 20 dead and dozens wounded.** Afghan opposition leader Abdullah Abdullah was there, but he escaped the scene unhurt, according to his spokesman. The attack comes amid heightened political tensions in Afghanistan following disputed election results. Both the Afghan president and Abdullah had declared victory last month. ([Susannah George](#))

**Explosives that detonated near the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia were part of an apparent attack by two suicide bombers.** The large explosion injured six people, including five security agents and a woman, Tunisia's Interior Ministry said. ([Claire Parker and Sudarsan Raghavan](#))

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## 2020 watch



## Elizabeth Warren's exit raises questions about the role of women in politics.

“Now as Warren ... decides whether to endorse either of the two male candidates remaining, her supporters are left to contemplate a factor that many believe contributed significantly to her loss: She's female." [Annie Linskey and Amy Wang report](#). “It's not that Warren ran an error-free campaign... But her male counterparts made big mistakes as well. ... The exit by Warren, who spent much of 2019 leading in many polls, was a reminder of four years ago, when Hillary Clinton's loss sparked a national debate over whether a woman could ever win election to the country's

highest political office. ... 'Women will not be perceived by some as electable until we're elected,' said Valerie Jarrett, a top adviser to former president Barack Obama and a friend of Warren's."

Linskey asked Warren outside her home in Cambridge, Mass., about the role gender played in the race. "That is the trap question for every woman," the senator answered. "If you say, 'Yeah, there was sexism in this race,' everyone says, 'Whiner!' And if you say, 'No, there was no sexism,' about a bazillion women think, 'What planet do you live on?'"

"Warren's withdrawal also prompted other leading women in Washington to reflect on why the 'highest and hardest' glass ceiling that Clinton once talked about was still intact. 'Every time I get introduced as the most powerful woman in the United States, I almost cry, because I'm thinking, 'I wish that were not true,'" House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) told reporters. 'I so wish that we had a woman president.' ... Still, the Democratic primary has been unusually complicated this year, and many argue that other factors besides sexism were at play in Warren's fate. Her initial strategy rested on quickly consolidating the left, for example, [but many liberals] were more drawn to [Bernie] Sanders's brand of fiery democratic socialism."

Speaking to Rachel Maddow on MSNBC last night, Warren called out Sanders for not taking steps to control the "organized nastiness" of some of his supporters. ([Fred Barbash](#))

Many women saw Warren as one of them, [writes columnist Monica Hesse](#). "Finally, a presidential candidate who took things like maternal health and paid parental leave seriously, and who also knew exactly what Nora Ephron meant when she wrote that she felt bad about her neck. It was an impossible tightrope, but she made it look easy; she made most things look easy."

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## Quote of the day

*Bill Clinton discussed his extramarital affair with intern Monica Lewinsky in a new four-part documentary, "Hillary," that premiered this morning on Hulu. "You feel like you're staggering around — you've been in a 15-round prizefight that was extended to 30 rounds, and here's something that'll take your mind off it for a while. Everybody's life has pressures and disappointments and terrors, fears of whatever, things I did to manage my anxieties for years," the former president explained. "Nobody sits down and thinks, 'I think I'll take a really irresponsible risk.'" (NYT)*

### **Mike Bloomberg is forming an outside group to support the Democratic nominee.**

"Bloomberg has decided to form an independent expenditure campaign that will absorb hundreds of his presidential campaign staffers in six swing states to work to elect the Democratic nominee this fall," [Michael Scherer reports](#). "The group, with a name that is still undisclosed because its trademark application is in process, would also be a vehicle for Bloomberg to spend money on advertising to attack [Trump] and support the Democratic nominee..."

### **Monday was the day everything went Joe Biden's way, but the two days before that were full of intrigue.**

With news that Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar and Beto O'Rourke were interested in endorsing Biden, his campaign scrambled to "maximize a sense of drama and momentum that Biden's campaign had rarely, if ever, enjoyed," [Jenna Johnson, Matt Viser and Chelsea Janes report](#) in a tick-tock on the hours before the fateful day that secured Biden front-runner status.

**Sanders canceled a speech scheduled for later today in Mississippi, where Biden is heavily favored, so he can focus on winning Michigan next Tuesday.** [The Detroit Free Press](#) endorsed Biden ahead of Michigan's primary next week. Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.) also backed the former vice president. Also happening in Michigan: "Former United Auto Workers President Gary Jones was charged with embezzling more than \$1 million, according to a criminal filing that indicates he will plead guilty," [the Detroit News reports](#).

**Previously unseen documents from a Soviet archive show how Moscow saw a chance for propaganda in Sanders's attempts to find a sister city in Russia when he was a Vermont mayor in the 1980s.** Sanders "wrote to a Soviet counterpart in a provincial city that he wanted the United States and the Soviet Union to 'live together as friends.' Unbeknown to him, his desire for friendship meshed with the efforts of Soviet officials in Moscow to 'reveal American imperialism as the main source of the danger of war,'" [the Times reports](#).

**Biden's team is eager to expand staff.** The campaign is scaling up and looking to tap into the pool of Democratic talent now available because of all the candidates who have recently dropped out, [the Times reports](#). "In the Democratic contest, any candidate who gets at least 15 percent statewide or in any congressional district gets a cut of the delegates at stake. In the abstract, it's a feature that rewards candidates who stick around and continue to campaign. In practice, though, it very quickly means that a candidate with a lead can hold it," [Philip Bump explains](#). "That's one of the reasons that [Biden] now has a significant advantage over [Sanders]."

**Mitt Romney could derail a GOP subpoena targeting the Bidens.**

“The Senate Homeland Security Committee is set to vote next Wednesday on a subpoena for records from a Democratic public relations firm related to the panel’s investigation of conflict-of-interest allegations against the Bidens. But [the Republican senator from Utah], a member of the panel, has hinted that he could vote against issuing the subpoena, noting the committee’s investigation might look political in nature given Biden’s resurgence and the increasing likelihood that he’ll become the Democratic presidential nominee,” [Politico reports](#).

### **Facebook took down deceptive Trump campaign ads – after initially allowing them.**

“The Trump ads urged Facebook users to ‘take the official 2020 Congressional District Census today,’ but despite the look and language of the ad, they were not related to the once-a-decade national count of U.S. citizens happening this year,” [Craig Timberg and Tara Bahrapour report](#). “Instead, the ads linked to a survey on the ‘Certified Website of President Donald J. Trump,’ which collected information and requested a donation. Facebook initially said it would permit the ads, ruling that they were clearly not a part of the U.S. census ... Facebook reversed its position hours later, saying that the ads indeed violated its policy against ‘misrepresentation of the dates, locations, times and methods for census participation.’”

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### **Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



Attorney General Bill Barr speaks during a news conference at the Department of Justice. (Mandel Ngan/AFP)

## **A federal judge criticized Barr's "lack of candor" in his summary of Mueller's conclusions.**

“U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton, overseeing a lawsuit brought by EPIC, a watchdog group, and BuzzFeed News, said he saw serious discrepancies between [Bill] Barr’s public statements about [Bob] Mueller’s findings and the public, partially redacted version of that report detailing the special counsel’s investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election,” [Spencer Hsu and Devlin Barrett report](#). “Because of those discrepancies, Walton ruled, the judge would conduct an independent review of Mueller’s full report to see whether the Justice Department’s redactions were appropriate. ... In his 23-page opinion, Walton said he had ‘grave concerns about the objectivity of the process’ that led up to the public release of the Mueller report. ... ‘Barr’s lack of candor specifically, call into question Attorney General Barr’s credibility,’ [he wrote]. The judge said he would not take Justice Department lawyers at their word that redactions in the report were all done for appropriate reasons.” [Walton was appointed by George W. Bush.]



## **On immigration, Barr is acting like his own Supreme Court.**

"Barr quietly intervened in an immigration asylum case last week when he issued a decision that narrowed the definition of torture for asylum seekers who invoke it as a grounds for staying in the United States," [Kim Bellware reports](#). "Barr used a process known as 'certification,' a historically little-used power of the attorney general that allows him to overrule decisions made by the Board of Immigration Appeals and set binding precedent. Immigration lawyers and judges say the Trump administration is using the power with greater frequency — to the point of abuse — as it seeks to severely limit the number of immigrants who can remain in the United States. The administration is also using it as a check on immigration judges whose decisions don't align with the administration's immigration agenda, experts say."

## **Trump's border crackdown stalled as illegal crossings increased for the first time in nine months.**

"U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials said 37,119 unauthorized border crossers were taken into custody in February, up from 36,660 in January. While the number of migrants arriving in family groups continues to decline, the number of single adult migrants from Mexico and unaccompanied children rose last month, the figures show," [Nick Miroff and Abigail Hauslohner report](#). Meanwhile, ICE is targeting "sanctuary cities" with increased surveillance. The agency's leadership has requested at least 500 special agents to joined an enhanced arrest campaign rolling out in these cities, per the [NYT](#).

## **A blind man failed the U.S. citizenship test because he couldn't read in English.**

"Born 100 percent blind, the 23-year-old legal permanent resident had been studying English for the past six years since coming to the United States from Mexico as a teenager," [Meagan Flynn reports](#). "He got a vision

exam by an optometrist so he could prove he is legally blind, asking in his application that he be given the test in Braille. ... But then came the big problem: the reading portion of the exam. The agent said they received his request for Braille, but, unfortunately, USCIS did not have Braille available. ... For the record, the officer gave him ‘three attempts to read a sentence’ in English, as USCIS describes it in a letter Delgado provided. And, predictably, whether the print was large or small, Delgado couldn’t read what he couldn’t see.”

**An ex-Nazi concentration camp guard, who’s lived in the U.S. since 1959, faces deportation.** An index card found submerged in a sunken ship in the Baltic Sea helped federal prosecutors prove their case that Friedrich Karl Berger, a German citizen and longtime Tennessee resident who acknowledged having served as a guard at a German concentration camp, had to be deported. He’s still receiving a German pension for work that includes his wartime service, per [Debbie Cenziper](#) and [Rachel Baldauf](#).

**Chuck Schumer expressed regret for calling out two Supreme Court justices.**

The Senate minority leader, a Democrat from New York, said Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh would “pay the price” for a vote against abortion rights on Wednesday, drawing the ire of Chief Justice John Roberts. While he defended his passion on the issue on the Senate floor on Thursday, Schumer conceded that his comments went too far. ([Paul Kane](#), [John Wagner](#), [Felicia Sonmez](#))

**Trump’s company charged the Secret Service \$157,000 more than was previously known.**

According to a new trove of receipts released by the agency, Trump billed taxpayers for rooms at his clubs at rates far higher than his company has claimed. [David Fahrenthold](#), [Joshua Partlow](#), [Jonathan O’Connell](#) and

**Carol D. Leonnig report:** “Many of the new receipts were obtained by the watchdog group Public Citizen, which spent three years battling the Secret Service over a public-records request from January 2017. When added to dozens of charges already reported by The Post, the new documents show that Trump’s company has charged the Secret Service more than \$628,000 since he took office in 2017. The payments show Trump has an unprecedented — and still partially hidden — business relationship with his own government. The full scope of that relationship is still unknown because the publicly available records are largely from 2017 and 2018, leaving huge gaps in the data.”

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## **Social media speed read**

A protester brought Nazi propaganda to a Sanders rally last night:

**Ruby Cramer** @rubycramer · 5h  
Reporters at Bernie Sanders's rally tonight in Phoenix witnessed multiple incidents involving protesters, including one who waved a large flag with a swastika on it. The man was immediately removed. Disturbing and scary.

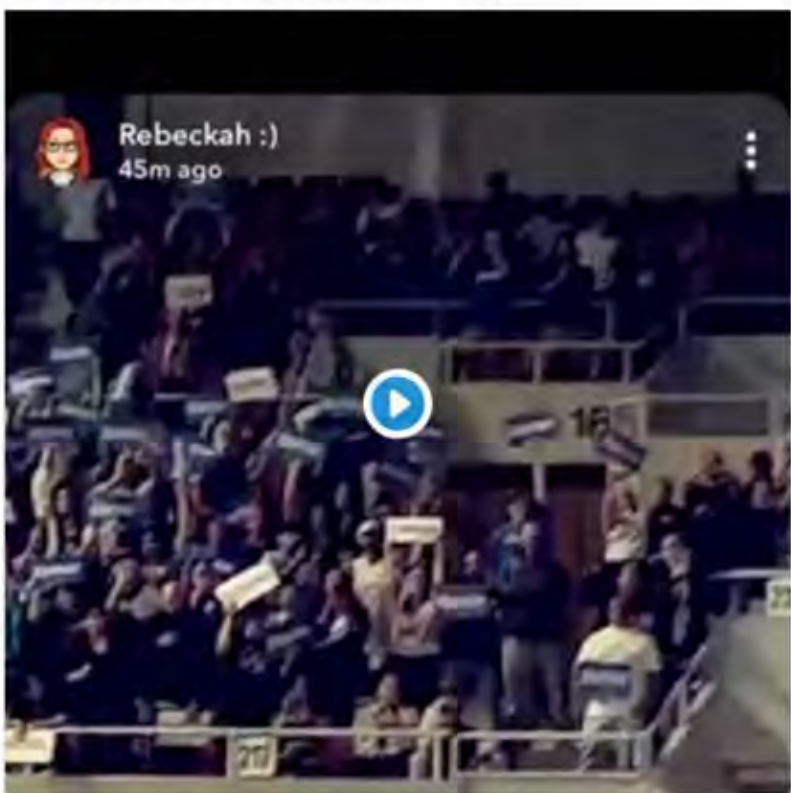
Unclear if Sen. Sanders saw the flag.

**Ruby Cramer** @rubycramer

Here is video of the incident. Incredibly disturbing. [twitter.com/siddakahuja/st...](https://twitter.com/siddakahuja/status/1234567890)  
[twitter.com/siddakahuja/st...](https://twitter.com/siddakahuja/status/1234567890)

**Siddak Ahuja** @SiddakAhuja  
A man brought a literal Nazi flag to the rally of a Jewish Socialist candidate for President

He was escorted out by security forces



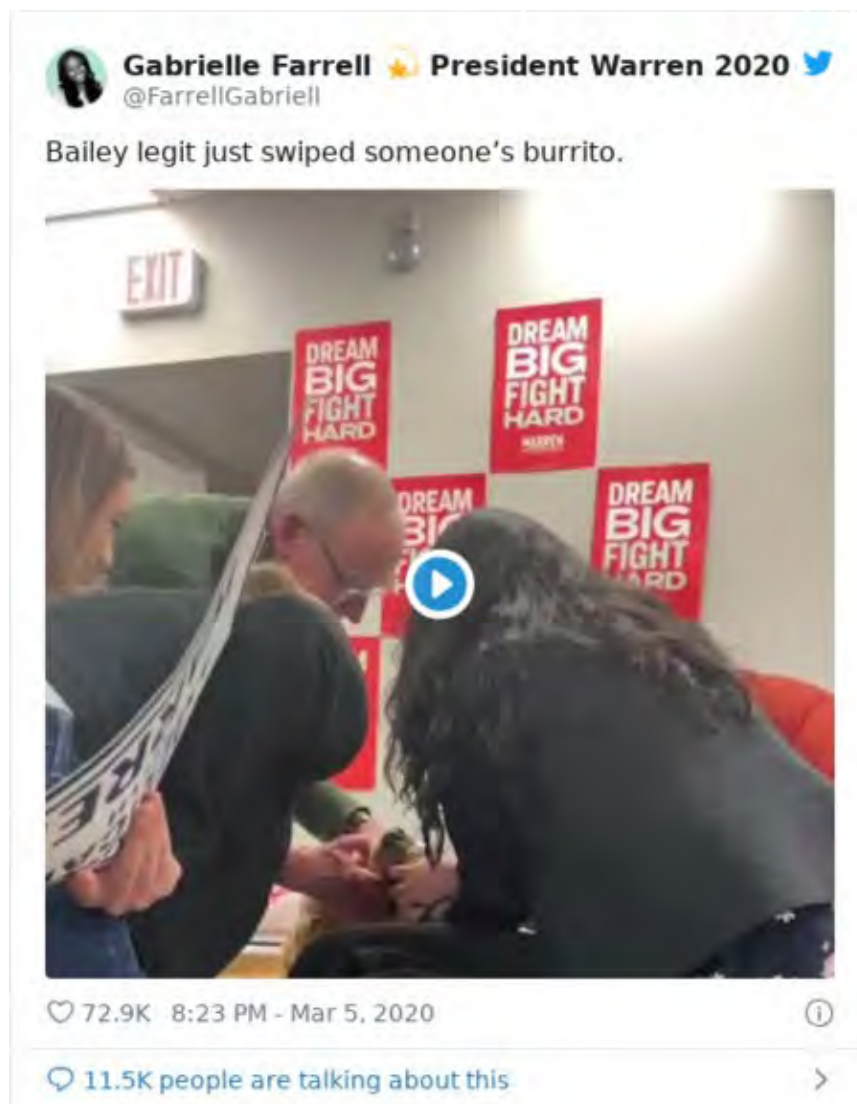
1,206 4:35 AM - Mar 6, 2020 · Phoenix, AZ

532 people are talking about this

“The moment, captured in videos and photos that circulated on social media Thursday night, was denounced as an act of anti-Semitism and

prompted increased concerns about Sanders's safety on the campaign trail," Allyson Chiu reports. "Sanders did not appear to see the flag as he thanked the crowd for coming out Thursday night. Videos showed him only turning around in time to witness the man being escorted out. 'Whoever it was, I think they're a little outnumbered tonight,' he told the crowd with a smile."

Warren's dog, seemingly aware that he no longer has to be in the spotlight, broke his diet:



Harvard Law honored one of its former professors:



**Drew Goins** ✓

@drewgoins



The Elizabeth Warren portrait at Harvard Law right now



♥ 24.1K 11:22 PM - Mar 5, 2020



💬 3,646 people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert said Warren's exit from the race is proof that America "can't have nice things":



Trevor Noah said goodbye to Warren's campaign:



Seth Meyers said we need truth, transparency and testing when it comes to coronavirus, and he doesn't think we're going to get that from Trump:



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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

Presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield Association



By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Most of Trump's own supporters think he's self-centered. His coronavirus response helps show why.

A national survey published Thursday by the Pew Research Center showed that 73 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents believe “self-centered” describes President Trump either very or fairly well. Overall, 8 in 10 U.S. adults agree.

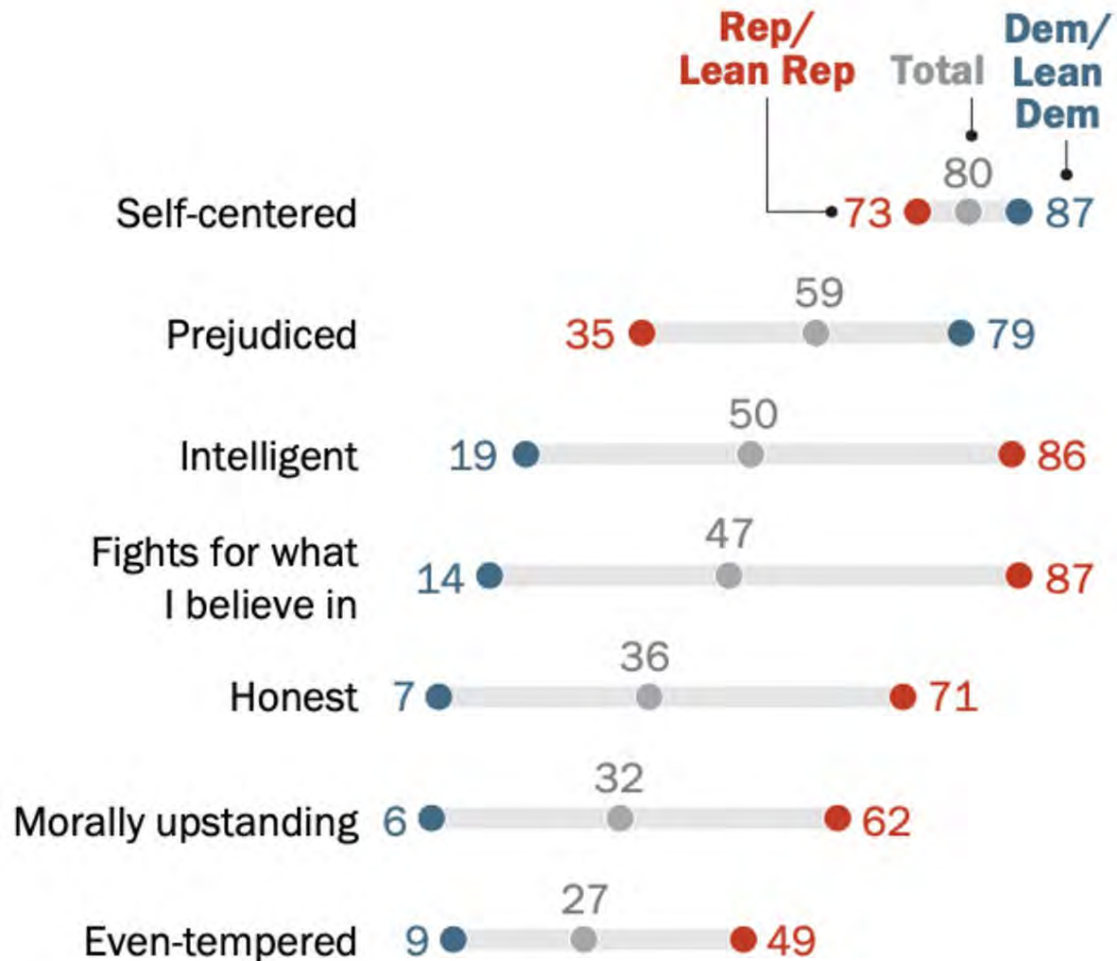
Eighty percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said they agree with Trump on many or nearly all of the important issues facing the country; the same percentage approve of his job performance [in the poll](#). But only 31 percent said they like the way Trump conducts himself as president. Half said they have mixed feelings, and 16 percent say they don't like his conduct.

Among the Republicans and GOP-leaning independents surveyed by Pew, 35 percent said he's prejudiced, 49 percent said he's even-tempered, 62 percent said he's morally upstanding and 71 percent said he's honest. But 87 percent said he fights for what they believe in. That's the key to his reservoir of support on the right.

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## Republicans widely view Trump as a fighter, but also self-centered

*% who say each describes Trump very or fairly well*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 4-15, 2020.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**

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**Trump's town hall on Thursday night in Scranton, Pa., which aired live on Fox News and focused extensively on the novel coronavirus outbreak, captured these dynamics in miniature.**

The first audience question came from Katherine Pugh, an undecided voter, who said the Trump administration's initial response to the

coronavirus “seemed to some as being confusing or minimizing.” She wondered “what plans are being considered on a federal level for the possibility of a long-term disruption” from its spread. Rather than discuss what’s next, Trump focused on touting his initial response.

He credited his own moves with the relatively small death toll – he said 11 Americans have died, though the number is now 12 – compared to other countries. “Well, actually, we are being given really tremendous marks – you look at Gallup, you look at other polls – for the way we have handled it,” he said. “And one of the things I did is I closed down the borders to China and to other areas that are very badly affected. ... And I closed them down very early against the advice of almost everybody. And we have been given rave reviews.”

There is no public evidence that there was widespread opposition to the travel restrictions in the administration. Moreover, [the Gallup poll](#) Trump referred to, conducted from Feb. 3 to Feb. 16, did not ask about Trump’s handling of the situation. Instead, it asked Americans about their confidence in the federal government’s ability to handle an outbreak in the United States. A lot has changed in the past three weeks, including the seesawing stock market and a spike in the number of confirmed cases in the country. The Dow [fell](#) 700 points Friday morning in the first few minutes after the opening bell.

An Economist-YouGov poll conducted earlier this week found that 41 percent of Americans thought Trump’s policies were not taking the risks seriously enough. Another 34 percent said his policy was appropriate. This poll finds that 68 percent of Americans are now either “somewhat” or “very” concerned about a coronavirus epidemic in the United States, up from 62 percent in an Economist-YouGov survey last month.

**Trump himself has emerged as the administration’s greatest obstacle to sending a clear and consistent message about the**

**coronavirus.** Leading public health experts from across the government have found their messages undercut, drowned out and muddled by Trump’s push to downplay the outbreak with a mix of optimism, bombast and pseudoscience, [Toluse Olorunnipa reports](#): “The president has repeatedly misstated the number of Americans who have tested positive for the virus and claimed it would ‘miraculously’ disappear in the spring. He has given a false timeline for the development of a vaccine, publicly questioned whether vaccinations for the flu could be used to treat the novel coronavirus and dismissed the World Health Organization’s coronavirus death rate estimate, substituting a much lower figure and citing a ‘hunch.’ On Wednesday night, Trump made an uncritical reference to people who continue to go to work while infected with the coronavirus — placing himself at odds with doctors who have strongly urged those with even minor symptoms to stay home.”



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**Fox News anchor Bret Baier told Trump during the town hall that, while he's said he wants to take politics out of the crisis, the president also keeps blaming former president Barack Obama for delays in distributing test kits.** “Well, I don't blame anybody,” he said, before blaming Obama. “I want to get everybody to understand they made some decisions which were not good decisions. We inherited decisions that they made.”

**Trump added that his own performance will get criticized no matter what.** “If we found a cure, and everybody's better tomorrow morning at nine o'clock, they would say, he's done a terrible job,” he said. “It's just automatic. ... And we have done a great job. Again, we have gotten the highest poll numbers of anybody for this kind of a thing.”

**Fact-checker Glenn Kessler awards **Four Pinocchios** to Trump for his “bogus” effort to blame Obama for sluggish coronavirus testing:** “The administration has been under fire for its failure to quickly expand testing for coronavirus across the United States; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had distributed flawed tests to state and local health departments. The lack of tests, compared with countries like South Korea that have tested tens of thousands of people, has meant the

possible spread of the virus in the United States may be hidden.

“Trump suggested the problem instead was an ‘Obama rule’ on testing that his administration had recently overturned. But this turns out to be completely wrong. ...There was no Obama rule, simply ‘guidance’ that was never acted on because Congress stepped in and decided it would craft the necessary legislation, according to experts we consulted. The Trump administration, in fact, has been working with Congress on such legislation.”


**Baier asked Trump why he didn’t expedite testing when the world learned of the virus spreading in January.** “I’m thinking about a lot of other things too, like trade and millions of other things,” the president answered. “I mean, we are doing some job with the economy and all. So I’m not thinking about this. But as soon as I heard that China had a problem, I said, what’s going on with China? How many people are coming in? Nobody but me asked that question. ... And we were given A-pluses for that. ... Saved a lot of lives.”

Later in the town hall, a self-described “big supporter” of the president – identified by the network only as Robert – thanked Trump effusively for “everything that you have done for this country and continue to do for this country.” But then he lamented how “insult politics have become a staple of this political environment.” And he wondered: **“Could there be a way that we can deliver your message without the controversial rhetoric in efforts to reunite this country during these divisive times?”**

**Trump’s answer boiled down to no.** “When they hit us, we have to hit back,” he said. “I wouldn’t be sitting up here if I turned my cheek.” He added that Fox News wouldn’t be interviewing him if he wasn’t a counterpuncher because it’s good for ratings. “We get hit so hard,” Trump added. “If we don’t fight back, you won’t be a fan of mine very long. But I

appreciate the question. Thank you.” The crowd cheered. Robert applauded. And the Trump campaign war room quickly blasted out the clip.

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## The latest on the spread of coronavirus



### **A cruise ship with thousands aboard awaits test results.**

“The Grand Princess, which was returning to San Francisco after a two-week cruise to Hawaii, remained offshore and in limbo at the request of California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D). About 100 people were expected to be tested, among them 11 passengers and 10 crew members who have shown potential signs of covid-19,” [Reed Albergotti, Hannah Sampson and Brady Dennis report](#). “Even as the military ferried tests to the cruise ship and thousands of passengers waited uneasily on board, public health officials on land were investigating a cluster of coronavirus cases among the roughly 2,500 people who had taken an earlier cruise on the same ship. One of those passengers, a 71-year-old man, has since died of covid-19.

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**Montgomery County, Md.** ... Meanwhile, the Senate on Thursday voted nearly unanimously to approve emergency spending to combat the coronavirus outbreak [and the president signed the measure on Friday morning.]

“But **many questions remain about just how prepared the country is for an expanded outbreak.** Vice President Pence, who on Tuesday said that any American with a doctor’s orders could get tested for the coronavirus, acknowledged Thursday that ‘we don’t have enough tests today to meet what we anticipate will be the demand going forward.’ Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told lawmakers Thursday that the government will have shipped enough tests by the end of the week for 75,000 people to be tested. ... Earlier in the week, the Trump administration said it could have 1 million tests ready by the end of the week.”

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- Coronavirus cases jumped from zero to four in Senegal this week, raising fears that upcoming religious festivals could fuel a wider outbreak. ([Danielle Paquette and Borso Tall](#))

## **Health-care workers are worried about protections against the virus.**

“Some advocates for health-care workers say hospital administrators are not adequately protecting their staff members. This week, National Nurses United (NNU), the largest labor union for nurses, said that only 30 percent of the 6,000 nurses it has surveyed in 48 states think their workplace has sufficient protective gear to handle an influx of coronavirus patients. Only 29 percent said their hospital or clinic has plans for isolating patients if they are infected,” [Katie Mettler, Arelis Hernández, William Wan and Lenny Bernstein](#) report.

## **A proposed regulation could protect these workers from the virus. It’s hanging in limbo.**

“The draft regulation would require employers to provide protective gear for health-care workers and to create infection-control plans, which could include building isolation rooms. The Obama administration was working to adopt the regulation, but the Trump administration in 2017 moved it to a less urgent, long-term agenda and work on it stopped,” [Kimberly Kindy](#) reports.

## **A New York college closed and others cancelled classes.**

Yeshiva University’s president announced a student had tested positive and classes would be canceled at their Washington Heights and Midtown campuses until after March 10. Lake Washington Institute of Technology closed on Sunday outside Seattle. [Susan Svrluga](#) reports that workers cleaned and disinfected the school on Monday and Tuesday, and the more than 20 students and faculty possibly exposed were advised to remain in

isolation for two weeks. The campus briefly reopened Wednesday — before closing again that night. A faculty member had tested positive for covid-19, the school announced, and the campus will close at least through the weekend.

**The Education Department issued guidance providing schools with the flexibility to accommodate students who studies are being upended by the outbreak.** For example, to help students continue their classes, the Education Department is allowing schools to temporarily expand their online learning programs or partner with other schools that can meet the demands, without requiring federal approval. ([Danielle Douglas-Gabriel](#))

### **A dog tested positive in Hong Kong.**

A pet dog in Hong Kong has a “low-level” infection of the coronavirus, in what may be the first known case. Public health officials say the virus “does not appear to infect or be spread by pets. But experts say much remains unknown about the dog’s infection, and they emphasized the lone case is not yet cause for alarm or reassessments about interactions with pets,” [Karin Brulliard reports](#).

### **Scientists were close to a coronavirus vaccine years ago. Then money dried up.**

“Dr. Peter Hotez says he made the pitch to anyone who would listen. After years of research, his team of scientists in Texas had helped develop a vaccine to protect against a deadly strain of coronavirus. Now they needed money to begin testing it in humans,” [NBC News reports](#). “But this was 2016. More than a decade had passed since the viral disease known as severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, had spread through China, killing more than 770 people. That disease, an earlier coronavirus similar to the one now sweeping the globe, was a distant memory by the time Hotez and his team sought funding to test whether their vaccine would

work in humans.”

## If you're quarantined, you can still eat well.

The Post's culinary team surveyed some of the country's best-known cooks for ideas on what people might stock up on in their pantries to prepare for a coronavirus quarantine. Celebrity author Padma Lakshmi suggests families stock up on frozen veggies and pick a weekend to cook huge batches of different dishes that are stew-y and freeze well, like turkey chili. Chef Nina Compton suggested keeping lots of snacks in the fridge, including pickles, nuts and frozen pizzas. For the pantry, have some bags of dried pasta, dried beans and rice. Chef and author Edward Lee said you should buy a few packets of instant ramen and glamorize them with frozen green beans, curry powder and some cheese.



## While you were sleeping



Afghan health workers walk with a wounded man from a hospital after gunmen attacked a political gathering in Kabul on Friday. (Jawad Jalali/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

**Gunfire at a Shiite gathering in Kabul left more than 20 dead and dozens wounded.** Afghan opposition leader Abdullah Abdullah was there, but he escaped the scene unhurt, according to his spokesman. The attack comes amid heightened political tensions in Afghanistan following disputed election results. Both the Afghan president and Abdullah had declared victory last month. ([Susannah George](#))

**Explosives that detonated near the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia were part of an apparent attack by two suicide bombers.** The large explosion injured six people, including five security agents and a woman, Tunisia's Interior Ministry said. ([Claire Parker and Sudarsan Raghavan](#))

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## 2020 watch



## Elizabeth Warren's exit raises questions about the role of women in politics.

“Now as Warren ... decides whether to endorse either of the two male candidates remaining, her supporters are left to contemplate a factor that many believe contributed significantly to her loss: She's female." [Annie Linskey and Amy Wang report](#). “It's not that Warren ran an error-free campaign... But her male counterparts made big mistakes as well. ... The exit by Warren, who spent much of 2019 leading in many polls, was a reminder of four years ago, when Hillary Clinton's loss sparked a national debate over whether a woman could ever win election to the country's

highest political office. ... 'Women will not be perceived by some as electable until we're elected,' said Valerie Jarrett, a top adviser to former president Barack Obama and a friend of Warren's."

Linskey asked Warren outside her home in Cambridge, Mass., about the role gender played in the race. "That is the trap question for every woman," the senator answered. "If you say, 'Yeah, there was sexism in this race,' everyone says, 'Whiner!' And if you say, 'No, there was no sexism,' about a bazillion women think, 'What planet do you live on?'"

"Warren's withdrawal also prompted other leading women in Washington to reflect on why the 'highest and hardest' glass ceiling that Clinton once talked about was still intact. 'Every time I get introduced as the most powerful woman in the United States, I almost cry, because I'm thinking, 'I wish that were not true,'" House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) told reporters. 'I so wish that we had a woman president.' ... Still, the Democratic primary has been unusually complicated this year, and many argue that other factors besides sexism were at play in Warren's fate. Her initial strategy rested on quickly consolidating the left, for example, [but many liberals] were more drawn to [Bernie] Sanders's brand of fiery democratic socialism."

Speaking to Rachel Maddow on MSNBC last night, Warren called out Sanders for not taking steps to control the "organized nastiness" of some of his supporters. ([Fred Barbash](#))

Many women saw Warren as one of them, [writes columnist Monica Hesse](#). "Finally, a presidential candidate who took things like maternal health and paid parental leave seriously, and who also knew exactly what Nora Ephron meant when she wrote that she felt bad about her neck. It was an impossible tightrope, but she made it look easy; she made most things look easy."

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## Quote of the day

*Bill Clinton discussed his extramarital affair with intern Monica Lewinsky in a new four-part documentary, "Hillary," that premiered this morning on Hulu. "You feel like you're staggering around — you've been in a 15-round prizefight that was extended to 30 rounds, and here's something that'll take your mind off it for a while. Everybody's life has pressures and disappointments and terrors, fears of whatever, things I did to manage my anxieties for years," the former president explained. "Nobody sits down and thinks, 'I think I'll take a really irresponsible risk.'" (NYT)*

### **Mike Bloomberg is forming an outside group to support the Democratic nominee.**

"Bloomberg has decided to form an independent expenditure campaign that will absorb hundreds of his presidential campaign staffers in six swing states to work to elect the Democratic nominee this fall," [Michael Scherer reports](#). "The group, with a name that is still undisclosed because its trademark application is in process, would also be a vehicle for Bloomberg to spend money on advertising to attack [Trump] and support the Democratic nominee..."

### **Monday was the day everything went Joe Biden's way, but the two days before that were full of intrigue.**

With news that Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar and Beto O'Rourke were interested in endorsing Biden, his campaign scrambled to "maximize a sense of drama and momentum that Biden's campaign had rarely, if ever, enjoyed," [Jenna Johnson, Matt Viser and Chelsea Janes report](#) in a tick-tock on the hours before the fateful day that secured Biden front-runner status.



**Sanders canceled a speech scheduled for later today in Mississippi, where Biden is heavily favored, so he can focus on winning Michigan next Tuesday.** [The Detroit Free Press](#) endorsed Biden ahead of Michigan's primary next week. Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.) also backed the former vice president. Also happening in Michigan: "Former United Auto Workers President Gary Jones was charged with embezzling more than \$1 million, according to a criminal filing that indicates he will plead guilty," [the Detroit News reports](#).

**Previously unseen documents from a Soviet archive show how Moscow saw a chance for propaganda in Sanders's attempts to find a sister city in Russia when he was a Vermont mayor in the 1980s.** Sanders "wrote to a Soviet counterpart in a provincial city that he wanted the United States and the Soviet Union to 'live together as friends.' Unbeknown to him, his desire for friendship meshed with the efforts of Soviet officials in Moscow to 'reveal American imperialism as the main source of the danger of war,'" [the Times reports](#).

**Biden's team is eager to expand staff.** The campaign is scaling up and looking to tap into the pool of Democratic talent now available because of all the candidates who have recently dropped out, [the Times reports](#). "In the Democratic contest, any candidate who gets at least 15 percent statewide or in any congressional district gets a cut of the delegates at stake. In the abstract, it's a feature that rewards candidates who stick around and continue to campaign. In practice, though, it very quickly means that a candidate with a lead can hold it," [Philip Bump explains](#). "That's one of the reasons that [Biden] now has a significant advantage over [Sanders]."

**Mitt Romney could derail a GOP subpoena targeting the Bidens.**

“The Senate Homeland Security Committee is set to vote next Wednesday on a subpoena for records from a Democratic public relations firm related to the panel’s investigation of conflict-of-interest allegations against the Bidens. But [the Republican senator from Utah], a member of the panel, has hinted that he could vote against issuing the subpoena, noting the committee’s investigation might look political in nature given Biden’s resurgence and the increasing likelihood that he’ll become the Democratic presidential nominee,” [Politico reports](#).

### **Facebook took down deceptive Trump campaign ads – after initially allowing them.**

“The Trump ads urged Facebook users to ‘take the official 2020 Congressional District Census today,’ but despite the look and language of the ad, they were not related to the once-a-decade national count of U.S. citizens happening this year,” [Craig Timberg and Tara Bahrapour report](#). “Instead, the ads linked to a survey on the ‘Certified Website of President Donald J. Trump,’ which collected information and requested a donation. Facebook initially said it would permit the ads, ruling that they were clearly not a part of the U.S. census ... Facebook reversed its position hours later, saying that the ads indeed violated its policy against ‘misrepresentation of the dates, locations, times and methods for census participation.’”

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## **Domestic developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



Attorney General Bill Barr speaks during a news conference at the Department of Justice. (Mandel Ngan/AFP)

## **A federal judge criticized Barr's “lack of candor” in his summary of Mueller's conclusions.**

“U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton, overseeing a lawsuit brought by EPIC, a watchdog group, and BuzzFeed News, said he saw serious discrepancies between [Bill] Barr’s public statements about [Bob] Mueller’s findings and the public, partially redacted version of that report detailing the special counsel’s investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election,” [Spencer Hsu and Devlin Barrett report](#). “Because of those discrepancies, Walton ruled, the judge would conduct an independent review of Mueller’s full report to see whether the Justice Department’s redactions were appropriate. ... In his 23-page opinion, Walton said he had ‘grave concerns about the objectivity of the process’ that led up to the public release of the Mueller report. ... ‘Barr’s lack of candor specifically, call into question Attorney General Barr’s credibility,’ [he wrote]. The judge said he would not take Justice Department lawyers at their word that redactions in the report were all done for appropriate reasons.” [Walton was appointed by George W. Bush.]

## **On immigration, Barr is acting like his own Supreme Court.**

"Barr quietly intervened in an immigration asylum case last week when he issued a decision that narrowed the definition of torture for asylum seekers who invoke it as a grounds for staying in the United States," [Kim Bellware reports](#). "Barr used a process known as 'certification,' a historically little-used power of the attorney general that allows him to overrule decisions made by the Board of Immigration Appeals and set binding precedent. Immigration lawyers and judges say the Trump administration is using the power with greater frequency — to the point of abuse — as it seeks to severely limit the number of immigrants who can remain in the United States. The administration is also using it as a check on immigration judges whose decisions don't align with the administration's immigration agenda, experts say."

## **Trump's border crackdown stalled as illegal crossings increased for the first time in nine months.**

"U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials said 37,119 unauthorized border crossers were taken into custody in February, up from 36,660 in January. While the number of migrants arriving in family groups continues to decline, the number of single adult migrants from Mexico and unaccompanied children rose last month, the figures show," [Nick Miroff and Abigail Hauslohner report](#). Meanwhile, ICE is targeting "sanctuary cities" with increased surveillance. The agency's leadership has requested at least 500 special agents to joined an enhanced arrest campaign rolling out in these cities, per the [NYT](#).

## **A blind man failed the U.S. citizenship test because he couldn't read in English.**

"Born 100 percent blind, the 23-year-old legal permanent resident had been studying English for the past six years since coming to the United States from Mexico as a teenager," [Meagan Flynn reports](#). "He got a vision

exam by an optometrist so he could prove he is legally blind, asking in his application that he be given the test in Braille. ... But then came the big problem: the reading portion of the exam. The agent said they received his request for Braille, but, unfortunately, USCIS did not have Braille available. ... For the record, the officer gave him ‘three attempts to read a sentence’ in English, as USCIS describes it in a letter Delgado provided. And, predictably, whether the print was large or small, Delgado couldn’t read what he couldn’t see.”

**An ex-Nazi concentration camp guard, who’s lived in the U.S. since 1959, faces deportation.** An index card found submerged in a sunken ship in the Baltic Sea helped federal prosecutors prove their case that Friedrich Karl Berger, a German citizen and longtime Tennessee resident who acknowledged having served as a guard at a German concentration camp, had to be deported. He’s still receiving a German pension for work that includes his wartime service, per [Debbie Cenziper](#) and [Rachel Baldauf](#).

**Chuck Schumer expressed regret for calling out two Supreme Court justices.**

The Senate minority leader, a Democrat from New York, said Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh would “pay the price” for a vote against abortion rights on Wednesday, drawing the ire of Chief Justice John Roberts. While he defended his passion on the issue on the Senate floor on Thursday, Schumer conceded that his comments went too far. ([Paul Kane](#), [John Wagner](#), [Felicia Sonmez](#))

**Trump’s company charged the Secret Service \$157,000 more than was previously known.**

According to a new trove of receipts released by the agency, Trump billed taxpayers for rooms at his clubs at rates far higher than his company has claimed. [David Fahrenthold](#), [Joshua Partlow](#), [Jonathan O’Connell](#) and

**Carol D. Leonnig report:** “Many of the new receipts were obtained by the watchdog group Public Citizen, which spent three years battling the Secret Service over a public-records request from January 2017. When added to dozens of charges already reported by The Post, the new documents show that Trump’s company has charged the Secret Service more than \$628,000 since he took office in 2017. The payments show Trump has an unprecedented — and still partially hidden — business relationship with his own government. The full scope of that relationship is still unknown because the publicly available records are largely from 2017 and 2018, leaving huge gaps in the data.”

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## **Social media speed read**

A protester brought Nazi propaganda to a Sanders rally last night:

**Ruby Cramer** @rubycramer · 5h  
Reporters at Bernie Sanders's rally tonight in Phoenix witnessed multiple incidents involving protesters, including one who waved a large flag with a swastika on it. The man was immediately removed. Disturbing and scary.

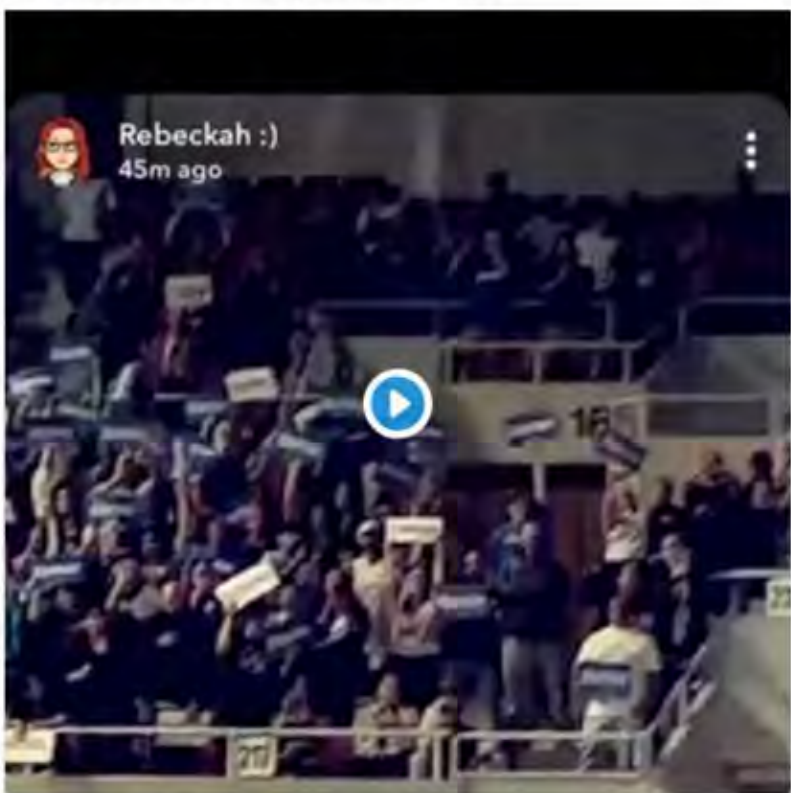
Unclear if Sen. Sanders saw the flag.

**Ruby Cramer** @rubycramer

Here is video of the incident. Incredibly disturbing. [twitter.com/siddakahuja/st...](https://twitter.com/siddakahuja/status/1234567890)  
[twitter.com/siddakahuja/st...](https://twitter.com/siddakahuja/status/1234567890)

**Siddak Ahuja** @SiddakAhuja  
A man brought a literal Nazi flag to the rally of a Jewish Socialist candidate for President

He was escorted out by security forces



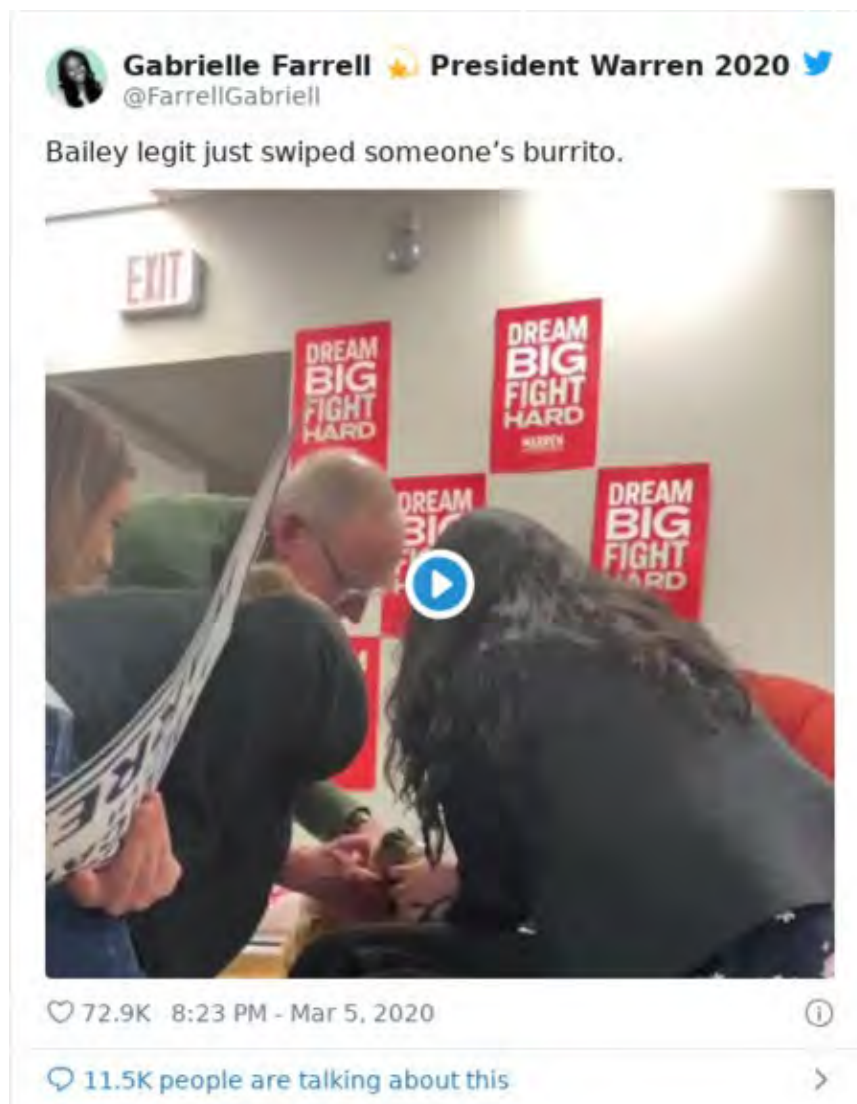
1,206 4:35 AM - Mar 6, 2020 · Phoenix, AZ

532 people are talking about this

“The moment, captured in videos and photos that circulated on social media Thursday night, was denounced as an act of anti-Semitism and

prompted increased concerns about Sanders’s safety on the campaign trail,” Allyson Chiu reports. “Sanders did not appear to see the flag as he thanked the crowd for coming out Thursday night. Videos showed him only turning around in time to witness the man being escorted out. ‘Whoever it was, I think they’re a little outnumbered tonight,’ he told the crowd with a smile.”

Warren’s dog, seemingly aware that he no longer has to be in the spotlight, broke his diet:



Harvard Law honored one of its former professors:





**Drew Goins** ✓

@drewgoins



The Elizabeth Warren portrait at Harvard Law right now



♥ 24.1K 11:22 PM - Mar 5, 2020



💬 3,646 people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert said Warren's exit from the race is proof that America "can't have nice things":



Trevor Noah said goodbye to Warren's campaign:



Seth Meyers said we need truth, transparency and testing when it comes to coronavirus, and he doesn't think we're going to get that from Trump:



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# The Week in Ideas

Opinions you may have missed.



By [Fred Hiatt](#)  
✉ [Email](#)

China kidnapped Angela Gui's father, held him mostly incommunicado for four years, and last month sentenced him to 10 more years in prison. [Here Gui tells how she heard the news](#) — and explains why we should all care that “anyone, of any nationality, could travel to China, be detained and then be forced to renounce their citizenship and any rights protected by it. Or, as in my father's case, one doesn't even need to travel to China.”

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- Our satirist [Alexandra Petri writes from the vantage point of the year 2148](#): “Too bad! Look, there was, once again, a problem with the female candidate, and I am very sorry about it. . . . But the good news is that there are a lot of women who are already getting my hopes up for 2152.”
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Thanks for reading.

## Why China's cruel imprisonment of my father should terrify us all

The surreal charge against him signifies a new level of Chinese brazenness.

By Angela Gui • [Read more »](#)



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I am excited for her to be better.

By Alexandra Petri • [Read more »](#)



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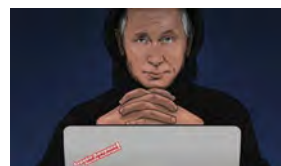
By Megan McArdle • [Read more »](#)



## Did Vladimir Putin turn America on itself?

It's up to the American public to decide whether we are going to resist Putin's game or play it for him.

By David Von Drehle • [Read more »](#)



## As coronavirus spreads, the bill for our public health failures is due

The greatest strain of the disease will fall on the most vulnerable.

By Richard E. Besser • [Read more »](#)



## Why it's so hard to pin down the risk of dying from coronavirus

Scientists are doing their best to make sense of imperfect data.

By Marc Lipsitch • [Read more »](#)





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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.



By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## **Bernie Sanders sharpens his pitch to women, as moms in Michigan oscillate between him and Biden**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Bernie Sanders has massively stepped up efforts to woo female voters since Joe Biden took the lead in delegates and Elizabeth Warren dropped out of the race.

The independent senator from Vermont unveiled a “reproductive health care and justice for all” plan on Saturday evening. He’s attacking the

former vice president for supporting the Hyde Amendment, which banned Medicaid funds from being used to cover abortions, until reversing himself under pressure last year. He's reading aloud a quote from the 1970s in which Biden said that *Roe v. Wade* "went too far."

"Women have a right to control their own bodies, not the government," Sanders said during an outdoor rally here on a sunny Sunday afternoon. "Here is my promise to you: I will never nominate anyone to the Supreme Court or the federal bench who is not 100 percent pro-*Roe v. Wade*. ... We're in this together."

Jesse Jackson told the crowd of 7,600 that he endorsed Sanders only after receiving an ironclad commitment that he would nominate an African American woman to the Supreme Court and a promise that he would give "serious consideration" to naming a black woman as his running mate. "Bernie can win, will win and must win," said Jackson.



Bernie Sanders introduces Jesse Jackson during a rally on Sunday at Calder Plaza in Grand Rapids, Mich. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Michigan is the most populous, and symbolically significant, of**

**six states voting tomorrow. An EPIC-MRA poll released this morning showed Biden leading Sanders 51 percent to 27 percent in the state**, with 13 percent undecided and 9 percent saying they plan to vote for another candidate. The survey of 400 likely Democratic voters, conducted Wednesday through Friday, has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percent. But this should be taken with a grain of salt. The pre-primary polls four years ago showed Hillary Clinton with a similarly huge lead, and Sanders pulled off an upset. Clinton's weakness foreshadowed Donald Trump narrowly carrying the state in November.

The Sanders campaign **rushed resources** and staff to Michigan over the weekend, going all-in on the Wolverine State the way that Biden did before South Carolina's primary. The **other states** with primaries on Tuesday are Missouri, Washington, Idaho, Mississippi and North Dakota.

**Women are the centerpiece of Sanders's comeback strategy here, including an effort to win over former supporters of Warren.** Biden led him among women by 12 points on Super Tuesday, 37 percent to 25 percent, based on median support in **available exit polling**, with Warren (D-Mass.) pulling 15 percent and former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg getting 13 percent. Biden led Sanders among men by a narrower 4 points, 36 percent to 32 percent, with Warren in single digits.

**"My heart wants to vote for Bernie. My gut wants to vote for Biden," said Melissa Courtade, 46, who sits on the Kenowa Hills school board.** She had planned to vote for Warren on Tuesday and remains undecided after watching Sanders speak. Courtade likes Sanders's plan to raise teacher pay to a minimum of \$60,000 per year but doesn't think it's realistic. She likes the idea of Medicare-for-all, but she isn't sure that's realistic either. She really likes Sanders personally, and many of her friends support him, but she's not sure he can beat Trump.

Courtade, who voted for Clinton in the 2016 primary, said her 19-year-old

daughter is supporting Biden because she thinks Sanders is too liberal to carry Michigan in the general election. “She jokingly teases me and says you’re ADD when it comes to this election, and I really am,” Courtade said after Sanders’s rally. “I just don’t know where my head is at right now. It’s so hard. I’ve never not known who I was going to vote for.”

**She was one of about two dozen women I spoke with at Sanders’s rally on Sunday afternoon. Several said they had planned to back Warren or one of the other female candidates but now reluctantly needed to decide between Sanders and Biden.**

A February [Washington Post-ABC News poll](#) found that while Sanders was ranked higher as a second choice by many Warren voters, a significant chunk favored moderate candidates, including Biden. Warren herself has not endorsed. The Massachusetts senator is [trying to balance](#) playing an inside game versus an outside game. Whether she backs someone or not, her ideas won’t go away and [neither will she](#).

Sanders won his upset four years ago by running up the score in rural and conservative parts of Michigan. He managed to eke out a 1.4-point win statewide despite losing the Detroit metropolitan area, including Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. But Sanders won Kent County, which includes Gerald Ford’s hometown of Grand Rapids, by 25 points, a 17,000-vote margin of victory. That was almost exactly his statewide margin. He’s trying to replicate this on Tuesday.

Kim Sapkowski, 55 of Belmont, had planned to vote for Warren but will now support Sanders because, in her view, Biden’s plans are too incremental. Her position as an administrative assistant at a local university was eliminated last month because of budget cuts. Now she’s unemployed and has two kids of her own in college. She worries a recession is looming, which bolsters her conviction that this is no time for “the half-measures” that she believes Biden wants to pursue. “I’m disappointed that we still are hesitant about electing a woman as

president, but we've just got to beat Trump," said Sapkowski. "The biggest response that the crowd gave Bernie was when he said that the government should get its hands off women's bodies. That was the strongest response he got, and you're in maybe the most conservative part of Michigan."



Sanders speaks in Grand Rapids. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

An advertisement for the BlueCross BlueShield Association. The main image shows a woman in a red shirt holding a young child. Overlaid on the image is the text "BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM" in large, white, bold letters. At the bottom left is the BlueCross BlueShield Association logo. At the bottom right is a blue button with the text "PASS THE MOMNIBUS" and a right-pointing arrow. Below the main image, it says "Powered by LivIntent" with the LivIntent logo and a small play button icon.

**Biden will hold his own rally in Grand Rapids on Monday in a**



**bid to blunt Sanders's strength in Western Michigan.** Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), who dropped out a week ago today, also came here to campaign for Biden on Saturday. "People are looking for someone who is a rock, someone who is a safe place, and that is Joe Biden," she said at a brewery here.

Carolyn Ferrari, the regional manager for a theater company and one of the relatively few black faces at Sanders's rally here, had leaned toward supporting Klobuchar. But she decided to support Sanders on Sunday after hearing him commit to nominate a black woman to the Supreme Court. "Warren spoke very well, but something about her didn't seem genuine to me, and I don't think Biden can really get the job done," said Ferrari.

A hundred years after the ratification of the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote, the 49-year-old said she assumed all along over the past year that no women would be left in the race at this stage because sexism remains so endemic in American politics. "You hope, but you never really expect," she said, with a sigh. "I'm almost 50, and I don't know that it's going to change in my lifetime. But to be honest, I also didn't think we'd see a black president in my lifetime."

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) remains in the race, but she only has two delegates from American Samoa. The Democratic National Committee [announced](#) qualification requirements for Sunday night's debate in Phoenix that ensure only Biden and Sanders appear onstage.

Leslie Schwartz-Thomas, who retired as a 911 dispatcher to focus on being a grandmother to triplets, loved Warren. "The chance to vote for a woman had something to do with it," she said. "I'd be lying if I said it didn't, but I wouldn't vote for somebody just because they're a woman." Her son who lives in Seattle is a diehard Sanders supporter and urged his mom to feel the Bern after Warren suspended her campaign. The 59-year-old agreed to

go to Sanders's rally to hear him out. "A lot of what Bernie talks about, I agree with," she said, "but I worry he won't beat that man who is in the White House – I won't even say his name."

Women, especially in the suburbs, powered the Democratic takeover of the House in the 2018 midterm elections. Several first-term congresswomen who flipped seats have endorsed Biden in recent days, including Elissa Slotkin and Haley Stevens in Michigan. Gretchen Whitmer, the state's Democratic governor who also won in 2018, endorsed Biden last week. But Sanders had the early support of Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.). Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) – another member of the Squad elected in 2018 – introduced him on Sunday night before a crowd of 10,240 in Ann Arbor, home to the University of Michigan.

Indeed, Sanders fares better among women than the saturation coverage of the "[Bernie Bros](#)" might lead you to believe. "His main supporters are teachers," said Sanders supporter Nichole Biber, 45, an elementary school librarian in East Lansing. "Every time I go canvassing, it's women and men. The grass-roots movements that endorse him are made up of a lot of mothers. All the women I know voted for him four years ago too."

**Sanders has flushed out what once seemed like a box-checking afterthought toward the end of his stump speech with a robust commitment to make fighting for women a top priority.** He now says one of his top legislative goals would be codifying the protections of *Roe* into federal law and "significantly" increasing funding for Planned Parenthood. The [reproductive health-care plan](#) Sanders put out on Saturday pledges to use executive authority to reverse "Trump's anti-choice actions," require preclearance by the Justice Department for all new state abortion laws, block any federal funding for "crisis pregnancy centers" that don't perform abortions, make birth control available over-the-counter (it would also be free under Medicare-for-all) and ban abstinence-only sex education in schools.

The plan includes an emphasis on increasing access to reproductive services in communities of color, with provisions for eliminating “contraceptive deserts” and increasing funding to hospitals where most patients are African American. Discussing this plan in Grand Rapids, Sanders said: “We’re tired of black mothers dying at three times the rate of white mothers.”



Supporters cheer as Sanders takes the stage in Grand Rapids. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Biden has been trying to stay above the fray as Sanders intensifies his criticism.** His campaign didn’t respond directly to the abortion-focused attacks. Instead, he is **running** a commercial here that touts past praise from former president Barack Obama, as well as a response ad to a Sanders attack that he once supported cutting Social Security benefits.

On Sunday, Biden released a lengthy statement commemorating International Women’s Day. “Four years after more than 65 million Americans proudly cast their ballot hoping to elect our first female

president, we are fighting for the very soul of our nation and to rid the White House of a man who has fostered misogyny, bigotry, racism, and division all across our country,” he wrote. “I promise that, as president, I will use every tool available to me and take every opportunity to push our nation closer to that aspirational American creed – that all of us are equal in rights and dignity and deserve equal opportunity. ... I have pledged to seek gender parity and full diversity in my national security appointments, and that will be true across my government.”

On the other hand, many feminists remain angry at Biden for his shoddy treatment of Anita Hill during Clarence Thomas’s confirmation hearing to the Supreme Court in 1991. Biden, who was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee at the time, has [expressed regret](#) over his handling of her allegations of sexual harassment. Lucy Flores, a former Nevada state legislator, [accused Biden](#) last spring of smelling her hair and kissing the back of her head at a 2014 rally in Las Vegas.

**After Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) [backed Biden on Sunday](#), her aides told reporters that she waited to support him until there were no other major female candidates left in the race.**

Harris plans to introduce Biden at a rally tonight in Detroit. “Like many women, I watched with sadness as women exited the race one by one,” she said in her video announcement. “This is something we must reckon with, and it is something I will have more to say about in the future. But we must rise to unite the party and country behind a candidate who reflects the decency and dignity of the American people and who can ultimately defeat Donald Trump.”

Shannon Koneracki, a 42-year-old stay-at-home mom from Sparta, never thought Sanders would get this far. She supported Clinton in the 2016 primary because she didn’t think Sanders could win, but the fact that Trump managed to get elected that fall led her to conclude that Sanders probably could too. So she will vote for him on Tuesday. “I would love to

have Bernie pick a vice president like Warren because it would help with the women's vote," said Koneracki, as her 6-year-old daughter Genesis ran in circles around her.

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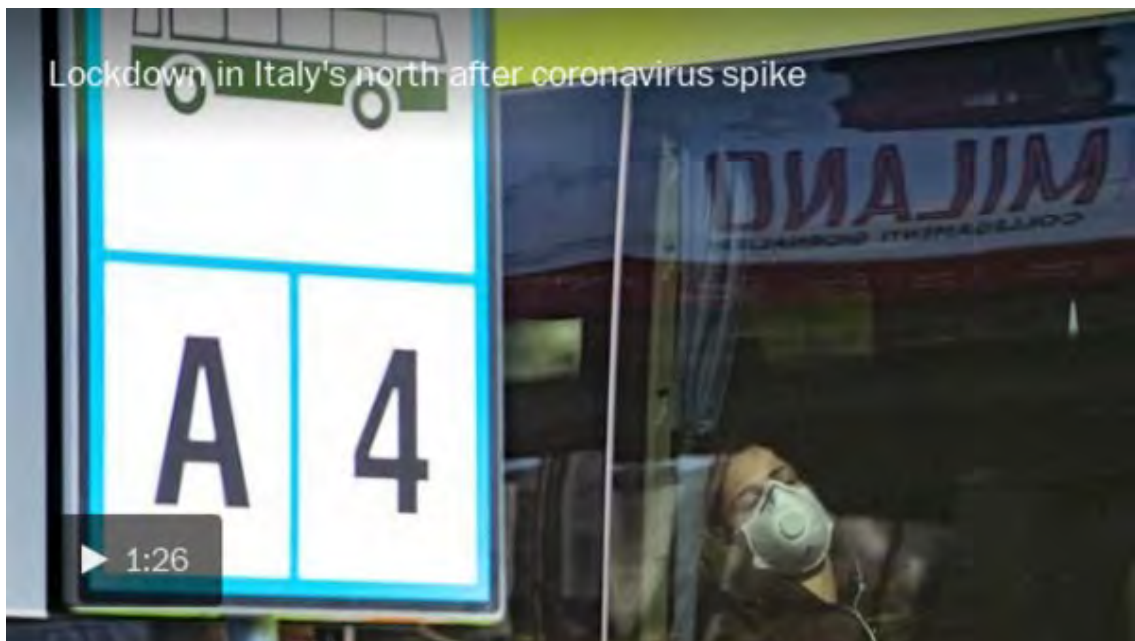
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## The latest on the coronavirus



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Markets tanked this morning.

“The threat of a coronavirus-fueled oil war and continued panic around the outbreak brought markets to unprecedented lows Monday, triggering the first-ever forced halt on trading after the Standard & Poor’s 500 index sank 7 percent shortly after the open. The Dow Jones industrial average cratered as much as 2,000 points before clawing back,” [Thomas Heath, Will Englund and Taylor Telford report](#). “The forced freeze was a sign of unprecedented volatility for Wall Street amid the most turbulent trading in recent memory. Another 15-minute halt will be triggered if the S&P 500’s losses hit the 13 percent threshold. In the event of a 20 percent decline, markets would shut down for the day.

“Oil prices tumbled into the \$30s, after Saudi Arabia and Russia deadlocked over production. The Saudis had been pushing for a cut in output to prop up prices, but did a reversal when Russia balked and decided, instead, to flood the market with hundreds of thousands of additional barrels per day at a steep discount — a move analysts fear may trigger a price war.”

### **The White House and the Fed are at odds over how to stabilize the economy.**

“The coronavirus is threatening the economy ... Yet U.S. economic leaders are divided about how to respond, with [Fed Chair Jerome] Powell and his Trump administration counterparts, [economic adviser] Kudlow and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, differing in their assessments of the risks as well as the policies best suited to address the economic threat,” [Heather Long and Jeff Stein report](#). “Not only do the Fed and the White House appear to disagree on the severity of the potential economic hit, they’re at odds about the power of interest rate cuts to stem the panic. Trump and Kudlow have emphasized the Fed’s power to cut interest rates as the primary economic response to the crisis. But although they have moved to cut rates, Powell and others at the Fed have suggested that they have only a limited role to play ... The White House hasn’t, however,

shown consistent support for such stimulus.”

### **The number of U.S. cases has topped 500.**

“Saudi Arabia followed Italy in enacting new travel restrictions, Iran suspended flights to Europe, and the [U.S. government] warned citizens against cruise travel,” [Felicia Sonmez, Juliet Eilperin and Kim Bellware report](#). “A virus-stricken cruise ship made its way to California to dock ... The Department of Health and Human Services [said] that the Grand Princess cruise ship’s more than 3,500 passengers, at least 21 of whom have tested positive for the coronavirus, will be quarantined in California, Texas and Georgia. Some White House officials privately believe the number of U.S. cases will double — or more — in the next 48 hours. At least 21 people have died.” More than 30 states have announced infections.

**The District's first confirmed case is the Rev. Timothy Cole, rector of Christ Church Georgetown:** “A church spokesman said Cole was present for three services last Sunday attended by 550 people. Virginia [announced](#) a second case on Sunday, bringing the total number of cases in the Washington area to nine.”

- **D.C. officials urged hundreds who attended Christ Church Georgetown on several recent days to self-quarantine.** This is the first broad self-quarantine order in the Washington region. ([Ferit Nirappil and Darran Simon](#))
- **The School Without Walls, a D.C. public high school, is closed today.** City officials determined that a staff member had close contact with a person who tested positive. ([Perry Stein and Martin Weil](#))

### **A case of the virus at CPAC brought the virus closer to Trump.**

“Trump was photographed shaking hands with Matt Schlapp, the

chairman of the American Conservative Union, who confirmed that he had been in direct contact with the infected man during the Conservative Political Action Conference last month,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Josh Dawsey and Juliet Eilperin report](#). “The handshake at CPAC put Trump just two degrees of separation away from the virus ... While the White House has maintained that Trump was never in direct contact with the infected person and does not have any symptoms, the potential close call at a political event underscores how the outbreak threatens to upend the president’s routine as he campaigns for reelection.

"There is growing tension among Trump administration officials, who now view the rapidly spreading outbreak as a black swan event that could consume the president’s fourth year in office, even as Trump remains reluctant to see much cause for concern ... Concerns for the president’s personal health have also escalated as the death toll from the virus has risen, with most of the victims being senior citizens. **Trump’s personal doctor, Sean Conley, now attends some White House meetings on the coronavirus**, tracking where new cases are being reported ... The White House is also being cleaned more regularly and people with flu-like symptoms are being urged not to come into the complex, with the added warning that they may infect the leader of the free world ...

**"Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) said in a statement Sunday that he ‘briefly interacted’ with the infected person while at CPAC and would self-quarantine** at his Texas home 'out of an abundance of caution.' He said he does not have any symptoms associated with the virus. Rep. Paul A. Gosar (R-Ariz.) tweeted Sunday that he and three of his staff members are under self-quarantine ‘after sustained contact at CPAC’ with the person who has the virus. He added: ‘We are all asymptomatic and feel great.’”

**Sanders and Biden both plan to forge ahead with campaigning.**



“With the outbreak in the United States now affecting 30 states, some political organizations have reassessed their plans for conferences and large-scale events. The AFL-CIO, the largest group of labor unions in the country, announced that it is canceling its presidential forum, which had been scheduled for Thursday in Orlando. Sanders and [Biden] had been planning to attend,” [Felicia Sonmez, Juliet Eilperin and Paige Winfield Cunningham report](#).

- “We are in communications with public health officials wherever we go,” Sanders said on CNN. “We will not endanger the health of anybody in this country. ... We are watching this thing very, very carefully.”
- Sanders will hold a roundtable this afternoon with public health experts in Detroit to discuss how the country should address the coronavirus.
- During a campaign stop in Jackson, Miss., Biden answered a question about the coronavirus while rubbing sanitizer on his hands. “We’re listening to the experts at the CDC and doing everything they recommend,” he said.
- Trump has typically held a rally on the eve of each Democratic primary or caucus. But he does not have one planned for tonight. His last rally was this past Monday in North Carolina. Erin Perrine, a Trump campaign spokeswoman, said the campaign is “proceeding normally” and will announce further events at a later date.

### **Coronavirus anxiety is growing in an aging Congress.**

“Members of Congress are becoming increasingly anxious about coronavirus, and there is growing pressure on leadership to take steps to protect lawmakers — even potentially recessing for a period of weeks,” [NBC News reports](#). “Members plan to raise concerns with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., at their weekly leadership meeting [today]. ... It’s Pelosi’s decision whether to keep the House in session or make changes in the schedule.”

## **One of America's largest hospitals, is already feeling the virus's pressure.**

“Mass General is a renowned medical center with just over 1,000 beds and top research facilities, the kind of place many patients want to be when something terrible happens. Yet in a sign of the enormous challenge covid-19 poses to the health-care system, even emergency-response teams here were bracing for an outbreak that seemed increasingly likely to test staff and resources,” [Emma Brown reports](#). “At the ground level — observed during several days at Mass General and in interviews with key planning leaders — teams were working long hours to deal with challenges that the White House was playing down or insisting did not exist. ... Mass General health-care workers who encounter a patient with fever, cough and other symptoms of covid-19 can call a ‘biothreats’ pager at the hospital for advice and help determining whether that patient should be tested. On Tuesday, the pager buzzed about 20 times, according to Erica Shenoy, an infectious diseases doctor and associate chief of infection control. By Thursday afternoon, the buzzes sounded every 10 minutes and had become a full-time job for Amir Mohareb, the young infectious diseases doctor.”

## **Italian authorities are struggling to lock down about 16 million people.**

“The plan to lock down large swaths of the north was the first major attempt by a democracy during the coronavirus crisis to radically halt the routines of daily life — an effort that will have significant impacts on civil liberties,” [Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). “But in the hours before and after the measure became law, people continued to stream out of the northern hubs of Milan and Venice on trains and planes for southern Italy or elsewhere in Europe. Sunday, then, provided the first glimpse of a coronavirus lockdown, European-style ... Data released by Italy on Sunday night only underscored the urgency. Active cases jumped more than 1,300 in a single day to 6,387, and deaths jumped by 133 to

366. ... Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte described a series of emergency steps: People across the north, in the region of Lombardy and in 14 other provinces would be barred from exiting or entering other than for emergencies or essential work or health matters. But Conte also said some transportation would continue. He framed the measures as part of a broader message to keep distance from others and not ‘throw parties.’”

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## Quote of the day

*"It turns out that the truth matters, and epidemics can't be subdued by tweet," said Marie Yovanovitch, the former ambassador to Ukraine who was recalled by Trump.*  
*(Bloomington Herald-Times)*

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## The new world order



**Blasts disrupted the Afghan president's swearing-in ceremony.**

“An attack disrupted Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's inauguration

Monday amid a deepening political crisis that threatens to undermine the future of peace talks with the Taliban,” [Susannah George and Sharif Hassan report](#). “Both Ghani and his main rival, Abdullah Abdullah, held swearing-in ceremonies Monday after weeks of efforts to mediate between the two men failed. Afghanistan's election commission named Ghani the winner of the September presidential contest, with just enough of the vote to avoid a second round, but Abdullah declared the results fraudulent and claimed victory. The spectacle of dueling inaugurations held just yards apart in separate compounds reflect worsening divisions among Afghanistan's political elite as the country prepares to enter talks with the Taliban. The peace deal signed between the militants and the United States called for intra-Afghan talks to begin Tuesday. It is unclear if that benchmark will be met. Mediation efforts were held late into the night Sunday and continued until just moments before the ceremonies.”

### **The U.S. envoy to Afghanistan now faces his greatest challenge.**

Zalmay Khalilzad “is expected to be closely involved when representatives from the Taliban, the Afghan government and Afghan society sit down as early as this week to begin mapping out a future governing structure and finding consensus on divisive issues such as the role of Islam and women’s rights,” [Missy Ryan and John Hudson report](#). “Already there are signs of trouble. Afghan and Taliban leaders are disputing the terms of Khalilzad’s initial deal, and the militants have launched a series of deadly attacks. The format, objectives and even precise location of the next negotiations remain a mystery. ‘This is his biggest challenge,’ said Carter Malkasian, a former Pentagon official who took part in some of the talks Khalilzad conducted with militant leaders over the past two years ... Looming over the negotiations is officials’ hazy understanding of what Trump wants and will tolerate. While the president has consistently voiced his desire to get U.S. troops out of the country, it is less clear how he will define American interests in what is likely to be a protracted effort to shape Afghanistan’s

future."

### **North Korea fired three projectiles after threatening “momentous” action.**

“South Korea’s national security director, defense minister and spy chief held an emergency video conference and agreed the North Korean action were not helpful to efforts to establish a peace on the Korean Peninsula, according to South Korea’s presidential Blue House,” [the AP reports](#).

### **Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman detained two other Saudi princes in villas.**

“Two senior princes detained in a crackdown against potential rivals of Saudi Arabia’s powerful crown prince are being held in private villas and have been allowed to call their families, according to a person with ties to the royal family,” [Liz Sly, Ellen Nakashima and Kareem Fahim report](#).

“The detention on Friday of [King Salman’s] younger brother, Ahmed bin Abdulaziz, and one of his nephews, Mohammed bin Nayef, sparked rumors that Salman’s health might have deteriorated, prompting the bold move by [the Crown Prince], the king’s son and heir, against some of the most senior members of the royal family. ... The princes have in the past been considered possible heirs to the crown. ... The person said the princes contacted family members on Saturday and told them that they were being held not in prisons but in private royal villas. Ahmed asked relatives to send him his ‘bisht,’ a robe worn for official engagements, prompting the person to speculate that he might soon make a public appearance, perhaps under duress.”

### **Gaza militants targeted Israel with party balloons bearing bombs.**

“In recent months, hundreds of booby-trapped balloons — sometimes bearing the messages ‘I Love You’ and ‘Happy Birthday’ along with small

improvised explosives dangling by a string — have descended [on communities] downwind of the nearby Gaza Strip, according to Israeli police,” [Steve Hendrix, Hazem Balousha and Ruth Eglash report](#). “Most land in open countryside, and none has yet caused injury or death, something a local police commander described as a miracle bound to give way to a tragedy.”

### **Tens of thousands of Mexican women protested femicide and gender-based violence.**

“Women poured into the streets on Sunday to start a two-day protest and national strike against gender-based violence, in what organizers hope will be a turning point for women's rights in a country disfigured by violence and machismo,” [Mary Beth Sheridan reports](#). “Many wore purple, the color symbolizing International Women’s Day, celebrated throughout the world on Sunday, and waved signs reading ‘Fight today so we don’t die tomorrow’ and ‘We are the voice of those who are no longer with us.’ ... Mexico’s femicide rate rose about 10 percent in 2019 to 1,010 cases; an average of 10 women are killed per day. Surveys have found a majority of women have been victims of violence at some point in their lives.”

Meanwhile, a 22-year-old Guatemalan woman became the eighth migrant to die in ICE custody this fiscal year, per [BuzzFeed News](#).

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## **More on 2020**



Steve Bullock attends the Iowa State Fair last August. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

### **Steve Bullock officially announced he'll run for Senate.**

Montana's Democratic governor will challenge Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.). This reversal by the former presidential candidate boosts Democratic fortunes in their bid to unseat and reclaim the Senate majority. ([Felicia Sonmez and Paul Kane](#))

### **Twitter debuted its "manipulated media" label.**

A deceptively edited video of Biden was shared by White House social media director Dan Scavino and retweeted by Trump. "The video was the first test of a new policy the social media company implemented on March 5 to label tweets that contain manipulated or synthetic media, ranging from edited videos to more sophisticated examples known as 'deepfakes' that can fabricate events that never happened," [Cat Zakrzewski reports](#). "In this case, the altered video of Biden ... is based on a speech he gave in Kansas City, Mo., on Saturday. It was then shared on Twitter by Scavino, only edited to make it appear as if Biden inadvertently endorsed Trump for reelection."

## **The Russian media is freaking out about Biden's resurrection.**

“The pro-Kremlin newspaper Vzglyad complained that Biden ‘rose from the ashes like a phoenix,’ prevailing ‘in spite of the corruption scandals’ that have long been alleged and cultivated by the Russians—and the Republicans—concerning his son, Hunter, and his own activities in Ukraine,” [the Daily Beast reports](#). “With notable irritation, Vzglyad griped about [Biden’s] primary victories in North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Alabama, claiming that the pro-Biden votes in rural states were secured by ‘rednecks, who shoot skunks for fun, bowl, beat their wives and associate the word ‘socialist’ with the communist threat.’ The newspaper bitterly surmised that through Biden’s anticipated nomination, the U.S. elites won yet another Cold War against socialism.”

## **A watchdog warned the administration that it “urgently” needs to address problems with election security.**

“The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), part of the Department of Homeland Security, was to have finalized plans by January to support states and localities with their election security operations. That did not happen, according to a Government Accountability Office report,” [Joe Davidson reports](#). “The report said the agency ‘is not well-positioned to execute a nationwide strategy for securing election infrastructure prior to the start of the 2020 election cycle’ because it has not completed plans. According to the report, cybersecurity agency officials said they are unlikely to develop plans for election security assistance to political parties or come up with strategies for raising public awareness about foreign threats.”

## **James Biden's health-care ventures face growing scrutiny.**

In January, the FBI raided Americore Health hospital, a health-care



business linked to Joe Biden's brother, seizing boxes of documents and deepening the legal morass surrounding James Biden's recent venture into health-care investing, [Politico reports](#): "In the weeks since the raid, two small medical firms that did business with James Biden have claimed in civil court proceedings to have obtained evidence that he may have fraudulently transferred funds from Americore 'outside of the ordinary course of business' ... The purpose of the Jan. 30 raid of an Ellwood City, Pa., hospital remains unclear, and there is no indication it was related to the actions of Biden's younger brother ... In 2017 and 2018, James Biden was embarking on a foray into healthcare investing, telling potential partners, including at Americore, that his last name could open doors and that Joe Biden was excited about the public policy implications of their business models, according to court filings and interviews with former business contacts of James's."

### **Donald Trump Jr. challenged Hunter Biden to a debate.**

In an interview [with Axios's Jim VandeHei](#), the president's son said he wants to debate the former vice president's son over who has benefited more financially from their fathers' government service. "We can go full transparency, we show everything, and we can talk about all of the places where I am supposedly gifting but Hunter Biden isn't," said Don Jr., also claiming that he'd be willing to release his own tax returns if Hunter Biden put his out. "If we do it both, 100 percent. Let's talk about who profited off of whose public service." A Biden campaign spokesman replied that it's "hard to believe anything a Trump says on tax returns."

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## **Social media speed read**

Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) endorsed Biden's candidacy:



**Cory Booker** ✓

@CoryBooker



The answer to hatred & division is to reignite our spirit of common purpose. @JoeBiden won't only win - he'll show there's more that unites us than divides us.

He'll restore honor to the Oval Office and tackle our most pressing challenges.

That's why I'm proud to endorse Joe.



♥ 1,091 11:05 AM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 358 people are talking about this




On International Women's Day, a Post reporter noticed inequity even among cleaning sponges:

 **Sonia Rao**   
@missoniarao



Lol Scrub Mommy costs less than Scrub Daddy but does twice the work



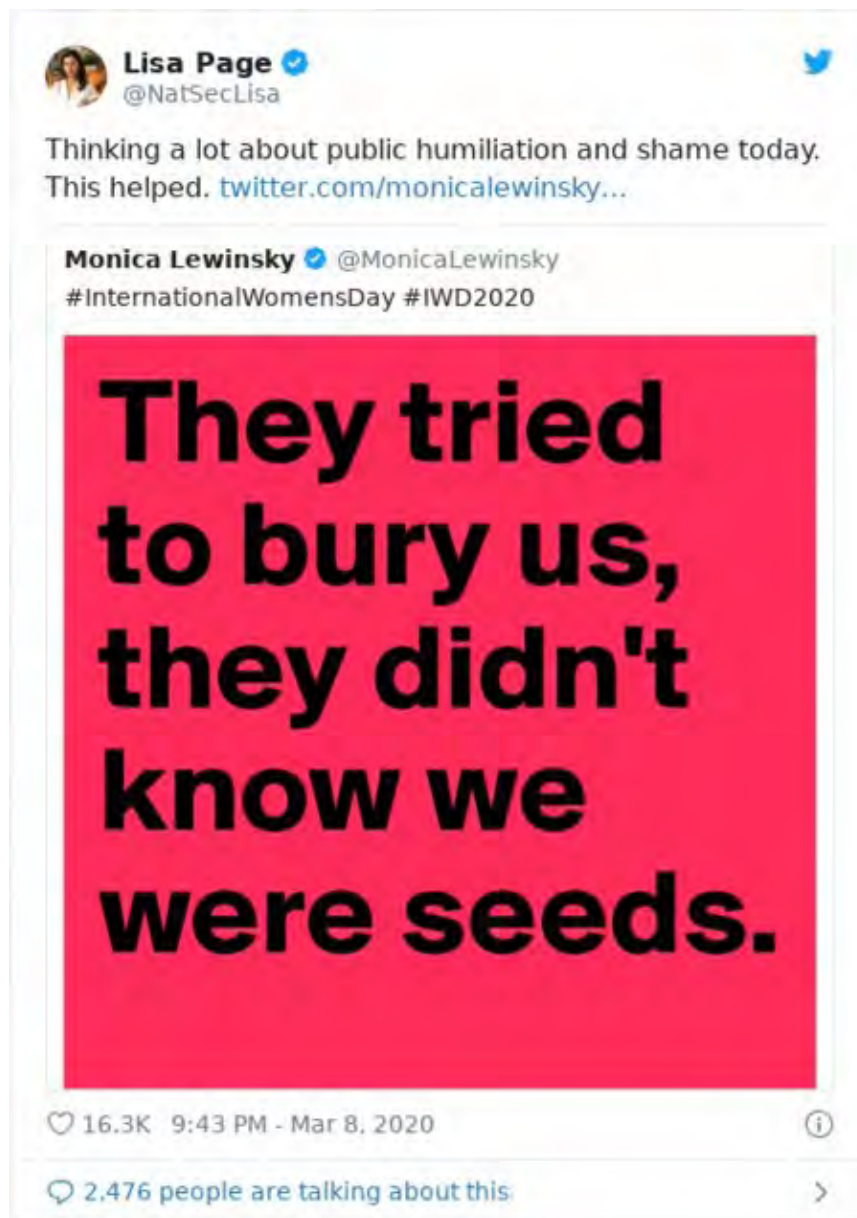
 1.958 8:10 PM - Mar 8, 2020



 296 people are talking about this



Ex-FBI lawyer Lisa Page, who has been a regular target of gendered attacks by Trump, shared a message from Monica Lewinsky:



Amid the coronavirus outbreak, Trump golfed with players for the Nationals who are in West Palm Beach for spring training:



## Videos of the day

Trump's former top adviser on Russia, Fiona Hill, gave her first sit-down interview since testifying during the impeachment hearings:



There are thousands of sheriffs up for reelection this year, and John Oliver looked into what the job entails:



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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.



By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
✉ Email

## **Bernie Sanders sharpens his pitch to women, as moms in Michigan oscillate between him and Biden**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Bernie Sanders has massively stepped up efforts to woo female voters since Joe Biden took the lead in delegates and Elizabeth Warren dropped out of the race.

The independent senator from Vermont unveiled a “reproductive health care and justice for all” plan on Saturday evening. He’s attacking the

former vice president for supporting the Hyde Amendment, which banned Medicaid funds from being used to cover abortions, until reversing himself under pressure last year. He's reading aloud a quote from the 1970s in which Biden said that *Roe v. Wade* "went too far."

"Women have a right to control their own bodies, not the government," Sanders said during an outdoor rally here on a sunny Sunday afternoon. "Here is my promise to you: I will never nominate anyone to the Supreme Court or the federal bench who is not 100 percent pro-*Roe v. Wade*. ... We're in this together."

Jesse Jackson told the crowd of 7,600 that he endorsed Sanders only after receiving an ironclad commitment that he would nominate an African American woman to the Supreme Court and a promise that he would give "serious consideration" to naming a black woman as his running mate. "Bernie can win, will win and must win," said Jackson.



Bernie Sanders introduces Jesse Jackson during a rally on Sunday at Calder Plaza in Grand Rapids, Mich. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Michigan is the most populous, and symbolically significant, of**



**six states voting tomorrow. An EPIC-MRA poll released this morning showed Biden leading Sanders 51 percent to 27 percent in the state**, with 13 percent undecided and 9 percent saying they plan to vote for another candidate. The survey of 400 likely Democratic voters, conducted Wednesday through Friday, has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percent. But this should be taken with a grain of salt. The pre-primary polls four years ago showed Hillary Clinton with a similarly huge lead, and Sanders pulled off an upset. Clinton's weakness foreshadowed Donald Trump narrowly carrying the state in November.

The Sanders campaign **rushed resources** and staff to Michigan over the weekend, going all-in on the Wolverine State the way that Biden did before South Carolina's primary. The **other states** with primaries on Tuesday are Missouri, Washington, Idaho, Mississippi and North Dakota.

**Women are the centerpiece of Sanders's comeback strategy here, including an effort to win over former supporters of Warren.** Biden led him among women by 12 points on Super Tuesday, 37 percent to 25 percent, based on median support in **available exit polling**, with Warren (D-Mass.) pulling 15 percent and former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg getting 13 percent. Biden led Sanders among men by a narrower 4 points, 36 percent to 32 percent, with Warren in single digits.

**"My heart wants to vote for Bernie. My gut wants to vote for Biden," said Melissa Courtade, 46, who sits on the Kenowa Hills school board.** She had planned to vote for Warren on Tuesday and remains undecided after watching Sanders speak. Courtade likes Sanders's plan to raise teacher pay to a minimum of \$60,000 per year but doesn't think it's realistic. She likes the idea of Medicare-for-all, but she isn't sure that's realistic either. She really likes Sanders personally, and many of her friends support him, but she's not sure he can beat Trump.

Courtade, who voted for Clinton in the 2016 primary, said her 19-year-old

daughter is supporting Biden because she thinks Sanders is too liberal to carry Michigan in the general election. “She jokingly teases me and says you’re ADD when it comes to this election, and I really am,” Courtade said after Sanders’s rally. “I just don’t know where my head is at right now. It’s so hard. I’ve never not known who I was going to vote for.”

**She was one of about two dozen women I spoke with at Sanders’s rally on Sunday afternoon. Several said they had planned to back Warren or one of the other female candidates but now reluctantly needed to decide between Sanders and Biden.**

A February [Washington Post-ABC News poll](#) found that while Sanders was ranked higher as a second choice by many Warren voters, a significant chunk favored moderate candidates, including Biden. Warren herself has not endorsed. The Massachusetts senator is [trying to balance](#) playing an inside game versus an outside game. Whether she backs someone or not, her ideas won’t go away and [neither will she](#).

Sanders won his upset four years ago by running up the score in rural and conservative parts of Michigan. He managed to eke out a 1.4-point win statewide despite losing the Detroit metropolitan area, including Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. But Sanders won Kent County, which includes Gerald Ford’s hometown of Grand Rapids, by 25 points, a 17,000-vote margin of victory. That was almost exactly his statewide margin. He’s trying to replicate this on Tuesday.

Kim Sapkowski, 55 of Belmont, had planned to vote for Warren but will now support Sanders because, in her view, Biden’s plans are too incremental. Her position as an administrative assistant at a local university was eliminated last month because of budget cuts. Now she’s unemployed and has two kids of her own in college. She worries a recession is looming, which bolsters her conviction that this is no time for “the half-measures” that she believes Biden wants to pursue. “I’m disappointed that we still are hesitant about electing a woman as

president, but we've just got to beat Trump," said Sapkowski. "The biggest response that the crowd gave Bernie was when he said that the government should get its hands off women's bodies. That was the strongest response he got, and you're in maybe the most conservative part of Michigan."



Sanders speaks in Grand Rapids. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

An advertisement for the BlueCross BlueShield Association. The main image shows a woman in a red shirt holding a young child. Overlaid on the image is the text "BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM" in large, white, bold letters. At the bottom left is the BlueCross BlueShield Association logo. At the bottom right is a blue button with the text "PASS THE MOMNIBUS" and a right-pointing arrow. Below the main image, it says "Powered by LivIntent" with the LivIntent logo and a small play button icon.

**Biden will hold his own rally in Grand Rapids on Monday in a**

**bid to blunt Sanders's strength in Western Michigan.** Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), who dropped out a week ago today, also came here to campaign for Biden on Saturday. "People are looking for someone who is a rock, someone who is a safe place, and that is Joe Biden," she said at a brewery here.

Carolyn Ferrari, the regional manager for a theater company and one of the relatively few black faces at Sanders's rally here, had leaned toward supporting Klobuchar. But she decided to support Sanders on Sunday after hearing him commit to nominate a black woman to the Supreme Court. "Warren spoke very well, but something about her didn't seem genuine to me, and I don't think Biden can really get the job done," said Ferrari.

A hundred years after the ratification of the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote, the 49-year-old said she assumed all along over the past year that no women would be left in the race at this stage because sexism remains so endemic in American politics. "You hope, but you never really expect," she said, with a sigh. "I'm almost 50, and I don't know that it's going to change in my lifetime. But to be honest, I also didn't think we'd see a black president in my lifetime."

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) remains in the race, but she only has two delegates from American Samoa. The Democratic National Committee [announced](#) qualification requirements for Sunday night's debate in Phoenix that ensure only Biden and Sanders appear onstage.

Leslie Schwartz-Thomas, who retired as a 911 dispatcher to focus on being a grandmother to triplets, loved Warren. "The chance to vote for a woman had something to do with it," she said. "I'd be lying if I said it didn't, but I wouldn't vote for somebody just because they're a woman." Her son who lives in Seattle is a diehard Sanders supporter and urged his mom to feel the Bern after Warren suspended her campaign. The 59-year-old agreed to

go to Sanders's rally to hear him out. "A lot of what Bernie talks about, I agree with," she said, "but I worry he won't beat that man who is in the White House – I won't even say his name."

Women, especially in the suburbs, powered the Democratic takeover of the House in the 2018 midterm elections. Several first-term congresswomen who flipped seats have endorsed Biden in recent days, including Elissa Slotkin and Haley Stevens in Michigan. Gretchen Whitmer, the state's Democratic governor who also won in 2018, endorsed Biden last week. But Sanders had the early support of Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.). Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) – another member of the Squad elected in 2018 – introduced him on Sunday night before a crowd of 10,240 in Ann Arbor, home to the University of Michigan.

Indeed, Sanders fares better among women than the saturation coverage of the "[Bernie Bros](#)" might lead you to believe. "His main supporters are teachers," said Sanders supporter Nichole Biber, 45, an elementary school librarian in East Lansing. "Every time I go canvassing, it's women and men. The grass-roots movements that endorse him are made up of a lot of mothers. All the women I know voted for him four years ago too."

**Sanders has flushed out what once seemed like a box-checking afterthought toward the end of his stump speech with a robust commitment to make fighting for women a top priority.** He now says one of his top legislative goals would be codifying the protections of *Roe* into federal law and "significantly" increasing funding for Planned Parenthood. The [reproductive health-care plan](#) Sanders put out on Saturday pledges to use executive authority to reverse "Trump's anti-choice actions," require preclearance by the Justice Department for all new state abortion laws, block any federal funding for "crisis pregnancy centers" that don't perform abortions, make birth control available over-the-counter (it would also be free under Medicare-for-all) and ban abstinence-only sex education in schools.

The plan includes an emphasis on increasing access to reproductive services in communities of color, with provisions for eliminating “contraceptive deserts” and increasing funding to hospitals where most patients are African American. Discussing this plan in Grand Rapids, Sanders said: “We’re tired of black mothers dying at three times the rate of white mothers.”



Supporters cheer as Sanders takes the stage in Grand Rapids. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Biden has been trying to stay above the fray as Sanders intensifies his criticism.** His campaign didn’t respond directly to the abortion-focused attacks. Instead, he is **running** a commercial here that touts past praise from former president Barack Obama, as well as a response ad to a Sanders attack that he once supported cutting Social Security benefits.

On Sunday, Biden released a lengthy statement commemorating International Women’s Day. “Four years after more than 65 million Americans proudly cast their ballot hoping to elect our first female

president, we are fighting for the very soul of our nation and to rid the White House of a man who has fostered misogyny, bigotry, racism, and division all across our country,” he wrote. “I promise that, as president, I will use every tool available to me and take every opportunity to push our nation closer to that aspirational American creed – that all of us are equal in rights and dignity and deserve equal opportunity. ... I have pledged to seek gender parity and full diversity in my national security appointments, and that will be true across my government.”

On the other hand, many feminists remain angry at Biden for his shoddy treatment of Anita Hill during Clarence Thomas’s confirmation hearing to the Supreme Court in 1991. Biden, who was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee at the time, has [expressed regret](#) over his handling of her allegations of sexual harassment. Lucy Flores, a former Nevada state legislator, [accused Biden](#) last spring of smelling her hair and kissing the back of her head at a 2014 rally in Las Vegas.

**After Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) [backed Biden on Sunday](#), her aides told reporters that she waited to support him until there were no other major female candidates left in the race.**

Harris plans to introduce Biden at a rally tonight in Detroit. “Like many women, I watched with sadness as women exited the race one by one,” she said in her video announcement. “This is something we must reckon with, and it is something I will have more to say about in the future. But we must rise to unite the party and country behind a candidate who reflects the decency and dignity of the American people and who can ultimately defeat Donald Trump.”

Shannon Koneracki, a 42-year-old stay-at-home mom from Sparta, never thought Sanders would get this far. She supported Clinton in the 2016 primary because she didn’t think Sanders could win, but the fact that Trump managed to get elected that fall led her to conclude that Sanders probably could too. So she will vote for him on Tuesday. “I would love to

have Bernie pick a vice president like Warren because it would help with the women's vote," said Koneracki, as her 6-year-old daughter Genesis ran in circles around her.

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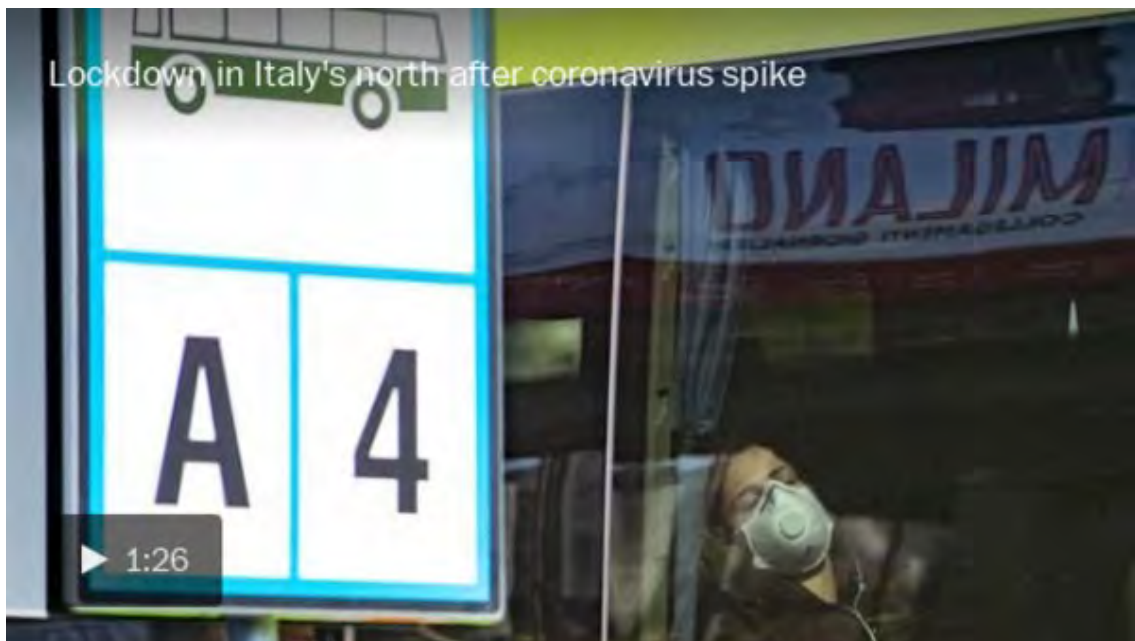
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## The latest on the coronavirus



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**Markets tanked this morning.**



“The threat of a coronavirus-fueled oil war and continued panic around the outbreak brought markets to unprecedented lows Monday, triggering the first-ever forced halt on trading after the Standard & Poor’s 500 index sank 7 percent shortly after the open. The Dow Jones industrial average cratered as much as 2,000 points before clawing back,” [Thomas Heath, Will Englund and Taylor Telford report](#). “The forced freeze was a sign of unprecedented volatility for Wall Street amid the most turbulent trading in recent memory. Another 15-minute halt will be triggered if the S&P 500’s losses hit the 13 percent threshold. In the event of a 20 percent decline, markets would shut down for the day.

“Oil prices tumbled into the \$30s, after Saudi Arabia and Russia deadlocked over production. The Saudis had been pushing for a cut in output to prop up prices, but did a reversal when Russia balked and decided, instead, to flood the market with hundreds of thousands of additional barrels per day at a steep discount — a move analysts fear may trigger a price war.”

### **The White House and the Fed are at odds over how to stabilize the economy.**

“The coronavirus is threatening the economy ... Yet U.S. economic leaders are divided about how to respond, with [Fed Chair Jerome] Powell and his Trump administration counterparts, [economic adviser] Kudlow and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, differing in their assessments of the risks as well as the policies best suited to address the economic threat,” [Heather Long and Jeff Stein report](#). “Not only do the Fed and the White House appear to disagree on the severity of the potential economic hit, they’re at odds about the power of interest rate cuts to stem the panic. Trump and Kudlow have emphasized the Fed’s power to cut interest rates as the primary economic response to the crisis. But although they have moved to cut rates, Powell and others at the Fed have suggested that they have only a limited role to play ... The White House hasn’t, however,

shown consistent support for such stimulus.”

### **The number of U.S. cases has topped 500.**

“Saudi Arabia followed Italy in enacting new travel restrictions, Iran suspended flights to Europe, and the [U.S. government] warned citizens against cruise travel,” [Felicia Sonmez, Juliet Eilperin and Kim Bellware report](#). “A virus-stricken cruise ship made its way to California to dock ... The Department of Health and Human Services [said] that the Grand Princess cruise ship’s more than 3,500 passengers, at least 21 of whom have tested positive for the coronavirus, will be quarantined in California, Texas and Georgia. Some White House officials privately believe the number of U.S. cases will double — or more — in the next 48 hours. At least 21 people have died.” More than 30 states have announced infections.

**The District's first confirmed case is the Rev. Timothy Cole, rector of Christ Church Georgetown:** “A church spokesman said Cole was present for three services last Sunday attended by 550 people. Virginia [announced](#) a second case on Sunday, bringing the total number of cases in the Washington area to nine.”

- **D.C. officials urged hundreds who attended Christ Church Georgetown on several recent days to self-quarantine.** This is the first broad self-quarantine order in the Washington region. ([Ferit Nirappil and Darran Simon](#))
- **The School Without Walls, a D.C. public high school, is closed today.** City officials determined that a staff member had close contact with a person who tested positive. ([Perry Stein and Martin Weil](#))

### **A case of the virus at CPAC brought the virus closer to Trump.**

“Trump was photographed shaking hands with Matt Schlapp, the

chairman of the American Conservative Union, who confirmed that he had been in direct contact with the infected man during the Conservative Political Action Conference last month,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Josh Dawsey and Juliet Eilperin report](#). “The handshake at CPAC put Trump just two degrees of separation away from the virus ... While the White House has maintained that Trump was never in direct contact with the infected person and does not have any symptoms, the potential close call at a political event underscores how the outbreak threatens to upend the president’s routine as he campaigns for reelection.

"There is growing tension among Trump administration officials, who now view the rapidly spreading outbreak as a black swan event that could consume the president’s fourth year in office, even as Trump remains reluctant to see much cause for concern ... Concerns for the president’s personal health have also escalated as the death toll from the virus has risen, with most of the victims being senior citizens. **Trump’s personal doctor, Sean Conley, now attends some White House meetings on the coronavirus**, tracking where new cases are being reported ... The White House is also being cleaned more regularly and people with flu-like symptoms are being urged not to come into the complex, with the added warning that they may infect the leader of the free world ...

**"Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) said in a statement Sunday that he ‘briefly interacted’ with the infected person while at CPAC and would self-quarantine** at his Texas home 'out of an abundance of caution.' He said he does not have any symptoms associated with the virus. Rep. Paul A. Gosar (R-Ariz.) tweeted Sunday that he and three of his staff members are under self-quarantine ‘after sustained contact at CPAC’ with the person who has the virus. He added: ‘We are all asymptomatic and feel great.’”

**Sanders and Biden both plan to forge ahead with campaigning.**

“With the outbreak in the United States now affecting 30 states, some political organizations have reassessed their plans for conferences and large-scale events. The AFL-CIO, the largest group of labor unions in the country, announced that it is canceling its presidential forum, which had been scheduled for Thursday in Orlando. Sanders and [Biden] had been planning to attend,” [Felicia Sonmez, Juliet Eilperin and Paige Winfield Cunningham report](#).

- “We are in communications with public health officials wherever we go,” Sanders said on CNN. “We will not endanger the health of anybody in this country. ... We are watching this thing very, very carefully.”
- Sanders will hold a roundtable this afternoon with public health experts in Detroit to discuss how the country should address the coronavirus.
- During a campaign stop in Jackson, Miss., Biden answered a question about the coronavirus while rubbing sanitizer on his hands. “We’re listening to the experts at the CDC and doing everything they recommend,” he said.
- Trump has typically held a rally on the eve of each Democratic primary or caucus. But he does not have one planned for tonight. His last rally was this past Monday in North Carolina. Erin Perrine, a Trump campaign spokeswoman, said the campaign is “proceeding normally” and will announce further events at a later date.

### **Coronavirus anxiety is growing in an aging Congress.**

“Members of Congress are becoming increasingly anxious about coronavirus, and there is growing pressure on leadership to take steps to protect lawmakers — even potentially recessing for a period of weeks,” [NBC News reports](#). “Members plan to raise concerns with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., at their weekly leadership meeting [today]. ... It’s Pelosi’s decision whether to keep the House in session or make changes in the schedule.”

## **One of America's largest hospitals, is already feeling the virus's pressure.**

“Mass General is a renowned medical center with just over 1,000 beds and top research facilities, the kind of place many patients want to be when something terrible happens. Yet in a sign of the enormous challenge covid-19 poses to the health-care system, even emergency-response teams here were bracing for an outbreak that seemed increasingly likely to test staff and resources,” [Emma Brown reports](#). “At the ground level — observed during several days at Mass General and in interviews with key planning leaders — teams were working long hours to deal with challenges that the White House was playing down or insisting did not exist. ... Mass General health-care workers who encounter a patient with fever, cough and other symptoms of covid-19 can call a ‘biothreats’ pager at the hospital for advice and help determining whether that patient should be tested. On Tuesday, the pager buzzed about 20 times, according to Erica Shenoy, an infectious diseases doctor and associate chief of infection control. By Thursday afternoon, the buzzes sounded every 10 minutes and had become a full-time job for Amir Mohareb, the young infectious diseases doctor.”

## **Italian authorities are struggling to lock down about 16 million people.**

“The plan to lock down large swaths of the north was the first major attempt by a democracy during the coronavirus crisis to radically halt the routines of daily life — an effort that will have significant impacts on civil liberties,” [Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). “But in the hours before and after the measure became law, people continued to stream out of the northern hubs of Milan and Venice on trains and planes for southern Italy or elsewhere in Europe. Sunday, then, provided the first glimpse of a coronavirus lockdown, European-style ... Data released by Italy on Sunday night only underscored the urgency. Active cases jumped more than 1,300 in a single day to 6,387, and deaths jumped by 133 to

366. ... Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte described a series of emergency steps: People across the north, in the region of Lombardy and in 14 other provinces would be barred from exiting or entering other than for emergencies or essential work or health matters. But Conte also said some transportation would continue. He framed the measures as part of a broader message to keep distance from others and not ‘throw parties.’”

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## Quote of the day

*"It turns out that the truth matters, and epidemics can't be subdued by tweet," said Marie Yovanovitch, the former ambassador to Ukraine who was recalled by Trump.*  
*(Bloomington Herald-Times)*

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## The new world order



**Blasts disrupted the Afghan president's swearing-in ceremony.**

“An attack disrupted Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's inauguration

Monday amid a deepening political crisis that threatens to undermine the future of peace talks with the Taliban,” [Susannah George and Sharif Hassan report](#). “Both Ghani and his main rival, Abdullah Abdullah, held swearing-in ceremonies Monday after weeks of efforts to mediate between the two men failed. Afghanistan's election commission named Ghani the winner of the September presidential contest, with just enough of the vote to avoid a second round, but Abdullah declared the results fraudulent and claimed victory. The spectacle of dueling inaugurations held just yards apart in separate compounds reflect worsening divisions among Afghanistan's political elite as the country prepares to enter talks with the Taliban. The peace deal signed between the militants and the United States called for intra-Afghan talks to begin Tuesday. It is unclear if that benchmark will be met. Mediation efforts were held late into the night Sunday and continued until just moments before the ceremonies.”

### **The U.S. envoy to Afghanistan now faces his greatest challenge.**

Zalmay Khalilzad “is expected to be closely involved when representatives from the Taliban, the Afghan government and Afghan society sit down as early as this week to begin mapping out a future governing structure and finding consensus on divisive issues such as the role of Islam and women’s rights,” [Missy Ryan and John Hudson report](#). “Already there are signs of trouble. Afghan and Taliban leaders are disputing the terms of Khalilzad’s initial deal, and the militants have launched a series of deadly attacks. The format, objectives and even precise location of the next negotiations remain a mystery. ‘This is his biggest challenge,’ said Carter Malkasian, a former Pentagon official who took part in some of the talks Khalilzad conducted with militant leaders over the past two years ... Looming over the negotiations is officials’ hazy understanding of what Trump wants and will tolerate. While the president has consistently voiced his desire to get U.S. troops out of the country, it is less clear how he will define American interests in what is likely to be a protracted effort to shape Afghanistan’s

future."

### **North Korea fired three projectiles after threatening “momentous” action.**

“South Korea’s national security director, defense minister and spy chief held an emergency video conference and agreed the North Korean action were not helpful to efforts to establish a peace on the Korean Peninsula, according to South Korea’s presidential Blue House,” [the AP reports](#).

### **Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman detained two other Saudi princes in villas.**

“Two senior princes detained in a crackdown against potential rivals of Saudi Arabia’s powerful crown prince are being held in private villas and have been allowed to call their families, according to a person with ties to the royal family,” [Liz Sly, Ellen Nakashima and Kareem Fahim report](#).

“The detention on Friday of [King Salman’s] younger brother, Ahmed bin Abdulaziz, and one of his nephews, Mohammed bin Nayef, sparked rumors that Salman’s health might have deteriorated, prompting the bold move by [the Crown Prince], the king’s son and heir, against some of the most senior members of the royal family. ... The princes have in the past been considered possible heirs to the crown. ... The person said the princes contacted family members on Saturday and told them that they were being held not in prisons but in private royal villas. Ahmed asked relatives to send him his ‘bisht,’ a robe worn for official engagements, prompting the person to speculate that he might soon make a public appearance, perhaps under duress.”

### **Gaza militants targeted Israel with party balloons bearing bombs.**

“In recent months, hundreds of booby-trapped balloons — sometimes bearing the messages ‘I Love You’ and ‘Happy Birthday’ along with small



improvised explosives dangling by a string — have descended [on communities] downwind of the nearby Gaza Strip, according to Israeli police,” [Steve Hendrix, Hazem Balousha and Ruth Eglash report](#). “Most land in open countryside, and none has yet caused injury or death, something a local police commander described as a miracle bound to give way to a tragedy.”

### **Tens of thousands of Mexican women protested femicide and gender-based violence.**

“Women poured into the streets on Sunday to start a two-day protest and national strike against gender-based violence, in what organizers hope will be a turning point for women's rights in a country disfigured by violence and machismo,” [Mary Beth Sheridan reports](#). “Many wore purple, the color symbolizing International Women’s Day, celebrated throughout the world on Sunday, and waved signs reading ‘Fight today so we don’t die tomorrow’ and ‘We are the voice of those who are no longer with us.’ ... Mexico’s femicide rate rose about 10 percent in 2019 to 1,010 cases; an average of 10 women are killed per day. Surveys have found a majority of women have been victims of violence at some point in their lives.”

Meanwhile, a 22-year-old Guatemalan woman became the eighth migrant to die in ICE custody this fiscal year, per [BuzzFeed News](#).

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## **More on 2020**



Steve Bullock attends the Iowa State Fair last August. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

### **Steve Bullock officially announced he'll run for Senate.**

Montana's Democratic governor will challenge Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.). This reversal by the former presidential candidate boosts Democratic fortunes in their bid to unseat and reclaim the Senate majority. ([Felicia Sonmez and Paul Kane](#))

### **Twitter debuted its "manipulated media" label.**

A deceptively edited video of Biden was shared by White House social media director Dan Scavino and retweeted by Trump. "The video was the first test of a new policy the social media company implemented on March 5 to label tweets that contain manipulated or synthetic media, ranging from edited videos to more sophisticated examples known as 'deepfakes' that can fabricate events that never happened," [Cat Zakrzewski reports](#). "In this case, the altered video of Biden ... is based on a speech he gave in Kansas City, Mo., on Saturday. It was then shared on Twitter by Scavino, only edited to make it appear as if Biden inadvertently endorsed Trump for reelection."

## **The Russian media is freaking out about Biden's resurrection.**

“The pro-Kremlin newspaper Vzglyad complained that Biden ‘rose from the ashes like a phoenix,’ prevailing ‘in spite of the corruption scandals’ that have long been alleged and cultivated by the Russians—and the Republicans—concerning his son, Hunter, and his own activities in Ukraine,” [the Daily Beast reports](#). “With notable irritation, Vzglyad griped about [Biden’s] primary victories in North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Alabama, claiming that the pro-Biden votes in rural states were secured by ‘rednecks, who shoot skunks for fun, bowl, beat their wives and associate the word ‘socialist’ with the communist threat.’ The newspaper bitterly surmised that through Biden’s anticipated nomination, the U.S. elites won yet another Cold War against socialism.”

## **A watchdog warned the administration that it “urgently” needs to address problems with election security.**

“The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), part of the Department of Homeland Security, was to have finalized plans by January to support states and localities with their election security operations. That did not happen, according to a Government Accountability Office report,” [Joe Davidson reports](#). “The report said the agency ‘is not well-positioned to execute a nationwide strategy for securing election infrastructure prior to the start of the 2020 election cycle’ because it has not completed plans. According to the report, cybersecurity agency officials said they are unlikely to develop plans for election security assistance to political parties or come up with strategies for raising public awareness about foreign threats.”

## **James Biden's health-care ventures face growing scrutiny.**

In January, the FBI raided Americore Health hospital, a health-care

business linked to Joe Biden's brother, seizing boxes of documents and deepening the legal morass surrounding James Biden's recent venture into health-care investing, [Politico reports](#): "In the weeks since the raid, two small medical firms that did business with James Biden have claimed in civil court proceedings to have obtained evidence that he may have fraudulently transferred funds from Americore 'outside of the ordinary course of business' ... The purpose of the Jan. 30 raid of an Ellwood City, Pa., hospital remains unclear, and there is no indication it was related to the actions of Biden's younger brother ... In 2017 and 2018, James Biden was embarking on a foray into healthcare investing, telling potential partners, including at Americore, that his last name could open doors and that Joe Biden was excited about the public policy implications of their business models, according to court filings and interviews with former business contacts of James's."

### **Donald Trump Jr. challenged Hunter Biden to a debate.**

In an interview [with Axios's Jim VandeHei](#), the president's son said he wants to debate the former vice president's son over who has benefited more financially from their fathers' government service. "We can go full transparency, we show everything, and we can talk about all of the places where I am supposedly gifting but Hunter Biden isn't," said Don Jr., also claiming that he'd be willing to release his own tax returns if Hunter Biden put his out. "If we do it both, 100 percent. Let's talk about who profited off of whose public service." A Biden campaign spokesman replied that it's "hard to believe anything a Trump says on tax returns."

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## **Social media speed read**

Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) endorsed Biden's candidacy:



**Cory Booker** ✓

@CoryBooker



The answer to hatred & division is to reignite our spirit of common purpose. [@JoeBiden](#) won't only win - he'll show there's more that unites us than divides us.

He'll restore honor to the Oval Office and tackle our most pressing challenges.

That's why I'm proud to endorse Joe.



♥ 1,091 11:05 AM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 358 people are talking about this




On International Women's Day, a Post reporter noticed inequity even among cleaning sponges:

 **Sonia Rao**   
@missoniarao



Lol Scrub Mommy costs less than Scrub Daddy but does twice the work



 1.958 8:10 PM - Mar 8, 2020



 296 people are talking about this



Ex-FBI lawyer Lisa Page, who has been a regular target of gendered attacks by Trump, shared a message from Monica Lewinsky:



Amid the coronavirus outbreak, Trump golfed with players for the Nationals who are in West Palm Beach for spring training:



## Videos of the day

Trump's former top adviser on Russia, Fiona Hill, gave her first sit-down interview since testifying during the impeachment hearings:



There are thousands of sheriffs up for reelection this year, and John Oliver looked into what the job entails:





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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.



By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## **Bernie Sanders sharpens his pitch to women, as moms in Michigan oscillate between him and Biden**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Bernie Sanders has massively stepped up efforts to woo female voters since Joe Biden took the lead in delegates and Elizabeth Warren dropped out of the race.

The independent senator from Vermont unveiled a “reproductive health care and justice for all” plan on Saturday evening. He’s attacking the

former vice president for supporting the Hyde Amendment, which banned Medicaid funds from being used to cover abortions, until reversing himself under pressure last year. He's reading aloud a quote from the 1970s in which Biden said that *Roe v. Wade* "went too far."

"Women have a right to control their own bodies, not the government," Sanders said during an outdoor rally here on a sunny Sunday afternoon. "Here is my promise to you: I will never nominate anyone to the Supreme Court or the federal bench who is not 100 percent pro-*Roe v. Wade*. ... We're in this together."

Jesse Jackson told the crowd of 7,600 that he endorsed Sanders only after receiving an ironclad commitment that he would nominate an African American woman to the Supreme Court and a promise that he would give "serious consideration" to naming a black woman as his running mate. "Bernie can win, will win and must win," said Jackson.



Bernie Sanders introduces Jesse Jackson during a rally on Sunday at Calder Plaza in Grand Rapids, Mich. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Michigan is the most populous, and symbolically significant, of**

**six states voting tomorrow. An EPIC-MRA poll released this morning showed Biden leading Sanders 51 percent to 27 percent in the state**, with 13 percent undecided and 9 percent saying they plan to vote for another candidate. The survey of 400 likely Democratic voters, conducted Wednesday through Friday, has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percent. But this should be taken with a grain of salt. The pre-primary polls four years ago showed Hillary Clinton with a similarly huge lead, and Sanders pulled off an upset. Clinton's weakness foreshadowed Donald Trump narrowly carrying the state in November.

The Sanders campaign **rushed resources** and staff to Michigan over the weekend, going all-in on the Wolverine State the way that Biden did before South Carolina's primary. The **other states** with primaries on Tuesday are Missouri, Washington, Idaho, Mississippi and North Dakota.

**Women are the centerpiece of Sanders's comeback strategy here, including an effort to win over former supporters of Warren.** Biden led him among women by 12 points on Super Tuesday, 37 percent to 25 percent, based on median support in **available exit polling**, with Warren (D-Mass.) pulling 15 percent and former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg getting 13 percent. Biden led Sanders among men by a narrower 4 points, 36 percent to 32 percent, with Warren in single digits.

**"My heart wants to vote for Bernie. My gut wants to vote for Biden," said Melissa Courtade, 46, who sits on the Kenowa Hills school board.** She had planned to vote for Warren on Tuesday and remains undecided after watching Sanders speak. Courtade likes Sanders's plan to raise teacher pay to a minimum of \$60,000 per year but doesn't think it's realistic. She likes the idea of Medicare-for-all, but she isn't sure that's realistic either. She really likes Sanders personally, and many of her friends support him, but she's not sure he can beat Trump.

Courtade, who voted for Clinton in the 2016 primary, said her 19-year-old

daughter is supporting Biden because she thinks Sanders is too liberal to carry Michigan in the general election. “She jokingly teases me and says you’re ADD when it comes to this election, and I really am,” Courtade said after Sanders’s rally. “I just don’t know where my head is at right now. It’s so hard. I’ve never not known who I was going to vote for.”

**She was one of about two dozen women I spoke with at Sanders’s rally on Sunday afternoon. Several said they had planned to back Warren or one of the other female candidates but now reluctantly needed to decide between Sanders and Biden.**

A February [Washington Post-ABC News poll](#) found that while Sanders was ranked higher as a second choice by many Warren voters, a significant chunk favored moderate candidates, including Biden. Warren herself has not endorsed. The Massachusetts senator is [trying to balance](#) playing an inside game versus an outside game. Whether she backs someone or not, her ideas won’t go away and [neither will she](#).

Sanders won his upset four years ago by running up the score in rural and conservative parts of Michigan. He managed to eke out a 1.4-point win statewide despite losing the Detroit metropolitan area, including Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. But Sanders won Kent County, which includes Gerald Ford’s hometown of Grand Rapids, by 25 points, a 17,000-vote margin of victory. That was almost exactly his statewide margin. He’s trying to replicate this on Tuesday.

Kim Sapkowski, 55 of Belmont, had planned to vote for Warren but will now support Sanders because, in her view, Biden’s plans are too incremental. Her position as an administrative assistant at a local university was eliminated last month because of budget cuts. Now she’s unemployed and has two kids of her own in college. She worries a recession is looming, which bolsters her conviction that this is no time for “the half-measures” that she believes Biden wants to pursue. “I’m disappointed that we still are hesitant about electing a woman as

president, but we've just got to beat Trump," said Sapkowski. "The biggest response that the crowd gave Bernie was when he said that the government should get its hands off women's bodies. That was the strongest response he got, and you're in maybe the most conservative part of Michigan."



Sanders speaks in Grand Rapids. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

An advertisement for BlueCross BlueShield Association. The main image shows a woman in a red shirt holding a young child. Overlaid on the image is the text "BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM" in large, white, bold letters. At the bottom left is the BlueCross BlueShield Association logo. At the bottom right is a blue button with the text "PASS THE MOMNIBUS" and a right-pointing arrow. Below the main image, it says "Powered by LivIntent" with the LivIntent logo and a small play button icon.

**Biden will hold his own rally in Grand Rapids on Monday in a**

**bid to blunt Sanders's strength in Western Michigan.** Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), who dropped out a week ago today, also came here to campaign for Biden on Saturday. "People are looking for someone who is a rock, someone who is a safe place, and that is Joe Biden," she said at a brewery here.

Carolyn Ferrari, the regional manager for a theater company and one of the relatively few black faces at Sanders's rally here, had leaned toward supporting Klobuchar. But she decided to support Sanders on Sunday after hearing him commit to nominate a black woman to the Supreme Court. "Warren spoke very well, but something about her didn't seem genuine to me, and I don't think Biden can really get the job done," said Ferrari.

A hundred years after the ratification of the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote, the 49-year-old said she assumed all along over the past year that no women would be left in the race at this stage because sexism remains so endemic in American politics. "You hope, but you never really expect," she said, with a sigh. "I'm almost 50, and I don't know that it's going to change in my lifetime. But to be honest, I also didn't think we'd see a black president in my lifetime."

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) remains in the race, but she only has two delegates from American Samoa. The Democratic National Committee [announced](#) qualification requirements for Sunday night's debate in Phoenix that ensure only Biden and Sanders appear onstage.

Leslie Schwartz-Thomas, who retired as a 911 dispatcher to focus on being a grandmother to triplets, loved Warren. "The chance to vote for a woman had something to do with it," she said. "I'd be lying if I said it didn't, but I wouldn't vote for somebody just because they're a woman." Her son who lives in Seattle is a diehard Sanders supporter and urged his mom to feel the Bern after Warren suspended her campaign. The 59-year-old agreed to

go to Sanders's rally to hear him out. "A lot of what Bernie talks about, I agree with," she said, "but I worry he won't beat that man who is in the White House – I won't even say his name."

Women, especially in the suburbs, powered the Democratic takeover of the House in the 2018 midterm elections. Several first-term congresswomen who flipped seats have endorsed Biden in recent days, including Elissa Slotkin and Haley Stevens in Michigan. Gretchen Whitmer, the state's Democratic governor who also won in 2018, endorsed Biden last week. But Sanders had the early support of Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.). Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) – another member of the Squad elected in 2018 – introduced him on Sunday night before a crowd of 10,240 in Ann Arbor, home to the University of Michigan.

Indeed, Sanders fares better among women than the saturation coverage of the "[Bernie Bros](#)" might lead you to believe. "His main supporters are teachers," said Sanders supporter Nichole Biber, 45, an elementary school librarian in East Lansing. "Every time I go canvassing, it's women and men. The grass-roots movements that endorse him are made up of a lot of mothers. All the women I know voted for him four years ago too."

**Sanders has flushed out what once seemed like a box-checking afterthought toward the end of his stump speech with a robust commitment to make fighting for women a top priority.** He now says one of his top legislative goals would be codifying the protections of *Roe* into federal law and "significantly" increasing funding for Planned Parenthood. The [reproductive health-care plan](#) Sanders put out on Saturday pledges to use executive authority to reverse "Trump's anti-choice actions," require preclearance by the Justice Department for all new state abortion laws, block any federal funding for "crisis pregnancy centers" that don't perform abortions, make birth control available over-the-counter (it would also be free under Medicare-for-all) and ban abstinence-only sex education in schools.



The plan includes an emphasis on increasing access to reproductive services in communities of color, with provisions for eliminating “contraceptive deserts” and increasing funding to hospitals where most patients are African American. Discussing this plan in Grand Rapids, Sanders said: “We’re tired of black mothers dying at three times the rate of white mothers.”



Supporters cheer as Sanders takes the stage in Grand Rapids. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Biden has been trying to stay above the fray as Sanders intensifies his criticism.** His campaign didn’t respond directly to the abortion-focused attacks. Instead, he is **running** a commercial here that touts past praise from former president Barack Obama, as well as a response ad to a Sanders attack that he once supported cutting Social Security benefits.

On Sunday, Biden released a lengthy statement commemorating International Women’s Day. “Four years after more than 65 million Americans proudly cast their ballot hoping to elect our first female

president, we are fighting for the very soul of our nation and to rid the White House of a man who has fostered misogyny, bigotry, racism, and division all across our country,” he wrote. “I promise that, as president, I will use every tool available to me and take every opportunity to push our nation closer to that aspirational American creed – that all of us are equal in rights and dignity and deserve equal opportunity. ... I have pledged to seek gender parity and full diversity in my national security appointments, and that will be true across my government.”

On the other hand, many feminists remain angry at Biden for his shoddy treatment of Anita Hill during Clarence Thomas’s confirmation hearing to the Supreme Court in 1991. Biden, who was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee at the time, has [expressed regret](#) over his handling of her allegations of sexual harassment. Lucy Flores, a former Nevada state legislator, [accused Biden](#) last spring of smelling her hair and kissing the back of her head at a 2014 rally in Las Vegas.

**After Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) [backed Biden on Sunday](#), her aides told reporters that she waited to support him until there were no other major female candidates left in the race.**

Harris plans to introduce Biden at a rally tonight in Detroit. “Like many women, I watched with sadness as women exited the race one by one,” she said in her video announcement. “This is something we must reckon with, and it is something I will have more to say about in the future. But we must rise to unite the party and country behind a candidate who reflects the decency and dignity of the American people and who can ultimately defeat Donald Trump.”

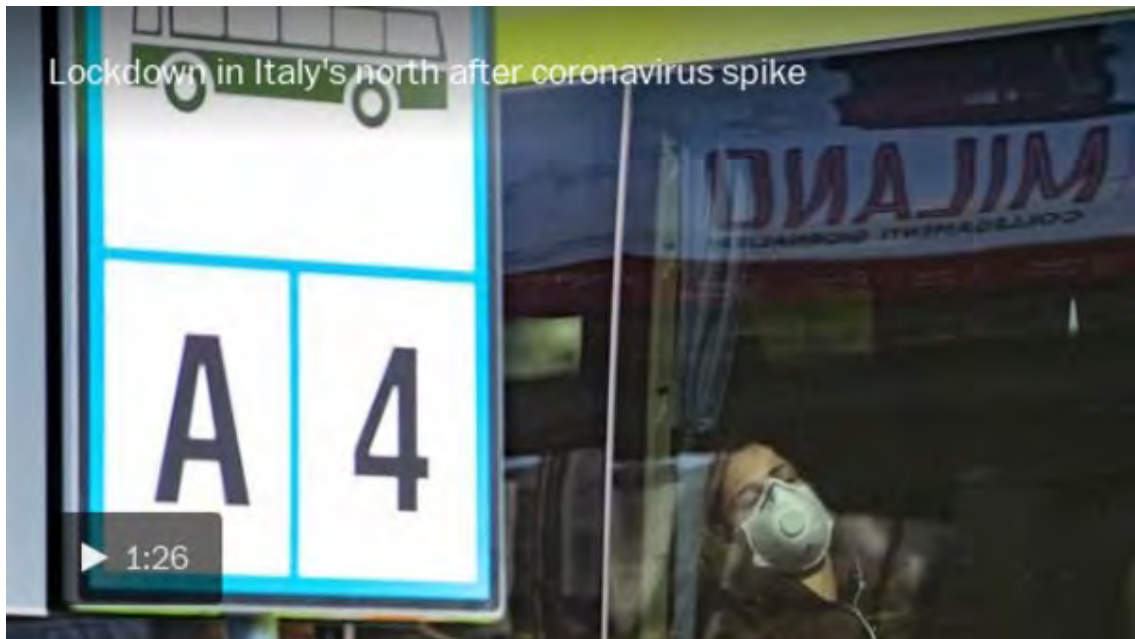
Shannon Koneracki, a 42-year-old stay-at-home mom from Sparta, never thought Sanders would get this far. She supported Clinton in the 2016 primary because she didn’t think Sanders could win, but the fact that Trump managed to get elected that fall led her to conclude that Sanders probably could too. So she will vote for him on Tuesday. “I would love to

have Bernie pick a vice president like Warren because it would help with the women's vote," said Koneracki, as her 6-year-old daughter Genesis ran in circles around her.

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## The latest on the coronavirus



**Markets tanked this morning.**

“The threat of a coronavirus-fueled oil war and continued panic around the outbreak brought markets to unprecedented lows Monday, triggering the first-ever forced halt on trading after the Standard & Poor’s 500 index sank 7 percent shortly after the open. The Dow Jones industrial average cratered as much as 2,000 points before clawing back,” [Thomas Heath, Will Englund and Taylor Telford report](#). “The forced freeze was a sign of unprecedented volatility for Wall Street amid the most turbulent trading in recent memory. Another 15-minute halt will be triggered if the S&P 500’s losses hit the 13 percent threshold. In the event of a 20 percent decline, markets would shut down for the day.

“Oil prices tumbled into the \$30s, after Saudi Arabia and Russia deadlocked over production. The Saudis had been pushing for a cut in output to prop up prices, but did a reversal when Russia balked and decided, instead, to flood the market with hundreds of thousands of additional barrels per day at a steep discount — a move analysts fear may trigger a price war.”

### **The White House and the Fed are at odds over how to stabilize the economy.**

“The coronavirus is threatening the economy ... Yet U.S. economic leaders are divided about how to respond, with [Fed Chair Jerome] Powell and his Trump administration counterparts, [economic adviser] Kudlow and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, differing in their assessments of the risks as well as the policies best suited to address the economic threat,” [Heather Long and Jeff Stein report](#). “Not only do the Fed and the White House appear to disagree on the severity of the potential economic hit, they’re at odds about the power of interest rate cuts to stem the panic. Trump and Kudlow have emphasized the Fed’s power to cut interest rates as the primary economic response to the crisis. But although they have moved to cut rates, Powell and others at the Fed have suggested that they have only a limited role to play ... The White House hasn’t, however,

shown consistent support for such stimulus.”

### **The number of U.S. cases has topped 500.**

“Saudi Arabia followed Italy in enacting new travel restrictions, Iran suspended flights to Europe, and the [U.S. government] warned citizens against cruise travel,” [Felicia Sonmez, Juliet Eilperin and Kim Bellware report](#). “A virus-stricken cruise ship made its way to California to dock ... The Department of Health and Human Services [said] that the Grand Princess cruise ship’s more than 3,500 passengers, at least 21 of whom have tested positive for the coronavirus, will be quarantined in California, Texas and Georgia. Some White House officials privately believe the number of U.S. cases will double — or more — in the next 48 hours. At least 21 people have died.” More than 30 states have announced infections.

**The District's first confirmed case is the Rev. Timothy Cole, rector of Christ Church Georgetown:** “A church spokesman said Cole was present for three services last Sunday attended by 550 people. Virginia [announced](#) a second case on Sunday, bringing the total number of cases in the Washington area to nine.”

- **D.C. officials urged hundreds who attended Christ Church Georgetown on several recent days to self-quarantine.** This is the first broad self-quarantine order in the Washington region. ([Ferit Nirappil and Darran Simon](#))
- **The School Without Walls, a D.C. public high school, is closed today.** City officials determined that a staff member had close contact with a person who tested positive. ([Perry Stein and Martin Weil](#))

### **A case of the virus at CPAC brought the virus closer to Trump.**

“Trump was photographed shaking hands with Matt Schlapp, the

chairman of the American Conservative Union, who confirmed that he had been in direct contact with the infected man during the Conservative Political Action Conference last month,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Josh Dawsey and Juliet Eilperin report](#). “The handshake at CPAC put Trump just two degrees of separation away from the virus ... While the White House has maintained that Trump was never in direct contact with the infected person and does not have any symptoms, the potential close call at a political event underscores how the outbreak threatens to upend the president’s routine as he campaigns for reelection.

"There is growing tension among Trump administration officials, who now view the rapidly spreading outbreak as a black swan event that could consume the president’s fourth year in office, even as Trump remains reluctant to see much cause for concern ... Concerns for the president’s personal health have also escalated as the death toll from the virus has risen, with most of the victims being senior citizens. **Trump’s personal doctor, Sean Conley, now attends some White House meetings on the coronavirus**, tracking where new cases are being reported ... The White House is also being cleaned more regularly and people with flu-like symptoms are being urged not to come into the complex, with the added warning that they may infect the leader of the free world ...

**"Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) said in a statement Sunday that he ‘briefly interacted’ with the infected person while at CPAC and would self-quarantine** at his Texas home 'out of an abundance of caution.' He said he does not have any symptoms associated with the virus. Rep. Paul A. Gosar (R-Ariz.) tweeted Sunday that he and three of his staff members are under self-quarantine ‘after sustained contact at CPAC’ with the person who has the virus. He added: ‘We are all asymptomatic and feel great.’”

**Sanders and Biden both plan to forge ahead with campaigning.**

“With the outbreak in the United States now affecting 30 states, some political organizations have reassessed their plans for conferences and large-scale events. The AFL-CIO, the largest group of labor unions in the country, announced that it is canceling its presidential forum, which had been scheduled for Thursday in Orlando. Sanders and [Biden] had been planning to attend,” [Felicia Sonmez, Juliet Eilperin and Paige Winfield Cunningham report](#).

- “We are in communications with public health officials wherever we go,” Sanders said on CNN. “We will not endanger the health of anybody in this country. ... We are watching this thing very, very carefully.”
- Sanders will hold a roundtable this afternoon with public health experts in Detroit to discuss how the country should address the coronavirus.
- During a campaign stop in Jackson, Miss., Biden answered a question about the coronavirus while rubbing sanitizer on his hands. “We’re listening to the experts at the CDC and doing everything they recommend,” he said.
- Trump has typically held a rally on the eve of each Democratic primary or caucus. But he does not have one planned for tonight. His last rally was this past Monday in North Carolina. Erin Perrine, a Trump campaign spokeswoman, said the campaign is “proceeding normally” and will announce further events at a later date.

### **Coronavirus anxiety is growing in an aging Congress.**

“Members of Congress are becoming increasingly anxious about coronavirus, and there is growing pressure on leadership to take steps to protect lawmakers — even potentially recessing for a period of weeks,” [NBC News reports](#). “Members plan to raise concerns with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., at their weekly leadership meeting [today]. ... It’s Pelosi’s decision whether to keep the House in session or make changes in the schedule.”

## **One of America's largest hospitals, is already feeling the virus's pressure.**

“Mass General is a renowned medical center with just over 1,000 beds and top research facilities, the kind of place many patients want to be when something terrible happens. Yet in a sign of the enormous challenge covid-19 poses to the health-care system, even emergency-response teams here were bracing for an outbreak that seemed increasingly likely to test staff and resources,” [Emma Brown reports](#). “At the ground level — observed during several days at Mass General and in interviews with key planning leaders — teams were working long hours to deal with challenges that the White House was playing down or insisting did not exist. ... Mass General health-care workers who encounter a patient with fever, cough and other symptoms of covid-19 can call a ‘biothreats’ pager at the hospital for advice and help determining whether that patient should be tested. On Tuesday, the pager buzzed about 20 times, according to Erica Shenoy, an infectious diseases doctor and associate chief of infection control. By Thursday afternoon, the buzzes sounded every 10 minutes and had become a full-time job for Amir Mohareb, the young infectious diseases doctor.”

## **Italian authorities are struggling to lock down about 16 million people.**

“The plan to lock down large swaths of the north was the first major attempt by a democracy during the coronavirus crisis to radically halt the routines of daily life — an effort that will have significant impacts on civil liberties,” [Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). “But in the hours before and after the measure became law, people continued to stream out of the northern hubs of Milan and Venice on trains and planes for southern Italy or elsewhere in Europe. Sunday, then, provided the first glimpse of a coronavirus lockdown, European-style ... Data released by Italy on Sunday night only underscored the urgency. Active cases jumped more than 1,300 in a single day to 6,387, and deaths jumped by 133 to



366. ... Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte described a series of emergency steps: People across the north, in the region of Lombardy and in 14 other provinces would be barred from exiting or entering other than for emergencies or essential work or health matters. But Conte also said some transportation would continue. He framed the measures as part of a broader message to keep distance from others and not ‘throw parties.’”

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## Quote of the day

*"It turns out that the truth matters, and epidemics can't be subdued by tweet," said Marie Yovanovitch, the former ambassador to Ukraine who was recalled by Trump.*  
*(Bloomington Herald-Times)*

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## The new world order



**Blasts disrupted the Afghan president's swearing-in ceremony.**

“An attack disrupted Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's inauguration

Monday amid a deepening political crisis that threatens to undermine the future of peace talks with the Taliban,” [Susannah George and Sharif Hassan report](#). “Both Ghani and his main rival, Abdullah Abdullah, held swearing-in ceremonies Monday after weeks of efforts to mediate between the two men failed. Afghanistan's election commission named Ghani the winner of the September presidential contest, with just enough of the vote to avoid a second round, but Abdullah declared the results fraudulent and claimed victory. The spectacle of dueling inaugurations held just yards apart in separate compounds reflect worsening divisions among Afghanistan's political elite as the country prepares to enter talks with the Taliban. The peace deal signed between the militants and the United States called for intra-Afghan talks to begin Tuesday. It is unclear if that benchmark will be met. Mediation efforts were held late into the night Sunday and continued until just moments before the ceremonies.”

### **The U.S. envoy to Afghanistan now faces his greatest challenge.**

Zalmay Khalilzad “is expected to be closely involved when representatives from the Taliban, the Afghan government and Afghan society sit down as early as this week to begin mapping out a future governing structure and finding consensus on divisive issues such as the role of Islam and women’s rights,” [Missy Ryan and John Hudson report](#). “Already there are signs of trouble. Afghan and Taliban leaders are disputing the terms of Khalilzad’s initial deal, and the militants have launched a series of deadly attacks. The format, objectives and even precise location of the next negotiations remain a mystery. ‘This is his biggest challenge,’ said Carter Malkasian, a former Pentagon official who took part in some of the talks Khalilzad conducted with militant leaders over the past two years ... Looming over the negotiations is officials’ hazy understanding of what Trump wants and will tolerate. While the president has consistently voiced his desire to get U.S. troops out of the country, it is less clear how he will define American interests in what is likely to be a protracted effort to shape Afghanistan’s

future."

### **North Korea fired three projectiles after threatening “momentous” action.**

“South Korea’s national security director, defense minister and spy chief held an emergency video conference and agreed the North Korean action were not helpful to efforts to establish a peace on the Korean Peninsula, according to South Korea’s presidential Blue House,” [the AP reports](#).

### **Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman detained two other Saudi princes in villas.**

“Two senior princes detained in a crackdown against potential rivals of Saudi Arabia’s powerful crown prince are being held in private villas and have been allowed to call their families, according to a person with ties to the royal family,” [Liz Sly, Ellen Nakashima and Kareem Fahim report](#).

“The detention on Friday of [King Salman’s] younger brother, Ahmed bin Abdulaziz, and one of his nephews, Mohammed bin Nayef, sparked rumors that Salman’s health might have deteriorated, prompting the bold move by [the Crown Prince], the king’s son and heir, against some of the most senior members of the royal family. ... The princes have in the past been considered possible heirs to the crown. ... The person said the princes contacted family members on Saturday and told them that they were being held not in prisons but in private royal villas. Ahmed asked relatives to send him his ‘bisht,’ a robe worn for official engagements, prompting the person to speculate that he might soon make a public appearance, perhaps under duress.”

### **Gaza militants targeted Israel with party balloons bearing bombs.**

“In recent months, hundreds of booby-trapped balloons — sometimes bearing the messages ‘I Love You’ and ‘Happy Birthday’ along with small

improvised explosives dangling by a string — have descended [on communities] downwind of the nearby Gaza Strip, according to Israeli police,” [Steve Hendrix, Hazem Balousha and Ruth Eglash report](#). “Most land in open countryside, and none has yet caused injury or death, something a local police commander described as a miracle bound to give way to a tragedy.”

### **Tens of thousands of Mexican women protested femicide and gender-based violence.**

“Women poured into the streets on Sunday to start a two-day protest and national strike against gender-based violence, in what organizers hope will be a turning point for women's rights in a country disfigured by violence and machismo,” [Mary Beth Sheridan reports](#). “Many wore purple, the color symbolizing International Women’s Day, celebrated throughout the world on Sunday, and waved signs reading ‘Fight today so we don’t die tomorrow’ and ‘We are the voice of those who are no longer with us.’ ... Mexico’s femicide rate rose about 10 percent in 2019 to 1,010 cases; an average of 10 women are killed per day. Surveys have found a majority of women have been victims of violence at some point in their lives.”

Meanwhile, a 22-year-old Guatemalan woman became the eighth migrant to die in ICE custody this fiscal year, per [BuzzFeed News](#).

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## **More on 2020**



Steve Bullock attends the Iowa State Fair last August. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

### **Steve Bullock officially announced he'll run for Senate.**

Montana's Democratic governor will challenge Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.). This reversal by the former presidential candidate boosts Democratic fortunes in their bid to unseat and reclaim the Senate majority. ([Felicia Sonmez and Paul Kane](#))

### **Twitter debuted its "manipulated media" label.**

A deceptively edited video of Biden was shared by White House social media director Dan Scavino and retweeted by Trump. "The video was the first test of a new policy the social media company implemented on March 5 to label tweets that contain manipulated or synthetic media, ranging from edited videos to more sophisticated examples known as 'deepfakes' that can fabricate events that never happened," [Cat Zakrzewski reports](#). "In this case, the altered video of Biden ... is based on a speech he gave in Kansas City, Mo., on Saturday. It was then shared on Twitter by Scavino, only edited to make it appear as if Biden inadvertently endorsed Trump for reelection."

## **The Russian media is freaking out about Biden's resurrection.**

“The pro-Kremlin newspaper Vzglyad complained that Biden ‘rose from the ashes like a phoenix,’ prevailing ‘in spite of the corruption scandals’ that have long been alleged and cultivated by the Russians—and the Republicans—concerning his son, Hunter, and his own activities in Ukraine,” [the Daily Beast reports](#). “With notable irritation, Vzglyad griped about [Biden’s] primary victories in North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Alabama, claiming that the pro-Biden votes in rural states were secured by ‘rednecks, who shoot skunks for fun, bowl, beat their wives and associate the word ‘socialist’ with the communist threat.’ The newspaper bitterly surmised that through Biden’s anticipated nomination, the U.S. elites won yet another Cold War against socialism.”

## **A watchdog warned the administration that it “urgently” needs to address problems with election security.**

“The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), part of the Department of Homeland Security, was to have finalized plans by January to support states and localities with their election security operations. That did not happen, according to a Government Accountability Office report,” [Joe Davidson reports](#). “The report said the agency ‘is not well-positioned to execute a nationwide strategy for securing election infrastructure prior to the start of the 2020 election cycle’ because it has not completed plans. According to the report, cybersecurity agency officials said they are unlikely to develop plans for election security assistance to political parties or come up with strategies for raising public awareness about foreign threats.”

## **James Biden's health-care ventures face growing scrutiny.**

In January, the FBI raided Americore Health hospital, a health-care

business linked to Joe Biden's brother, seizing boxes of documents and deepening the legal morass surrounding James Biden's recent venture into health-care investing, [Politico reports](#): "In the weeks since the raid, two small medical firms that did business with James Biden have claimed in civil court proceedings to have obtained evidence that he may have fraudulently transferred funds from Americore 'outside of the ordinary course of business' ... The purpose of the Jan. 30 raid of an Ellwood City, Pa., hospital remains unclear, and there is no indication it was related to the actions of Biden's younger brother ... In 2017 and 2018, James Biden was embarking on a foray into healthcare investing, telling potential partners, including at Americore, that his last name could open doors and that Joe Biden was excited about the public policy implications of their business models, according to court filings and interviews with former business contacts of James's."

### **Donald Trump Jr. challenged Hunter Biden to a debate.**

In an interview [with Axios's Jim VandeHei](#), the president's son said he wants to debate the former vice president's son over who has benefited more financially from their fathers' government service. "We can go full transparency, we show everything, and we can talk about all of the places where I am supposedly gifting but Hunter Biden isn't," said Don Jr., also claiming that he'd be willing to release his own tax returns if Hunter Biden put his out. "If we do it both, 100 percent. Let's talk about who profited off of whose public service." A Biden campaign spokesman replied that it's "hard to believe anything a Trump says on tax returns."

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## **Social media speed read**

Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) endorsed Biden's candidacy:



**Cory Booker** ✓

@CoryBooker



The answer to hatred & division is to reignite our spirit of common purpose. @JoeBiden won't only win - he'll show there's more that unites us than divides us.

He'll restore honor to the Oval Office and tackle our most pressing challenges.

That's why I'm proud to endorse Joe.



♥ 1,091 11:05 AM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 358 people are talking about this



On International Women's Day, a Post reporter noticed inequity even among cleaning sponges:





**Sonia Rao**   
@missoniarao



Lol Scrub Mommy costs less than Scrub Daddy but does twice the work



♥ 1.958 8:10 PM - Mar 8, 2020



💬 296 people are talking about this



Ex-FBI lawyer Lisa Page, who has been a regular target of gendered attacks by Trump, shared a message from Monica Lewinsky:



Amid the coronavirus outbreak, Trump golfed with players for the Nationals who are in West Palm Beach for spring training:



## Videos of the day

Trump's former top adviser on Russia, Fiona Hill, gave her first sit-down interview since testifying during the impeachment hearings:



There are thousands of sheriffs up for reelection this year, and John Oliver looked into what the job entails:



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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.



By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
✉ Email

## **Bernie Sanders sharpens his pitch to women, as moms in Michigan oscillate between him and Biden**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Bernie Sanders has massively stepped up efforts to woo female voters since Joe Biden took the lead in delegates and Elizabeth Warren dropped out of the race.

The independent senator from Vermont unveiled a “reproductive health care and justice for all” plan on Saturday evening. He’s attacking the

former vice president for supporting the Hyde Amendment, which banned Medicaid funds from being used to cover abortions, until reversing himself under pressure last year. He's reading aloud a quote from the 1970s in which Biden said that *Roe v. Wade* "went too far."

"Women have a right to control their own bodies, not the government," Sanders said during an outdoor rally here on a sunny Sunday afternoon. "Here is my promise to you: I will never nominate anyone to the Supreme Court or the federal bench who is not 100 percent pro-*Roe v. Wade*. ... We're in this together."

Jesse Jackson told the crowd of 7,600 that he endorsed Sanders only after receiving an ironclad commitment that he would nominate an African American woman to the Supreme Court and a promise that he would give "serious consideration" to naming a black woman as his running mate. "Bernie can win, will win and must win," said Jackson.



Bernie Sanders introduces Jesse Jackson during a rally on Sunday at Calder Plaza in Grand Rapids, Mich. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Michigan is the most populous, and symbolically significant, of**

**six states voting tomorrow. An EPIC-MRA poll released this morning showed Biden leading Sanders 51 percent to 27 percent in the state**, with 13 percent undecided and 9 percent saying they plan to vote for another candidate. The survey of 400 likely Democratic voters, conducted Wednesday through Friday, has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percent. But this should be taken with a grain of salt. The pre-primary polls four years ago showed Hillary Clinton with a similarly huge lead, and Sanders pulled off an upset. Clinton's weakness foreshadowed Donald Trump narrowly carrying the state in November.

The Sanders campaign **rushed resources** and staff to Michigan over the weekend, going all-in on the Wolverine State the way that Biden did before South Carolina's primary. The **other states** with primaries on Tuesday are Missouri, Washington, Idaho, Mississippi and North Dakota.

**Women are the centerpiece of Sanders's comeback strategy here, including an effort to win over former supporters of Warren.** Biden led him among women by 12 points on Super Tuesday, 37 percent to 25 percent, based on median support in **available exit polling**, with Warren (D-Mass.) pulling 15 percent and former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg getting 13 percent. Biden led Sanders among men by a narrower 4 points, 36 percent to 32 percent, with Warren in single digits.

**"My heart wants to vote for Bernie. My gut wants to vote for Biden," said Melissa Courtade, 46, who sits on the Kenowa Hills school board.** She had planned to vote for Warren on Tuesday and remains undecided after watching Sanders speak. Courtade likes Sanders's plan to raise teacher pay to a minimum of \$60,000 per year but doesn't think it's realistic. She likes the idea of Medicare-for-all, but she isn't sure that's realistic either. She really likes Sanders personally, and many of her friends support him, but she's not sure he can beat Trump.

Courtade, who voted for Clinton in the 2016 primary, said her 19-year-old

daughter is supporting Biden because she thinks Sanders is too liberal to carry Michigan in the general election. “She jokingly teases me and says you’re ADD when it comes to this election, and I really am,” Courtade said after Sanders’s rally. “I just don’t know where my head is at right now. It’s so hard. I’ve never not known who I was going to vote for.”

**She was one of about two dozen women I spoke with at Sanders’s rally on Sunday afternoon. Several said they had planned to back Warren or one of the other female candidates but now reluctantly needed to decide between Sanders and Biden.**

A February [Washington Post-ABC News poll](#) found that while Sanders was ranked higher as a second choice by many Warren voters, a significant chunk favored moderate candidates, including Biden. Warren herself has not endorsed. The Massachusetts senator is [trying to balance](#) playing an inside game versus an outside game. Whether she backs someone or not, her ideas won’t go away and [neither will she](#).

Sanders won his upset four years ago by running up the score in rural and conservative parts of Michigan. He managed to eke out a 1.4-point win statewide despite losing the Detroit metropolitan area, including Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. But Sanders won Kent County, which includes Gerald Ford’s hometown of Grand Rapids, by 25 points, a 17,000-vote margin of victory. That was almost exactly his statewide margin. He’s trying to replicate this on Tuesday.

Kim Sapkowski, 55 of Belmont, had planned to vote for Warren but will now support Sanders because, in her view, Biden’s plans are too incremental. Her position as an administrative assistant at a local university was eliminated last month because of budget cuts. Now she’s unemployed and has two kids of her own in college. She worries a recession is looming, which bolsters her conviction that this is no time for “the half-measures” that she believes Biden wants to pursue. “I’m disappointed that we still are hesitant about electing a woman as



president, but we've just got to beat Trump," said Sapkowski. "The biggest response that the crowd gave Bernie was when he said that the government should get its hands off women's bodies. That was the strongest response he got, and you're in maybe the most conservative part of Michigan."



Sanders speaks in Grand Rapids. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

An advertisement for the BlueCross BlueShield Association. The main image shows a woman in a red shirt holding a young child. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text "BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM" in large, white, bold letters. At the bottom left, there is the BlueCross BlueShield Association logo. At the bottom right, there is a blue button with the text "PASS THE MOMNIBUS" and a right-pointing arrow. Below the main image, it says "Powered by LivIntent" with the LivIntent logo.

**Biden will hold his own rally in Grand Rapids on Monday in a**

**bid to blunt Sanders's strength in Western Michigan.** Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), who dropped out a week ago today, also came here to campaign for Biden on Saturday. "People are looking for someone who is a rock, someone who is a safe place, and that is Joe Biden," she said at a brewery here.

Carolyn Ferrari, the regional manager for a theater company and one of the relatively few black faces at Sanders's rally here, had leaned toward supporting Klobuchar. But she decided to support Sanders on Sunday after hearing him commit to nominate a black woman to the Supreme Court. "Warren spoke very well, but something about her didn't seem genuine to me, and I don't think Biden can really get the job done," said Ferrari.

A hundred years after the ratification of the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote, the 49-year-old said she assumed all along over the past year that no women would be left in the race at this stage because sexism remains so endemic in American politics. "You hope, but you never really expect," she said, with a sigh. "I'm almost 50, and I don't know that it's going to change in my lifetime. But to be honest, I also didn't think we'd see a black president in my lifetime."

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) remains in the race, but she only has two delegates from American Samoa. The Democratic National Committee [announced](#) qualification requirements for Sunday night's debate in Phoenix that ensure only Biden and Sanders appear onstage.

Leslie Schwartz-Thomas, who retired as a 911 dispatcher to focus on being a grandmother to triplets, loved Warren. "The chance to vote for a woman had something to do with it," she said. "I'd be lying if I said it didn't, but I wouldn't vote for somebody just because they're a woman." Her son who lives in Seattle is a diehard Sanders supporter and urged his mom to feel the Bern after Warren suspended her campaign. The 59-year-old agreed to

go to Sanders's rally to hear him out. "A lot of what Bernie talks about, I agree with," she said, "but I worry he won't beat that man who is in the White House – I won't even say his name."

Women, especially in the suburbs, powered the Democratic takeover of the House in the 2018 midterm elections. Several first-term congresswomen who flipped seats have endorsed Biden in recent days, including Elissa Slotkin and Haley Stevens in Michigan. Gretchen Whitmer, the state's Democratic governor who also won in 2018, endorsed Biden last week. But Sanders had the early support of Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.). Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) – another member of the Squad elected in 2018 – introduced him on Sunday night before a crowd of 10,240 in Ann Arbor, home to the University of Michigan.

Indeed, Sanders fares better among women than the saturation coverage of the "[Bernie Bros](#)" might lead you to believe. "His main supporters are teachers," said Sanders supporter Nichole Biber, 45, an elementary school librarian in East Lansing. "Every time I go canvassing, it's women and men. The grass-roots movements that endorse him are made up of a lot of mothers. All the women I know voted for him four years ago too."

**Sanders has flushed out what once seemed like a box-checking afterthought toward the end of his stump speech with a robust commitment to make fighting for women a top priority.** He now says one of his top legislative goals would be codifying the protections of *Roe* into federal law and "significantly" increasing funding for Planned Parenthood. The [reproductive health-care plan](#) Sanders put out on Saturday pledges to use executive authority to reverse "Trump's anti-choice actions," require preclearance by the Justice Department for all new state abortion laws, block any federal funding for "crisis pregnancy centers" that don't perform abortions, make birth control available over-the-counter (it would also be free under Medicare-for-all) and ban abstinence-only sex education in schools.

The plan includes an emphasis on increasing access to reproductive services in communities of color, with provisions for eliminating “contraceptive deserts” and increasing funding to hospitals where most patients are African American. Discussing this plan in Grand Rapids, Sanders said: “We’re tired of black mothers dying at three times the rate of white mothers.”



Supporters cheer as Sanders takes the stage in Grand Rapids. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Biden has been trying to stay above the fray as Sanders intensifies his criticism.** His campaign didn’t respond directly to the abortion-focused attacks. Instead, he is **running** a commercial here that touts past praise from former president Barack Obama, as well as a response ad to a Sanders attack that he once supported cutting Social Security benefits.

On Sunday, Biden released a lengthy statement commemorating International Women’s Day. “Four years after more than 65 million Americans proudly cast their ballot hoping to elect our first female

president, we are fighting for the very soul of our nation and to rid the White House of a man who has fostered misogyny, bigotry, racism, and division all across our country,” he wrote. “I promise that, as president, I will use every tool available to me and take every opportunity to push our nation closer to that aspirational American creed – that all of us are equal in rights and dignity and deserve equal opportunity. ... I have pledged to seek gender parity and full diversity in my national security appointments, and that will be true across my government.”

On the other hand, many feminists remain angry at Biden for his shoddy treatment of Anita Hill during Clarence Thomas’s confirmation hearing to the Supreme Court in 1991. Biden, who was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee at the time, has [expressed regret](#) over his handling of her allegations of sexual harassment. Lucy Flores, a former Nevada state legislator, [accused Biden](#) last spring of smelling her hair and kissing the back of her head at a 2014 rally in Las Vegas.

**After Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) [backed Biden on Sunday](#), her aides told reporters that she waited to support him until there were no other major female candidates left in the race.**

Harris plans to introduce Biden at a rally tonight in Detroit. “Like many women, I watched with sadness as women exited the race one by one,” she said in her video announcement. “This is something we must reckon with, and it is something I will have more to say about in the future. But we must rise to unite the party and country behind a candidate who reflects the decency and dignity of the American people and who can ultimately defeat Donald Trump.”

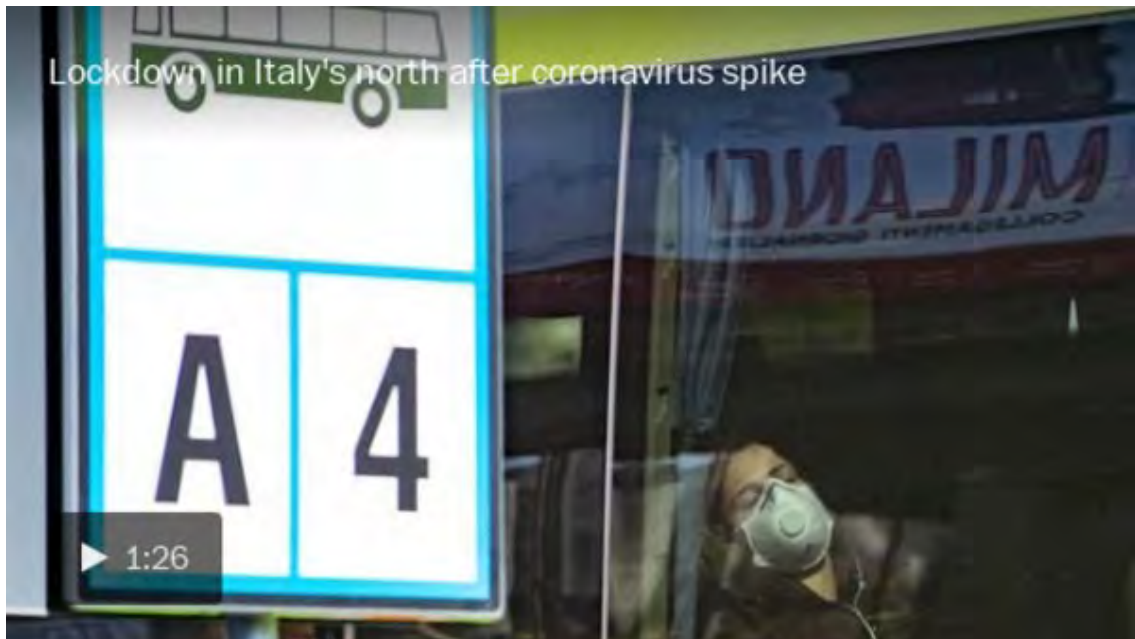
Shannon Koneracki, a 42-year-old stay-at-home mom from Sparta, never thought Sanders would get this far. She supported Clinton in the 2016 primary because she didn’t think Sanders could win, but the fact that Trump managed to get elected that fall led her to conclude that Sanders probably could too. So she will vote for him on Tuesday. “I would love to

have Bernie pick a vice president like Warren because it would help with the women's vote," said Koneracki, as her 6-year-old daughter Genesis ran in circles around her.

Share The Daily 202 [!\[\]\(d0a1791f26d167e866e44ebbf83efebe\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(cb1960474df5b19cdeae2009c7323e63\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(d08b0fd4d750d53eedcbf354f1702398\_img.jpg\)](#)

Listen to the podcast [!\[\]\(5eb1325dfdc3f1cad8426726c0db51cd\_img.jpg\)](#)

## The latest on the coronavirus



**Markets tanked this morning.**

“The threat of a coronavirus-fueled oil war and continued panic around the outbreak brought markets to unprecedented lows Monday, triggering the first-ever forced halt on trading after the Standard & Poor’s 500 index sank 7 percent shortly after the open. The Dow Jones industrial average cratered as much as 2,000 points before clawing back,” [Thomas Heath, Will Englund and Taylor Telford report](#). “The forced freeze was a sign of unprecedented volatility for Wall Street amid the most turbulent trading in recent memory. Another 15-minute halt will be triggered if the S&P 500’s losses hit the 13 percent threshold. In the event of a 20 percent decline, markets would shut down for the day.

“Oil prices tumbled into the \$30s, after Saudi Arabia and Russia deadlocked over production. The Saudis had been pushing for a cut in output to prop up prices, but did a reversal when Russia balked and decided, instead, to flood the market with hundreds of thousands of additional barrels per day at a steep discount — a move analysts fear may trigger a price war.”

### **The White House and the Fed are at odds over how to stabilize the economy.**

“The coronavirus is threatening the economy ... Yet U.S. economic leaders are divided about how to respond, with [Fed Chair Jerome] Powell and his Trump administration counterparts, [economic adviser] Kudlow and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, differing in their assessments of the risks as well as the policies best suited to address the economic threat,” [Heather Long and Jeff Stein report](#). “Not only do the Fed and the White House appear to disagree on the severity of the potential economic hit, they’re at odds about the power of interest rate cuts to stem the panic. Trump and Kudlow have emphasized the Fed’s power to cut interest rates as the primary economic response to the crisis. But although they have moved to cut rates, Powell and others at the Fed have suggested that they have only a limited role to play ... The White House hasn’t, however,

shown consistent support for such stimulus.”

### **The number of U.S. cases has topped 500.**

“Saudi Arabia followed Italy in enacting new travel restrictions, Iran suspended flights to Europe, and the [U.S. government] warned citizens against cruise travel,” [Felicia Sonmez, Juliet Eilperin and Kim Bellware report](#). “A virus-stricken cruise ship made its way to California to dock ... The Department of Health and Human Services [said] that the Grand Princess cruise ship’s more than 3,500 passengers, at least 21 of whom have tested positive for the coronavirus, will be quarantined in California, Texas and Georgia. Some White House officials privately believe the number of U.S. cases will double — or more — in the next 48 hours. At least 21 people have died.” More than 30 states have announced infections.

**The District's first confirmed case is the Rev. Timothy Cole, rector of Christ Church Georgetown:** “A church spokesman said Cole was present for three services last Sunday attended by 550 people. Virginia [announced](#) a second case on Sunday, bringing the total number of cases in the Washington area to nine.”

- **D.C. officials urged hundreds who attended Christ Church Georgetown on several recent days to self-quarantine.** This is the first broad self-quarantine order in the Washington region. ([Ferit Nirappil and Darran Simon](#))
- **The School Without Walls, a D.C. public high school, is closed today.** City officials determined that a staff member had close contact with a person who tested positive. ([Perry Stein and Martin Weil](#))

### **A case of the virus at CPAC brought the virus closer to Trump.**

“Trump was photographed shaking hands with Matt Schlapp, the



chairman of the American Conservative Union, who confirmed that he had been in direct contact with the infected man during the Conservative Political Action Conference last month,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Josh Dawsey and Juliet Eilperin report](#). “The handshake at CPAC put Trump just two degrees of separation away from the virus ... While the White House has maintained that Trump was never in direct contact with the infected person and does not have any symptoms, the potential close call at a political event underscores how the outbreak threatens to upend the president’s routine as he campaigns for reelection.

"There is growing tension among Trump administration officials, who now view the rapidly spreading outbreak as a black swan event that could consume the president’s fourth year in office, even as Trump remains reluctant to see much cause for concern ... Concerns for the president’s personal health have also escalated as the death toll from the virus has risen, with most of the victims being senior citizens. **Trump’s personal doctor, Sean Conley, now attends some White House meetings on the coronavirus**, tracking where new cases are being reported ... The White House is also being cleaned more regularly and people with flu-like symptoms are being urged not to come into the complex, with the added warning that they may infect the leader of the free world ...

**"Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) said in a statement Sunday that he ‘briefly interacted’ with the infected person while at CPAC and would self-quarantine** at his Texas home 'out of an abundance of caution.' He said he does not have any symptoms associated with the virus. Rep. Paul A. Gosar (R-Ariz.) tweeted Sunday that he and three of his staff members are under self-quarantine ‘after sustained contact at CPAC’ with the person who has the virus. He added: ‘We are all asymptomatic and feel great.’”

**Sanders and Biden both plan to forge ahead with campaigning.**

“With the outbreak in the United States now affecting 30 states, some political organizations have reassessed their plans for conferences and large-scale events. The AFL-CIO, the largest group of labor unions in the country, announced that it is canceling its presidential forum, which had been scheduled for Thursday in Orlando. Sanders and [Biden] had been planning to attend,” [Felicia Sonmez, Juliet Eilperin and Paige Winfield Cunningham report](#).

- “We are in communications with public health officials wherever we go,” Sanders said on CNN. “We will not endanger the health of anybody in this country. ... We are watching this thing very, very carefully.”
- Sanders will hold a roundtable this afternoon with public health experts in Detroit to discuss how the country should address the coronavirus.
- During a campaign stop in Jackson, Miss., Biden answered a question about the coronavirus while rubbing sanitizer on his hands. “We’re listening to the experts at the CDC and doing everything they recommend,” he said.
- Trump has typically held a rally on the eve of each Democratic primary or caucus. But he does not have one planned for tonight. His last rally was this past Monday in North Carolina. Erin Perrine, a Trump campaign spokeswoman, said the campaign is “proceeding normally” and will announce further events at a later date.

### **Coronavirus anxiety is growing in an aging Congress.**

“Members of Congress are becoming increasingly anxious about coronavirus, and there is growing pressure on leadership to take steps to protect lawmakers — even potentially recessing for a period of weeks,” [NBC News reports](#). “Members plan to raise concerns with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., at their weekly leadership meeting [today]. ... It’s Pelosi’s decision whether to keep the House in session or make changes in the schedule.”

## **One of America's largest hospitals, is already feeling the virus's pressure.**

“Mass General is a renowned medical center with just over 1,000 beds and top research facilities, the kind of place many patients want to be when something terrible happens. Yet in a sign of the enormous challenge covid-19 poses to the health-care system, even emergency-response teams here were bracing for an outbreak that seemed increasingly likely to test staff and resources,” [Emma Brown reports](#). “At the ground level — observed during several days at Mass General and in interviews with key planning leaders — teams were working long hours to deal with challenges that the White House was playing down or insisting did not exist. ... Mass General health-care workers who encounter a patient with fever, cough and other symptoms of covid-19 can call a ‘biothreats’ pager at the hospital for advice and help determining whether that patient should be tested. On Tuesday, the pager buzzed about 20 times, according to Erica Shenoy, an infectious diseases doctor and associate chief of infection control. By Thursday afternoon, the buzzes sounded every 10 minutes and had become a full-time job for Amir Mohareb, the young infectious diseases doctor.”

## **Italian authorities are struggling to lock down about 16 million people.**

“The plan to lock down large swaths of the north was the first major attempt by a democracy during the coronavirus crisis to radically halt the routines of daily life — an effort that will have significant impacts on civil liberties,” [Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). “But in the hours before and after the measure became law, people continued to stream out of the northern hubs of Milan and Venice on trains and planes for southern Italy or elsewhere in Europe. Sunday, then, provided the first glimpse of a coronavirus lockdown, European-style ... Data released by Italy on Sunday night only underscored the urgency. Active cases jumped more than 1,300 in a single day to 6,387, and deaths jumped by 133 to

366. ... Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte described a series of emergency steps: People across the north, in the region of Lombardy and in 14 other provinces would be barred from exiting or entering other than for emergencies or essential work or health matters. But Conte also said some transportation would continue. He framed the measures as part of a broader message to keep distance from others and not ‘throw parties.’”

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## Quote of the day

*"It turns out that the truth matters, and epidemics can't be subdued by tweet," said Marie Yovanovitch, the former ambassador to Ukraine who was recalled by Trump.*  
*(Bloomington Herald-Times)*

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## The new world order



**Blasts disrupted the Afghan president's swearing-in ceremony.**

“An attack disrupted Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's inauguration

Monday amid a deepening political crisis that threatens to undermine the future of peace talks with the Taliban,” [Susannah George and Sharif Hassan report](#). “Both Ghani and his main rival, Abdullah Abdullah, held swearing-in ceremonies Monday after weeks of efforts to mediate between the two men failed. Afghanistan's election commission named Ghani the winner of the September presidential contest, with just enough of the vote to avoid a second round, but Abdullah declared the results fraudulent and claimed victory. The spectacle of dueling inaugurations held just yards apart in separate compounds reflect worsening divisions among Afghanistan's political elite as the country prepares to enter talks with the Taliban. The peace deal signed between the militants and the United States called for intra-Afghan talks to begin Tuesday. It is unclear if that benchmark will be met. Mediation efforts were held late into the night Sunday and continued until just moments before the ceremonies.”

### **The U.S. envoy to Afghanistan now faces his greatest challenge.**

Zalmay Khalilzad “is expected to be closely involved when representatives from the Taliban, the Afghan government and Afghan society sit down as early as this week to begin mapping out a future governing structure and finding consensus on divisive issues such as the role of Islam and women’s rights,” [Missy Ryan and John Hudson report](#). “Already there are signs of trouble. Afghan and Taliban leaders are disputing the terms of Khalilzad’s initial deal, and the militants have launched a series of deadly attacks. The format, objectives and even precise location of the next negotiations remain a mystery. ‘This is his biggest challenge,’ said Carter Malkasian, a former Pentagon official who took part in some of the talks Khalilzad conducted with militant leaders over the past two years ... Looming over the negotiations is officials’ hazy understanding of what Trump wants and will tolerate. While the president has consistently voiced his desire to get U.S. troops out of the country, it is less clear how he will define American interests in what is likely to be a protracted effort to shape Afghanistan’s

future."

### **North Korea fired three projectiles after threatening “momentous” action.**

“South Korea’s national security director, defense minister and spy chief held an emergency video conference and agreed the North Korean action were not helpful to efforts to establish a peace on the Korean Peninsula, according to South Korea’s presidential Blue House,” [the AP reports](#).

### **Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman detained two other Saudi princes in villas.**

“Two senior princes detained in a crackdown against potential rivals of Saudi Arabia’s powerful crown prince are being held in private villas and have been allowed to call their families, according to a person with ties to the royal family,” [Liz Sly, Ellen Nakashima and Kareem Fahim report](#).

“The detention on Friday of [King Salman’s] younger brother, Ahmed bin Abdulaziz, and one of his nephews, Mohammed bin Nayef, sparked rumors that Salman’s health might have deteriorated, prompting the bold move by [the Crown Prince], the king’s son and heir, against some of the most senior members of the royal family. ... The princes have in the past been considered possible heirs to the crown. ... The person said the princes contacted family members on Saturday and told them that they were being held not in prisons but in private royal villas. Ahmed asked relatives to send him his ‘bisht,’ a robe worn for official engagements, prompting the person to speculate that he might soon make a public appearance, perhaps under duress.”

### **Gaza militants targeted Israel with party balloons bearing bombs.**

“In recent months, hundreds of booby-trapped balloons — sometimes bearing the messages ‘I Love You’ and ‘Happy Birthday’ along with small

improvised explosives dangling by a string — have descended [on communities] downwind of the nearby Gaza Strip, according to Israeli police,” [Steve Hendrix, Hazem Balousha and Ruth Eglash report](#). “Most land in open countryside, and none has yet caused injury or death, something a local police commander described as a miracle bound to give way to a tragedy.”

### **Tens of thousands of Mexican women protested femicide and gender-based violence.**

“Women poured into the streets on Sunday to start a two-day protest and national strike against gender-based violence, in what organizers hope will be a turning point for women's rights in a country disfigured by violence and machismo,” [Mary Beth Sheridan reports](#). “Many wore purple, the color symbolizing International Women’s Day, celebrated throughout the world on Sunday, and waved signs reading ‘Fight today so we don’t die tomorrow’ and ‘We are the voice of those who are no longer with us.’ ... Mexico’s femicide rate rose about 10 percent in 2019 to 1,010 cases; an average of 10 women are killed per day. Surveys have found a majority of women have been victims of violence at some point in their lives.”

Meanwhile, a 22-year-old Guatemalan woman became the eighth migrant to die in ICE custody this fiscal year, per [BuzzFeed News](#).

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## **More on 2020**



Steve Bullock attends the Iowa State Fair last August. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

### **Steve Bullock officially announced he'll run for Senate.**

Montana's Democratic governor will challenge Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.). This reversal by the former presidential candidate boosts Democratic fortunes in their bid to unseat and reclaim the Senate majority. ([Felicia Sonmez and Paul Kane](#))

### **Twitter debuted its "manipulated media" label.**

A deceptively edited video of Biden was shared by White House social media director Dan Scavino and retweeted by Trump. "The video was the first test of a new policy the social media company implemented on March 5 to label tweets that contain manipulated or synthetic media, ranging from edited videos to more sophisticated examples known as 'deepfakes' that can fabricate events that never happened," [Cat Zakrzewski reports](#). "In this case, the altered video of Biden ... is based on a speech he gave in Kansas City, Mo., on Saturday. It was then shared on Twitter by Scavino, only edited to make it appear as if Biden inadvertently endorsed Trump for reelection."



## **The Russian media is freaking out about Biden's resurrection.**

“The pro-Kremlin newspaper Vzglyad complained that Biden ‘rose from the ashes like a phoenix,’ prevailing ‘in spite of the corruption scandals’ that have long been alleged and cultivated by the Russians—and the Republicans—concerning his son, Hunter, and his own activities in Ukraine,” [the Daily Beast reports](#). “With notable irritation, Vzglyad griped about [Biden’s] primary victories in North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Alabama, claiming that the pro-Biden votes in rural states were secured by ‘rednecks, who shoot skunks for fun, bowl, beat their wives and associate the word ‘socialist’ with the communist threat.’ The newspaper bitterly surmised that through Biden’s anticipated nomination, the U.S. elites won yet another Cold War against socialism.”

## **A watchdog warned the administration that it “urgently” needs to address problems with election security.**

“The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), part of the Department of Homeland Security, was to have finalized plans by January to support states and localities with their election security operations. That did not happen, according to a Government Accountability Office report,” [Joe Davidson reports](#). “The report said the agency ‘is not well-positioned to execute a nationwide strategy for securing election infrastructure prior to the start of the 2020 election cycle’ because it has not completed plans. According to the report, cybersecurity agency officials said they are unlikely to develop plans for election security assistance to political parties or come up with strategies for raising public awareness about foreign threats.”

## **James Biden's health-care ventures face growing scrutiny.**

In January, the FBI raided Americore Health hospital, a health-care

business linked to Joe Biden's brother, seizing boxes of documents and deepening the legal morass surrounding James Biden's recent venture into health-care investing, [Politico reports](#): "In the weeks since the raid, two small medical firms that did business with James Biden have claimed in civil court proceedings to have obtained evidence that he may have fraudulently transferred funds from Americore 'outside of the ordinary course of business' ... The purpose of the Jan. 30 raid of an Ellwood City, Pa., hospital remains unclear, and there is no indication it was related to the actions of Biden's younger brother ... In 2017 and 2018, James Biden was embarking on a foray into healthcare investing, telling potential partners, including at Americore, that his last name could open doors and that Joe Biden was excited about the public policy implications of their business models, according to court filings and interviews with former business contacts of James's."

### **Donald Trump Jr. challenged Hunter Biden to a debate.**

In an interview [with Axios's Jim VandeHei](#), the president's son said he wants to debate the former vice president's son over who has benefited more financially from their fathers' government service. "We can go full transparency, we show everything, and we can talk about all of the places where I am supposedly gifting but Hunter Biden isn't," said Don Jr., also claiming that he'd be willing to release his own tax returns if Hunter Biden put his out. "If we do it both, 100 percent. Let's talk about who profited off of whose public service." A Biden campaign spokesman replied that it's "hard to believe anything a Trump says on tax returns."

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## **Social media speed read**

Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) endorsed Biden's candidacy:



**Cory Booker** ✓

@CoryBooker



The answer to hatred & division is to reignite our spirit of common purpose. @JoeBiden won't only win - he'll show there's more that unites us than divides us.

He'll restore honor to the Oval Office and tackle our most pressing challenges.

That's why I'm proud to endorse Joe.



♥ 1,091 11:05 AM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 358 people are talking about this



On International Women's Day, a Post reporter noticed inequity even among cleaning sponges:

 **Sonia Rao**   
@missoniarao



Lol Scrub Mommy costs less than Scrub Daddy but does twice the work



♥ 1.958 8:10 PM - Mar 8, 2020



💬 296 people are talking about this



Ex-FBI lawyer Lisa Page, who has been a regular target of gendered attacks by Trump, shared a message from Monica Lewinsky:



Amid the coronavirus outbreak, Trump golfed with players for the Nationals who are in West Palm Beach for spring training:



## Videos of the day

Trump's former top adviser on Russia, Fiona Hill, gave her first sit-down interview since testifying during the impeachment hearings:



There are thousands of sheriffs up for reelection this year, and John Oliver looked into what the job entails:



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# E&E DAILY



AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**E&E DAILY — Tue., March 10, 2020**

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## 1. ENERGY POLICY:

### **Senate bill 'dead as a doornail' for now over HFCs**

Bipartisan frustration over the lack of a vote on curbing superpolluting hydrofluorocarbons spilled onto the Senate floor last night, derailing — at least for now — the energy package that was widely expected to pass before the end of the week.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. POLITICS:

#### **Climate science skeptics grasp for power in changing GOP**

### 3. PUBLIC LANDS:

#### **Senators move to expedite debate on conservation legislation**

## CORONAVIRUS

### 4. AGENDA:

#### **Congress scrambling to prepare for spreading virus**

### 5. ENERGY MARKETS:

#### **Republicans lukewarm on oil industry rescue**

## ON THE HILL

### 6. INTERIOR:

#### **Grijalva to Bernhardt: Hand over BLM docs or face subpoenas**

### 7. COAL:

#### **Activists rally for bills to help mining communities, workers**

## IN COMMITTEE

### 8. WATER POLLUTION:

#### **Bills would close fracking 'loophole,' create EPA office**

### 9. DEFENSE:

#### **Bill calls for Pentagon analysis of climate and security**

### 10. HOUSE:



## Lawmakers move to keep drones away from wildfire operations

### UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

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#### 11. CALENDAR:

#### Activity for March 9 - March 15, 2020

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# E&E DAILY



AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**E&E DAILY — Tue., March 10, 2020**

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## 1. ENERGY POLICY:

### **Senate bill 'dead as a doornail' for now over HFCs**

Bipartisan frustration over the lack of a vote on curbing superpolluting hydrofluorocarbons spilled onto the Senate floor last night, derailing — at least for now — the energy package that was widely expected to pass before the end of the week.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. POLITICS:

#### **Climate science skeptics grasp for power in changing GOP**

### 3. PUBLIC LANDS:

#### **Senators move to expedite debate on conservation legislation**

## CORONAVIRUS

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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.



By **James Hohmann**

with *Mariana Alfaro*

Email

## The coronavirus crisis plays to a strength, and weakness, of both Sanders and Biden

DETROIT – At the end of a roundtable discussion about the novel coronavirus that Sen. Bernie Sanders convened here on Monday afternoon with five public health experts, a reporter asked the Democratic presidential candidate whether he plans to scale back the size of his events to reduce the risk of community spread. “You obviously are holding rallies with more than 10,000 people,” the reporter said.

Sanders corrected him.

“15,000,” he said, boastfully.

Appearing to realize he sounded flip, Sanders praised the “very good question” but added that his campaign’s challenge is no different than ones faced by basketball teams or theater companies. “We do not go forward without consultation with local health officials,” he added.

It was vintage Sanders. Falling behind Joe Biden in the polls, including here in Michigan [ahead of today’s primary](#), the independent senator from Vermont has seized on the outbreak to make the case for Medicare-for-all. Health care has been the top concern of voters all election cycle. This new crisis only makes the issue more salient. And Sanders’s decades-long crusade to upend the system is more popular than not among the Democratic rank-and-file. On the other hand, Sanders lacks executive experience beyond serving three decades ago as the mayor of Burlington, Vt., which has a population of about 40,000.

Biden could benefit politically if the outbreak increases the desire among voters for a calm, steady and experienced hand who has a record of managing crises. On the other hand, the former vice president often sticks to generalities and almost never comes across as deeply versed in the nuances of public policy. He’s a back-slapping pol who prefers yakking it up in call time and can sometimes seem confused. In contrast to Sanders, Biden has not outlined any plan or vision for how he’d respond to the coronavirus beyond deferring to the wisdom of experts, which has been his go-to line. He didn’t bring up the fast-spreading virus during a visit to a community health center in Grand Rapids on Monday morning or during an evening rally in Detroit. Instead, he stuck closely to his script.



Bernie Sanders listens during a coronavirus roundtable at the Westin in the Detroit airport on Monday afternoon. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Both Sanders and Biden benefit from being perceived by Democrats as straight shooters who tell it like it is, even if people don't agree with them. A [Quinnipiac University survey](#) released Monday found that 62 percent of registered voters nationally say Sanders is honest and 51 percent say Biden is honest, compared to 33 percent who say the same about President Trump. While 52 percent say Biden has good leadership skills, 45 percent say Sanders does and 42 percent say Trump does. On empathy, 64 percent say Sanders cares about average Americans, compared to 59 percent for Biden and 43 percent for Trump. Asked who would do a better job of handling a crisis, Biden led Trump 56 percent to 40 percent while Sanders also led Trump by a narrower margin of 50 percent to 44 percent.**

Frank McKenney, 71, a retired systems analyst and Vietnam veteran who considers himself politically independent, said the coronavirus puts in stark relief why he's supporting Biden. "He's an honest man, from all the years I've seen him, and we've had such a rough time on that with Trump,"

McKenney said as he waited to see Biden here. “I’m real concerned this is being mismanaged at the White House. People want to be told the truth. We can handle the truth. What we can’t handle is everything being put through a political lens.”

On the coronavirus specifically, 43 percent of Americans approve of the president’s response so far, which is on par with his 41 percent overall approval rating in the same poll. Tribalism is a factor: 87 percent of Republicans approve and 83 percent of Democrats disapprove, while 50 percent of independents disapprove of Trump’s coronavirus response. Overall, 54 percent of respondents say they are either very or somewhat concerned that they or someone they know will be infected with the coronavirus, and 58 percent say they are either very or somewhat concerned the coronavirus will disrupt their daily lives, regardless of whether they know someone who is infected.



Joe Biden locks hands with Cory Booker, Gretchen Whitmer and Kamala Harris at Renaissance High School in Detroit on Monday night. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)



**While Sanders’s roundtable was somber and serious, Biden’s rally at a Detroit public high school a few hours later was raucous.** Two volunteers squirted bottles of Purell sanitizer onto the hands of everyone entering the gymnasium to watch him speak. A marching band warmed up the crowd. Almost as soon as Biden started speaking, protesters began interrupting him. First, someone tried to draw attention to his vote for the North American Free Trade Agreement. As a Biden supporter tried to rip the sign away (“NAFTA killed our jobs”), the candidate urged everyone to keep it cool. “The Bernie Bros are here,” Biden said. “Let him go.” Then several activists heckled Biden for not endorsing the Green New Deal, and some tussles appeared to break out in the crowd as police escorted them out a back entrance. A few minutes later, Biden finally got back on track.

Biden never mentioned the coronavirus, but parts of his stump speech made it sound like it was on his mind. “At this moment, when there’s so much fear in this country, we need honest, trustworthy, truthful, reassuring leadership. I promise you that will be what I provide,” he said. “We choose hope over fear ... and we choose truth over lies.”

Asked about the coronavirus during an [interview with NBC](#) earlier in the afternoon, **Biden said Trump should “just be quiet.”** “I think there's



no confidence in the president and anything he says or does,” Biden said. “He turns everything into what he thinks is a political benefit for himself, and he's actually imploding in the process. But there's a lot of innocent bystanders that are being badly hurt. I wish he would just be quiet. I really mean it. Just let the experts speak and acknowledge whatever they suggest to him is what we should be doing.” He added that he will “follow the recommendations” of experts: “And if they conclude that there shouldn't be big indoor rallies, then we'll stop indoor, big indoor rallies. We're going to do whatever they say.”

**More than 700 people in the United States have tested positive for the virus and 26 have died. Michigan, though, has no confirmed cases.** At Biden’s rally last night, a handful of attendees I interviewed at Biden’s rally last night told me, with no evidence, that they think the virus is just a hoax that’s been invented to help Trump get reelected. I assured them it was not.

**Health care has been the top issue for Democratic voters in every state that’s had [exit polls](#) this primary season.** On Super Tuesday, across the states that voted, 47 percent of voters identified it as their No. 1 concern, followed by race relations and income inequality, which tied for second at 18 percent. Across those states, per the exits, 51 percent of voters said they supported replacing all private health insurance with a single government plan for everyone, while 43 percent opposed that.



Bernie Sanders speaks about the coronavirus at the Westin in the Detroit airport. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Sanders cited the outbreak to offer a broader critique not just of the health-care system but of the failure to provide for the neediest in “the richest country on Earth.”** He noted that water has been cut off to thousands of homes in Detroit because people couldn’t pay their bills. While praising the city for **stopping** these water shutoffs earlier in the day in preparation for a possible coronavirus outbreak, Sanders said they’re nonetheless emblematic of something rotten in the American system. “Can you believe in the year 2020, in a major American city, people have no water because they cannot afford to pay their water bills? Now we’re told wash our hands,” he said. “It’s a little hard to wash your hands and keep clean if you don’t have water!”

The self-described democratic socialist has made clear that he embraces the old political adage that you should never let a crisis go to waste. Reading from notes but not a script, he balanced attacks on Trump’s handling of the outbreak with calls for paid sick leave. In a meeting room in the bowels of a Westin hotel inside the Detroit airport,

which was eerily quiet because so many people have stopped traveling, the audience for Sanders's roundtable included about 50 journalists, including local TV news crews. There was no one to applaud, only the clicks of shutters, during an event that lasted almost an hour.

**Sanders can be short with you when he doesn't like a question.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has urged people over the age of 60 who have underlying health conditions to take [special precautions](#) to avoid covid-19, including staying home as much as possible, avoiding non-essential air travel and limiting close contact with other people. The 78-year-old Sanders had a heart attack in October while campaigning in Nevada and has declined to release his full medical records, [despite promising to do so](#).

Asked what specific precautions he's taking in light of the CDC advisory, Sanders brushed off the question: "Well, I'm surrounded by medical personnel," he said, pointing to the five doctors who spoke during the roundtable organized by his campaign. "I'm running for president of the United States, and that requires a whole lot of work." He left it at that and moved onto the next question.

Asked if he's spoken with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) since Thursday about seeking her endorsement, Sanders declined to answer: "We're here to discuss a major health-care crisis."

When a third journalist asked Sanders how he would pay for his plan to make any coronavirus-related vaccine available free of charge, he bristled. "Do I approve of spending a few cents for a vaccine rather than see people die? Yeah," he said. "This is a no-brainer. That you would ask a question like that almost talks about the nature of the problems facing this country. Does anybody in their right mind believe that, if you're rich, you should be able to afford a vaccine that will save your life? But, if you're poor, you're going to die? Is that really where we're at in the United States of America?"

“I, of course, would take that proposition a lot further,” Sanders continued. “There are people rationing insulin right now. ... I will tell the pharmaceutical industry that if you don’t lower your prices, we will make generic drugs that are affordable for all people.”

Sanders also praised New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) for [ordering](#) the state to produce generic hand sanitizer to respond to “price gouging.” “That’s exactly the right thing,” he said.



A woman wears surgical gloves at Biden's rally as she takes a picture of Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)

**Contingency planning is underway among all the leading campaigns if the outbreak gets worse.** Biden’s digital staff has envisioned options for virtual campaigning if sweeping changes were necessary, and Sanders’s campaign already has an elaborate streaming operation, which it said it could tap in the event that rallies are curtailed. “Trump’s reelection campaign said it was ‘proceeding as normal,’ denying that a ‘Women for Trump’ bus tour had been postponed because of the coronavirus, pointing instead to a ‘scheduling conflict,’” [Isaac Stanley-](#)

[Becker and Elise Viebeck report](#). “The Spanish flu of 1918 was active during that year’s midterm campaign and election season. Local news reports from the weeks before and after that election suggested that the virus did impact planning, with some officials ordering voters to wear masks or advising against congregating publicly to hear election results.”

**With Teleprompters set up during his Detroit rally, and wearing a full suit, Biden tried to exude an aura of inevitability ahead of Super Tuesday II, when six states vote.** He touted his role in the bailout of the auto industry a decade ago and investments the Obama administration made to clean up the Great Lakes. Much of his pitch, though, was about the need for decency and dignity. Biden even made a case against being angry. “We cannot become like him,” he said. “I refuse to accept the notion that we’re in a perpetual state of war with the other party.” And he cited [a story in The Washington Post last month](#) about how kids emulate Trump’s language to bully classmates. “Our children are listening,” he said. “What do we expect to happen?”

**Now that he’s the front-runner again, Biden has started giving shorter speeches.** This reduces the odds he will say something politically problematic. Cleve Wootson, our reporter assigned to follow Biden, [noticed](#) this weekend that he spoke for just seven minutes in St. Louis, 12 minutes in Kansas City and 14 minutes and change in Jackson, Miss. It is a seismic shift for someone who has never had a reputation for breviloquence, Cleve writes: “Mostly gone are the not-so-brief diversions into Biden family lore, wonky dispositions on complex policy points and anecdotes about the history of the phrase ‘rule of thumb.’”

At a fundraiser at the Detroit Athletic Club before the rally, Biden didn’t refer to Sanders by name but took a dig at Medicare-for-all. He told the 350 donors that he will “be able to get health care for everyone,” adding: “We can do it without spending \$35 trillion.”

At the bigger rally later in the evening, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who backed Biden last week and delivered the Democratic response to the State of the Union last month, introduced Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), who endorsed Biden earlier in the day. He then brought Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) onstage. Booker and Harris, who both dropped out before the Iowa caucuses, are the only two Democratic senators who are African American, and they were both well received in the heart of a city that is 82 percent black. “We are sparing nothing to make sure that Joe Biden wins in the state of Michigan,” said Booker.

“I believe there has been a conscious attempt to try to disillusion us, trying to have us believe that the system cannot and will not work for us,” added Harris. “Donald Trump, he does not see people. The only people who he sees [is the person] he sees when he looks in the mirror. We need a president who sees us, who understands us.”

All three warm-up speakers have been mentioned as potential picks as Biden’s running mate. “I view myself as a bridge, not as anything else,” said Biden, 77, motioning toward the trio. “There’s an entire generation of leaders you saw stand behind me. They are the future of this country.”

**Biden shook a few hands on his way out of the gym but did not linger on the rope line.** The campaign said it mitigates risk when reasonable. “At the same time,” Biden’s press team said in a statement, “we will continue to run an aggressive, national campaign to win the Democratic nomination and defeat Donald Trump.”



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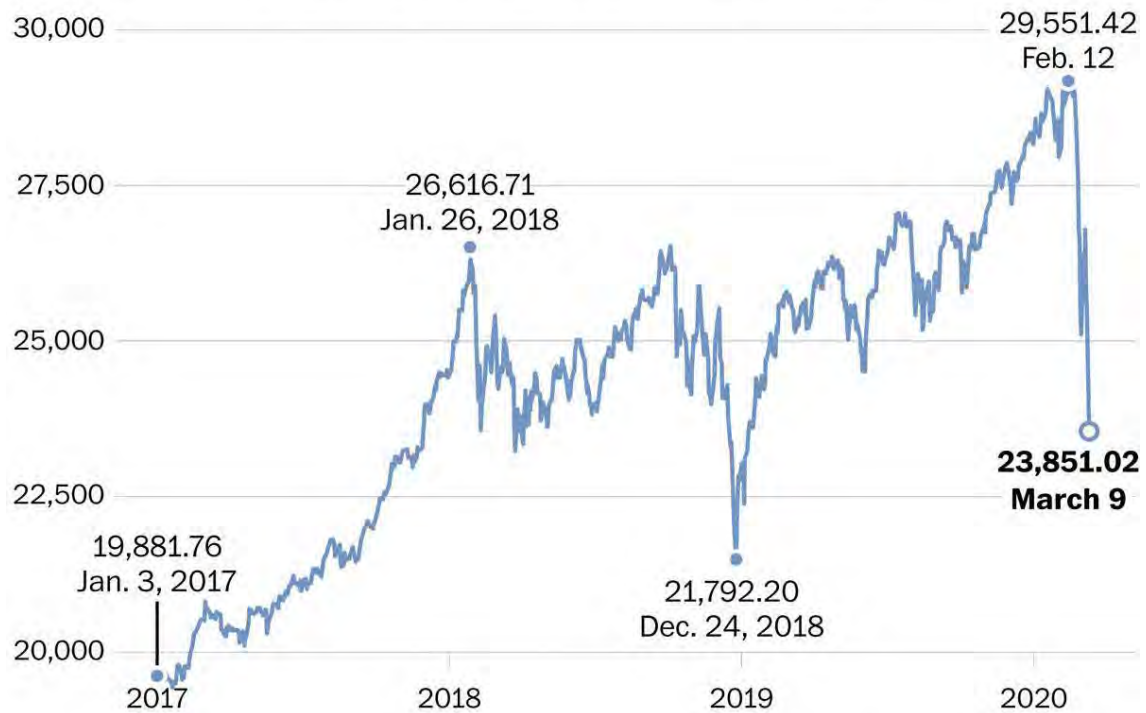


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## The latest on the coronavirus

### Virus panic evaporates Dow Jones gains from 2019



Source: Bloomberg

THE WASHINGTON POST

**U.S. markets staged a comeback at the open.**

After their worst day of trading since the 2008 financial crisis, the Dow Jones Industrial Average surged roughly 800 points this morning as investors cheered potential stimulus measures from the White House.

“The move came a day after U.S. markets cratered more than 7 percent on the dual threat of the coronavirus’s spread in the United States and the oil price war that erupted between Russia and Saudi Arabia over production targets,” [Taylor Telford and Thomas Heath report](#).

### **Trump’s proposals were brushed aside by Democrats, who are working on their own plan.**

“Trump said he will ask Congress to cut payroll taxes and provide relief to hourly workers suffering from the economic fallout of the coronavirus. He also said he was seeking to provide assistance to the airline, hotel and cruise industries, which are all suffering as Americans rapidly cancel travel plans,” [Jeff Stein, Seung Min Kim, Erica Werner and Mike DeBonis report](#). “It was unclear, based on Trump’s comments, whether he would ask Congress to help these industries or if he thought he could do it on his own. ... Reducing the payroll tax by a single percentage point would cut between \$55 billion and \$75 billion in revenue ... House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) expressed skepticism about the idea. ... Later in the day, [Pelosi] and Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) went into more detail about the Democrats’ planned proposal. They said they would pursue legislation that provided free coronavirus testing for all Americans, paid leave for those affected by the epidemic, expanded food subsidies and an expansion of the federal unemployment insurance program. Still, other senior Democrats said it was inevitable that Washington will have to step in with measures to stimulate the economy.”

### **The president's proposals are aimed at calming the markets.**

“Trump confronted one of the most perilous days of his presidency Monday by first erupting in a barrage of commentary that failed to calm



the cratering financial markets, struggling to inspire confidence that his administration could stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. But by the time the sun set in Washington, Trump sounded momentarily chastened by the turbulence and previewed a raft of emergency measures to shore up the economy," [Philip Rucker, Robert Costa, Ashley Parker and Josh Dawsey report](#). "Inside the White House, some officials privately acknowledged Monday that Trump has exacerbated the problem with his misleading and false statements, as well as his callous comments — such as saying last Friday that he hoped infected cruise passengers would stay aboard the Grand Princess at sea because he didn't want domestic coronavirus case numbers to rise. ... Members of Trump's coronavirus task force have also discussed declaring a national emergency ...

"People who interacted with Trump over the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Fla., or the nearby Trump International Golf Club, said the president was in gleeful spirits. ... Doug Deason, a Trump donor in attendance, said the president shook almost every hand in sight. ... Even as Trump continued to glad-hand constituents, two Republican congressmen who interacted with him in recent days, Reps. Douglas A. Collins (Ga.) [and Matt Gaetz](#) (Fla.), said Monday that they were quarantining themselves because of contact with a confirmed carrier of the coronavirus at a conservative conference. **Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.), named Friday as Trump's new chief of staff, also announced Monday that he was isolating himself** after coming in contact with same unidentified person."

"A seventh lawmaker, Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-Tex.), said he possibly had been exposed to the carrier at CPAC, but after discussing his situation with a CDC physician, he decided to return to work," [Mike DeBonis reports](#). In a letter to Democrats, Nancy Pelosi said her caucus will hear today from several health officials for an update on protocols, but she said that, "at the present time, there is no reason for us not to continue" with work. There have been private discussions about whether the coming recess

could be extended indefinitely, House aides said. Congress must act by March 15 to extend some critical foreign surveillance authorities but has no other pressing deadlines until May 22.

## Italy is now under a nationwide lockdown.

“Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said Monday that Italy would restrict freedom of movement on a scale unprecedented in a democracy, locking down the entire country — 60 million people — in an attempt to contain the accelerating coronavirus,” [Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). “If Italy succeeds, a version of its tactics could be used in other countries where cases are multiplying, including across Europe, where cross-border movement is a cherished right for many citizens.” Here are other international developments:

- Chinese leader Xi Jinping made a surprise visit to Wuhan, the city where the outbreak emerged, as he asserts China’s domestic triumph in its “war” against the epidemic. ([Anna Fifield](#))
- Japan will punish the reselling of face masks for profit, with up to one year in jail. ([Simon Denyer](#))
- South Korea touted the benefits of mass testing, as new virus cases slowed down. ([Adam Taylor](#))
- The United Arab Emirates announced 15 new cases of the coronavirus on Monday, raising the national total to 74, as it closed its ports to cruise ships. ([Paul Schemm](#))
- Pence urged Israel not to target the U.S. with a coronavirus quarantine. ([Axios](#))

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## Quote of the day

*Pope Francis, giving Catholic mass in the Vatican on Tuesday as Italy began its lockdown, said he hopes priests have the courage to “get out” and meet the sick. “May priests have the courage to get out, going to the sick to bring them*

*the comfort of God [and] to bring them the Eucharist,” the pope said, according to the Catholic news site [Crux](#).*

## **The number of people stricken with the virus in the D.C. area rose overnight.**

Three new cases were reported in the District, one in Prince George’s County and two in Virginia. The number of known cases in the DMV is now 16. ([Fenit Nirappil and Rebecca Tan](#))

- Los Angeles County announced its first case of community spread, with the total number of coronavirus cases rising to 19. ([Los Angeles Times](#))
- Live audiences were banished from “Wheel of Fortune” and “Jeopardy!” tapings, as a precaution for both audience members and show employees. “Jeopardy!” is hosted by Alex Trebek, who is currently undergoing chemotherapy. ([Katie Shepherd](#))

The Securities and Exchange Commission asked employees at its D.C. headquarters to stay away from the office because of a potential coronavirus case, becoming the first major federal employer to turn to telework to avoid the spreading virus. “The agency’s notice, which was emailed shortly after 8 p.m., required employees working on the ninth floor of its office to stay home and encouraged all others to do the same,” [Rena Merle reports](#). “The email to SEC employees said an employee was treated for respiratory symptoms earlier Monday and was informed by a physician that the person could have the coronavirus. The worker had not been in the office since Thursday.”

## **School closures are raising concerns about disruption.**

“More than 380 schools, including three in the District, have closed their doors because of the outbreak, moves that have affected nearly 260,000 students, according to a count by the education publication EdWeek. Many of those closures were for just a day or two so workers could deep-

clean schools where officials worried about exposure to the virus,” [Moriah Balingit and Laura Meckler report](#). “Many others, heeding the advice of the Education Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, were preparing for potential for long-term closures. Some systems closed schools to train teachers and prepare lessons in case students have to learn remotely.... U.S. school officials in many places are grappling with how to proceed, weighing the potential benefits of closures in slowing the spread of the disease against the severe disruption it could cause, particularly for students who rely on schools for meals, or who have parents who would struggle to find child care. There are also questions of how effective school closures are in slowing down the spread of disease, especially if people congregate elsewhere and pass the illness on to one another outside of the schools.”

**Universities are also scrambling.** “In recent days, many universities have upended academic traditions in an effort to protect health on campus in the face of an uncertain threat. Classes at Princeton University will be held online and students are being encouraged to consider staying home after spring break, the school’s president announced Monday,” [Susan Svrluga and Nick Anderson report](#). “Some colleges closed temporarily to disinfect buildings and some moved rapidly to virtual instruction.”

**Millions of Americans lack sick pay. Many of their employers campaign against it.**

“Major U.S. companies and business groups have put out hand sanitizer and discussed precautions they are taking to keep sick workers away from customers,” [Abha Bhattarai and Peter Whoriskey report](#). “Although most Americans say businesses should offer sick pay, at least a dozen states, including Florida and much of the Southeast, have passed legislation since 2011 to block efforts to require medical leave.”

**Texans are “mad and scared” as the state braces for more**

## **cruise evacuees.**

“On Monday, as the Grand Princess cruise ship prepared to offload more sick and exposed passengers in Oakland, Calif., San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg was bracing for a third set of evacuees — and losing patience with a chaotic federal evacuation and quarantine process that he fears is endangering residents. ‘It’s disconcerting,’ said Nirenberg (D).

‘Throughout the course of this, what I’ve seen is that the lack of coordination at the highest levels of this president’s administration is simply stunning,’” [Arelis Hernández and Neena Satija](#). “Texas is one of three states that so far have accepted hundreds of evacuees ... In nearly every location, local officials say they have been blindsided by the sudden requests, alarmed by the lack of information and exasperated by haphazard protocols.”

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## **More on 2020**



**Biden is chipping away at Sanders's 2016 edge with white working-class voters.**

“The duel will play out largely in Michigan and Missouri,” [Annie Gowen](#)

[reports](#). “Exit polls from last week's Super Tuesday contests, in which Biden surged to take a national delegate lead, showed that he beat Sanders among non-college-educated whites by four points. ... In Missouri this weekend, Biden touted his working-class roots. ... [He] held a campaign rally Saturday at the National World War I Memorial and Museum in Kansas City, with workers from firefighters and electrical unions carefully arrayed behind him in the setting sun. ... Biden’s wife, Jill, appeared at events in St. Louis, Columbia and Kansas City on Monday ... Union workers will be knocking on doors throughout the Midwest for Biden, and surrogates such as Sen. Thomas R. Carper (D-Del.) joined picketing Teamsters in Michigan over the weekend.”

**A second survey on Monday showed Biden opening a wide lead over Sanders in Michigan.** The [Monmouth University Poll](#) released Monday afternoon showed Biden leading Sanders 51 percent to 36 percent among likely primary voters, though it should be noted that the polls were way off when Sanders won an upset here against Hillary Clinton in 2016.

### **Getting by can be a juggling act in Michigan, where 12 counties flipped from Obama to Trump in 2016.**

Employment at the General Motors engine plant in Bay City, Mich., is now a fraction of what it once was. During last fall’s United Auto Workers strike, it wasn’t “far from anyone’s mind was the fact that Bay County flipped to Republican in 2016, against the wishes of the U.A.W.,” [the Times's Rebecca Blumenstein reports from her hometown](#). “Workers were infuriated that [Trump] did not offer support for the strikers.”

### **More coverage from the six states voting today**

- Turnout could hit a record in Washington state's primary, where more than 1 million mail-in ballots were received by Monday. ([Seattle Times](#))
- Biden took a Southern victory lap in Mississippi on Sunday, where

he's received the endorsement of some of the state's most prominent black politicians and is expected to win big today. ([Mississippi Today](#))

- Idaho was last year's fastest-growing state, and today's election might provide clues as to whether those new residents are turning the state a little bluer. ([AP](#))
- Participation in North Dakota's presidential caucuses is expected to rise dramatically from four years ago, and state Democrats saying they don't expect coronavirus fears to dampen turnout. A procedural change in the state's caucuses make them function more like a traditional election, with citizens given the ability to drop in at a caucus site, cast their ballot and leave. ([Bismarck Tribune](#))
- Sanders jabbed Biden for voting for the Iraq War during a Monday rally in St. Louis. ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#))
- Sterling Heights, Mich., Mayor Michael Taylor, a life-long Republican who voted for Trump in 2016, endorsed Biden, saying he's the candidate who can "appeal to moderates and Republicans like me who don't want to see four more years of President Trump."  
([Newsweek](#))

### **The Trump campaign has sent paychecks to Eric's and Don Jr.'s significant others.**

Parscale Strategy, the firm run by the president's campaign manager Brad Parscale, has been used to make payments out of public view to Lara Trump, the wife of the president's son Eric, and Kimberly Guilfoyle, the girlfriend of Donald Trump Jr., who have been surrogates and taken on advisory roles. ([NYT](#))

### **Tech experts don't think social media companies are doing enough to safeguard their platforms.**

The Technology 202's Cat Zakrzewski asked more than 100 experts if social media companies have done enough to prevent manipulation of voters on their platforms. The resounding answer: No. The Technology 202 Network, from Cat and researcher Tonya Riley, launches today. It's an

invitation-only panel of experts from across government, industry and the consumer advocacy community who will vote in regular surveys on the most pressing issues in the field. ([Check it out here.](#))

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## The new world order



The sun sets behind a C-17 cargo plane in Iraq, as U.S. service members wait to board. (Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson/Air Force)

### **Two Americans were killed in Iraq.**

“Two members of a Marine Special Operations team were killed in Iraq during an operation targeting a mountain cave complex that Islamic State militants were using as a hideout, marking the first U.S. combat deaths in the country since last summer,” [Dan Lamothe and Louisa Loveluck report.](#)

“The operation Sunday required the coalition to dispatch reinforcement forces to recover the remains of the Americans who were killed from the caves ... It took nearly six hours to do so ... The service members’ identities were being withheld as family members were notified.”



## **The Trump Organization reported a drop in profits from foreign governments.**

“Trump’s company said it donated \$105,465 to the U.S. Treasury last month, an amount that it said reflects its profits from foreign-government bookings at its hotels last year. The number is down sharply from its 2019 donation of about \$191,000, showing a drop in spending by foreign governments at Trump hotels,” [Jonathan O’Connell and David Fahrenthold report](#).

## **A jury failed to reach a verdict in the case that the CIA called the “biggest leak” in agency history.**

“A jury in New York failed to reach a verdict Monday on whether a former CIA employee gave government hacking tools to WikiLeaks,” [Shayna Jacobs and Shane Harris report](#). “Jurors, who had begun their deliberations last week, told Judge Paul Crotty that they were ‘extremely deadlocked’ on many of the charges. Joshua Schulte, 31, had been accused of disclosing the hacking tools and disclosing information to a reporter at The Post while in jail awaiting trial. The jury did find Schulte guilty on two counts of making false statements to investigators and contempt of court. But the failure to reach a unanimous agreement on the most serious charges of disclosing classified information was a significant blow to the government’s case.”

## **Ethiopian investigators blamed design flaws for the Boeing 737 Max crash a year ago.**

“The interim findings came as families of the victims from around the world gathered in Ethiopia for events commemorating the crash anniversary,” [Lori Aratani, Ian Duncan and Michael Laris report](#).

“According to the report, the ‘differences’ training provided to the airline’s pilots — meant to instruct them on how the Max would behave differently than an earlier version of the 737 — was found to be ‘inadequate.’”

## **Netanyahu's self-declared victory is looking less certain in Israel.**

“In an effort to break the country’s year-long political deadlock, [Benny] Gantz reached out publicly to some unlikely coalition partners, betting that their shared goal of ousting [Benjamin] Netanyahu could bring them together,” [Ruth Eglash reports](#). “Success would require Gantz winning — and accepting — support from the Joint List, a slate of four Arab-majority parties representing Israel’s roughly 1.8 million Arab citizens. If he does manage to secure their backing, his allies in Israel’s 120-seat parliament, or Knesset, would outnumber those of Netanyahu’s bloc of right-wing and religious parties, affording Gantz the chance to scrape together a narrow coalition government. While it would not include the Arab party members directly, this coalition would rely on them to pass essential legislation.”

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## **Social media speed read**

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz), who went into self-quarantine after being exposed to the virus, mused about death. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) replied:



The virus isn't stopping Trump, a known germaphobe, from shaking hands with supporters:



**David Nakamura** ✓

@DavidNakamura



I was literally talking on the phone about coronavirus with a former Secret Service agent who said: "Forget about rope lines. Those are the ultimate threat given hand-to-hand contact is the way this spreads" ... when this @robcrilly pool photo of Trump in Florida hit my inbox.



♥ 1,666 3:22 PM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 745 people are talking about this



Nancy Pelosi didn't hold back after being asked about Trump not being tested for the virus:



**Manu Raju** ✓

@mkraju



Asked Pelosi if she thinks Trump should be tested after his interactions with Doug Collins and Matt Gaetz.  
Pelosi: "Tested for what?"  
me: coronavirus  
Pelosi: "Oh, I thought he should be tested for a long time now."  
And she walked off

♥ 57,6K 11:11 PM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 12K people are talking about this



Ted Cruz is handling his quarantine – and an old conspiracy theory about his past -- with humor:



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## Videos of the day

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock's daughter celebrated her dad's decision to run for Senate with a TikTok:

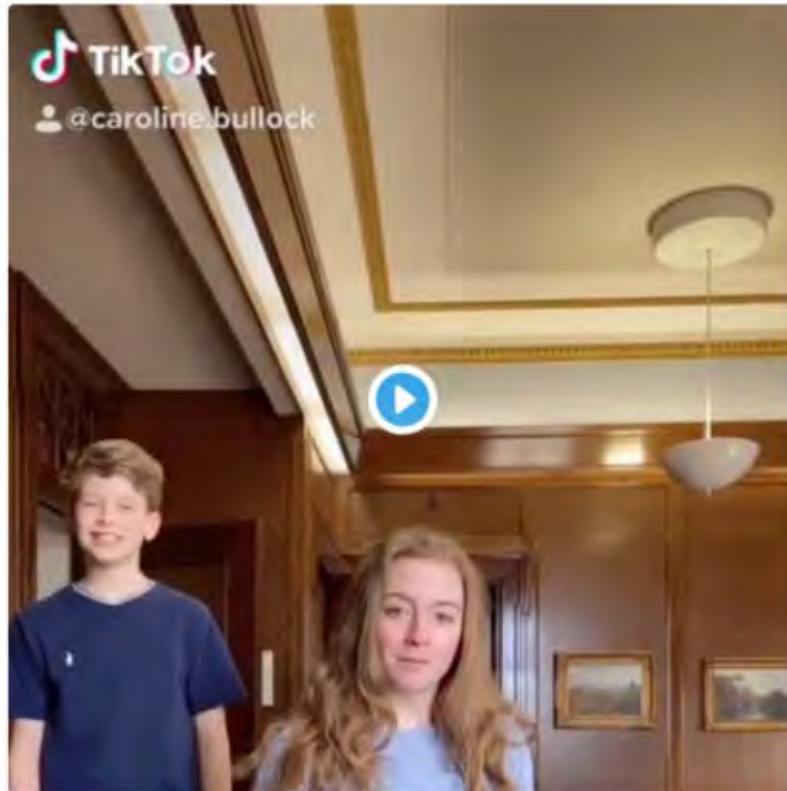


**Caroline Bullock**

@c\_g\_bullock



Celebrating as Stevie B shimmies his way into the Senate!! 🤘❤️ #stevieb2020 @GovernorBullock @stevebullockmt



♥️ 2,381 6:39 PM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 424 people are talking about this



**Stephen Colbert said he's "not testing positive, just staying positive":**



Seth Meyers doesn't think the New York governor's coronavirus advice to subway commuters was helpful:



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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.



By **James Hohmann**

with *Mariana Alfaro*

Email

## The coronavirus crisis plays to a strength, and weakness, of both Sanders and Biden

DETROIT – At the end of a roundtable discussion about the novel coronavirus that Sen. Bernie Sanders convened here on Monday afternoon with five public health experts, a reporter asked the Democratic presidential candidate whether he plans to scale back the size of his events to reduce the risk of community spread. “You obviously are holding rallies with more than 10,000 people,” the reporter said.

Sanders corrected him.

“15,000,” he said, boastfully.

Appearing to realize he sounded flip, Sanders praised the “very good question” but added that his campaign’s challenge is no different than ones faced by basketball teams or theater companies. “We do not go forward without consultation with local health officials,” he added.

It was vintage Sanders. Falling behind Joe Biden in the polls, including here in Michigan [ahead of today’s primary](#), the independent senator from Vermont has seized on the outbreak to make the case for Medicare-for-all. Health care has been the top concern of voters all election cycle. This new crisis only makes the issue more salient. And Sanders’s decades-long crusade to upend the system is more popular than not among the Democratic rank-and-file. On the other hand, Sanders lacks executive experience beyond serving three decades ago as the mayor of Burlington, Vt., which has a population of about 40,000.

Biden could benefit politically if the outbreak increases the desire among voters for a calm, steady and experienced hand who has a record of managing crises. On the other hand, the former vice president often sticks to generalities and almost never comes across as deeply versed in the nuances of public policy. He’s a back-slapping pol who prefers yakking it up in call time and can sometimes seem confused. In contrast to Sanders, Biden has not outlined any plan or vision for how he’d respond to the coronavirus beyond deferring to the wisdom of experts, which has been his go-to line. He didn’t bring up the fast-spreading virus during a visit to a community health center in Grand Rapids on Monday morning or during an evening rally in Detroit. Instead, he stuck closely to his script.



Bernie Sanders listens during a coronavirus roundtable at the Westin in the Detroit airport on Monday afternoon. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Both Sanders and Biden benefit from being perceived by Democrats as straight shooters who tell it like it is, even if people don't agree with them. A Quinnipiac University survey** released Monday found that 62 percent of registered voters nationally say Sanders is honest and 51 percent say Biden is honest, compared to 33 percent who say the same about President Trump. While 52 percent say Biden has good leadership skills, 45 percent say Sanders does and 42 percent say Trump does. On empathy, 64 percent say Sanders cares about average Americans, compared to 59 percent for Biden and 43 percent for Trump. Asked who would do a better job of handling a crisis, Biden led Trump 56 percent to 40 percent while Sanders also led Trump by a narrower margin of 50 percent to 44 percent.

Frank McKenney, 71, a retired systems analyst and Vietnam veteran who considers himself politically independent, said the coronavirus puts in stark relief why he's supporting Biden. "He's an honest man, from all the years I've seen him, and we've had such a rough time on that with Trump,"

McKenney said as he waited to see Biden here. “I’m real concerned this is being mismanaged at the White House. People want to be told the truth. We can handle the truth. What we can’t handle is everything being put through a political lens.”

On the coronavirus specifically, 43 percent of Americans approve of the president’s response so far, which is on par with his 41 percent overall approval rating in the same poll. Tribalism is a factor: 87 percent of Republicans approve and 83 percent of Democrats disapprove, while 50 percent of independents disapprove of Trump’s coronavirus response. Overall, 54 percent of respondents say they are either very or somewhat concerned that they or someone they know will be infected with the coronavirus, and 58 percent say they are either very or somewhat concerned the coronavirus will disrupt their daily lives, regardless of whether they know someone who is infected.



Joe Biden locks hands with Cory Booker, Gretchen Whitmer and Kamala Harris at Renaissance High School in Detroit on Monday night. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)



**While Sanders’s roundtable was somber and serious, Biden’s rally at a Detroit public high school a few hours later was raucous.** Two volunteers squirted bottles of Purell sanitizer onto the hands of everyone entering the gymnasium to watch him speak. A marching band warmed up the crowd. Almost as soon as Biden started speaking, protesters began interrupting him. First, someone tried to draw attention to his vote for the North American Free Trade Agreement. As a Biden supporter tried to rip the sign away (“NAFTA killed our jobs”), the candidate urged everyone to keep it cool. “The Bernie Bros are here,” Biden said. “Let him go.” Then several activists heckled Biden for not endorsing the Green New Deal, and some tussles appeared to break out in the crowd as police escorted them out a back entrance. A few minutes later, Biden finally got back on track.

Biden never mentioned the coronavirus, but parts of his stump speech made it sound like it was on his mind. “At this moment, when there’s so much fear in this country, we need honest, trustworthy, truthful, reassuring leadership. I promise you that will be what I provide,” he said. “We choose hope over fear ... and we choose truth over lies.”

Asked about the coronavirus during an [interview with NBC](#) earlier in the afternoon, **Biden said Trump should “just be quiet.”** “I think there's

no confidence in the president and anything he says or does,” Biden said. “He turns everything into what he thinks is a political benefit for himself, and he's actually imploding in the process. But there's a lot of innocent bystanders that are being badly hurt. I wish he would just be quiet. I really mean it. Just let the experts speak and acknowledge whatever they suggest to him is what we should be doing.” He added that he will “follow the recommendations” of experts: “And if they conclude that there shouldn't be big indoor rallies, then we'll stop indoor, big indoor rallies. We're going to do whatever they say.”

**More than 700 people in the United States have tested positive for the virus and 26 have died. Michigan, though, has no confirmed cases.** At Biden’s rally last night, a handful of attendees I interviewed at Biden’s rally last night told me, with no evidence, that they think the virus is just a hoax that’s been invented to help Trump get reelected. I assured them it was not.

**Health care has been the top issue for Democratic voters in every state that’s had [exit polls](#) this primary season.** On Super Tuesday, across the states that voted, 47 percent of voters identified it as their No. 1 concern, followed by race relations and income inequality, which tied for second at 18 percent. Across those states, per the exits, 51 percent of voters said they supported replacing all private health insurance with a single government plan for everyone, while 43 percent opposed that.



Bernie Sanders speaks about the coronavirus at the Westin in the Detroit airport. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Sanders cited the outbreak to offer a broader critique not just of the health-care system but of the failure to provide for the neediest in “the richest country on Earth.”** He noted that water has been cut off to thousands of homes in Detroit because people couldn’t pay their bills. While praising the city for **stopping** these water shutoffs earlier in the day in preparation for a possible coronavirus outbreak, Sanders said they’re nonetheless emblematic of something rotten in the American system. “Can you believe in the year 2020, in a major American city, people have no water because they cannot afford to pay their water bills? Now we’re told wash our hands,” he said. “It’s a little hard to wash your hands and keep clean if you don’t have water!”

The self-described democratic socialist has made clear that he embraces the old political adage that you should never let a crisis go to waste. Reading from notes but not a script, he balanced attacks on Trump’s handling of the outbreak with calls for paid sick leave. In a meeting room in the bowels of a Westin hotel inside the Detroit airport, which was eerily

quiet because so many people have stopped traveling, the audience for Sanders's roundtable included about 50 journalists, including local TV news crews. There was no one to applaud, only the clicks of shutters, during an event that lasted almost an hour.

**Sanders can be short with you when he doesn't like a question.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has urged people over the age of 60 who have underlying health conditions to take [special precautions](#) to avoid covid-19, including staying home as much as possible, avoiding non-essential air travel and limiting close contact with other people. The 78-year-old Sanders had a heart attack in October while campaigning in Nevada and has declined to release his full medical records, [despite promising to do so](#).

Asked what specific precautions he's taking in light of the CDC advisory, Sanders brushed off the question: "Well, I'm surrounded by medical personnel," he said, pointing to the five doctors who spoke during the roundtable organized by his campaign. "I'm running for president of the United States, and that requires a whole lot of work." He left it at that and moved onto the next question.

Asked if he's spoken with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) since Thursday about seeking her endorsement, Sanders declined to answer: "We're here to discuss a major health-care crisis."

When a third journalist asked Sanders how he would pay for his plan to make any coronavirus-related vaccine available free of charge, he bristled. "Do I approve of spending a few cents for a vaccine rather than see people die? Yeah," he said. "This is a no-brainer. That you would ask a question like that almost talks about the nature of the problems facing this country. Does anybody in their right mind believe that, if you're rich, you should be able to afford a vaccine that will save your life? But, if you're poor, you're going to die? Is that really where we're at in the United States of America?"



“I, of course, would take that proposition a lot further,” Sanders continued. “There are people rationing insulin right now. ... I will tell the pharmaceutical industry that if you don’t lower your prices, we will make generic drugs that are affordable for all people.”

Sanders also praised New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) for [ordering](#) the state to produce generic hand sanitizer to respond to “price gouging.” “That’s exactly the right thing,” he said.



A woman wears surgical gloves at Biden's rally as she takes a picture of Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)

**Contingency planning is underway among all the leading campaigns if the outbreak gets worse.** Biden’s digital staff has envisioned options for virtual campaigning if sweeping changes were necessary, and Sanders’s campaign already has an elaborate streaming operation, which it said it could tap in the event that rallies are curtailed. “Trump’s reelection campaign said it was ‘proceeding as normal,’ denying that a ‘Women for Trump’ bus tour had been postponed because of the coronavirus, pointing instead to a ‘scheduling conflict,’” [Isaac Stanley-](#)

[Becker and Elise Viebeck report](#). “The Spanish flu of 1918 was active during that year’s midterm campaign and election season. Local news reports from the weeks before and after that election suggested that the virus did impact planning, with some officials ordering voters to wear masks or advising against congregating publicly to hear election results.”

**With Teleprompters set up during his Detroit rally, and wearing a full suit, Biden tried to exude an aura of inevitability ahead of Super Tuesday II, when six states vote.** He touted his role in the bailout of the auto industry a decade ago and investments the Obama administration made to clean up the Great Lakes. Much of his pitch, though, was about the need for decency and dignity. Biden even made a case against being angry. “We cannot become like him,” he said. “I refuse to accept the notion that we’re in a perpetual state of war with the other party.” And he cited [a story in The Washington Post last month](#) about how kids emulate Trump’s language to bully classmates. “Our children are listening,” he said. “What do we expect to happen?”

**Now that he’s the front-runner again, Biden has started giving shorter speeches.** This reduces the odds he will say something politically problematic. Cleve Wootson, our reporter assigned to follow Biden, [noticed](#) this weekend that he spoke for just seven minutes in St. Louis, 12 minutes in Kansas City and 14 minutes and change in Jackson, Miss. It is a seismic shift for someone who has never had a reputation for breviloquence, Cleve writes: “Mostly gone are the not-so-brief diversions into Biden family lore, wonky dispositions on complex policy points and anecdotes about the history of the phrase ‘rule of thumb.’”

At a fundraiser at the Detroit Athletic Club before the rally, Biden didn’t refer to Sanders by name but took a dig at Medicare-for-all. He told the 350 donors that he will “be able to get health care for everyone,” adding: “We can do it without spending \$35 trillion.”

At the bigger rally later in the evening, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who backed Biden last week and delivered the Democratic response to the State of the Union last month, introduced Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), who endorsed Biden earlier in the day. He then brought Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) onstage. Booker and Harris, who both dropped out before the Iowa caucuses, are the only two Democratic senators who are African American, and they were both well received in the heart of a city that is 82 percent black. “We are sparing nothing to make sure that Joe Biden wins in the state of Michigan,” said Booker.

“I believe there has been a conscious attempt to try to disillusion us, trying to have us believe that the system cannot and will not work for us,” added Harris. “Donald Trump, he does not see people. The only people who he sees [is the person] he sees when he looks in the mirror. We need a president who sees us, who understands us.”

All three warm-up speakers have been mentioned as potential picks as Biden’s running mate. “I view myself as a bridge, not as anything else,” said Biden, 77, motioning toward the trio. “There’s an entire generation of leaders you saw stand behind me. They are the future of this country.”

**Biden shook a few hands on his way out of the gym but did not linger on the rope line.** The campaign said it mitigates risk when reasonable. “At the same time,” Biden’s press team said in a statement, “we will continue to run an aggressive, national campaign to win the Democratic nomination and defeat Donald Trump.”



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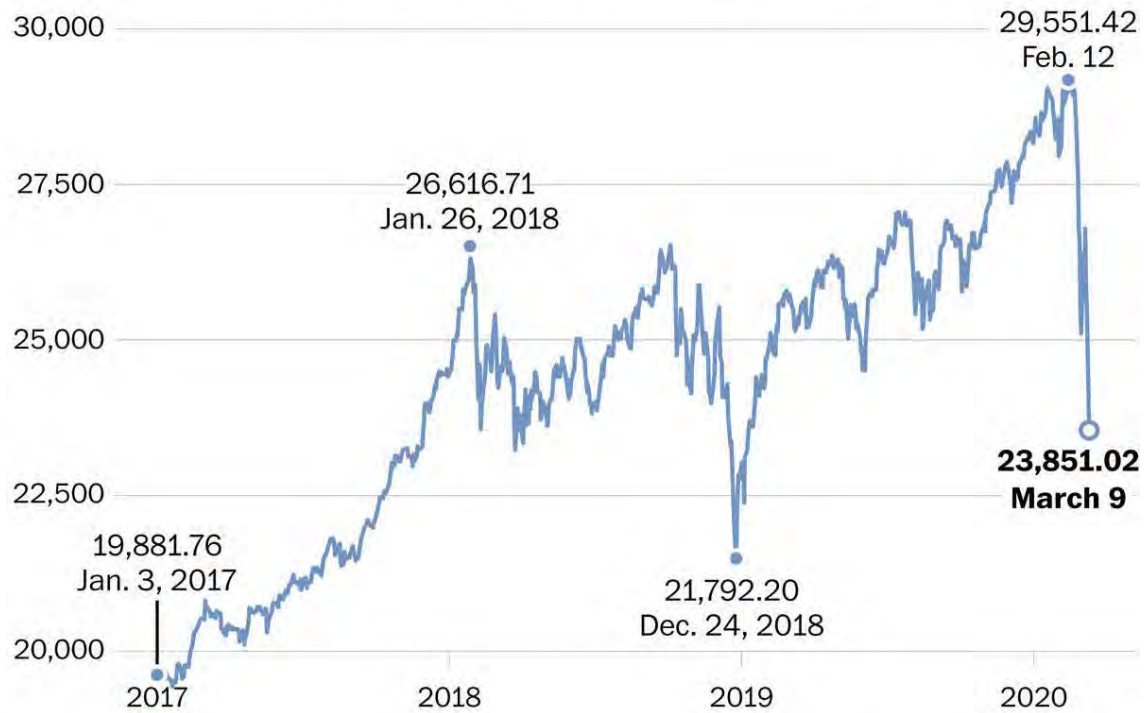


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## The latest on the coronavirus

### Virus panic evaporates Dow Jones gains from 2019



Source: Bloomberg

THE WASHINGTON POST

**U.S. markets staged a comeback at the open.**

After their worst day of trading since the 2008 financial crisis, the Dow Jones Industrial Average surged roughly 800 points this morning as investors cheered potential stimulus measures from the White House.

“The move came a day after U.S. markets cratered more than 7 percent on the dual threat of the coronavirus’s spread in the United States and the oil price war that erupted between Russia and Saudi Arabia over production targets,” [Taylor Telford and Thomas Heath report](#).

### **Trump’s proposals were brushed aside by Democrats, who are working on their own plan.**

“Trump said he will ask Congress to cut payroll taxes and provide relief to hourly workers suffering from the economic fallout of the coronavirus. He also said he was seeking to provide assistance to the airline, hotel and cruise industries, which are all suffering as Americans rapidly cancel travel plans,” [Jeff Stein, Seung Min Kim, Erica Werner and Mike DeBonis report](#). “It was unclear, based on Trump’s comments, whether he would ask Congress to help these industries or if he thought he could do it on his own. ... Reducing the payroll tax by a single percentage point would cut between \$55 billion and \$75 billion in revenue ... House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) expressed skepticism about the idea. ... Later in the day, [Pelosi] and Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) went into more detail about the Democrats’ planned proposal. They said they would pursue legislation that provided free coronavirus testing for all Americans, paid leave for those affected by the epidemic, expanded food subsidies and an expansion of the federal unemployment insurance program. Still, other senior Democrats said it was inevitable that Washington will have to step in with measures to stimulate the economy.”

### **The president's proposals are aimed at calming the markets.**

“Trump confronted one of the most perilous days of his presidency Monday by first erupting in a barrage of commentary that failed to calm

the cratering financial markets, struggling to inspire confidence that his administration could stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. But by the time the sun set in Washington, Trump sounded momentarily chastened by the turbulence and previewed a raft of emergency measures to shore up the economy,” [Philip Rucker, Robert Costa, Ashley Parker and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Inside the White House, some officials privately acknowledged Monday that Trump has exacerbated the problem with his misleading and false statements, as well as his callous comments — such as saying last Friday that he hoped infected cruise passengers would stay aboard the Grand Princess at sea because he didn’t want domestic coronavirus case numbers to rise. ... Members of Trump’s coronavirus task force have also discussed declaring a national emergency ...

“People who interacted with Trump over the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Fla., or the nearby Trump International Golf Club, said the president was in gleeful spirits. ... Doug Deason, a Trump donor in attendance, said the president shook almost every hand in sight. ... Even as Trump continued to glad-hand constituents, two Republican congressmen who interacted with him in recent days, Reps. Douglas A. Collins (Ga.) [and Matt Gaetz](#) (Fla.), said Monday that they were quarantining themselves because of contact with a confirmed carrier of the coronavirus at a conservative conference. **Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.), named Friday as Trump’s new chief of staff, also announced Monday that he was isolating himself** after coming in contact with same unidentified person.”

“A seventh lawmaker, Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-Tex.), said he possibly had been exposed to the carrier at CPAC, but after discussing his situation with a CDC physician, he decided to return to work,” [Mike DeBonis reports](#). In a letter to Democrats, Nancy Pelosi said her caucus will hear today from several health officials for an update on protocols, but she said that, “at the present time, there is no reason for us not to continue” with work. There have been private discussions about whether the coming recess

could be extended indefinitely, House aides said. Congress must act by March 15 to extend some critical foreign surveillance authorities but has no other pressing deadlines until May 22.

## Italy is now under a nationwide lockdown.

“Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said Monday that Italy would restrict freedom of movement on a scale unprecedented in a democracy, locking down the entire country — 60 million people — in an attempt to contain the accelerating coronavirus,” [Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). “If Italy succeeds, a version of its tactics could be used in other countries where cases are multiplying, including across Europe, where cross-border movement is a cherished right for many citizens.” Here are other international developments:

- Chinese leader Xi Jinping made a surprise visit to Wuhan, the city where the outbreak emerged, as he asserts China’s domestic triumph in its “war” against the epidemic. ([Anna Fifield](#))
- Japan will punish the reselling of face masks for profit, with up to one year in jail. ([Simon Denyer](#))
- South Korea touted the benefits of mass testing, as new virus cases slowed down. ([Adam Taylor](#))
- The United Arab Emirates announced 15 new cases of the coronavirus on Monday, raising the national total to 74, as it closed its ports to cruise ships. ([Paul Schemm](#))
- Pence urged Israel not to target the U.S. with a coronavirus quarantine. ([Axios](#))

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## Quote of the day

*Pope Francis, giving Catholic mass in the Vatican on Tuesday as Italy began its lockdown, said he hopes priests have the courage to “get out” and meet the sick. “May priests have the courage to get out, going to the sick to bring them*

*the comfort of God [and] to bring them the Eucharist,” the pope said, according to the Catholic news site [Crux](#).*

## **The number of people stricken with the virus in the D.C. area rose overnight.**

Three new cases were reported in the District, one in Prince George’s County and two in Virginia. The number of known cases in the DMV is now 16. ([Fenit Nirappil and Rebecca Tan](#))

- Los Angeles County announced its first case of community spread, with the total number of coronavirus cases rising to 19. ([Los Angeles Times](#))
- Live audiences were banished from “Wheel of Fortune” and “Jeopardy!” tapings, as a precaution for both audience members and show employees. “Jeopardy!” is hosted by Alex Trebek, who is currently undergoing chemotherapy. ([Katie Shepherd](#))

The Securities and Exchange Commission asked employees at its D.C. headquarters to stay away from the office because of a potential coronavirus case, becoming the first major federal employer to turn to telework to avoid the spreading virus. “The agency’s notice, which was emailed shortly after 8 p.m., required employees working on the ninth floor of its office to stay home and encouraged all others to do the same,” [Rena Merle reports](#). “The email to SEC employees said an employee was treated for respiratory symptoms earlier Monday and was informed by a physician that the person could have the coronavirus. The worker had not been in the office since Thursday.”

## **School closures are raising concerns about disruption.**

“More than 380 schools, including three in the District, have closed their doors because of the outbreak, moves that have affected nearly 260,000 students, according to a count by the education publication EdWeek. Many of those closures were for just a day or two so workers could deep-



clean schools where officials worried about exposure to the virus,” [Moriah Balingit and Laura Meckler report](#). “Many others, heeding the advice of the Education Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, were preparing for potential for long-term closures. Some systems closed schools to train teachers and prepare lessons in case students have to learn remotely.... U.S. school officials in many places are grappling with how to proceed, weighing the potential benefits of closures in slowing the spread of the disease against the severe disruption it could cause, particularly for students who rely on schools for meals, or who have parents who would struggle to find child care. There are also questions of how effective school closures are in slowing down the spread of disease, especially if people congregate elsewhere and pass the illness on to one another outside of the schools.”

**Universities are also scrambling.** “In recent days, many universities have upended academic traditions in an effort to protect health on campus in the face of an uncertain threat. Classes at Princeton University will be held online and students are being encouraged to consider staying home after spring break, the school’s president announced Monday,” [Susan Svrluga and Nick Anderson report](#). “Some colleges closed temporarily to disinfect buildings and some moved rapidly to virtual instruction.”

**Millions of Americans lack sick pay. Many of their employers campaign against it.**

“Major U.S. companies and business groups have put out hand sanitizer and discussed precautions they are taking to keep sick workers away from customers,” [Abha Bhattarai and Peter Whoriskey report](#). “Although most Americans say businesses should offer sick pay, at least a dozen states, including Florida and much of the Southeast, have passed legislation since 2011 to block efforts to require medical leave.”

**Texans are “mad and scared” as the state braces for more**

## **cruise evacuees.**

“On Monday, as the Grand Princess cruise ship prepared to offload more sick and exposed passengers in Oakland, Calif., San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg was bracing for a third set of evacuees — and losing patience with a chaotic federal evacuation and quarantine process that he fears is endangering residents. ‘It’s disconcerting,’ said Nirenberg (D).

‘Throughout the course of this, what I’ve seen is that the lack of coordination at the highest levels of this president’s administration is simply stunning,’” [Arelis Hernández and Neena Satija](#). “Texas is one of three states that so far have accepted hundreds of evacuees ... In nearly every location, local officials say they have been blindsided by the sudden requests, alarmed by the lack of information and exasperated by haphazard protocols.”

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## **More on 2020**



**Biden is chipping away at Sanders's 2016 edge with white working-class voters.**

“The duel will play out largely in Michigan and Missouri,” [Annie Gowen](#)

[reports](#). “Exit polls from last week's Super Tuesday contests, in which Biden surged to take a national delegate lead, showed that he beat Sanders among non-college-educated whites by four points. ... In Missouri this weekend, Biden touted his working-class roots. ... [He] held a campaign rally Saturday at the National World War I Memorial and Museum in Kansas City, with workers from firefighters and electrical unions carefully arrayed behind him in the setting sun. ... Biden’s wife, Jill, appeared at events in St. Louis, Columbia and Kansas City on Monday ... Union workers will be knocking on doors throughout the Midwest for Biden, and surrogates such as Sen. Thomas R. Carper (D-Del.) joined picketing Teamsters in Michigan over the weekend.”

**A second survey on Monday showed Biden opening a wide lead over Sanders in Michigan.** The [Monmouth University Poll](#) released Monday afternoon showed Biden leading Sanders 51 percent to 36 percent among likely primary voters, though it should be noted that the polls were way off when Sanders won an upset here against Hillary Clinton in 2016.

### **Getting by can be a juggling act in Michigan, where 12 counties flipped from Obama to Trump in 2016.**

Employment at the General Motors engine plant in Bay City, Mich., is now a fraction of what it once was. During last fall’s United Auto Workers strike, it wasn’t “far from anyone’s mind was the fact that Bay County flipped to Republican in 2016, against the wishes of the U.A.W.,” [the Times's Rebecca Blumenstein reports from her hometown](#). “Workers were infuriated that [Trump] did not offer support for the strikers.”

### **More coverage from the six states voting today**

- Turnout could hit a record in Washington state's primary, where more than 1 million mail-in ballots were received by Monday. ([Seattle Times](#))
- Biden took a Southern victory lap in Mississippi on Sunday, where

he's received the endorsement of some of the state's most prominent black politicians and is expected to win big today. ([Mississippi Today](#))

- Idaho was last year's fastest-growing state, and today's election might provide clues as to whether those new residents are turning the state a little bluer. ([AP](#))
- Participation in North Dakota's presidential caucuses is expected to rise dramatically from four years ago, and state Democrats saying they don't expect coronavirus fears to dampen turnout. A procedural change in the state's caucuses make them function more like a traditional election, with citizens given the ability to drop in at a caucus site, cast their ballot and leave. ([Bismarck Tribune](#))
- Sanders jabbed Biden for voting for the Iraq War during a Monday rally in St. Louis. ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#))
- Sterling Heights, Mich., Mayor Michael Taylor, a life-long Republican who voted for Trump in 2016, endorsed Biden, saying he's the candidate who can "appeal to moderates and Republicans like me who don't want to see four more years of President Trump."  
([Newsweek](#))

### **The Trump campaign has sent paychecks to Eric's and Don Jr.'s significant others.**

Parscale Strategy, the firm run by the president's campaign manager Brad Parscale, has been used to make payments out of public view to Lara Trump, the wife of the president's son Eric, and Kimberly Guilfoyle, the girlfriend of Donald Trump Jr., who have been surrogates and taken on advisory roles. ([NYT](#))

### **Tech experts don't think social media companies are doing enough to safeguard their platforms.**

The Technology 202's Cat Zakrzewski asked more than 100 experts if social media companies have done enough to prevent manipulation of voters on their platforms. The resounding answer: No. The Technology 202 Network, from Cat and researcher Tonya Riley, launches today. It's an

invitation-only panel of experts from across government, industry and the consumer advocacy community who will vote in regular surveys on the most pressing issues in the field. ([Check it out here.](#))

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## The new world order



The sun sets behind a C-17 cargo plane in Iraq, as U.S. service members wait to board. (Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson/Air Force)

### **Two Americans were killed in Iraq.**

“Two members of a Marine Special Operations team were killed in Iraq during an operation targeting a mountain cave complex that Islamic State militants were using as a hideout, marking the first U.S. combat deaths in the country since last summer,” [Dan Lamothe and Louisa Loveluck report.](#)

“The operation Sunday required the coalition to dispatch reinforcement forces to recover the remains of the Americans who were killed from the caves ... It took nearly six hours to do so ... The service members’ identities were being withheld as family members were notified.”

## **The Trump Organization reported a drop in profits from foreign governments.**

“Trump’s company said it donated \$105,465 to the U.S. Treasury last month, an amount that it said reflects its profits from foreign-government bookings at its hotels last year. The number is down sharply from its 2019 donation of about \$191,000, showing a drop in spending by foreign governments at Trump hotels,” [Jonathan O’Connell and David Fahrenthold report](#).

## **A jury failed to reach a verdict in the case that the CIA called the “biggest leak” in agency history.**

“A jury in New York failed to reach a verdict Monday on whether a former CIA employee gave government hacking tools to WikiLeaks,” [Shayna Jacobs and Shane Harris report](#). “Jurors, who had begun their deliberations last week, told Judge Paul Crotty that they were ‘extremely deadlocked’ on many of the charges. Joshua Schulte, 31, had been accused of disclosing the hacking tools and disclosing information to a reporter at The Post while in jail awaiting trial. The jury did find Schulte guilty on two counts of making false statements to investigators and contempt of court. But the failure to reach a unanimous agreement on the most serious charges of disclosing classified information was a significant blow to the government’s case.”

## **Ethiopian investigators blamed design flaws for the Boeing 737 Max crash a year ago.**

“The interim findings came as families of the victims from around the world gathered in Ethiopia for events commemorating the crash anniversary,” [Lori Aratani, Ian Duncan and Michael Laris report](#).

“According to the report, the ‘differences’ training provided to the airline’s pilots — meant to instruct them on how the Max would behave differently than an earlier version of the 737 — was found to be ‘inadequate.’”

## **Netanyahu's self-declared victory is looking less certain in Israel.**

“In an effort to break the country’s year-long political deadlock, [Benny] Gantz reached out publicly to some unlikely coalition partners, betting that their shared goal of ousting [Benjamin] Netanyahu could bring them together,” [Ruth Eglash reports](#). “Success would require Gantz winning — and accepting — support from the Joint List, a slate of four Arab-majority parties representing Israel’s roughly 1.8 million Arab citizens. If he does manage to secure their backing, his allies in Israel’s 120-seat parliament, or Knesset, would outnumber those of Netanyahu’s bloc of right-wing and religious parties, affording Gantz the chance to scrape together a narrow coalition government. While it would not include the Arab party members directly, this coalition would rely on them to pass essential legislation.”

---

## **Social media speed read**

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz), who went into self-quarantine after being exposed to the virus, mused about death. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) replied:



**Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** ✓

@AOC



If it helps at all Rep. Gosar, you get roasted in committee almost every week so that's kind of the same thing  
[twitter.com/drpaulgosar/st...](https://twitter.com/drpaulgosar/st...)

**Paul Gosar** ✓ @DrPaulGosar

Been thinking about life and mortality today. I'd rather die gloriously in battle than from a virus. In a way it doesn't matter. But it kinda does.



♥ 113K 1:19 AM - Mar 10, 2020



💬 13.5K people are talking about this



The virus isn't stopping Trump, a known germaphobe, from shaking hands with supporters:





**David Nakamura** ✓

@DavidNakamura



I was literally talking on the phone about coronavirus with a former Secret Service agent who said: "Forget about rope lines. Those are the ultimate threat given hand-to-hand contact is the way this spreads" ... when this @robcrilly pool photo of Trump in Florida hit my inbox.



♥ 1,666 3:22 PM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 745 people are talking about this



Nancy Pelosi didn't hold back after being asked about Trump not being tested for the virus:



**Manu Raju** ✓

@mkraju



Asked Pelosi if she thinks Trump should be tested after his interactions with Doug Collins and Matt Gaetz.  
Pelosi: "Tested for what?"  
me: coronavirus  
Pelosi: "Oh, I thought he should be tested for a long time now."  
And she walked off

♥ 57,6K 11:11 PM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 12K people are talking about this



Ted Cruz is handling his quarantine – and an old conspiracy theory about his past -- with humor:



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## Videos of the day

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock's daughter celebrated her dad's decision to run for Senate with a TikTok:

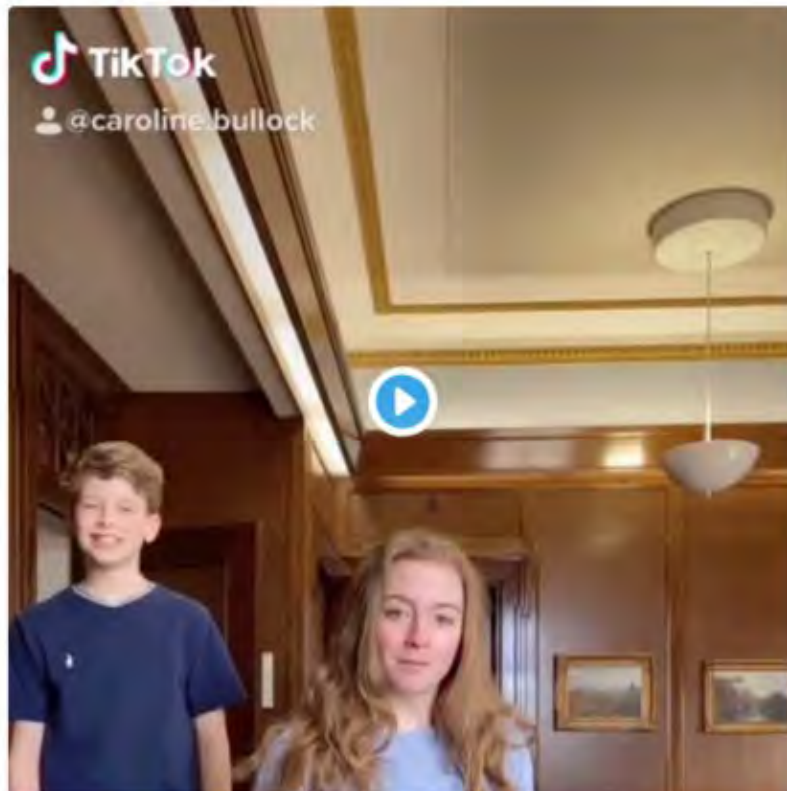


**Caroline Bullock**

@c\_g\_bullock



Celebrating as Stevie B shimmies his way into the Senate!! 🤘❤️ #stevieb2020 @GovernorBullock @stevebullockmt



♥️ 2,381 6:39 PM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 424 people are talking about this



Stephen Colbert said he's "not testing positive, just staying positive":



Seth Meyers doesn't think the New York governor's coronavirus advice to subway commuters was helpful:



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**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:20:26 AM



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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.



By **James Hohmann**

with *Mariana Alfaro*

Email

## The coronavirus crisis plays to a strength, and weakness, of both Sanders and Biden

DETROIT – At the end of a roundtable discussion about the novel coronavirus that Sen. Bernie Sanders convened here on Monday afternoon with five public health experts, a reporter asked the Democratic presidential candidate whether he plans to scale back the size of his events to reduce the risk of community spread. “You obviously are holding rallies with more than 10,000 people,” the reporter said.

Sanders corrected him.

“15,000,” he said, boastfully.

Appearing to realize he sounded flip, Sanders praised the “very good question” but added that his campaign’s challenge is no different than ones faced by basketball teams or theater companies. “We do not go forward without consultation with local health officials,” he added.

It was vintage Sanders. Falling behind Joe Biden in the polls, including here in Michigan [ahead of today’s primary](#), the independent senator from Vermont has seized on the outbreak to make the case for Medicare-for-all. Health care has been the top concern of voters all election cycle. This new crisis only makes the issue more salient. And Sanders’s decades-long crusade to upend the system is more popular than not among the Democratic rank-and-file. On the other hand, Sanders lacks executive experience beyond serving three decades ago as the mayor of Burlington, Vt., which has a population of about 40,000.

Biden could benefit politically if the outbreak increases the desire among voters for a calm, steady and experienced hand who has a record of managing crises. On the other hand, the former vice president often sticks to generalities and almost never comes across as deeply versed in the nuances of public policy. He’s a back-slapping pol who prefers yakking it up in call time and can sometimes seem confused. In contrast to Sanders, Biden has not outlined any plan or vision for how he’d respond to the coronavirus beyond deferring to the wisdom of experts, which has been his go-to line. He didn’t bring up the fast-spreading virus during a visit to a community health center in Grand Rapids on Monday morning or during an evening rally in Detroit. Instead, he stuck closely to his script.



Bernie Sanders listens during a coronavirus roundtable at the Westin in the Detroit airport on Monday afternoon. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Both Sanders and Biden benefit from being perceived by Democrats as straight shooters who tell it like it is, even if people don't agree with them. A Quinnipiac University survey** released Monday found that 62 percent of registered voters nationally say Sanders is honest and 51 percent say Biden is honest, compared to 33 percent who say the same about President Trump. While 52 percent say Biden has good leadership skills, 45 percent say Sanders does and 42 percent say Trump does. On empathy, 64 percent say Sanders cares about average Americans, compared to 59 percent for Biden and 43 percent for Trump. Asked who would do a better job of handling a crisis, Biden led Trump 56 percent to 40 percent while Sanders also led Trump by a narrower margin of 50 percent to 44 percent.

Frank McKenney, 71, a retired systems analyst and Vietnam veteran who considers himself politically independent, said the coronavirus puts in stark relief why he's supporting Biden. "He's an honest man, from all the years I've seen him, and we've had such a rough time on that with Trump,"



McKenney said as he waited to see Biden here. “I’m real concerned this is being mismanaged at the White House. People want to be told the truth. We can handle the truth. What we can’t handle is everything being put through a political lens.”

On the coronavirus specifically, 43 percent of Americans approve of the president’s response so far, which is on par with his 41 percent overall approval rating in the same poll. Tribalism is a factor: 87 percent of Republicans approve and 83 percent of Democrats disapprove, while 50 percent of independents disapprove of Trump’s coronavirus response. Overall, 54 percent of respondents say they are either very or somewhat concerned that they or someone they know will be infected with the coronavirus, and 58 percent say they are either very or somewhat concerned the coronavirus will disrupt their daily lives, regardless of whether they know someone who is infected.



Joe Biden locks hands with Cory Booker, Gretchen Whitmer and Kamala Harris at Renaissance High School in Detroit on Monday night. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)



**While Sanders’s roundtable was somber and serious, Biden’s rally at a Detroit public high school a few hours later was raucous.** Two volunteers squirted bottles of Purell sanitizer onto the hands of everyone entering the gymnasium to watch him speak. A marching band warmed up the crowd. Almost as soon as Biden started speaking, protesters began interrupting him. First, someone tried to draw attention to his vote for the North American Free Trade Agreement. As a Biden supporter tried to rip the sign away (“NAFTA killed our jobs”), the candidate urged everyone to keep it cool. “The Bernie Bros are here,” Biden said. “Let him go.” Then several activists heckled Biden for not endorsing the Green New Deal, and some tussles appeared to break out in the crowd as police escorted them out a back entrance. A few minutes later, Biden finally got back on track.

Biden never mentioned the coronavirus, but parts of his stump speech made it sound like it was on his mind. “At this moment, when there’s so much fear in this country, we need honest, trustworthy, truthful, reassuring leadership. I promise you that will be what I provide,” he said. “We choose hope over fear ... and we choose truth over lies.”

Asked about the coronavirus during an [interview with NBC](#) earlier in the afternoon, **Biden said Trump should “just be quiet.”** “I think there's

no confidence in the president and anything he says or does,” Biden said. “He turns everything into what he thinks is a political benefit for himself, and he's actually imploding in the process. But there's a lot of innocent bystanders that are being badly hurt. I wish he would just be quiet. I really mean it. Just let the experts speak and acknowledge whatever they suggest to him is what we should be doing.” He added that he will “follow the recommendations” of experts: “And if they conclude that there shouldn't be big indoor rallies, then we'll stop indoor, big indoor rallies. We're going to do whatever they say.”

**More than 700 people in the United States have tested positive for the virus and 26 have died. Michigan, though, has no confirmed cases.** At Biden’s rally last night, a handful of attendees I interviewed at Biden’s rally last night told me, with no evidence, that they think the virus is just a hoax that’s been invented to help Trump get reelected. I assured them it was not.

**Health care has been the top issue for Democratic voters in every state that’s had [exit polls](#) this primary season.** On Super Tuesday, across the states that voted, 47 percent of voters identified it as their No. 1 concern, followed by race relations and income inequality, which tied for second at 18 percent. Across those states, per the exits, 51 percent of voters said they supported replacing all private health insurance with a single government plan for everyone, while 43 percent opposed that.



Bernie Sanders speaks about the coronavirus at the Westin in the Detroit airport. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Sanders cited the outbreak to offer a broader critique not just of the health-care system but of the failure to provide for the neediest in “the richest country on Earth.”** He noted that water has been cut off to thousands of homes in Detroit because people couldn’t pay their bills. While praising the city for **stopping** these water shutoffs earlier in the day in preparation for a possible coronavirus outbreak, Sanders said they’re nonetheless emblematic of something rotten in the American system. “Can you believe in the year 2020, in a major American city, people have no water because they cannot afford to pay their water bills? Now we’re told wash our hands,” he said. “It’s a little hard to wash your hands and keep clean if you don’t have water!”

The self-described democratic socialist has made clear that he embraces the old political adage that you should never let a crisis go to waste. Reading from notes but not a script, he balanced attacks on Trump’s handling of the outbreak with calls for paid sick leave. In a meeting room in the bowels of a Westin hotel inside the Detroit airport,

which was eerily quiet because so many people have stopped traveling, the audience for Sanders's roundtable included about 50 journalists, including local TV news crews. There was no one to applaud, only the clicks of shutters, during an event that lasted almost an hour.

**Sanders can be short with you when he doesn't like a question.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has urged people over the age of 60 who have underlying health conditions to take [special precautions](#) to avoid covid-19, including staying home as much as possible, avoiding non-essential air travel and limiting close contact with other people. The 78-year-old Sanders had a heart attack in October while campaigning in Nevada and has declined to release his full medical records, [despite promising to do so](#).

Asked what specific precautions he's taking in light of the CDC advisory, Sanders brushed off the question: "Well, I'm surrounded by medical personnel," he said, pointing to the five doctors who spoke during the roundtable organized by his campaign. "I'm running for president of the United States, and that requires a whole lot of work." He left it at that and moved onto the next question.

Asked if he's spoken with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) since Thursday about seeking her endorsement, Sanders declined to answer: "We're here to discuss a major health-care crisis."

When a third journalist asked Sanders how he would pay for his plan to make any coronavirus-related vaccine available free of charge, he bristled. "Do I approve of spending a few cents for a vaccine rather than see people die? Yeah," he said. "This is a no-brainer. That you would ask a question like that almost talks about the nature of the problems facing this country. Does anybody in their right mind believe that, if you're rich, you should be able to afford a vaccine that will save your life? But, if you're poor, you're going to die? Is that really where we're at in the United States of America?"

“I, of course, would take that proposition a lot further,” Sanders continued. “There are people rationing insulin right now. ... I will tell the pharmaceutical industry that if you don’t lower your prices, we will make generic drugs that are affordable for all people.”

Sanders also praised New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) for [ordering](#) the state to produce generic hand sanitizer to respond to “price gouging.” “That’s exactly the right thing,” he said.



A woman wears surgical gloves at Biden's rally as she takes a picture of Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)

**Contingency planning is underway among all the leading campaigns if the outbreak gets worse.** Biden’s digital staff has envisioned options for virtual campaigning if sweeping changes were necessary, and Sanders’s campaign already has an elaborate streaming operation, which it said it could tap in the event that rallies are curtailed. “Trump’s reelection campaign said it was ‘proceeding as normal,’ denying that a ‘Women for Trump’ bus tour had been postponed because of the coronavirus, pointing instead to a ‘scheduling conflict,’” [Isaac Stanley-](#)

[Becker and Elise Viebeck report](#). “The Spanish flu of 1918 was active during that year’s midterm campaign and election season. Local news reports from the weeks before and after that election suggested that the virus did impact planning, with some officials ordering voters to wear masks or advising against congregating publicly to hear election results.”

**With Teleprompters set up during his Detroit rally, and wearing a full suit, Biden tried to exude an aura of inevitability ahead of Super Tuesday II, when six states vote.** He touted his role in the bailout of the auto industry a decade ago and investments the Obama administration made to clean up the Great Lakes. Much of his pitch, though, was about the need for decency and dignity. Biden even made a case against being angry. “We cannot become like him,” he said. “I refuse to accept the notion that we’re in a perpetual state of war with the other party.” And he cited [a story in The Washington Post last month](#) about how kids emulate Trump’s language to bully classmates. “Our children are listening,” he said. “What do we expect to happen?”

**Now that he’s the front-runner again, Biden has started giving shorter speeches.** This reduces the odds he will say something politically problematic. Cleve Wootson, our reporter assigned to follow Biden, [noticed](#) this weekend that he spoke for just seven minutes in St. Louis, 12 minutes in Kansas City and 14 minutes and change in Jackson, Miss. It is a seismic shift for someone who has never had a reputation for breviloquence, Cleve writes: “Mostly gone are the not-so-brief diversions into Biden family lore, wonky dispositions on complex policy points and anecdotes about the history of the phrase ‘rule of thumb.’”

At a fundraiser at the Detroit Athletic Club before the rally, Biden didn’t refer to Sanders by name but took a dig at Medicare-for-all. He told the 350 donors that he will “be able to get health care for everyone,” adding: “We can do it without spending \$35 trillion.”

At the bigger rally later in the evening, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who backed Biden last week and delivered the Democratic response to the State of the Union last month, introduced Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), who endorsed Biden earlier in the day. He then brought Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) onstage. Booker and Harris, who both dropped out before the Iowa caucuses, are the only two Democratic senators who are African American, and they were both well received in the heart of a city that is 82 percent black. “We are sparing nothing to make sure that Joe Biden wins in the state of Michigan,” said Booker.

“I believe there has been a conscious attempt to try to disillusion us, trying to have us believe that the system cannot and will not work for us,” added Harris. “Donald Trump, he does not see people. The only people who he sees [is the person] he sees when he looks in the mirror. We need a president who sees us, who understands us.”

All three warm-up speakers have been mentioned as potential picks as Biden’s running mate. “I view myself as a bridge, not as anything else,” said Biden, 77, motioning toward the trio. “There’s an entire generation of leaders you saw stand behind me. They are the future of this country.”

**Biden shook a few hands on his way out of the gym but did not linger on the rope line.** The campaign said it mitigates risk when reasonable. “At the same time,” Biden’s press team said in a statement, “we will continue to run an aggressive, national campaign to win the Democratic nomination and defeat Donald Trump.”





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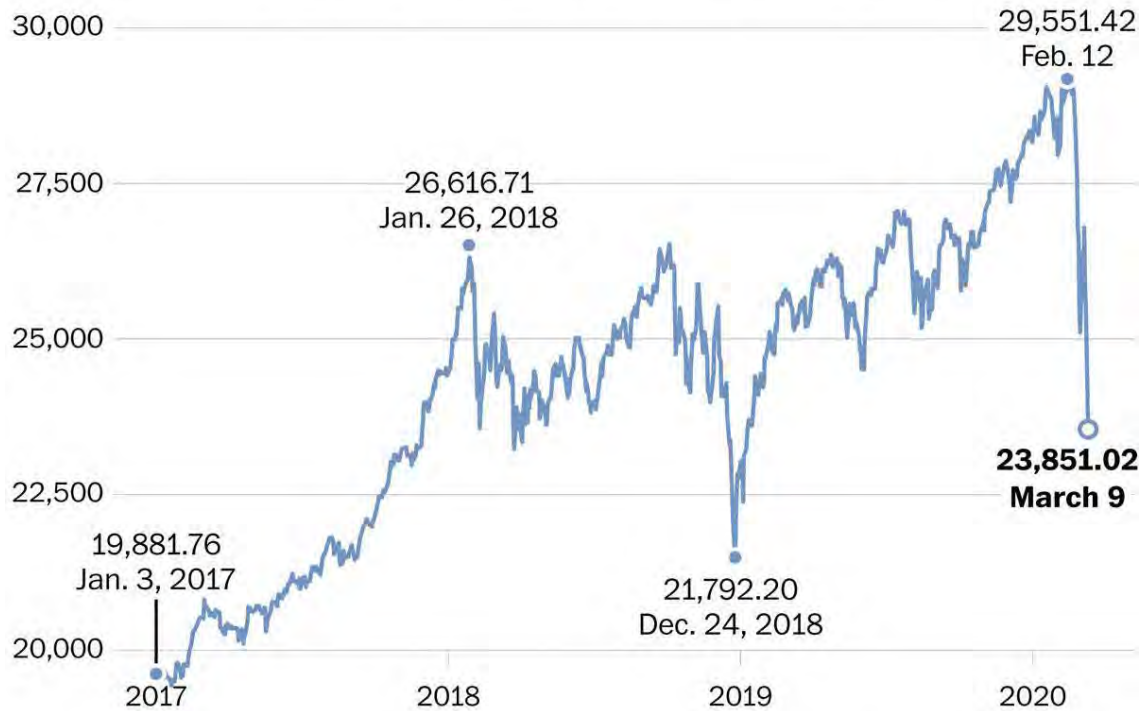


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## The latest on the coronavirus

### Virus panic evaporates Dow Jones gains from 2019



Source: Bloomberg

THE WASHINGTON POST

**U.S. markets staged a comeback at the open.**

After their worst day of trading since the 2008 financial crisis, the Dow Jones Industrial Average surged roughly 800 points this morning as investors cheered potential stimulus measures from the White House.

“The move came a day after U.S. markets cratered more than 7 percent on the dual threat of the coronavirus’s spread in the United States and the oil price war that erupted between Russia and Saudi Arabia over production targets,” [Taylor Telford and Thomas Heath report](#).

### **Trump’s proposals were brushed aside by Democrats, who are working on their own plan.**

“Trump said he will ask Congress to cut payroll taxes and provide relief to hourly workers suffering from the economic fallout of the coronavirus. He also said he was seeking to provide assistance to the airline, hotel and cruise industries, which are all suffering as Americans rapidly cancel travel plans,” [Jeff Stein, Seung Min Kim, Erica Werner and Mike DeBonis report](#). “It was unclear, based on Trump’s comments, whether he would ask Congress to help these industries or if he thought he could do it on his own. ... Reducing the payroll tax by a single percentage point would cut between \$55 billion and \$75 billion in revenue ... House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) expressed skepticism about the idea. ... Later in the day, [Pelosi] and Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) went into more detail about the Democrats’ planned proposal. They said they would pursue legislation that provided free coronavirus testing for all Americans, paid leave for those affected by the epidemic, expanded food subsidies and an expansion of the federal unemployment insurance program. Still, other senior Democrats said it was inevitable that Washington will have to step in with measures to stimulate the economy.”

### **The president's proposals are aimed at calming the markets.**

“Trump confronted one of the most perilous days of his presidency Monday by first erupting in a barrage of commentary that failed to calm

the cratering financial markets, struggling to inspire confidence that his administration could stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. But by the time the sun set in Washington, Trump sounded momentarily chastened by the turbulence and previewed a raft of emergency measures to shore up the economy," [Philip Rucker, Robert Costa, Ashley Parker and Josh Dawsey report](#). "Inside the White House, some officials privately acknowledged Monday that Trump has exacerbated the problem with his misleading and false statements, as well as his callous comments — such as saying last Friday that he hoped infected cruise passengers would stay aboard the Grand Princess at sea because he didn't want domestic coronavirus case numbers to rise. ... Members of Trump's coronavirus task force have also discussed declaring a national emergency ...

"People who interacted with Trump over the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Fla., or the nearby Trump International Golf Club, said the president was in gleeful spirits. ... Doug Deason, a Trump donor in attendance, said the president shook almost every hand in sight. ... Even as Trump continued to glad-hand constituents, two Republican congressmen who interacted with him in recent days, Reps. Douglas A. Collins (Ga.) [and Matt Gaetz](#) (Fla.), said Monday that they were quarantining themselves because of contact with a confirmed carrier of the coronavirus at a conservative conference. **Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.), named Friday as Trump's new chief of staff, also announced Monday that he was isolating himself** after coming in contact with same unidentified person."

"A seventh lawmaker, Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-Tex.), said he possibly had been exposed to the carrier at CPAC, but after discussing his situation with a CDC physician, he decided to return to work," [Mike DeBonis reports](#). In a letter to Democrats, Nancy Pelosi said her caucus will hear today from several health officials for an update on protocols, but she said that, "at the present time, there is no reason for us not to continue" with work. There have been private discussions about whether the coming recess

could be extended indefinitely, House aides said. Congress must act by March 15 to extend some critical foreign surveillance authorities but has no other pressing deadlines until May 22.

## Italy is now under a nationwide lockdown.

“Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said Monday that Italy would restrict freedom of movement on a scale unprecedented in a democracy, locking down the entire country — 60 million people — in an attempt to contain the accelerating coronavirus,” [Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). “If Italy succeeds, a version of its tactics could be used in other countries where cases are multiplying, including across Europe, where cross-border movement is a cherished right for many citizens.” Here are other international developments:

- Chinese leader Xi Jinping made a surprise visit to Wuhan, the city where the outbreak emerged, as he asserts China’s domestic triumph in its “war” against the epidemic. ([Anna Fifield](#))
- Japan will punish the reselling of face masks for profit, with up to one year in jail. ([Simon Denyer](#))
- South Korea touted the benefits of mass testing, as new virus cases slowed down. ([Adam Taylor](#))
- The United Arab Emirates announced 15 new cases of the coronavirus on Monday, raising the national total to 74, as it closed its ports to cruise ships. ([Paul Schemm](#))
- Pence urged Israel not to target the U.S. with a coronavirus quarantine. ([Axios](#))

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## Quote of the day

*Pope Francis, giving Catholic mass in the Vatican on Tuesday as Italy began its lockdown, said he hopes priests have the courage to “get out” and meet the sick. “May priests have the courage to get out, going to the sick to bring them*

*the comfort of God [and] to bring them the Eucharist,” the pope said, according to the Catholic news site [Crux](#).*

## **The number of people stricken with the virus in the D.C. area rose overnight.**

Three new cases were reported in the District, one in Prince George’s County and two in Virginia. The number of known cases in the DMV is now 16. ([Fenit Nirappil and Rebecca Tan](#))

- Los Angeles County announced its first case of community spread, with the total number of coronavirus cases rising to 19. ([Los Angeles Times](#))
- Live audiences were banished from “Wheel of Fortune” and “Jeopardy!” tapings, as a precaution for both audience members and show employees. “Jeopardy!” is hosted by Alex Trebek, who is currently undergoing chemotherapy. ([Katie Shepherd](#))

The Securities and Exchange Commission asked employees at its D.C. headquarters to stay away from the office because of a potential coronavirus case, becoming the first major federal employer to turn to telework to avoid the spreading virus. “The agency’s notice, which was emailed shortly after 8 p.m., required employees working on the ninth floor of its office to stay home and encouraged all others to do the same,” [Rena Merle reports](#). “The email to SEC employees said an employee was treated for respiratory symptoms earlier Monday and was informed by a physician that the person could have the coronavirus. The worker had not been in the office since Thursday.”

## **School closures are raising concerns about disruption.**

“More than 380 schools, including three in the District, have closed their doors because of the outbreak, moves that have affected nearly 260,000 students, according to a count by the education publication EdWeek. Many of those closures were for just a day or two so workers could deep-

clean schools where officials worried about exposure to the virus,” [Moriah Balingit and Laura Meckler report](#). “Many others, heeding the advice of the Education Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, were preparing for potential for long-term closures. Some systems closed schools to train teachers and prepare lessons in case students have to learn remotely.... U.S. school officials in many places are grappling with how to proceed, weighing the potential benefits of closures in slowing the spread of the disease against the severe disruption it could cause, particularly for students who rely on schools for meals, or who have parents who would struggle to find child care. There are also questions of how effective school closures are in slowing down the spread of disease, especially if people congregate elsewhere and pass the illness on to one another outside of the schools.”

**Universities are also scrambling.** “In recent days, many universities have upended academic traditions in an effort to protect health on campus in the face of an uncertain threat. Classes at Princeton University will be held online and students are being encouraged to consider staying home after spring break, the school’s president announced Monday,” [Susan Svrluga and Nick Anderson report](#). “Some colleges closed temporarily to disinfect buildings and some moved rapidly to virtual instruction.”

**Millions of Americans lack sick pay. Many of their employers campaign against it.**

“Major U.S. companies and business groups have put out hand sanitizer and discussed precautions they are taking to keep sick workers away from customers,” [Abha Bhattarai and Peter Whoriskey report](#). “Although most Americans say businesses should offer sick pay, at least a dozen states, including Florida and much of the Southeast, have passed legislation since 2011 to block efforts to require medical leave.”

**Texans are “mad and scared” as the state braces for more**

## **cruise evacuees.**

“On Monday, as the Grand Princess cruise ship prepared to offload more sick and exposed passengers in Oakland, Calif., San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg was bracing for a third set of evacuees — and losing patience with a chaotic federal evacuation and quarantine process that he fears is endangering residents. ‘It’s disconcerting,’ said Nirenberg (D).

‘Throughout the course of this, what I’ve seen is that the lack of coordination at the highest levels of this president’s administration is simply stunning,’” [Arelis Hernández and Neena Satija](#). “Texas is one of three states that so far have accepted hundreds of evacuees ... In nearly every location, local officials say they have been blindsided by the sudden requests, alarmed by the lack of information and exasperated by haphazard protocols.”

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## **More on 2020**



**Biden is chipping away at Sanders's 2016 edge with white working-class voters.**

“The duel will play out largely in Michigan and Missouri,” [Annie Gowen](#)

[reports](#). “Exit polls from last week's Super Tuesday contests, in which Biden surged to take a national delegate lead, showed that he beat Sanders among non-college-educated whites by four points. ... In Missouri this weekend, Biden touted his working-class roots. ... [He] held a campaign rally Saturday at the National World War I Memorial and Museum in Kansas City, with workers from firefighters and electrical unions carefully arrayed behind him in the setting sun. ... Biden’s wife, Jill, appeared at events in St. Louis, Columbia and Kansas City on Monday ... Union workers will be knocking on doors throughout the Midwest for Biden, and surrogates such as Sen. Thomas R. Carper (D-Del.) joined picketing Teamsters in Michigan over the weekend.”

**A second survey on Monday showed Biden opening a wide lead over Sanders in Michigan.** The [Monmouth University Poll](#) released Monday afternoon showed Biden leading Sanders 51 percent to 36 percent among likely primary voters, though it should be noted that the polls were way off when Sanders won an upset here against Hillary Clinton in 2016.

### **Getting by can be a juggling act in Michigan, where 12 counties flipped from Obama to Trump in 2016.**

Employment at the General Motors engine plant in Bay City, Mich., is now a fraction of what it once was. During last fall’s United Auto Workers strike, it wasn’t “far from anyone’s mind was the fact that Bay County flipped to Republican in 2016, against the wishes of the U.A.W.,” [the Times's Rebecca Blumenstein reports from her hometown](#). “Workers were infuriated that [Trump] did not offer support for the strikers.”

### **More coverage from the six states voting today**

- Turnout could hit a record in Washington state's primary, where more than 1 million mail-in ballots were received by Monday. ([Seattle Times](#))
- Biden took a Southern victory lap in Mississippi on Sunday, where



he's received the endorsement of some of the state's most prominent black politicians and is expected to win big today. ([Mississippi Today](#))

- Idaho was last year's fastest-growing state, and today's election might provide clues as to whether those new residents are turning the state a little bluer. ([AP](#))
- Participation in North Dakota's presidential caucuses is expected to rise dramatically from four years ago, and state Democrats saying they don't expect coronavirus fears to dampen turnout. A procedural change in the state's caucuses make them function more like a traditional election, with citizens given the ability to drop in at a caucus site, cast their ballot and leave. ([Bismarck Tribune](#))
- Sanders jabbed Biden for voting for the Iraq War during a Monday rally in St. Louis. ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#))
- Sterling Heights, Mich., Mayor Michael Taylor, a life-long Republican who voted for Trump in 2016, endorsed Biden, saying he's the candidate who can "appeal to moderates and Republicans like me who don't want to see four more years of President Trump."  
([Newsweek](#))

### **The Trump campaign has sent paychecks to Eric's and Don Jr.'s significant others.**

Parscale Strategy, the firm run by the president's campaign manager Brad Parscale, has been used to make payments out of public view to Lara Trump, the wife of the president's son Eric, and Kimberly Guilfoyle, the girlfriend of Donald Trump Jr., who have been surrogates and taken on advisory roles. ([NYT](#))

### **Tech experts don't think social media companies are doing enough to safeguard their platforms.**

The Technology 202's Cat Zakrzewski asked more than 100 experts if social media companies have done enough to prevent manipulation of voters on their platforms. The resounding answer: No. The Technology 202 Network, from Cat and researcher Tonya Riley, launches today. It's an

invitation-only panel of experts from across government, industry and the consumer advocacy community who will vote in regular surveys on the most pressing issues in the field. ([Check it out here.](#))

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## The new world order



The sun sets behind a C-17 cargo plane in Iraq, as U.S. service members wait to board. (Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson/Air Force)

### **Two Americans were killed in Iraq.**

“Two members of a Marine Special Operations team were killed in Iraq during an operation targeting a mountain cave complex that Islamic State militants were using as a hideout, marking the first U.S. combat deaths in the country since last summer,” [Dan Lamothe and Louisa Loveluck report.](#)

“The operation Sunday required the coalition to dispatch reinforcement forces to recover the remains of the Americans who were killed from the caves ... It took nearly six hours to do so ... The service members’ identities were being withheld as family members were notified.”

## **The Trump Organization reported a drop in profits from foreign governments.**

“Trump’s company said it donated \$105,465 to the U.S. Treasury last month, an amount that it said reflects its profits from foreign-government bookings at its hotels last year. The number is down sharply from its 2019 donation of about \$191,000, showing a drop in spending by foreign governments at Trump hotels,” [Jonathan O’Connell and David Fahrenthold report](#).

## **A jury failed to reach a verdict in the case that the CIA called the “biggest leak” in agency history.**

“A jury in New York failed to reach a verdict Monday on whether a former CIA employee gave government hacking tools to WikiLeaks,” [Shayna Jacobs and Shane Harris report](#). “Jurors, who had begun their deliberations last week, told Judge Paul Crotty that they were ‘extremely deadlocked’ on many of the charges. Joshua Schulte, 31, had been accused of disclosing the hacking tools and disclosing information to a reporter at The Post while in jail awaiting trial. The jury did find Schulte guilty on two counts of making false statements to investigators and contempt of court. But the failure to reach a unanimous agreement on the most serious charges of disclosing classified information was a significant blow to the government’s case.”

## **Ethiopian investigators blamed design flaws for the Boeing 737 Max crash a year ago.**

“The interim findings came as families of the victims from around the world gathered in Ethiopia for events commemorating the crash anniversary,” [Lori Aratani, Ian Duncan and Michael Laris report](#).

“According to the report, the ‘differences’ training provided to the airline’s pilots — meant to instruct them on how the Max would behave differently than an earlier version of the 737 — was found to be ‘inadequate.’”

## **Netanyahu's self-declared victory is looking less certain in Israel.**

“In an effort to break the country’s year-long political deadlock, [Benny] Gantz reached out publicly to some unlikely coalition partners, betting that their shared goal of ousting [Benjamin] Netanyahu could bring them together,” [Ruth Eglash reports](#). “Success would require Gantz winning — and accepting — support from the Joint List, a slate of four Arab-majority parties representing Israel’s roughly 1.8 million Arab citizens. If he does manage to secure their backing, his allies in Israel’s 120-seat parliament, or Knesset, would outnumber those of Netanyahu’s bloc of right-wing and religious parties, affording Gantz the chance to scrape together a narrow coalition government. While it would not include the Arab party members directly, this coalition would rely on them to pass essential legislation.”

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## **Social media speed read**

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz), who went into self-quarantine after being exposed to the virus, mused about death. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) replied:



The virus isn't stopping Trump, a known germaphobe, from shaking hands with supporters:



**David Nakamura** ✓

@DavidNakamura



I was literally talking on the phone about coronavirus with a former Secret Service agent who said: "Forget about rope lines. Those are the ultimate threat given hand-to-hand contact is the way this spreads" ... when this @robcrilly pool photo of Trump in Florida hit my inbox.



♥ 1,666 3:22 PM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 745 people are talking about this



Nancy Pelosi didn't hold back after being asked about Trump not being tested for the virus:



**Manu Raju** ✓

@mkraju



Asked Pelosi if she thinks Trump should be tested after his interactions with Doug Collins and Matt Gaetz.  
Pelosi: "Tested for what?"  
me: coronavirus  
Pelosi: "Oh, I thought he should be tested for a long time now."  
And she walked off

♥ 57,6K 11:11 PM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 12K people are talking about this



Ted Cruz is handling his quarantine – and an old conspiracy theory about his past -- with humor:



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## Videos of the day

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock's daughter celebrated her dad's decision to run for Senate with a TikTok:

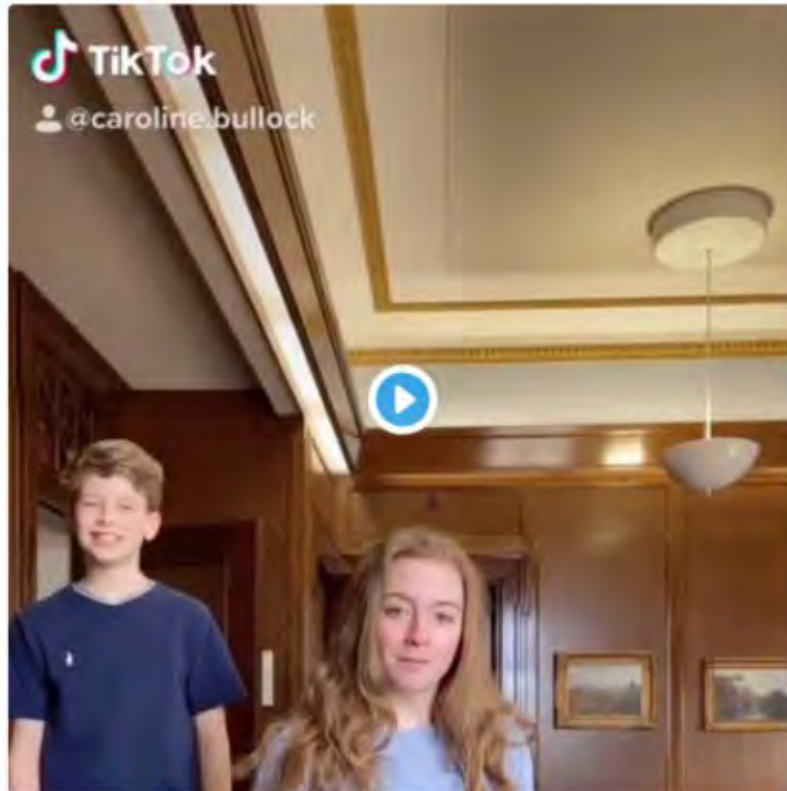


**Caroline Bullock**

@c\_g\_bullock



Celebrating as Stevie B shimmies his way into the Senate!! 🤪❤️ #stevieb2020 @GovernorBullock @stevebullockmt



♥️ 2,381 6:39 PM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 424 people are talking about this



Stephen Colbert said he's "not testing positive, just staying positive":





Seth Meyers doesn't think the New York governor's coronavirus advice to subway commuters was helpful:



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**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:20:46 AM



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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.



By **James Hohmann**

with *Mariana Alfaro*

Email

## The coronavirus crisis plays to a strength, and weakness, of both Sanders and Biden

DETROIT – At the end of a roundtable discussion about the novel coronavirus that Sen. Bernie Sanders convened here on Monday afternoon with five public health experts, a reporter asked the Democratic presidential candidate whether he plans to scale back the size of his events to reduce the risk of community spread. “You obviously are holding rallies with more than 10,000 people,” the reporter said.

Sanders corrected him.

“15,000,” he said, boastfully.

Appearing to realize he sounded flip, Sanders praised the “very good question” but added that his campaign’s challenge is no different than ones faced by basketball teams or theater companies. “We do not go forward without consultation with local health officials,” he added.

It was vintage Sanders. Falling behind Joe Biden in the polls, including here in Michigan [ahead of today’s primary](#), the independent senator from Vermont has seized on the outbreak to make the case for Medicare-for-all. Health care has been the top concern of voters all election cycle. This new crisis only makes the issue more salient. And Sanders’s decades-long crusade to upend the system is more popular than not among the Democratic rank-and-file. On the other hand, Sanders lacks executive experience beyond serving three decades ago as the mayor of Burlington, Vt., which has a population of about 40,000.

Biden could benefit politically if the outbreak increases the desire among voters for a calm, steady and experienced hand who has a record of managing crises. On the other hand, the former vice president often sticks to generalities and almost never comes across as deeply versed in the nuances of public policy. He’s a back-slapping pol who prefers yakking it up in call time and can sometimes seem confused. In contrast to Sanders, Biden has not outlined any plan or vision for how he’d respond to the coronavirus beyond deferring to the wisdom of experts, which has been his go-to line. He didn’t bring up the fast-spreading virus during a visit to a community health center in Grand Rapids on Monday morning or during an evening rally in Detroit. Instead, he stuck closely to his script.



Bernie Sanders listens during a coronavirus roundtable at the Westin in the Detroit airport on Monday afternoon. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Both Sanders and Biden benefit from being perceived by Democrats as straight shooters who tell it like it is, even if people don't agree with them. A Quinnipiac University survey** released Monday found that 62 percent of registered voters nationally say Sanders is honest and 51 percent say Biden is honest, compared to 33 percent who say the same about President Trump. While 52 percent say Biden has good leadership skills, 45 percent say Sanders does and 42 percent say Trump does. On empathy, 64 percent say Sanders cares about average Americans, compared to 59 percent for Biden and 43 percent for Trump. Asked who would do a better job of handling a crisis, Biden led Trump 56 percent to 40 percent while Sanders also led Trump by a narrower margin of 50 percent to 44 percent.

Frank McKenney, 71, a retired systems analyst and Vietnam veteran who considers himself politically independent, said the coronavirus puts in stark relief why he's supporting Biden. "He's an honest man, from all the years I've seen him, and we've had such a rough time on that with Trump,"

McKenney said as he waited to see Biden here. “I’m real concerned this is being mismanaged at the White House. People want to be told the truth. We can handle the truth. What we can’t handle is everything being put through a political lens.”

On the coronavirus specifically, 43 percent of Americans approve of the president’s response so far, which is on par with his 41 percent overall approval rating in the same poll. Tribalism is a factor: 87 percent of Republicans approve and 83 percent of Democrats disapprove, while 50 percent of independents disapprove of Trump’s coronavirus response. Overall, 54 percent of respondents say they are either very or somewhat concerned that they or someone they know will be infected with the coronavirus, and 58 percent say they are either very or somewhat concerned the coronavirus will disrupt their daily lives, regardless of whether they know someone who is infected.



Joe Biden locks hands with Cory Booker, Gretchen Whitmer and Kamala Harris at Renaissance High School in Detroit on Monday night. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)



**While Sanders’s roundtable was somber and serious, Biden’s rally at a Detroit public high school a few hours later was raucous.** Two volunteers squirted bottles of Purell sanitizer onto the hands of everyone entering the gymnasium to watch him speak. A marching band warmed up the crowd. Almost as soon as Biden started speaking, protesters began interrupting him. First, someone tried to draw attention to his vote for the North American Free Trade Agreement. As a Biden supporter tried to rip the sign away (“NAFTA killed our jobs”), the candidate urged everyone to keep it cool. “The Bernie Bros are here,” Biden said. “Let him go.” Then several activists heckled Biden for not endorsing the Green New Deal, and some tussles appeared to break out in the crowd as police escorted them out a back entrance. A few minutes later, Biden finally got back on track.

Biden never mentioned the coronavirus, but parts of his stump speech made it sound like it was on his mind. “At this moment, when there’s so much fear in this country, we need honest, trustworthy, truthful, reassuring leadership. I promise you that will be what I provide,” he said. “We choose hope over fear ... and we choose truth over lies.”

Asked about the coronavirus during an [interview with NBC](#) earlier in the afternoon, **Biden said Trump should “just be quiet.”** “I think there's

no confidence in the president and anything he says or does,” Biden said. “He turns everything into what he thinks is a political benefit for himself, and he's actually imploding in the process. But there's a lot of innocent bystanders that are being badly hurt. I wish he would just be quiet. I really mean it. Just let the experts speak and acknowledge whatever they suggest to him is what we should be doing.” He added that he will “follow the recommendations” of experts: “And if they conclude that there shouldn't be big indoor rallies, then we'll stop indoor, big indoor rallies. We're going to do whatever they say.”

**More than 700 people in the United States have tested positive for the virus and 26 have died. Michigan, though, has no confirmed cases.** At Biden’s rally last night, a handful of attendees I interviewed at Biden’s rally last night told me, with no evidence, that they think the virus is just a hoax that’s been invented to help Trump get reelected. I assured them it was not.

**Health care has been the top issue for Democratic voters in every state that’s had [exit polls](#) this primary season.** On Super Tuesday, across the states that voted, 47 percent of voters identified it as their No. 1 concern, followed by race relations and income inequality, which tied for second at 18 percent. Across those states, per the exits, 51 percent of voters said they supported replacing all private health insurance with a single government plan for everyone, while 43 percent opposed that.





Bernie Sanders speaks about the coronavirus at the Westin in the Detroit airport. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

**Sanders cited the outbreak to offer a broader critique not just of the health-care system but of the failure to provide for the neediest in “the richest country on Earth.”** He noted that water has been cut off to thousands of homes in Detroit because people couldn’t pay their bills. While praising the city for **stopping** these water shutoffs earlier in the day in preparation for a possible coronavirus outbreak, Sanders said they’re nonetheless emblematic of something rotten in the American system. “Can you believe in the year 2020, in a major American city, people have no water because they cannot afford to pay their water bills? Now we’re told wash our hands,” he said. “It’s a little hard to wash your hands and keep clean if you don’t have water!”

The self-described democratic socialist has made clear that he embraces the old political adage that you should never let a crisis go to waste. Reading from notes but not a script, he balanced attacks on Trump’s handling of the outbreak with calls for paid sick leave. In a meeting room in the bowels of a Westin hotel inside the Detroit airport, which was eerily

quiet because so many people have stopped traveling, the audience for Sanders's roundtable included about 50 journalists, including local TV news crews. There was no one to applaud, only the clicks of shutters, during an event that lasted almost an hour.

**Sanders can be short with you when he doesn't like a question.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has urged people over the age of 60 who have underlying health conditions to take [special precautions](#) to avoid covid-19, including staying home as much as possible, avoiding non-essential air travel and limiting close contact with other people. The 78-year-old Sanders had a heart attack in October while campaigning in Nevada and has declined to release his full medical records, [despite promising to do so](#).

Asked what specific precautions he's taking in light of the CDC advisory, Sanders brushed off the question: "Well, I'm surrounded by medical personnel," he said, pointing to the five doctors who spoke during the roundtable organized by his campaign. "I'm running for president of the United States, and that requires a whole lot of work." He left it at that and moved onto the next question.

Asked if he's spoken with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) since Thursday about seeking her endorsement, Sanders declined to answer: "We're here to discuss a major health-care crisis."

When a third journalist asked Sanders how he would pay for his plan to make any coronavirus-related vaccine available free of charge, he bristled. "Do I approve of spending a few cents for a vaccine rather than see people die? Yeah," he said. "This is a no-brainer. That you would ask a question like that almost talks about the nature of the problems facing this country. Does anybody in their right mind believe that, if you're rich, you should be able to afford a vaccine that will save your life? But, if you're poor, you're going to die? Is that really where we're at in the United States of America?"

“I, of course, would take that proposition a lot further,” Sanders continued. “There are people rationing insulin right now. ... I will tell the pharmaceutical industry that if you don’t lower your prices, we will make generic drugs that are affordable for all people.”

Sanders also praised New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) for [ordering](#) the state to produce generic hand sanitizer to respond to “price gouging.” “That’s exactly the right thing,” he said.



A woman wears surgical gloves at Biden's rally as she takes a picture of Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)

**Contingency planning is underway among all the leading campaigns if the outbreak gets worse.** Biden’s digital staff has envisioned options for virtual campaigning if sweeping changes were necessary, and Sanders’s campaign already has an elaborate streaming operation, which it said it could tap in the event that rallies are curtailed. “Trump’s reelection campaign said it was ‘proceeding as normal,’ denying that a ‘Women for Trump’ bus tour had been postponed because of the coronavirus, pointing instead to a ‘scheduling conflict,’” [Isaac Stanley-](#)

[Becker and Elise Viebeck report](#). “The Spanish flu of 1918 was active during that year’s midterm campaign and election season. Local news reports from the weeks before and after that election suggested that the virus did impact planning, with some officials ordering voters to wear masks or advising against congregating publicly to hear election results.”

**With Teleprompters set up during his Detroit rally, and wearing a full suit, Biden tried to exude an aura of inevitability ahead of Super Tuesday II, when six states vote.** He touted his role in the bailout of the auto industry a decade ago and investments the Obama administration made to clean up the Great Lakes. Much of his pitch, though, was about the need for decency and dignity. Biden even made a case against being angry. “We cannot become like him,” he said. “I refuse to accept the notion that we’re in a perpetual state of war with the other party.” And he cited [a story in The Washington Post last month](#) about how kids emulate Trump’s language to bully classmates. “Our children are listening,” he said. “What do we expect to happen?”

**Now that he’s the front-runner again, Biden has started giving shorter speeches.** This reduces the odds he will say something politically problematic. Cleve Wootson, our reporter assigned to follow Biden, [noticed](#) this weekend that he spoke for just seven minutes in St. Louis, 12 minutes in Kansas City and 14 minutes and change in Jackson, Miss. It is a seismic shift for someone who has never had a reputation for breviloquence, Cleve writes: “Mostly gone are the not-so-brief diversions into Biden family lore, wonky dispositions on complex policy points and anecdotes about the history of the phrase ‘rule of thumb.’”

At a fundraiser at the Detroit Athletic Club before the rally, Biden didn’t refer to Sanders by name but took a dig at Medicare-for-all. He told the 350 donors that he will “be able to get health care for everyone,” adding: “We can do it without spending \$35 trillion.”

At the bigger rally later in the evening, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who backed Biden last week and delivered the Democratic response to the State of the Union last month, introduced Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), who endorsed Biden earlier in the day. He then brought Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) onstage. Booker and Harris, who both dropped out before the Iowa caucuses, are the only two Democratic senators who are African American, and they were both well received in the heart of a city that is 82 percent black. “We are sparing nothing to make sure that Joe Biden wins in the state of Michigan,” said Booker.

“I believe there has been a conscious attempt to try to disillusion us, trying to have us believe that the system cannot and will not work for us,” added Harris. “Donald Trump, he does not see people. The only people who he sees [is the person] he sees when he looks in the mirror. We need a president who sees us, who understands us.”

All three warm-up speakers have been mentioned as potential picks as Biden’s running mate. “I view myself as a bridge, not as anything else,” said Biden, 77, motioning toward the trio. “There’s an entire generation of leaders you saw stand behind me. They are the future of this country.”

**Biden shook a few hands on his way out of the gym but did not linger on the rope line.** The campaign said it mitigates risk when reasonable. “At the same time,” Biden’s press team said in a statement, “we will continue to run an aggressive, national campaign to win the Democratic nomination and defeat Donald Trump.”



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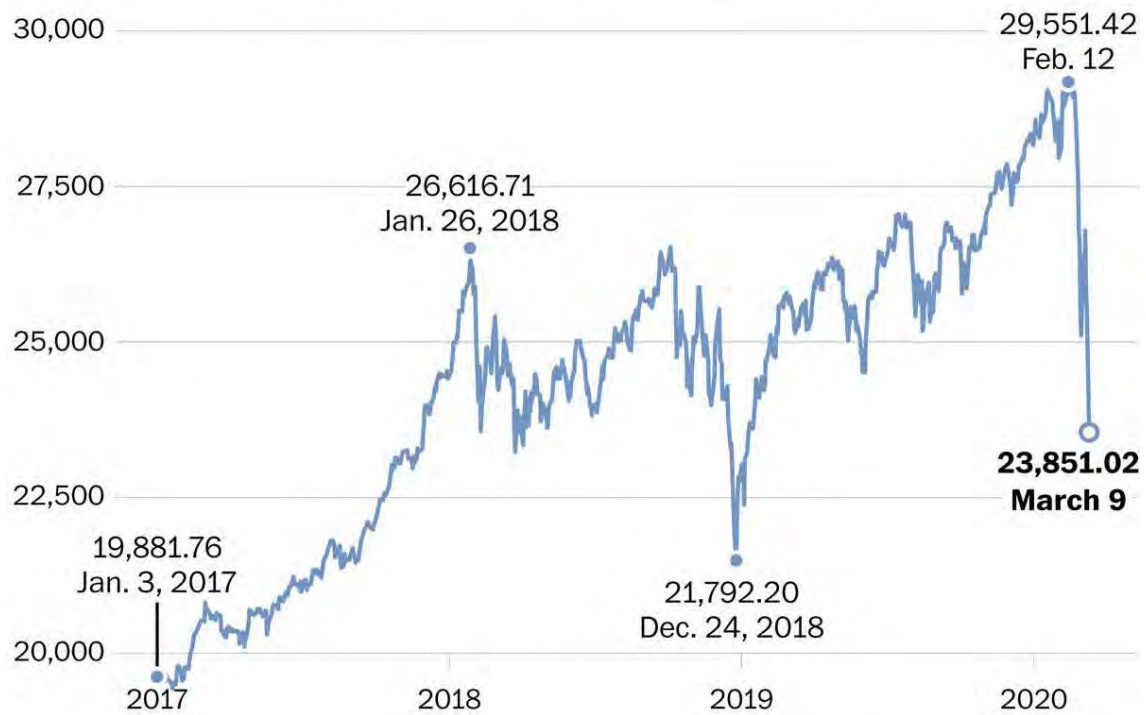


Listen to the podcast



## The latest on the coronavirus

### Virus panic evaporates Dow Jones gains from 2019



Source: Bloomberg

THE WASHINGTON POST

**U.S. markets staged a comeback at the open.**

After their worst day of trading since the 2008 financial crisis, the Dow Jones Industrial Average surged roughly 800 points this morning as investors cheered potential stimulus measures from the White House.

“The move came a day after U.S. markets cratered more than 7 percent on the dual threat of the coronavirus’s spread in the United States and the oil price war that erupted between Russia and Saudi Arabia over production targets,” [Taylor Telford and Thomas Heath report](#).

### **Trump’s proposals were brushed aside by Democrats, who are working on their own plan.**

“Trump said he will ask Congress to cut payroll taxes and provide relief to hourly workers suffering from the economic fallout of the coronavirus. He also said he was seeking to provide assistance to the airline, hotel and cruise industries, which are all suffering as Americans rapidly cancel travel plans,” [Jeff Stein, Seung Min Kim, Erica Werner and Mike DeBonis report](#). “It was unclear, based on Trump’s comments, whether he would ask Congress to help these industries or if he thought he could do it on his own. ... Reducing the payroll tax by a single percentage point would cut between \$55 billion and \$75 billion in revenue ... House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) expressed skepticism about the idea. ... Later in the day, [Pelosi] and Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) went into more detail about the Democrats’ planned proposal. They said they would pursue legislation that provided free coronavirus testing for all Americans, paid leave for those affected by the epidemic, expanded food subsidies and an expansion of the federal unemployment insurance program. Still, other senior Democrats said it was inevitable that Washington will have to step in with measures to stimulate the economy.”

### **The president's proposals are aimed at calming the markets.**

“Trump confronted one of the most perilous days of his presidency Monday by first erupting in a barrage of commentary that failed to calm

the cratering financial markets, struggling to inspire confidence that his administration could stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. But by the time the sun set in Washington, Trump sounded momentarily chastened by the turbulence and previewed a raft of emergency measures to shore up the economy,” [Philip Rucker, Robert Costa, Ashley Parker and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Inside the White House, some officials privately acknowledged Monday that Trump has exacerbated the problem with his misleading and false statements, as well as his callous comments — such as saying last Friday that he hoped infected cruise passengers would stay aboard the Grand Princess at sea because he didn’t want domestic coronavirus case numbers to rise. ... Members of Trump’s coronavirus task force have also discussed declaring a national emergency ...

“People who interacted with Trump over the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Fla., or the nearby Trump International Golf Club, said the president was in gleeful spirits. ... Doug Deason, a Trump donor in attendance, said the president shook almost every hand in sight. ... Even as Trump continued to glad-hand constituents, two Republican congressmen who interacted with him in recent days, Reps. Douglas A. Collins (Ga.) [and Matt Gaetz](#) (Fla.), said Monday that they were quarantining themselves because of contact with a confirmed carrier of the coronavirus at a conservative conference. **Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.), named Friday as Trump’s new chief of staff, also announced Monday that he was isolating himself** after coming in contact with same unidentified person.”

“A seventh lawmaker, Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-Tex.), said he possibly had been exposed to the carrier at CPAC, but after discussing his situation with a CDC physician, he decided to return to work,” [Mike DeBonis reports](#). In a letter to Democrats, Nancy Pelosi said her caucus will hear today from several health officials for an update on protocols, but she said that, “at the present time, there is no reason for us not to continue” with work. There have been private discussions about whether the coming recess



could be extended indefinitely, House aides said. Congress must act by March 15 to extend some critical foreign surveillance authorities but has no other pressing deadlines until May 22.

## Italy is now under a nationwide lockdown.

“Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said Monday that Italy would restrict freedom of movement on a scale unprecedented in a democracy, locking down the entire country — 60 million people — in an attempt to contain the accelerating coronavirus,” [Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). “If Italy succeeds, a version of its tactics could be used in other countries where cases are multiplying, including across Europe, where cross-border movement is a cherished right for many citizens.” Here are other international developments:

- Chinese leader Xi Jinping made a surprise visit to Wuhan, the city where the outbreak emerged, as he asserts China’s domestic triumph in its “war” against the epidemic. ([Anna Fifield](#))
- Japan will punish the reselling of face masks for profit, with up to one year in jail. ([Simon Denyer](#))
- South Korea touted the benefits of mass testing, as new virus cases slowed down. ([Adam Taylor](#))
- The United Arab Emirates announced 15 new cases of the coronavirus on Monday, raising the national total to 74, as it closed its ports to cruise ships. ([Paul Schemm](#))
- Pence urged Israel not to target the U.S. with a coronavirus quarantine. ([Axios](#))

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## Quote of the day

*Pope Francis, giving Catholic mass in the Vatican on Tuesday as Italy began its lockdown, said he hopes priests have the courage to “get out” and meet the sick. “May priests have the courage to get out, going to the sick to bring them*

*the comfort of God [and] to bring them the Eucharist,” the pope said, according to the Catholic news site [Crux](#).*

## **The number of people stricken with the virus in the D.C. area rose overnight.**

Three new cases were reported in the District, one in Prince George’s County and two in Virginia. The number of known cases in the DMV is now 16. ([Fenit Nirappil and Rebecca Tan](#))

- Los Angeles County announced its first case of community spread, with the total number of coronavirus cases rising to 19. ([Los Angeles Times](#))
- Live audiences were banished from “Wheel of Fortune” and “Jeopardy!” tapings, as a precaution for both audience members and show employees. “Jeopardy!” is hosted by Alex Trebek, who is currently undergoing chemotherapy. ([Katie Shepherd](#))

The Securities and Exchange Commission asked employees at its D.C. headquarters to stay away from the office because of a potential coronavirus case, becoming the first major federal employer to turn to telework to avoid the spreading virus. “The agency’s notice, which was emailed shortly after 8 p.m., required employees working on the ninth floor of its office to stay home and encouraged all others to do the same,” [Rena Merle reports](#). “The email to SEC employees said an employee was treated for respiratory symptoms earlier Monday and was informed by a physician that the person could have the coronavirus. The worker had not been in the office since Thursday.”

## **School closures are raising concerns about disruption.**

“More than 380 schools, including three in the District, have closed their doors because of the outbreak, moves that have affected nearly 260,000 students, according to a count by the education publication EdWeek. Many of those closures were for just a day or two so workers could deep-

clean schools where officials worried about exposure to the virus,” [Moriah Balingit and Laura Meckler report](#). “Many others, heeding the advice of the Education Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, were preparing for potential for long-term closures. Some systems closed schools to train teachers and prepare lessons in case students have to learn remotely.... U.S. school officials in many places are grappling with how to proceed, weighing the potential benefits of closures in slowing the spread of the disease against the severe disruption it could cause, particularly for students who rely on schools for meals, or who have parents who would struggle to find child care. There are also questions of how effective school closures are in slowing down the spread of disease, especially if people congregate elsewhere and pass the illness on to one another outside of the schools.”

**Universities are also scrambling.** “In recent days, many universities have upended academic traditions in an effort to protect health on campus in the face of an uncertain threat. Classes at Princeton University will be held online and students are being encouraged to consider staying home after spring break, the school’s president announced Monday,” [Susan Svrluga and Nick Anderson report](#). “Some colleges closed temporarily to disinfect buildings and some moved rapidly to virtual instruction.”

**Millions of Americans lack sick pay. Many of their employers campaign against it.**

“Major U.S. companies and business groups have put out hand sanitizer and discussed precautions they are taking to keep sick workers away from customers,” [Abha Bhattarai and Peter Whoriskey report](#). “Although most Americans say businesses should offer sick pay, at least a dozen states, including Florida and much of the Southeast, have passed legislation since 2011 to block efforts to require medical leave.”

**Texans are “mad and scared” as the state braces for more**

## **cruise evacuees.**

“On Monday, as the Grand Princess cruise ship prepared to offload more sick and exposed passengers in Oakland, Calif., San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg was bracing for a third set of evacuees — and losing patience with a chaotic federal evacuation and quarantine process that he fears is endangering residents. ‘It’s disconcerting,’ said Nirenberg (D).

‘Throughout the course of this, what I’ve seen is that the lack of coordination at the highest levels of this president’s administration is simply stunning,’” [Arelis Hernández and Neena Satija](#). “Texas is one of three states that so far have accepted hundreds of evacuees ... In nearly every location, local officials say they have been blindsided by the sudden requests, alarmed by the lack of information and exasperated by haphazard protocols.”

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## **More on 2020**



**Biden is chipping away at Sanders's 2016 edge with white working-class voters.**

“The duel will play out largely in Michigan and Missouri,” [Annie Gowen](#)

[reports](#). “Exit polls from last week's Super Tuesday contests, in which Biden surged to take a national delegate lead, showed that he beat Sanders among non-college-educated whites by four points. ... In Missouri this weekend, Biden touted his working-class roots. ... [He] held a campaign rally Saturday at the National World War I Memorial and Museum in Kansas City, with workers from firefighters and electrical unions carefully arrayed behind him in the setting sun. ... Biden’s wife, Jill, appeared at events in St. Louis, Columbia and Kansas City on Monday ... Union workers will be knocking on doors throughout the Midwest for Biden, and surrogates such as Sen. Thomas R. Carper (D-Del.) joined picketing Teamsters in Michigan over the weekend.”

**A second survey on Monday showed Biden opening a wide lead over Sanders in Michigan.** The [Monmouth University Poll](#) released Monday afternoon showed Biden leading Sanders 51 percent to 36 percent among likely primary voters, though it should be noted that the polls were way off when Sanders won an upset here against Hillary Clinton in 2016.

### **Getting by can be a juggling act in Michigan, where 12 counties flipped from Obama to Trump in 2016.**

Employment at the General Motors engine plant in Bay City, Mich., is now a fraction of what it once was. During last fall’s United Auto Workers strike, it wasn’t “far from anyone’s mind was the fact that Bay County flipped to Republican in 2016, against the wishes of the U.A.W.,” [the Times's Rebecca Blumenstein reports from her hometown](#). “Workers were infuriated that [Trump] did not offer support for the strikers.”

### **More coverage from the six states voting today**

- Turnout could hit a record in Washington state's primary, where more than 1 million mail-in ballots were received by Monday. ([Seattle Times](#))
- Biden took a Southern victory lap in Mississippi on Sunday, where

he's received the endorsement of some of the state's most prominent black politicians and is expected to win big today. ([Mississippi Today](#))

- Idaho was last year's fastest-growing state, and today's election might provide clues as to whether those new residents are turning the state a little bluer. ([AP](#))
- Participation in North Dakota's presidential caucuses is expected to rise dramatically from four years ago, and state Democrats saying they don't expect coronavirus fears to dampen turnout. A procedural change in the state's caucuses make them function more like a traditional election, with citizens given the ability to drop in at a caucus site, cast their ballot and leave. ([Bismarck Tribune](#))
- Sanders jabbed Biden for voting for the Iraq War during a Monday rally in St. Louis. ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#))
- Sterling Heights, Mich., Mayor Michael Taylor, a life-long Republican who voted for Trump in 2016, endorsed Biden, saying he's the candidate who can "appeal to moderates and Republicans like me who don't want to see four more years of President Trump." ([Newsweek](#))

### **The Trump campaign has sent paychecks to Eric's and Don Jr.'s significant others.**

Parscale Strategy, the firm run by the president's campaign manager Brad Parscale, has been used to make payments out of public view to Lara Trump, the wife of the president's son Eric, and Kimberly Guilfoyle, the girlfriend of Donald Trump Jr., who have been surrogates and taken on advisory roles. ([NYT](#))

### **Tech experts don't think social media companies are doing enough to safeguard their platforms.**

The Technology 202's Cat Zakrzewski asked more than 100 experts if social media companies have done enough to prevent manipulation of voters on their platforms. The resounding answer: No. The Technology 202 Network, from Cat and researcher Tonya Riley, launches today. It's an

invitation-only panel of experts from across government, industry and the consumer advocacy community who will vote in regular surveys on the most pressing issues in the field. ([Check it out here.](#))

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## The new world order



The sun sets behind a C-17 cargo plane in Iraq, as U.S. service members wait to board. (Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson/Air Force)

### **Two Americans were killed in Iraq.**

“Two members of a Marine Special Operations team were killed in Iraq during an operation targeting a mountain cave complex that Islamic State militants were using as a hideout, marking the first U.S. combat deaths in the country since last summer,” [Dan Lamothe and Louisa Loveluck report.](#)

“The operation Sunday required the coalition to dispatch reinforcement forces to recover the remains of the Americans who were killed from the caves ... It took nearly six hours to do so ... The service members’ identities were being withheld as family members were notified.”

## **The Trump Organization reported a drop in profits from foreign governments.**

“Trump’s company said it donated \$105,465 to the U.S. Treasury last month, an amount that it said reflects its profits from foreign-government bookings at its hotels last year. The number is down sharply from its 2019 donation of about \$191,000, showing a drop in spending by foreign governments at Trump hotels,” [Jonathan O’Connell and David Fahrenthold report](#).

## **A jury failed to reach a verdict in the case that the CIA called the “biggest leak” in agency history.**

“A jury in New York failed to reach a verdict Monday on whether a former CIA employee gave government hacking tools to WikiLeaks,” [Shayna Jacobs and Shane Harris report](#). “Jurors, who had begun their deliberations last week, told Judge Paul Crotty that they were ‘extremely deadlocked’ on many of the charges. Joshua Schulte, 31, had been accused of disclosing the hacking tools and disclosing information to a reporter at The Post while in jail awaiting trial. The jury did find Schulte guilty on two counts of making false statements to investigators and contempt of court. But the failure to reach a unanimous agreement on the most serious charges of disclosing classified information was a significant blow to the government’s case.”

## **Ethiopian investigators blamed design flaws for the Boeing 737 Max crash a year ago.**

“The interim findings came as families of the victims from around the world gathered in Ethiopia for events commemorating the crash anniversary,” [Lori Aratani, Ian Duncan and Michael Laris report](#).

“According to the report, the ‘differences’ training provided to the airline’s pilots — meant to instruct them on how the Max would behave differently than an earlier version of the 737 — was found to be ‘inadequate.’”



## **Netanyahu's self-declared victory is looking less certain in Israel.**

“In an effort to break the country’s year-long political deadlock, [Benny] Gantz reached out publicly to some unlikely coalition partners, betting that their shared goal of ousting [Benjamin] Netanyahu could bring them together,” [Ruth Eglash reports](#). “Success would require Gantz winning — and accepting — support from the Joint List, a slate of four Arab-majority parties representing Israel’s roughly 1.8 million Arab citizens. If he does manage to secure their backing, his allies in Israel’s 120-seat parliament, or Knesset, would outnumber those of Netanyahu’s bloc of right-wing and religious parties, affording Gantz the chance to scrape together a narrow coalition government. While it would not include the Arab party members directly, this coalition would rely on them to pass essential legislation.”

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## **Social media speed read**

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz), who went into self-quarantine after being exposed to the virus, mused about death. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) replied:



**Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** ✓

@AOC



If it helps at all Rep. Gosar, you get roasted in committee almost every week so that's kind of the same thing  
[twitter.com/drpaulgosar/st...](https://twitter.com/drpaulgosar/st...)

**Paul Gosar** ✓ @DrPaulGosar

Been thinking about life and mortality today. I'd rather die gloriously in battle than from a virus. In a way it doesn't matter. But it kinda does.



♥ 113K 1:19 AM - Mar 10, 2020



💬 13.5K people are talking about this



The virus isn't stopping Trump, a known germaphobe, from shaking hands with supporters:



**David Nakamura** ✓

@DavidNakamura



I was literally talking on the phone about coronavirus with a former Secret Service agent who said: "Forget about rope lines. Those are the ultimate threat given hand-to-hand contact is the way this spreads" ... when this [@robcrilly](#) pool photo of Trump in Florida hit my inbox.



♥ 1,666 3:22 PM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 745 people are talking about this



Nancy Pelosi didn't hold back after being asked about Trump not being tested for the virus:



**Manu Raju** ✓

@mkraju



Asked Pelosi if she thinks Trump should be tested after his interactions with Doug Collins and Matt Gaetz.  
Pelosi: "Tested for what?"  
me: coronavirus  
Pelosi: "Oh, I thought he should be tested for a long time now."  
And she walked off

♥ 57,6K 11:11 PM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 12K people are talking about this



Ted Cruz is handling his quarantine – and an old conspiracy theory about his past -- with humor:



## Videos of the day

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock's daughter celebrated her dad's decision to run for Senate with a TikTok:

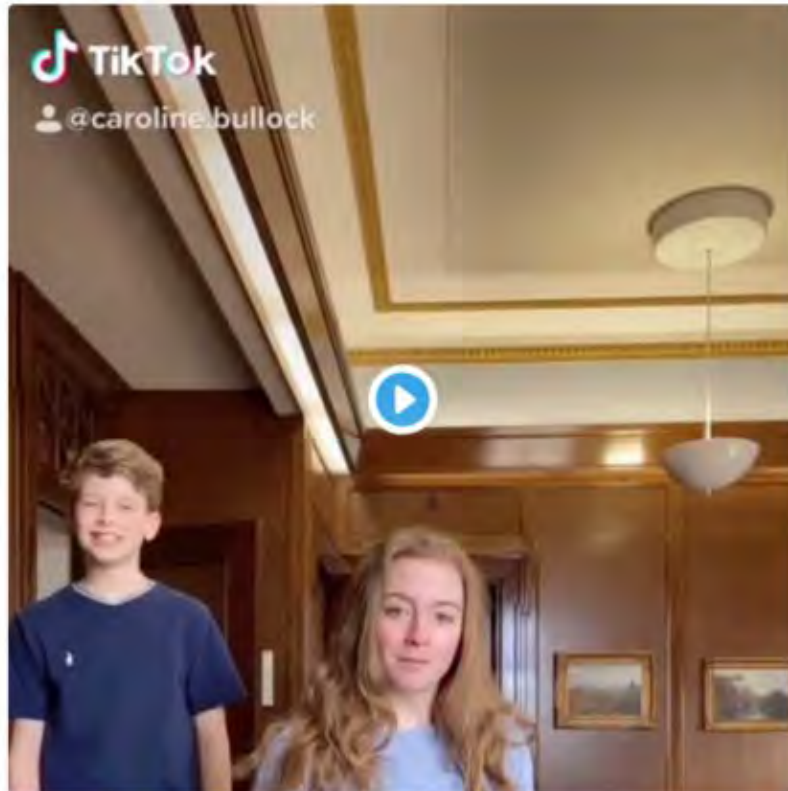


**Caroline Bullock**

@c\_g\_bullock



Celebrating as Stevie B shimmies his way into the Senate!! 🤘❤️ #stevieb2020 @GovernorBullock @stevebullockmt



♥️ 2,381 6:39 PM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 424 people are talking about this



Stephen Colbert said he's "not testing positive, just staying positive":



Seth Meyers doesn't think the New York governor's coronavirus advice to subway commuters was helpful:



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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: The anatomy of the Michigan win that put Joe Biden on a glide path to the Democratic nomination  
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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.



By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## The anatomy of the Michigan win that put Joe Biden on a glide path to the Democratic nomination

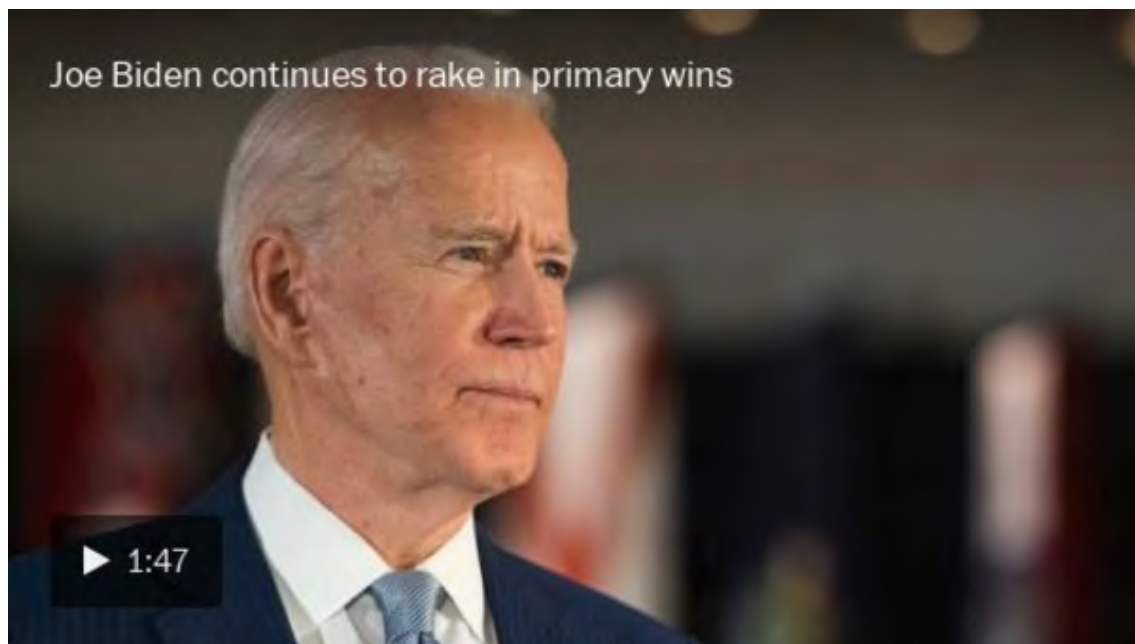
Joe Biden appears to have swept every county in Missouri and Mississippi on Tuesday, and he's currently leading in 82 of the 83 counties in Michigan. The lone holdout is Ingham County, which includes the state capital of Lansing, where Bernie Sanders leads by just nine votes out of more than 52,000 ballots cast.

Four years after the independent senator from Vermont won a major upset in the Wolverine State over Hillary Clinton, beating her in all but 10 counties, Biden bested him statewide by 16 points. The decisive victory puts the former vice president on a trajectory to clinch the nomination without a contested convention.

Sanders avoided being swept by winning North Dakota, which offered only 14 delegates, the smallest prize of the [six states that voted](#) on what's being referred to as Super Tuesday II. Washington state remains too close to call, with both candidates tied at 32 percent, as mail-in ballots are counted. Biden also won Idaho, another state Sanders claimed four years ago, which switched from caucuses to a primary.

The Michigan results recast the storyline of the 2016 election in a fresh light and undercut a central rationale of Sanders's second bid for the nomination. The senator's team incorrectly assumed coming into this cycle that the bulk of people who voted for him in 2016 agreed with his calls for political revolution when, in fact, many appear to have mainly been casting protest votes against Clinton. This was especially true among moderates, who wouldn't naturally gravitate toward a self-described democratic socialist, and in rural areas.





In 2016, the exit polls showed that Sanders won 44 percent of Michigan primary voters who identified as moderate or conservative. On Tuesday, he garnered just 25 percent of this constituency, which accounted for 39 percent of the electorate, [according to exit polling](#).

Three in 10 voters in Michigan's open Democratic primary identified as independent. Sanders led Biden among this group by 5 points, 48 percent to 43 percent. But he beat Clinton by 43 points among indies. Meanwhile, Biden won self-identified Democrats by 22 points compared to Clinton's 18 points.

Michigan is worthy of special attention because Sanders's [upset](#) was so symbolically significant in 2016 but also because it was a harbinger of Donald Trump's narrow victory that fall. Trump became the first Republican since George H.W. Bush in 1988 to carry the state, and Democrats need these 16 electoral votes from the industrial Midwest in almost any realistic scenario that wins them the White House.

Here are five other notable factors behind Biden's win in the Wolverine State:

**1. Sanders's advantage with the white working class has eroded.** Biden won among voters who didn't graduate from college by the same margin (14 points) as he did those who have degrees, according to the exits. Last time, Sanders won white voters in the state by 14 points. Exit polls show Biden led by 11 points among whites this time.

**2. Turnout spiked, thanks largely to the suburbs.** A key reason that Clinton lost Michigan four years ago was lower-than-expected turnout, especially in the suburbs around Detroit. In 2016, about 1.2 million ballots were cast in the Democratic primary. That rose to an estimated 1.7 million in 2020. This is among the sharpest increases in any of the 23 states that have voted over the last six weeks.

The biggest surge in turnout came in suburban areas like Oakland County outside Detroit, where Democrats also unseated a House Republican in the 2018 midterms. Biden won Oakland County by 22 points, whereas Clinton carried it by 5 points. To understand Biden's win statewide, it's equally important to consider that there were about 175,000 Democratic votes cast there in 2016 but more than 250,000 votes this year.

**3. Women broke hard for Biden.** He won among female voters by 23 points, and they made up 54 percent of the electorate. Men, who accounted for 46 percent of voters, were split more evenly, with 47 percent backing Biden to 43 percent for Sanders. The senator's team saw this problem coming in their internal polling, and they tried to adjust accordingly. [I wrote from Grand Rapids](#) on Monday about how Sanders had sharpened his attacks on Biden's record related to abortion rights in an unsuccessful effort to prevent women from coalescing behind Biden.

**4. Biden's firewall among African American voters held.** He won black voters by 39 points, with higher turnout in urban Detroit. In Mississippi, black voters made up almost two-thirds of the electorate, with more than 8 in 10 going for Biden. In Missouri, Biden won 3 of 4 black

voters.

**5. College students didn't turn out in force for Sanders.** Biden beat Sanders in Washtenaw County, which is home to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Sanders held a rally there on Sunday night that drew more than 10,000 people. Since his victory in the Nevada caucuses, where he fared especially well with younger Latinos, Sanders has not been able to expand the electorate with new voters enough to offset the surge in turnout among more traditional Democrats who harbor doubts about his electability.

To be sure, Sanders won 18- to 29-year-olds by 57 points. But they made up 16 percent of the electorate. Meanwhile, Biden won voters 65 and older by 51 points, according to the same exit polling, and they accounted for 20 percent of voters. He also won 45- to 64-year-olds, who accounted for 42 percent of voters, by 36 points. [Older voters tend to view Sanders leerily](#), especially the democratic socialism he espouses and the political revolution he promises. It remains a problem for Sanders that he has not been able to make inroads with seniors, who most reliably turn out in primaries.

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## Quote of the day



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*“There’s no sugarcoating it,” said Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), 30, who introduced Sanders at his rally in Ann Arbor. “It’s a tough night for the movement overall.”*



Supporters take selfies with Bernie Sanders after he visited a polling place on Tuesday in Dearborn Heights, Mich. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

## **What’s next for Sanders: Hard choices about the path ahead.**

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus prompted local public health officials to ask Biden and Sanders to cancel their planned rallies on Tuesday night in Cleveland. Biden flew to Philadelphia, where he spoke to members of his campaign staff and the press corps that travels with him, while Sanders went home to Burlington, Vt. His decision not to speak publicly last night after his defeats raised questions about the future of his campaign and his strategy going forward.

Andrew Yang, who supported Sanders in 2016, became the latest former presidential candidate to board the Biden bandwagon. “The math shows

Joe is our prohibitive nominee,” the entrepreneur said on CNN, where he’s now a paid contributor. “We need to bring the party together. We need to start working on defeating Donald Trump in the fall.”

“The past week showcased how much the Sanders campaign is an unruly coalition rather than a tight operation, as allies voiced various conflicting theories about what he needed to do,” [writes Sean Sullivan](#), who has been following Sanders full-time for a year. “Some said Sanders needs to show a more personal side, a recurring suggestion that Sanders has repeatedly been reluctant or unable to embrace. ... The campaign has also experienced a push-and-pull over strategic decisions, debating in recent days whether to release internal polling showing a competitive race with Biden in Michigan, for example ... In the end, the campaign did not release any polling data, opting not to risk setting expectations and then falling short.”

Sanders’s efforts to improve his standing among black voters have been especially awkward in recent days. “When the campaign scrapped plans for Sanders to spend time in Mississippi in favor of Michigan, it signaled to many Democrats that he was effectively giving up on black voters in the South,” Sean notes. “Sanders appeared [on Saturday night] in Flint, Mich., at an event billed as a town hall on racial justice. Yet of the 1,200 attendees, only about three dozen were black. Then the senator decided at the last minute not to deliver his planned speech contrasting his record with Biden’s on racial justice issues — because, a spokesman said, he wanted to let the African American panelists onstage speak about their own experiences. Still, the effect was to suggest that Sanders continues to be uncomfortable delving personally into issues that affect black people’s lives.”

There are few game-changing opportunities left for Sanders. “The candidates are scheduled to face off in a two-hour debate on Sunday night in Phoenix, perhaps the last chance for a shift,” [Sean, Matt Viser and](#)

[Michael Scherer report](#). “Next Tuesday, four more states will vote: delegate-rich Florida, Illinois, Ohio and Arizona. A spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee said Tuesday there were no plans to cancel the Arizona debate, though organizers continue to speak daily with local health officials. The DNC did alter the format, however, by banning the live audience that has attended each of the previous debates.”



### **What’s next for Biden: A front porch campaign?**

Biden canceled a Thursday rally in Tampa. Instead, he will deliver an address on how he would respond to the coronavirus from his hometown of Wilmington, Del. The former vice president has been shortening his stump speech, which he now mostly reads from a teleprompter. His advisers are trying to limit his opportunities for gaffes and keep him as above the fray as possible. If the coronavirus outbreak keeps him off the trail, perhaps he could try to replicate the strategy of giving speeches and greeting people on his front porch that allowed James Garfield to win the 1880 election.

In a sober-minded speech at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on Tuesday night, Biden praised Sanders supporters “for

their tireless energy and their passion.” The remarks appeared crafted to exude inevitability, that he will win the nomination, and to convey a presidential aura. “We share a common goal,” Biden said to Sanders backers, “and together we’ll defeat Donald Trump.”

Biden’s allies are going further in trying to push Sanders out of the race. “I think it is time for us to shut this primary down,” House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D), who delivered a pivotal endorsement before South Carolina’s primary, [told NPR](#). “It is time for us to cancel the rest of these debates because you don’t do anything but get yourself in trouble if you continue in this contest when it’s obvious that the numbers will not shake out for you.”

“Even if Sanders chooses to keep running far into the spring, Biden will have to begin to make a swift pivot toward the general election, with the goal of turning a campaign operation that has drawn criticism even from prominent supporters into a machine capable of waging a general election against the Trump forces,” [Dan Balz writes](#). “He will need to scale up his operation, sharpen his message and reach beyond to voters who either shifted to Trump in 2016 or sat on the sidelines.”



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## The latest on the coronavirus



People walk into a martial arts school in New Rochelle, N.Y. Residents are free to move within a one-mile radius, but schools and other gathering places are closed. (John Taggart for The Washington Post)

### Confirmed cases in the U.S. topped 1,000.

“Five more deaths — including two in Washington state and one each in California, New Jersey and South Dakota — were reported Tuesday, bringing the total number of deaths in the country to 31,” [our colleagues report](#) in a coronavirus live blog. “A growing list of at least 19 states have declared a state of emergency, including Colorado, North Carolina and Michigan, the latter of which reported its first two cases.”

- The National Guard was deployed to New Rochelle, N.Y., to stem the spread of the virus. Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) took the drastic step of creating what he called a “containment zone” within a one-mile radius of this suburb after 104 residents tested positive. ([Ben Guarino](#), [Sarah Pulliam Bailey](#), [Laura Meckler](#) and [Katie Zezima](#))
- Students at the University of Dayton in Ohio clashed with police in



riot gear last night after they were ordered to leave campus over virus fears. ([Journal-News](#))

- Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) has restricted gatherings of more than 250 people in three counties around Seattle. ([Seattle Times](#))
- A meeting for managers at the Boston-area biotech company Biogen late last month has been linked to dozens of infections across the country. ([WSJ](#))
- More passengers are expected to disembark from the Grand Princess cruise ship, which is docked in Oakland, Calif. More than 1,400 people left the ship as of last night out more than 3,000 who were onboard. ([Teo Armus](#))
- Wall Street is poised for losses today. The Dow tumbled 700 points, or about 3 percent, at the open. ([Taylor Telford and Thomas Heath](#))
- Coachella, the California musical festival, was postponed from April to October. The news come days after Austin's SXSW festival was canceled, sending a shock through the city's economy. ([Sonia Rao](#))
- A quarter of Florida's population is older than 60, and many people have chronic illnesses that make them more vulnerable to the disease, putting the state's health system at risk of being overloaded. The virus is already having a major effect on the state's largest industry – tourism. ([Lori Rozsa, Tim Craig and Joel Achenbach](#))

### **Shortages are causing problems.**

The nation's face mask stockpile hasn't been substantially replenished since 2009. The reserves weren't significantly restored after the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, [Beth Reinhard and Emma Brown report](#).

- CDC Director Robert Redfield said he is not confident that labs in the U.S. have an adequate stock of the supplies used to extract genetic material from any virus in a patient's sample — a critical step in coronavirus testing. ([Politico](#))
- Two Trump allies got tested despite the shortage. Reps. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) and Mark Meadows (R-N.C.), the incoming White House chief of staff, said their tests showed no infection. They also said they were exhibiting no symptoms of respiratory illness, raising questions

of why they were tested at all. ([Mike DeBonis and Carolyn Johnson](#)) Gaetz [told the Pensacola News Journal](#) that he slept in a Walmart parking lot on Monday night after potentially exposing Trump to the coronavirus because he didn't want to accidentally spread the virus to anyone else.

- A coronavirus conference was canceled because of the coronavirus. The Council on Foreign Relations canceled a “Doing Business Under Coronavirus” roundtable in New York that was scheduled for Friday. ([Bloomberg News](#))

### **The total number of cases worldwide surpassed 120,000.**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced the “virus has arrived,” warning that up to 70 percent of her country could end up infected. There are more than 80,000 cases in China and more than 10,000 in Italy. Both Iran and South Korea have around 8,000 confirmed cases and other nations are suggesting they will reach similar levels soon. China announced an increase in cases of the virus that had been imported from outside the country, with one case apparently coming from the U.S., per [our live blog](#). Some residents can go back to work in the Chinese province of Hubei, where the outbreak started, but travel restrictions remain.

- China’s next challenge is repairing the broken links in the world’s supply chain. ([Anna Fifield](#))
- Italy’s lockdown has stripped the country of its most basic routines and joys. ([Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli](#))
- U.K. health official Nadine Dorries tested positive for the virus, and the Bank of England announced that it would cut interest rates by from 0.75 percent to 0.25 percent, a record low for Britain’s central bank. ([BBC](#))
- Bahrain’s Ministry of Health said of the 165 of its citizens just flown back from Iran, 77 of them tested positive. ([Paul Schemm](#))
- Coronavirus cases in Africa passed 100. Nearly all are imported from Europe’s hotspots. ([Max Bearak](#))

**Allergy season is coming in full force.**

“Doctors worry allergy sufferers will conflate their routine reactions to pollen with coronavirus symptoms and overwhelm an already-strained health care system with panicked visits,” [Sindya Bhanoo reports](#), especially in D.C., where pollen counts are already at moderate to high levels. “Because of warmer temperatures, allergy season started in February this year instead of March ... so Washington-area residents are already exhibiting symptoms. Data show that some people infected with the coronavirus experience similar symptoms, such as coughing, nasal congestion, runny nose and sore throat. ... **Allergies, which are an overreaction of the immune system to foreign particles, should not trigger chills, body aches or fevers** ... Those are the classic signs of a viral infection, such as covid-19. In addition, while patients with coronavirus can have nasal congestion, it is not common. The World Health Organization found that only about 5 percent of the coronavirus patients in China had nasal congestion. About 14 percent had a sore throat.”



## The uneven federal response

Trump discussed his ideas for economic stimulus with

## Senate Republicans.

Visiting the Capitol on Tuesday, Trump said he “wants to dramatically reduce the payroll tax through at least the end of the year, a plan that could deliver a massive — but expensive — boost to many businesses and voters as he heads into the November presidential election,” [Erica Werner, Josh Dawsey, Seung Min Kim and Robert Costa report](#). “But his proposal was not warmly received by Republicans, and it was also panned by Democrats, leaving policymakers searching for any common ground as the coronavirus’s outbreak continues to take its toll on the economy. One area of consensus, though, could be around the issue of paid sick leave for employees, an idea Democrats support and in which Trump has shown some interest. But in the past the two sides have taken different approaches, and it’s not clear whether agreement can be reached. ... One senator at Tuesday’s lunch meeting with Trump said the president also floated the idea of allowing Americans to [delay filing](#) their tax returns in April ... and providing aid to the travel industry.

"In addition to large tax cuts, Trump talked with Republican senators about what steps they could take to extend emergency aid to U.S. oil and gas companies hurt by the drop in oil prices. ... The payroll tax cut alone could reduce taxes by around \$400 billion through the end of the year. White House officials would not say whether they had any plans to offset those losses, which would cause the budget deficit to grow by about 40 percent. ...

"Top House Democrats, meanwhile, said Tuesday they planned to move quickly on a relief package that narrowly targeted individuals and families affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The measures floated by [Nancy] Pelosi and other leaders included an expansion of unemployment insurance, food stamps and other public assistance programs as well as allowing for more sick and family leave. The legislation could be released as soon as Wednesday with a vote coming as soon as Thursday.”

**Providing federal assistance to oil and gas companies would face resistance from those who support direct aid to workers.** “The federal assistance is likely to take the form of low-interest government loans to the shale companies, whose lines of credit to major financial institutions have been choked off,” [Jeff Stein, Will Englund, Steven Mufson and Costa report](#). “But help for oil and gas producers may prove a politically difficult lift for the administration, in part because they faced sagging prices even before the coronavirus outbreak, some experts said. It may be hard to sort out which sectors are deserving of help ... Some economists also oppose providing assistance to companies rather than ensuring it goes to workers hit by a downturn.”

### **The administration wants federal workers to be ready to telework full time.**

“The Trump administration is racing to develop contingency plans that would allow hundreds of thousands of employees to work remotely full time,” [Lisa Rein reports](#). “The Office of Personnel Management, which oversees policy for the workforce of 2.1 million, has urged agency heads in recent days to ‘immediately review’ their telework policies, sign paperwork with employees laying out their duties, issue laptops and grant access to computer networks. ... That emergency decision follows similar steps by more than a dozen Seattle-area federal field offices, the Interior Department in Denver and NASA’s Silicon Valley research center, which either have closed or shifted to telework as some employees tested positive for the virus. On Tuesday, the International Trade Administration started sending staffers home to self-quarantine if they had traveled out of the country. The State Department told its staff to set up emergency teleconference drills — and alternate who comes into the office to use classified systems, to ensure that colleagues gather only in small groups. ... The Trump administration scaled back working from home as a regular practice at multiple large agencies.”

## **The CDC blocked thousands of flu samples from being tested for coronavirus.**

“For months, as part of a research project into the flu, [infectious disease expert Helen Chu] and a team of researchers had been collecting nasal swabs from residents experiencing symptoms throughout the Puget Sound region. To repurpose the tests for monitoring the coronavirus, they would need the support of state and federal officials. But nearly everywhere Dr. Chu turned, officials repeatedly rejected the idea, interviews and emails show, even as weeks crawled by and outbreaks emerged in countries outside of China,” [the NYT reports](#). “By Feb. 25, Dr. Chu and her colleagues could not bear to wait any longer. They began performing coronavirus tests, without government approval. What came back confirmed their worst fear.”

## **A GOP congressman criticized Trump's proposed CDC cuts.**

“This was the day Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) has been warning about,” [Aaron Blake reports](#). “Back in 2017, when the Trump administration first proposed steep cuts to programs that handle disease outbreaks, Cole said, ‘I promise you the president is much more likely in his term to have a deal with a pandemic than an act of terrorism. I hope he doesn’t have to deal with either one, but you have to be ready to deal with both.’ Now that the potential pandemic has come, Cole is re-upping his long-standing criticisms of the Trump administration’s posture toward preparedness. ... At a House subcommittee hearing featuring [the CDC director], Cole offered some veiled rebukes of how the administration has worked with people like him on this issue.”

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## **Other developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



William Evanina, director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, takes media questions in Washington. (Bill O'Leary/The Washington Post)

## **An intelligence official claimed there's no evidence Russia has taken steps to help any 2020 candidate.**

In closed briefings to the House and Senate, “the head of national counterintelligence, William Evanina, appeared to be tempering an assessment delivered to lawmakers in the House last month that Russia had developed a ‘preference’ for [Trump],” [Ellen Nakashima and Seung Min Kim report](#). “Evanina told senators that the Russians ‘continue to be broadly engaged in social media activities designed to divide us further, to discredit our electoral system and to disrupt our election,’ said one official present at the all-members meeting. In the Senate, Evanina’s carefully worded answer came in response to the first question asked — by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.) — and ‘felt orchestrated,’ said a second official, who was briefed on the meeting. ‘Both question and response were clearly pre-drafted.’

“The intelligence officials who gave the briefing, including National Security Agency Director Paul M. Nakasone and FBI Director Christopher A. Wray, did not give senators an impression that the Trump administration has a solid grip on dealing with foreign interference in the coming election, said a third official briefed on the session. ... In the House, [Pelosi] and Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.), the Intelligence Committee chairman, challenged the briefer on what struck them as an effort to play down the assessment given last month by Shelby Pierson, the intelligence community’s point person on foreign election threats, a fourth official said. ...

“Senators also were disconcerted that [Richard] Grenell, as the head of the intelligence community, was not present ... The heads of other agencies, including acting homeland security secretary Chad Wolf, were there, and Grenell had been scheduled to appear, according to a list of participants circulated to lawmakers on Monday. But Grenell declined to go to the Hill, citing apprehension about his preparedness to address sensitive subjects that tend to upset the president, according to three people familiar with the matter.”

### **Russia’s parliament offered a path for Vladimir Putin to stay in power for an additional 12 years after his term expires in 2024.**

The plan, floated and supported by Putin’s ruling United Russia party, is part of a sweeping rewrite of Russia’s constitution and would reset the current term limits to zero. ([Isabelle Khurshudyan](#))

### **The D.C. Circuit ruled that DOJ must disclose Bob Mueller’s secret grand jury evidence to the House.**

“The divided ruling, which can be appealed, is a victory for Democratic lawmakers in one of a set of separation-of-powers lawsuits filed before the House voted to impeach Trump in December and before the Senate acquitted him,” [Ann Marimow reports](#). “The U.S. Court of Appeals for the



D.C. Circuit upheld a lower court order that gives Congress access to certain secret material from [Mueller's] investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. ... Judge Judith W. Rogers found the House in its impeachment investigation was legally engaged in a judicial process that exempts Congress from secrecy rules that typically shield grand jury materials from disclosure. Grand jury records, she noted, are court records — not Justice Department records — and have historically been released to Congress in the course of impeachment investigations involving three federal judges and two presidents. ... Judge Neomi Rao [a Trump appointee] dissented."

### **Lawmakers proposed bipartisan limits on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.**

"House Democrats and Republicans proposed a surveillance bill Tuesday that would extend provisions used for counterterrorism investigations while putting new restrictions and safeguards on the FBI to address criticism of how agents investigated a Trump campaign adviser in 2016," [Devlin Barrett reports](#). "To address those concerns, the new bill would require the attorney general to sign off on any FISA surveillance targeting a federal officeholder or a candidate for federal office. ... [The bill] would step up internal reviews and data reporting requirements on FISA cases; increase the potential prison sentence for unauthorized disclosures about FISA surveillance; and require FISA applicants to assure the court they have provided information that might call into question their factual assertions ... The bill would also bring to an official end a controversial phone records collection program that the government has abandoned as costly and ineffective."

### **Sonia Sotomayor recused herself from a case with consequences for the electoral college.**

The justice will "not participate in one of the two cases the Supreme Court will hear in April to decide whether the Constitution forbids states from

dictating how members of the electoral college cast their votes for president,” [Robert Barnes reports](#). “The clerk of the court informed lawyers in the case Tuesday that Sotomayor realized she is friends with one of the parties in one of the cases, from Colorado. Sotomayor will still participate in the other case, from the state of Washington.”

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## Social media speed read

Trump endorsed former attorney general Jeff Sessions' opponent in the Alabama GOP Senate runoff:



The stage was set up for Sanders's rally in Ohio before it was canceled:



Ohio's governor defended the decision to ask the candidates to cancel their events:



The New York City mayor and former 2020 contender called on Elizabeth Warren to endorse Sanders:



A man sent anti-Muslim tweets to a Virginia congressional candidate, who responded by helping pay down his medical bills:



**Qasim Rashid for Congress** ✓

@QasimRashid



Last week a Conservative constituent sent me deeply hurtful anti-Muslim tweets 😞

I replied by donating to his GoFundMe to help cover his crushing medical debt

He wrote me a thoughtful & compassionate apology & asked me to visit him

Today I met my new friend Oz 🤝 #WinTheHearts



♥ 77.2K 2:40 AM - Mar 9, 2020



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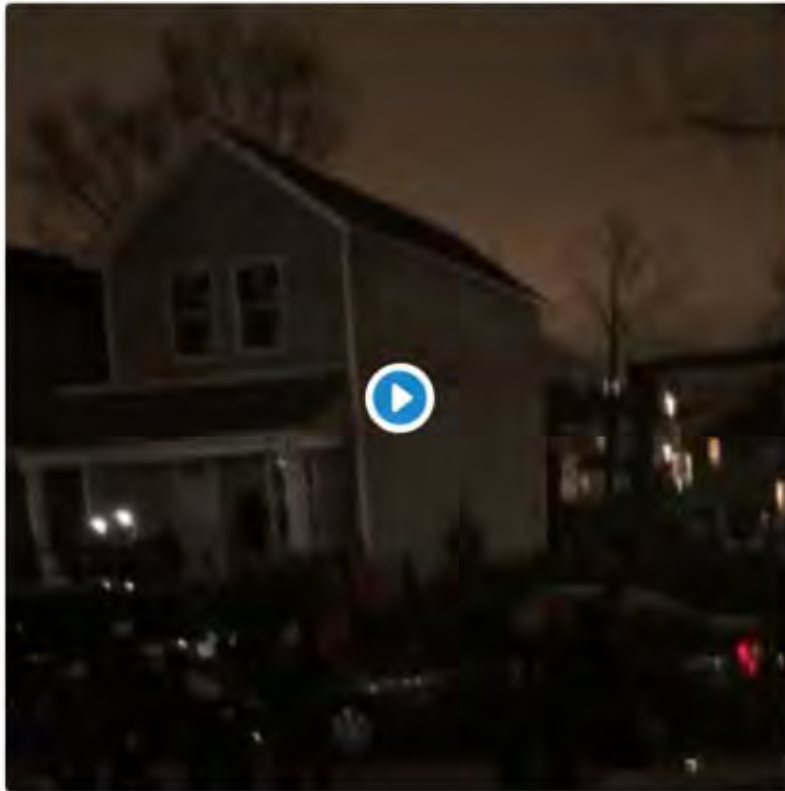


The University of Dayton's student newspaper shared images from the clash between students and police after the campus was closed to contain the coronavirus:

**Flyer News** @FlyerNews · 5h  
Replying to @FlyerNews  
Multiple students have reported to Flyer News that what is presumed to be tear gas was shot at students. Students were seen vomiting.

**Flyer News**  
@FlyerNews

We have video of police officers shooting what appears to be non-lethal weapons at students.



140 4:35 AM - Mar 11, 2020

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## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert said Andrew Cuomo's coronavirus measures in New York resemble those one would take during a zombie apocalypse:



Trevor Noah explored the consequences of “social distancing”:



Seth Meyers checked in on a Trump policy that may be enriching his family:



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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.



By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
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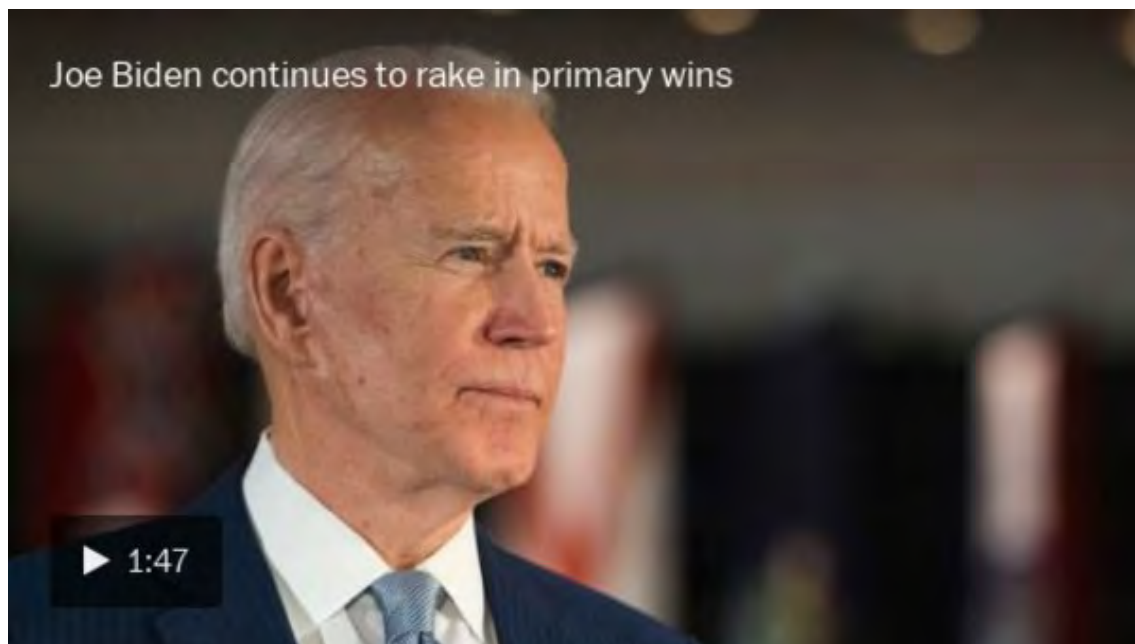
## The anatomy of the Michigan win that put Joe Biden on a glide path to the Democratic nomination

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Sanders avoided being swept by winning North Dakota, which offered only 14 delegates, the smallest prize of the [six states that voted](#) on what's being referred to as Super Tuesday II. Washington state remains too close to call, with both candidates tied at 32 percent, as mail-in ballots are counted. Biden also won Idaho, another state Sanders claimed four years ago, which switched from caucuses to a primary.

The Michigan results recast the storyline of the 2016 election in a fresh light and undercut a central rationale of Sanders's second bid for the nomination. The senator's team incorrectly assumed coming into this cycle that the bulk of people who voted for him in 2016 agreed with his calls for political revolution when, in fact, many appear to have mainly been casting protest votes against Clinton. This was especially true among moderates, who wouldn't naturally gravitate toward a self-described democratic socialist, and in rural areas.



In 2016, the exit polls showed that Sanders won 44 percent of Michigan primary voters who identified as moderate or conservative. On Tuesday, he garnered just 25 percent of this constituency, which accounted for 39 percent of the electorate, [according to exit polling](#).

Three in 10 voters in Michigan's open Democratic primary identified as independent. Sanders led Biden among this group by 5 points, 48 percent to 43 percent. But he beat Clinton by 43 points among indies. Meanwhile, Biden won self-identified Democrats by 22 points compared to Clinton's 18 points.

Michigan is worthy of special attention because Sanders's [upset](#) was so symbolically significant in 2016 but also because it was a harbinger of Donald Trump's narrow victory that fall. Trump became the first Republican since George H.W. Bush in 1988 to carry the state, and Democrats need these 16 electoral votes from the industrial Midwest in almost any realistic scenario that wins them the White House.

Here are five other notable factors behind Biden's win in the Wolverine State:

**1. Sanders's advantage with the white working class has eroded.**

Biden won among voters who didn't graduate from college by the same margin (14 points) as he did those who have degrees, according to the exits. Last time, Sanders won white voters in the state by 14 points. Exit polls show Biden led by 11 points among whites this time.

**2. Turnout spiked, thanks largely to the suburbs.** A key reason that Clinton lost Michigan four years ago was lower-than-expected turnout, especially in the suburbs around Detroit. In 2016, about 1.2 million ballots were cast in the Democratic primary. That rose to an estimated 1.7 million in 2020. This is among the sharpest increases in any of the 23 states that have voted over the last six weeks.

The biggest surge in turnout came in suburban areas like Oakland County outside Detroit, where Democrats also unseated a House Republican in the 2018 midterms. Biden won Oakland County by 22 points, whereas Clinton carried it by 5 points. To understand Biden's win statewide, it's equally important to consider that there were about 175,000 Democratic votes cast there in 2016 but more than 250,000 votes this year.

**3. Women broke hard for Biden.** He won among female voters by 23 points, and they made up 54 percent of the electorate. Men, who accounted for 46 percent of voters, were split more evenly, with 47 percent backing Biden to 43 percent for Sanders. The senator's team saw this problem coming in their internal polling, and they tried to adjust accordingly. [I wrote from Grand Rapids](#) on Monday about how Sanders had sharpened his attacks on Biden's record related to abortion rights in an unsuccessful effort to prevent women from coalescing behind Biden.

**4. Biden's firewall among African American voters held.** He won black voters by 39 points, with higher turnout in urban Detroit. In Mississippi, black voters made up almost two-thirds of the electorate, with more than 8 in 10 going for Biden. In Missouri, Biden won 3 of 4 black

voters.

**5. College students didn't turn out in force for Sanders.** Biden beat Sanders in Washtenaw County, which is home to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Sanders held a rally there on Sunday night that drew more than 10,000 people. Since his victory in the Nevada caucuses, where he fared especially well with younger Latinos, Sanders has not been able to expand the electorate with new voters enough to offset the surge in turnout among more traditional Democrats who harbor doubts about his electability.

To be sure, Sanders won 18- to 29-year-olds by 57 points. But they made up 16 percent of the electorate. Meanwhile, Biden won voters 65 and older by 51 points, according to the same exit polling, and they accounted for 20 percent of voters. He also won 45- to 64-year-olds, who accounted for 42 percent of voters, by 36 points. [Older voters tend to view Sanders leerily](#), especially the democratic socialism he espouses and the political revolution he promises. It remains a problem for Sanders that he has not been able to make inroads with seniors, who most reliably turn out in primaries.

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## Quote of the day



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*“There’s no sugarcoating it,” said Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), 30, who introduced Sanders at his rally in Ann Arbor. “It’s a tough night for the movement overall.”*



Supporters take selfies with Bernie Sanders after he visited a polling place on Tuesday in Dearborn Heights, Mich. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

## **What’s next for Sanders: Hard choices about the path ahead.**

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus prompted local public health officials to ask Biden and Sanders to cancel their planned rallies on Tuesday night in Cleveland. Biden flew to Philadelphia, where he spoke to members of his campaign staff and the press corps that travels with him, while Sanders went home to Burlington, Vt. His decision not to speak publicly last night after his defeats raised questions about the future of his campaign and his strategy going forward.

Andrew Yang, who supported Sanders in 2016, became the latest former presidential candidate to board the Biden bandwagon. “The math shows

Joe is our prohibitive nominee,” the entrepreneur said on CNN, where he’s now a paid contributor. “We need to bring the party together. We need to start working on defeating Donald Trump in the fall.”

“The past week showcased how much the Sanders campaign is an unruly coalition rather than a tight operation, as allies voiced various conflicting theories about what he needed to do,” [writes Sean Sullivan](#), who has been following Sanders full-time for a year. “Some said Sanders needs to show a more personal side, a recurring suggestion that Sanders has repeatedly been reluctant or unable to embrace. ... The campaign has also experienced a push-and-pull over strategic decisions, debating in recent days whether to release internal polling showing a competitive race with Biden in Michigan, for example ... In the end, the campaign did not release any polling data, opting not to risk setting expectations and then falling short.”

Sanders’s efforts to improve his standing among black voters have been especially awkward in recent days. “When the campaign scrapped plans for Sanders to spend time in Mississippi in favor of Michigan, it signaled to many Democrats that he was effectively giving up on black voters in the South,” Sean notes. “Sanders appeared [on Saturday night] in Flint, Mich., at an event billed as a town hall on racial justice. Yet of the 1,200 attendees, only about three dozen were black. Then the senator decided at the last minute not to deliver his planned speech contrasting his record with Biden’s on racial justice issues — because, a spokesman said, he wanted to let the African American panelists onstage speak about their own experiences. Still, the effect was to suggest that Sanders continues to be uncomfortable delving personally into issues that affect black people’s lives.”

There are few game-changing opportunities left for Sanders. “The candidates are scheduled to face off in a two-hour debate on Sunday night in Phoenix, perhaps the last chance for a shift,” [Sean, Matt Viser and](#)

[Michael Scherer report](#). “Next Tuesday, four more states will vote: delegate-rich Florida, Illinois, Ohio and Arizona. A spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee said Tuesday there were no plans to cancel the Arizona debate, though organizers continue to speak daily with local health officials. The DNC did alter the format, however, by banning the live audience that has attended each of the previous debates.”



### **What’s next for Biden: A front porch campaign?**

Biden canceled a Thursday rally in Tampa. Instead, he will deliver an address on how he would respond to the coronavirus from his hometown of Wilmington, Del. The former vice president has been shortening his stump speech, which he now mostly reads from a teleprompter. His advisers are trying to limit his opportunities for gaffes and keep him as above the fray as possible. If the coronavirus outbreak keeps him off the trail, perhaps he could try to replicate the strategy of giving speeches and greeting people on his front porch that allowed James Garfield to win the 1880 election.

In a sober-minded speech at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on Tuesday night, Biden praised Sanders supporters “for



their tireless energy and their passion.” The remarks appeared crafted to exude inevitability, that he will win the nomination, and to convey a presidential aura. “We share a common goal,” Biden said to Sanders backers, “and together we’ll defeat Donald Trump.”

Biden’s allies are going further in trying to push Sanders out of the race. “I think it is time for us to shut this primary down,” House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D), who delivered a pivotal endorsement before South Carolina’s primary, [told NPR](#). “It is time for us to cancel the rest of these debates because you don’t do anything but get yourself in trouble if you continue in this contest when it’s obvious that the numbers will not shake out for you.”

“Even if Sanders chooses to keep running far into the spring, Biden will have to begin to make a swift pivot toward the general election, with the goal of turning a campaign operation that has drawn criticism even from prominent supporters into a machine capable of waging a general election against the Trump forces,” [Dan Balz writes](#). “He will need to scale up his operation, sharpen his message and reach beyond to voters who either shifted to Trump in 2016 or sat on the sidelines.”



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## The latest on the coronavirus



People walk into a martial arts school in New Rochelle, N.Y. Residents are free to move within a one-mile radius, but schools and other gathering places are closed. (John Taggart for The Washington Post)

### Confirmed cases in the U.S. topped 1,000.

“Five more deaths — including two in Washington state and one each in California, New Jersey and South Dakota — were reported Tuesday, bringing the total number of deaths in the country to 31,” [our colleagues report](#) in a coronavirus live blog. “A growing list of at least 19 states have declared a state of emergency, including Colorado, North Carolina and Michigan, the latter of which reported its first two cases.”

- The National Guard was deployed to New Rochelle, N.Y., to stem the spread of the virus. Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) took the drastic step of creating what he called a “containment zone” within a one-mile radius of this suburb after 104 residents tested positive. ([Ben Guarino](#), [Sarah Pulliam Bailey](#), [Laura Meckler](#) and [Katie Zezima](#))
- Students at the University of Dayton in Ohio clashed with police in

riot gear last night after they were ordered to leave campus over virus fears. ([Journal-News](#))

- Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) has restricted gatherings of more than 250 people in three counties around Seattle. ([Seattle Times](#))
- A meeting for managers at the Boston-area biotech company Biogen late last month has been linked to dozens of infections across the country. ([WSJ](#))
- More passengers are expected to disembark from the Grand Princess cruise ship, which is docked in Oakland, Calif. More than 1,400 people left the ship as of last night out more than 3,000 who were onboard. ([Teo Armus](#))
- Wall Street is poised for losses today. The Dow tumbled 700 points, or about 3 percent, at the open. ([Taylor Telford and Thomas Heath](#))
- Coachella, the California musical festival, was postponed from April to October. The news come days after Austin's SXSW festival was canceled, sending a shock through the city's economy. ([Sonia Rao](#))
- A quarter of Florida's population is older than 60, and many people have chronic illnesses that make them more vulnerable to the disease, putting the state's health system at risk of being overloaded. The virus is already having a major effect on the state's largest industry – tourism. ([Lori Rozsa, Tim Craig and Joel Achenbach](#))

### **Shortages are causing problems.**

The nation's face mask stockpile hasn't been substantially replenished since 2009. The reserves weren't significantly restored after the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, [Beth Reinhard and Emma Brown report](#).

- CDC Director Robert Redfield said he is not confident that labs in the U.S. have an adequate stock of the supplies used to extract genetic material from any virus in a patient's sample — a critical step in coronavirus testing. ([Politico](#))
- Two Trump allies got tested despite the shortage. Reps. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) and Mark Meadows (R-N.C.), the incoming White House chief of staff, said their tests showed no infection. They also said they were exhibiting no symptoms of respiratory illness, raising questions

of why they were tested at all. ([Mike DeBonis and Carolyn Johnson](#)) Gaetz [told the Pensacola News Journal](#) that he slept in a Walmart parking lot on Monday night after potentially exposing Trump to the coronavirus because he didn't want to accidentally spread the virus to anyone else.

- A coronavirus conference was canceled because of the coronavirus. The Council on Foreign Relations canceled a “Doing Business Under Coronavirus” roundtable in New York that was scheduled for Friday. ([Bloomberg News](#))

### **The total number of cases worldwide surpassed 120,000.**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced the “virus has arrived,” warning that up to 70 percent of her country could end up infected. There are more than 80,000 cases in China and more than 10,000 in Italy. Both Iran and South Korea have around 8,000 confirmed cases and other nations are suggesting they will reach similar levels soon. China announced an increase in cases of the virus that had been imported from outside the country, with one case apparently coming from the U.S., per [our live blog](#). Some residents can go back to work in the Chinese province of Hubei, where the outbreak started, but travel restrictions remain.

- China’s next challenge is repairing the broken links in the world’s supply chain. ([Anna Fifield](#))
- Italy’s lockdown has stripped the country of its most basic routines and joys. ([Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli](#))
- U.K. health official Nadine Dorries tested positive for the virus, and the Bank of England announced that it would cut interest rates by from 0.75 percent to 0.25 percent, a record low for Britain’s central bank. ([BBC](#))
- Bahrain’s Ministry of Health said of the 165 of its citizens just flown back from Iran, 77 of them tested positive. ([Paul Schemm](#))
- Coronavirus cases in Africa passed 100. Nearly all are imported from Europe’s hotspots. ([Max Bearak](#))

**Allergy season is coming in full force.**

“Doctors worry allergy sufferers will conflate their routine reactions to pollen with coronavirus symptoms and overwhelm an already-strained health care system with panicked visits,” [Sindya Bhanoo reports](#), especially in D.C., where pollen counts are already at moderate to high levels. “Because of warmer temperatures, allergy season started in February this year instead of March ... so Washington-area residents are already exhibiting symptoms. Data show that some people infected with the coronavirus experience similar symptoms, such as coughing, nasal congestion, runny nose and sore throat. ... **Allergies, which are an overreaction of the immune system to foreign particles, should not trigger chills, body aches or fevers** ... Those are the classic signs of a viral infection, such as covid-19. In addition, while patients with coronavirus can have nasal congestion, it is not common. The World Health Organization found that only about 5 percent of the coronavirus patients in China had nasal congestion. About 14 percent had a sore throat.”



## The uneven federal response

Trump discussed his ideas for economic stimulus with

## Senate Republicans.

Visiting the Capitol on Tuesday, Trump said he “wants to dramatically reduce the payroll tax through at least the end of the year, a plan that could deliver a massive — but expensive — boost to many businesses and voters as he heads into the November presidential election,” [Erica Werner, Josh Dawsey, Seung Min Kim and Robert Costa report](#). “But his proposal was not warmly received by Republicans, and it was also panned by Democrats, leaving policymakers searching for any common ground as the coronavirus’s outbreak continues to take its toll on the economy. One area of consensus, though, could be around the issue of paid sick leave for employees, an idea Democrats support and in which Trump has shown some interest. But in the past the two sides have taken different approaches, and it’s not clear whether agreement can be reached. ... One senator at Tuesday’s lunch meeting with Trump said the president also floated the idea of allowing Americans to [delay filing](#) their tax returns in April ... and providing aid to the travel industry.

"In addition to large tax cuts, Trump talked with Republican senators about what steps they could take to extend emergency aid to U.S. oil and gas companies hurt by the drop in oil prices. ... The payroll tax cut alone could reduce taxes by around \$400 billion through the end of the year. White House officials would not say whether they had any plans to offset those losses, which would cause the budget deficit to grow by about 40 percent. ...

"Top House Democrats, meanwhile, said Tuesday they planned to move quickly on a relief package that narrowly targeted individuals and families affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The measures floated by [Nancy] Pelosi and other leaders included an expansion of unemployment insurance, food stamps and other public assistance programs as well as allowing for more sick and family leave. The legislation could be released as soon as Wednesday with a vote coming as soon as Thursday.”

**Providing federal assistance to oil and gas companies would face resistance from those who support direct aid to workers.**

“The federal assistance is likely to take the form of low-interest government loans to the shale companies, whose lines of credit to major financial institutions have been choked off,” [Jeff Stein, Will Englund, Steven Mufson and Costa report](#). “But help for oil and gas producers may prove a politically difficult lift for the administration, in part because they faced sagging prices even before the coronavirus outbreak, some experts said. It may be hard to sort out which sectors are deserving of help ... Some economists also oppose providing assistance to companies rather than ensuring it goes to workers hit by a downturn.”

**The administration wants federal workers to be ready to telework full time.**

“The Trump administration is racing to develop contingency plans that would allow hundreds of thousands of employees to work remotely full time,” [Lisa Rein reports](#). “The Office of Personnel Management, which oversees policy for the workforce of 2.1 million, has urged agency heads in recent days to ‘immediately review’ their telework policies, sign paperwork with employees laying out their duties, issue laptops and grant access to computer networks. ... That emergency decision follows similar steps by more than a dozen Seattle-area federal field offices, the Interior Department in Denver and NASA’s Silicon Valley research center, which either have closed or shifted to telework as some employees tested positive for the virus. On Tuesday, the International Trade Administration started sending staffers home to self-quarantine if they had traveled out of the country. The State Department told its staff to set up emergency teleconference drills — and alternate who comes into the office to use classified systems, to ensure that colleagues gather only in small groups. ... The Trump administration scaled back working from home as a regular practice at multiple large agencies.”

## **The CDC blocked thousands of flu samples from being tested for coronavirus.**

“For months, as part of a research project into the flu, [infectious disease expert Helen Chu] and a team of researchers had been collecting nasal swabs from residents experiencing symptoms throughout the Puget Sound region. To repurpose the tests for monitoring the coronavirus, they would need the support of state and federal officials. But nearly everywhere Dr. Chu turned, officials repeatedly rejected the idea, interviews and emails show, even as weeks crawled by and outbreaks emerged in countries outside of China,” [the NYT reports](#). “By Feb. 25, Dr. Chu and her colleagues could not bear to wait any longer. They began performing coronavirus tests, without government approval. What came back confirmed their worst fear.”

## **A GOP congressman criticized Trump's proposed CDC cuts.**

“This was the day Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) has been warning about,” [Aaron Blake reports](#). “Back in 2017, when the Trump administration first proposed steep cuts to programs that handle disease outbreaks, Cole said, ‘I promise you the president is much more likely in his term to have a deal with a pandemic than an act of terrorism. I hope he doesn’t have to deal with either one, but you have to be ready to deal with both.’ Now that the potential pandemic has come, Cole is re-upping his long-standing criticisms of the Trump administration’s posture toward preparedness. ... At a House subcommittee hearing featuring [the CDC director], Cole offered some veiled rebukes of how the administration has worked with people like him on this issue.”

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## **Other developments that shouldn't be overlooked**





William Evanina, director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, takes media questions in Washington. (Bill O'Leary/The Washington Post)

## **An intelligence official claimed there's no evidence Russia has taken steps to help any 2020 candidate.**

In closed briefings to the House and Senate, “the head of national counterintelligence, William Evanina, appeared to be tempering an assessment delivered to lawmakers in the House last month that Russia had developed a ‘preference’ for [Trump],” [Ellen Nakashima and Seung Min Kim report](#). “Evanina told senators that the Russians ‘continue to be broadly engaged in social media activities designed to divide us further, to discredit our electoral system and to disrupt our election,’ said one official present at the all-members meeting. In the Senate, Evanina’s carefully worded answer came in response to the first question asked — by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.) — and ‘felt orchestrated,’ said a second official, who was briefed on the meeting. ‘Both question and response were clearly pre-drafted.’

“The intelligence officials who gave the briefing, including National Security Agency Director Paul M. Nakasone and FBI Director Christopher A. Wray, did not give senators an impression that the Trump administration has a solid grip on dealing with foreign interference in the coming election, said a third official briefed on the session. ... In the House, [Pelosi] and Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.), the Intelligence Committee chairman, challenged the briefer on what struck them as an effort to play down the assessment given last month by Shelby Pierson, the intelligence community’s point person on foreign election threats, a fourth official said. ...

“Senators also were disconcerted that [Richard] Grenell, as the head of the intelligence community, was not present ... The heads of other agencies, including acting homeland security secretary Chad Wolf, were there, and Grenell had been scheduled to appear, according to a list of participants circulated to lawmakers on Monday. But Grenell declined to go to the Hill, citing apprehension about his preparedness to address sensitive subjects that tend to upset the president, according to three people familiar with the matter.”

### **Russia’s parliament offered a path for Vladimir Putin to stay in power for an additional 12 years after his term expires in 2024.**

The plan, floated and supported by Putin’s ruling United Russia party, is part of a sweeping rewrite of Russia’s constitution and would reset the current term limits to zero. ([Isabelle Khurshudyan](#))

### **The D.C. Circuit ruled that DOJ must disclose Bob Mueller’s secret grand jury evidence to the House.**

“The divided ruling, which can be appealed, is a victory for Democratic lawmakers in one of a set of separation-of-powers lawsuits filed before the House voted to impeach Trump in December and before the Senate acquitted him,” [Ann Marimow reports](#). “The U.S. Court of Appeals for the

D.C. Circuit upheld a lower court order that gives Congress access to certain secret material from [Mueller's] investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. ... Judge Judith W. Rogers found the House in its impeachment investigation was legally engaged in a judicial process that exempts Congress from secrecy rules that typically shield grand jury materials from disclosure. Grand jury records, she noted, are court records — not Justice Department records — and have historically been released to Congress in the course of impeachment investigations involving three federal judges and two presidents. ... Judge Neomi Rao [a Trump appointee] dissented."

### **Lawmakers proposed bipartisan limits on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.**

"House Democrats and Republicans proposed a surveillance bill Tuesday that would extend provisions used for counterterrorism investigations while putting new restrictions and safeguards on the FBI to address criticism of how agents investigated a Trump campaign adviser in 2016," [Devlin Barrett reports](#). "To address those concerns, the new bill would require the attorney general to sign off on any FISA surveillance targeting a federal officeholder or a candidate for federal office. ... [The bill] would step up internal reviews and data reporting requirements on FISA cases; increase the potential prison sentence for unauthorized disclosures about FISA surveillance; and require FISA applicants to assure the court they have provided information that might call into question their factual assertions ... The bill would also bring to an official end a controversial phone records collection program that the government has abandoned as costly and ineffective."

### **Sonia Sotomayor recused herself from a case with consequences for the electoral college.**

The justice will "not participate in one of the two cases the Supreme Court will hear in April to decide whether the Constitution forbids states from

dictating how members of the electoral college cast their votes for president,” [Robert Barnes reports](#). “The clerk of the court informed lawyers in the case Tuesday that Sotomayor realized she is friends with one of the parties in one of the cases, from Colorado. Sotomayor will still participate in the other case, from the state of Washington.”

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## Social media speed read

Trump endorsed former attorney general Jeff Sessions' opponent in the Alabama GOP Senate runoff:



The stage was set up for Sanders's rally in Ohio before it was canceled:



Ohio's governor defended the decision to ask the candidates to cancel their events:



The New York City mayor and former 2020 contender called on Elizabeth Warren to endorse Sanders:



A man sent anti-Muslim tweets to a Virginia congressional candidate, who responded by helping pay down his medical bills:



**Qasim Rashid for Congress** ✓

@QasimRashid



Last week a Conservative constituent sent me deeply hurtful anti-Muslim tweets 😞

I replied by donating to his GoFundMe to help cover his crushing medical debt

He wrote me a thoughtful & compassionate apology & asked me to visit him

Today I met my new friend Oz 🤝 #WinTheHearts



♥ 77.2K 2:40 AM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 12K people are talking about this



The University of Dayton's student newspaper shared images from the clash between students and police after the campus was closed to contain the coronavirus:



**Flyer News** @FlyerNews · 5h



Replying to @FlyerNews

Multiple students have reported to Flyer News that what is presumed to be tear gas was shot at students. Students were seen vomiting.



**Flyer News**

@FlyerNews

We have video of police officers shooting what appears to be non-lethal weapons at students.



140 4:35 AM - Mar 11, 2020



119 people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert said Andrew Cuomo's coronavirus measures in New York resemble those one would take during a zombie apocalypse:





Trevor Noah explored the consequences of “social distancing”:



Seth Meyers checked in on a Trump policy that may be enriching his family:



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# The Daily 202

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By **James Hohmann**  
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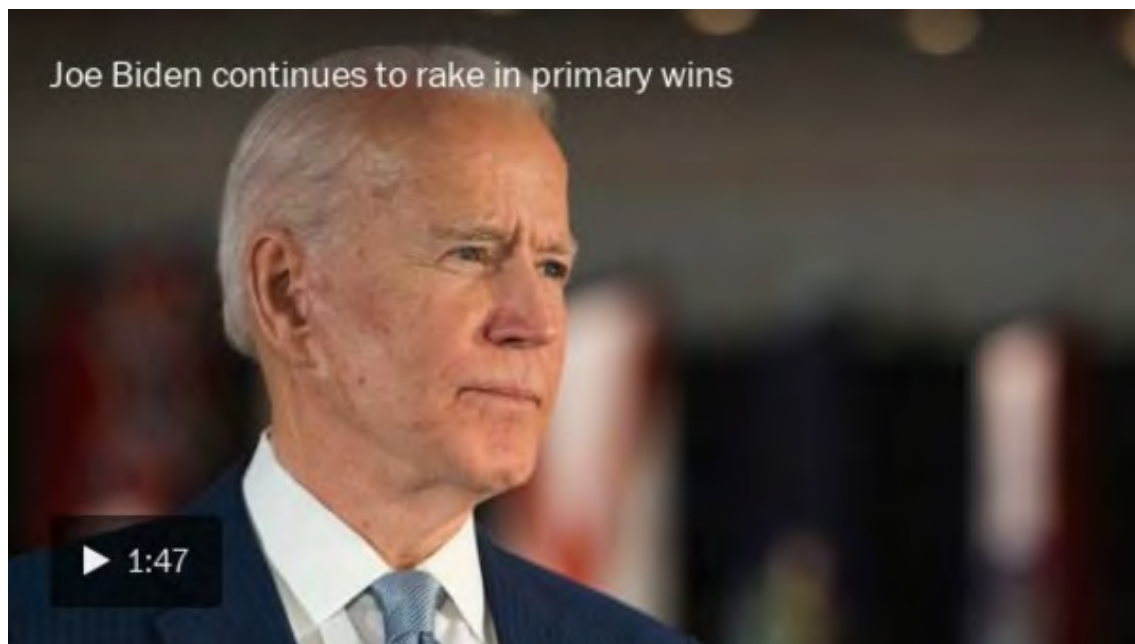
## The anatomy of the Michigan win that put Joe Biden on a glide path to the Democratic nomination

Joe Biden appears to have swept every county in Missouri and Mississippi on Tuesday, and he's currently leading in 82 of the 83 counties in Michigan. The lone holdout is Ingham County, which includes the state capital of Lansing, where Bernie Sanders leads by just nine votes out of more than 52,000 ballots cast.

Four years after the independent senator from Vermont won a major upset in the Wolverine State over Hillary Clinton, beating her in all but 10 counties, Biden bested him statewide by 16 points. The decisive victory puts the former vice president on a trajectory to clinch the nomination without a contested convention.

Sanders avoided being swept by winning North Dakota, which offered only 14 delegates, the smallest prize of the [six states that voted](#) on what's being referred to as Super Tuesday II. Washington state remains too close to call, with both candidates tied at 32 percent, as mail-in ballots are counted. Biden also won Idaho, another state Sanders claimed four years ago, which switched from caucuses to a primary.

The Michigan results recast the storyline of the 2016 election in a fresh light and undercut a central rationale of Sanders's second bid for the nomination. The senator's team incorrectly assumed coming into this cycle that the bulk of people who voted for him in 2016 agreed with his calls for political revolution when, in fact, many appear to have mainly been casting protest votes against Clinton. This was especially true among moderates, who wouldn't naturally gravitate toward a self-described democratic socialist, and in rural areas.



In 2016, the exit polls showed that Sanders won 44 percent of Michigan primary voters who identified as moderate or conservative. On Tuesday, he garnered just 25 percent of this constituency, which accounted for 39 percent of the electorate, [according to exit polling](#).

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Michigan is worthy of special attention because Sanders's [upset](#) was so symbolically significant in 2016 but also because it was a harbinger of Donald Trump's narrow victory that fall. Trump became the first Republican since George H.W. Bush in 1988 to carry the state, and Democrats need these 16 electoral votes from the industrial Midwest in almost any realistic scenario that wins them the White House.

Here are five other notable factors behind Biden's win in the Wolverine State:

**1. Sanders's advantage with the white working class has eroded.** Biden won among voters who didn't graduate from college by the same margin (14 points) as he did those who have degrees, according to the exits. Last time, Sanders won white voters in the state by 14 points. Exit polls show Biden led by 11 points among whites this time.

**2. Turnout spiked, thanks largely to the suburbs.** A key reason that Clinton lost Michigan four years ago was lower-than-expected turnout, especially in the suburbs around Detroit. In 2016, about 1.2 million ballots were cast in the Democratic primary. That rose to an estimated 1.7 million in 2020. This is among the sharpest increases in any of the 23 states that have voted over the last six weeks.

The biggest surge in turnout came in suburban areas like Oakland County outside Detroit, where Democrats also unseated a House Republican in the 2018 midterms. Biden won Oakland County by 22 points, whereas Clinton carried it by 5 points. To understand Biden's win statewide, it's equally important to consider that there were about 175,000 Democratic votes cast there in 2016 but more than 250,000 votes this year.

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voters.

**5. College students didn't turn out in force for Sanders.** Biden beat Sanders in Washtenaw County, which is home to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Sanders held a rally there on Sunday night that drew more than 10,000 people. Since his victory in the Nevada caucuses, where he fared especially well with younger Latinos, Sanders has not been able to expand the electorate with new voters enough to offset the surge in turnout among more traditional Democrats who harbor doubts about his electability.

To be sure, Sanders won 18- to 29-year-olds by 57 points. But they made up 16 percent of the electorate. Meanwhile, Biden won voters 65 and older by 51 points, according to the same exit polling, and they accounted for 20 percent of voters. He also won 45- to 64-year-olds, who accounted for 42 percent of voters, by 36 points. [Older voters tend to view Sanders leerily](#), especially the democratic socialism he espouses and the political revolution he promises. It remains a problem for Sanders that he has not been able to make inroads with seniors, who most reliably turn out in primaries.

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*“There’s no sugarcoating it,” said Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), 30, who introduced Sanders at his rally in Ann Arbor. “It’s a tough night for the movement overall.”*



Supporters take selfies with Bernie Sanders after he visited a polling place on Tuesday in Dearborn Heights, Mich. (Salwan Georges/The Washington Post)

## **What’s next for Sanders: Hard choices about the path ahead.**

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus prompted local public health officials to ask Biden and Sanders to cancel their planned rallies on Tuesday night in Cleveland. Biden flew to Philadelphia, where he spoke to members of his campaign staff and the press corps that travels with him, while Sanders went home to Burlington, Vt. His decision not to speak publicly last night after his defeats raised questions about the future of his campaign and his strategy going forward.

Andrew Yang, who supported Sanders in 2016, became the latest former presidential candidate to board the Biden bandwagon. “The math shows



Joe is our prohibitive nominee,” the entrepreneur said on CNN, where he’s now a paid contributor. “We need to bring the party together. We need to start working on defeating Donald Trump in the fall.”

“The past week showcased how much the Sanders campaign is an unruly coalition rather than a tight operation, as allies voiced various conflicting theories about what he needed to do,” [writes Sean Sullivan](#), who has been following Sanders full-time for a year. “Some said Sanders needs to show a more personal side, a recurring suggestion that Sanders has repeatedly been reluctant or unable to embrace. ... The campaign has also experienced a push-and-pull over strategic decisions, debating in recent days whether to release internal polling showing a competitive race with Biden in Michigan, for example ... In the end, the campaign did not release any polling data, opting not to risk setting expectations and then falling short.”

Sanders’s efforts to improve his standing among black voters have been especially awkward in recent days. “When the campaign scrapped plans for Sanders to spend time in Mississippi in favor of Michigan, it signaled to many Democrats that he was effectively giving up on black voters in the South,” Sean notes. “Sanders appeared [on Saturday night] in Flint, Mich., at an event billed as a town hall on racial justice. Yet of the 1,200 attendees, only about three dozen were black. Then the senator decided at the last minute not to deliver his planned speech contrasting his record with Biden’s on racial justice issues — because, a spokesman said, he wanted to let the African American panelists onstage speak about their own experiences. Still, the effect was to suggest that Sanders continues to be uncomfortable delving personally into issues that affect black people’s lives.”

There are few game-changing opportunities left for Sanders. “The candidates are scheduled to face off in a two-hour debate on Sunday night in Phoenix, perhaps the last chance for a shift,” [Sean, Matt Viser and](#)

[Michael Scherer report](#). “Next Tuesday, four more states will vote: delegate-rich Florida, Illinois, Ohio and Arizona. A spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee said Tuesday there were no plans to cancel the Arizona debate, though organizers continue to speak daily with local health officials. The DNC did alter the format, however, by banning the live audience that has attended each of the previous debates.”



### **What’s next for Biden: A front porch campaign?**

Biden canceled a Thursday rally in Tampa. Instead, he will deliver an address on how he would respond to the coronavirus from his hometown of Wilmington, Del. The former vice president has been shortening his stump speech, which he now mostly reads from a teleprompter. His advisers are trying to limit his opportunities for gaffes and keep him as above the fray as possible. If the coronavirus outbreak keeps him off the trail, perhaps he could try to replicate the strategy of giving speeches and greeting people on his front porch that allowed James Garfield to win the 1880 election.

In a sober-minded speech at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on Tuesday night, Biden praised Sanders supporters “for

their tireless energy and their passion.” The remarks appeared crafted to exude inevitability, that he will win the nomination, and to convey a presidential aura. “We share a common goal,” Biden said to Sanders backers, “and together we’ll defeat Donald Trump.”

Biden’s allies are going further in trying to push Sanders out of the race. “I think it is time for us to shut this primary down,” House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D), who delivered a pivotal endorsement before South Carolina’s primary, [told NPR](#). “It is time for us to cancel the rest of these debates because you don’t do anything but get yourself in trouble if you continue in this contest when it’s obvious that the numbers will not shake out for you.”

“Even if Sanders chooses to keep running far into the spring, Biden will have to begin to make a swift pivot toward the general election, with the goal of turning a campaign operation that has drawn criticism even from prominent supporters into a machine capable of waging a general election against the Trump forces,” [Dan Balz writes](#). “He will need to scale up his operation, sharpen his message and reach beyond to voters who either shifted to Trump in 2016 or sat on the sidelines.”



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## The latest on the coronavirus



People walk into a martial arts school in New Rochelle, N.Y. Residents are free to move within a one-mile radius, but schools and other gathering places are closed. (John Taggart for The Washington Post)

### Confirmed cases in the U.S. topped 1,000.

“Five more deaths — including two in Washington state and one each in California, New Jersey and South Dakota — were reported Tuesday, bringing the total number of deaths in the country to 31,” [our colleagues report](#) in a coronavirus live blog. “A growing list of at least 19 states have declared a state of emergency, including Colorado, North Carolina and Michigan, the latter of which reported its first two cases.”

- The National Guard was deployed to New Rochelle, N.Y., to stem the spread of the virus. Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) took the drastic step of creating what he called a “containment zone” within a one-mile radius of this suburb after 104 residents tested positive. ([Ben Guarino](#), [Sarah Pulliam Bailey](#), [Laura Meckler](#) and [Katie Zezima](#))
- Students at the University of Dayton in Ohio clashed with police in

riot gear last night after they were ordered to leave campus over virus fears. ([Journal-News](#))

- Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) has restricted gatherings of more than 250 people in three counties around Seattle. ([Seattle Times](#))
- A meeting for managers at the Boston-area biotech company Biogen late last month has been linked to dozens of infections across the country. ([WSJ](#))
- More passengers are expected to disembark from the Grand Princess cruise ship, which is docked in Oakland, Calif. More than 1,400 people left the ship as of last night out more than 3,000 who were onboard. ([Teo Armus](#))
- Wall Street is poised for losses today. The Dow tumbled 700 points, or about 3 percent, at the open. ([Taylor Telford and Thomas Heath](#))
- Coachella, the California musical festival, was postponed from April to October. The news come days after Austin's SXSW festival was canceled, sending a shock through the city's economy. ([Sonia Rao](#))
- A quarter of Florida's population is older than 60, and many people have chronic illnesses that make them more vulnerable to the disease, putting the state's health system at risk of being overloaded. The virus is already having a major effect on the state's largest industry – tourism. ([Lori Rozsa, Tim Craig and Joel Achenbach](#))

### **Shortages are causing problems.**

The nation's face mask stockpile hasn't been substantially replenished since 2009. The reserves weren't significantly restored after the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, [Beth Reinhard and Emma Brown report](#).

- CDC Director Robert Redfield said he is not confident that labs in the U.S. have an adequate stock of the supplies used to extract genetic material from any virus in a patient's sample — a critical step in coronavirus testing. ([Politico](#))
- Two Trump allies got tested despite the shortage. Reps. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) and Mark Meadows (R-N.C.), the incoming White House chief of staff, said their tests showed no infection. They also said they were exhibiting no symptoms of respiratory illness, raising questions

of why they were tested at all. ([Mike DeBonis and Carolyn Johnson](#)) Gaetz [told the Pensacola News Journal](#) that he slept in a Walmart parking lot on Monday night after potentially exposing Trump to the coronavirus because he didn't want to accidentally spread the virus to anyone else.

- A coronavirus conference was canceled because of the coronavirus. The Council on Foreign Relations canceled a “Doing Business Under Coronavirus” roundtable in New York that was scheduled for Friday. ([Bloomberg News](#))

### **The total number of cases worldwide surpassed 120,000.**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced the “virus has arrived,” warning that up to 70 percent of her country could end up infected. There are more than 80,000 cases in China and more than 10,000 in Italy. Both Iran and South Korea have around 8,000 confirmed cases and other nations are suggesting they will reach similar levels soon. China announced an increase in cases of the virus that had been imported from outside the country, with one case apparently coming from the U.S., per [our live blog](#). Some residents can go back to work in the Chinese province of Hubei, where the outbreak started, but travel restrictions remain.

- China’s next challenge is repairing the broken links in the world’s supply chain. ([Anna Fifield](#))
- Italy’s lockdown has stripped the country of its most basic routines and joys. ([Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli](#))
- U.K. health official Nadine Dorries tested positive for the virus, and the Bank of England announced that it would cut interest rates by from 0.75 percent to 0.25 percent, a record low for Britain’s central bank. ([BBC](#))
- Bahrain’s Ministry of Health said of the 165 of its citizens just flown back from Iran, 77 of them tested positive. ([Paul Schemm](#))
- Coronavirus cases in Africa passed 100. Nearly all are imported from Europe’s hotspots. ([Max Bearak](#))

**Allergy season is coming in full force.**

“Doctors worry allergy sufferers will conflate their routine reactions to pollen with coronavirus symptoms and overwhelm an already-strained health care system with panicked visits,” [Sindya Bhanoo reports](#), especially in D.C., where pollen counts are already at moderate to high levels. “Because of warmer temperatures, allergy season started in February this year instead of March ... so Washington-area residents are already exhibiting symptoms. Data show that some people infected with the coronavirus experience similar symptoms, such as coughing, nasal congestion, runny nose and sore throat. ... **Allergies, which are an overreaction of the immune system to foreign particles, should not trigger chills, body aches or fevers** ... Those are the classic signs of a viral infection, such as covid-19. In addition, while patients with coronavirus can have nasal congestion, it is not common. The World Health Organization found that only about 5 percent of the coronavirus patients in China had nasal congestion. About 14 percent had a sore throat.”



## The uneven federal response

Trump discussed his ideas for economic stimulus with

## Senate Republicans.

Visiting the Capitol on Tuesday, Trump said he “wants to dramatically reduce the payroll tax through at least the end of the year, a plan that could deliver a massive — but expensive — boost to many businesses and voters as he heads into the November presidential election,” [Erica Werner, Josh Dawsey, Seung Min Kim and Robert Costa report](#). “But his proposal was not warmly received by Republicans, and it was also panned by Democrats, leaving policymakers searching for any common ground as the coronavirus’s outbreak continues to take its toll on the economy. One area of consensus, though, could be around the issue of paid sick leave for employees, an idea Democrats support and in which Trump has shown some interest. But in the past the two sides have taken different approaches, and it’s not clear whether agreement can be reached. ... One senator at Tuesday’s lunch meeting with Trump said the president also floated the idea of allowing Americans to [delay filing](#) their tax returns in April ... and providing aid to the travel industry.

"In addition to large tax cuts, Trump talked with Republican senators about what steps they could take to extend emergency aid to U.S. oil and gas companies hurt by the drop in oil prices. ... The payroll tax cut alone could reduce taxes by around \$400 billion through the end of the year. White House officials would not say whether they had any plans to offset those losses, which would cause the budget deficit to grow by about 40 percent. ...

"Top House Democrats, meanwhile, said Tuesday they planned to move quickly on a relief package that narrowly targeted individuals and families affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The measures floated by [Nancy] Pelosi and other leaders included an expansion of unemployment insurance, food stamps and other public assistance programs as well as allowing for more sick and family leave. The legislation could be released as soon as Wednesday with a vote coming as soon as Thursday.”



**Providing federal assistance to oil and gas companies would face resistance from those who support direct aid to workers.** “The federal assistance is likely to take the form of low-interest government loans to the shale companies, whose lines of credit to major financial institutions have been choked off,” [Jeff Stein, Will Englund, Steven Mufson and Costa report](#). “But help for oil and gas producers may prove a politically difficult lift for the administration, in part because they faced sagging prices even before the coronavirus outbreak, some experts said. It may be hard to sort out which sectors are deserving of help ... Some economists also oppose providing assistance to companies rather than ensuring it goes to workers hit by a downturn.”

### **The administration wants federal workers to be ready to telework full time.**

“The Trump administration is racing to develop contingency plans that would allow hundreds of thousands of employees to work remotely full time,” [Lisa Rein reports](#). “The Office of Personnel Management, which oversees policy for the workforce of 2.1 million, has urged agency heads in recent days to ‘immediately review’ their telework policies, sign paperwork with employees laying out their duties, issue laptops and grant access to computer networks. ... That emergency decision follows similar steps by more than a dozen Seattle-area federal field offices, the Interior Department in Denver and NASA’s Silicon Valley research center, which either have closed or shifted to telework as some employees tested positive for the virus. On Tuesday, the International Trade Administration started sending staffers home to self-quarantine if they had traveled out of the country. The State Department told its staff to set up emergency teleconference drills — and alternate who comes into the office to use classified systems, to ensure that colleagues gather only in small groups. ... The Trump administration scaled back working from home as a regular practice at multiple large agencies.”

## **The CDC blocked thousands of flu samples from being tested for coronavirus.**

“For months, as part of a research project into the flu, [infectious disease expert Helen Chu] and a team of researchers had been collecting nasal swabs from residents experiencing symptoms throughout the Puget Sound region. To repurpose the tests for monitoring the coronavirus, they would need the support of state and federal officials. But nearly everywhere Dr. Chu turned, officials repeatedly rejected the idea, interviews and emails show, even as weeks crawled by and outbreaks emerged in countries outside of China,” [the NYT reports](#). “By Feb. 25, Dr. Chu and her colleagues could not bear to wait any longer. They began performing coronavirus tests, without government approval. What came back confirmed their worst fear.”

## **A GOP congressman criticized Trump's proposed CDC cuts.**

“This was the day Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) has been warning about,” [Aaron Blake reports](#). “Back in 2017, when the Trump administration first proposed steep cuts to programs that handle disease outbreaks, Cole said, ‘I promise you the president is much more likely in his term to have a deal with a pandemic than an act of terrorism. I hope he doesn’t have to deal with either one, but you have to be ready to deal with both.’ Now that the potential pandemic has come, Cole is re-upping his long-standing criticisms of the Trump administration’s posture toward preparedness. ... At a House subcommittee hearing featuring [the CDC director], Cole offered some veiled rebukes of how the administration has worked with people like him on this issue.”

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## **Other developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



William Evanina, director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, takes media questions in Washington. (Bill O'Leary/The Washington Post)

## **An intelligence official claimed there's no evidence Russia has taken steps to help any 2020 candidate.**

In closed briefings to the House and Senate, “the head of national counterintelligence, William Evanina, appeared to be tempering an assessment delivered to lawmakers in the House last month that Russia had developed a ‘preference’ for [Trump],” [Ellen Nakashima and Seung Min Kim report](#). “Evanina told senators that the Russians ‘continue to be broadly engaged in social media activities designed to divide us further, to discredit our electoral system and to disrupt our election,’ said one official present at the all-members meeting. In the Senate, Evanina’s carefully worded answer came in response to the first question asked — by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.) — and ‘felt orchestrated,’ said a second official, who was briefed on the meeting. ‘Both question and response were clearly pre-drafted.’

“The intelligence officials who gave the briefing, including National Security Agency Director Paul M. Nakasone and FBI Director Christopher A. Wray, did not give senators an impression that the Trump administration has a solid grip on dealing with foreign interference in the coming election, said a third official briefed on the session. ... In the House, [Pelosi] and Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.), the Intelligence Committee chairman, challenged the briefer on what struck them as an effort to play down the assessment given last month by Shelby Pierson, the intelligence community’s point person on foreign election threats, a fourth official said. ...

“Senators also were disconcerted that [Richard] Grenell, as the head of the intelligence community, was not present ... The heads of other agencies, including acting homeland security secretary Chad Wolf, were there, and Grenell had been scheduled to appear, according to a list of participants circulated to lawmakers on Monday. But Grenell declined to go to the Hill, citing apprehension about his preparedness to address sensitive subjects that tend to upset the president, according to three people familiar with the matter.”

### **Russia’s parliament offered a path for Vladimir Putin to stay in power for an additional 12 years after his term expires in 2024.**

The plan, floated and supported by Putin’s ruling United Russia party, is part of a sweeping rewrite of Russia’s constitution and would reset the current term limits to zero. ([Isabelle Khurshudyan](#))

### **The D.C. Circuit ruled that DOJ must disclose Bob Mueller’s secret grand jury evidence to the House.**

“The divided ruling, which can be appealed, is a victory for Democratic lawmakers in one of a set of separation-of-powers lawsuits filed before the House voted to impeach Trump in December and before the Senate acquitted him,” [Ann Marimow reports](#). “The U.S. Court of Appeals for the

D.C. Circuit upheld a lower court order that gives Congress access to certain secret material from [Mueller's] investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. ... Judge Judith W. Rogers found the House in its impeachment investigation was legally engaged in a judicial process that exempts Congress from secrecy rules that typically shield grand jury materials from disclosure. Grand jury records, she noted, are court records — not Justice Department records — and have historically been released to Congress in the course of impeachment investigations involving three federal judges and two presidents. ... Judge Neomi Rao [a Trump appointee] dissented."

### **Lawmakers proposed bipartisan limits on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.**

"House Democrats and Republicans proposed a surveillance bill Tuesday that would extend provisions used for counterterrorism investigations while putting new restrictions and safeguards on the FBI to address criticism of how agents investigated a Trump campaign adviser in 2016," [Devlin Barrett reports](#). "To address those concerns, the new bill would require the attorney general to sign off on any FISA surveillance targeting a federal officeholder or a candidate for federal office. ... [The bill] would step up internal reviews and data reporting requirements on FISA cases; increase the potential prison sentence for unauthorized disclosures about FISA surveillance; and require FISA applicants to assure the court they have provided information that might call into question their factual assertions ... The bill would also bring to an official end a controversial phone records collection program that the government has abandoned as costly and ineffective."

### **Sonia Sotomayor recused herself from a case with consequences for the electoral college.**

The justice will "not participate in one of the two cases the Supreme Court will hear in April to decide whether the Constitution forbids states from

dictating how members of the electoral college cast their votes for president,” [Robert Barnes reports](#). “The clerk of the court informed lawyers in the case Tuesday that Sotomayor realized she is friends with one of the parties in one of the cases, from Colorado. Sotomayor will still participate in the other case, from the state of Washington.”

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## Social media speed read

Trump endorsed former attorney general Jeff Sessions' opponent in the Alabama GOP Senate runoff:



The stage was set up for Sanders's rally in Ohio before it was canceled:



Ohio's governor defended the decision to ask the candidates to cancel their events:



The New York City mayor and former 2020 contender called on Elizabeth Warren to endorse Sanders:



A man sent anti-Muslim tweets to a Virginia congressional candidate, who responded by helping pay down his medical bills:





**Qasim Rashid for Congress** ✓

@QasimRashid



Last week a Conservative constituent sent me deeply hurtful anti-Muslim tweets 😞

I replied by donating to his GoFundMe to help cover his crushing medical debt

He wrote me a thoughtful & compassionate apology & asked me to visit him

Today I met my new friend Oz 🤝 #WinTheHearts



♥ 77.2K 2:40 AM - Mar 9, 2020



💬 12K people are talking about this

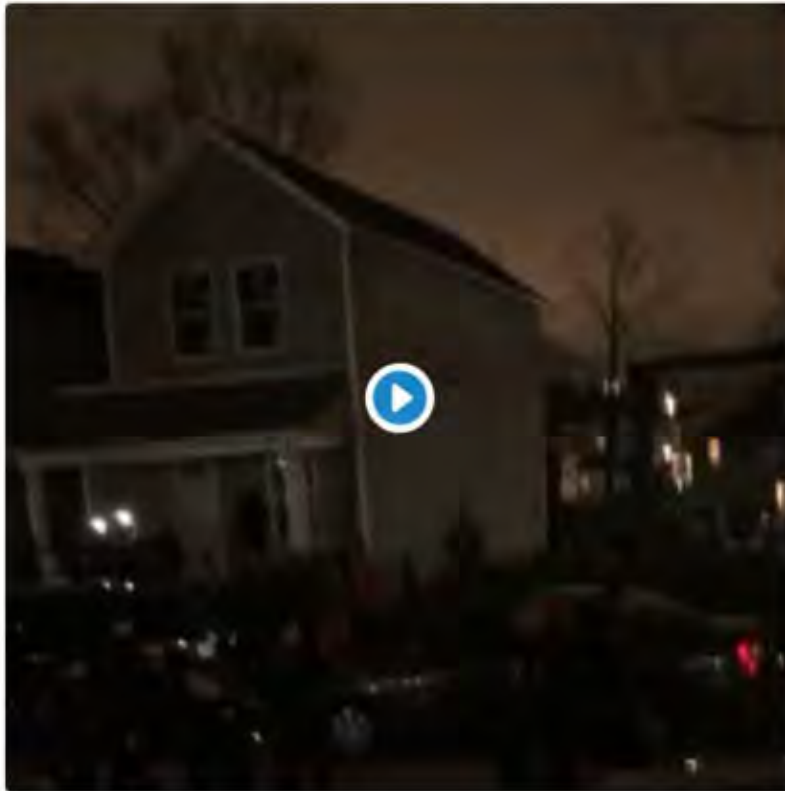


The University of Dayton's student newspaper shared images from the clash between students and police after the campus was closed to contain the coronavirus:

**Flyer News** @FlyerNews · 5h  
Replying to @FlyerNews  
Multiple students have reported to Flyer News that what is presumed to be tear gas was shot at students. Students were seen vomiting.

**Flyer News**  
@FlyerNews

We have video of police officers shooting what appears to be non-lethal weapons at students.



140 4:35 AM - Mar 11, 2020

119 people are talking about this

## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert said Andrew Cuomo's coronavirus measures in New York resemble those one would take during a zombie apocalypse:



Trevor Noah explored the consequences of “social distancing”:



Seth Meyers checked in on a Trump policy that may be enriching his family:



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### **Agency plans telework day to prepare for coronavirus**

NOAA employees will take their laptops, power cords and other equipment home today to prepare for a "large-scale telework day" tomorrow as part of the agency's response to the new coronavirus pandemic.

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## THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

### 2. FEDERAL WORKFORCE:

#### **Union calls for scrutiny of coronavirus protections**

### 3. NATURAL RESOURCES:

#### **House panel advances water bills amid heated debate**

### 4. FEDERAL AGENCIES:

#### **FEMA sends Atlanta workers home after coronavirus contact**

### 5. MINING:

#### **Cleanup cost taxpayers billions, billions more to go — GAO**

### 6. AIR POLLUTION:

#### **EPA won't tighten asphalt emission standards**

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## UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

### 7. CALENDAR:

#### **Activity for March 9 - March 15, 2020**

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AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

CLIMATEWIRE — Thu., March 12, 2020

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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.



By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
✉ Email

## Clarifications after Trump's Oval Office address are emblematic of his uneven coronavirus response

The unforced errors in President Trump's address to the nation on Wednesday night captured in miniature his uneven, muddled and often confused response to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

This was not some off-the-cuff riff as Trump prepared to board Marine One. It was a formal [speech](#), read from a teleprompter, in prime time.

Networks cut into regularly scheduled programming at 9 p.m. Eastern so that the American people could hear directly from their commander in chief about what is perhaps the gravest crisis of his tenure. It was only the second time during his three years in office that Trump requested the opportunity to address the country this way. Yet he still could not manage to get the basic facts straight.

The president opened with huge news: The United States “will be suspending all travel from Europe to the United States for the next 30 days,” with the exception of the United Kingdom, starting at midnight on Friday. “These prohibitions will not only apply to the tremendous amount of trade and cargo but various other things as we get approval,” he said. “Anything coming from Europe to the United States is what we are discussing.”

But the text of the order released by the White House stated that the ban would not include cargo. The president later tweeted a correction to the speech. “Trade will in no way be affected,” he wrote. “The restriction stops people not goods.”

Ken Cuccinelli, the acting deputy secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, tweeted after the speech that the restrictions announced by Trump do not actually apply “to American citizens or legal permanent residents or their families.” The president had not said his restrictions would apply only to foreign nationals. In fact, much of the community transmission of coronavirus in the United States has been linked to U.S. travelers who visited foreign countries or who contracted the disease at gatherings in the United States.

Trump also declared in his televised address that health insurance companies “have agreed to waive all co-payments for coronavirus treatments.” AHIP, the trade association for insurers, clarified that the companies have agreed to cover testing, not treatment. There’s a huge

difference: Treatment will be much more costly for people infected with the virus than the underlying test.

None of these three clarifications inspire confidence that the president is fully in command of the crisis. The speech certainly didn't calm the markets: The Dow Jones industrial average **plunged** nearly 1,700 points at the open this morning – a day after shedding nearly 1,500 points to fall into a bear market, which marks a 20-percent drop from its all-time high.



**The president used the bulk of last night's speech to **defend his handling** of the coronavirus outbreak, emphasizing that he's acting "with great speed." In fact, he has not.** It has been 51 days since the first case was confirmed in the United States. Squandering **precious time**, Trump claimed Democrats were using the virus as "**their new hoax**," downplayed the danger, repeatedly contradicted public health experts and spread falsehoods, such as saying the virus will go away when it gets warmer. Two weeks ago, Trump said the virus was "very much under control" and that the number of people infected was "going very substantially down, not up." Soon, he declared on Feb. 26, the total number of cases will be "close to zero."

**There are now more than 1,300 confirmed cases in the United States, with at least 38 deaths.** Even in his televised address last night, Trump maintained that the risk to most Americans is “very, very low.” Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, testified earlier in the day at a congressional hearing: “Bottom line, it’s going to get worse.”

**The build-the-wall president spoke of the “foreign virus,” which he noted “started in China and is now spreading throughout the world,” as if it were an invading army that must be repelled.**

When everything looks like a foreign invasion, every problem seems like it can be solved with walls. “We made a life-saving move with early action on China. Now we must take the same action with Europe,” he said. “I will never hesitate to take any necessary steps to protect the lives, health and safety of the American people. I will always put the well-being of America first.”

**Trump’s emphasis on the European Union flows from his isolationist foreign policy impulses.** Stephen Miller, the White House domestic policy adviser best known for his ardent advocacy of nativist immigration policies, reportedly crafted Trump’s address.

**European officials strongly condemned Trump’s sudden announcement, which caught them by surprise.** “Of all the slights between Washington and Europe in recent years, the new travel restrictions represented a blow an order of magnitude beyond previous disputes,” James McAuley and Michael Birnbaum [report](#) from Paris. “Some in Europe wondered on Thursday if Britain and Ireland were exempted because they contain Trump-owned properties. In any case, the decision appeared to confound even leaders of the British government ... Trump’s announcement led to panic at various European airports on Thursday morning, as American travelers in Europe scrambled to change their tickets onto U.S. bound flights at the last minute, often at premium

prices.”

“The Coronavirus is a global crisis, not limited to any continent and it requires cooperation rather than unilateral action,” the top leaders of the E.U. said in an official statement. “The European Union disapproves of the fact that the U.S. decision to impose a travel ban was taken unilaterally and without consultation.”

**The travel ban is also contrary to the recommendations of experts, including at the World Health Organization.** “It’s entirely unwise,” Lawrence Gostin, a global health law professor at Georgetown University, [told](#) William Wan. “First of all, it violates WHO recommendations and treaties that the U.S. has signed on to. But it doesn’t even do anything to impact the epidemic. Many of the countries in Europe besides Italy have just as many cases or less than the United States. The idea this would reduce transmission here is not based on evidence. The reality is germs don’t respect borders.”

Even Trump’s own former homeland security adviser questioned the efficacy of what Trump announced:





France’s most recent ambassador to the United States said Trump is looking for a scapegoat:



**Indeed, Trump’s 11-minute speech was packed with nationalistic rhetoric.** Trump effusively praised the United States government, even though South Korea and other countries are doing a vastly more effective job testing their citizens for the virus. “The virus will not have a chance against us,” Trump said. “No nation is more prepared or more resilient than the United States.”

“Trump turned in a laboring performance — one intended to project calm competence that instead seemed to reveal uncertainty,” Phil Rucker and Anne Gearan [report](#). “Seated behind the Resolute Desk, the president



struggled at moments to read the words on the teleprompter. He clasped his hands and twiddled his thumbs. He spoke with a curious affect, his voice sounding raspy and his delivery lacking the passion typically evident in his speeches.”



**On this side of the Atlantic, Democrats focused on what Trump did not discuss.** “Alarmingly, the president did not say how the administration will address the lack of coronavirus testing kits throughout the United States,” Democratic congressional leaders Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi said in a joint statement.

**Bigger picture, the president seemed more focused during his speech on the economy’s health than the public’s health.** Trump rattled off several policy proposals to stimulate the economy, even as he insisted that the economy has never been stronger, including loans to small businesses, allowing businesses and individuals to defer tax payments without interest and calling on Congress to cut the payroll tax – an idea that appears dead on arrival. Trump had [appeared](#) in the Cabinet Room earlier in the day with the chief executives of major banks to urge calm.

**“Trump, in an explosive tirade Monday, urged Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to encourage Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell to do more to stimulate the economy,”** Bob Costa, Josh Dawsey, Jeff Stein and Ashley Parker [scoop](#). “During that tense Monday meeting in the Oval Office, Trump fumed that Powell never should have been appointed and is damaging the nation and his presidency. He then told Mnuchin, who had encouraged Trump to nominate Powell in 2017, to engage with the chair and ask him to take more dramatic steps to arrest the stock market’s plummet ... Trump’s push to prod Powell came during an Oval Office meeting during which he also suggested to other officials that they call the Fed chair and ask him to consider further interest rate cuts.”

**In keeping with its penchant for secrecy, the White House has ordered federal health officials to classify coronavirus meetings. This is keeping some experts out of the loop.** “Dozens of classified discussions about such topics as the scope of infections, quarantines and travel restrictions have been held since mid-January in a high-security meeting room at the Department of Health and Human Services,” Reuters [reports](#). “Staffers without security clearances, including government experts, were excluded from the interagency meetings... ‘We had some very critical people who did not have security clearances who could not go,’ one official said. ‘These should not be classified meetings. It was unnecessary.’”

**There are signs, though, that Trump himself has begun to appreciate the risk of the outbreak to his own health.** White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham [announced](#) after Trump’s speech that the president will no longer travel to Nevada and Colorado later this week, as scheduled, for campaign fundraisers and a speech to the Republican Jewish Coalition. “Out of an abundance of caution,” she said. The Trump campaign also canceled a “Catholics for Trump” rally scheduled for next week in Milwaukee, which had been announced just

the day before. These moves are a reluctant nod to the ground truth after weeks of trying to maintain his business-as-usual routine.

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## The latest on the pandemic



### **Drastic measures are being taken across America.**

The World Health Organization declared on Wednesday that covid-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, is officially a **pandemic**. The virus has infected more than 125,000 people and killed more than 4,600 globally.

At least 44 states now have confirmed cases. Delaware, North Dakota and Mississippi reported their first cases. And the five new U.S. fatalities all happened at an assisted-living facility in Washington state, [Teo Armus](#), [Anna Fifield](#) and [Rick Noack](#) report on our live blog.

- A D.C.-based staffer for Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) tested positive, **the first confirmed case on Capitol Hill.** ([Timothy Bella](#))
- Mayor Muriel Bowser declared **a state of emergency in D.C.** after person-to-person transmissions occurred, giving herself the power to order mandatory quarantines and to crack down on price gouging. Health officials said six more people tested positive in the District, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the District, Maryland and Virginia to at least 34. ([Justin Wm. Moyer](#), [Jenna Portnoy](#), [Fenit Nirappil](#) and [Darran Simon](#))
- **The NBA indefinitely suspended the rest of its season** after Rudy Gobert, the Utah Jazz center, tested positive. Teams that played against the Jazz within the past 10 days have been advised to self-quarantine. The announcement came shortly after a game between the Jazz and the Oklahoma City Thunder was abruptly postponed right before tip-off. ([Ben Golliver](#))
- The NCAA said **the March Madness basketball tournaments will be played without spectators.** ([Adam Kilgore](#) and [Golliver](#))
- After **California, Oregon and Washington state banned gatherings of more than 250 people**, the Seattle Mariners, Oakland Athletics and San Francisco Giants will be forced to postpone or relocate games scheduled at their home stadiums this month or play them without fans. ([Dave Sheinin](#))
- **Kentucky's governor asked all churches to cancel services.** Many are doing so without being asked, including the Washington National Cathedral. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle suspended all public celebrations of Mass. Episcopal bishops in Virginia and D.C. announced that all churches in the dioceses would be closed for two weeks. ([Michelle Boorstein](#) and [Sarah Pulliam Bailey](#))

- **New York City and Chicago canceled their St. Patrick's Day parades.** ([New York Daily News](#) and [Chicago Tribune](#))
- **A Broadway usher tested positive for the virus**, sparking a cleaning frenzy in theaters as shows, hoping to stay open, suggest that its stars keep their distance from fans. ([NYT](#))
- For now, health officials have not declared polling sites off-limits. But **elections officials in states holding primaries on Tuesday — Ohio, Florida, Arizona and Illinois — are developing on-the-fly contingency plans** to mitigate the risks to voters and encourage them to participate. ([Elise Viebeck](#))
- **The hospital industry asked the White House to declare a national emergency.** The American Hospital Association's president and several hospital chief executives said the federal public health emergency that was declared at the end of January is inadequate. ([Amy Goldstein](#))
- **Colorado opened its first drive-up testing facility in Denver.** People will need a doctor's note, but it's free to get tested if they show up with one. ([KOAA](#))
- **And Tom Hanks tested positive.** The 63-year-old and his wife, actress Rita Wilson, are being treated in Australia. ([Sonia Rao](#), [Bethonie Butler](#) and [J. Freedom du Lac](#))
- **Amtrak ridership has plummeted.** Cancellations are up 300 percent. ([Luz Lazo](#))
- **Princess Cruises announced it will cancel voyages on its 18 ships around the world through May 10.** The cruise line has seen passengers and crew on two of its ships face quarantines.
- **Norwegian Cruise Line managers urged salespeople to spread falsehoods about the virus to help land bookings with potential customers.** Leaked emails from a company whistleblower show the lengths the cruise giant's leaders have gone to protect the company. ([Drew Harwell](#))

**People in Italy are trapped at home with their loved ones' bodies.**

“Attempts to slow the spread of the disease have led to unintended

consequences, including several instances where funeral homes reportedly refused to collect the bodies of those infected with the virus,” [Antonia Noori Farzan reports](#). “Teresa Franzese, 47, suffered from epilepsy but was healthy up until last week, when she began showing symptoms of coronavirus. She died on Saturday evening, in her Naples home. In a series of videos posted to Facebook the following afternoon, Luca Franzese said that his sister had been tested for the virus only after her death. The results came back positive, and he and several other relatives were placed under quarantine. That left a dilemma: What to do with Teresa’s body? After various authorities failed to come up with an answer, Franzese said, the city of Naples finally referred him to a funeral home. But the funeral home refused, telling him it wasn’t equipped to deal with the situation. ... On Sunday evening, Franzese posted an emotional appeal to his followers on Facebook, urging them to take the virus seriously as he stood in the same room where his sister lay dead in the background. ‘We are ruined,’ he said. ‘Italy has abandoned us.’”

- **Italy ordered all stores to close**, except supermarkets and pharmacies. The country, under an unprecedented national lockdown, has more than 12,000 confirmed cases and 827 deaths. ([Chico Harlan and Loveday Morris](#))
- **Saudi Arabia banned all travel to and from the E.U.**, following Trump's lead. ([Paul Schemm](#))
- The U.S. Embassy branch office in Tel Aviv isolated some staffers after a visitor who had stopped by the visa office test positive. ([Steve Hendrix](#))
- **El Salvador began a mandatory nationwide quarantine**, despite having no confirmed cases. Honduras reported its first two cases. ([Kevin Sieff](#))
- **The Caribbean is starting to suffer**. The region depends on cruises and travel. ([Kate Chappell, Anthony Faiola and Jasper Ward](#))
- **A quarantine center in China collapsed, killing 29**. A total of 71 were trapped when the building collapsed. ([Liu Yang](#))
- **Wuhan is preparing to reopen its airport** as the end of its

lockdown comes into view. China's National Health Commission said that of the 80,763 confirmed cases there, 62,793 of patients have now recovered. ([Lyric Li](#))

- Austria and Greece reported their first deaths from the virus. ([Teo Armus](#))

## **Experts are struggling to forecast how bad this will get in the U.S.**

Former CDC director Tom Frieden said deaths in the United States could range widely, depending on what percentage of the population becomes infected and how lethal the disease proves to be. “Frieden, who oversaw the U.S. response to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, the 2014 Ebola epidemic and the 2016 Zika epidemic, says that **in a worst-case scenario, but one that is not implausible, half the U.S. population would become infected and more than 1 million people would die,**” [Joel Achenbach, William Wan and Lena H. Sun report](#). “U.S. officials have said they are working with 50 academic modeling groups around the country. But so far, no projections of the outbreak’s trajectory have been publicly released by the CDC or the White House coronavirus task force. Still, Frieden said, ‘anyone who says that they know where this is going with confidence doesn’t know enough about it.’ ... In his Capitol Hill testimony, [Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases,] said that a plausible covid-19 fatality rate could be 1 percent. That, he said, is 10 times as lethal as seasonal influenza. He was clear: This is more dangerous than the flu.”

**Congress’s in-house physician, Brian Monahan, expects 70 million to 150 million Americans will contract the virus.** He told Hill staffers during a closed-door meeting that 80 percent of people who contract the virus will ultimately be fine, [Axios reports](#). Capitol tours have been canceled.

**The coronavirus can live on some surfaces for up to three**

**days.**

“The new coronavirus can live in the air for several hours and on some surfaces for as long as two to three days, tests by U.S. government and other scientists have found,” [the AP reports](#). “Their work, published Wednesday, doesn’t prove that anyone has been infected through breathing it from the air or by touching contaminated surfaces, researchers stress. ... For this study, researchers used a nebulizer device to put samples of the new virus into the air, imitating what might happen if an infected person coughed or made the virus airborne some other way. They found that viable virus could be detected up to three hours later in the air, up to four hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to two to three days on plastic and stainless steel.”

**The first U.S. layoffs from the virus are here.**

“Interviews with more than two dozen firms and workers reveal that the pain is now translating into layoffs in a wider circle of industries, including a bakery and a chain restaurant,” [Abha Bhattarai, Heather Long and Rachel Siegel report](#). “At the Port of Los Angeles, 145 drivers have been laid off and others have been sent home without pay as massive ships from China stopped arriving and work dried up. At travel agencies in Atlanta and Los Angeles, several workers lost their jobs as bookings evaporated. ... Meanwhile a hotel in Seattle is closing an entire department, a former employee said, and as many as 50 people lost their jobs after the South by Southwest festival in Austin got canceled. Economists fear more layoffs in the coming weeks as supply chains come to a halt and people stay home and spend less.”

**As schools decide whether to close, confusion and second-guessing reign.**

“In Washington state, a center of the outbreak, a suburban district was closed, but Seattle Public Schools said it would remain open — until Wednesday ... Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) advised all schools to



prepare contingency plans in case they, too, need to close,” [Laura Meckler and Moriah Balingit report](#). “In other systems, including D.C. Public Schools, classes are being canceled for a day to give teachers time to prepare for distance learning, should schools be forced to close....As of Wednesday, 1,251 public and private schools have been closed or are scheduled to close, affecting more than 856,000 students, according to a tally by the journal EdWeek.”

**Chaos has spread across college campuses after administrations told students to stay away.** “Low-income students wondered whether they could afford to go home. International students had questions about their visas, which usually did not permit online learning. Graduate students worried about the effects on research projects years in the making,” [the Times reports](#).

**House Democrats will vote today on a partisan relief package.**

“Outlines of the plan were shared Wednesday evening with Trump administration officials, although chances of reaching a bipartisan deal ahead of the vote appeared slim,” [Erica Werner, Mike DeBonis and Seung Min Kim report](#). “The legislation includes free coronavirus testing, up to three months of emergency paid leave benefits to all workers affected by the coronavirus and could also include an 8 percentage point increase in the federal share of Medicaid payments to states ... Although the Senate may not have time to act before a congressional recess scheduled for next week, a number of Republican senators indicated openness Wednesday to at least some elements of the House plan and said it was important to act quickly.”

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**Quote of the day**

*Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) was asked what the punishment will be if more than 250 people gather against his orders. “The penalties are you might be killing your granddad if you don’t do it,” he answered. (NBC News)*

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## 2020 watch



**Bernie Sanders didn’t drop out, but he’s not going full speed ahead either.**

“In an extraordinary 10-minute appearance in his hometown after faring poorly in another set of primaries, [the independent senator from Vermont] conceded that he was losing the nominating contest to Joe Biden and had failed to persuade Democrats that he was more electable, sounding the notes of a candidate who had come to terms with his shortcomings and was ready to accept defeat,” [Sean Sullivan reports](#). “But he also made clear that he was staying in the race, at least for a few more days, determined to meet Biden in a one-on-one debate Sunday that he said would expose important distinctions between their records. ... And he

issued a warning to party leaders not to take lightly the resonance of his sweeping liberal ideas or his dominance among younger voters — showing how it is in his and the party's interest to forge the common ground that eluded Democrats after his loss to Hillary Clinton four years ago.”

### **Biden's focus has shifted from Sanders to Trump.**

His campaign canceled planned rallies in Illinois and Florida, saying they'll be replaced by “virtual events.” The former vice president announced a public health advisory committee and plans to deliver his own address this afternoon in Delaware on how he'd respond to the pandemic. “Biden's campaign was working to reboot amid broad concerns within the party that his current operation is ill-equipped to match Trump's behemoth reelection effort,” [Matt Viser and Michael Scherer report](#). “Biden's advisers are taking steps to expand virtually all parts of his shoestring campaign operation, from finance, field and communications departments to the senior leadership team. ... [Biden senior adviser Anita Dunn] suggested that would be done at least in part by embracing aides to former candidates, many of whom have endorsed Biden in recent days. ... At the same time as he tries to finish off Sanders and bulk up his campaign, Biden also is planning for a vice presidential selection process later this spring.”

### **Elizabeth Warren is unlikely to endorse.**

“Ms. Warren is expected to withhold her endorsement from Mr. Sanders as well as Mr. Biden at this point, choosing to let the primary play out rather than seek to change its course, according to several people familiar with Ms. Warren's thinking,” [the New York Times reports](#). “Even before Mr. Sanders lost four states in Tuesday's primaries, dealing a huge blow to his presidential hopes, Ms. Warren was reluctant to support him ... Her camp also viewed Mr. Sanders's electoral standing as fading in recent weeks, raising doubts about whether an endorsement would be a lost cause.”

## **Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) abruptly postponed a vote on a Biden-related subpoena.**

The chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee has been attacked by Democrats for pursuing a politically motivated probe amid a national crisis. “Johnson said he would indefinitely postpone the subpoena for documents and testimony from Andrii Telizhenko, a Ukrainian national who worked for a U.S. lobbying firm that acted on behalf of Burisma, the Ukrainian energy company that employed Hunter Biden as a board member,” [Mike DeBonis reports](#).

“Johnson said he was doing so ‘[o]ut of an abundance of caution and to allow time for [senators] to receive additional briefings.’ But Johnson indicated that the investigation would continue. He said in an interview Wednesday that he would instead seek to directly subpoena the lobbying firm, Blue Star Strategies.”

## **Trump’s reelection odds suddenly look shakier.**

“‘If it was Warren or Bernie and you don’t have coronavirus, I think Trump might sneak by,’ said Kevin DeWine, the former chairman of the Ohio Republican Party. ‘But if it’s Biden, ‘My I.R.A. has tanked,’ and we’re going to have complete disruption because of coronavirus, I think it’s a totally different story,’” [the NYT reports](#). “Of course, what happens in March may ultimately have little bearing in November. ... And if there’s any constant in the Trump era, it is that what’s in the news at a given moment will change in a matter of hours, days or at most weeks.”

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## **Other developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



## **Harvey Weinstein was sentenced to 23 years in prison.**

“In its verdict Feb. 24, a jury found that Weinstein, 67, forced oral sex on former production assistant Mimi Haley, now 42, at his apartment in 2006 and raped onetime aspiring actress Jessica Mann, now 34, at a DoubleTree hotel in 2013,” [Shayna Jacobs reports](#). “The sentence is seen as a victory for the #MeToo movement ... Weinstein’s trial was hailed by advocates as a step forward for assault survivors, especially given that Mann and Haley continued their relationship with him after the incidents and such scenarios were previously considered very difficult to prosecute. Before Justice James Burke announced the sentence, both of the women read impact statements and prosecutor Joan Illuzzi-Orbon argued for the maximum of 29 years in prison. The judge also heard from Weinstein’s attorneys and the client himself, who compared the #MeToo movement to McCarthyism while playing down his clout in Hollywood and touting his charitable work.”

## **The Supreme Court said the Trump administration may continue its “Remain in Mexico” asylum policy.**

“The justices reversed a decision of a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit that had ordered the policy be suspended Thursday along

parts of the border. As is usual in emergency rulings, the court's unsigned, one-paragraph order did not provide the majority's reasoning. Only Justice Sonia Sotomayor noted her dissent," [Robert Barnes reports](#).

### **U.S. troops were killed in a rocket attack in Iraq, potentially spiking tensions with Iran.**

Two Americans and one other member of the coalition were killed in the attack last night, a U.S. military spokesman said. "At least 12 people were wounded in the attack at Camp Taji, about 17 miles north of Baghdad, according to the spokesman, Navy Capt. Bill Urban. About 18 Katyusha rockets hit the base, and five of the wounded were evacuated in serious condition, Urban said," [Dan Lamothe and Louisa Loveluck report](#). "The rockets were launched from the Rashediya area of northeast Baghdad, Iraqi military officials said in a statement.... U.S. officials have attributed the use of such rockets in attacks to Iranian-backed militias in Iraq, prompting questions how the United States and its allies might respond." The House passed a war powers resolution limiting Trump's ability to strike Iran on a 227 to 186 vote, sending the bill to the president's desk for a certain veto.

### **Chelsea Manning attempted suicide.**

The former Army intelligence analyst attempted suicide inside an Alexandria jail yesterday and was hospitalized just days before a federal judge is scheduled to hear a motion to release her from custody, her lawyers said. ([Clarence Williams](#))

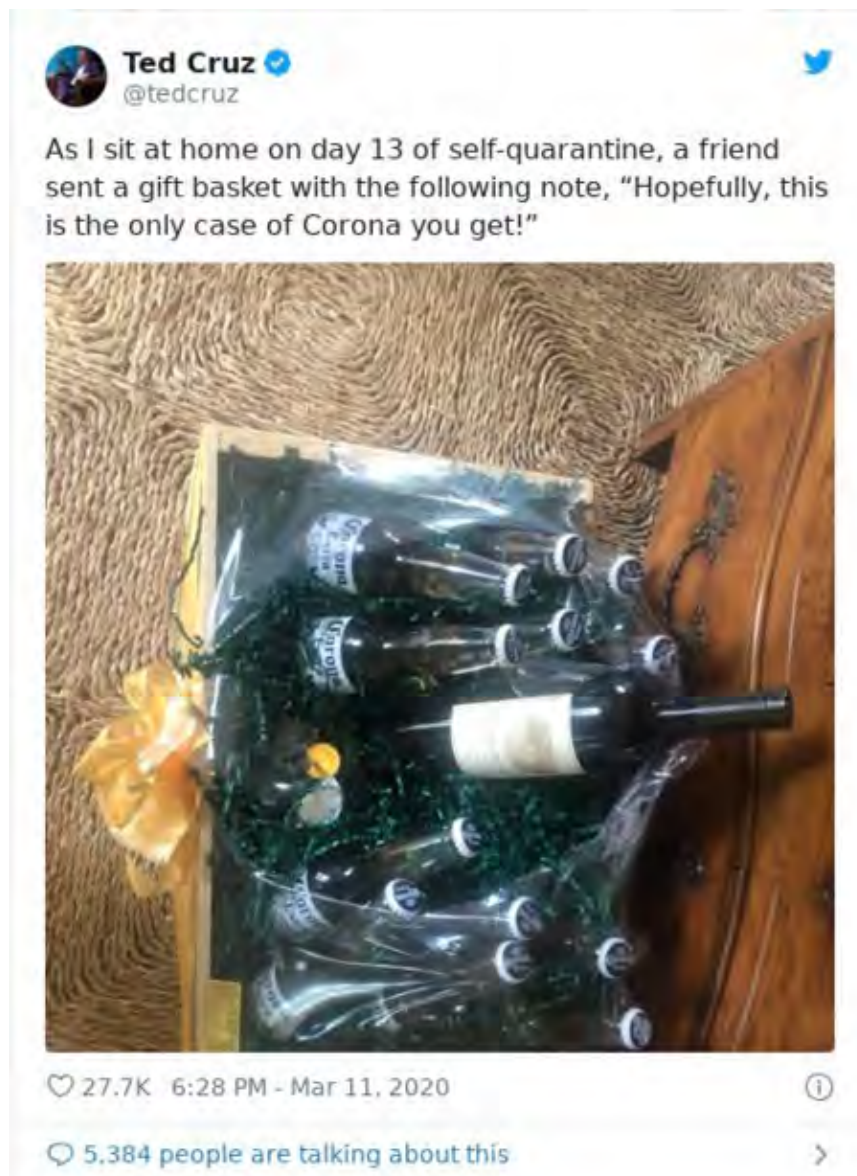
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## **Social media speed read**

Obama's former national security adviser reacted to Trump's coronavirus speech:



Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.), who remains in self-quarantine at home in Houston, received a gift basket:



And Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) commended a fellow member of the Squad for showing grace in response to a death threat:



## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert announced that, starting Monday, all late-night shows in New York City will be taped without studio audiences:





Seth Meyers remixed Trump's speech with a classic song:



And the 2008 Republican nominee for vice president sang "Baby Got Back" on national television:





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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.



By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
✉ Email

## Clarifications after Trump's Oval Office address are emblematic of his uneven coronavirus response

The unforced errors in President Trump's address to the nation on Wednesday night captured in miniature his uneven, muddled and often confused response to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

This was not some off-the-cuff riff as Trump prepared to board Marine One. It was a formal [speech](#), read from a teleprompter, in prime time.

Networks cut into regularly scheduled programming at 9 p.m. Eastern so that the American people could hear directly from their commander in chief about what is perhaps the gravest crisis of his tenure. It was only the second time during his three years in office that Trump requested the opportunity to address the country this way. Yet he still could not manage to get the basic facts straight.

The president opened with huge news: The United States “will be suspending all travel from Europe to the United States for the next 30 days,” with the exception of the United Kingdom, starting at midnight on Friday. “These prohibitions will not only apply to the tremendous amount of trade and cargo but various other things as we get approval,” he said. “Anything coming from Europe to the United States is what we are discussing.”

But the text of the order released by the White House stated that the ban would not include cargo. The president later tweeted a correction to the speech. “Trade will in no way be affected,” he wrote. “The restriction stops people not goods.”

Ken Cuccinelli, the acting deputy secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, tweeted after the speech that the restrictions announced by Trump do not actually apply “to American citizens or legal permanent residents or their families.” The president had not said his restrictions would apply only to foreign nationals. In fact, much of the community transmission of coronavirus in the United States has been linked to U.S. travelers who visited foreign countries or who contracted the disease at gatherings in the United States.

Trump also declared in his televised address that health insurance companies “have agreed to waive all co-payments for coronavirus treatments.” AHIP, the trade association for insurers, clarified that the companies have agreed to cover testing, not treatment. There’s a huge

difference: Treatment will be much more costly for people infected with the virus than the underlying test.

None of these three clarifications inspire confidence that the president is fully in command of the crisis. The speech certainly didn't calm the markets: The Dow Jones industrial average **plunged** nearly 1,700 points at the open this morning – a day after shedding nearly 1,500 points to fall into a bear market, which marks a 20-percent drop from its all-time high.



**The president used the bulk of last night's speech to **defend his handling** of the coronavirus outbreak, emphasizing that he's acting "with great speed." In fact, he has not.** It has been 51 days since the first case was confirmed in the United States. Squandering **precious time**, Trump claimed Democrats were using the virus as "**their new hoax**," downplayed the danger, repeatedly contradicted public health experts and spread falsehoods, such as saying the virus will go away when it gets warmer. Two weeks ago, Trump said the virus was "very much under control" and that the number of people infected was "going very substantially down, not up." Soon, he declared on Feb. 26, the total number of cases will be "close to zero."

**There are now more than 1,300 confirmed cases in the United States, with at least 38 deaths.** Even in his televised address last night, Trump maintained that the risk to most Americans is “very, very low.” Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, testified earlier in the day at a congressional hearing: “Bottom line, it’s going to get worse.”

**The build-the-wall president spoke of the “foreign virus,” which he noted “started in China and is now spreading throughout the world,” as if it were an invading army that must be repelled.**

When everything looks like a foreign invasion, every problem seems like it can be solved with walls. “We made a life-saving move with early action on China. Now we must take the same action with Europe,” he said. “I will never hesitate to take any necessary steps to protect the lives, health and safety of the American people. I will always put the well-being of America first.”

**Trump’s emphasis on the European Union flows from his isolationist foreign policy impulses.** Stephen Miller, the White House domestic policy adviser best known for his ardent advocacy of nativist immigration policies, reportedly crafted Trump’s address.

**European officials strongly condemned Trump’s sudden announcement, which caught them by surprise.** “Of all the slights between Washington and Europe in recent years, the new travel restrictions represented a blow an order of magnitude beyond previous disputes,” James McAuley and Michael Birnbaum [report](#) from Paris. “Some in Europe wondered on Thursday if Britain and Ireland were exempted because they contain Trump-owned properties. In any case, the decision appeared to confound even leaders of the British government ... Trump’s announcement led to panic at various European airports on Thursday morning, as American travelers in Europe scrambled to change their tickets onto U.S. bound flights at the last minute, often at premium

prices.”

“The Coronavirus is a global crisis, not limited to any continent and it requires cooperation rather than unilateral action,” the top leaders of the E.U. said in an official statement. “The European Union disapproves of the fact that the U.S. decision to impose a travel ban was taken unilaterally and without consultation.”

**The travel ban is also contrary to the recommendations of experts, including at the World Health Organization.** “It’s entirely unwise,” Lawrence Gostin, a global health law professor at Georgetown University, [told](#) William Wan. “First of all, it violates WHO recommendations and treaties that the U.S. has signed on to. But it doesn’t even do anything to impact the epidemic. Many of the countries in Europe besides Italy have just as many cases or less than the United States. The idea this would reduce transmission here is not based on evidence. The reality is germs don’t respect borders.”

Even Trump’s own former homeland security adviser questioned the efficacy of what Trump announced:





France’s most recent ambassador to the United States said Trump is looking for a scapegoat:



**Indeed, Trump’s 11-minute speech was packed with nationalistic rhetoric.** Trump effusively praised the United States government, even though South Korea and other countries are doing a vastly more effective job testing their citizens for the virus. “The virus will not have a chance against us,” Trump said. “No nation is more prepared or more resilient than the United States.”

“Trump turned in a laboring performance — one intended to project calm competence that instead seemed to reveal uncertainty,” Phil Rucker and Anne Gearan [report](#). “Seated behind the Resolute Desk, the president



struggled at moments to read the words on the teleprompter. He clasped his hands and twiddled his thumbs. He spoke with a curious affect, his voice sounding raspy and his delivery lacking the passion typically evident in his speeches.”



**On this side of the Atlantic, Democrats focused on what Trump did not discuss.** “Alarming, the president did not say how the administration will address the lack of coronavirus testing kits throughout the United States,” Democratic congressional leaders Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi said in a joint statement.

**Bigger picture, the president seemed more focused during his speech on the economy’s health than the public’s health.** Trump rattled off several policy proposals to stimulate the economy, even as he insisted that the economy has never been stronger, including loans to small businesses, allowing businesses and individuals to defer tax payments without interest and calling on Congress to cut the payroll tax – an idea that appears dead on arrival. Trump had [appeared](#) in the Cabinet Room earlier in the day with the chief executives of major banks to urge calm.

**“Trump, in an explosive tirade Monday, urged Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to encourage Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell to do more to stimulate the economy,”** Bob Costa, Josh Dawsey, Jeff Stein and Ashley Parker [scoop](#). “During that tense Monday meeting in the Oval Office, Trump fumed that Powell never should have been appointed and is damaging the nation and his presidency. He then told Mnuchin, who had encouraged Trump to nominate Powell in 2017, to engage with the chair and ask him to take more dramatic steps to arrest the stock market’s plummet ... Trump’s push to prod Powell came during an Oval Office meeting during which he also suggested to other officials that they call the Fed chair and ask him to consider further interest rate cuts.”

**In keeping with its penchant for secrecy, the White House has ordered federal health officials to classify coronavirus meetings. This is keeping some experts out of the loop.** “Dozens of classified discussions about such topics as the scope of infections, quarantines and travel restrictions have been held since mid-January in a high-security meeting room at the Department of Health and Human Services,” Reuters [reports](#). “Staffers without security clearances, including government experts, were excluded from the interagency meetings... ‘We had some very critical people who did not have security clearances who could not go,’ one official said. ‘These should not be classified meetings. It was unnecessary.’”

**There are signs, though, that Trump himself has begun to appreciate the risk of the outbreak to his own health.** White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham [announced](#) after Trump’s speech that the president will no longer travel to Nevada and Colorado later this week, as scheduled, for campaign fundraisers and a speech to the Republican Jewish Coalition. “Out of an abundance of caution,” she said. The Trump campaign also canceled a “Catholics for Trump” rally scheduled for next week in Milwaukee, which had been announced just

the day before. These moves are a reluctant nod to the ground truth after weeks of trying to maintain his business-as-usual routine.

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## The latest on the pandemic



### **Drastic measures are being taken across America.**

The World Health Organization declared on Wednesday that covid-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, is officially a **pandemic**. The virus has infected more than 125,000 people and killed more than 4,600 globally.

At least 44 states now have confirmed cases. Delaware, North Dakota and Mississippi reported their first cases. And the five new U.S. fatalities all happened at an assisted-living facility in Washington state, [Teo Armus](#), [Anna Fifield](#) and [Rick Noack](#) report on our live blog.

- A D.C.-based staffer for Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) tested positive, **the first confirmed case on Capitol Hill.** ([Timothy Bella](#))
- Mayor Muriel Bowser declared **a state of emergency in D.C.** after person-to-person transmissions occurred, giving herself the power to order mandatory quarantines and to crack down on price gouging. Health officials said six more people tested positive in the District, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the District, Maryland and Virginia to at least 34. ([Justin Wm. Moyer](#), [Jenna Portnoy](#), [Fenit Nirappil](#) and [Darran Simon](#))
- **The NBA indefinitely suspended the rest of its season** after Rudy Gobert, the Utah Jazz center, tested positive. Teams that played against the Jazz within the past 10 days have been advised to self-quarantine. The announcement came shortly after a game between the Jazz and the Oklahoma City Thunder was abruptly postponed right before tip-off. ([Ben Golliver](#))
- The NCAA said **the March Madness basketball tournaments will be played without spectators.** ([Adam Kilgore](#) and [Golliver](#))
- After **California, Oregon and Washington state banned gatherings of more than 250 people**, the Seattle Mariners, Oakland Athletics and San Francisco Giants will be forced to postpone or relocate games scheduled at their home stadiums this month or play them without fans. ([Dave Sheinin](#))
- **Kentucky's governor asked all churches to cancel services.** Many are doing so without being asked, including the Washington National Cathedral. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle suspended all public celebrations of Mass. Episcopal bishops in Virginia and D.C. announced that all churches in the dioceses would be closed for two weeks. ([Michelle Boorstein](#) and [Sarah Pulliam Bailey](#))

- **New York City and Chicago canceled their St. Patrick's Day parades.** ([New York Daily News](#) and [Chicago Tribune](#))
- **A Broadway usher tested positive for the virus**, sparking a cleaning frenzy in theaters as shows, hoping to stay open, suggest that its stars keep their distance from fans. ([NYT](#))
- For now, health officials have not declared polling sites off-limits. But **elections officials in states holding primaries on Tuesday — Ohio, Florida, Arizona and Illinois — are developing on-the-fly contingency plans** to mitigate the risks to voters and encourage them to participate. ([Elise Viebeck](#))
- **The hospital industry asked the White House to declare a national emergency.** The American Hospital Association's president and several hospital chief executives said the federal public health emergency that was declared at the end of January is inadequate. ([Amy Goldstein](#))
- **Colorado opened its first drive-up testing facility in Denver.** People will need a doctor's note, but it's free to get tested if they show up with one. ([KOAA](#))
- **And Tom Hanks tested positive.** The 63-year-old and his wife, actress Rita Wilson, are being treated in Australia. ([Sonia Rao](#), [Bethonie Butler](#) and [J. Freedom du Lac](#))
- **Amtrak ridership has plummeted.** Cancellations are up 300 percent. ([Luz Lazo](#))
- **Princess Cruises announced it will cancel voyages on its 18 ships around the world through May 10.** The cruise line has seen passengers and crew on two of its ships face quarantines.
- **Norwegian Cruise Line managers urged salespeople to spread falsehoods about the virus to help land bookings with potential customers.** Leaked emails from a company whistleblower show the lengths the cruise giant's leaders have gone to protect the company. ([Drew Harwell](#))

**People in Italy are trapped at home with their loved ones' bodies.**

“Attempts to slow the spread of the disease have led to unintended

consequences, including several instances where funeral homes reportedly refused to collect the bodies of those infected with the virus,” [Antonia Noori Farzan reports](#). “Teresa Franzese, 47, suffered from epilepsy but was healthy up until last week, when she began showing symptoms of coronavirus. She died on Saturday evening, in her Naples home. In a series of videos posted to Facebook the following afternoon, Luca Franzese said that his sister had been tested for the virus only after her death. The results came back positive, and he and several other relatives were placed under quarantine. That left a dilemma: What to do with Teresa’s body? After various authorities failed to come up with an answer, Franzese said, the city of Naples finally referred him to a funeral home. But the funeral home refused, telling him it wasn’t equipped to deal with the situation. ... On Sunday evening, Franzese posted an emotional appeal to his followers on Facebook, urging them to take the virus seriously as he stood in the same room where his sister lay dead in the background. ‘We are ruined,’ he said. ‘Italy has abandoned us.’”

- **Italy ordered all stores to close**, except supermarkets and pharmacies. The country, under an unprecedented national lockdown, has more than 12,000 confirmed cases and 827 deaths. ([Chico Harlan and Loveday Morris](#))
- **Saudi Arabia banned all travel to and from the E.U.**, following Trump's lead. ([Paul Schemm](#))
- The U.S. Embassy branch office in Tel Aviv isolated some staffers after a visitor who had stopped by the visa office test positive. ([Steve Hendrix](#))
- **El Salvador began a mandatory nationwide quarantine**, despite having no confirmed cases. Honduras reported its first two cases. ([Kevin Sieff](#))
- **The Caribbean is starting to suffer**. The region depends on cruises and travel. ([Kate Chappell, Anthony Faiola and Jasper Ward](#))
- **A quarantine center in China collapsed, killing 29**. A total of 71 were trapped when the building collapsed. ([Liu Yang](#))
- **Wuhan is preparing to reopen its airport** as the end of its

lockdown comes into view. China's National Health Commission said that of the 80,763 confirmed cases there, 62,793 of patients have now recovered. ([Lyric Li](#))

- Austria and Greece reported their first deaths from the virus. ([Teo Armus](#))

## **Experts are struggling to forecast how bad this will get in the U.S.**

Former CDC director Tom Frieden said deaths in the United States could range widely, depending on what percentage of the population becomes infected and how lethal the disease proves to be. “Frieden, who oversaw the U.S. response to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, the 2014 Ebola epidemic and the 2016 Zika epidemic, says that **in a worst-case scenario, but one that is not implausible, half the U.S. population would become infected and more than 1 million people would die,**” [Joel Achenbach, William Wan and Lena H. Sun report](#). “U.S. officials have said they are working with 50 academic modeling groups around the country. But so far, no projections of the outbreak’s trajectory have been publicly released by the CDC or the White House coronavirus task force. Still, Frieden said, ‘anyone who says that they know where this is going with confidence doesn’t know enough about it.’ ... In his Capitol Hill testimony, [Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases,] said that a plausible covid-19 fatality rate could be 1 percent. That, he said, is 10 times as lethal as seasonal influenza. He was clear: This is more dangerous than the flu.”

**Congress’s in-house physician, Brian Monahan, expects 70 million to 150 million Americans will contract the virus.** He told Hill staffers during a closed-door meeting that 80 percent of people who contract the virus will ultimately be fine, [Axios reports](#). Capitol tours have been canceled.

**The coronavirus can live on some surfaces for up to three**

**days.**

“The new coronavirus can live in the air for several hours and on some surfaces for as long as two to three days, tests by U.S. government and other scientists have found,” [the AP reports](#). “Their work, published Wednesday, doesn’t prove that anyone has been infected through breathing it from the air or by touching contaminated surfaces, researchers stress. ... For this study, researchers used a nebulizer device to put samples of the new virus into the air, imitating what might happen if an infected person coughed or made the virus airborne some other way. They found that viable virus could be detected up to three hours later in the air, up to four hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to two to three days on plastic and stainless steel.”

**The first U.S. layoffs from the virus are here.**

“Interviews with more than two dozen firms and workers reveal that the pain is now translating into layoffs in a wider circle of industries, including a bakery and a chain restaurant,” [Abha Bhattarai, Heather Long and Rachel Siegel report](#). “At the Port of Los Angeles, 145 drivers have been laid off and others have been sent home without pay as massive ships from China stopped arriving and work dried up. At travel agencies in Atlanta and Los Angeles, several workers lost their jobs as bookings evaporated. ... Meanwhile a hotel in Seattle is closing an entire department, a former employee said, and as many as 50 people lost their jobs after the South by Southwest festival in Austin got canceled. Economists fear more layoffs in the coming weeks as supply chains come to a halt and people stay home and spend less.”

**As schools decide whether to close, confusion and second-guessing reign.**

“In Washington state, a center of the outbreak, a suburban district was closed, but Seattle Public Schools said it would remain open — until Wednesday ... Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) advised all schools to



prepare contingency plans in case they, too, need to close,” [Laura Meckler and Moriah Balingit report](#). “In other systems, including D.C. Public Schools, classes are being canceled for a day to give teachers time to prepare for distance learning, should schools be forced to close....As of Wednesday, 1,251 public and private schools have been closed or are scheduled to close, affecting more than 856,000 students, according to a tally by the journal EdWeek.”

**Chaos has spread across college campuses after administrations told students to stay away.** “Low-income students wondered whether they could afford to go home. International students had questions about their visas, which usually did not permit online learning. Graduate students worried about the effects on research projects years in the making,” [the Times reports](#).

**House Democrats will vote today on a partisan relief package.**

“Outlines of the plan were shared Wednesday evening with Trump administration officials, although chances of reaching a bipartisan deal ahead of the vote appeared slim,” [Erica Werner, Mike DeBonis and Seung Min Kim report](#). “The legislation includes free coronavirus testing, up to three months of emergency paid leave benefits to all workers affected by the coronavirus and could also include an 8 percentage point increase in the federal share of Medicaid payments to states ... Although the Senate may not have time to act before a congressional recess scheduled for next week, a number of Republican senators indicated openness Wednesday to at least some elements of the House plan and said it was important to act quickly.”

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**Quote of the day**

*Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) was asked what the punishment will be if more than 250 people gather against his orders. “The penalties are you might be killing your granddad if you don’t do it,” he answered. (NBC News)*

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## 2020 watch



**Bernie Sanders didn’t drop out, but he’s not going full speed ahead either.**

“In an extraordinary 10-minute appearance in his hometown after faring poorly in another set of primaries, [the independent senator from Vermont] conceded that he was losing the nominating contest to Joe Biden and had failed to persuade Democrats that he was more electable, sounding the notes of a candidate who had come to terms with his shortcomings and was ready to accept defeat,” [Sean Sullivan reports](#). “But he also made clear that he was staying in the race, at least for a few more days, determined to meet Biden in a one-on-one debate Sunday that he said would expose important distinctions between their records. ... And he

issued a warning to party leaders not to take lightly the resonance of his sweeping liberal ideas or his dominance among younger voters — showing how it is in his and the party's interest to forge the common ground that eluded Democrats after his loss to Hillary Clinton four years ago.”

### **Biden's focus has shifted from Sanders to Trump.**

His campaign canceled planned rallies in Illinois and Florida, saying they'll be replaced by “virtual events.” The former vice president announced a public health advisory committee and plans to deliver his own address this afternoon in Delaware on how he'd respond to the pandemic. “Biden's campaign was working to reboot amid broad concerns within the party that his current operation is ill-equipped to match Trump's behemoth reelection effort,” [Matt Viser and Michael Scherer report](#). “Biden's advisers are taking steps to expand virtually all parts of his shoestring campaign operation, from finance, field and communications departments to the senior leadership team. ... [Biden senior adviser Anita Dunn] suggested that would be done at least in part by embracing aides to former candidates, many of whom have endorsed Biden in recent days. ... At the same time as he tries to finish off Sanders and bulk up his campaign, Biden also is planning for a vice presidential selection process later this spring.”

### **Elizabeth Warren is unlikely to endorse.**

“Ms. Warren is expected to withhold her endorsement from Mr. Sanders as well as Mr. Biden at this point, choosing to let the primary play out rather than seek to change its course, according to several people familiar with Ms. Warren's thinking,” [the New York Times reports](#). “Even before Mr. Sanders lost four states in Tuesday's primaries, dealing a huge blow to his presidential hopes, Ms. Warren was reluctant to support him ... Her camp also viewed Mr. Sanders's electoral standing as fading in recent weeks, raising doubts about whether an endorsement would be a lost cause.”

## **Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) abruptly postponed a vote on a Biden-related subpoena.**

The chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee has been attacked by Democrats for pursuing a politically motivated probe amid a national crisis. “Johnson said he would indefinitely postpone the subpoena for documents and testimony from Andrii Telizhenko, a Ukrainian national who worked for a U.S. lobbying firm that acted on behalf of Burisma, the Ukrainian energy company that employed Hunter Biden as a board member,” [Mike DeBonis reports](#).

“Johnson said he was doing so ‘[o]ut of an abundance of caution and to allow time for [senators] to receive additional briefings.’ But Johnson indicated that the investigation would continue. He said in an interview Wednesday that he would instead seek to directly subpoena the lobbying firm, Blue Star Strategies.”

## **Trump’s reelection odds suddenly look shakier.**

“‘If it was Warren or Bernie and you don’t have coronavirus, I think Trump might sneak by,’ said Kevin DeWine, the former chairman of the Ohio Republican Party. ‘But if it’s Biden, ‘My I.R.A. has tanked,’ and we’re going to have complete disruption because of coronavirus, I think it’s a totally different story,’” [the NYT reports](#). “Of course, what happens in March may ultimately have little bearing in November. ... And if there’s any constant in the Trump era, it is that what’s in the news at a given moment will change in a matter of hours, days or at most weeks.”

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## **Other developments that shouldn't be overlooked**



### **Harvey Weinstein was sentenced to 23 years in prison.**

“In its verdict Feb. 24, a jury found that Weinstein, 67, forced oral sex on former production assistant Mimi Haley, now 42, at his apartment in 2006 and raped onetime aspiring actress Jessica Mann, now 34, at a DoubleTree hotel in 2013,” [Shayna Jacobs reports](#). “The sentence is seen as a victory for the #MeToo movement ... Weinstein’s trial was hailed by advocates as a step forward for assault survivors, especially given that Mann and Haley continued their relationship with him after the incidents and such scenarios were previously considered very difficult to prosecute. Before Justice James Burke announced the sentence, both of the women read impact statements and prosecutor Joan Illuzzi-Orbon argued for the maximum of 29 years in prison. The judge also heard from Weinstein’s attorneys and the client himself, who compared the #MeToo movement to McCarthyism while playing down his clout in Hollywood and touting his charitable work.”

### **The Supreme Court said the Trump administration may continue its “Remain in Mexico” asylum policy.**

“The justices reversed a decision of a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit that had ordered the policy be suspended Thursday along

parts of the border. As is usual in emergency rulings, the court's unsigned, one-paragraph order did not provide the majority's reasoning. Only Justice Sonia Sotomayor noted her dissent," [Robert Barnes reports](#).

### **U.S. troops were killed in a rocket attack in Iraq, potentially spiking tensions with Iran.**

Two Americans and one other member of the coalition were killed in the attack last night, a U.S. military spokesman said. "At least 12 people were wounded in the attack at Camp Taji, about 17 miles north of Baghdad, according to the spokesman, Navy Capt. Bill Urban. About 18 Katyusha rockets hit the base, and five of the wounded were evacuated in serious condition, Urban said," [Dan Lamothe and Louisa Loveluck report](#). "The rockets were launched from the Rashediya area of northeast Baghdad, Iraqi military officials said in a statement.... U.S. officials have attributed the use of such rockets in attacks to Iranian-backed militias in Iraq, prompting questions how the United States and its allies might respond." The House passed a war powers resolution limiting Trump's ability to strike Iran on a 227 to 186 vote, sending the bill to the president's desk for a certain veto.

### **Chelsea Manning attempted suicide.**

The former Army intelligence analyst attempted suicide inside an Alexandria jail yesterday and was hospitalized just days before a federal judge is scheduled to hear a motion to release her from custody, her lawyers said. ([Clarence Williams](#))

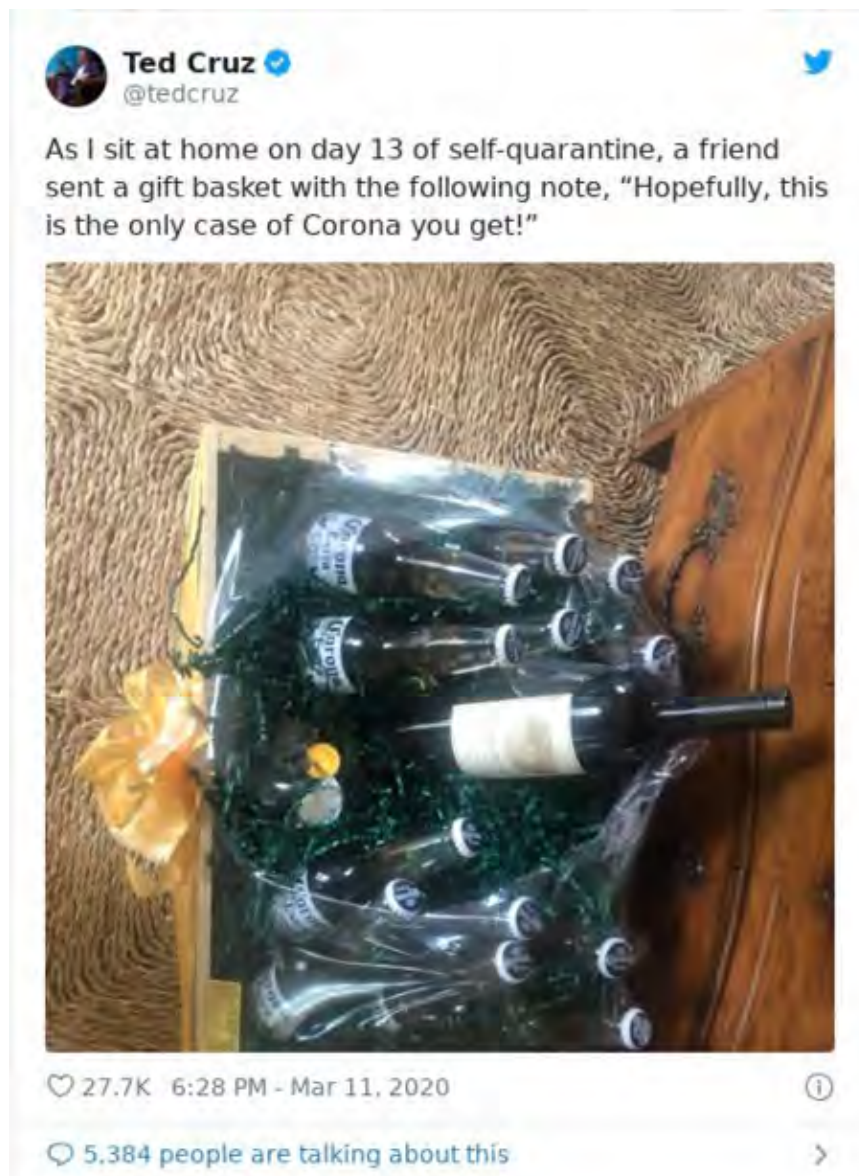
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## **Social media speed read**

Obama's former national security adviser reacted to Trump's coronavirus speech:



Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.), who remains in self-quarantine at home in Houston, received a gift basket:



And Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) commended a fellow member of the Squad for showing grace in response to a death threat:



## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert announced that, starting Monday, all late-night shows in New York City will be taped without studio audiences:





Seth Meyers remixed Trump's speech with a classic song:



And the 2008 Republican nominee for vice president sang "Baby Got Back" on national television:





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1. SENATE:  
McConnell cancels recess to tackle coronavirus

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) is scrapping next week's recess to work on an economic aid package as the nation reels from the fast-moving coronavirus.

#### TODAY'S STORIES

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/12/stories/1062586891?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/12/stories/1062586891?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>

2. NOMINATIONS:  
Senate approves Danly as new FERC commissioner

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/12/stories/1062586841?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/12/stories/1062586841?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>

3. EPA:  
Incoming chief of staff defends pro-Trump advocacy work

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/12/stories/1062586945?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/12/stories/1062586945?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>

4. LAW:  
Supreme Court closed to public during pandemic

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/12/stories/1062586973?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/12/stories/1062586973?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>

5. FERC:  
Meeting closed to public over virus fears

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6. POLITICS:  
LCV gives Democrats high marks for 2019

#### UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/12/calendars?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/12/calendars?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>

7. CALENDAR:  
Activity for March 9 - March 15, 2020

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From: [The Washington Post](#)  
To: [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter from Executive Editor Marty Baron  
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 9:33:25 PM

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## The Washington Post

*From Martin Baron, executive editor*

Dear subscriber,

On January 8 this year, Washington Post reporters Gerry Shih and Lena Sun reported an outbreak of an “unidentified and possibly new viral disease in central China” that was sending alarms across Asia in advance of the Lunar New Year travel season.

Already, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines were contemplating quarantine zones and scanning travelers from China for “signs of fever or other pneumonia-like symptoms that may indicate a new disease possibly linked to a wild animal market in Wuhan.”

Gerry is a correspondent for us in China, with extensive journalistic experience in the country. Lena, a former Beijing bureau chief for The Post, is a veteran national reporter covering health, with a particular focus on public health and infectious diseases. Both are fluent in Mandarin.

These two reporters launched our coverage of the coronavirus and the disease Covid-19, declared this month to be a pandemic by the World Health Organization. Lena and Gerry are emblematic of the highly skilled journalists The Washington Post has deployed to cover this complex, ever-expanding and profoundly serious story.

We have drawn on our entire staff – throughout the world and in the United States – to bring you essential health information and the latest news while also digging into the reasons for the rapid spread of this disease, the sometimes chaotic and counterproductive decision-making by governments and the impact on citizens and medical systems. Hundreds of our journalists have been enlisted in this effort, and they are working tirelessly around the clock.

As the spread of coronavirus has touched our beloved schools, our favorite

sports teams, our places of work and prayer, our entertainment venues and our family incomes and investments – just about every aspect of our daily lives – we at The Post fully understand our responsibility to keep you informed. We also aim to keep close watch on what public officials, private companies, health providers and others are doing – or failing to do – to respond to a crisis of sprawling, unprecedented proportions.

I'm proud of the dedication and talent my colleagues have brought to this important story. They need stamina, too, and they have plenty of it. We're prepared to cover every aspect of this story for a long period, with the clarity and command of the subject that is required.

We are deeply grateful to our subscribers for making this coverage possible. The journalistic resources necessary are immense and growing, and we could not do our work without subscriber support. Because the health crisis is so urgent and is likely to spare no one, we have made a substantial portion of our coverage free to all. That includes our stories about core news developments as well as stories that communicate critical health information. [We also offer a free newsletter with links to stories for which there is no charge. You can get that newsletter by signing up here.](#)

News continues on many other fronts as well. There is a lot to cover, particularly in the midst of a presidential campaign and persistent foreign conflicts. We will stay on top of those stories with expertise and vigor.

Thank you again for subscribing to The Washington Post, and please stay safe and healthy during a period unlike any of us has ever seen before.

Sincerely,



**Martin Baron**, executive editor

**From:** [E&E News](#)  
**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] March 18 -- Climatewire is ready  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 4:55:36 AM

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AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

CLIMATEWIRE — Wed., March 18, 2020

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### 'It's all around us.' Why U.S. fails to prepare for crises

The coronavirus pandemic is not a climate crisis. But what if it were? The virus is revealing the risks of not adapting to climate change, experts say.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. ARCTIC:

#### Scientists: Pack the tundra with animals to slow melting

### 3. CLIMATE IMPACTS:

#### Wildfires plummeted in 2019. Experts say it won't last

### 4. FINANCE:

#### U.S. banks fuel 'climate chaos' — report

## IN THE STATES

### 5. LAW:

#### Federal judge moves Mass. climate lawsuit to state court

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#### Trump official knocks ruling on Calif. cap-and-trade case

## EMISSIONS

### 7. TRANSPORTATION:

#### Groups pitch a Green New Deal for cars

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### 8. BUSINESS:

#### Coronavirus won't sidetrack China's clean tech, experts say

### 9. PANDEMIC:

#### As virus shuts down cities in Europe, pollution drops

### 10. SOUTH AFRICA:

#### Town struggles with life next to world's biggest GHG emitter

## SCIENCE

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### 11. EMISSIONS:

#### **Global victory over ozone-killing chemicals is coming undone**

## TRADE

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### 12. COMMERCE:

#### **Large online retailers produce less emissions, report says**

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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Six chilling estimates underscore danger of coronavirus to public health and the economy  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 8:51:11 AM



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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

Presented by [Blue Cross Blue Shield Association](#)



By [James Hohmann](#)

Email

## Six chilling estimates underscore danger of coronavirus to public health and the economy

Joe Biden's sweeping victories in the Florida, Illinois and Arizona primaries make it nearly impossible to stop him from clinching the Democratic presidential nomination. Yet the former vice president's address to supporters – via a live stream from his home in Wilmington, Del. – focused on the novel coronavirus pandemic. "I know that we as a people are up to this challenge," he said.

His rival Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) didn't address the election at all on Tuesday evening. Instead, in his own live-streamed comments from Washington, he exclusively made the case for a \$2 trillion [plan](#) to combat the pandemic.

“The next primary contest is at least three weeks away,” Sanders campaign manager Faiz Shakir said in a [statement](#) on Wednesday morning. “Sen. Sanders is going to be having conversations with supporters to assess his campaign. In the immediate term, however, he is focused on the government response to the coronavirus outbreak and ensuring that we take care of working people and the most vulnerable.”

The Democratic candidates are not alone. Many Americans seem far less interested in partisan politics now than the virus's potential impact on their lives and their livelihoods. And national attention is increasingly much more fixed on the coronavirus's exponential spread – and the social distancing measures necessary to [flatten the curve](#) of transmission – than on what remains of the 2020 nominating contest.

There are good reasons for this. [All 50 states](#), with West Virginia being the last, now have confirmed cases of covid-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. More than 110 people infected with the virus have died in the United States, a toll that experts expect to rise quickly. Confirmed cases have topped 6,000 domestically and 200,000 [worldwide](#).

Here are six frightening estimates that illustrate the potential peril to the economy and public health posed by a virus that scientists are still trying to fully understand:



**1) Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin warned GOP senators that the unemployment rate could spike to nearly 20 percent if they fail to act dramatically**, according to three people familiar with his comments during a private meeting. It was 3.5 percent last month. Mnuchin told reporters afterward that the Trump administration could support a stimulus package with an overall price tag of around \$1 trillion. Americans could [receive checks](#) for \$1,000 or more in the coming weeks, as political support coalesces around the idea. Mnuchin said President Trump wants checks in the mail “in the next two weeks.”

U.S. markets nose-dived this morning, as fearful investors sent the Dow [plunging](#) 1,300 points at the open.

Asked about his warning of 20 percent unemployment, Treasury Department spokeswoman Monica Crowley said “Mnuchin used several mathematical examples for illustrative purposes, but he never implied this would be the case.”

“Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) vowed Tuesday that the Senate would not recess before reaching bipartisan agreement on the stimulus legislation, which would be the third coronavirus relief bill

advanced on Capitol Hill in recent weeks,” [Erica Werner, Jeff Stein and Mike DeBonis report](#). “However, reservations expressed by Democrats on Tuesday over various aspects of the package taking shape between Senate Republicans and the White House suggested that it could take some time to arrive at a bipartisan agreement that could pass both chambers.”

**2) The United States is expected to lose 4.6 million travel-related jobs this year as the coronavirus outbreak levies an \$809 billion blow to the economy**, according to a projection released yesterday by the U.S. Travel Association. “Furthermore, 4 million jobs have been eliminated already or are on the verge of being lost in the next few weeks, the American Hotel & Lodging Association said. In some of the hardest-hit markets — such as Seattle, San Francisco, Austin and Boston — properties are shutting down and occupancy rates are at unprecedented lows,” [Rachel Siegel reports](#). “Total spending on travel in the United States — including from transportation, retail, lodging and restaurants — is expected to drop by \$355 billion for the year, or 31 percent — more than six times the impact of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The projected 4.6 million jobs lost would, by themselves, nearly double the U.S. unemployment rate, from 3.5 percent to 6.3 percent ...

“The hotel industry is asking for \$150 billion, largely in the form of direct grants, to keep employees on the payroll and small businesses afloat. The broader travel industry is also seeking an additional \$100 billion, executives said on a press call. Those tallies are separate from the more than \$50 billion being sought by the airline industry.”

United Airlines [announced](#) last night that it will cut flights by 60 percent next month because of a drop in demand. And Trump said during a news conference on Tuesday that he supports a bailout for Boeing. “Shortly after the president’s comments, Boeing published a statement saying there should be a minimum of \$60 billion in ‘public and private liquidity, including loan guarantees’ for the aerospace manufacturing industry,”

Aaron Gregg reports.

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**3) Research from Imperial College London, endorsed by the U.K. government, suggests that 2.2 million would die in the United States and 510,000 would die in Britain if nothing is done by governments and individuals to stop the pandemic. [The new forecasts](#), by Neil Ferguson and his colleagues, show that more-ambitious measures to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, to slow but not necessarily stop the epidemic over the coming few months, could reduce mortality by half, to 260,000 people in the United Kingdom and 1.1 million in the United States. The new report concludes that the British government might be able to keep the number of dead below 20,000 by enforcing social distancing for the entire population, isolating all cases, demanding quarantines of entire households where anyone is sick and closing all schools and universities — for 12 to 18 months, until a vaccine is available. The modelers did not give numbers for the United States for these most intense suppression efforts.**

Seeing these numbers from some of Britain's top modelers of infectious disease inspired Prime Minister Boris Johnson to take a much more severe approach to suppress the spread. "The report is also influencing planning by the Trump administration," [William Booth reports](#). "Deborah Birx, who serves as the coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force, cited the British analysis at a news conference Monday, saying her response team was especially focused on the report's conclusion that an entire household should self-quarantine for 14 days if one of its members is stricken by the virus."



**4) At least 60 American health-care workers have tested positive for the coronavirus, and many more are quarantined after exposure to it.** This is not unexpected, but it's keeping emergency responders off the front lines when they're needed the most. "We all suspect it's the tip of the iceberg," said Liam Yore, a board member of the Washington state chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. "The risk to our health-care workers is one of the great vulnerabilities of our health-care system in an epidemic like this. Most ERs and health-care systems are running at capacity in normal times."

"Gauging how badly providers have been hit is difficult because no

nationwide data has been released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, medical associations or health-care worker unions. A federal official who was not authorized to talk with the media ... said the government has received reports of more than 60 infections among health-care workers,” [Lenny Bernstein, Shawn Boburg, Maria Sacchetti and Emma Brown report](#). “In previous outbreaks of infectious disease, and in other countries where the current pandemic arrived earlier, health-care workers have experienced a disproportionate share of infections. They have been put at risk in the United States not only by the nature of their jobs, but by shortages of protective equipment such as N95 face masks and government bungling of the testing program, which was delayed for weeks while the virus spread around the country undetected.

“At the EvergreenHealth hospital in Kirkland, Wash. — just a few miles from the nursing home at the center of the U.S. outbreak — and in Paterson, N.J., two emergency physicians are hospitalized in critical condition ... In Pittsfield, Mass., 160 employees of Berkshire Medical Center have been quarantined at home after exposure to patients who tested positive, forcing the medical center to hire 54 temporary nurses.”

In a stark sign of the dwindling supplies, Vice President Pence [called on](#) construction companies yesterday to donate protective masks to hospitals.

**5) An internal report from the Department of Health and Human Services concluded that the “pandemic will last 18 months or longer and could include multiple waves of illness.”**

[The 103-page document](#), leaked yesterday to [the New York Times](#), assumed that there will be “significant shortages for government, private sector, and individual U.S. consumers.”

**6) If 60 percent of the population falls sick with covid-19 within six months, the United States would require more than seven times the number of available hospital beds that it currently**

**has.** That's the worst-case scenario in [a model released yesterday](#) by the Harvard Global Health Institute. Ashish Jha, the director of the institute who led a team of researchers that developed the analysis, said "vast communities in America are not prepared" even for the more optimal scenarios.

"Under the researchers' best-case scenario, Americans will act quickly to slow the spread of the virus through social distancing, and the infection rate among adults will remain relatively low at 20%, or 49.4 million people over the age of 18, less than twice the number of people who get the flu each year," [ProPublica reports](#). "Even in a best-case scenario, with cases of coronavirus spread out over 18 months, American hospital beds would be about 95% full. ... But in most other scenarios where the virus spreads faster or infects more people, hospitals would quickly fill their available beds with patients, and they would be forced to either expand capacity, limit elective surgeries and other non-necessary treatments, or make life-and-death decisions about care, similar to what has happened in the worst-hit regions of Italy, where some doctors have received guidance to only treat patients 'deemed worthy of intensive care.'

"In the Harvard team's moderate scenario — where 40% of the adult population contracts the disease over the course of a year — 98.9 million Americans would develop the coronavirus, though many will have mild or no symptoms, and will not have their diagnoses confirmed by tests. Slightly more than a fifth of all cases will require hospitalization. (That's roughly the average number of patients requiring hospitalization in other countries.) To treat all hospitalized patients over that time, the country would have to more than double available hospital beds by freeing up existing beds or adding new ones. If that moderate estimate holds, about a fifth of hospitalized patients, or nearly 5% of those infected, would become critically ill ... and would need intensive care, such as the use of a ventilator."





## The latest on the coronavirus response



**The United States and Canada have mutually agreed to close their border to non-essential traffic to stem the flow of the virus.** “Trade will not be affected!” Trump tweeted. “The Trump administration is also developing a plan to impose emergency border controls that would immediately send migrants who cross illegally back to

Mexico, including those who arrive seeking asylum, according to administration officials involved in the preparations. 'All options are on the table,' said one senior official," [per Nick Miroff and Marisa Iati](#).

**The U.S. government is in talks with Facebook, Google and a wide array of tech companies and health experts about using location data gleaned from Americans' phones to combat the coronavirus,** including tracking whether people are keeping one another at safe distances. "Public-health experts are interested in the possibility that private-sector companies could compile the data in anonymous, aggregated form, which they could then use to map the spread of the infection," [Tony Romm, Elizabeth Dwoskin and Craig Timberg report](#).

"Analyzing trends in smartphone owners' whereabouts could prove to be a powerful tool for health authorities ... But it's also an approach that could leave some Americans uncomfortable, depending on how it's implemented, given the sensitivity when it comes to details of their daily whereabouts. Multiple sources stressed that — if they proceed — they are not building a government database."

**The director of the Office of Personnel Management resigned in protest with no notice after five months on the job, leaving the agency that oversees workplace policy for 2.1 million civil servants with no leader.** "Dale Cabaniss resigned in frustration following months of tension with the White House budget office and more recently with its newly configured staffing office and a political appointee the office installed at OPM in the last month," [Lisa Rein reports](#). "Cabaniss thought that she was being micromanaged and that her authority was not respected ... As human resources manager of the federal workforce, Cabaniss was unable to communicate clear, timely messages to agency managers on how they should respond to the growing public health threat ... Guidance to managers on when they should send their staffs home to telework was often vague and came weeks after U.S. health officials urged Americans to work from home and minimize contact with others. Even

now, managers say privately they have not received clear instruction from the Trump administration on how to manage their workforce during the crisis."

**The Internal Revenue Service began closing field offices in Northern California, Seattle, Puerto Rico and the New York City area — and all of its tax counseling sites for the elderly.** "The Social Security Administration closed 1,400 field and hearing offices Monday night," [Rein and Kimberly Kindy report](#). "Federal courts are rescheduling trials. The Food and Drug Administration has suspended inspections of imported food and medical devices ... The federal government, the nation's largest employer, was until this week a holdout."

**The Federal Reserve launched a special fund to keep credit flowing**, another emergency measure as the world spirals toward a recession. ([Heather Long](#))

**Federalism means an uneven patchwork of reactions to the virus across the country.**

"Mark Estee spent his Tuesday laying off 100 cooks, waiters and dishwashers, having been forced by city decree in Reno, Nev., to close two restaurants that had been thriving just days ago. Less than an hour down the road, in Nevada's Carson Valley, the threat of coronavirus had inspired no such restrictions. Estee's three other restaurants were preparing to serve dinner," [Griff Witte, Katie Zezima, Ariana Eunjung Cha and Tim Craig report](#). "The gaps are increasingly drawing the ire of state and local officials who have acted decisively to halt the spread, but worry that their efforts will be for naught if their neighbors don't follow suit ...

**"In some Republican-run states, governors have resisted restrictive action while allowing mayors to take their own initiative.** In Tennessee, Gov. Bill Lee (R) has not ordered restaurants and bars to shut down, but Nashville Mayor John Cooper closed bars in

the city and reduced restaurant capacity. ... Beyond the city's limits, it's a very different story. Natasha Hendrix, the owner of McCreary's Irish Pub and Eatery in Franklin, Tenn., said about 40 people were in the bar's dining room for St. Patrick's Day lunch, eating a corned beef and cabbage special and drinking green beer. Hendrix is sure a lot of the clientele came from Nashville."

**Kansas will close its schools for the rest of the year, but 11 states are still sending students to in-person classes this week.**

[\(Education Week\)](#)

**Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D) banned gatherings of 10 or more people in restaurants, gyms and theaters, and Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) postponed the state's April 28 primary election.** "With nearly every local county and jurisdiction now affected by the coronavirus, the region's total had climbed to 162 by Tuesday evening," [Antonio Olivo, Rachel Chason and Greg Schneider report](#). "The District reported nine new coronavirus patients Tuesday evening, also the largest increase for the city reported in a single day, bringing its total to 32 cases. A D.C. firefighter-paramedic has tested positive for the coronavirus and is in self-isolation at home."

**Supermarkets are limiting the number of shoppers at one time. Temperature checks and delivery-only stores may follow,** [Abha Bhattarai reports](#). Some grocers and retailers have implemented custom hours for elderly shoppers, even as experts debate whether such a move would prevent the vulnerable from contracting the virus. Dollar General and Stop and Shop will open their doors early just to senior citizens and those with compromised immune systems, [Lateshia Beachum reports](#).

**The Brooklyn Nets announced four of their basketball players tested positive, including superstar forward Kevin Durant.** Two players from the Utah Jazz and another from the Detroit Pistons

previously tested positive, per [Ben Golliver](#). An Ottawa Senators player became the National Hockey League's first athlete to test positive. The player, who the team did not identify, has had mild symptoms and is in isolation, per [Samantha Pell](#).

**Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) announced last night that he's decided to self-quarantine after a constituent who met with him in his D.C. office last week tested positive.** The senator said he's not showing any symptoms. (Amber Phillips is keeping [a running list](#) of lawmakers who have isolated themselves.)

### **Americans are desperate for more testing.**

"A small commercial laboratory in Georgia has been selling do-it-yourself coronavirus testing kits, despite the fact that the Food and Drug Administration has not approved at-home testing ... A physician at the health clinic working with the Georgia lab said there is no time to waste on federal bureaucracy," [Carolyn Johnson, Laurie McGinley, Juliet Eilperin and Emma Brown report](#). "The push to accelerate coronavirus testing nationwide made significant advances this week, from the Pacific Northwest to the Northeast. On Tuesday, Adm. Brett Giroir said that nearly 59,000 tests had been done, with commercial labs administering 8,200 on Monday alone. A handful of drive-through testing operations have been set up in large and small cities: Giroir said 47 would start up in a dozen states 'over the next few days.'"

**Researchers in Senegal say they're making progress.** "The West African laboratory that made one of the world's first yellow fever vaccines has teamed up with the British creator of pee-on-a-stick pregnancy technology," [Danielle Paquette and Borso Tall report](#) from Dakar, Senegal. "Researchers at the Pasteur Institute in coastal Senegal — a World Health Organization partner that has battled viral outbreaks for more than a century — say they're as little as three months away from releasing \$1 diagnostic kits that can detect the respiratory contagion in 10 minutes. ...

More than 200 companies are working to develop similarly speedy tests, according to the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics in Geneva, which is tracking progress. None has met the international standard of shelf life and accuracy yet. Today the process takes hours in sophisticated labs, and wait times are stretching across the globe, alarming health authorities.”

**And D.C.-area hospitals are racing to expand testing capability while freeing up beds.** “Montgomery County hospitals are installing treatment and triage tents. Kaiser Permanente set up five drive-through testing sites in Maryland and Virginia for patients who have a prescription, and a health-care system in Hampton Roads, Va., is testing people via drive-through if they meet certain criteria,” [Jenna Portnoy](#), [Rachel Chason](#) and [Kyle Swenson](#) report. “Gov. Larry Hogan (R) said Tuesday that Maryland will repurpose vehicle inspection program sites as drive-through testing centers, but testing will not begin until labs have the capability to actually run the tests. Otherwise, it would create ‘false hope,’ he said.”



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**One D.C. woman's case helps illustrate the human impact.**

Alison McGrath Howard’s week-long passage from perfect health to the grip of a ferocious virus is emblematic of what government officials fear

awaits tens of thousands of Americans now ordered to remain at home. “Somehow, she drove herself to Sibley Memorial Hospital,” [Paul Schwartzman writes](#). “After three hours, she was led to a room where the sign on the door read, ‘Airborne Illness.’ Another patient there was talking on her cellphone to her mother in Chinese. The woman’s cough reminded Howard of her own. ...

“As she lies listless in her Cathedral Heights apartment, [the psychotherapist] thinks about whom she could have unwittingly infected: a patient with a heart condition; the pregnant woman who sat next to her at book group; her son and daughter, both of whom are now staying with her ex-husband. While she does not know how she became infected, Howard suspects it was while she was in New York in early March, attending a conference of the American Group Psychotherapy Association.”

### **Of the first 100 reported fatalities, many had underlying health conditions.**

“Some had diabetes, kidney failure, hypertension or pulmonary ailments. Nearly all — about 85 percent — were older than 60, and about 45 percent were older than 80,” [Reis Thebault, Abigail Hauslohner and Jacqueline Dupree report](#). “It’s unclear how some of them contracted the disease, but more than a third were living in residential care facilities when they became ill. What is known about the scale of transmission and the high number of deaths among vulnerable populations — like at the Life Care Center of Kirkland in Washington state, where 27 of the facility’s 120 residents have died — has experts deeply concerned. ‘I see that as the “canary in a coal mine” situation,’ said Fred Buckner, an attending physician at the University of Washington Medical Center. ‘I suspect it’s going to be taking off in other locations just like it is in the Seattle area. There’s no reason not to think that. Obviously, that means more deaths.’ In addition to the cluster of cases at Life Care Center, health authorities are monitoring cases at Lambeth House Retirement Community in New

Orleans, a high-rise with about 250 residences and rooms. Of the four people who have died in New Orleans, two had been at Lambeth, where there are 12 additional cases.”

## **New research suggests infants are more vulnerable than thought.**

A [paper](#) in the journal *Pediatrics*, based on 2,143 young people in China, provides the most extensive evidence on the spread of the virus in children, and there is bad and good news. “The study provides confirmation that coronavirus infections are in fact generally less severe in kids, with more than 90 percent having mild to moderate disease or even being asymptomatic. But it contains worrisome information about one subset — infants — and suggests that children may be a critical factor in the disease’s rapid spread,” [Ariana Eunjung Cha reports](#). “The first thing to know is that **children are getting infected across all age groups and genders**. ... According to the analysis by Shanghai Children’s Medical Center, ... mild cases (52 percent) were marked by the typical symptoms of a cold — fever, fatigue, cough, sore throat, runny nose and sneezing. Some patients had no fever and only digestive symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea. Those with moderate infection (39 percent) had pneumonia with frequent fever and cough, mostly dry cough, followed by a wetter cough. ... **Severe cases were rare (5 percent)**, as were those who required critical care (0.4 percent.)”

**A student at a Dallas middle school tested positive after being sent home by a school nurse.** Dallas County in Texas has reported 28 cases. ([Dallas Morning News](#))

## **Europe is closing its borders. They may be hard to reopen.**

“Leaders of the 26 European countries that are part of what is normally a free-movement zone also agreed Tuesday to shut their external borders to most nonresidents for the first time. The about-face in Europe is proving



as disruptive as it would be if American states imposed border controls on one another," [Michael Birnbaum reports](#) from Brussels. "And since Europe's countries are no longer built for self-sufficiency and no country manufactures or grows everything it needs, the effect of the internal blockade could quickly become catastrophic. Trucks trying to enter Poland from Germany were backed up 25 miles on Tuesday as Polish border guards checked drivers' temperatures, overall health and documents before allowing them through. Meanwhile, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, whose only connection to the rest of the E.U. is through Poland, have had to mount a rescue operation by air and sea to help their citizens trying to get home. The Baltic states have deployed the Latvian national airline and even chartered ferries so their nationals can scramble to German ports and sail around Poland. ...

**"Leaders of the E.U. institutions in Brussels, watching national leaders erect walls all around them, have been desperately trying to keep the internal borders open, at least partially.** One major risk, they say, is that medical supplies necessary to combat the coronavirus will pile up in trucks that have been stopped at national frontiers ... France and Germany last week threw up political borders around crucial medical equipment produced in their territory, banning the export of protective gear, including masks, to any other country, even Italy, which is struggling with shortages. After entreaties by E.U. leaders, the countries loosened their bans, but not before the message was sent to Italians and others: In a crisis, don't count on your neighbors to help you out."

**Taiwan will deny entry to many foreigners.** The island has recorded 100 cases, [per Reuters](#).

**Chinese citizens abroad, including in the U.S., are seeking refuge from the coronavirus pandemic by returning home,** [per Anna Fifield](#).

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## Quote of the day

*“If a person were just completely ignorant about what the Bible says about the End Times, they may think ... this is it,” said Jeff Kinley, a writer of books on biblical prophecy who lives in Harrison, Ark. Pointing to Revelation 6:8, he added: “I don’t think this is an actual fulfillment of that.” For one major thing, he added, the ancient temple in Jerusalem is supposed to be rebuilt first. (Julie Zauzmer and Sarah Pulliam Bailey)*

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## More on Tuesday's primary results



**The Democratic race has passed a point of no return, with Biden firmly in control.**

“From the start of the nomination battle, March 17 — the day by which roughly 60 percent of all pledged delegates were to be allocated — was circled on the calendars of many strategists and campaign staffers as the

day the contest could be settled and the party would know who its challenger would be to President Trump in November. That turned out to be accurate,” [Dan Balz writes](#). “For all practical purposes, the contest between Biden and Sanders is over. Numerically, the former vice president is still well short of a majority of delegates needed to win a first-ballot victory. But the reality is that it would take a radical change in fortunes for Sanders to start winning primaries by the margins he would need to catch up to Biden, let alone overtake him to claim the nomination. ... Voter turnout was up compared with 2016 in Florida and Arizona, thanks to lots of early voting, but down in Illinois, which had the lowest level of early voting of the three states — an indication of the impact of the virus on Election Day turnout.”

### **Sanders faces pressure to withdraw, but an adviser says the coronavirus might keep him in.**

“Sanders and his wife, Jane, are expected to reach a decision together about the future of the campaign, people in frequent contact with them said, taking input from advisers but making the call on their own. Many Democrats are waiting anxiously to see what Sanders says on Wednesday about the future of the race, if anything,” [Sean Sullivan reports](#). “Sanders spent Tuesday in Washington, where the Senate was hashing out legislation to combat the vast impact of the virus. Jane Sanders traveled to Washington with him ... Pressure from Democrats to unify against a president they revile has been intensified by the sense of national crisis, which could make running a doomed race seem less appropriate. ... As a longtime advocate of creating a Medicare-for-all system in which the government is the sole provider of health insurance, Sanders has said the pandemic shows precisely why universal healthcare needs to be enacted swiftly.”

### **Biden romped in Florida.**

In the biggest prize of the night, with 219 pledged delegates, Biden leads

Sanders 62 percent to 23 percent with 96 percent of precincts reporting. “He won every county in the state, claiming voters at least 45 years old by 6 to 1, according to a statewide voter poll by Edison Media Research. Sanders won voters younger than 45 by just over 10 percentage points, far too little to overcome Biden’s lead with older voters,” [Michael Scherer, Annie Linskey and Sullivan report](#). “In Illinois, with 155 delegates at stake, over 6 in 10 voters said they trusted Biden more than Sanders to handle a major crisis, and nearly 7 in 10 said Biden has the better chance of defeating President Trump in November. ... Reports of polling place disruptions — with unopened precincts, a dearth of cleaning supplies and long lines in some places — emerged across the country. ...

**“Voting in Ohio, the fourth state that was to cast ballots Tuesday, was delayed at the last minute** by Gov. Mike DeWine (R) as a result of the growing viral infection, despite a court ruling that voting should take place. ... Under Democratic Party rules, states have until June 9 to complete their delegate selection primaries or caucuses, and party leaders have the authority to seek rule changes to accommodate states that fail to meet the deadlines. Democratic Party Chair Tom Perez urged states to adopt vote-by-mail, no-excuse absentee voting and to expand polling place hours to prevent more delays in the primary calendar.”

### **The first congressional incumbent went down in a 2020 primary.**

Rep. Daniel Lipinski (D-Ill.), one of the last antiabortion Democrats in Congress, lost his bid for a ninth term to liberal challenger Marie Newman. “With 95 percent of precincts reporting, Newman held a roughly 3,800-vote lead — about four percentage points. The Associated Press declared Newman the winner shortly after midnight,” [Mike DeBonis reports](#). “The race was a rematch of the 2018 Democratic primary in the 3rd Congressional District, which is anchored in the working-class neighborhoods of Chicago’s South Side but stretches westward along the Des Plaines River into more affluent suburbs. Lipinski won a two-point

victory in the last primary by marshaling voters in Chicago precincts to overcome Newman's strength in the suburbs ... Lipinski's unapologetic antiabortion views — and Newman's outspoken support for abortion rights — had been the dominant topic in a district that is heavily Democratic but also has a socially conservative strain rooted in the largely Catholic ethnic communities of Chicago."

### **A Democratic super PAC will spend \$5 million flaying Trump for his coronavirus response.**

"The campaign from Pacronym — a political action committee affiliated with the nonprofit group Acronym — represents the first major pivot to coronavirus-related advertising fewer than 250 days from the election," [Isaac Stanley-Becker reports](#). "It is a bet that the pandemic, which is also causing a deep economic downturn, will be the defining issue of the campaign."

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### **Other news that should be on your radar**



**Tom Brady will sign with Tampa.**

“The Buccaneers and Los Angeles Chargers were believed to have made contract offers to Brady worth \$30 million per season or more,” [Mark Maske reports](#). “But Brady apparently wanted to keep his family on the East Coast, and the Chargers were reported by early Tuesday evening to have resigned themselves to losing out. The Buccaneers were thought to be selling Brady on the prospect of playing for their well-regarded coach, Bruce Arians. Brady, 42, faces a potentially difficult transition, changing teams for the first time in the NFL during an offseason in which normal routines have been interrupted by coronavirus-related issues. The league has postponed teams’ offseason workouts indefinitely, potentially affecting Brady’s ability to adapt to Arians’s offense and to his new teammates.”

### **Duncan Hunter was sentenced to 11 months in federal prison.**

The former California Republican congressman won reelection in 2018 while under federal indictment only to later admit wrongdoing in the case and resign. “The penalty brings to a close a dramatic case that saw prosecutors air publicly how the congressman used hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign funds to pay for family vacations, theater tickets and even to facilitate extramarital affairs,” [Matt Zapotosky reports](#). “Prosecutors argued in court filings that his reelection, fueled by lies and attacks on the Justice Department, warranted a stiff sentence. They argued for a term of 14 months.”

### **The DHS inspector general’s office is nearly dormant under Trump.**

“The Department of Homeland Security’s internal watchdog division has been so weakened under the Trump administration that it is failing to provide basic oversight of the government’s third-largest federal agency, according to whistleblowers and lawmakers from both parties,” [Nick Mirossoff reports](#). “DHS’s Office of the Inspector General is on pace to

publish fewer than 40 audits and reports this fiscal year, the smallest number since 2003 and one-quarter of the agency's output in 2016, when it published 143 ... The audits and reports cover everything from contracts and spending to allegations of waste and misconduct. ...

“Inspector General Joseph Cuffari ducked requests to appear on Capitol Hill for routine testimony, a decision congressional staffers describe as unprecedented. Adding to the turmoil, the office's second-in-command and former acting director, Jennifer Costello, was placed on administrative leave last month for alleged ethical violations, three current DHS officials said. An attorney for Costello said her client was not given a reason for her removal, but Costello believes she has been retaliated against for trying to denounce Cuffari's mismanagement and wrongdoing.”

### **Beijing pulled press credentials for three U.S. news outlets.**

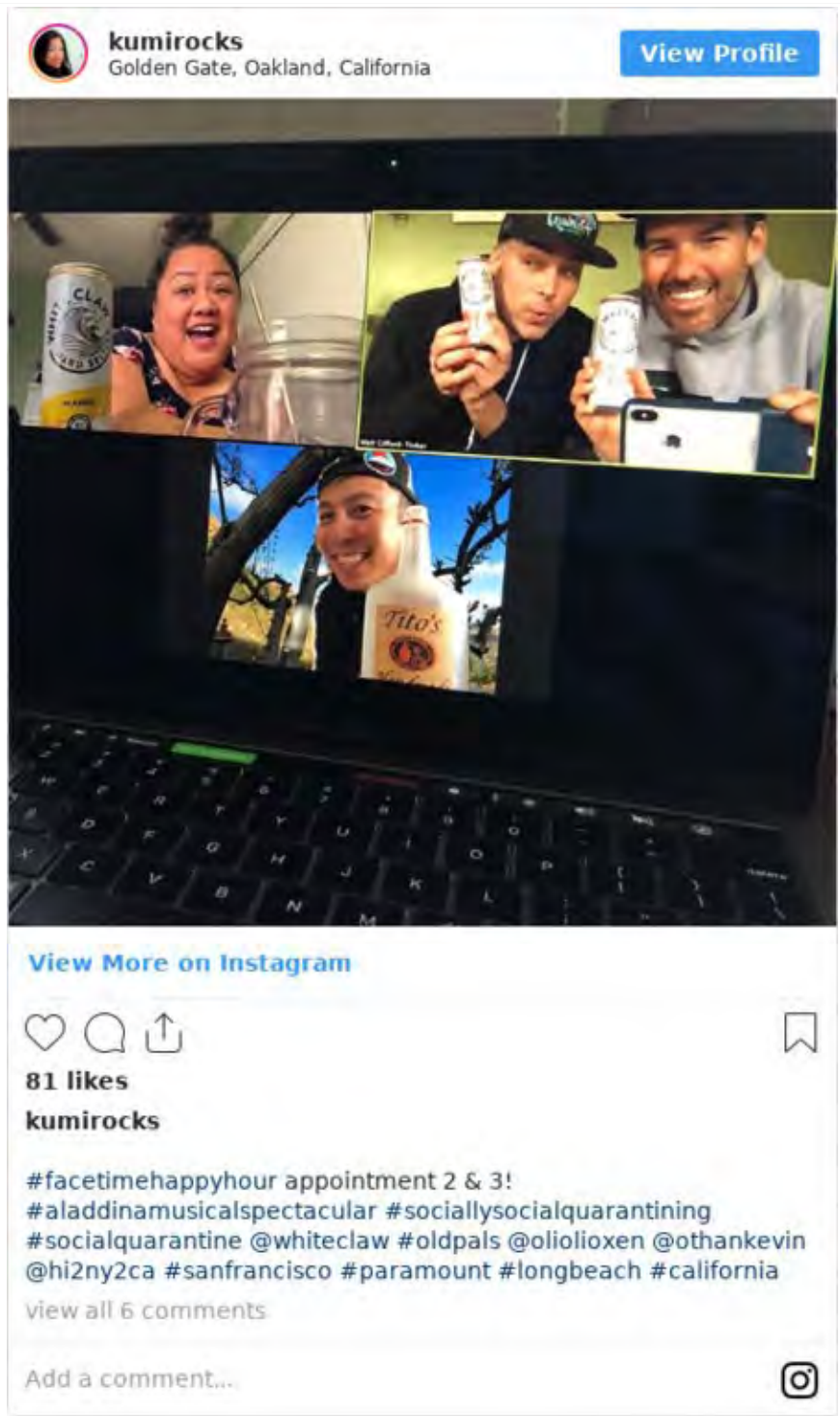
“Chinese authorities announced that U.S. journalists from The Washington Post, the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal will effectively be expelled from the country as part of retaliation for Trump administration limits on U.S.-based Chinese state media,” [Emily Rauhala reports](#). “The move widens [another rift](#) in U.S.-China relations already strained by trade disputes and questions over how the world's two biggest economies will recalibrate their ties after the corona-virus pandemic. In a statement published Tuesday, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the three U.S. outlets, plus Voice of America and Time magazine, will be designated as ‘foreign missions’ and must report information about their staffs, finances, operations and real estate in China. ... The moves came after the United States took measures in February against Chinese Communist Party-controlled news outlets operating in the United States.”

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## Social media speed read

People across the country are finding ways to drink together, alone, online. “Raising a glass virtually is taking off as people are discouraged from leaving their homes,” Heather Kelly reports. “They are getting together with their regular happy hour crew, or with family members and people they haven’t seen in ages. Some are finding new friends to bond with over their shared unshakable sense of dread and a fondness for mezcal. There’s even a new cocktail emerging online: the ‘quarantini.’ Although its recipe varies, it is best served chilled in front of a laptop or smartphone camera and enjoyed with a twist of levity.”





Ivanka Trump is at home with her kids after coming into close contact with an Australian minister who tested positive:



**Ivanka Trump** ✓

@IvankaTrump



Staying home today w/ kids?

Plan living room camp out!

Throw a bedsheet over some taped together brooms.  
Plan a menu & 'pack' sandwiches, salads (S'mores optional 😊)

A fun activity that also brings family together for a meal!

Share your ideas & use the hashtag [#TogetherApart](#)



♥ 43.8K 12:34 PM - Mar 17, 2020



💬 24.7K people are talking about this



U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams made a special plea to millennials, those between the ages of 23 and 39, to avoid gatherings of 10 or more people:



An evangelical leader denounced Trump for referring to covid-19 as “the Chinese virus”:



Hillary Clinton's spokesman took a dig at Sanders after Tuesday's primaries:



## Videos of the day

Over the past month, many Fox News anchors and personalities have gone from doubting the seriousness of the coronavirus pandemic to calling it a public health crisis. Our video team captures the shift with this two-minute mash-up:



Mark Tonelli, a critical-care physician and bioethics expert at the University of Washington Medical Center, discusses how his hospital is getting ready for an expected surge of coronavirus patients:



At the center of the coronavirus outbreak, a hospital prepares for the worst

The cancellation of Ireland's annual St. Patrick's Day festivities, to contain the spread of covid-19, inspired some creative alternative celebrations:



Irish host private St. Patrick's Day celebrations after parades canceled over coronavirus

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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] March 18 -- Greenwire is ready  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 11:51:32 AM

[Read today's Greenwire on the web](#)

# GREENWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**GREENWIRE — Wed., March 18, 2020**

 [READ FULL EDITION](#)

## 1. PANDEMIC:

### **White House seeks \$45B for agencies**

Congress is rushing to respond to the novel coronavirus on multiple fronts, including eyeing a new \$45 billion White House request to bolster agencies and a far broader \$1 trillion package that would include help for the ailing airline industry.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. NATIONAL PARKS:

#### **With Bernhardt's green light, superintendents shut down**

### 3. FEDERAL AGENCIES:

#### **COVID-19 vs. FOIA: The virus is winning**

### 4. FEDERAL WORKFORCE:

#### **Office of Personnel Management chief resigns**

## CORONAVIRUS

### 5. WATER POLLUTION:

#### **Venice waters run clear during Italy's nationwide quarantine**

### 6. INTERIOR:

#### **Refuge visitor centers start to shutter amid pandemic**

### 7. EPA:

#### **3 Chicago staffers had contact with virus carriers**

### 8. PANDEMIC:

#### **Water utilities aim to quell concerns amid outbreak**

## POLITICS

### 9. ADVOCACY:

#### **Nature Conservancy names new chief executive**

### 10. CAMPAIGN 2020:

#### **Sanders reassesses his options after more losses**

## LAW

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### 11. ENDANGERED SPECIES:

**Court rejects critical habitat for jaguar**

### 12. MINING:

**Judge upholds Twin Metals lease renewal**

### 13. WATER POLICY:

**Judge: Well shut-offs exceeded Ore. regulators' authority**

## WASTES & HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

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### 14. CHEMICALS:

**EPA reduces reporting burden with new rule**

### 15. RECYCLING:

**New Yorkers who depend on bottles and cans still hit streets**

## STATES

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### 16. CALIFORNIA:

**Tesla factory could be shut under health order**

### 17. UTAH:

**5.7 magnitude quake shakes Salt Lake City, closes airport**

### 18. NEVADA:

**Snow snarls traffic, causes 18 crashes**

## INTERNATIONAL

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### 19. ECUADOR:

**Virus hits tourism on iconic Galapagos Islands**

### 20. COLOMBIA:

**Bikes vs. virus: Bogotá expands paths in novel strategy**

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From: [The Washington Post](#)  
To: [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: The chilling new study that's guiding policymakers  
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2:46:08 PM

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The Washington Post

# Coronavirus Updates

What to know about the novel coronavirus outbreak, from To Your Health.



By **Angela Fritz**

with *Avi Selk*

✉ Email

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**Layoffs are mounting by the tens of thousands, and economists warn millions of jobs could disappear this year.** Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told lawmakers that the unemployment rate could spike to almost 20 percent (from its current level of 3.5 percent), people familiar with his comments told The Washington Post.

The scale of a **\$1 trillion economic plan is coming into sharper focus.** The White House is working with Republicans in Congress on a **package that could send \$2,000 to many Americans** and devote \$300 billion to small businesses.

U.S. markets tanked as stimulus talks failed to ease worried investors. The

Standard & Poor's 500-stock index was forced to halt trading at one point Wednesday because the sell-off was so sharp. **Nearly all of the advances the market has made under the Trump presidency have been erased.**

A **chilling new study forced** the United Kingdom to sit up and take coronavirus seriously, and the White House task force is also reportedly using it to guide strategy. The study **predicts that if we only try to slow the spread, the number of hospital beds could be overwhelmed, leading to about 250,000 deaths in the U.K. and more than a million in the United States.** The study, by London's Imperial College COVID-19 Response Team, **recommended stronger measures** would need to be taken to reduce the death toll further.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government is using that study to implement more extreme measures to suppress the spread of the virus. On Wednesday, Johnson announced **all schools across the U.K. will close starting Friday**, until further notice.

In a rare pre-recorded televised message, **Chancellor Angela Merkel said Germany is facing its gravest challenge since World War II.** "Take it seriously," she said. "Since German reunification, not since World War II, there's not been a challenge to our country that depends as much on our united actions done in solidarity."

**The United States and Canada have mutually agreed to close their border to nonessential traffic.** Trump said trade would not be affected. The administration also plans to **immediately send back to Mexico migrants who cross the southern border illegally**, including those who are seeking asylum.

**New York confirmed 1,008 new cases** Tuesday, raising the state's total to 2,382, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D) told reporters Wednesday. He

attributed the rise to more testing. New York has the most cases of any U.S. state. **Of people who are ill, 549 are hospitalized.**

Italy reported 475 new deaths from the virus Wednesday — **the largest one-day spike recorded in one country.** The nation's surging fatality rate has been blamed in part on overloaded hospitals, raising fears of a similar spike in the United States, where **cash-strapped hospitals have been reluctant to order ventilators** they could soon need in the tens of thousands.

Faced with such shortages, authorities are turning to **quarantines**, business closures and bans on large gatherings in an attempt to “flatten the curve.” **You can use our new interactive graphic** to get a rough idea of how much your town or city may have to restrict public life to save people’s lives.

Lately, President Trump has been trying to rebrand the coronavirus as the “Chinese virus,” despite concerns that the term is unscientific, misleading and could incite racial attacks. **“It’s not racist at all,” Trump told reporters Wednesday.** “It comes from China, that’s why.” Researchers believe the disease originated in **bats or pangolins.**

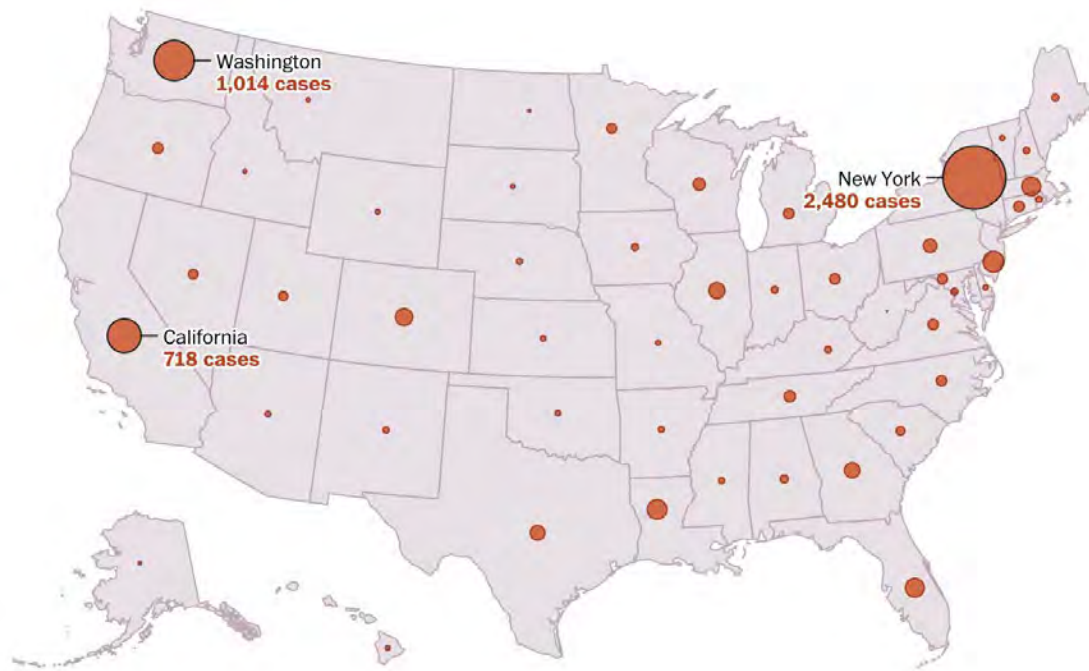
**Slightly more than half of Americans think Trump has downplayed the virus too much, a new Pew Research Center survey found.** The president, who last month **suggested U.S. coronavirus cases would peak at 15,** defended himself by noting his decision to restrict travel from China early in the outbreak. **“I always treated the Chinese Virus very seriously, and have done a very good job from the beginning,” he tweeted this morning.**

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## Tracking the U.S. cases

As of yesterday, covid-19 cases are confirmed in all 50 states. [Click](#)

through for a closer look at how the virus is spreading across the nation, death tolls and hot spots in the United States and around the world.



(Washington Post Staff)

## Your questions, answered

***Why aren't we gearing up to produce more ventilators? —Gail Beggs, West Chester, Pa.***

Today's answer comes from [reporting by Christopher Rowland](#), a Post business writer focused on the health-care economy.

Mechanical ventilators, which help patients breathe (or breathe for them), are considered critical to the nation's effort to contain the worst effects of the pandemic and avoid a [crisis like the one Italy is facing](#). Depending on how bad the coronavirus pandemic gets in the United States, **individual cities could come up thousands of ventilators short as patients flood hospitals**, researchers say.

But the problem in the United States isn't about not having enough — it's that they are too expensive.

Ventilator manufacturers could achieve, within a few months, a significant boost in production from about 50,000 units a year currently, said Julie Letwat, a health-care lawyer in Chicago who is monitoring the industry. Orders have not flooded in, she said, because **most hospitals can't afford to increase inventory of expensive equipment** for what could turn out to be a short-term event.

"The risk is that they'll never be used, and hospitals can't eat the cost," she said. "Most hospitals in this country are not profitable."

Ventilators range from \$25,000 for a basic model to \$50,000 for a machine used in the most advanced intensive-care units. Buying them also requires additional large investments in staff and training. Letwat said federal government investment would be the surest way to boost supply.

[Read more about what's behind the U.S. shortage in ventilators.](#)

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## More answers tomorrow

Join anchor Libby Casey, health policy reporter Yasmeen Abutaleb and epidemiologist Giovanni Filardo **Thursday at 3 p.m. Eastern** for a chance to have your question answered in a **live video Q&A**.

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## Live updates

Post reporters around the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day**.

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Want to know more? **Submit your question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

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## Today's top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our **coronavirus page**, including:*

- **12 historic sites you can tour virtually** from your couch
- How parents of young kids can **keep them busy and learning** while they're out of school
- What **'discretionary travel'** means
- How to work out **without going to the gym**

### **DIY nasal swabs, drive-throughs and labs in overdrive: Americans are desperate for more coronavirus testing**

By Carolyn Y. Johnson, Laurie McGinley, Juliet Eilperin and Emma Brown • [Read more »](#)

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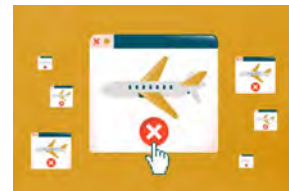
### **Coronavirus news has us anxious and sad. Here are 11 things we've seen that lifted our spirits.**

By Marisa Iati • [Read more »](#)

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### **Thinking about canceling your flight because of coronavirus? What to know before you do.**

By Natalie Compton • [Read more »](#)



### **How to practice social distancing while helping the economy**

**Opinion** • By Susan Athey and Dean Karlan • [Read more »](#)

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## Fact Checker: What did Dr. Anthony Fauci say about coronavirus testing ‘failing’?

Analysis • By Glenn Kessler • [Read more »](#)



## Can you pet that dog?

Gideon Kidd is an 11-year-old [who loves to pet dogs](#). He has a 367,000-person following on his Twitter account [@IvePetThatDog](#) — which he has devoted to his love of dogs (and petting them).

But Gideon stopped petting dogs last week because he was concerned about the outbreak. He wanted to practice safe social distancing. Now he posts photos of dogs that his fans submit, saying he'd “love to pet” them.



Health experts don't think dogs (or cats) can catch the coronavirus, and the American Veterinary Medical Association isn't that concerned about



people contracting covid-19 from a pet. But perhaps the best approach, from a public health perspective, would be to follow in Gideon's footsteps, and avoid person-to-person contact, even if you really just want to pet the dog they are walking.

**[Read more about how to pet dogs in the age of coronavirus.](#)**



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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] March 19 -- Climatewire is ready  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:47:49 AM

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# CLIMATEWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

CLIMATEWIRE — Thu., March 19, 2020

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### **N.Y. seeks disaster status for virus. It's never been done**

Andrew Cuomo of New York became the first governor to ask President Trump to declare his state a "major disaster" due to the coronavirus. It's a watershed moment that could open the door for millions of people nationwide to get unemployment checks, housing assistance and other disaster relief.

## TOP STORIES

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### 2. CONGRESS:

#### **Democrats want climate action included in coronavirus aid**

### 3. EXTREME EVENTS:

#### **Disasters worsened by warming in last 10 years — study**

## PANDEMIC

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### 4. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

#### **'We're seeing cancellations.' Virus hits solar industry**

### 5. CALIFORNIA:

#### **Chair of coastal agency has COVID-19**

## CLIMATE IMPACTS

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### 6. EXTREME WEATHER:

#### **U.N. struggles with spreading crises: Locust swarm and virus**

### 7. CONSERVATION:

#### **Trend of 're-wilding' lawns aims to help wildlife**

## GLOBAL

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### 8. BRITAIN:

#### **Adviser Carney says virus won't change emissions cut plans**

### 9. OUTBREAK:

#### **Clean water access for India's poor spawns virus concerns**

## SPECIES

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## 10. WILDLIFE:

### Endangered gray wolf population on the rise in Southwest

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Climatewire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. It is designed to provide comprehensive, daily coverage of all aspects of climate change issues. From international agreements on carbon emissions to alternative energy technologies to state and federal GHG programs, Climatewire plugs readers into the information they need to stay abreast of this sprawling, complex issue.



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# E&E DAILY



AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**E&E DAILY — Thu., March 19, 2020**

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### **Congress races to strike a trillion-dollar deal**

Senators yesterday approved the second coronavirus response bill with wide bipartisan support. With the biggest of them all in the drafting stages, lawmakers and groups are eager to push their priorities.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. HOUSE:

#### **First lawmakers diagnosed with coronavirus**

### 3. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

#### **Clean energy backers want in on stimulus talks**

### 4. OIL AND GAS:

#### **Lawmakers weigh options for helping industry**

## ON THE HILL

### 5. EPA:

#### **Carper slams 'anti-science' rule amid coronavirus fears**

### 6. CHEMICALS:

#### **Senator introduces bill to reauthorize security program**

## POLITICS

### 7. CAMPAIGN 2020:

#### **Bill Weld drops quixotic campaign against Trump**

## UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

### 8. CALENDAR:

#### **Activity for March 16 - March 22, 2020**

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## ABOUT E&E DAILY – CONGRESS. LEGISLATION. POLITICS.

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E&E Daily is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. Designed for policy players who need to know what's happening to their issues on Capitol Hill, from federal agency appropriations to comprehensive energy legislation, E&E Daily is the place insiders go to track their environmental and energy issues in Congress. E&E Daily publishes daily by 7:30 a.m. while Congress is in session.



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# ENERGYWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

ENERGYWIRE — Thu., March 19, 2020

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### **Coronavirus oil crash: What it means for one state**

The economic freeze caused by COVID-19 could do lasting damage to states like Wyoming and Alaska that are dependent on energy revenues to fund everything from education to health care.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. FEDERAL WORKFORCE:

#### **DOE confirms first employee case of coronavirus**

### 3. CORONAVIRUS:

#### **Grid overseers ease rules due to 'unprecedented' pandemic**

### 4. CORONAVIRUS:

#### **Utilities under pressure to ban electricity shut-offs**

## ENERGY TRANSITIONS

### 5. ELECTRICITY:

#### **Minn. Supreme Court to review natural gas climate fight**

## FEDERAL AGENCIES

### 6. OIL AND GAS:

#### **Gulf lease sale nets lowest revenue of Trump administration**

### 7. PIPELINES:

#### **Feds: Ex-Mariner East technician falsified safety docs**

## CONGRESS

### 8. OIL AND GAS:

#### **Hoeven, Cramer push Trump to help beleaguered industry**

## LAW

### 9. PIPELINES:

#### **Judge promises fast answer on shutting down Dakota Access**

### 10. COLORADO:

## Federal judge tosses 'forced pooling' oil lawsuit

### ELECTRICITY

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#### 11. PLANT VOGTLE:

**More workers quarantined to await coronavirus test results**

### BUSINESS

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#### 12. ELECTRIC VEHICLES:

**VW shuts Europe plants, says EV rollout on track**

#### 13. BUSINESS:

**China bent over backward to help Tesla when virus hit**

#### 14. MAINE:

**Regulators approve sale of electric utility to Canadian firm**

### OIL AND GAS

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#### 15. ENERGY MARKETS:

**Price of oil plummets 24% on recession fears**

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### ABOUT ENERGYWIRE – THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ENERGY SECTOR

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Energywire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. Energywire is designed to bring readers deep, broad and insightful coverage of the transformation of the energy sector. Energywire focuses on the business, environmental and political issues surrounding the rapidly expanding unconventional energy industry and the numerous factors -- from expanding natural gas use to renewables and more -- that are altering the traditional electric utility industry. Energywire publishes daily at 9:00 a.m.



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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

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By [James Hohmann](#)  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Trump's corporatist response to coronavirus shows no concern for national debt

A trillion here, a trillion there and soon you're talking real money.

The national [debt](#) has [surged](#) from \$20 trillion to \$23 trillion since President Trump took office, even though the economy was at or near full employment, despite his campaign promises in 2016 to eliminate it altogether if he's elected to two terms.



The \$1.5 trillion tax cuts in 2017, which the GOP passed on a party-line vote and overwhelmingly benefit the biggest corporations and the richest individuals, made trillion-dollar federal **deficits** the new normal – long before the novel coronavirus sent lawmakers scrambling for emergency spending.

Many companies that are now seeking lifelines from taxpayers, especially the airlines, used the windfall from those tax breaks to buy back their own shares, which increased share prices and therefore boosted executive compensation.

**The Trump administration outlined a \$1 trillion stimulus plan on Wednesday to respond to the pandemic**, including \$500 billion in cash payments to individuals and \$300 billion toward helping small businesses, as well as \$50 billion for bailing out airlines and \$150 billion for other unspecified sectors. This will likely include hospitality, in which the president has a significant personal financial stake. “We’re coming up with numbers,” Trump told reporters on Wednesday. “Haven’t gotten there yet, but certainly the hotel industry, cruise ship industry, the airlines – those are all prime candidates.”



**A few hours later, the Senate approved and Trump quickly signed the House-passed bill that would spend some \$100 billion** on paid leave, unemployment insurance and free testing to people affected by the coronavirus fallout. That's on top of the \$8.3 billion emergency spending package that passed earlier this month. And it's distinct from the \$46 billion emergency funding request the White House sent Congress yesterday for "ongoing preparedness and response efforts" by various agencies.

All told, between the various packages and other actions the government is taking, **a senior administration official said the White House is pushing an economic plan that is "over \$2 trillion and counting"** to stop the coronavirus from wrecking the economy. Compare that to the \$800 billion stimulus package enacted under Barack Obama and the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program enacted under George W. Bush to respond to the Great Recession.

The tea party movement on the right and the Occupy Wall Street movement on the left stemmed from animosity to the bailouts for Wall Street. Conservatives spent the entire Obama era loudly decrying him for supposedly trying to "pick winners and losers." In 2012, Trump himself accused "Obama's auto bailout" of "ruining American industry." Now he promises to help Boeing specifically in the White House briefing room – and few in his party balk.

**When aides presented Trump with a \$850 billion stimulus proposal earlier this week, he encouraged them to go bigger and ask for \$1 trillion, Bob Costa and Phil Rucker report.** "Trump 'doesn't give a [expletive]' about how his rescue plan affects the federal debt, according to a White House official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to be frank. 'It's all about the markets and the economy for him. It's all about the jobs numbers.' ... One adviser who has discussed the matter with Trump said the president does not believe voters will be

concerned about adding to the debt.”

**There is certainly some political sensitivity inside the Trump administration to the optics of bailouts for big companies.** When Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin met with Senate Republicans on Tuesday, he pleaded with them not to use the word “bailout” to describe the proposed bailout for Boeing, one of many large corporations that stands to get a windfall from the administration’s plan. “One senator raised a hand and asked if they should instead call them ‘freedom payments,’ which prompted laughter,” per Bob and Phil.

**A bailout by any other name is still a bailout. And corporate lobbyists are rushing to get their hands in the cookie jar.** “When the banks that were saved in 2008 paid out \$140 billion in executive bonuses in 2009, voters on both sides erupted,” [David Lynch and Jeff Stein report](#). “Today, Democrats — who lost the House in 2010 amid a conservative rebellion over bailouts — demand strict conditions on aid. And many Republicans, including National Economic Council Director Larry Kudlow — who wrote in 2008 that such programs make ‘a mockery of free-market capitalism’ — have ditched their objections. ... Asked Tuesday whether the bailouts would carry any restrictions, the president looked to the vice president, saying: ‘I think I’m going to ask Mike. Answer that question, please.’ Pence parried, saying only that the industry aid package is ‘a work in progress.’

**“Democrats see the administration’s bailout requests as potential leverage in negotiations about the spending package.** On a conference call with party members, [Senate Minority Leader Chuck] Schumer highlighted the industry bailouts as an opportunity to secure increased spending on programs such as Medicaid and unemployment insurance. But Democrats may face their own divisions. Members representing states such as casino-rich Nevada and Florida, home to many cruise operators, might break with the party’s united front.”

One person briefed on internal White House deliberations, who was not authorized to speak to reporters, told David and Jeff: “Every industry is affected. Every restaurant is affected. How are you going to draw the line between who gets government aid and who doesn’t? It becomes a real corporate welfare scramble.”

This is part of a pattern: Trump campaigns like a populist but, for the most part, governs like a plutocrat.



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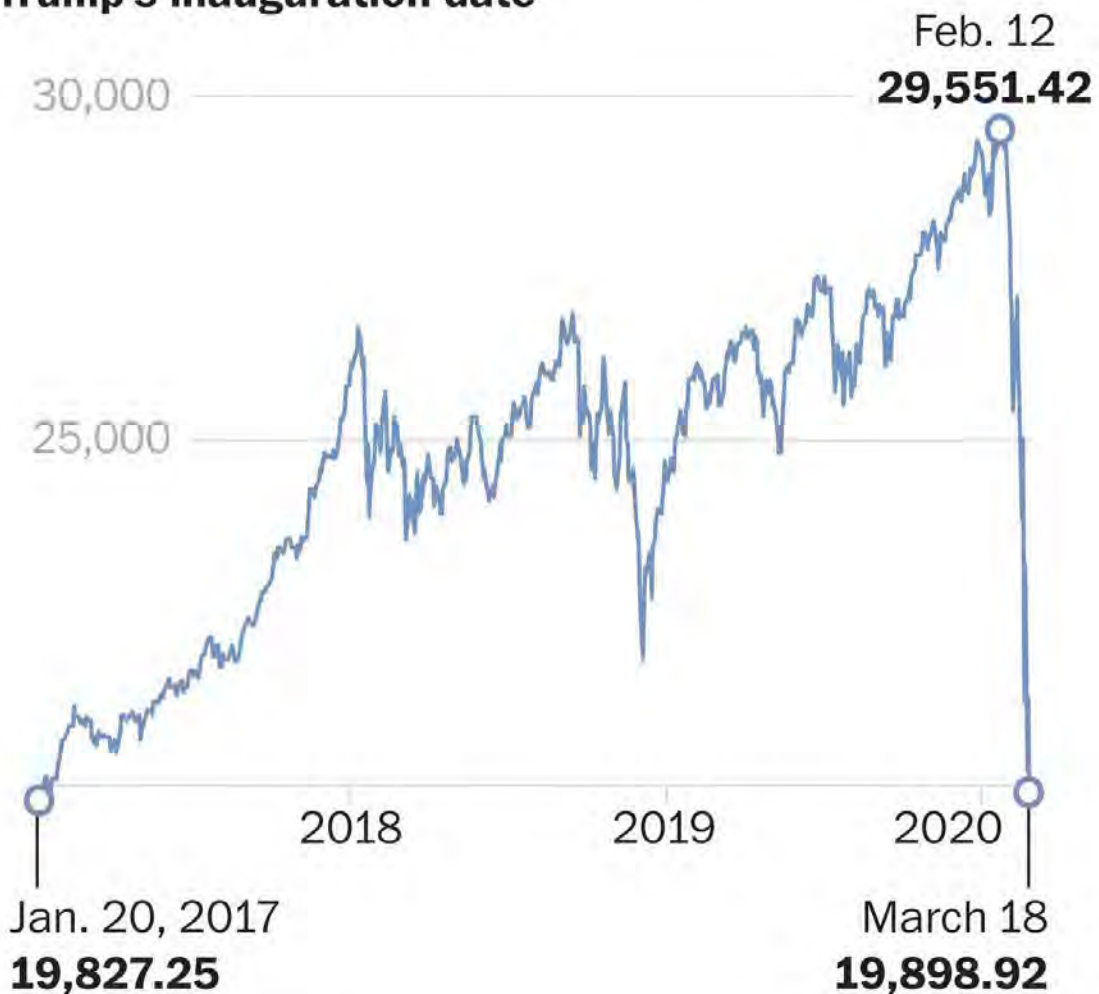
**Companies are playing a central role in shaping the government response.** Consider the special group of private industry representatives that Jared Kushner has enlisted in what's being likened to a shadow coronavirus response task force. Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser has added another layer of confusion and conflicting signals within the White House's disjointed response to the crisis, [Yasmeen Abutaleb, Ashley Parker and Josh Dawsey report](#): "Kushner, who joined the administration's coronavirus efforts last week, is primarily focused on attempting to set up drive-through testing sites with the help of technology and retail executives, as well as experts in health-care delivery. ... Kushner regularly briefs the president separately from the rest of the task force ... Some members of Kushner's team are working out of offices on the seventh floor of Health and Human Services headquarters — one floor above the office of HHS secretary Alex Azar — while others are working out of an office in the West Wing of the White House ... They include representatives of companies such as UPS, FedEx and Flatiron Health ...

**"Two senior officials said some government officials have become increasingly confused as they have received emails from private industry employees on Kushner's team and have been on conference calls with them,** unsure what their exact role is in the government response. Several people involved in the response said the involvement of outside advisers — who are emailing large groups of government employees from private email addresses — also raises legitimate security concerns about whether these advisers are following proper government protocols. 'We don't know who these people are,' one senior official said. 'Who is this? We're all getting these emails.' ...

“Kushner defended his role in an interview, saying his team’s goal was to bring ‘an entrepreneurial approach’ to the crisis. ... **One potential conflict for Kushner is the fact that Oscar, a health insurance company co-founded by Kushner’s younger brother, Joshua, last week launched its own digital portal that helps direct people to virus testing centers** and assess their own risk of becoming infected. A spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment, including about whether Oscar plans to seek a government contract.”

**To be sure, there are good reasons for the government to spend heavily to avert a depression.** The Dow Jones industrial average **closed** down 1,339 points on Wednesday, or 6.3 percent, after plunging 2,300 points earlier in the day. It **opened** on Thursday down more than 150 points. Most of the equity gains seen during Trump’s presidency have evaporated. No sector has been spared. “The lamps are going out all across the economy,” JP Morgan Chase says in a report that forecasts a 14 percent decline in gross domestic product in the second quarter.

## Dow Jones index nears its level at Trump's inauguration date



Source: Yahoo Finance

THE WASHINGTON POST

**The Federal Reserve announced at 11:30 last night that it's establishing a special backstop for money market mutual funds,** which typically serve as risk-free places for investors to store cash. This morning, the Fed announced [more "swap lines"](#) with other central banks around the world to ensure they have sufficient U.S. dollars.

"More than a million workers are expected to lose their jobs by the end of March, economists say, a dramatic turnaround from February when the unemployment rate was near a record low," [Heather Long and Abha Bhattarai report](#). "Ball State University economist Michael Hicks predicts this month could be the worst for layoffs in U.S. history. ... **The Labor**

**Department reported Thursday that 281,000 people applied for jobless benefits last week, up 33 percent from the prior week.”**

But perhaps that’s a reason why Republicans, who think of themselves as fiscally responsible, should have listened to the experts and the Congressional Budget Office projections when they voted for the tax cuts. **Only eight Republican senators voted yesterday against the \$100 billion package, mostly citing concerns about its largesse:** Marsha Blackburn (Tenn.), James Inhofe and James Lankford (Okla.), Ron Johnson (Wis.), Mike Lee (Utah), Rand Paul (Ky.), Ben Sasse (Neb.) and Tim Scott (S.C.). “My counsel to them is to gag and vote for it anyway, even if they think it has some shortcomings, and to address those shortcomings in the bill that we’re in the process of crafting,” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said on Tuesday.

**Fear is a motivating factor for many.** For the past three years, GOP lawmakers have often fallen in line because they’re afraid of Trump’s wrath. Now they’re afraid of the economy collapsing and worst-case scenarios that show millions of Americans dying. Last night, Reps. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.) and Ben McAdams (D-Utah) became the first members of Congress to announce that they’ve **tested positive** for the coronavirus, which adds to the sense of anxiety.

**A few other GOP senators, including Josh Hawley (Mo.) and Rick Scott (Fla.), have warned that they don’t think the trillion-dollar package being negotiated, being referred to as Phase Three, should include bailouts for big businesses.** “The people that need help the most are small businesses, hourly workers, people who rely on tips, and gig economy workers like Uber and Lyft drivers,” **said** Scott. “The federal government should be a safety net for those who need it most. But even in times of crisis, we can’t forget about fiscal responsibility. ... The proposals being debated in Congress right now include giveaways to big corporations, mandates that will shut down small



businesses, and policies that I fear won't help the people that need it most."

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## The latest on the coronavirus response and fallout



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Mice used for fetal tissue research are kept in the Humanized Mouse Core Laboratory at the University of California at Los Angeles. (Philip Cheung for The Washington Post)

## **Trump's ban on fetal tissue research is undermining scientific efforts to combat the virus.**

“A senior scientist at a government biomedical research laboratory has been thwarted in his efforts to conduct experiments on possible treatments for the new coronavirus because of the Trump administration’s restrictions on research with human fetal tissue,” [Amy Goldstein reports](#).

“The scientist, Kim Hasenkrug, an immunologist at the National Institutes of Health’s Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Montana, has been appealing for nearly a month to top NIH officials, arguing that the pandemic warrants an exemption to a ban imposed last year prohibiting government researchers from using tissue from abortions in their work. According to several researchers familiar with the situation, ... such experiments could be particularly fruitful.

**“Just months ago, before the new coronavirus began to infect people around the world, other U.S. scientists made two highly relevant discoveries.** They found that specialized mice could be transplanted with human fetal tissue that develops into lungs — the part of the body the new coronavirus invades. These ‘humanized mice,’ they also found, could then be infected with coronaviruses — to which ordinary mice are not susceptible — closely related to the one that causes the new disease, covid-19. Outside researchers said the scientists who created those mice have offered to give them to the Rocky Mountain Lab, which has access to the new virus that causes covid-19, so the mice could be infected with the source of the pandemic and experiments could be run on potential treatments. Candidates include an existing drug known to boost patients’ immune systems in other circumstances, as well as blood serum from patients recovering from covid-19. ...

“Caitlin Oakley, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Human Services, which includes NIH, said, ‘no decision has been made’ about

Rocky Mountain's request. ... **Hasenkrug has been forbidden by federal officials to talk publicly since the administration began to reconsider fetal tissue funding rules in the fall of 2018 at the prodding of social conservatives** ... The fetal tissue is donated by women undergoing elective abortions, and critics say that it is unethical to use the material and that taxpayer money should not be used for research that relies on abortion."

**Irving Weissman, a leading stem cell researcher at Stanford University, said "it's stupid not to try" this approach**, even if we don't know what it will yield. "When I hear the vice president saying [they're] doing everything they can to find vaccines [and treatments], I know that is not true," another scientist familiar with the situation told Amy. "Anything we do at this point could save hundreds of thousands of lives. If you wait, it's too late."

**More lifesaving ventilators are available, but hospitals can't afford them.**

"Hospitals are holding back from ordering more medical ventilators because of the high cost for what may be only a short-term spike in demand from the coronavirus epidemic, supply chain experts and health researchers say, intensifying an anticipated shortage of lifesaving equipment for patients who become critically ill," [Chris Rowland reports](#). "Mechanical ventilators, which help patients breathe or breathe for them, are considered critical to the nation's effort to contain the worst effects of the pandemic and avoid a crisis like the one Italy is facing. Depending on how bad the coronavirus pandemic gets in the United States, individual cities could come up thousands of ventilators short as patients flood hospitals. ... Ventilators range from \$25,000 for a basic model to \$50,000 for a machine used in the most advanced intensive care units. ...

**"Other governments have rushed to stock up on ventilators.** The United Kingdom has asked Rolls-Royce Holdings, which makes jet

engines, and other heavy manufacturers to make ventilators. Germany ordered 10,000 ventilators with Drägerwerk AG, ... the company's largest order ever. In the United States, Trump told state officials on a conference call that states and local governments should procure their own equipment. 'Respirators, ventilators, all of the equipment — try getting it yourselves,' Trump told the governors ... The Trump administration has barely begun to release up to 13,000 older ventilator models cached around the country in the federal Strategic National Stockpile, saying state officials have not requested them."

### **Shortages of face masks, swabs and other basic supplies pose a challenge to testing.**

"At major hospitals in Seattle and Washington, D.C., mask shortages had already become so acute that doctors and patients were being asked to reuse the masks, not dispose of them as previous, traditional CDC protocol requires, even after contact with infected patients," [Carolyn Johnson, Brady Dennis, Steven Mufson and Tom Hamburger](#). "Many laboratories have complained about shortages and back orders of reagents, chemical solutions that are key components of testing kits. The reagents are used to isolate the genetic material from the virus." The president said he will [invoke](#) the Defense Production Act to expand production of medical supplies.

### **What else the federal government is doing**

- ICE will stop most immigration enforcement inside the U.S. ([Maria Sacchetti and Arelis Hernández](#))
- The White House instructed federal agencies to pare down to "mission-critical" services. It was unclear how quickly and to what degree agencies would curtail services in response. The Census Bureau announced it is suspending all field operations for two weeks until April 1. ([Lisa Rein, Kimberly Kindy and Eric Yoder](#))
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development ordered a 60-

day foreclosure moratorium for homeowners affected by the coronavirus. ([Rena Merle and Tracy Jan](#))

- Trump said a Navy ship would treat coronavirus cases in New York, but it won't be ready for weeks as it undergoes maintenance in Norfolk, Va. ([CNBC](#))



## **Young adults make up a surprising share of coronavirus hospitalizations.**

A CDC report shows that, while older people have the greatest likelihood of dying, of the 508 patients known to have been hospitalized in the United States, 38 percent were between the ages of 20 and 54. Nearly half of the 121 patients who were admitted to intensive care units were adults under 65. The CDC says 20 percent of hospitalized patients and 12 percent of the intensive care patients were between the ages of 20 and 44, according to [the Times](#).

## **Doctors and nurses fighting the pandemic fear infecting their families.**

“As physicians contend with a burgeoning angst that, for some, has begun to manifest in nightmares, many of them have drawn up wills or placed themselves into makeshift quarantines, sleeping in hotel rooms, garages

and basements in hopes that they will not infect their families," [John Woodrow Cox, Michael Miller and Peter Jamison report](#).

## **Domestic disruptions continue to cascade.**

- Amazon confirmed its first case in a New York warehouse employee. It's probably a smart idea to disinfect any deliveries before bringing them inside your home. ([Teo Armus](#))
- All of Georgia's state lawmakers have been urged to self-isolate themselves for weeks after a state senator disclosed that he tested positive. ([Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#))
- Restaurant workers face uncertain futures with looming rent payments and plenty of worry. ([Emily Heil](#))
- Automakers temporarily shut down factories to slow the virus's spread. Ford, General Motors and Chrysler will halt production in all North American factories for at least two weeks, per [Aaron Gregg](#). Volkswagen Group, the world's largest carmaker, suspended production in Europe, per [Rachel Siegel](#).
- The San Francisco Bay Area ordered millions to shelter in place. Elon Musk had his Tesla employees report to work anyway. County officials told the company it could maintain "minimum basic operations." ([Faiz Siddiqui](#))
- The New York Stock Exchange will close its floor and move to electronic trading after two floor traders tested positive. ([CNBC](#))
- In Florida, police have closed a number of popular beaches after thousands continue flocking to them despite warnings. ([CBS](#))
- More than 100 people tested positive for the virus in two New York City neighborhoods, with officials expressing growing alarm that coronavirus is spreading quickly in tightly knit Hasidic Jewish communities in Brooklyn. ([NYT](#))
- The effort to develop contingencies for voting in upcoming primaries took on new urgency as the three contests that unfolded on Tuesday showcased what experts described as unprecedented challenges. ([Isaac Stanley-Becker and Amy Gardner](#))
- For Biden and Sanders, campaigning during the virus is going to be

awkward. “Crowds don’t roar when a live-streamed speech is finished. Throngs don’t collapse around stage, hoping for a handshake. Instead, candidates are left to wait, solemn and straight-faced, until a staffer signals the all-clear or beckons them out of the camera shot,” [writes Chelsea Janes](#).

- Twitter promised to crack down on coronavirus misinformation. Examples of tweets that will now be deleted include: denials of expert guidance, promotion of actively harmful treatments and remedies that are ineffective, as well as unverified claims that spawn mass panic, such as a false statement that food shipments will end for two months. ([Hannah Knowles](#))
- Experts worry quarantine conditions could be rife for a rise in domestic violence. On top of physical isolation, compounding economic problems and the overall stress of the pandemic are potential triggers for domestic abusers. ([Miriam Berger](#))

### **Kids are carriers, and grandparents are vulnerable. Parents must make wrenching choices.**

"Against the backdrop of a crashing stock market and emptying grocery store shelves, there are other, intangible losses being calculated by parents: Should a long-anticipated visit be postponed? A family vacation canceled? What to do about upended daily routines, the loss of help with child care, the sudden absence of grandparents whom children have come to depend on?" ([Caitlin Gibson](#))

### **Note: The virus has ravaged seven members of a family, killing three.**

“Grace Fusco — mother of 11, grandmother of 27 — would sit in the same pew at church each Sunday, surrounded by nearly a dozen members of her sprawling Italian-American family. Sunday dinners drew an even larger crowd to her home in central New Jersey,” [the NYT reports](#). “Now, her close-knit clan is united anew by unspeakable grief: Mrs. Fusco, 73, died on Wednesday night after contracting the coronavirus — hours after her son died from the virus and five days after her daughter’s death, a relative

said. Four other children who contracted coronavirus remain hospitalized, three of them in critical condition, the relative, Roseann Paradiso Fodera, said.”

## **Maryland confirmed its first covid-19 fatality, a man in his 60s who had no underlying health issues.**

The Washington region’s total number of confirmed cases grew to 203 on Wednesday, per [our live blog](#).

- As many as 73 D.C. firefighters, paramedics and emergency medical technicians have self-quarantined after they were potentially exposed to the virus. ([Peter Hermann](#))
  - The Metro, facing a deficit of more than \$50 million a month due to the virus, is seeking emergency federal aid. ([Justin George](#))
  - Headline of the day: “Baltimore Mayor Begs Residents To Stop Shooting Each Other So Hospital Beds Can Be Used For Coronavirus Patients.” ([WJZ](#))
  - That's a reminder of a sad reality: The wealthy always do better during a pandemic. It's been this way throughout history. The poor are exposed at greater rates, get sicker because often they aren't as healthy to begin with and then have higher mortality rates. ([Roxanne Roberts](#))
- 

## **Quote of the day**





*“Getting coronavirus is not a death sentence except for maybe no more than 3.4 percent of our population . . . probably far less,” Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) [said in an interview](#) with his home-state newspaper, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. “We don’t shut down our economy because tens of thousands of people die on the highways.”*



**The global disruptions continue.**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned the coronavirus presents the

gravest crisis to that country since World War II. The country has more than 8,200 cases, and infections are growing exponentially, [Loveday Morris, Luisa Beck and Rick Noack report](#). More from our foreign coverage:

- In Italy, the death toll surged by 475 to 2,978 – the highest daily rise yet recorded anywhere in the world. Around 40,000 people have been charged for violating terms of the lockdown in the country. ([Siobhán O’Grady](#))
- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced plans to close all schools in England, as the U.K. death toll hits 104. Infections rose by 676 to 2,626 in 24 hours.
- The Dutch health care minister collapsed during a debate in the Hague about the government's efforts to counter covid-19.
- Spain ordered all hotels to close. Cases surged 25 percent there in 24 hours, rising from 13,716 to 17,147 and deaths increased from 598 to 787. ([Rick Noack](#))
- Hundreds of Americans stuck in Morocco are pleading with Washington for help getting out. Morocco, which hosts around 12 million tourists yearly, ordered hotels, restaurants and entertainment centers to close on Monday. The country has 37 cases and one related death. ([Miriam Berger and Siobhán O’Grady](#))
- What counts as “essential” during a lockdown? For Belgians, it's fries. For the French, it's wine. ([Quentin Ariés and Michael Birnbaum](#))
- Australia and New Zealand banned entry to non-citizens and non-residents. ([Teo Armus](#))
- A 41-year-old diabetic man became the first coronavirus death in Mexico. ([Bloomberg News](#))
- El Salvador, which has closed its borders and airport, confirmed its first infection. ([Reuters](#))
- Millions of protesters in Brazil appeared at their windows banging pots and pans calling for President Jair Bolsonaro to step down. It was the biggest protest against Bolsonaro’s government to date, which is dealing with over 500 cases of the virus. ([BBC](#))

## **Afghanistan is stuck with a divided government, a Taliban insurgency and a spreading virus.**

“Over the past several days, with 22 cases of the coronavirus confirmed nationwide, the impact of the pandemic has begun to hit home. Now, the divided government and its desperately poor health system must grapple with a crisis that is bringing life to a halt in the West — and it must do so while contending with a militant group vying for power across half of the country.” [Pamela Constable reports](#).

## **U.S. sanctions have hindered the Iranian government’s response.**

“The death toll in Iran from covid-19 infections surged past 1,000 on Wednesday after the largest single-day rise in the number of deaths since Iran’s outbreak began,” [Adam Taylor reports](#). “Deutsche Welle reported this week that researchers at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran created a computer simulator to analyze scenarios. Under current circumstances, the researchers said, infections would not peak until late May. The death toll could be as high as 3.5 million. That figure might seem enough to stop anyone in their tracks. But this week, the United States announced that it would be expanding its sanctions on Iran, as well as on entities that aided the Iranian government in its trade in petrochemicals and other restricted activities. ... The Guardian reported on Wednesday that Britain was privately pressing the United States to ease sanctions on Iran amid the crisis.”

## **Light at the end of the tunnel?**

“China on Thursday said that there had been no cases of domestic coronavirus infections in the country the previous day, for the first time since the outbreak began,” [Anna Fifield and Teo Armus report](#). “All 34 infections diagnosed on Wednesday were in people arriving into China from abroad, the National Health Commission said. It was a significant milestone for the country, where the virus was first reported in mid-

November. Among the 34 imported infections, 21 were found in Beijing, where authorities are imposing strict new quarantine rules to try to stop a new outbreak in the sensitive capital, the seat of the Communist Party power. ... Still, some experts have warned that based on the patterns of previous pandemics, China could face further waves of infections.”

### **But, but, but: China’s initial attempt to cover up the virus made the spread worse.**

“Chinese laboratories identified a mystery virus as a highly infectious new pathogen by late December last year, but they were ordered to stop tests, destroy samples and suppress the news,” [the Times of London reports](#). “A regional health official in Wuhan ... demanded the destruction of the lab samples that established the cause of unexplained viral pneumonia on January 1. China did not acknowledge there was human-to-human transmission until more than three weeks later. The detailed revelations by Caixin Global, a respected independent publication, provide the clearest evidence yet of the scale of the cover-up in the crucial early weeks when the opportunity was lost to control the outbreak. Censors have been rapidly deleting the report from the Chinese internet.”

### **There are lessons the U.S. should heed from other Asian countries.**

“Political will, dedicated resources, sophisticated tracking and a responsible population have kept coronavirus infections and deaths in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore relatively low,” [Shibani Mahtani and Simon Denyer report](#). “South Korea, with more deaths, has led the way in widespread testing. ... Experts are urging countries including the United States, France and Spain to use time bought by newly enforced social-distancing measures, lockdowns and quarantines to reset and work out their strategies before it is too late.”

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# Climate change is still happening



An Arctic researcher sets out to retrieve oceanographic moorings and a weather station over meltwater topping sea ice in northwest Greenland during the 2019 melt season. (Steffen Olsen)

## **Greenland lost a near-record 600 billion tons of ice last summer.**

The mass loss from Greenland alone was enough to raise global sea levels by 2.2 millimeters, according to a new study based on NASA data.

“Between 2002 and 2019, across the full time series of both satellite missions, the study finds Greenland lost 4,550 billion tons of ice, or an average of about 261 billion tons per year,” [Andrew Freedman reports](#).

## **Oil and gas companies want to drill within a half-mile of some of Utah’s best-known national parks.**

“The petitions for the Bureau of Land Management’s September lease sale, some of which come from anonymous potential bidders, could transform a region renowned for its pristine night skies and stunning topography.

Some of the parcels are also within 10 miles of Bears Ears National Monument’s current boundaries. ... While the BLM can reject nominations as it prepares lease sales for auction in September, Trump administration policy tilts decisions in favor of energy development,”

[Juliet Eilperin and Darryl Fears report.](#)

## **A 5.7-magnitude earthquake struck Salt Lake City.**

“The earthquake struck around 7 a.m., its epicenter located about four miles west-southwest of Salt Lake City International Airport. Heavy shaking was felt across north-central Utah west of the Wasatch mountains. There were no reports of any serious injuries, though many people were evacuated from the airport and the Federal Aviation Administration issued a ground stop for all inbound flights for several hours,” [Matthew Cappucci reports](#). “Within three hours of the initial quake, nearly two dozen aftershocks greater than 3.0 in magnitude struck in the immediate vicinity. ... The earthquake was shallow, occurring only about six or seven miles below the surface, which may have maximized shaking at the surface. According to Utah’s Division of Emergency Management, it was the strongest earthquake to strike the state since 1992.”

---

## **Social media speed read**

Trump has started more frequently referring to the coronavirus as Chinese:



**Nathan McDermott** ✓

@natemcdermott



Trump only started calling the "Chinese Virus" within the last two days.

Between January and March 15th, he referred to it as the "coronavirus", at least on Twitter anyway, 41 times.

Since March 16th he hasn't called it the "coronavirus" once.

The screenshot shows a tweet by Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) from March 18, 2020, at 6:53 PM. The tweet has 2,610 likes and 1,549 replies. The tweet text reads: "China has been working very hard to contain the Coronavirus. The". Below the tweet are several replies from other users, including one from Donald J. Trump himself. The replies discuss the situation with China, the impact of the virus, and the role of the government. One reply includes a photo of a meeting. Another reply mentions a conference with the FBI. The tweet also shows engagement metrics like retweets and replies.

In Israel, a chief rabbi ruled that religiously observant Jews can have access to their phones during Shabbat because of the virus:



(((Yair Rosenberg)))

@Yair\_Rosenberg



Religiously observant Jews don't use electronics on Shabbat. One of Israel's chief rabbis just ruled that they should make sure leave them on for use, in case they get notified that they have coronavirus or came in contact with someone who did.

[twitter.com/AmySpiro/statu...](https://twitter.com/AmySpiro/status/1234567890)

Amy Spiro @AmySpiro

Wowowow.

Israeli Chief Rabbi Yosef: People should leave their phones on over Shabbat in case they receive notifications over coronavirus test results or mandatory quarantine.



445 9:21 PM - Mar 18, 2020

169 people are talking about this

And Tuesday's primaries raised more questions about why Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) is still in the race:





## Videos of the day

Trevor Noah gave a social distancing show:



Jimmy Kimmel offered what he called "a quarantine minilogue":



Stephen Colbert addressed fans from the firepit at his house:



Police officers in the Kerala state of India showed off a dance routine to remind citizens of proper hygiene during the pandemic:



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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: Many younger adults are being hospitalized  
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 2:42:59 PM

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The Washington Post

# Coronavirus Updates

What to know about the novel coronavirus outbreak, from To Your Health.



By **Angela Fritz**  
with *Avi Selk*  
✉ Email

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**The nightmare scenario that hospitals could run out of supplies is no longer theoretical.** At facilities in the hardest-hit cities, health-care workers are **making their own face masks** and safety goggles out of supplies from hardware stores. An ER doctor provided an sobering account of [how her hospital is overwhelmed](#). Doctors are now **urging patients to forgo in-person appointments** and [use telemedicine apps instead](#). This is only the beginning.

**The lack of basic supplies is preventing tests from being performed, too.** The scarcity of chemical solutions, swabs and even masks [is preventing health-care workers](#) in some hospitals from taking

samples, and some laboratories from running the tests.

Meanwhile, **America's party people are ignoring pleas for social distancing** — barhopping, traveling and packing onto beaches for extended spring breaks. **Bars and restaurants in a dozen states are facing strict orders to shut it down**, but in some cases, **law enforcement has had to step in**. “If I get corona, I get corona,” **one shirtless spring-breaker told Reuters**. “At the end of the day, I’m not going to let it stop me from partying.”

But **CDC data now shows** that **younger adults are a large percentage of coronavirus hospitalizations in the United States**. Half the ICU patients in France were younger than 65, and half of those in the Netherlands were under 50. It's clear that, for reasons health experts still don't know, **covid-19 is taking a hard toll on the young, even though fatal outcomes are skewed toward the elderly**.

(Related reading: **How to talk to your friends about social distancing when they're still going out to the bars.**)

**The State Department raised its travel advisory** for all international travel from 3 to 4, the most serious category, and advised **all Americans who are abroad to return**, or make plans to be there for a while. American travelers have been stranded in Morocco, Peru, Honduras and Tunisia, and some have complained that the U.S. embassies have not provided enough help to get them home.

Italy passed China for the **largest number of coronavirus-related deaths**, at more than 3,400, even though China has had twice as many cases.

Two days ago, the United States had around 5,700 confirmed cases. **Today, that number is over 11,300**. This is a massive acceleration, due in part to more testing, but also because the virus is indeed spreading. **The death toll in the United States is over 160.**

**Immigration officials are halting enforcement within the United States, except to deport foreign nationals who have committed serious crimes. ICE said late Wednesday** that it will “delay enforcement actions” and use “alternatives to detention” while the outbreak is ongoing.

**Actors, politicians and athletes are jumping to the front of the line for tests** while average Americans are turned away. When asked if who are known as VIPs should have easier access to the test than the general public, President Trump replied, **“No, I wouldn’t say so, but perhaps that’s been the story of life.”**

As lawmakers finalize a massive stimulus package, **President Trump said Thursday that he supports the federal government taking equity stakes in private companies that take bailout funds.**

Companies and industries have asked the federal government for hundreds of billions of dollars in assistance, and buying equity stakes would protect the taxpayer investment.

Economists estimate that **more than a million American workers are expected be out of a job by the end of the month**, even more of a shock because unemployment was at a record low before the outbreak. The Labor Department reported that **281,000 people applied for jobless benefits last week**, up 33 percent from the week prior.

**Trump keeps repeating a false claim that a malaria drug has been approved for use against the coronavirus.** He said it in a White House media briefing, and FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn clarified it would be the first drug to be tested. Then Trump repeated the claim multiple times in a teleconference with governors.

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## Live updates

**Track the spread** of the outbreak in the United States and abroad with our updating map.

Post reporters around the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day**.

Follow live updates about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area**.

Find answers to **to common questions and terms to know**.

Want to know more? **Submit your question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

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## Your questions, answered

China, where the pandemic likely originated, reported zero new cases today, suggesting the outbreak has stopped spreading there after about 81,000 cases were confirmed — a tiny fraction of the country's 1.4 billion residents.

***Barbara Chumley of Harlingen, Tex., notes that other countries are preparing for infection rates of up to 70 percent, and asks: "If this is true, why has the number of cases in China dwindled so drastically?"***

We asked Harvard University epidemiologist Marc Lipsitch to answer her. Unfortunately, he says China's very low infection rate came at a very heavy cost, and might not last.

"The Chinese epidemic has been temporarily controlled by extreme social distancing measures," Lipsitch told The Washington Post. You can read about those measures in our stories: entire cities locked down; **tens of**

millions of people confined to their homes; checkpoints, padlocks on doors and enforcers with red arm bands making sure no one walks past their front gate without a pass. The draconian measures appear to have devastated China's economy.

"The total size of the epidemic in China has indeed been a small proportion of the population so far (although more than the reported numbers because not everyone was tested)," Lipsitch said. "The problem is that either China keeps those kinds of control measures in place (economically and socially disruptive) or releases these and the infection begins to spread again.

"So the long-term projections [for worldwide infection] (which I believe are more accurately 20-60 percent based on the latest data) are valid," he concluded, "because these proportions of people must be infected and immune before spread can be controlled without intense social distancing."

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## Today's top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- Tips on how to get a travel refund
- The national chain hiring 10,000 workers as others lay people off
- A report on scams that are pitching fake tests to vulnerable Americans
- How privacy has become an issue as the government seeks to track the virus

**I'm an ER doctor. The coronavirus is already overwhelming us.**

Perspective • By Michelle Romeo • [Read more »](#)





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## How to grocery shop safely during this outbreak

By Ann Maloney • [Read more »](#)

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## Coronavirus is going to radically alter the U.S. This is what America could look like in the coming months.

By William Wan, Joel Achenbach, Carolyn Y. Johnson and Ben Guarino • [Read more »](#)

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## I own a small business. The CDC order is a death sentence.

Opinion • By Cathy Merrill • [Read more »](#)

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## 'Love Is Quarantine' adapts blind-dating reality TV to age of social distancing

By Teo Armus • [Read more »](#)



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## Line management at its best



**Brent Toderian**   
@BrentToderian



Worried how far apart you should be in a supermarket line-up while [#SocialDistancing](#)? No surprise, the Danes have a simple design solution for that. [#CopyThis](#) [#COVID19](#) [#coronavirus](#) via Henrik Schou



1,902 likes 1:04 AM - Mar 19, 2020



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] March 20 -- Climatewire is ready  
**Date:** Friday, March 20, 2020 4:55:49 AM

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[Read today's Climatewire on the web](#)

# CLIMATEWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

CLIMATEWIRE — Fri., March 20, 2020

 [READ FULL EDITION](#)

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## 1. WHITE HOUSE:

### **Pandemic 'totally predictable.' How Trump dismissed warnings**

The Trump administration has a record of labeling warnings about national security risks as "alarmist." Now, as the consequences of White House inaction on the coronavirus become clear, many experts say the administration's habit of ignoring the threat of climate change could be more devastating.

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## TOP STORIES

### 2. PANDEMIC:

#### **FEMA, once focused on storms, will lead virus response**

### 3. CLIMATE IMPACTS:

#### **NOAA warns of 'widespread' flooding in months ahead**

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## POLITICS

### 4. PUBLIC OPINION:

#### **N.C. voters want a pandemic-like response to climate — poll**

### 5. FINANCE:

#### **Shareholders push companies on climate this proxy season**

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## IN THE STATES

### 6. CLIMATE IMPACTS:

#### **Calif. mountains blanketed in snow after dry start to year**

### 7. POLITICS:

#### **GOP kills Kan. governor's plan for energy office**

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## GLOBAL

### 8. EMISSIONS:

#### **China's virus response puts climate pledge in doubt — report**

### 9. INVESTMENT:

#### **Options trade stokes carbon's coronavirus plunge in Europe**

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### **Senate Republicans release coronavirus stimulus package**

Senate Republicans yesterday made their opening bid on a \$1 trillion economic stimulus that includes fuel assistance for airlines and opens the door to talks on a range of energy and environment issues.

## ON THE HILL

### 2. COURTS:

#### **McConnell bid to purge judges may reshape environmental law**

### 3. ENERGY POLICY:

#### **Coal industry asks Congress, White House for bailout**

### 4. ADVOCACY:

#### **No more handshakes: Lobbyists adapt to pandemic**

## POLITICS

### 5. CAMPAIGN 2020:

#### **Climate activists, progressive Dems rally around Ill. primary win**

### 6. CAMPAIGN 2020:

#### **Colo. Senate hopeful's coronavirus Rx: The Green New Deal**

## UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

### 7. CALENDAR:

#### **Activity for March 16 - March 22, 2020**

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### Is 'energy dominance' dead?

President Trump has said that the U.S. achieved "energy dominance" during his administration. But with the coronavirus pandemic, the prospect that the U.S. will top the world in oil and gas production through the end of Trump's first term is in doubt. What does that mean for industry and the 2020 campaign?

## TOP STORIES

### 2. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

#### Coronavirus could cut a third of U.S. wind jobs — report

### 3. ELECTRIC VEHICLES:

#### Tesla joins other automakers in shutting down

### 4. OIL AND GAS:

#### 'Tough decisions.' Coronavirus spurs project delays, layoffs

## ENERGY POLICY

### 5. PANDEMIC:

#### Coal industry asks Trump, Congress for coronavirus bailout

## FEDERAL AGENCIES

### 6. REGULATIONS:

#### FERC offers pandemic-related compliance relief

## TECHNOLOGY

### 7. CARBON CAPTURE:

#### CCS map outlines path for 26 states

## ELECTRICITY

### 8. COAL:

#### Court upholds Wash. decision to block export terminals

### 9. HYDROPOWER:

#### Maine high court upholds PUC approval of energy corridor



## OIL AND GAS

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### 10. ENERGY MARKETS:

#### **Negative oil prices? 'Anything is possible'**

### 11. GEOPOLITICS:

#### **With oil at record low, Canada is first price-war casualty**

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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
✉ Email

## Simulations before coronavirus foreshadowed infighting between agencies in pandemic response

Before Sept. 11, 2001, government planners had not considered the possibility that hijackers would fly commercial airplanes into the Pentagon and World Trade Center. There was no such failure of imagination ahead of this pandemic. Experts have not just warned for years about the inevitability of an outbreak like the novel coronavirus on

American soil. They have also sounded the alarm about the risk of the kind of poor coordination between federal and local agencies that has characterized the initial U.S. response to covid-19.

**A simulation called “Crimson Contagion,” organized by a Trump-appointed assistant secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services from January to August in 2019, envisioned a respiratory virus beginning in China and infecting 110 million Americans, hospitalizing 7.7 million and killing 586,000.** At least a dozen agencies, and another dozen states, were involved in the war-game-style exercise. A draft of the secret after-action report from October, first published Thursday by [the New York Times](#), emphasized challenges related to coordination and highlighted friction between HHS and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

**Chunks of the 63-page report could easily be cross-applied to describe the dropped balls and mixed messages related to the coronavirus response over the last three months.** Consider these bullets from the executive summary: “Exercise participants lacked clarity on federal interagency partners' roles and responsibilities during an influenza pandemic response. ... Confusion regarding the purpose of and target audience for national conference calls hampered coordination among state and federal response partners. ... At times, HHS' Operating Divisions and Staff Divisions provided inconsistent and inaccurate response guidance and actions to healthcare and public health private sector partners. ...

“HHS and DHS/FEMA’s use of disparate information management systems hampered their ability to establish and maintain a national common operating picture. Both HHS and DHS/FEMA submitted senior leader briefs to the White House National Security Council during the exercise, which caused confusion regarding the official source of senior leader briefs. ... State, local, tribal, and territorial partners were unclear on

the kinds of information they needed to provide ... HHS' regional staff lack clear guidance on the distribution of federal information management products to state and local partners. ... Inconsistent use of terminology regarding vaccine types and stockpiles caused confusion among response partners at all levels of government.”



President Trump appears Thursday with members of his coronavirus task force in the White House briefing room. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

**The Times also posted a [73-page report](#) from July 2016 on lessons learned from the Ebola outbreak that highlighted the need to improve coordination between agencies.** Christopher Kirchhoff, who transferred from the Pentagon to the White House to deal with Ebola, wrote that “the most defining event in the domestic management of Ebola” happened when Liberian citizen Thomas Duncan tested positive in Dallas in September 2014. He said that this “revealed gaps” in the federal government’s approach to domestic containment of viruses, especially involving the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“During such incidents, clarity of Federal roles and responsibilities and coordination across the Federal interagency are paramount. Little of this was present in Dallas,” Kirchhoff wrote. “Some had an expectation that CDC was going to help with healthcare delivery, yet healthcare delivery is not a function of CDC. CDC’s initial forward deployed team was built against a set of technical health requirements and was not equipped to manage the conflicts that developed between the hospital, state, and local authorities. ... The CDC also was not equipped, and did not have clear authority, to perform incident command without being requested to do so by the state of Texas. The peculiarities of the local political environment meant that Dallas county and the state of Texas each set up parallel incident command structures that issued conflicting guidance, further confusing command and control.”

**As it relates to the coronavirus, a stream of fresh revelations underscores early mistakes and failures to appropriately coordinate among and between federal and local public health officials. Early efforts to ramp up testing by the CDC were particularly abysmal.** The first cases in the United States and South Korea were detected on the very same day, [Reuters notes](#). By late January, though, Seoul had medical companies starting to work on a diagnostic test, and one was approved a week later. Today, Washington is still nowhere close to meeting demand for the tests.

**“While the virus was quietly spreading within the U.S., the CDC had told state and local officials its ‘testing capacity is more than adequate to meet current testing demands,’ according to a Feb. 26 agency email,”** [the Wall Street Journal reports](#). “The agency’s data show it tested fewer than 100 patients that day. ... CDC officials botched an initial test kit developed in an agency lab, retracting many tests. They resisted calls from state officials and medical providers to broaden testing, and health officials failed to coordinate with outside companies to ensure needed test-kit supplies, such as nasal swabs and

chemical reagents, would be available ... When the Food and Drug Administration, also involved in the response, finally opened testing to more outside labs, a run on limited stocks of some supplies needed for the CDC-developed test quickly depleted stores. ... Hospital and commercial lab operators said the government didn't reach out to enlist their help until it was too late.”

**The United States has more than 14,200 confirmed cases of the coronavirus and 159 reported deaths.** Both numbers are expected to grow rapidly in the coming days. More than 240,000 coronavirus cases have been confirmed globally. The World Health Organization notes that it took three months to reach 100,000 —but only 12 days to reach the next 100,000.



FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn whispers to Vice President Pence as President Trump speaks to reporters on Thursday. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

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**“When the coronavirus passed within a handshake of the president, no public health agency took charge,”** [Aaron Davis and Erin Cox report](#). “On March 8, a day after the New Jersey doctor’s positive test result was announced and as the extent of the doctor’s contacts at [the Conservative Political Action Conference] were becoming clear, officials said public health workers had begun to locate and notify conference attendees. **The [CDC] ‘confirmed his attendance and is working with CPAC to notify all the attendees,’** New Jersey Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli told reporters. **In truth, no such effort was undertaken by the CDC, New Jersey or Maryland, according to officials in both states and with the CDC, who pointed to one another as the responsible party.** They did not publicize the name of the doctor. ...

**“Alerted by the doctor himself, political operatives who organized the conference undertook the responsibility themselves,** attempting to identify attendees who might have been at risk. In a process that took days, CPAC organizers pieced together his movements, learning belatedly that he had attended a crowded kickoff event. They also persuaded the doctor to review photos on his iPhone he had taken from the event, ... including a photo the doctor had taken with

Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla). By the time they alerted Gaetz, he was on Air Force One with the president after having spent two days at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort with members of the first family. Ultimately, the organizers notified close to 100 attendees, according to Matt Schlapp, chairman of the American Conservative Union, the lobbying group that puts on CPAC. On Tuesday, D.C. officials announced that another man who had attended the conference, a 23-year-old District resident, had also tested positive. ...

**“The approach stands in stark contrast to aggressive actions taken by some countries that slowed the spread of the virus in its early days.** In Singapore, for instance, public health officials not only interviewed the sick but also obtained patients' travel itineraries and used security camera footage to track their movements to help identify every person possible with whom they had incidental contact.”

**The CDC now appears to have been sidelined, with its messages increasingly disrupted or overtaken by the White House.** Despite the early mistakes, this is still the country's leading public health agency. “Neither CDC Director Robert Redfield nor Anne Schuchat — the principal deputy director who has played key roles in the agency's emergency responses stretching back two decades, including the 2009 influenza pandemic — have appeared on the podium during White House briefings by the coronavirus task force for more than a week,” [Lena Sun reports](#).

**“The CDC has not conducted its own telephone briefings for reporters in more than a week.** Recent CDC recommendations on school closures and mass gatherings were overtaken by different guidelines issued by the coronavirus task force, creating confusion. ... The CDC has not conducted a briefing since March 9. ... Katie Miller, a spokeswoman for Pence, who took over the task force from Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar late last month, said Redfield has been joining daily task force meetings.



**“Azar has blamed Redfield for the testing fiasco, several senior administration officials said, although some White House officials contend the blame is misplaced.** Redfield is also not viewed as a strong public speaker by experts inside and outside the agency; he has had to issue corrections to misstatements in recent testimony before Congress. Ever since Pence’s team took over the response, they have treated the outbreak as a public relations crisis as much as a public health crisis and have tightly managed communications of top health and administration officials, officials have said.”

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## Better understanding the virus

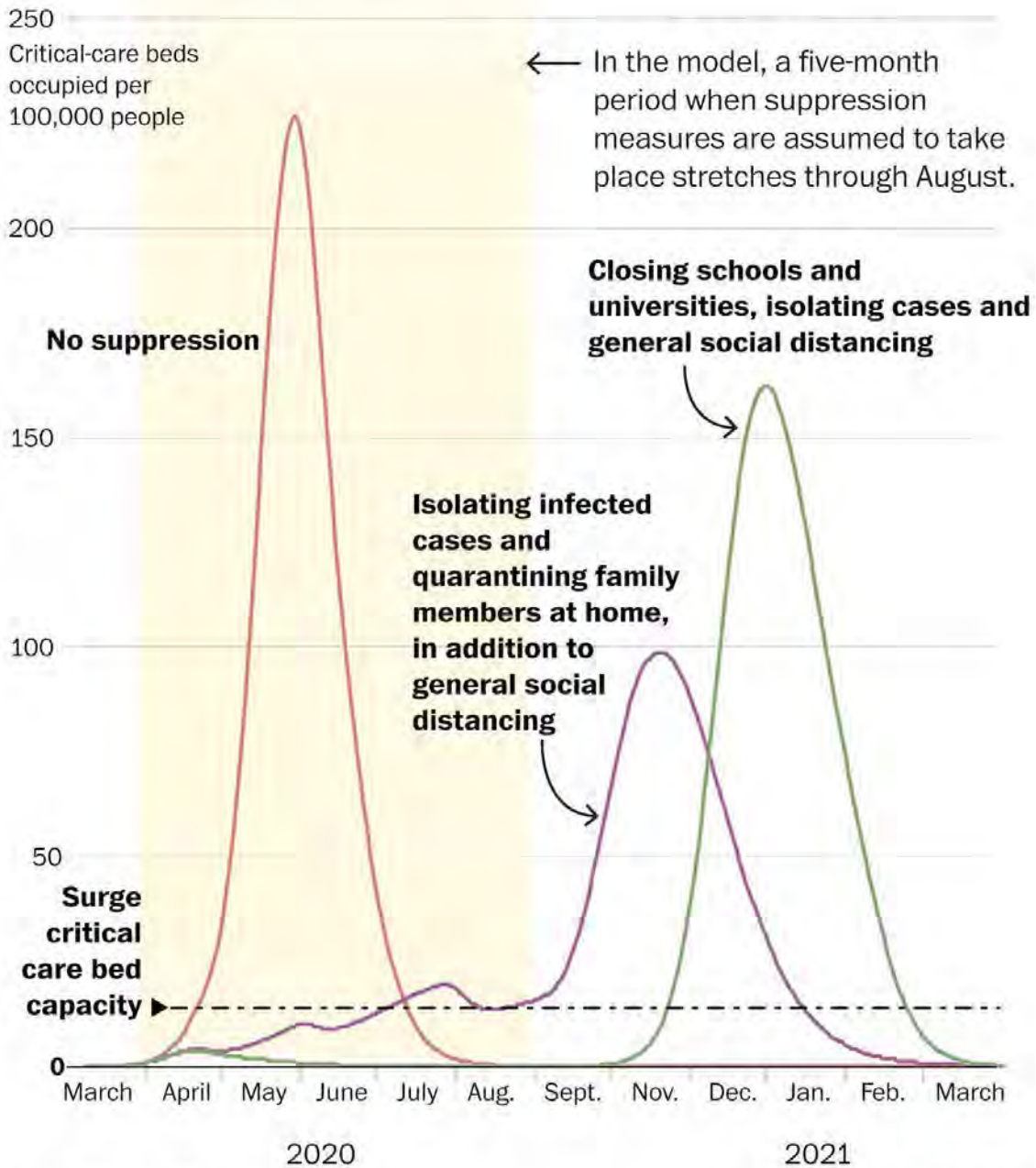
**Scientific models offer two insights on what's next.**

“In the worst-case scenario, America is on a trajectory toward 1.1 million deaths. ... If Americans embrace drastic restrictions, ... we could see a death toll closer to the thousands and breathe a national sigh of relief as we prepare for a grueling but surmountable road ahead,” [William Wan, Joel Achenbach, Carolyn Johnson and Ben Guarino report](#). “Doing that will require Americans to ‘flatten the curve’ — slowing the spread of the contagion so it doesn’t overwhelm a health-care system with finite resources. That phrase has become ubiquitous in our national conversation. But what experts have not always made clear is that by applying all that downward pressure on the curve — by canceling public gatherings, closing schools, quarantining the sick and enforcing social distancing — you elongate the curve, stretching it out over a longer period of time. **Success means a longer — though less catastrophic — fight against the coronavirus.** And it is unclear whether Americans — who built this country on ideals of independence and individual rights — would be willing to endure such harsh restrictions on their lives for months, let alone for a year or more.

“Here is another thing that hasn’t been spelled out in our national conversation about flattening the curve: **There will probably be more than one curve.** If we’re lucky, the coming months will probably look less like a mountain and more like a string of bumpy hills, say epidemiologists. But if authorities ease some measures in coming months or if we start letting them slip ourselves, that hill could easily turn right back into the exponential curve that has cratered Italy’s health system and that U.S. officials are desperately trying to avoid replicating.”

## Suppression scenarios

Models from researchers at Imperial College London suggest that wide adoption of measures to reduce the transmission of the novel coronavirus can reduce the demand for critical health-care services, in part by spreading the demand over a longer period. The major challenge is that those measures will need to be maintained until a vaccine becomes available, or transmission will quickly rebound.



Source: Imperial College London

TIM MEKO/THE WASHINGTON POST



## Why is the coronavirus killing vastly more men than women?

“Nowhere is this trend more pronounced than in Italy. Men make up nearly 60 percent of people with confirmed cases of the virus and more than 70 percent of those who have died,” [Chris Mooney, Sarah Kaplan and Min Joo Kim report](#). “A study of 99 patients at a hospital in Wuhan, where the virus originated, found that men made up two-thirds of patients. ... More recent figures from China’s Center for Disease Control, based on tens of thousands of cases, showed a strong gender breakdown of deaths, which were 64 percent male. ... The gendered death gap was also seen in the smaller SARS and MERS outbreaks. ...

**“These statistics could be a product of behavior, biology or both,** scientists say. For one thing, demographic figures suggest many men have more health risks to begin with. ... Women tend to live longer than men. ... Men also drink and smoke more. ... But there are also underlying biological differences between men and women that may make covid-19 worse in men. ... Years of research have found that women generally have stronger immune systems than men and are better able to fend off infections. The X chromosome contains a large number of immune-related genes, and because women have two of them, they gain an advantage in fighting disease. ... Studies have also found that estrogen was

protective in female mice infected with the virus that caused the 2003 SARS outbreak.”

### **Rural areas may be more vulnerable than urban centers.**

“Biostatistician and infectious disease specialist Nicholas Reich from the University of Massachusetts is participating in the White House Coronavirus Task Force modeling efforts. He said the death rates from flu for people over 50 could be a good indicator of vulnerability for covid-19, though they are ‘probably not a perfect measure but a good place to start,’” [Dan Keating and Laris Karklis report](#). “The push for social distancing and isolation make dense crowds and public transportation in big cities seem like the deadliest environment. The pattern of flu deaths over the past five years, however, shows that big metro areas are not hot spots for high flu death rates.

**“Most of the deaths are among the large population in big cities, but the risk for any individual person goes up dramatically where homes are sparse.** Very rural areas have a 60 percent higher death rate from flu than the big metro areas, according to analysis of CDC death records. Collectively, the 68 most rural counties of Kansas, for instance, have nearly 14 deaths per 100,000 people age 50 or older, well over double the rate for the county around Topeka (6.6), the state capital. And the rate around New York City (3.4) is around half of that.

**“The higher rates in remote areas may be due to difficulty getting health care.** Rural residents have greater travel distances for more limited resources. ... Flu mortality is very notable for low rates in the warmest states: California and the belt of states from Arizona to Florida. But as Reich said, the flu is not a perfect predictor for covid-19. It’s not known if warm weather will provide protection against the new coronavirus the way it does with the standard flu.”

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## The congressional response



Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) enters a closed-door briefing on the coronavirus at the Capitol on Feb. 25. (Mark Wilson/Getty Images)

### **Senate Republicans unveiled their draft stimulus bill.**

“The legislation would provide checks of \$1,200 per adult for many families, as well as \$500 for every child in those families,” [Jeff Stein, Mike DeBonis, Erica Werner and Paul Kane report](#). “Families filing jointly would receive up to \$2,400 for the adults. The size of the checks would diminish for those earning more than \$75,000 and phase out completely for those earning more than \$99,000. The poorest families, those with no federal income tax liability, would see smaller benefits, though the minimum would be set at \$600. **Limiting the payment amount for those without federal tax liability was a change from the original White House proposal, and caught some Republicans off-guard, provoking criticism.** ... An early analysis showed the vast majority of middle class people would receive the cash payment, but the

percentage doing so falls dramatically toward the bottom of the income distribution. **About 22 million people earning under \$40,000 a year would see no benefit under the GOP plan**, according to an initial analysis by Ernie Tedeschi, a former Obama administration economist. ...

**“Democrats were working on their own proposals, which shun corporate loan programs being included by Republicans — such as \$50 billion for airlines — suggesting that there will be difficulty in reaching bipartisan agreement.** ... The bill also outlines in greater detail the terms for receiving targeted federal help from the federal government, as proposed earlier by the Trump administration. The legislation includes \$50 billion in ‘loans and loan guarantees’ for passenger airlines; \$8 billion for ‘cargo air carriers’; and \$150 billion for other ‘eligible businesses,’ a category administration officials have suggested could include the hotel and cruise industries. The legislation appears to give the Treasury Department wide authority in determining which businesses qualify for this \$150 billion fund.”

### **GOP senators are under fire for dumping stocks before markets tanked.**

“Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman **Richard Burr** (R-N.C.), who had expressed confidence in the country’s preparedness for the coronavirus outbreak, sold a significant share of his stocks last month,” [Michelle Ye Hee Lee, John Wagner and Teo Armus report](#). “The sales included stocks in some of the industries that have been hardest hit by the global pandemic, including hotels and restaurants, shipping, drug manufacturing, and health care. ... Burr reportedly was receiving daily briefings on the threat of the virus. In mid-February, he sold 33 stocks held by him and his spouse, estimated at between \$628,033 and \$1.72 million. ... It was the largest number of stocks he had sold in one day since at least 2016, [records show](#). ...

“Then, at a Feb. 27 luncheon, Burr compared the potential impact of the novel coronavirus to the deadly 1918 flu pandemic. His remarks at the private event were [obtained by NPR](#) and aired Thursday. His remarks prompted scrutiny over whether Burr had offered a more frank warning at a Capitol Hill event sponsored by North Carolina business leaders than he and his colleagues were sharing more broadly. ... Burr’s office declined to answer specific questions about his stock sales. About a week after those sales, the stock market sharply declined. ... Insider trading prohibitions apply to all members of Congress, congressional staff and other federal officials, under the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act of 2012. Burr was among three senators who voted against the legislation at the time.”

Sen. **Kelly Loeffler** (R-Ga.) also dumped millions in stock after being briefed on the virus. In fact, she reported the first sale of stock jointly owned with her husband on Jan. 24, the very day that the Senate Health Committee she sits on hosted a private, all-senators briefing from administration officials, [the Daily Beast reports](#). She shared a picture of herself in the briefing on social media. “One of Loeffler’s two purchases was stock worth between \$100,000 and \$250,000 in Citrix, a technology company that offers teleworking software and which has seen a small bump in its stock price since Loeffler bought in as a result of coronavirus-induced market turmoil.” Loeffler is the wealthiest member of Congress. The Atlanta businesswoman, whose husband is the chairman and CEO of the New York Stock Exchange, is worth an estimated \$500 million.

Loeffler said she does not make investment decisions for her portfolio. “Investment decisions are made by multiple third-party advisors without my or my husband's knowledge or involvement,” she tweeted.

And **Sen. Jim Inhofe** (R-Okla.) sold as much as \$400,000 in stock on Jan. 27, including holdings in PayPal, Apple and Brookfield Asset Management, a real estate company, [per the Times](#).



## Quote of the day



*“Maybe there’s an honest explanation for what he did. If there is, he should share it with the rest of us immediately. Otherwise, he must resign from the Senate and face prosecution for insider trading,” Fox News host Tucker Carlson [said](#) of Burr's stock sales. “There is no greater moral crime than betraying your country in a time of crisis. That appears to be what happened.”*

**Meanwhile, with her eyes possibly on 2024, Nikki Haley quit the Boeing board.** The former ambassador to the United Nations and ex-South Carolina governor, widely believed to harbor presidential ambitions, said she disagreed with the company’s request for a federal bailout. She wrote an open letter to Boeing’s chief executive arguing it's not the federal government’s role to give financial assistance to some companies and industries and not others. ([Douglas MacMillan](#))

**Members of Congress are rethinking the tradition-shattering idea of voting remotely.** “Someone needs to devise a very secure way of

remote voting, with fingerprints or facial recognition,” said Rep. Susan Wild (D-Pa.). “I hate the idea, because I think our face-to-face contact is so important, but it’s inevitable.” ([Rachael Bade and Mike DeBonis](#))

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## Trump’s response



A close-up of Trump’s notes shows where “Corona” was crossed out in Sharpie and replaced with “Chinese.” (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

### **Trump took direct aim at China for allowing the spread of the virus.**

“The president dug in on his use of the term ‘Chinese virus’ to describe the novel coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan, China, late last year and did not rule out directing economic retaliation toward Beijing,” [Anne Gearan reports](#). “Asked whether he is considering ‘repercussions for China’ or a realignment of the supply system in which some American manufacturers rely on Chinese labor or raw materials, Trump suggested he was open to the idea. ...[He claimed] China could have stopped all spread beyond the Wuhan area but deliberately chose not to do so.”

## **The president keeps making promises he can't keep.**

“Day after day, many of the president’s boldest pronouncements at the White House have failed to materialize as quickly as he has promised or turned out to be more complicated than he has suggested. The upshot, Trump’s critics said, is that he has contributed to widespread confusion and uncertainty among the public he is attempting to reassure,” [David Nakamura reports](#). “Asked Thursday about the gap between his rhetoric on testing and the pleas from hospitals across the nation that testing is severely lagging, Trump failed to come up with a cogent explanation. ‘Well, I can’t — I cannot explain the gap,’ he replied.”

## **A drugmaker doubled the price of a potential coronavirus treatment touted by Trump.**

“Rising Pharmaceuticals, a New Jersey based company, increased the price of chloroquine — an antimalarial, which is one of the drugs that is being tested against Covid-19 — on January 23. ... The drug price rose 97.86 per cent to \$7.66 per 250mg pill and \$19.88 per 500mg pill,” [the Financial Times reports](#). “Rising said the price rise was ‘coincidental’ and it restored the old price once it realised that the drug might be in demand because of the outbreak. ... Trump said on Thursday that the [FDA] had approved chloroquine for the treatment of Covid-19 — but the FDA commissioner contradicted him, saying the regulator was simply taking a closer look at the drug. The drug is already approved for treating malaria. There is no solid evidence that chloroquine improves the condition of coronavirus patients. But there are several trials under way and the drug is being used on a ‘compassionate use’ basis in some countries.”

## **A change in U.S. law makes millions more masks available to doctors.**

“New legislation signed Wednesday provides manufacturers of N95 face masks protection against lawsuits when selling certain masks to

healthcare workers, [Vice President] Pence said. That will free producers including 3M and Honeywell to sell tens of millions more masks per month to hospitals,” [Jeanne Whalen reports](#). “Those figures are still well short of the [estimated] 3.5 billion N95 respirator masks the U.S. could need in a serious pandemic.”

## **The shortage of testing kits amplifies inequities in our health-care system.**

“Actors, politicians and athletes have had quick and easy access to coronavirus tests while other Americans — including front-line health-care workers and those with obvious signs of infection — have been out of luck,” [Juliet Eilperin and Ben Golliver report](#). “Asked Wednesday if the rich and powerful should have easier access to coronavirus testing than the general public, President Trump replied, ‘No, I wouldn’t say so, but perhaps that’s been the story of life.’ ... On the same day that Utah Jazz player Rudy Gobert fell ill in Oklahoma and was tested for the coronavirus this month, a female paramedic lay in a Tulsa hospital bed a little more than a hundred miles away, unable to obtain a test. ... Her doctors did not receive approval to get her tested until March 12 and had to wait two more days for the result. ... At least two individuals treating the patient are now in quarantine ... out of concern that they may not have been wearing proper protective gear before she was diagnosed.

“Joshua Sharfstein, a public health expert at Johns Hopkins and former FDA official under President Barack Obama, said that **widespread testing for the general public is at least ‘a couple weeks away.’** Generally, he said that tests should be administered based on the severity of symptoms. The government’s lack of an ‘organized response to testing’ has made that difficult, if not impossible, to implement nationally, and set up institutions such as the National Basketball Association for criticism.”

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## The cascading domestic fallout



### **Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) ordered all Californians to stay home.**

“The mandatory order allows Californians to continue to visit gas stations, pharmacies, grocery stores, farmers markets, food banks, convenience stores, takeout and delivery restaurants, banks and laundromats. ... It exempts workers in 16 federal critical infrastructure sectors, including food and agriculture, healthcare, transportation, energy, financial services, emergency response and others,” [the Los Angeles Times reports](#).

### **Other states extended their shutdowns.**

Illinois reported three more coronavirus deaths. Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot (D) extended school closures through at least April 20, per [the Sun-Times](#). Non-life-sustaining businesses were ordered to close their physical locations in Pennsylvania, [per the CBS Philly affiliate](#). [The Texas Tribune](#) reports that Gov. Greg Abbott (R) closed bars, restaurants and schools. Abbott estimated the number of Texas cases will skyrocket to the tens of thousands over two weeks. Florida authorities are shutting down bars, nightclubs, beaches and parks in an attempt to keep raucous spring

breakers away from the state's aging population, [Anthony Faiola, Souad Mekhennet, Terry Strickland and Lori Rozsa report](#). A 34-year-old man died in California days after visiting Disney World in Orlando, [Fox 11 reports](#).

### **The National Guard anticipates tens of thousands of its troops will be mobilized.**

More than 2,000 members of the National Guard have been activated across 27 states, but the Pentagon expects that to double by the weekend and then mushroom from there, said Air Force Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau. Members of the National Guard have distributed food in the epicenter of New York's outbreak, collected samples for virus testing in Florida and delivered a half-million test kits in Tennessee. Other roles will include supporting state health agencies and various logistical missions. ([Alex Horton](#))

### **The Department of Veterans Affairs is preparing to deploy 3,000 medical personnel to bolster the effort to combat the virus, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie [told Politico](#).**

### **D.C. saw its highest single-day increase in cases as the region's total rose to 274.**

"Maryland added 22 cases Thursday, bringing the state's total to 108. Virginia reported 17 more cases Thursday, for a total of 94. The District reported 32 new patients Thursday evening, its highest single-day increase, for a total of 72," [Dan Hedgpeth and Rachel Chason report](#). "Metro Transit police closed two rail stations at 5 p.m. Thursday to discourage crowds from filling Metro cars and gathering in groups to view the cherry blossoms at the Tidal Basin in the District."

- New York state reported more than 5,200 cases, up from 3,000 on Wednesday, as testing capacity increased. At least 29 people have died in the Empire State. ([NYT](#))

- Four NBA teams, including the Lakers and the Celtics, said members of their organizations tested positive for the virus. ([Ben Golliver](#))
  - Bank of America will let borrowers pause their mortgage payments during the virus on a “case by case” basis. The payments will be added to the end of their loans. ([Housingwire](#))
  - Saints coach Sean Payton tested positive. ([Mark Maske](#))
  - FAA administrator Steve Dickson is self-quarantine after interacting with Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.), who tested positive earlier this week. ([Michael Laris](#))
  - After shutting some national parks over coronavirus, the Trump administration waived entrance fees at many others. ([Darryl Fears](#))
  - Despite dire warnings, some coronavirus deniers and hoaxers continue claiming the pandemic is just “mass hysteria.” ([Annie Gowen](#))
- 

## The global impact of the pandemic



**South Asia, home to nearly 2 billion people, could be the next hot spot.**

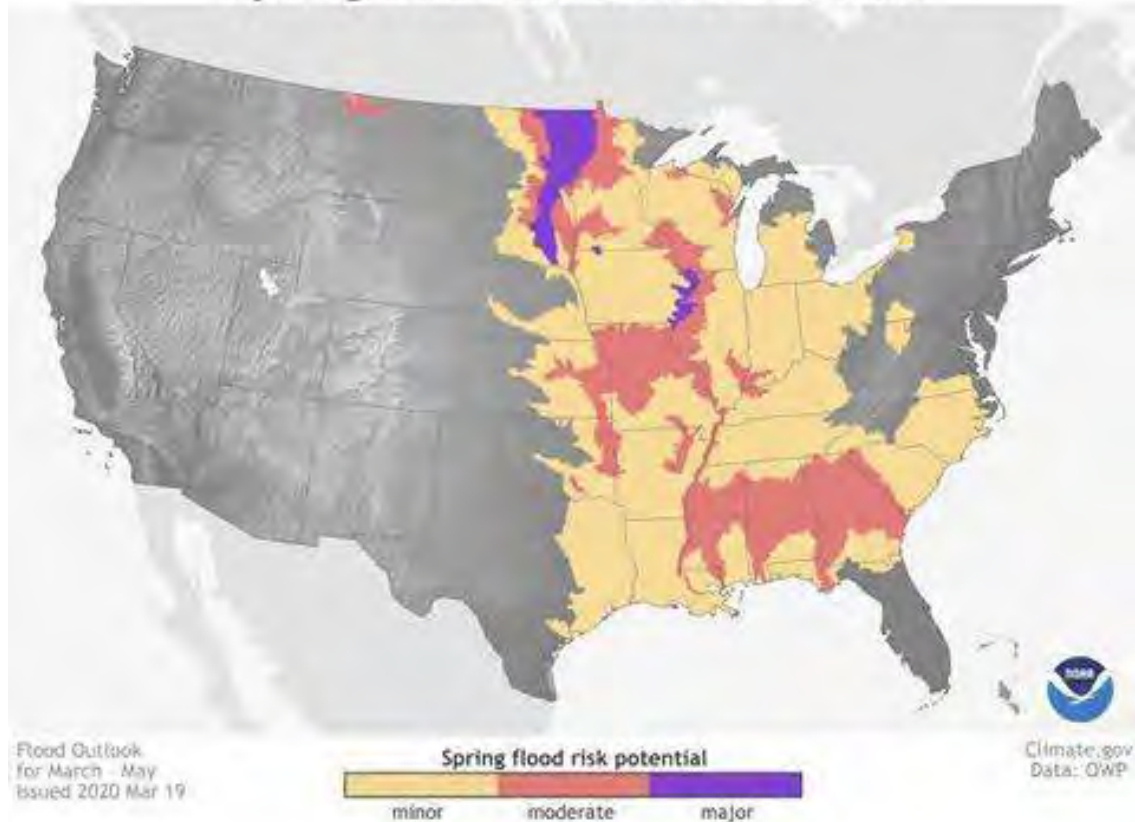
Experts fear that India and its neighbors may be at the start of the deadly curve seen elsewhere in the world, [Joanna Slater and Niha Masih report](#).

- The State Department warned all Americans not to travel abroad and advised those abroad to either return immediately or prepare to remain in place indefinitely. ([John Hudson](#))
  - Trump canceled the Group of 7 meeting scheduled to be held in June at Camp David. He will hold a video conference instead with foreign leaders, per [Reuters](#). But NATO is still holding meetings in Brussels, [Michael Birnbaum reports](#).
  - Israel is using cellphone surveillance to warn its citizens they may already be infected. ([Steve Hendrix and Ruth Eglash](#))
  - The Japanese Olympic Committee broke with the International Olympic Committee and called for the postponement of the Tokyo Games. The IOC is “putting athletes at risk” by sticking to the schedule, said Kaori Yamaguchi. ([Des Bieler](#))
  - Hong Kong reported a record jump in new cases, as the region braces for an uptick in illness involving travelers who rushed back home to beat widening travel restrictions. ([Siobhán O’Grady](#))
  - China recorded no new local cases for the second day in a row. All 39 cases reported this morning were imported from abroad, officials claimed. ([Siobhán O’Grady and Lyric Li](#))
  - The British food supply is starting to show strains. ([FT](#))
  - Jordan will seal off entrances to its capital. ([China.org](#))
  - Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged Venezuela to release six imprisoned oil executives as the virus spreads there. ([Carol Morello](#))
  - An Italian poet published his phone number on social media for anyone to call if they needed to chat with someone. More than 100 calls have come in from all across the country. ([Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli](#))
- 

## **Other developments that should be on your radar**



## Spring 2020: U.S. Flood Outlook



NOAA released this forecast for the spring. (AP)

### **A third of the U.S. is at risk of flooding this spring.**

“The Northern Plains and Upper Midwest are forecast to be most at risk, but flooding concerns stretch along the entire Mississippi River, [according to the National Weather Service]. As spring rains increase and snowmelt to the north surges into river basins, a number of rivers and streams may overflow their banks and inundate nearby land,” [Matthew Cappucci reports](#). “Particularly vulnerable this season is the Deep South, where many cities have already had close to 30 inches of rain since the start of the year and soils are saturated.”

### **The acting director of the National Counterterrorism Center was fired.**

Russell Travers was removed “in what insiders fear is a purge by the Trump administration of career professionals at an organization set up

after 9/11 to protect the nation from further attacks,” [Ellen Nakashima reports](#). “Travers, a highly regarded intelligence professional with more than 40 years of government service, told colleagues he was fired by acting director of national intelligence Richard Grenell. ... Also removed at the NCTC was Travers’s acting deputy, Peter W. Hall, who is returning to the National Security Agency.”

## **Tulsi Gabbard dropped out of the presidential race and endorsed Biden.**

The retiring Hawaii congresswoman gained little mainstream Democratic support but gained traction with some on the far left and the far right. In a video message, she said she “may not agree” with the former vice president on every issue, but said she believes he can “help heal the divisiveness that has been tearing our country apart.” Gabbard endorsed Bernie Sanders in 2016, [Amy Wang and Felicia Sonmez note](#). Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), another former presidential candidate who ripped Biden during a debate last year, also backed Biden's candidacy. She expressed openness to being his No. 2 in [an interview](#) with Annie Linskey.

---

## **Social media speed read**

The Olympic torch, which used hydrogen for the first time in order to be more environmentally friendly, made its way to Japan:



**Olympics** ✓

@Olympics



As the Olympic Flame reaches Tokyo: President Thomas Bach: "while we do not know how long the tunnel we are all in at this moment will be, we would like the Olympic Flame to be a light at the end of this tunnel."

[@tokyo2020](#) [#Olympics](#)



♥ 51 9:20 AM - Mar 20, 2020



💬 25 people are talking about this



Two doctors shared an important message:



**Carly Bliss**  
@carlymaybliss



A powerful message 🍃 #ActuallyStayHome



♥ 25.2K 12:04 AM - Mar 19, 2020



🗨 11K people are talking about this



The Border Patrol chief shared an image of detained migrants wearing masks:



**Chief Rodney Scott** ✓

@USBPChief



Masks On!

It's our current reality and a huge concern for all. Smugglers don't care who or what they smuggle into the US. We do, and are doing everything we can to slow the spread of [#COVID19](#) along our borders. [#slowthespread](#) [#maskson](#)



♥ 1,123 9:26 PM - Mar 19, 2020



💬 745 people are talking about this



And here's a Trump tweet from six years ago today:



## Videos of the day

Samantha Bee is trying to make it through the quarantine without attacking her spouse:



Bernie Sanders is spending the quarantine playing with his grandson:

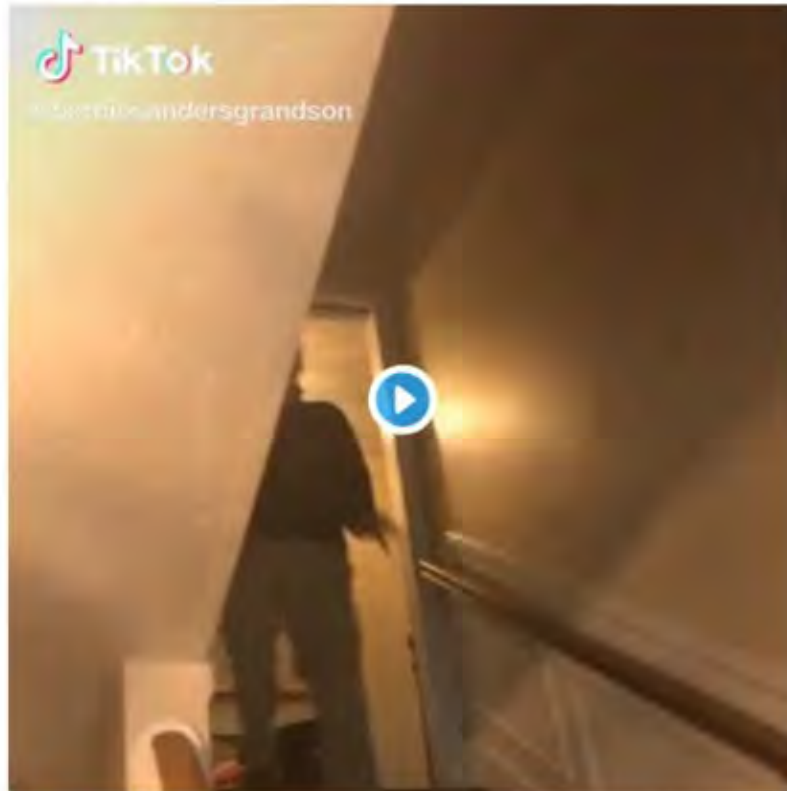


**Cody Buege**

@codybuege



Tell me Bernie Sanders pretending to be a scary monster to his grandson is not the cutest thing you ever did see (during a quarantine)



5,015 4:20 PM - Mar 18, 2020



894 people are talking about this

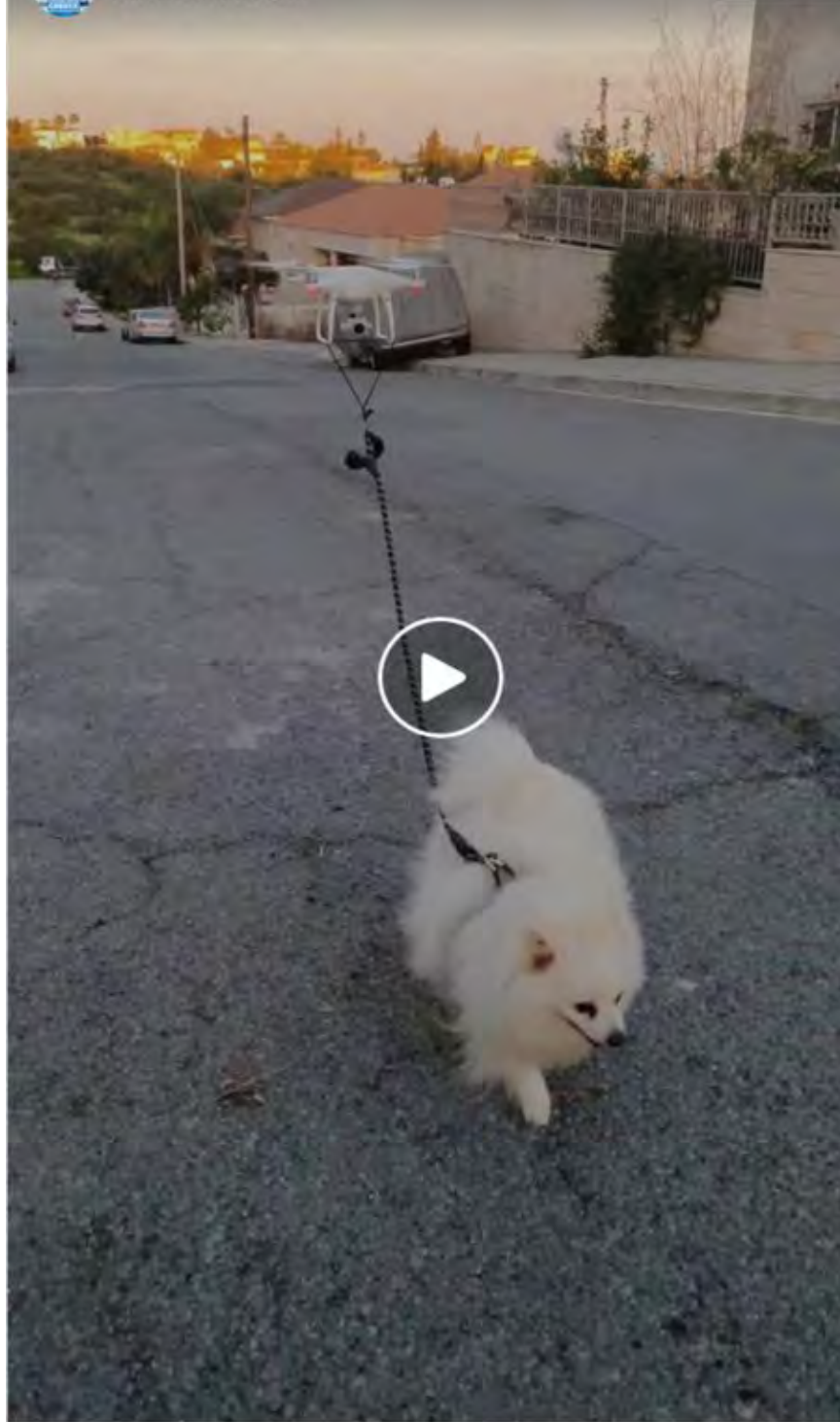


And a resourceful man in Cyprus had a drone walk his dog:



Vakis Demetriou

[Copy Link](#)



5th day quarantine.  
Stay Home Safe but don't forget your dog happiness..



👍 1.9K    💬 2.8K    ➦ 26K





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**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Simulations before coronavirus foreshadowed infighting between agencies in pandemic response  
**Date:** Friday, March 20, 2020 7:41:19 AM



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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

Presented by [Blue Cross Blue Shield Association](#)



By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
 Email

## Simulations before coronavirus foreshadowed infighting between agencies in pandemic response

Before Sept. 11, 2001, government planners had not considered the possibility that hijackers would fly commercial airplanes into the Pentagon and World Trade Center. There was no such failure of imagination ahead of this pandemic. Experts have not just warned for years about the inevitability of an outbreak like the novel coronavirus on

American soil. They have also sounded the alarm about the risk of the kind of poor coordination between federal and local agencies that has characterized the initial U.S. response to covid-19.

**A simulation called “Crimson Contagion,” organized by a Trump-appointed assistant secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services from January to August in 2019, envisioned a respiratory virus beginning in China and infecting 110 million Americans, hospitalizing 7.7 million and killing 586,000.** At least a dozen agencies, and another dozen states, were involved in the war-game-style exercise. A draft of the secret after-action report from October, first published Thursday by [the New York Times](#), emphasized challenges related to coordination and highlighted friction between HHS and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

**Chunks of the 63-page report could easily be cross-applied to describe the dropped balls and mixed messages related to the coronavirus response over the last three months.** Consider these bullets from the executive summary: “Exercise participants lacked clarity on federal interagency partners' roles and responsibilities during an influenza pandemic response. ... Confusion regarding the purpose of and target audience for national conference calls hampered coordination among state and federal response partners. ... At times, HHS' Operating Divisions and Staff Divisions provided inconsistent and inaccurate response guidance and actions to healthcare and public health private sector partners. ...

“HHS and DHS/FEMA’s use of disparate information management systems hampered their ability to establish and maintain a national common operating picture. Both HHS and DHS/FEMA submitted senior leader briefs to the White House National Security Council during the exercise, which caused confusion regarding the official source of senior leader briefs. ... State, local, tribal, and territorial partners were unclear on

the kinds of information they needed to provide ... HHS' regional staff lack clear guidance on the distribution of federal information management products to state and local partners. ... Inconsistent use of terminology regarding vaccine types and stockpiles caused confusion among response partners at all levels of government.”



President Trump appears Thursday with members of his coronavirus task force in the White House briefing room. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

**The Times also posted a [73-page report](#) from July 2016 on lessons learned from the Ebola outbreak that highlighted the need to improve coordination between agencies.** Christopher Kirchhoff, who transferred from the Pentagon to the White House to deal with Ebola, wrote that “the most defining event in the domestic management of Ebola” happened when Liberian citizen Thomas Duncan tested positive in Dallas in September 2014. He said that this “revealed gaps” in the federal government’s approach to domestic containment of viruses, especially involving the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“During such incidents, clarity of Federal roles and responsibilities and coordination across the Federal interagency are paramount. Little of this was present in Dallas,” Kirchhoff wrote. “Some had an expectation that CDC was going to help with healthcare delivery, yet healthcare delivery is not a function of CDC. CDC’s initial forward deployed team was built against a set of technical health requirements and was not equipped to manage the conflicts that developed between the hospital, state, and local authorities. ... The CDC also was not equipped, and did not have clear authority, to perform incident command without being requested to do so by the state of Texas. The peculiarities of the local political environment meant that Dallas county and the state of Texas each set up parallel incident command structures that issued conflicting guidance, further confusing command and control.”

**As it relates to the coronavirus, a stream of fresh revelations underscores early mistakes and failures to appropriately coordinate among and between federal and local public health officials. Early efforts to ramp up testing by the CDC were particularly abysmal.** The first cases in the United States and South Korea were detected on the very same day, [Reuters notes](#). By late January, though, Seoul had medical companies starting to work on a diagnostic test, and one was approved a week later. Today, Washington is still nowhere close to meeting demand for the tests.

**“While the virus was quietly spreading within the U.S., the CDC had told state and local officials its ‘testing capacity is more than adequate to meet current testing demands,’ according to a Feb. 26 agency email,”** [the Wall Street Journal reports](#). “The agency’s data show it tested fewer than 100 patients that day. ... CDC officials botched an initial test kit developed in an agency lab, retracting many tests. They resisted calls from state officials and medical providers to broaden testing, and health officials failed to coordinate with outside companies to ensure needed test-kit supplies, such as nasal swabs and

chemical reagents, would be available ... When the Food and Drug Administration, also involved in the response, finally opened testing to more outside labs, a run on limited stocks of some supplies needed for the CDC-developed test quickly depleted stores. ... Hospital and commercial lab operators said the government didn't reach out to enlist their help until it was too late."

**The United States has more than 14,200 confirmed cases of the coronavirus and 159 reported deaths.** Both numbers are expected to grow rapidly in the coming days. More than 240,000 coronavirus cases have been confirmed globally. The World Health Organization notes that it took three months to reach 100,000 —but only 12 days to reach the next 100,000.



FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn whispers to Vice President Pence as President Trump speaks to reporters on Thursday. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

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Americans pay too much for prescription drugs. Even generics can be too expensive. So we're investing in a non-profit company to produce the drugs people need at a price they can afford. [Learn more.](#)

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**“When the coronavirus passed within a handshake of the president, no public health agency took charge,”** [Aaron Davis and Erin Cox report](#). “On March 8, a day after the New Jersey doctor’s positive test result was announced and as the extent of the doctor’s contacts at [the Conservative Political Action Conference] were becoming clear, officials said public health workers had begun to locate and notify conference attendees. **The [CDC] ‘confirmed his attendance and is working with CPAC to notify all the attendees,’** New Jersey Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli told reporters. **In truth, no such effort was undertaken by the CDC, New Jersey or Maryland, according to officials in both states and with the CDC, who pointed to one another as the responsible party.** They did not publicize the name of the doctor. ...

**“Alerted by the doctor himself, political operatives who organized the conference undertook the responsibility themselves,** attempting to identify attendees who might have been at risk. In a process that took days, CPAC organizers pieced together his movements, learning belatedly that he had attended a crowded kickoff event. They also persuaded the doctor to review photos on his iPhone he had taken from the event, ... including a photo the doctor had taken with

Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla). By the time they alerted Gaetz, he was on Air Force One with the president after having spent two days at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort with members of the first family. Ultimately, the organizers notified close to 100 attendees, according to Matt Schlapp, chairman of the American Conservative Union, the lobbying group that puts on CPAC. On Tuesday, D.C. officials announced that another man who had attended the conference, a 23-year-old District resident, had also tested positive. ...

**“The approach stands in stark contrast to aggressive actions taken by some countries that slowed the spread of the virus in its early days.** In Singapore, for instance, public health officials not only interviewed the sick but also obtained patients' travel itineraries and used security camera footage to track their movements to help identify every person possible with whom they had incidental contact.”

**The CDC now appears to have been sidelined, with its messages increasingly disrupted or overtaken by the White House.** Despite the early mistakes, this is still the country's leading public health agency. “Neither CDC Director Robert Redfield nor Anne Schuchat — the principal deputy director who has played key roles in the agency's emergency responses stretching back two decades, including the 2009 influenza pandemic — have appeared on the podium during White House briefings by the coronavirus task force for more than a week,” [Lena Sun reports](#).

**“The CDC has not conducted its own telephone briefings for reporters in more than a week.** Recent CDC recommendations on school closures and mass gatherings were overtaken by different guidelines issued by the coronavirus task force, creating confusion. ... The CDC has not conducted a briefing since March 9. ... Katie Miller, a spokeswoman for Pence, who took over the task force from Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar late last month, said Redfield has been joining daily task force meetings.



**“Azar has blamed Redfield for the testing fiasco, several senior administration officials said, although some White House officials contend the blame is misplaced.** Redfield is also not viewed as a strong public speaker by experts inside and outside the agency; he has had to issue corrections to misstatements in recent testimony before Congress. Ever since Pence’s team took over the response, they have treated the outbreak as a public relations crisis as much as a public health crisis and have tightly managed communications of top health and administration officials, officials have said.”

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## Better understanding the virus

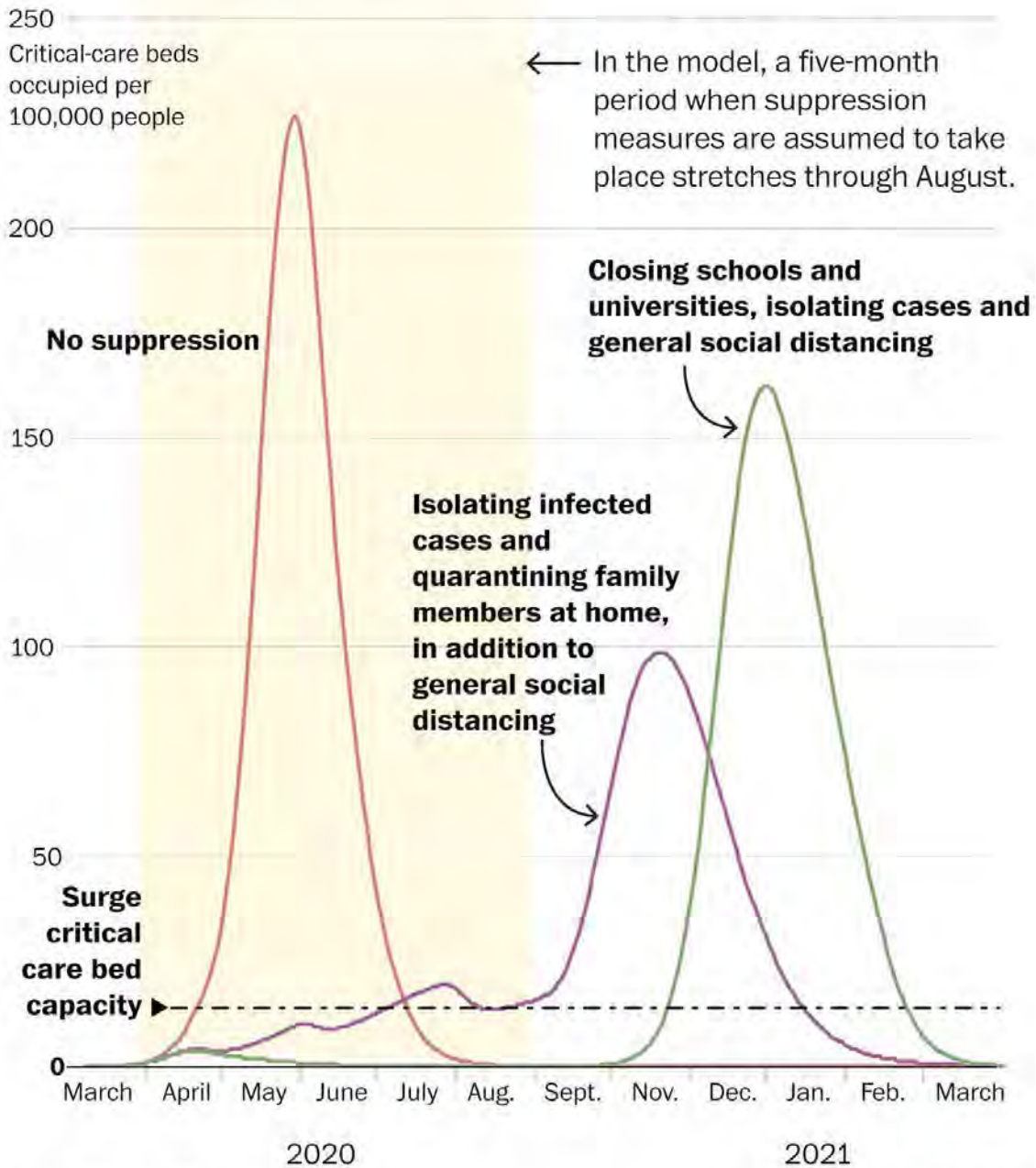
**Scientific models offer two insights on what's next.**

“In the worst-case scenario, America is on a trajectory toward 1.1 million deaths. ... If Americans embrace drastic restrictions, ... we could see a death toll closer to the thousands and breathe a national sigh of relief as we prepare for a grueling but surmountable road ahead,” [William Wan, Joel Achenbach, Carolyn Johnson and Ben Guarino report](#). “Doing that will require Americans to ‘flatten the curve’ — slowing the spread of the contagion so it doesn’t overwhelm a health-care system with finite resources. That phrase has become ubiquitous in our national conversation. But what experts have not always made clear is that by applying all that downward pressure on the curve — by canceling public gatherings, closing schools, quarantining the sick and enforcing social distancing — you elongate the curve, stretching it out over a longer period of time. **Success means a longer — though less catastrophic — fight against the coronavirus.** And it is unclear whether Americans — who built this country on ideals of independence and individual rights — would be willing to endure such harsh restrictions on their lives for months, let alone for a year or more.

“Here is another thing that hasn’t been spelled out in our national conversation about flattening the curve: **There will probably be more than one curve.** If we’re lucky, the coming months will probably look less like a mountain and more like a string of bumpy hills, say epidemiologists. But if authorities ease some measures in coming months or if we start letting them slip ourselves, that hill could easily turn right back into the exponential curve that has cratered Italy’s health system and that U.S. officials are desperately trying to avoid replicating.”

## Suppression scenarios

Models from researchers at Imperial College London suggest that wide adoption of measures to reduce the transmission of the novel coronavirus can reduce the demand for critical health-care services, in part by spreading the demand over a longer period. The major challenge is that those measures will need to be maintained until a vaccine becomes available, or transmission will quickly rebound.



Source: Imperial College London

TIM MEKO/THE WASHINGTON POST



## Why is the coronavirus killing vastly more men than women?

“Nowhere is this trend more pronounced than in Italy. Men make up nearly 60 percent of people with confirmed cases of the virus and more than 70 percent of those who have died,” [Chris Mooney, Sarah Kaplan and Min Joo Kim report](#). “A study of 99 patients at a hospital in Wuhan, where the virus originated, found that men made up two-thirds of patients. ... More recent figures from China’s Center for Disease Control, based on tens of thousands of cases, showed a strong gender breakdown of deaths, which were 64 percent male. ... The gendered death gap was also seen in the smaller SARS and MERS outbreaks. ...

**“These statistics could be a product of behavior, biology or both,** scientists say. For one thing, demographic figures suggest many men have more health risks to begin with. ... Women tend to live longer than men. ... Men also drink and smoke more. ... But there are also underlying biological differences between men and women that may make covid-19 worse in men. ... Years of research have found that women generally have stronger immune systems than men and are better able to fend off infections. The X chromosome contains a large number of immune-related genes, and because women have two of them, they gain an advantage in fighting disease. ... Studies have also found that estrogen was

protective in female mice infected with the virus that caused the 2003 SARS outbreak.”

### **Rural areas may be more vulnerable than urban centers.**

“Biostatistician and infectious disease specialist Nicholas Reich from the University of Massachusetts is participating in the White House Coronavirus Task Force modeling efforts. He said the death rates from flu for people over 50 could be a good indicator of vulnerability for covid-19, though they are ‘probably not a perfect measure but a good place to start,’” [Dan Keating and Laris Karklis report](#). “The push for social distancing and isolation make dense crowds and public transportation in big cities seem like the deadliest environment. The pattern of flu deaths over the past five years, however, shows that big metro areas are not hot spots for high flu death rates.

**“Most of the deaths are among the large population in big cities, but the risk for any individual person goes up dramatically where homes are sparse.** Very rural areas have a 60 percent higher death rate from flu than the big metro areas, according to analysis of CDC death records. Collectively, the 68 most rural counties of Kansas, for instance, have nearly 14 deaths per 100,000 people age 50 or older, well over double the rate for the county around Topeka (6.6), the state capital. And the rate around New York City (3.4) is around half of that.

**“The higher rates in remote areas may be due to difficulty getting health care.** Rural residents have greater travel distances for more limited resources. ... Flu mortality is very notable for low rates in the warmest states: California and the belt of states from Arizona to Florida. But as Reich said, the flu is not a perfect predictor for covid-19. It’s not known if warm weather will provide protection against the new coronavirus the way it does with the standard flu.”

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## The congressional response



Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) enters a closed-door briefing on the coronavirus at the Capitol on Feb. 25. (Mark Wilson/Getty Images)

### **Senate Republicans unveiled their draft stimulus bill.**

“The legislation would provide checks of \$1,200 per adult for many families, as well as \$500 for every child in those families,” [Jeff Stein, Mike DeBonis, Erica Werner and Paul Kane report](#). “Families filing jointly would receive up to \$2,400 for the adults. The size of the checks would diminish for those earning more than \$75,000 and phase out completely for those earning more than \$99,000. The poorest families, those with no federal income tax liability, would see smaller benefits, though the minimum would be set at \$600. **Limiting the payment amount for those without federal tax liability was a change from the original White House proposal, and caught some Republicans off-guard, provoking criticism.** ... An early analysis showed the vast majority of middle class people would receive the cash payment, but the

percentage doing so falls dramatically toward the bottom of the income distribution. **About 22 million people earning under \$40,000 a year would see no benefit under the GOP plan**, according to an initial analysis by Ernie Tedeschi, a former Obama administration economist. ...

**“Democrats were working on their own proposals, which shun corporate loan programs being included by Republicans — such as \$50 billion for airlines — suggesting that there will be difficulty in reaching bipartisan agreement.** ... The bill also outlines in greater detail the terms for receiving targeted federal help from the federal government, as proposed earlier by the Trump administration. The legislation includes \$50 billion in ‘loans and loan guarantees’ for passenger airlines; \$8 billion for ‘cargo air carriers’; and \$150 billion for other ‘eligible businesses,’ a category administration officials have suggested could include the hotel and cruise industries. The legislation appears to give the Treasury Department wide authority in determining which businesses qualify for this \$150 billion fund.”

### **GOP senators are under fire for dumping stocks before markets tanked.**

“Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman **Richard Burr** (R-N.C.), who had expressed confidence in the country’s preparedness for the coronavirus outbreak, sold a significant share of his stocks last month,” [Michelle Ye Hee Lee, John Wagner and Teo Armus report](#). “The sales included stocks in some of the industries that have been hardest hit by the global pandemic, including hotels and restaurants, shipping, drug manufacturing, and health care. ... Burr reportedly was receiving daily briefings on the threat of the virus. In mid-February, he sold 33 stocks held by him and his spouse, estimated at between \$628,033 and \$1.72 million. ... It was the largest number of stocks he had sold in one day since at least 2016, [records show](#). ...

“Then, at a Feb. 27 luncheon, Burr compared the potential impact of the novel coronavirus to the deadly 1918 flu pandemic. His remarks at the private event were [obtained by NPR](#) and aired Thursday. His remarks prompted scrutiny over whether Burr had offered a more frank warning at a Capitol Hill event sponsored by North Carolina business leaders than he and his colleagues were sharing more broadly. ... Burr’s office declined to answer specific questions about his stock sales. About a week after those sales, the stock market sharply declined. ... Insider trading prohibitions apply to all members of Congress, congressional staff and other federal officials, under the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act of 2012. Burr was among three senators who voted against the legislation at the time.”

Sen. **Kelly Loeffler** (R-Ga.) also dumped millions in stock after being briefed on the virus. In fact, she reported the first sale of stock jointly owned with her husband on Jan. 24, the very day that the Senate Health Committee she sits on hosted a private, all-senators briefing from administration officials, [the Daily Beast reports](#). She shared a picture of herself in the briefing on social media. “One of Loeffler’s two purchases was stock worth between \$100,000 and \$250,000 in Citrix, a technology company that offers teleworking software and which has seen a small bump in its stock price since Loeffler bought in as a result of coronavirus-induced market turmoil.” Loeffler is the wealthiest member of Congress. The Atlanta businesswoman, whose husband is the chairman and CEO of the New York Stock Exchange, is worth an estimated \$500 million.

Loeffler said she does not make investment decisions for her portfolio. “Investment decisions are made by multiple third-party advisors without my or my husband's knowledge or involvement,” she tweeted.

And **Sen. Jim Inhofe** (R-Okla.) sold as much as \$400,000 in stock on Jan. 27, including holdings in PayPal, Apple and Brookfield Asset Management, a real estate company, [per the Times](#).



## Quote of the day



*“Maybe there’s an honest explanation for what he did. If there is, he should share it with the rest of us immediately. Otherwise, he must resign from the Senate and face prosecution for insider trading,” Fox News host Tucker Carlson [said](#) of Burr's stock sales. “There is no greater moral crime than betraying your country in a time of crisis. That appears to be what happened.”*

**Meanwhile, with her eyes possibly on 2024, Nikki Haley quit the Boeing board.** The former ambassador to the United Nations and ex-South Carolina governor, widely believed to harbor presidential ambitions, said she disagreed with the company’s request for a federal bailout. She wrote an open letter to Boeing’s chief executive arguing it's not the federal government’s role to give financial assistance to some companies and industries and not others. ([Douglas MacMillan](#))

**Members of Congress are rethinking the tradition-shattering idea of voting remotely.** “Someone needs to devise a very secure way of

remote voting, with fingerprints or facial recognition,” said Rep. Susan Wild (D-Pa.). “I hate the idea, because I think our face-to-face contact is so important, but it’s inevitable.” ([Rachael Bade and Mike DeBonis](#))

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## Trump’s response



A close-up of Trump’s notes shows where “Corona” was crossed out in Sharpie and replaced with “Chinese.” (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

### **Trump took direct aim at China for allowing the spread of the virus.**

“The president dug in on his use of the term ‘Chinese virus’ to describe the novel coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan, China, late last year and did not rule out directing economic retaliation toward Beijing,” [Anne Gearan reports](#). “Asked whether he is considering ‘repercussions for China’ or a realignment of the supply system in which some American manufacturers rely on Chinese labor or raw materials, Trump suggested he was open to the idea. ...[He claimed] China could have stopped all spread beyond the Wuhan area but deliberately chose not to do so.”

## **The president keeps making promises he can't keep.**

“Day after day, many of the president’s boldest pronouncements at the White House have failed to materialize as quickly as he has promised or turned out to be more complicated than he has suggested. The upshot, Trump’s critics said, is that he has contributed to widespread confusion and uncertainty among the public he is attempting to reassure,” [David Nakamura reports](#). “Asked Thursday about the gap between his rhetoric on testing and the pleas from hospitals across the nation that testing is severely lagging, Trump failed to come up with a cogent explanation. ‘Well, I can’t — I cannot explain the gap,’ he replied.”

## **A drugmaker doubled the price of a potential coronavirus treatment touted by Trump.**

“Rising Pharmaceuticals, a New Jersey based company, increased the price of chloroquine — an antimalarial, which is one of the drugs that is being tested against Covid-19 — on January 23. ... The drug price rose 97.86 per cent to \$7.66 per 250mg pill and \$19.88 per 500mg pill,” [the Financial Times reports](#). “Rising said the price rise was ‘coincidental’ and it restored the old price once it realised that the drug might be in demand because of the outbreak. ... Trump said on Thursday that the [FDA] had approved chloroquine for the treatment of Covid-19 — but the FDA commissioner contradicted him, saying the regulator was simply taking a closer look at the drug. The drug is already approved for treating malaria. There is no solid evidence that chloroquine improves the condition of coronavirus patients. But there are several trials under way and the drug is being used on a ‘compassionate use’ basis in some countries.”

## **A change in U.S. law makes millions more masks available to doctors.**

“New legislation signed Wednesday provides manufacturers of N95 face masks protection against lawsuits when selling certain masks to

healthcare workers, [Vice President] Pence said. That will free producers including 3M and Honeywell to sell tens of millions more masks per month to hospitals,” [Jeanne Whalen reports](#). “Those figures are still well short of the [estimated] 3.5 billion N95 respirator masks the U.S. could need in a serious pandemic.”

## **The shortage of testing kits amplifies inequities in our health-care system.**

“Actors, politicians and athletes have had quick and easy access to coronavirus tests while other Americans — including front-line health-care workers and those with obvious signs of infection — have been out of luck,” [Juliet Eilperin and Ben Golliver report](#). “Asked Wednesday if the rich and powerful should have easier access to coronavirus testing than the general public, President Trump replied, ‘No, I wouldn’t say so, but perhaps that’s been the story of life.’ ... On the same day that Utah Jazz player Rudy Gobert fell ill in Oklahoma and was tested for the coronavirus this month, a female paramedic lay in a Tulsa hospital bed a little more than a hundred miles away, unable to obtain a test. ... Her doctors did not receive approval to get her tested until March 12 and had to wait two more days for the result. ... At least two individuals treating the patient are now in quarantine ... out of concern that they may not have been wearing proper protective gear before she was diagnosed.

“Joshua Sharfstein, a public health expert at Johns Hopkins and former FDA official under President Barack Obama, said that **widespread testing for the general public is at least ‘a couple weeks away.’** Generally, he said that tests should be administered based on the severity of symptoms. The government’s lack of an ‘organized response to testing’ has made that difficult, if not impossible, to implement nationally, and set up institutions such as the National Basketball Association for criticism.”

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## The cascading domestic fallout



### **Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) ordered all Californians to stay home.**

“The mandatory order allows Californians to continue to visit gas stations, pharmacies, grocery stores, farmers markets, food banks, convenience stores, takeout and delivery restaurants, banks and laundromats. ... It exempts workers in 16 federal critical infrastructure sectors, including food and agriculture, healthcare, transportation, energy, financial services, emergency response and others,” [the Los Angeles Times reports](#).

### **Other states extended their shutdowns.**

Illinois reported three more coronavirus deaths. Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot (D) extended school closures through at least April 20, per [the Sun-Times](#). Non-life-sustaining businesses were ordered to close their physical locations in Pennsylvania, [per the CBS Philly affiliate](#). [The Texas Tribune](#) reports that Gov. Greg Abbott (R) closed bars, restaurants and schools. Abbott estimated the number of Texas cases will skyrocket to the tens of thousands over two weeks. Florida authorities are shutting down bars, nightclubs, beaches and parks in an attempt to keep raucous spring

breakers away from the state's aging population, [Anthony Faiola, Souad Mekhennet, Terry Strickland and Lori Rozsa report](#). A 34-year-old man died in California days after visiting Disney World in Orlando, [Fox 11 reports](#).

### **The National Guard anticipates tens of thousands of its troops will be mobilized.**

More than 2,000 members of the National Guard have been activated across 27 states, but the Pentagon expects that to double by the weekend and then mushroom from there, said Air Force Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau. Members of the National Guard have distributed food in the epicenter of New York's outbreak, collected samples for virus testing in Florida and delivered a half-million test kits in Tennessee. Other roles will include supporting state health agencies and various logistical missions. ([Alex Horton](#))

### **The Department of Veterans Affairs is preparing to deploy 3,000 medical personnel to bolster the effort to combat the virus, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie [told Politico](#).**

### **D.C. saw its highest single-day increase in cases as the region's total rose to 274.**

"Maryland added 22 cases Thursday, bringing the state's total to 108. Virginia reported 17 more cases Thursday, for a total of 94. The District reported 32 new patients Thursday evening, its highest single-day increase, for a total of 72," [Dan Hedgpeth and Rachel Chason report](#). "Metro Transit police closed two rail stations at 5 p.m. Thursday to discourage crowds from filling Metro cars and gathering in groups to view the cherry blossoms at the Tidal Basin in the District."

- New York state reported more than 5,200 cases, up from 3,000 on Wednesday, as testing capacity increased. At least 29 people have died in the Empire State. ([NYT](#))

- Four NBA teams, including the Lakers and the Celtics, said members of their organizations tested positive for the virus. ([Ben Golliver](#))
  - Bank of America will let borrowers pause their mortgage payments during the virus on a “case by case” basis. The payments will be added to the end of their loans. ([Housingwire](#))
  - Saints coach Sean Payton tested positive. ([Mark Maske](#))
  - FAA administrator Steve Dickson is self-quarantine after interacting with Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.), who tested positive earlier this week. ([Michael Laris](#))
  - After shutting some national parks over coronavirus, the Trump administration waived entrance fees at many others. ([Darryl Fears](#))
  - Despite dire warnings, some coronavirus deniers and hoaxers continue claiming the pandemic is just “mass hysteria.” ([Annie Gowen](#))
- 

## The global impact of the pandemic



**South Asia, home to nearly 2 billion people, could be the next hot spot.**

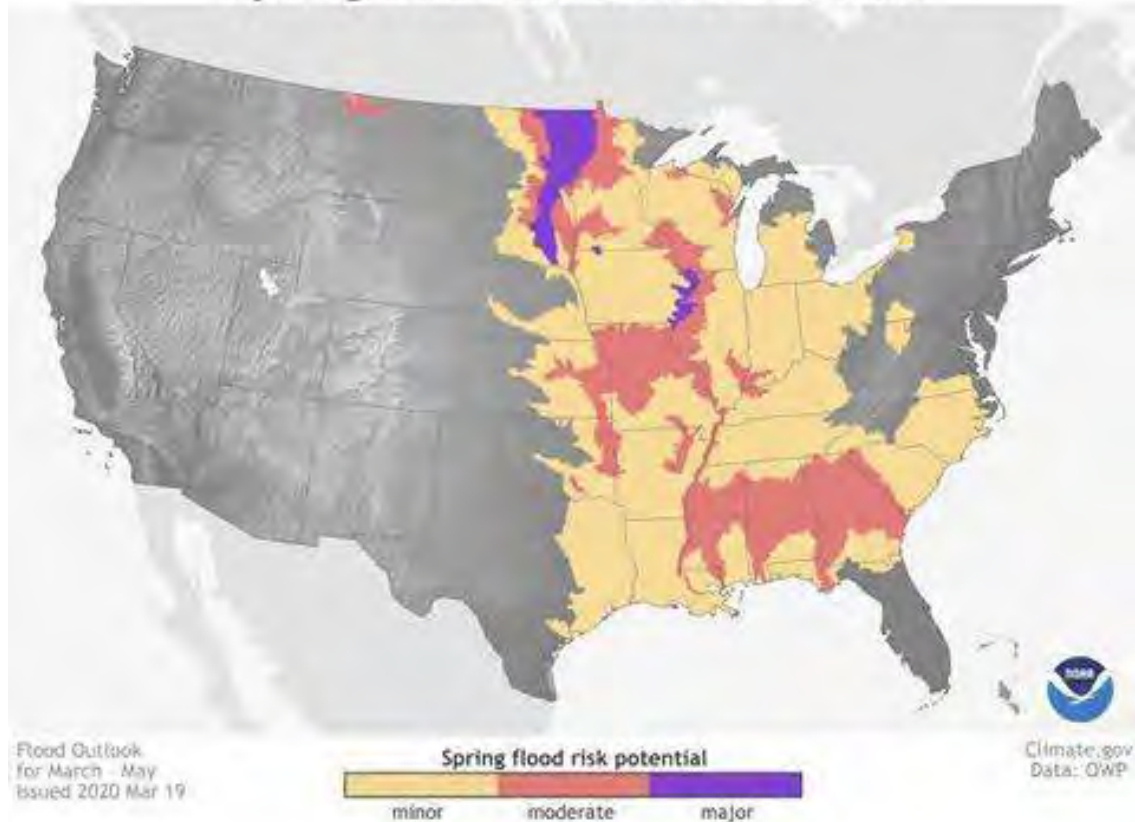
Experts fear that India and its neighbors may be at the start of the deadly curve seen elsewhere in the world, [Joanna Slater and Niha Masih report](#).

- The State Department warned all Americans not to travel abroad and advised those abroad to either return immediately or prepare to remain in place indefinitely. ([John Hudson](#))
  - Trump canceled the Group of 7 meeting scheduled to be held in June at Camp David. He will hold a video conference instead with foreign leaders, per [Reuters](#). But NATO is still holding meetings in Brussels, [Michael Birnbaum reports](#).
  - Israel is using cellphone surveillance to warn its citizens they may already be infected. ([Steve Hendrix and Ruth Eglash](#))
  - The Japanese Olympic Committee broke with the International Olympic Committee and called for the postponement of the Tokyo Games. The IOC is “putting athletes at risk” by sticking to the schedule, said Kaori Yamaguchi. ([Des Bieler](#))
  - Hong Kong reported a record jump in new cases, as the region braces for an uptick in illness involving travelers who rushed back home to beat widening travel restrictions. ([Siobhán O’Grady](#))
  - China recorded no new local cases for the second day in a row. All 39 cases reported this morning were imported from abroad, officials claimed. ([Siobhán O’Grady and Lyric Li](#))
  - The British food supply is starting to show strains. ([FT](#))
  - Jordan will seal off entrances to its capital. ([China.org](#))
  - Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged Venezuela to release six imprisoned oil executives as the virus spreads there. ([Carol Morello](#))
  - An Italian poet published his phone number on social media for anyone to call if they needed to chat with someone. More than 100 calls have come in from all across the country. ([Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli](#))
- 

## **Other developments that should be on your radar**



## Spring 2020: U.S. Flood Outlook



NOAA released this forecast for the spring. (AP)

### **A third of the U.S. is at risk of flooding this spring.**

“The Northern Plains and Upper Midwest are forecast to be most at risk, but flooding concerns stretch along the entire Mississippi River, [according to the National Weather Service]. As spring rains increase and snowmelt to the north surges into river basins, a number of rivers and streams may overflow their banks and inundate nearby land,” [Matthew Cappucci reports](#). “Particularly vulnerable this season is the Deep South, where many cities have already had close to 30 inches of rain since the start of the year and soils are saturated.”

### **The acting director of the National Counterterrorism Center was fired.**

Russell Travers was removed “in what insiders fear is a purge by the Trump administration of career professionals at an organization set up

after 9/11 to protect the nation from further attacks,” [Ellen Nakashima reports](#). “Travers, a highly regarded intelligence professional with more than 40 years of government service, told colleagues he was fired by acting director of national intelligence Richard Grenell. ... Also removed at the NCTC was Travers’s acting deputy, Peter W. Hall, who is returning to the National Security Agency.”

## **Tulsi Gabbard dropped out of the presidential race and endorsed Biden.**

The retiring Hawaii congresswoman gained little mainstream Democratic support but gained traction with some on the far left and the far right. In a video message, she said she “may not agree” with the former vice president on every issue, but said she believes he can “help heal the divisiveness that has been tearing our country apart.” Gabbard endorsed Bernie Sanders in 2016, [Amy Wang and Felicia Sonmez note](#). Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), another former presidential candidate who ripped Biden during a debate last year, also backed Biden's candidacy. She expressed openness to being his No. 2 in [an interview](#) with Annie Linskey.

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## **Social media speed read**

The Olympic torch, which used hydrogen for the first time in order to be more environmentally friendly, made its way to Japan:



**Olympics** ✓

@Olympics



As the Olympic Flame reaches Tokyo: President Thomas Bach: "while we do not know how long the tunnel we are all in at this moment will be, we would like the Olympic Flame to be a light at the end of this tunnel."

[@tokyo2020](#) [#Olympics](#)



♥ 51 9:20 AM - Mar 20, 2020



💬 25 people are talking about this



Two doctors shared an important message:



**Carly Bliss**  
@carlymaybliss



A powerful message 🍃 #ActuallyStayHome



♥ 25.2K 12:04 AM - Mar 19, 2020



🗨 11K people are talking about this



The Border Patrol chief shared an image of detained migrants wearing masks:



**Chief Rodney Scott** ✓

@USBPChief



Masks On!

It's our current reality and a huge concern for all. Smugglers don't care who or what they smuggle into the US. We do, and are doing everything we can to slow the spread of [#COVID19](#) along our borders. [#slowthespread](#) [#maskson](#)



♥ 1,123 9:26 PM - Mar 19, 2020



💬 745 people are talking about this



And here's a Trump tweet from six years ago today:



## Videos of the day

Samantha Bee is trying to make it through the quarantine without attacking her spouse:



Bernie Sanders is spending the quarantine playing with his grandson:

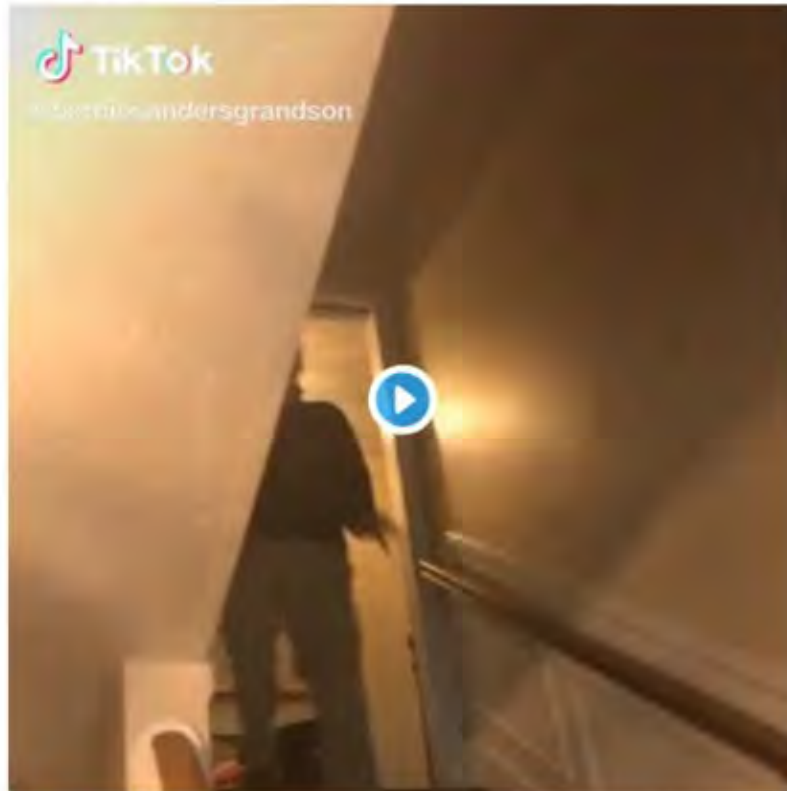


**Cody Buege**

@codybuege



Tell me Bernie Sanders pretending to be a scary monster to his grandson is not the cutest thing you ever did see (during a quarantine)



5,015 4:20 PM - Mar 18, 2020



894 people are talking about this

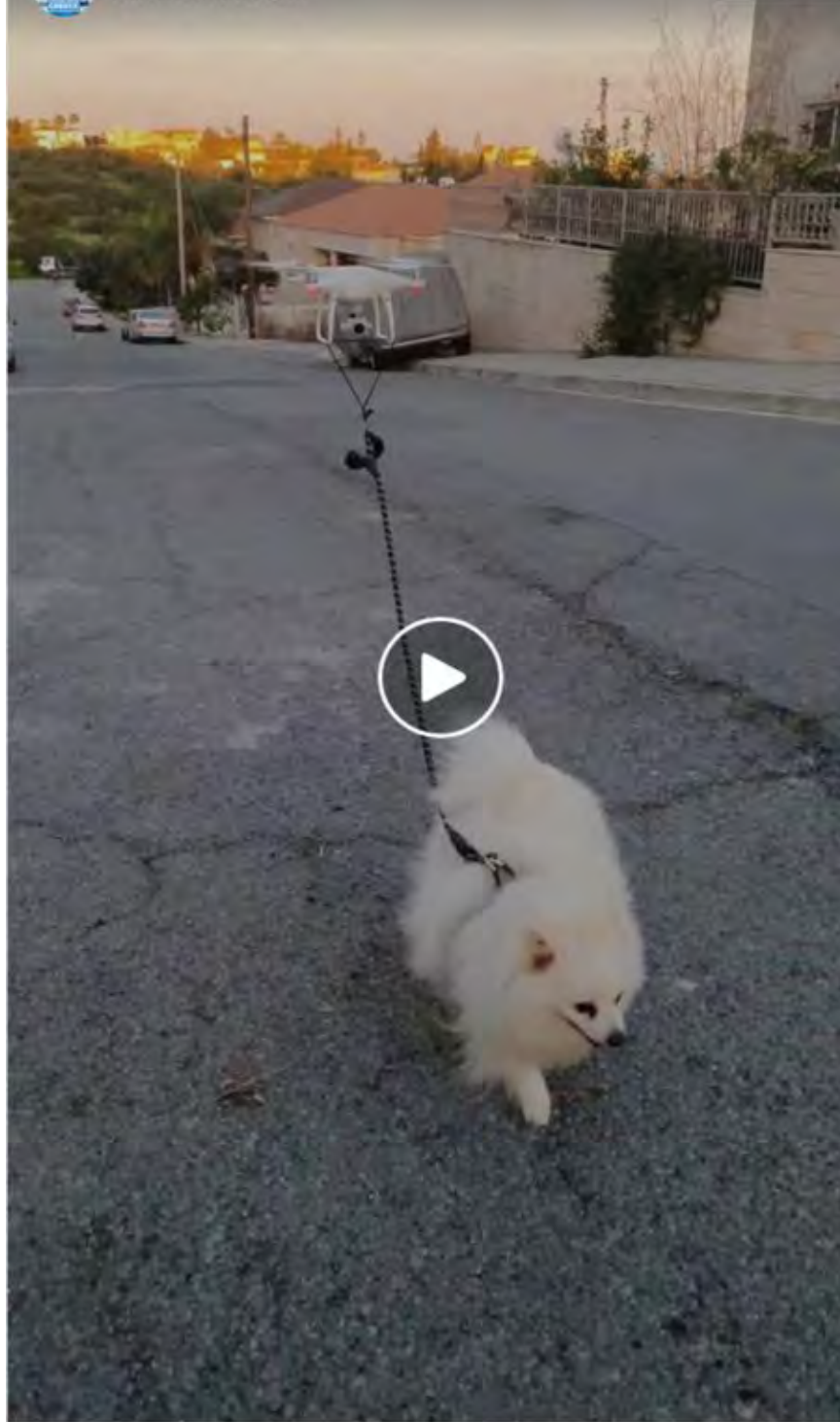


And a resourceful man in Cyprus had a drone walk his dog:



Vakis Demetriou

[Copy Link](#)



5th day quarantine.  
Stay Home Safe but don't forget your dog happiness..



👍 1.9K    💬 2.8K    ➦ 26K





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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Book Club: Bookstores fight to survive, and author events go online  
**Date:** Friday, March 20, 2020 7:50:10 AM

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The Washington Post

# Book Club

Reviews and recommendations from critic Ron Charles.



By **Ron Charles**

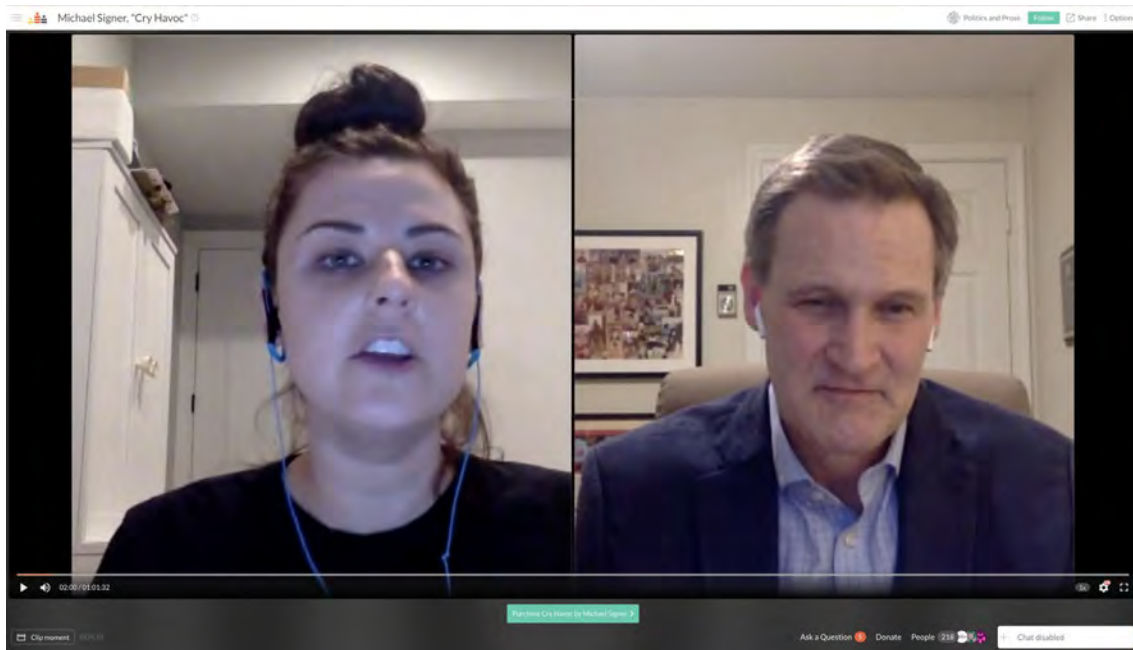
Email



In compliance with the shelter-in-place order, Books Inc. in Campbell, Calif. has temporarily closed. Online orders will continue to ship for free. (Ron Charles/The Washington Post)

**I know you've already received a coronavirus update from every business you've ever interacted with — including Potbelly Sandwich Shop and Roto-Rooter.** But allow me to offer my own sober reflections. The concerns I raised **last week** about our literary culture are now fully realized: On Tuesday, the American Library Association “strongly recommended” that all libraries close. The ALA executive board issued **a statement** saying, “Libraries are by design unable to practice social distancing to the degree recommended by the CDC and other health authorities. Keeping libraries open at this time has the potential to harm communities more than help.” And the country’s indie bookstores are shutting their doors. Some, like Powell's in Portland and McNally Jackson in New York, are laying off staff for the duration. Many are trying to morph into phone-order and online booksellers, trying to compete against Amazon on Amazon’s own turf. In a single week, a great sea of red ink threatens to wash away more than a decade of bookseller growth. The irony couldn’t be more bitter: The characteristics that once helped indie bookstores succeed — close interaction with staff members, other readers and authors — are the very characteristics that now make them too dangerous to stay open (**full story**). I can’t emphasize this enough: Call your local indie and order a book — or 10. If you don’t have **a store near you**, shop on **Bookshop.org**, a website designed to support indie bookstores. Our choices over the next few weeks will make or break these small literary businesses. (Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post.)

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Michael Signer (right) appears on the first Politics & Prose Live author webcast, March 17, 2020. (Courtesy of Politics & Prose Bookstore)

### **Now, for some encouraging news (Yes, that still exists):**

- Indie bookstores are flipping the script and **fighting back** against oblivion by heading to the web with **classes** and readings. For instance, Politics & Prose here in Washington, is actively moving its vast calendar of author events to an online video platform. Tuesday evening, 125 people watched “live” as Michael Signer talked from his home office about “Cry Havoc: Charlottesville and American Democracy Under Siege.” Is it the same as being there in person? Well, no. There’s a reason BookTV is on C-SPAN2 instead of HBO. But the online format has some unique advantages: People anywhere in the world can now watch these author events whenever they want (**video**). And — *I love this* — viewers can actively “up vote” which of the submitted questions they’d like the author to answer. (In this brave new world, we may never again have to hear, “Could you tell us about your process?”)
- The Book Industry Charitable Foundation was started in 1996 to provide temporary financial assistance to bookstore employees in tough times, and needless to say, these are the toughest times Binc has ever faced. This week, the organization has been fielding *several*

*requests per hour.* Binc executive director Pam French tells me booksellers are worried about being able to buy food, pay for medicine and even keep a roof over their heads. Fortunately, donors are responding aggressively. Beacon Press gave a matching grant of \$5,000. HarperCollins gave \$50,000. Authors Garth Stein, Tui Sutherland and Amor Towles will match donations up to \$41,000. *Come on, the rest of you big five publishers:* This is your moment to step up and help save the ecosystem that sells your books. Act now, or you may soon have only One Large Retailer to deal with. ([Donate here.](#))

- To facilitate distance learning and story hours, Penguin Random House is allowing teachers, librarians and booksellers to post and stream videos of its books being read aloud. Ordinarily, such unlicensed “performances” on the Web would violate copyright laws. PRH has a few rules, depending on the setting and the usage, but this is a generous offer. ([Details here.](#))
  - Macmillan, one of the big five publishers, has abandoned its embargo on the sale of e-books to libraries. In effect since Nov. 1, that controversial policy, which forced libraries to wait eight weeks before buying duplicate copies — at much higher prices — had been condemned by librarians and politicians. On Tuesday, Macmillan CEO John Sargent issued a memo saying, “There are times in life when differences should be put aside.” What’s more, Sargent announced that his publishing house will also “be lowering some ebook prices on a short term basis to help expand libraries.” (Note that many shuttered libraries will continue to lend e-books via their websites.)
  - Cooped up at home all this time, you’re probably pining to hear some different voices by now. (*No, dear, that’s not a criticism.*) Yesterday, Audible.com launched [Audible Stories](#), an online platform offering hundreds of free classic audiobooks — everything from “Winnie the Pooh” and “Alice in Wonderland” to “The Call of the Wild” and “Moby-Dick.” (Audible is a subsidiary of Amazon, whose CEO . . . you know the drill.)
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How this grandma turned her dusty house into a fresh air paradise without lifting a finger.

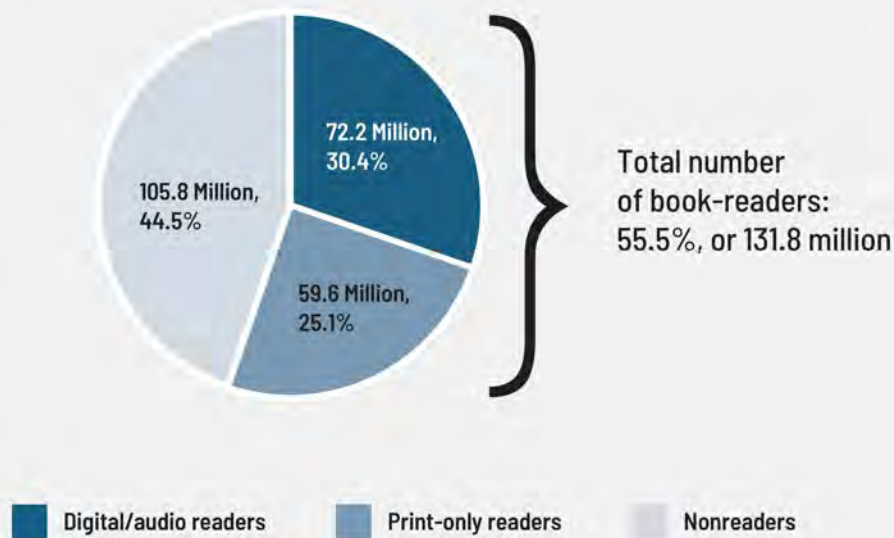
[Here's how to magically eliminate dust...](#)



**While I write this, my wife and younger daughter are upstairs watching “Little Fires Everywhere.”** The Hulu miniseries, which started streaming Wednesday, is an adaptation of Celeste Ng’s bestseller ([review](#)). Penguin Books just released a tie-in paperback edition with stars Reese Witherspoon and Kerry Washington smoldering on the cover. (Since it was published in 2017, “Little Fires Everywhere” has sold 2.1 million copies in all formats.) Washington Post TV critic Hank Stuever says the TV series “is pure metaphorical pyromania . . . as two strikingly different women melt a frosty politeness into poison, interfering in each other’s lives in a way that can’t help but combust” ([review](#)).

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Percentage of U.S. adults who are digital/audio readers, print-only readers, and nonreaders: 2017



Notes: Digital/audio readers may have read books in print. Detail may not add to total due to rounding.  
Source: National Endowment for the Arts, 2017 SPPA

**The National Endowment for the Arts has issued a new report on how adults read in America.** Based on data collected every four years, the report suggests that concerns about the long-term decline of reading may have been too pessimistic. Apparently, earlier studies didn't fully consider how much we like audio and digital books ([full report](#)). "When we account for adults who listen to audiobooks," the editors write, "the total number of adults who engage with books is more comparable to figures from previous years." Among the report's conclusions:

- More than half of all U.S. adults engage in some form of book-reading, whether via print or digital media, or listening to audiobooks. (But this slays me: More than 44 percent of us are "nonreaders.")
- Digital/audio readers now represent a larger share of adults than do print-only readers.
- Readers of poetry and graphic novels are more likely to be digital/audio readers than print-only readers.
- Digital/audio readers engage in other cultural activities and support the arts more than print-only readers and nonreaders.



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"By chance, when COVID-19 was really gearing up in my area, a freak wind storm blew the door off of my library. I had to close. A week later I walked by to find it full of wool and knitting needles with signs saying 'Take me and social distance like a champ'." - Steward Zoe J.



♡ 79 6:06 PM - Mar 19, 2020



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**Last week, I noted that the Little Free Library organization was celebrating its 100,000th book box.** This week, those Little Free Libraries are adjusting to a different world. Some, like big libraries, are



closing down for the duration. People who want to continue maintaining their boxes are being urged to ramp up regular cleaning with **advice from a professor of infectious diseases**. (One thoughtful box manager in Smyrna, Ga. is disinfecting and **wrapping each book**.) Birchbark Books, the store owned by novelist Louise Erdrich in Minneapolis, is restricting how many customers can enter, but placing books in Little Free Libraries all over town. **A box in Squamish, British Columbia** is now filled with yarn and needles. And **LitHub reports** that people are starting to give away nonperishable food in Little Free Libraries. Meanwhile, the LFL parent organization is currently waiving shipping charges on new book box kits. (**Shop here.**) That's not a bad project for a family stuck at home.



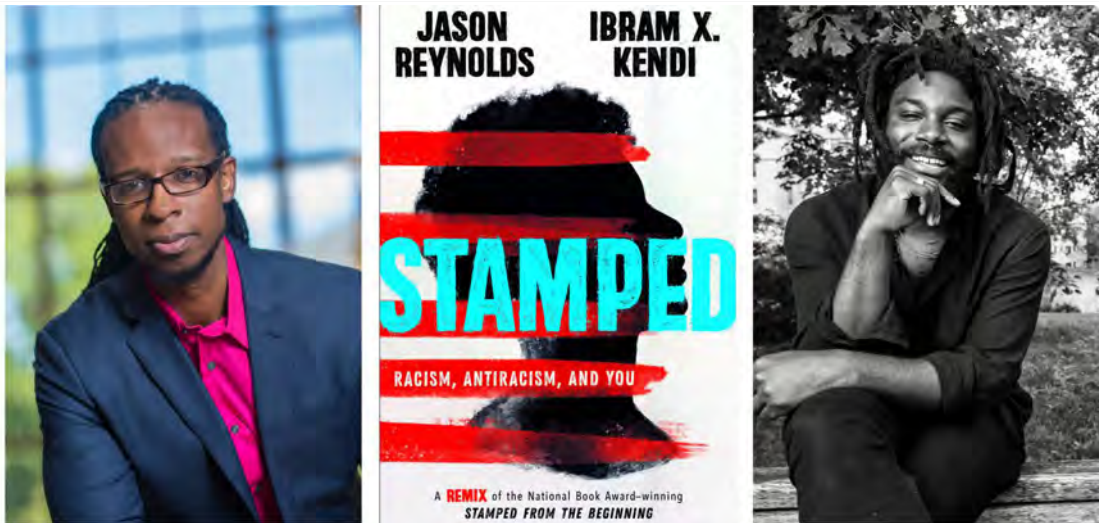
**Almost too good to be true.** The celebrated children's author and illustrator Mo Willems wants you to grab your colored pens and join him for lunch. "With millions of learners attempting to grow and educate themselves in new circumstances," Willems writes, "I have decided to invite everyone into my studio." Your kids know him as the creator of "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus," "Knuffle Bunny" and dozens of other super-clever books, but he's also the Kennedy Center Education Artist-in-

Residence. Every weekday at 1 p.m. ET for the next few weeks, he's posting "Lunch Doodles" on YouTube. **These free art and activity lessons**, which started Monday, have a delightful Mr. Rogers tone. "You might be isolated," Willems says, "but you're not alone."



**I don't know about you, but I'm finding it extremely difficult to concentrate.** It's either the stress or the fact that I ate an entire box of Halloween Oreos that I found in the coat closet. In any case, after a long day of terrifying tweets, chyrons and headlines, I don't always feel eager for more information about our epidemiological crisis. But make room for a thoughtful series from **the Sewanee Review** called "The Corona Correspondences." The editor, Adam Ross, has invited some great writers to reflect on how they're experiencing this singular moment. "The curse of being a catastrophist is closely tied to the blessing of being a catastrophist," **Lauren Groff writes** in the first entry. "If one has spent all one's life dreaming about the horrible things that can go awry, when a true disaster strikes, one is almost calm." **Richard Russo** is frustrated by not knowing how to help during this strange national emergency. "There's work to be done," he writes. "I feel like I'm underperforming." When the alarming news and the angry op-eds and the dubious medical advice from your uncle get to be too much, these gently profound letters are a gift.

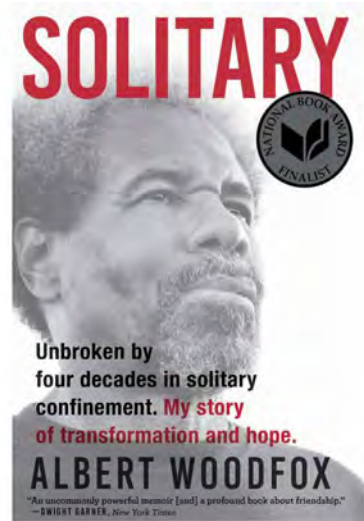
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Ibram X. Kendi (Photo courtesy of Little, Brown); Little, Brown; Jason Reynolds (Photo by Jati Lindsay/Courtesy of Little Brown)

**In 2016, Ibram X. Kendi published an exhaustive, brilliant book called “Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America.”** Reaching back to 15th-century Europe and forward to Barack Obama, this 600-page book is even broader than its ambitious title suggests as it demonstrates the way racist ideas have been promulgated to support discriminatory practices ([review](#)). Now, Kendi and **Jason Reynolds, the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature**, have teamed up to publish a YA version of this demanding work of history. Called “Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You,” it’s a remarkable “remix” — “not a history book,” Reynolds insists, but “a book that contains history.” Call it what you will, the result is terrifically engaging, written in a conversational style that speaks directly to young people. For instance, describing social changes in the U.S. after World War II, Reynolds writes, “I almost don’t want to tell you what happened because I’ve told you what happened a lot already. But if you were to guess that White people started to perpetuate lies about Black people being inferior to keep the world of racism spinning, you’d be right.” Reynolds tells me, “I wrote it like I write my novels,” such as “Ghost,” which was a finalist for the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature. With “Stamped,” he wanted to produce a new kind of nonfiction that says to young people, “You have a place in the history. It

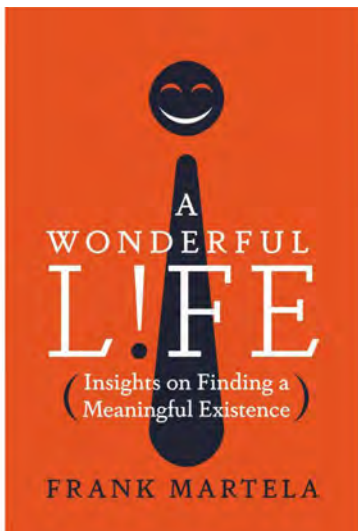
isn't this idea that history is the thing that *happened*; it's history as a thing that is *happening*, and you happen to be a part of it." Imagine how such a refreshing approach could revolutionize the teaching of history in school.



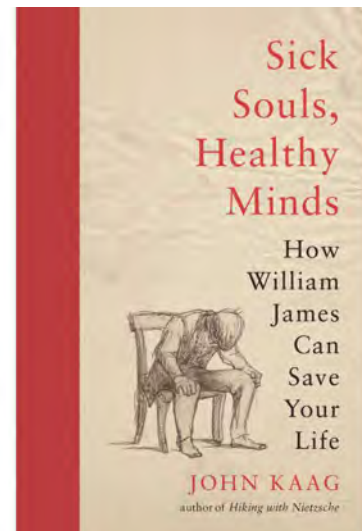
(Grove Press; Penguin Vitae)



**Social isolation is crucial to stopping the coronavirus, but it's a phrase with troubling connotations.** We are, after all, social animals. We've long used isolation as a form of punishment and control. In the most brutal cases, separation from our peers can cause permanent damage. Last year, Albert Woodfox released a devastating memoir called "Solitary," about his 40 years in solitary confinement ([review](#)). In 1892, Charlotte Perkins Gilman published "The Yellow Wall-paper," one of the foundational texts of modern feminist literature. It's about a new mother driven mad by her doctor-husband who insists that more alone time is all she needs to feel less anxious. I reread that story this week in a sharply designed edition of Gilman's work with an introduction by Kate Bolick (look for the new Penguin Vitae series). I mention this not to raise any objection against social isolation at this crucial moment in our fight against the coronavirus, but only to remind you to stay safely engaged with people over the next few weeks. Reach out frequently by phone, by Skype, by post. Don't let the cure for this epidemic drive you mad.



(Harper Design; Princeton University Press)



**Raised on the metaphysical pronouncements of Mary Baker Eddy, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, I find most modern-day books about life improvement intolerably trite.** Nevertheless, I persist. This week I read two new books by a couple of very different philosophers eager to bring light to a troubled world. Frank Martela, a psychology researcher at Aalto University in Finland, has written “A Wonderful Life: Insights on Finding a Meaningful Existence.” Full of big bold graphics, this is a breezy survey of Western philosophy with frequent references to pop culture. (“Fight Club” shows up twice, which is enough.) The prose is banal, but there’s no doubting Martela’s upbeat sincerity, and his advice is clear: “It’s best to make every moment count,” he reveals. “Meaning in life is about making yourself meaningful to other people.” Gloomy optimist that I am, I much prefer John Kaag’s “Sick Souls, Healthy Minds: How William James Can Save Your Life.” A philosophy professor at the University of Massachusetts, Kaag writes movingly about his own struggles with depression and the suicide of a young man who jumped from the 15th floor of William James Hall on the Harvard campus. This is a tough, honest book that offers no easy answers but contains lots of insight about how James tamed his own black dog. Kaag acknowledges that our passage through life is fraught with risks, but those risks always include the chance of happiness. “For now, I believe that James’s ‘maybe’ — the open question of life’s worth — is right, or at

least right for me,” Kaag writes, “because it maps my existential situation as one who is not always entirely sold on life’s value.” He suggests that depression’s self-confirming certainty is its deadliest maneuver. Like Emily Dickinson, we must be willing to “dwell in Possibility.”

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**Emily Dickinson's life wasn't nearly as secluded as we imagine, but she certainly understood the agonies of social isolation.** This poem, with its devastating final stanza, always rips me up.

### **I cannot live with You**

I cannot live with You –  
It would be Life –  
And Life is over there –  
Behind the Shelf

The Sexton keeps the Key to –  
Putting up  
Our Life – His Porcelain –  
Like a Cup –

Discarded of the Housewife –  
Quaint – or Broke –  
A newer Sevres pleases –  
Old Ones crack –

I could not die – with You –  
For One must wait  
To shut the Other's Gaze down –  
You – could not –

And I – could I stand by  
And see You – freeze –

Without my Right of Frost –  
Death's privilege?

Nor could I rise – with You –  
Because Your Face  
Would put out Jesus' –  
That New Grace

Glow plain – and foreign  
On my homesick Eye –  
Except that You than He  
Shone closer by –

They'd judge Us – How –  
For You – served Heaven – You know,  
Or sought to –  
I could not –

Because You saturated Sight –  
And I had no more Eyes  
For sordid excellence  
As Paradise

And were You lost, I would be –  
Though My Name  
Rang loudest  
On the Heavenly fame –

And were You – saved –  
And I – condemned to be  
Where You were not –  
That self – were Hell to Me –

So We must meet apart –

You there – I – here –  
With just the Door ajar  
That Oceans are – and Prayer –  
And that White Sustenance –  
Despair –

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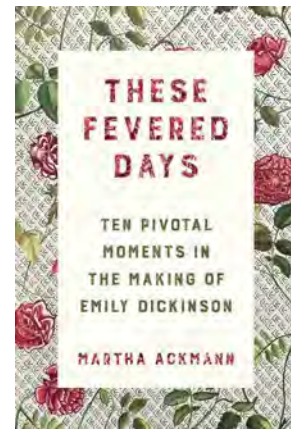
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## STATES

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### 21. NEW MEXICO:

**Governor anticipates special legislative session**

### 22. OHIO:

**Severe storms roar through; thousands without power**

### 23. MAINE:

**Restrictions expand to curb spread of forest pests**

### 24. TENNESSEE:

**Nashville's smaller airport reopens after tornado damage**

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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] March 20 -- E&E News PM is ready  
**Date:** Friday, March 20, 2020 1:57:34 PM

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INTERIOR: Emergency plan relies on telework, leaves. Read this story and more in today's E&E News PM.  
PANDEMIC: McConnell pushes stimulus talks into overdrive.  
PANDEMIC: Bottled water sales surge despite claims of safe tap water.  
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E&E NEWS PM — Fri., March 20, 2020  
<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/20/full?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/20/full?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)> READ FULL EDITION

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1. INTERIOR:  
Emergency plan relies on telework, leaves

An updated Interior Department plan to address the novel coronavirus outbreak relies heavily on using telework and generous government sick leave policies to keep it running in a prolonged pandemic.

#### THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/20/stories/1062656823?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/20/stories/1062656823?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
2. PANDEMIC:  
McConnell pushes stimulus talks into overdrive

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4. ENDANGERED SPECIES:  
Mexican gray wolf death prompts investigation

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5. CALENDAR:  
Activity for March 16 - March 22, 2020

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From: [The Washington Post](#)  
To: [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: The U.S. braces as the world batters down  
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 2:42:04 PM

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The Washington Post

# Coronavirus Updates

What to know about the novel coronavirus outbreak, from To Your Health.



By [Avi Selk](#)  
✉ [Email](#)

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**Several senators face public fury over reports that they sold large amounts of stock before the markets crashed** last month, after receiving private briefings on the outbreak. **Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr (R-N.C.) sold up to \$1.72 million in hotel stock and other holdings** in mid-February, transactions that were disclosed one day after the Dow peaked and less than a week after he wrote a column assuring people the country was prepared for the coronavirus.

**Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), James M. Inhofe (R-Okla.), and Kelly Loeffler (R-Ga.)** — who is married to the chairman of the

New York Stock Exchange — also unloaded stocks before the market plunge. All three say they did not personally make the decisions and deny acting improperly, but calls for investigations and resignations mounted Friday. **“There is no greater moral crime than betraying your country in a time of crisis, and that appears to be what happened,”** Fox News host Tucker Carlson said, talking about Burr.

**Confirmed infections in the United States have doubled in 48 hours to more than 13,000**, including more than 170 deaths. The total is expected to climb much higher as long-delayed coronavirus testing rolls out in many communities.

**Emergency rooms are struggling to keep up.** Medical staff in some cities have been setting up isolation tents in driveways and improvising face masks — **or reusing disposable masks in one hard-hit Georgia ER.** “We’re about to be overwhelmed, which means people won’t get into our hospitals,” **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti warned on the “Today” show.**

**California’s 40 million residents have been ordered to stay at home** by Gov. Gavin Newsom (D), as forecasts warn that more than half the state’s population could contract the virus unless the infection rate is slowed.

**In Illinois**, Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) also **instated a lockdown** beginning Saturday evening. **New York’s** Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D) did the same. **Mexico agreed to partially close its border** with the U.S. on Friday following a similar agreement with Canada this week.

**U.S. officials expect social distancing measures will likely need to remain in place for at least several weeks.** “I cannot see that all of a sudden next week or two weeks from now, it’s going to be over,” Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, **said on the “Today” show.** A handful of **churches**

across the country have refused orders to close, and a Pew Research Center poll this week found that **62 percent of Americans think the media is exaggerating the threat.**

**President Trump is one of them.** At Friday's White House briefing, he raged at reporters for “doing sensationalism,” referred to his own State Department as “the Deep State Department” and complained: “**We haven't been given the credit we deserve.**” A new ABC News-Ipsos poll found that **55 percent of Americans approve of Trump's management of the crisis** — a significant jump from last week.

Struggling to stem an economic crisis, **the IRS has delayed tax filing deadlines for three months, to July 15.** Meanwhile, **Congress continues to work on a \$1 trillion stimulus bill** including cash payouts to most Americans, but **lawmakers in both parties have begun to attack the legislation as unfair.** The Dow sank another 900 points by the end of Friday.

Disturbing reports keep pouring in from parts of the world where the virus began spreading earlier. **Spain became the second country to impose a nationwide lockdown,** ordering people to mostly stay at home as its death toll surged 30 percent in a day to more than 1,000.

Italy, the first country in Europe to lock down, on Friday reported **627 deaths in a day,** pushing its death toll above 4,000. **Panic hoarding has emptied many British grocery stores of basic supplies,** and **YouTube and Netflix have downgraded video streaming quality across Europe** as tens of millions of people staying at home stress the continent's Internet network. Experts fear that South Asia — home to 2 billion people and many war-torn and impoverished communities — **will soon be ravaged by the disease.**

**More than three months into the outbreak, the total number of**

**confirmed cases now stands at more than 200,000**, according to the World Health Organization, which notes **half those infections were reported in the last 12 days**. Nearly 9,000 patients have died. Because most people aren't tested, the true number of infections is believed to be much higher.

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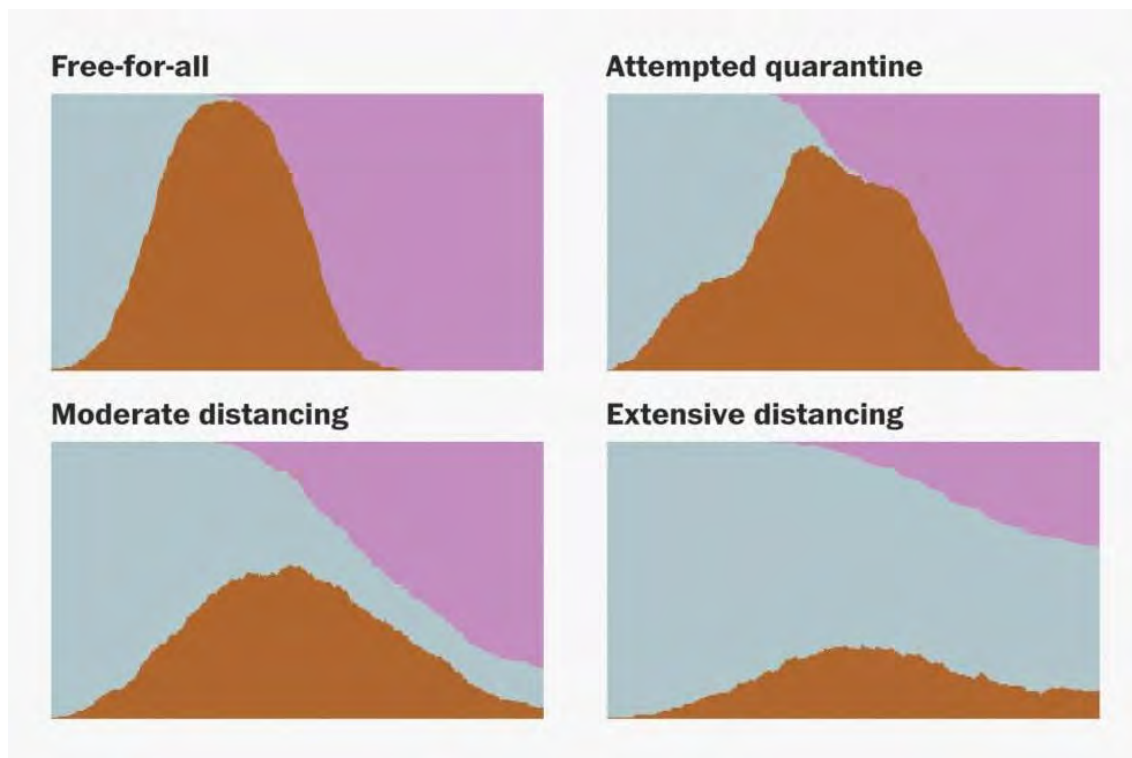
## ‘Flattening the curve’

Remember the four simulations from Sunday's newsletter demonstrating [how viruses spread and how to slow the infection rate?](#)

The Post has translated that page into many other languages. All of them are free to access.

- [Spanish | Lea este articulo en español](#)
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- [Persian | به فارسی بخوانید](#)
- [Portuguese | Leia em português](#)
- [Russian | Читать по русски](#)
- [Hindi | हिंदी में पढ़ें](#)
- [German | Lesen Sie auf Deutsch](#)
- [Dutch | Lees in het Nederlands](#)
- [Slovak | Prečítajte si po Slovensky](#)

As we add new languages, you can find them at the top of our [coronavirus page](#).



(Harry Stevens/The Washington Post)

## Your questions, answered

If you're like us, you've been working from home for a week or more by now, possibly cooped up with roommates or relatives, and your place is way overdue for a weekend scrub-down. We [hosted a live chat](#) this week with Brian Sansoni, senior vice president of the American Cleaning Institute, and it's full of good questions and answers about housekeeping during a pandemic. Some excerpts:

**Q: I live in an apartment complex with communal laundry. ... What's the best way to use a communal space while protecting myself from possible exposure?**

Sansoni: Take disinfecting wipes with you when entering a communal space and use them to wipe down surfaces that are frequently touched (doorknobs, washer and dryer doors and buttons). ... As an extra precaution, wearing gloves could also be helpful. Just be sure not to touch



your face, if you do. As always, once you return from the communal laundry room — take the time to wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.

**Q: I can't find disinfecting wipes, what's the best way to clean surfaces when I need to go out?**

Sansoni: Disinfecting spray works equally as well. For hard surfaces, pre-clean any surfaces prior to disinfecting to remove any excess dirt or grime ... Depending on the product, you need to let the surface air dry anywhere from 30 seconds to several minutes in order to let the germ or virus kill take effect.

**Q: I've seen links about how to make your own hand sanitizer. Do they work as well as store bought?**

Sansoni: *We strongly recommend against trying to make your own hand sanitizer at home.*

We recommend [reading the whole transcript for more tips](#). Stay clean, stay healthy, and leave your chemistry experiments for another time.

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## Live updates

**Track the spread** of the outbreak in the U.S. and abroad with our updating map.

Post reporters around the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day**.

Follow live updates about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area**.

Find answers to **common questions and terms to know**.

Want to know more? [Submit your question](#) and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

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## Today's top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- An analysis of Trump's eruption at an NBC reporter
- Widespread bipartisan opposition to the details of the stimulus package
- How the late-night shows are making the best of an unfunny situation
- Tummy tucks and cataract surgeries are still happening, putting all at risk
- A case for canceling the Summer Olympics right now

### **The coronavirus is killing far more men than women**

By Chris Mooney, Sarah Kaplan and Min Joo Kim • [Read more »](#)



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### **Cruise ships kept sailing as coronavirus spread. Travelers and health experts question why.**

By Beth Reinhard, Rosalind Helderan, Faiz Siddiqui and Mark Berman • [Read more »](#)

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### **Here's why giving every American \$1,200 is a really bad idea**

**Perspective** • By Steven Pearlstein • [Read more »](#)

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### **Coronavirus deniers and hoaxers persist despite dire warnings, claiming 'it's mass hysteria'**

By Annie Gowen • [Read more »](#)

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## ‘March Madness’



Josh Safran, 19, and Jackson Weimer, 21, host “Corona Madness” on Twitch from Weimer’s mom’s basement to fill the time they now have. (Jackson Weimer)

Thousands of people are watching two Gen-Zers [simulate the March Madness tournament](#) on an Xbox from a basement

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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Recipes! Sourdough, white bread, gluten-free loaves and English muffins  
**Date:** Saturday, March 21, 2020 8:37:29 AM

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The Washington Post

# Recipes

What to cook during the week ahead, from Post Food editors.



By **Ann Maloney**

 [Email](#)

White bread, sourdough, English muffins. Regular readers of The Post's food stories will notice we've been baking up a storm. All of this bread-making was planned well before [the coronavirus pandemic](#) forced us to spend more time in our homes, away from work colleagues, friends and family.

I'm not a confident bread baker. So, I've vowed to use this time at home to polish my skills, drawing on the expertise of food columnist Cathy Barrow ([how to make a sourdough starter](#) and [crackers from the cast-off](#)), my colleague Becky Krystal ([a better-than-I've-ever-tasted English muffin](#)), cookbook author Aran Goyoaga ([gluten-free bread with a terrific crust and crumb](#)) and food writer Eliza McGraw ([classic sourdough making and forming](#)).

I'm home. I have time to wait for the dough to rise — and rise again. I have the patience to let it chill for 12 hours in the refrigerator before baking. I'm here to see when my sourdough starter is looking a bit peckish.

My greatest success so far has been [Kristen Hartke's foolproof white bread](#)

**recipe.** I made a loaf that was so pretty I couldn't believe my hands had a hand in making it. This is truly one of those if-I-can-do-it-you-can-too recipes. And, other than the yeast, it calls for ingredients I always have on hand, including all-purpose flour, sugar, water, butter and salt. The resulting bread is the stuff of childhood memories.

Still, that's not all we've been up to..

I whipped up one of my favorite comfort foods: **Trout Amandine**. It's the perfect balance of ease and elegance. And, it can be made with fresh or frozen fish fillets.

Nourish columnist **Ellie Krieger** shared a batch of **Greek-Style Olive Oil Cookies** that would go so well with a cup of hot tea.

Food and dining editor Joe Yonan made a **Whole Wheat Pasta Salad** and **offered tips on adapting it to the times**, with advice for getting the most out of frozen vegetables.

We recognize that all of us are in different places right now, with **different levels of skill** and varying access to ingredients. Joe acknowledged this in a note to all of you this week in which he said: "... we want to help you use your kitchen to nourish body and soul, whether that prospect is new for you or part of your DNA."

We do. So, **join us for our weekly chat on Wednesdays at noon**, or write to us anytime at **voraciously@washpost.com**. We're home cooking and waiting to hear from you.



(Stacy Zarin Goldberg for The Washington Post; food styling by Lisa Cherkasky for The Washington Post)

## Raise a toast to white bread with a recipe even a nonbaker can master

Love a basic white sandwich bread but worry that it lacks nutrition? Try white whole-wheat flour recipe.

By Kristen Hartke • [Read more »](#)

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### Sourdough Bread (Due Pane)

Sourdough bread -- as straightforward as it gets.

By Eliza McGraw • [Read more »](#)



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### Sourdough Starter Castoff Crackers

These crackers are snappy, wheaty and filled with seeds. Be creative with the flour blends and flavors.

By Cathy Barrow • [Read more »](#)





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## No-Knead English Muffins

With a touch of honey and whole wheat, these are more flavorful and tender than what you can buy at the store.

By Becky Krystal • [Read more »](#)



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## This delicious and easy gluten-free bread boasts a hearty crust and a tender crumb

An easy, adaptable bread you'll want to make again and again.

By Aran Goyoaga • [Read more »](#)



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## Trout Amandine

Once you get the hang of this quick pan-frying and sauce-making method, you can try a variety of additions and whichever fish you prefer.

By Ann Maloney • [Read more »](#)



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## Greek-Style Olive Oil Sesame Cookies

We could all use an extra dose of cozy these days.

By Ellie Krieger • [Read more »](#)



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## Adapt this simple pasta salad to whatever vegetable is in your fridge or freezer

Roasting at high heat helps get even frozen broccoli crispy.

By Joe Yonan • [Read more »](#)





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## More from Voraciously

### A note from the Food editor: We're in this together. What do you need?

Everybody needs to eat, but we're all in different places — literally and figuratively — when it comes to feeding ourselves.

By Joe Yonan • [Read more »](#)



### If you suddenly need to learn to cook, these resources will help guide you

If you've been wanting to spend more time in the kitchen, we're here to help.

By Matt Brooks • [Read more »](#)



### How to cook for and with your kids during the extended coronavirus school closures

Be smart and flexible, and try to still have a little fun.

By Becky Krystal • [Read more »](#)



### Grocery shopping during the coronavirus: Wash your hands, keep your distance and limit trips

The advice is the same as for any time spent outside the home.



By Ann Maloney • [Read more »](#)

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## These are the 10 best breads in the world

Bread has sustained cultures across the globe, and we all have our favorites.



By Tim Carman • [Read more »](#)

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## 7 recipes that get to the heart of the artichoke

How do you use artichokes? Let's find out.



By Kari Sonde • [Read more »](#)

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: The battle for containment is lost in hardest-hit areas  
Date: Saturday, March 21, 2020 1:54:28 PM

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The Washington Post

# Coronavirus Updates

What to know about the novel coronavirus outbreak, from To Your Health.



By [Avi Selk](#)  
✉ [Email](#)

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**President Trump and members of Congress failed to heed repeated early warnings** from U.S. intelligence agencies about the outbreak's potential severity, according to [a blockbuster story in The Washington Post](#). Despite CIA and national intelligence reports from January and February that the coronavirus had the potential to sweep the globe, Trump continued to trust ([and tweet](#)) the Chinese government's false claims that its spread was being controlled. **“The system was blinking red,” a U.S. official told The Post. “They just couldn’t get him to do anything about it.”**

The crisis is now upon us, with [more than 70 million Americans](#)

**living under stay-at-home orders** in California, New York and Illinois, and signs that **other states may be preparing to follow suit.**

**The U.S. has seen more than 260 deaths and 22,000 confirmed cases of the virus** — climbing fast — but the true number of infections is almost certainly much higher due to a shortage of tests. Health officials in New York, California and other hard-hit parts of the country are **restricting coronavirus testing to health-care workers and people who are hospitalized**, signaling “**the battle to contain the virus is lost.**” In frustration, some people have started buying **fraudulent “home-test kits,**” prompting warnings from the FDA.

The virus has infected Americans from every walk of life — most severely the immunocompromised and elderly, but also athletes, entertainers, lawmakers and, as of Friday, **an employee in the office of Vice President Pence, who leads the White House coronavirus task force and will be tested for the disease.** (See the reader question section below for worrying signs that young Americans are falling seriously ill.)

**The combination of mass infections and mass quarantines are threatening an economic crisis unprecedented in modern history.** Some financial analysts **predict the economy will shrink at an annual rate of 14 percent to 30 percent** in the next few months. Bank of America Merrill Lynch expects the government to report **about 3 million newly unemployed Americans next week** — “more than four times the record high set in the depths of the 1982 recession.”

**Civic life is being shuttered across the United States.** Hospitals are **warning of shortages or closures without emergency aid.** At least **73 senior care centers in 22 states** have reported infections. Many local court systems have effectively shut down, firefighters are calling in sick, and **the mayor of Dayton is worried the city will soon lack funds to pick up the**

trash.

**Trump's hotel and resort business has been hit hard in the chaos.** His prized Mar-a-Lago Club has been effectively shuttered by order of Florida's governor. The president has touted a gargantuan \$1 trillion-plus stimulus bill being hammered out in Congress, even as he resists pleas for the federal government to send medical supplies and other aid directly to the states. **The U.S. government is “not a shipping clerk,” Trump told reporters this week.**

Experts worry that the twin medical and economic crises could last far longer than we are prepared for, **even into November's national election, forcing officials to contemplate the hugely difficult and expensive possibility of an entire nation voting by mail.**

As he was during the outbreak's early spread in January, Trump remains upbeat despite most evidence. At a news conference late this week he promised: **“We’re going to be a rocket ship as soon as this thing gets solved.”**

*Correction: Friday's newsletter incorrectly said Illinois had been placed under lockdown. The governor issued a statewide stay-at-home order, which is different.*

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## Your questions, answered

**“I have seen reports on the fraction of cases that result in death as a function of age. But what is the fraction of severe reaction (e.g. number of cases that require hospitalization) as a function of age?” — Mark Sears, New Mexico**

This question gets at an extremely important new finding about which age groups can become seriously ill from covid-19, the disease caused by the

coronavirus. **(Spoiler: almost all of them.)**

Early data from China suggested only elderly people got very sick from the disease — a misconception that has encouraged some millennials to go partying during quarantines, [and led President Trump to tell Americans on March 15](#): “The young people and people of good health, and groups of people, just are not strongly affected” by the virus.

A newly released study suggests this thinking is dangerously false, [as The Post reported this week](#). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention examined more than 4,000 covid-19 cases in the United States and found that, while 80 percent of deaths were people 65 or older, “the percentage with more moderate or severe disease requiring hospitalization is more evenly distributed between the old and the young.”

The specific numbers Mark is looking for can be found in [the CDC report](#), specifically this paragraph:

*Among 508 (12%) patients known to have been hospitalized, 9% were aged  $\geq 85$  years, 36% were aged 65–84 years, 17% were aged 55–64 years, 18% were 45–54 years, and 20% were aged 20–44 years. Less than 1% of hospitalizations were among people aged  $\leq 19$  years (Figure 2). The percentage of people hospitalized increased with age, from 2%–3% among people aged  $\leq 19$  years, to  $\geq 31\%$  among adults aged  $\geq 85$  years.*

There’s a lot more in the report if you want to dig in, [or read our article about it](#). Keep in mind that scientists still have much to learn about the virus, and statistics can change from country to country, or week to week.

**The important point is that many younger Americans do appear to be getting seriously ill from covid-19.** Even those who aren't, such as teenagers, can spread the virus to people who are more at risk.

As the president said more recently than his March 15 comments: “We don’t want them gathering, and I see they do gather, including on beaches and in restaurants, young people. They don’t realize, and they’re feeling invincible.”

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## Live updates

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## Today’s top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our **coronavirus page**, including:*

- A look inside the White House at Trump's 7 days as a 'wartime president'
- The case for giving every college student an automatic 'A'
- Pulitzer Prize winner Stephanie McCrummen's story from the desolate streets of New York



(Illustration by Mark Pernice for The Washington Post)

## **How the coronavirus will change our lives forever — from music to politics to medicine**

So long to selfie lines, political fundraisers and the dominance of mass transit.

**Perspective** • By Washington Post Staff • [Read more »](#)

---

## **Former intelligence chiefs: Trump's removal of experts is deeply destructive to our nation's safety**

**Opinion** • By Joseph Maguire, John Brennan, Michael Leiter, Matthew G. Olsen, Nicholas Rasmussen, Andrew Liepman, Geoffrey O'Connell, Michael, V. Hayden and James Clapper • [Read more »](#)

---

## **One doctor's straight talk about the coronavirus strikes a chord with anxious Americans**

By Kim Bellware • [Read more »](#)

---

**Anthony Fauci was ready for this. America was not.**



By Ellen McCarthy and Ben Terris • [Read more »](#)

---

## Parents, you are the filter through which your kids see this crisis. How you talk about it matters.

By Sindya N. Bhanoo • [Read more »](#)

---

## How social distancing could ultimately teach us how to be less lonely

Opinion • By Arthur Brooks • [Read more »](#)

---

## Ignorance is bliss



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**You're reading The Post's newsletter guide to the coronavirus outbreak. Not on the list?**

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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Week in Ideas: For those in need of a smile, a coronavirus love story  
**Date:** Sunday, March 22, 2020 5:17:28 AM

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The Washington Post

# The Week in Ideas

Opinions you may have missed.



By [Fred Hiatt](#)  
✉ [Email](#)

What happens to love during a pandemic? Sergio Peçanha [has a sweetly illustrated answer](#) that might put a smile on your face, at a time we could all use a smile.

[Retired Navy Adm. William McRaven's essay](#) won't make you smile but it might inspire you, and bring a tear to your eye. You may remember McRaven as the officer who oversaw the operation that ended in the killing of Osama bin Laden. [Here](#) he recalls one of the toughest nights from his SEAL training, how his class survived it — and what lesson that might have for us today.

And here's something else inspiring: All the people who are coming up with ingenious ideas to improve our response to this crisis. [Our contributors offer five brief, smart suggestions](#). I'm sure we'll be publishing more as time goes on. (You can [submit yours here](#).)

Covid-19 is scary, but loneliness can be bad for your health, too, [Amanda](#)

**Ripley notes.** She offers four ways to counter feelings of isolation even as we are social distancing.

If you know Alexandra Petri as our peerless satirist, this may surprise you — **one of the most touching things I've read** about what we are all going through.

And two business school professors, Susan Athey and Dean Karlan, **have advice for those of us fortunate enough to still be receiving a paycheck:** Ways to help others, and the economy, even as we stop circulating in the world.

Well, I've been trying to help us look on the bright(er) side. But I don't underestimate the seriousness of what we're facing. Cathy Merrill, who owns and publishes Washingtonian Magazine, **brought that home in her piece.** "Two months is not a hiatus," she writes. "It is a death sentence for small business."

Finally, last week our 2020 pundits ranked the also-rans from the Democratic presidential nominating contest. **Take a look at who they think** has the brightest future.

Thanks for reading, and please try to stay safe.

## **For those in need of a smile, a coronavirus love story**

What happens to love during a pandemic?

By Sergio Peçanha • [Read more »](#)



---

## **The coronavirus has thrown us all in the mud**

But we can and should be hopeful.

By William H. McRaven • [Read more »](#)



## Coronavirus is upending society. Here are ideas to mitigate its impact.

Fresh ideas are needed for dealing with this crisis. Here's a start.

[Read more »](#)



## Have an idea to help mitigate the effects of the coronavirus? Let us know.

[Read more »](#)



## Four ways to help prevent loneliness while you're social distancing

Loneliness, we know from research, can be as bad for your health as smoking.

By Amanda Ripley • [Read more »](#)



## Newton formulated his theory of gravity in a time of plague. We need a miracle, too.

The force that propels us together in ordinary moments is propelling us apart.



By Alexandra Petri • [Read more »](#)



## How to practice social distancing while helping the economy

Those who have the means to weather the storm can help reduce the economic impact on those who do not.



By Susan Athey and Dean Karlan • [Read more »](#)



## I own a small business. The CDC order is a death sentence.

Government can enact broad policies without needing to specify a time frame for halting activity.



By Cathy Merrill • [Read more »](#)



## Which 2020 also-rans have the brightest futures now?

Whose stars are still on the rise?



By The Ranking Committee • [Read more »](#)



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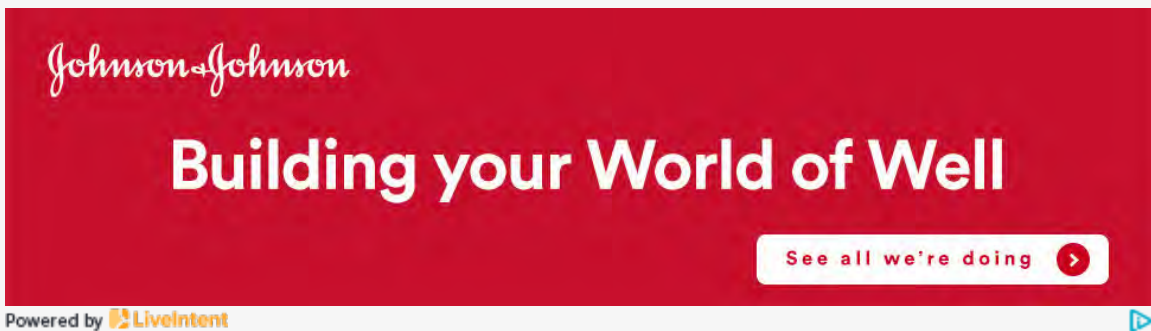
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# The Optimist

Stories that inspire.



(Gwinnett County Police Department)

## Police officers rescued a girl's birthday. Their



## kind act was found two months later on body cameras.

On a frigid night this past January, two police officers spotted a woman standing on a street corner with a small bunch of birthday balloons and asked if she would like a ride home. What happened next is now going viral.

By Cathy Free • [Read more »](#)

---

## 12 productive things you can do to feel better about being stuck at home

Set aside pieces of the day to take care of the projects that have piled up; it's one way to create a sense of control during the coronavirus pandemic.

Perspective • By Nicole Anzia • [Read more »](#)

---

## A poet in Italy published his phone number for anyone who wants to talk. More than 100 people have called.



“Being distant is no punishment, but a chance to feel intensely closer, as we’re sharing the same threat.”

By Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli • [Read more »](#)

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## If you suddenly need to learn to cook, these resources will help guide you

If you've been wanting to spend more time in the kitchen, we're here to help.

By Matt Brooks • [Read more »](#)

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## Famed chef José Andrés says ‘people have to eat,’ so his

## shuttered restaurants are now community kitchens

The chef and humanitarian says small independent restaurants could help feed America if the coronavirus gets worse.

By Tim Carman • [Read more »](#)

---

## 12 historic sites you can virtually tour from the couch during the coronavirus outbreak

The Louvre, the Van Gogh Museum and more: With social distancing in place around the world, these institutions are bringing art and exhibits into your home.



By Drew Jones • [Read more »](#)

---

## Athletes donate signed items to raise money for coronavirus relief efforts

Dozens of athletes have contributed since the sports agency Octagon launched a new fundraising platform on Saturday.

By Scott Allen • [Read more »](#)

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## The one undoubtable positive to come of the coronavirus: A new appreciation of teachers

Parents now, suddenly, understand the patience and skills it takes to teach.



**Perspective** • By Theresa Vargas • [Read more »](#)

---

## 8 tips for hosting the perfect virtual hangout

If you do it right, 'there is a point in the night when you forget that you're virtual,'

says one woman.

By Caroline Kitchener • [Read more »](#)

---

## Coronavirus news has us anxious and sad. Here are 11 things we've seen that lifted our spirits.

In an uncertain and sometimes scary time, the human capacity for ingenuity and inspiration is comforting.

By Marisa Iati • [Read more »](#)

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: Stimulus deal talks stall  
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# Coronavirus Updates

What to know about the novel coronavirus outbreak, from To Your Health.



By [Avi Selk](#)  
✉ [Email](#)

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**Hopes for quick passage of a bipartisan stimulus bill faded** after Democratic leaders balked at a \$1.8 trillion GOP plan, complaining that it focuses too much on businesses at the expense of unemployed workers. Both parties and the White House have been negotiating a massive aid package as the coronavirus outbreak threatens a global recession. But House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said Sunday that “**we will be introducing our own bill**” even as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) moves forward with his own plan.

**Thousands of Americans are stranded abroad** as global infections rise by tens of thousands of cases each day, now exceeding 300,000,

according to [Johns Hopkins University's tracker](#).

**Italy remains the hardest hit country, reporting another 650 deaths in one day**, for a total of [nearly 5,500](#), with morgues and hospitals overwhelmed despite a nationwide lockdown implemented more than a week ago. A top World Health Organization official warned Sunday that lockdowns are ineffective without programs to identify and isolate the sick and anyone they have contacted, otherwise when they're lifted, ["the danger is the disease will jump back up."](#)

**American officials fear that Italy's catastrophe could be a portent of what is to come in New York and other U.S. states** facing heavy infection rates and shortages of life-saving equipment and protective gear for medical workers.

**U.S. infections and deaths both jumped sharply in the past day**, to nearly [31,000 confirmed cases including 390 fatalities](#). Ohio and Louisiana [issued statewide stay-at-home orders](#), joining California, Illinois and New York in implementing measures that have effectively quarantined more than one in five Americans.

**Rand Paul (R-Ky.) became the first senator to test positive** and is self-quarantining. Vice President Pence and his wife tested negative for the coronavirus after a worker in his office caught it.

**Volunteers with sewing machines are making homemade surgical masks** for one New York hospital system that has run short, and [President Trump suggested that health-care workers try to sanitize disposable masks](#). The federal government ordered 500 million new masks earlier this month, but as of Sunday morning, [the chief of the Federal Emergency Management Agency could not say when hospitals would receive them](#).

**The disease has begun to show up in vulnerable populations**

such as **inmates** and homeless communities, where experts fear it will spread especially quickly.



**Hannah Dreier** @hannahdreier · 3h

Homeless people in 5 states have now come down with covid-19. One has died.

An outbreak among the homeless would have horrific consequences. But they've been left out of federal aid packages. So frontline workers are taking huge risks to pick up the slack. [washingtonpost.com/national/its-t...](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/its-t...)



**'It's too many'**

In San Antonio and across the country, trying to contain the spread of covid-19 into one of the most [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com)



**Hannah Dreier** @hannahdreier

I spent last week with a woman who is breaking news of the virus to homeless people in Texas. Some people panicked and wept when she told them. She says there's no way to do this work without getting close to people who have likely been exposed.





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## Help others

The news has been dire lately, and we're all looking for ways to keep our hearts and minds sound, as well as our bodies. Helping others is a great way to do that.

The American Red Cross badly needs blood donations from those able to give. Meanwhile, groups including the CDC Foundation, Meals on Wheels and a nonprofit organization supporting infected artists need support.

We've built a [guide for ways you can help](#) in your community and nationwide during the outbreak. You can also submit suggestions for other ways to support those who need it.

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## Help yourself

Don't forget to care for yourself! Being quarantined during such stressful times can make us feel helpless, but there are small things you can do at home to improve your state of mind.

Read ["The completely correct guide to vacationing at home"](#) for tips to make semi-isolation feel more like a holiday — from aromatherapy and ambient soundtracks to simply letting yourself sleep in a bit. You can even try simulating a five-star hotel experience inside your apartment.

If you're feeling a little useless lately, read ["12 productive things you can do to feel better about being stuck at home"](#) for suggestions on overlooked

tasks that could probably use your attention.

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## Live updates

**Track the spread** of the outbreak in the United States and abroad with our updating map.

Post reporters around the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day.**

Follow live updates about the **cases and impact on the D.C. area.**

Check and add to our list of **U.S. closings and postponements.**

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## Your questions, answered ... the ‘rumor mill’ edition

Let's take a look at questions that have been showing up a lot in our inboxes in various forms, not to mention all over social media:

**“Does it help to build up your immune systems by taking iodine and colloidal silver?”**

and,

**"Any truth to the rumor that this was a deadly weapon that the Chinese government was working on to unleash on its enemies, namely the United States?"**

The short answer to both is **no, there is absolutely no evidence of that.**



Unfortunately, various strains of misinformation have been spreading in tandem with the coronavirus. Silver has been peddled as a cure-all for years, and lately by televangelist Jim Bakker as a coronavirus antidote. Other bogus covid-19 treatments include garlic soup, zinc, drinking bleach, dousing yourself in alcohol and [blasting a hairdryer into your nostrils](#).

Here is an easy, if somewhat dispiriting, way to keep track of which cures are fake: **all of them**.

**“Anything you read about curing the virus will be false,”** [The Post wrote in a recent article](#). **“There is no specific medicine recommended to prevent, treat or cure covid-19.”** Avoid contact with others as much as possible, wash your hands properly and consult a doctor before trying any advice you read on the Internet or hear from a friend. We recommend the World Health Organization's [coronavirus myth buster page](#).

We also know of no evidence that the virus was engineered, despite rumors to the contrary. The best research we know of suggests that it originated in bats or another animal and mutated to infect humans, similar to many other viral outbreaks.

These sorts of conspiracy theories have spread by the millions on social media, and a [State Department report suggested that some of them are being spread maliciously and intentionally to sow fear and discord](#). Don't fall for it.

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## Today's top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- Americans facing rent and mortgage payments on April 1
- The fight to convince pro-Trump West Virginians that the virus is coming
- Can Las Vegas come back from this shutdown?
- North Korea leader Kim Jong Un says Trump wrote him a coronavirus letter

## What it's like to be infected with coronavirus

By Joel Achenbach, Ben Guarino and Ariana Eunjung Cha •  
[Read more »](#)



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## Trump administration scrambles to offer guidance on what to do if hospitals run out of basic supplies for coronavirus

By Lenny Bernstein, Yasmeen Abutaleb, Ariana Eunjung Cha, Lena Sun and Josh Dawsey •  
[Read more »](#)

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## We came to work for you. Please stay home for us.

Opinion • By Nina Shapiro • [Read more »](#)

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## Sirens and serenades

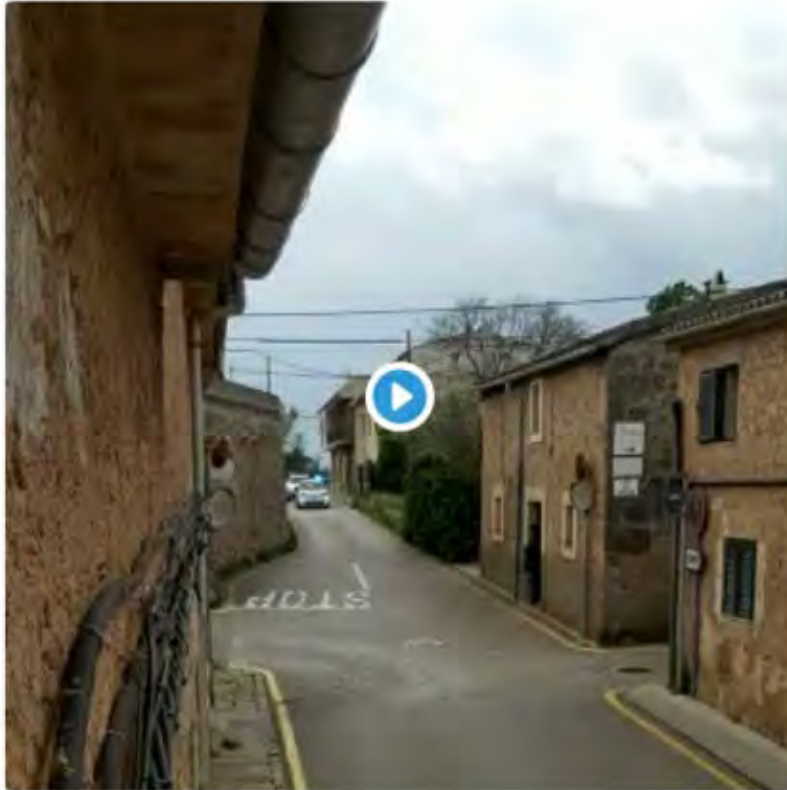


**Rachel Clarke** ✓

@doctor\_oxford



These Spanish policemen know exactly how to cheer up a city on lockdown. Just gorgeous ❤️❤️❤️



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[Read today's Energywire on the web](#)

# ENERGYWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

ENERGYWIRE — Mon., March 23, 2020

 [READ FULL EDITION](#)

## 1. PANDEMIC:

### **Coronavirus slowdown ripples across U.S. grid**

The coronavirus pandemic is driving a plunge in electricity demand as businesses shut down and workers stay home. What does it mean for coal, renewables and gas?

## TOP STORIES

### 2. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

#### **'Sales have dropped to zero.' Virus hammers residential solar**

### 3. PANDEMIC:

#### **Utilities prepare for workers to live at power plants**

### 4. CORONAVIRUS:

#### **Texas proposal to cut oil production sparks fury**

## ENERGY TRANSITIONS

### 5. ELECTRICITY:

#### **Pandemic could boost coal — report**

### 6. CALIFORNIA:

#### **PG&E inks deal with governor, opening path out of bankruptcy**

## LAW

### 7. OIL AND GAS:

#### **Judge declines to halt pipeline after NEPA, ESA challenge**

## TECHNOLOGY

### 8. ELECTRICITY:

#### **Federal study warns of solar storm threat to U.S. grid**

### 9. ENERGY TRANSITIONS:

#### **Clean energy jobs surged in 2019 — before the coronavirus**

## OIL AND GAS

### 10. TRANSPORTATION:

## Glut of jet fuel on brink of overwhelming global storage

### 11. OIL SANDS:

#### Workers brace for 'hellish' outbreak in remote camps

### ELECTRICITY

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### 12. SOUTH CAROLINA:

#### Feds: Nuclear plant employees failed to check for fires

### 13. WEST VIRGINIA:

#### Group to study removing dam that fed coal plant

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# GREENWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**GREENWIRE — Mon., March 23, 2020**

 [READ FULL EDITION](#)

## 1. PANDEMIC:

### **McConnell slams Democrats over environmental demands**

During tense debate this afternoon, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) accused Democrats of trying to advance their green agenda in the coronavirus stimulus package. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said a deal was close.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. NATIONAL PARKS:

#### **NPS chases away visitors as pandemic worsens**

### 3. EPA:

#### **Policy to limit telework emerges during pandemic**

### 4. OIL AND GAS:

#### **API presses White House for regulatory relief**

## CORONAVIRUS

### 5. INTERIOR:

#### **Bernhardt orders employees to work from home**

### 6. COAL:

#### **No bailout yet, but Pa. mines can stay open**

### 7. PANDEMIC:

#### **Klobuchar's husband in Va. hospital with coronavirus**

### 8. CALIFORNIA:

#### **Desalination workers shelter at plant to ensure water supply**

### 9. PANDEMIC:

#### **Calif. Coastal Commission chairman in intensive care**

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### 10. ENDANGERED SPECIES:

#### **Reward hits \$10K for tips leading to whooping crane killer**

### 11. INVASIVE SPECIES:

## USDA to fight destructive beetle in Mass., N.Y., Ohio

### LAW

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#### 12. WILDFIRES:

**Utility to admit guilt in Calif.'s deadliest blaze**

#### 13. PESTICIDES:

**Enviros sue over EPA approval of possible carcinogen**

#### 14. WESTERN WATER:

**Judge moves legal fight to Trump admin-favored jurisdiction**

#### 15. BIOFUELS:

**Trump admin signals it won't appeal refinery ruling**

#### 16. SUPREME COURT:

**Feds to argue for N.M. in Pecos River water battle**

#### 17. ENDANGERED SPECIES:

**Fight over jaguar habitat in Southwest heads back to court**

#### 18. ENDANGERED SPECIES:

**Lawsuit aims to protect bird nicknamed 'feathered mouse'**

### AIR AND WATER

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#### 19. WATER POLLUTION:

**Overtaken tanker spills 6K gallons of oil near Calif. dam**

#### 20. WATER POLLUTION:

**Scientists test road salt alternative to slow contamination**

### STATES

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#### 21. KENTUCKY:

**State parks implement precautions, remain open**

#### 22. DELAWARE:

**Beaches close to discourage gathering groups**

#### 23. NEVADA:

**Earthquake causes minor damage near Carson City**

### INTERNATIONAL

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#### 24. CROATIA:

**Quake injures 27 amid partial coronavirus lockdown**

#### 25. PAKISTAN:

**Blast in southwest coal mine kills 7, injures 3**

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1. PANDEMIC:  
House Dems ready their own stimulus as Senate struggles

As the Senate struggles to finalize a bipartisan economic stimulus package, the House is drawing up its own plan that could require hard-hit airlines tapping federal aid to move to offset their carbon emissions.

#### TODAY'S STORIES

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/23/stories/1062683043?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/23/stories/1062683043?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
2. EPA:  
Court breathes new life into science advisers fight

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/23/stories/1062682837?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/23/stories/1062682837?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
3. ALASKA:  
Governor proposes tapping oil wealth to offset virus impact

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/23/stories/1062682751?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/23/stories/1062682751?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
4. MINING:  
Minn. appeals court kicks back another PolyMet permit

#### UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/23/calendars?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/23/calendars?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
5. CALENDAR:  
Activity for March 23 - March 29, 2020

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: 100 more U.S. deaths in a single day  
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 3:04:24 PM

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The Washington Post

# Coronavirus Updates

What to know about the novel coronavirus outbreak, from To Your Health.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Angela Fritz](#)  
✉ Email

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**Democrats blocked a vote on the \$2 trillion stimulus bill,** prompting an eruption of bipartisan fury on the Senate floor. Democrats have said the bill **does too much to help corporations and not enough to support workers.** President Trump seemed to agree, saying on Sunday, “I don’t want to give a bailout to a company and then have somebody go out and use that money to buy back stock in the company and raise the price and then get a bonus. ... **So I may be Republican, but I don’t like that. I want them to use the money for the workers.**”

**Trump seems to be weighing whether to loosen restrictions on social distancing to boost the economy**, tweeting on Sunday "WE CANNOT LET THE CURE BE WORSE THAN THE PROBLEM ITSELF." But **this goes directly against what his own health experts are telling him, which is that scaling back distancing measures could devastate hospitals.** "We really, really need everyone to stay at home," Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams said Monday. "There are not enough people out there who are taking this seriously."

The U.S. is reporting over 41,000 cases with **more than 500 deaths.** **Monday was the first day the U.S. reported more than 100 deaths in a single day.**

**Anthony Fauci's frustration at Trump's inaccuracies is showing.** Science magazine's Jon Cohen asked the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases about having to be the representative of "truth and facts" at the White House when Trump is saying things that aren't true. **"I can't jump in front of the microphone and push him down," Fauci said. "Okay, he said it. Let's try and get it corrected for the next time."**

**Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.),** the first senator to test positive for the virus, is **now under intense scrutiny for not isolating during the week he was waiting to get his test results.** The Post reports he had lunch with other senators, was around staffers and journalists, and worked out in the Senate gym on Sunday. Hours later, his office announced he had tested positive.

Utah GOP Sens. Mike Lee and Mitt Romney both said they will self-quarantine because they interacted with Paul in the past few days. As it stands, **Congress cannot work remotely, so Paul, Lee and Romney will not be able to vote on the stimulus bill,** tightening Senate Republicans' margins to get it passed. Minnesota Democratic Sen.

Amy Klobuchar's husband has tested positive for covid-19 and is hospitalized in Virginia.

Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper said **two U.S. Army field hospitals will be deployed this week**, likely to New York City and Seattle. They're expected to provide 248 beds each.

**Spain's death toll climbed more than 25 percent in a day**, rising from 1,720 on Sunday to 2,182 on Monday. "The worst is yet to come," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said Sunday. After Italy, Spain has been the hardest-hit country in Europe.

**U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a stay-at-home order for the entire country**, except for essential activities which include shopping for necessities, exercise, doctors appointments and getting to and from work. The death toll in the U.K. is over 350.

Olympic officials say they are **considering postponing the 2020 Summer Games**. **Canada said it would not send its athletes to compete, making it the first country to refuse to participate**. "This is not solely about athlete health — it is about public health," the Canadian Olympic Committee said in a statement, noting athletes cannot train safely right now.

**Health researchers are finding an "evil genius" in the novel coronavirus, one that hijacks cells and spreads its replicas everywhere before its host even has symptoms**. In some, the illness is deadly. In others, it is mild enough that infected people will readily spread it to others — unaware that they are even sick. [Read more about how this new virus is so sneaky, deadly and hard to defeat.](#)

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Content from [Slack](#)

**Helpful how-tos for transitioning to remote work**



Find yourself working remotely all of a sudden? Slack is here to help with this comprehensive set of [tips to make remote work productive](#). With all of your tools and communication in one place, [Slack brings the team together](#), no matter where everyone is working from.

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## Live updates

**Track the spread** of the outbreak in the U.S. and abroad with our updating map.

Post reporters around the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day**.

Follow live updates about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area**.

Want to know more? **Submit your question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

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## Your questions, answered

**"Is vinegar a good disinfectant for the coronavirus?" —Maryann Vandrielen, Flagstaff, Ariz.**

Unfortunately, there's no evidence that vinegar kills coronavirus, despite being a popular non-toxic choice for household cleaning.

Your best options, [according to the CDC](#), are **diluted bleach, rubbing alcohol solutions with at least 70 percent alcohol and EPA-registered household disinfectants like Lysol and Clorox products.**

These products are in short supply at the stores, though they are still being restocked.

The CDC recommends wearing gloves when you disinfect, and setting those gloves aside to be used only for covid-19 cleaning. The high-trafficked surfaces should be the first things you disinfect: doorknobs, light switches, remotes, handles, desks, toilets and sinks.

If you're using a bleach solution, use 1/3 cup of bleach per gallon of water. If you're making a smaller batch, go with 4 teaspoons of bleach for a quart of water.

The CDC has [a full list of approved products](#) that are known to kill coronavirus.

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## A live Q&A on mental health

Need mental health advice on how to cope with the outbreak? **Licensed clinical psychologist Dr. Andrea Bonior will be online Tuesday at 1 p.m. Eastern** to take your questions about maintaining your mental health during this tumultuous time. [Submit a question now, then tune in tomorrow or check back for the transcript.](#)

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## Today's top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our*

***coronavirus page***, including:

- 9 charts that show why the economy is in a scary spot
- Video of times the Trump administration has contradicted itself on coronavirus
- The growing, urgent demand on crisis hotlines amid the outbreak
- A fascinating visual breakdown of the virus that scientists hope will help them defeat it

## **Olympic gold medalist says covid-19 is ‘by far the worst virus’ he has ever had**

By Cindy Boren • [Read more »](#)



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## **Governors and mayors in growing uproar over Trump’s lagging coronavirus response**

By Robert Costa and Aaron Gregg • [Read more »](#)

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## **The coronavirus isn’t alive. That’s why it’s so hard to kill.**

By Sarah Kaplan, William Wan and Joel Achenbach • [Read more »](#)

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## **Far more people in the U.S. have the coronavirus than you think**

**Perspective** • By Marc Lipsitch • [Read more »](#)

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## **Wash your hands, Sweet Caroline**





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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] March 24 -- Greenwire is ready  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 11:26:33 AM

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# GREENWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**GREENWIRE — Tue., March 24, 2020**

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### **Industry groups push wish lists to White House, governors**

Industries from oil processing to paper making are asking policymakers to designate their workers as "essential" in response to more than a dozen governors implementing stay-at-home measures. Trade groups are using the pandemic as a new justification for long-held policy priorities. Here's the rundown of what industries have been telling policymakers they need to weather the COVID-19 storm.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. PANDEMIC:

#### **Stimulus talks near agreement — Schumer**

### 3. PANDEMIC:

#### **Could the U.S., like China, face a medical waste crisis?**

## CORONAVIRUS

### 4. ENERGY POLICY:

#### **Nuclear industry's plea: We're essential**

### 5. FEDERAL AGENCIES:

#### **EPA spokesperson detailed to HHS for pandemic response**

### 6. NATIONAL PARKS:

#### **Yellowstone holds out as pressure mounts for more shutdowns**

### 7. TRANSPORTATION:

#### **Automakers send coronavirus requests to Congress**

### 8. EPA:

#### **Pandemic delays legal battle over carbon rule**

### 9. CALIFORNIA:

#### **Governor looks for ways to cut crowds at beaches, parks**

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### 10. ENDANGERED SPECIES:

#### **Famous frog back in spotlight as Trump admin launches review**

## AIR AND WATER

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### 11. WATER POLLUTION:

**Chicken plant scores court win over residents' objections**

### 12. DROUGHT:

**Southern Calif. welcomes drenching from spring storm**

## STATES

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### 13. NEW ENGLAND:

**Heavy, wet snow causes thousands of power outages**

### 14. NORTH DAKOTA:

**Whooping crane sightings to increase as birds migrate**

## INTERNATIONAL

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### 15. NEPAL:

**From top to bottom line: Everest closing means financial hit**

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INTERIOR: Pandemic slows BLM's move out West. Read this story and more in today's E&E News PM.  
NATIONAL PARKS: Pandemic shuts down Yellowstone, Grand Teton.  
ADVOCACY: Thunberg says it's 'extremely likely' she had coronavirus.  
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1. INTERIOR:  
Pandemic slows BLM's move out West

The Bureau of Land Management has suspended "all nonessential travel" nationwide due to the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus, likely slowing efforts to complete the move of its Washington headquarters to Grand Junction, Colo.

#### TODAY'S STORIES

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2. NATIONAL PARKS:  
Pandemic shuts down Yellowstone, Grand Teton

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3. ADVOCACY:  
Thunberg says it's 'extremely likely' she had coronavirus

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4. ENDANGERED SPECIES:  
Enviros sue to protect Yellowstone bison

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5. AIR POLLUTION:  
Report: Concrete industry efforts to curb impacts hit hurdles

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6. EPA:  
IG criticizes some of agency's cyber efforts

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CLIMATEWIRE — Wed., March 25, 2020

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### **The virus ignited action worldwide. Why warming hasn't**

Experts in psychology explain why so many people are willing to disrupt their lives to contain the coronavirus, but not climate change.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. ANTARCTICA:

#### **Glacier over world's deepest canyon faces irreversible melt**

### 3. NEWSMAKER:

#### **5 things to know about FEMA chief Peter Gaynor**

### 4. COURTS:

#### **Feds urge 9th Circuit to keep kids' climate case dormant**

## PANDEMIC

### 5. EMISSIONS:

#### **Coronavirus slows work on ambitious fusion experiment**

### 6. FINANCE:

#### **Mark Carney urges climate action amid coronavirus crisis**

## PEOPLE

### 7. Q&A:

#### **Climate must be addressed with coronavirus urgency — expert**

## POLITICS

### 8. WHITE HOUSE:

#### **Trump agencies steadily push rollbacks as pandemic rages**

### 9. FINANCE:

#### **Plunge in pollution cost is hindering key green ambition**

## IN THE STATES

### 10. CLIMATE IMPACTS:

## 90-degree temperatures possible across Deep South this week

### GLOBAL

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#### 11. HEALTH:

### Virus deaths stir calls in China to clean up air pollution

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### 3 ways coronavirus is upending the oil industry

President Trump said yesterday that he hoped to end many U.S. travel and business shutdowns by Easter. But analysts consider near-term shocks to be just the beginning of the oil and gas industry's woes.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. WIND ENERGY:

#### 'A crisis unlike anything the market has ever seen'

### 3. PANDEMIC:

#### DOE launches initiative to find coronavirus breakthrough

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#### Trump energy adviser Mike McKenna exits

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### 10. POLITICS:



## Guyana's future as world's fastest-growing economy dims

### ELECTRICITY

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#### 11. BUSINESS:

### Canadian utility closes on purchase of Emera Maine

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Energywire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. Energywire is designed to bring readers deep, broad and insightful coverage of the transformation of the energy sector. Energywire focuses on the business, environmental and political issues surrounding the rapidly expanding unconventional energy industry and the numerous factors -- from expanding natural gas use to renewables and more -- that are altering the traditional electric utility industry. Energywire publishes daily at 9:00 a.m.



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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Optimist: How you can help during the coronavirus outbreak  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 7:42:52 AM

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The Washington Post

# The Optimist

Stories that inspire.

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*Editor's note: During the coronavirus outbreak, we will be sending an extra issue of The Optimist on some Wednesdays. We hope you enjoy the extra dose of inspiration.*



(Craig Hudson for The Post)

## How you can help during the coronavirus outbreak

As the coronavirus outbreak upends many aspects of daily life, we've compiled a list of ways you can help others.

By Kanyakrit Vongkiatkajorn and Laura Daily • [Read more »](#)

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## Mom is stuck inside amid the coronavirus outbreak. Teens we never met gave us hope amid hardship.

Until we can pick up our happy routines again, we know we'll get through, thanks to a bunch of caring middle schoolers who also have been forced to spend time alone, away from some of the people they love.

**Perspective** • By Cathy Free • [Read more »](#)

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## People are adopting dogs, cats and chickens to cope with self-isolation

Working from home and unable to go out, people are bringing home dogs and cats for companionship.



By Kim Kavlin and Heather Kelly • [Read more »](#)

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## Gift cards, merchandise and to-go orders: Here's how restaurants say customers should support them

What they really need is ready income.

By Kristen Hartke • [Read more »](#)

## Puzzles are having a moment

Puzzle Warehouse, a family-owned shop in St. Louis, suddenly found itself overwhelmed with business. "We've never seen something like this," said owner Brian Way.

By Allison Klein • [Read more »](#)

## Four ways to help prevent loneliness while you're social distancing

Loneliness, we know from research, can be as bad for your health as smoking.



**Opinion** • By Amanda Ripley • [Read more »](#)

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## Smile: Three stories guaranteed to take your mind off you-know-what

What do pine cones, rocks and baby owls have in common? More than you might think.

**Perspective** • By John Kelly • [Read more »](#)

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## At a place where memories are fleeting, some powerful ones are being made through a glass door



Because of the coronavirus, three generations hadn't seen one another in person for weeks before the chance came on a recent afternoon.

**Perspective** • By Theresa Vargas • [Read more »](#)

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## Yes, there is panic. But I'm embracing a slower life.

The pandemic has brought our frantic pace of life to a screeching halt. I have been able to carve out a sliver of peace and gratitude in my home

**Perspective** • By Erin O'Connor • [Read more »](#)

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## From porch picnics to student lunches, here's what you said lifted your spirits amid the pandemic

We asked you to share the moments of kindness and snapshots of beauty that are helping you to stay positive during this global crisis. Here is some of what you told us.

By Marisa Iati • [Read more »](#)

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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Prince Charles testing positive illustrates how the coronavirus does not discriminate  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:40:52 AM



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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

Presented by **DXC**



By **James Hohmann**  
with Mariana Alfaro  
 Email

## Prince Charles testing positive illustrates how the coronavirus does not discriminate

The novel coronavirus does not care whether you're rich or poor, white or black, man or woman, straight or gay, Republican or Democrat, young or old, famous like Tom Hanks or infamous like Harvey Weinstein, documented or undocumented, educated or uneducated, royal or commoner – or anything else. No one is immune. While the well-connected certainly have better access to testing and treatment than

others, in this world of inequality, viruses are equalizers.

Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, has tested positive. The 71-year-old is a man of robust health who enjoys horseback riding. His spokesman said this morning that he has mild symptoms “but otherwise remains in good health.” Buckingham Palace [says](#) the prince last saw his 93-year-old mother, Queen Elizabeth II, two weeks ago, and she remains in good health.

Charles is one of 436,159 confirmed cases worldwide of the virus that causes the disease covid-19. He’s not even the first royal. Monaco’s Prince Albert II, the son of Grace Kelly, tested positive last week.

The global pandemic has now killed 19,648. The United States has 55,238 confirmed cases and 802 reported deaths. All [these numbers](#) will be higher by the time you read this.



Yesterday, complications from the contagion [killed](#) playwright Terrence McNally, who rose to the forefront of American theater chronicling gay lives with works such as “Love! Valour! Compassion!” and “Master Class.” He was 81.



Alan Finder, a legendary retired New York Times reporter, died at 72 from the virus. Former colleagues [remember](#) him as a calming presence and “one of the menschiest guys around.”

But complications from the coronavirus also killed a school principal from Brooklyn, a woman who was half his age. Dezann Romain, 36, is the first known death of a New York City public school employee from the outbreak, per the [New York Post](#).

A teenager who lived in Lancaster, Calif., and had no apparent preexisting conditions may be the first minor to have died from the coronavirus in the United States, but authorities say confirming this will require additional testing. “This is a devastating reminder that covid-19 affects people of all ages,” L.A. County Public Health Department Director Barbara Ferrer told the [Los Angeles Times](#).

The virus killed two health-care workers in Georgia, which has a death toll of 25. One of the victims, a 42-year-old mammogram technician, was found dead in her home. She had been dead 12 to 16 hours when police, coming to do a welfare check, discovered her body. Her child, apparently 4 or 5 years old, was in the home at the time, according to the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#).

Former Texas A&M basketball star David Edwards [died](#) from complications of the virus. He was 48.

Thankfully, the vast majority who get this coronavirus will survive. But the deluge of news about who has been infected underscores how blind the virus is to class differences. To wit: Harvard University President Lawrence Bacow, 68, and his wife, Adele, have both tested positive, according to [the Harvard Crimson](#). So have Amazon workers at [six](#) U.S. warehouses and counting. The e-commerce giant, led by Washington Post owner Jeff Bezos, has been racing to hire 100,000 new workers to meet

surging online orders. A 31-year-old Mexican immigrant, being held in New Jersey, became the first detainee in ICE custody to test positive, according to [CNN](#).

One of the 39 news cases reported on Tuesday in Kentucky was a 20-something who tested positive after attending a “coronavirus party.” Talk about tempting fate. “This is the part where I, the person that tells everybody to be calm, have to remain calm myself because anyone who goes to something like this may think that they are indestructible, but it’s someone else’s loved one that they are going to hurt,” said Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear (D), according to the Louisville [Courier-Journal](#).

The Bluegrass State’s junior senator, Rand Paul (R), has also [faced criticism](#) for his cavalier decision to swim in the pool and work out in the Senate gym while he awaited the results of his coronavirus test, which was positive.

Even Time magazine’s reigning person of the year wasn’t safe. Climate change activist Greta Thunberg disclosed that she probably has a mild case. “I was feeling tired, had shivers, a sore throat and coughed,” the 17-year-old [posted](#) on Instagram. “My dad experienced the same symptoms, but much more intense and with a fever.”

Others fighting the coronavirus include opera singer Plácido Domingo and rapper Slim Thug; Canadian first lady Sophie Grégoire Trudeau and Miami Mayor Francis Suarez; Reps. Mario Díaz-Balart (R-Fla.) and Ben McAdams (D-Utah); actors Idris Elba (Stringer Bell on “The Wire”) and Kristofer Hivju (Tormund Giantsbane on “Game of Thrones”); and former “Bachelor” star Colton Underwood and Bravo host Andy Cohen. We’re all susceptible.



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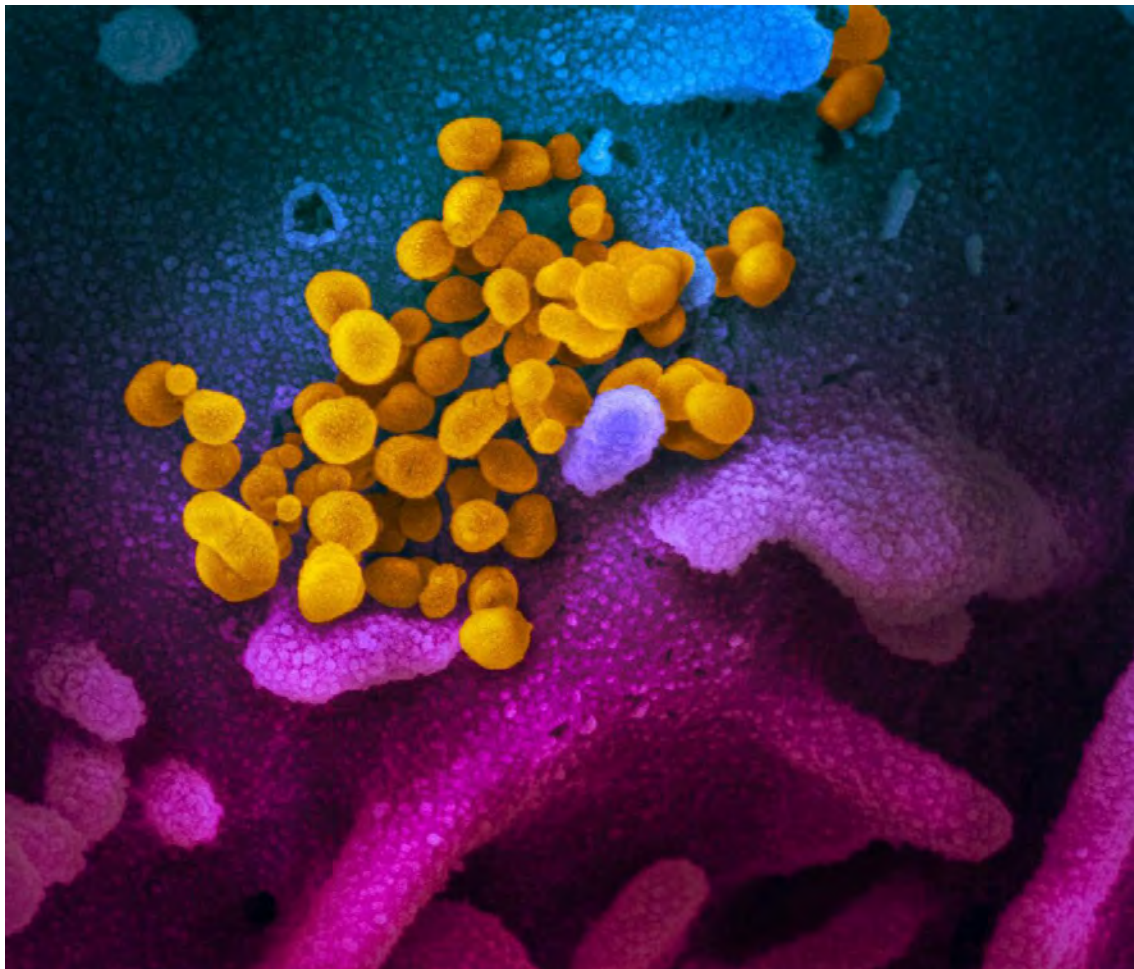


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## Four takes on what it's like to face the coronavirus



An electron microscope shows the coronavirus (in yellow) growing out of cells that were cultured in a lab from an American victim. (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases/Reuters)

**“I probably have a ‘mild to moderate’ case ... I don’t think I could survive worse.”**

“Of course, I don’t know for sure that I have covid-19, because there is no testing where I live,” [columnist David Von Drehle writes from Kansas City](#). “People talk about testing on TV all day long. Usually, I’m listening through a scrim of fitful sleep. The closest I came to being tested was on Saturday. After my wife spent an entire day on the phone, a nice doctor met me in an emergency room parking lot and taught me to put on a mask. Then she had me stand by the car while she listened to my lungs. She smiled under her mask and said, ‘Given your symptoms, we’ll assume that you have it. Come back if you get worse.’ I don’t want to come back, even if I might get a test. ... The first symptom was fever. I figured I had the flu. No such luck. The mild to moderate symptoms of this coronavirus

make garden-variety flu seem like a tea party.”

### **“What I learned when my husband got sick with coronavirus.”**

“My husband, a tall, robust 56-year-old who regularly goes — who regularly went — on five-hour bike rides from our Brooklyn neighborhood to Jamaica Bay in Queens and back, has been lying on his back, staring at the ceiling, or curled on his side, wearing the same pajama bottoms for days because it is too hard to change out of them, too hard to stay that long on his feet, too cold outside the sheets and blankets he huddles beneath. It has been 12 days since T woke up in the middle of the night on March 12 with chills. The next day, just as reports were growing more urgent about the coronavirus spreading in the United States, he thought he felt better, but then the chills came back, along with aches and a fever of 100.4,” [writes New York Times editor Jessica Lustig](#). “Now we live in a world in which I have planned with his doctor which emergency room we should head to if T suddenly gets worse, a world in which I am suddenly afraid we won’t have enough of the few things tempering the raging fever and soaking sweats and severe aches wracking him — the Advil and Tylenol that the doctors advise us to layer, one after the other, and that I scroll through websites searching for, seeing ‘out of stock’ again and again.”

### **“You’re not prepared for this pandemic until you’ve had the tough conversations about end-of-life care.”**

“Last week, we ran our first code related to covid-19. A code on its own can be a high-stress situation. Someone is literally dying right before you, and you must do everything within your power to revive the person. The epinephrine, the bicarbonate, the crushing of the sternum and ribs for chest compressions, shoving the breathing tube down,” [writes Shaoli Chaudhuri](#), an internal medicine resident at New York Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center. “But a covid-19 code is

an animal all its own. As our colleagues prepared to rush into the room of the patient who was clearly seconds from arresting, I yelled at them: ‘Get your mask on! Do you have a mask?! Stop and get your gear on!’ The last thing we wanted was for any of our co-workers to be exposed, given the body fluids they were about to encounter. ... Each of us knew, sadly, that this patient would not survive. And every moment we spent doing our job put us at greater risk of getting sick. ... We are already in the doomsday situation, and it is not going to get easier.”

**“I’m on the front lines. I have no plan for this.”**

“As an I.C.U. doctor, I’m used to giving bad news, but I was not prepared for this,” [Daniela Lamas, a critical care doctor, writes in the Times](#). “I paused outside my patient’s room to watch her for a moment. She lay on the bed, tethered to a ventilator by the tracheostomy tube in her neck. Her husband sat in a small plastic chair beside her with his hand on her leg, smiling at some silly sitcom playing on the TV. I hesitated a beat. And then I entered. I had to tell him. There was no way to soften the blow. The hospital is changing its rules, I said. No more visitors. When you leave today, you both need to say goodbye. ... As we tighten our protocols to protect our patients from the threat of Covid-19, she’s alone. ... It’s a tough decision that leaves our patients to suffer through their illnesses in a medical version of solitary confinement.”

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## **The federal response**



## **Congress and the White House reached a deal at 1:30 a.m.**

The Senate plans to vote this afternoon on the \$2 trillion stimulus package, which would send \$1,200 checks to many Americans, create a \$367 billion loan program for small businesses and establish a \$500 billion lending fund for industries, cities and states.

“The legislation ensures that these taxpayer-backed loans cannot go to firms owned by President Trump, other White House officials, or members of Congress. This would suggest that Trump-owned properties, including hotels that have been impacted, cannot seek taxpayer

assistance,” [Erica Werner, Mike DeBonis and Paul Kane report](#). “Other provisions include \$150 billion for state and local stimulus funds and \$130 billion for hospitals. It would significantly boost unemployment insurance benefits, expanding eligibility and offering workers an additional \$600 a week for four months, on top of what state unemployment programs pay. ... The White House and Republicans agreed to allow an oversight board and create a Treasury Department Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery to scrutinize the lending decisions and detect abusive or fraudulent behavior. ...

“After Senate passage, the next step is a little less clear. The House is out of session, so action there could take longer, depending on whether lawmakers can agree to pass the bill by ‘unanimous consent,’ which would require agreement from all members of the chamber. But some liberals and conservatives have already hinted they could oppose it.”



**Health experts decried Trump for saying he wants “the country opened” by Easter.**

“Ending the shutdown now in America would be disastrous, many say, because the country has barely given those restrictions time to work, and because U.S. leaders have not pursued alternative strategies used in other countries to avert the potential deaths of hundreds of thousands,” [William Wan, Reed Albergotti and Joel Achenbach report](#). “Orders to stay at home



have largely come from state governors, who may simply ignore Trump. But public health experts say the contradictory messaging would make persuading people to comply — already a difficult job — even harder. ... Even in a hypothetical world where the economy was valued above human life, many economists say it wouldn't necessarily make sense to sacrifice the elderly, abruptly send everyone back to work and allow the virus to run its course. Restarting international flights, for example, wouldn't mean consumers would buy tickets. And the shock from the spreading infections and mounting deaths would make any sense of normalcy hard to maintain.”

- **Fox News has swerved again.** Hosts are calling for Trump to abandon restrictions. “The commentary dovetails with, and may even have encouraged, Trump’s expressing a desire for businesses to start reopening after the federal government’s 15-day, stay-at-home period ends on Monday,” [Paul Farhi and Sarah Ellison report](#).
- **Ethicists say picking between older Americans’ lives and the economy is a false choice.** “Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick set off a firestorm of criticism after he suggested Monday [on Fox] that he and other older Americans should be willing to sacrifice their lives for the sake of the economy,” [Sarah Pulliam Bailey reports](#).
- **Tension continues mounting between Trump and the scientific community.** “Trump has set up something of a gladiatorial process for managing the coronavirus, in which each adviser and expert argues forcefully for their specific perspective — be it public health or economic growth — creating a dynamic that has left [Debbie] [Birn](#), [Tony] Fauci and others often offering Trump recommendations he is not eager to hear,” [Ashley Parker, Josh Dawsey and Yasmeen Abutaleb report](#).
- **Putting the burden on states, Trump is still leading from behind.** “Although he has taken unilateral action in some cases — such as suspending travel first from China and more recently from Europe, and deploying military ships and other federal assets to coronavirus hot spots — he has played a back-seat role elsewhere that

belies his omnipresence in the national media,” [Phil Rucker notes](#). “Trump [sought](#) Tuesday to hold [New York's] governor, Andrew M. Cuomo (D), responsible for the lack of ventilators and other medical equipment in short supply.”

- **But Trump has the best job approval rating of his presidency.** A [Gallup poll](#) puts the president’s approval rating at 49 percent, up from 44 percent earlier in the month, with 60 percent approving his handling of the coronavirus situation and 38 percent disapproving. It's probably a rally-around-the-flag effect.

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## Quote of the day

*“Protecting people and protecting the economy are not mutually exclusive,” Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine (R) said during his daily briefing in Columbus. “We save our economy by first saving lives. And we have to do it in that order.”*



**The coronavirus could be FEMA’s biggest disaster ever.**

“While U.S. health authorities remain in the lead on the medical front of dealing with the virus, FEMA has been tasked with handling almost

everything else,” [Nick Miroff reports](#). “The agency is uniquely qualified for that role, former FEMA leaders say, and its staff is well-prepared to meet the challenge after several busy years of hurricanes and wildfires. But there were signs this week that the agency has stumbled out of the gate. ... If the pandemic’s spread through New York City is followed by significant outbreaks in other large American cities, the agency will be facing a panoramic crisis across the country as the United States heads into spring flood season, with the potential for hurricanes and wildfires to follow. ... Congressional reports that evaluated the agency’s responses to the hurricanes and wildfires in 2017 and 2018 raised concerns about staffing shortages and a potential lack of FEMA reservists. As of this week, several thousand reservists have yet to be fully activated in response to the coronavirus outbreak, but former FEMA officials say it would be a mistake to view that as a lack of urgency or preparation.”

### **Oracle has partnered with the administration to collect data on unproven drugs.**

“A series of conversations Trump has had with tech billionaire Larry Ellison have helped convince him that two old anti-malarial drugs may be game-changing treatments for covid-19,” [Yasmeen Abutaleb, Laurie McGinley and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Ellison — who recently held a high-profile fundraiser for Trump — has helped arrange a partnership between Oracle, the software company he co-founded, and the federal government to crowdsource that idea by collecting data in real time from doctors trying out those and other unproven drugs on covid-19 patients. While the anti-malarial drugs are also being tested in clinical trials, the primary purpose of Oracle’s new website and mobile app is to help gather information on patients prescribed the medications outside of trials and more quickly assess whether the drugs — or any others that may emerge as possible treatments — are effective against covid-19, for which there is no proven treatment. ... The administration is also exploring whether it will offer bonus payments to doctors who use the technology. This raises

ethical concerns among some health officials, who fear that will further promote the use of unproven drugs.”

### **This coronavirus isn't mutating quickly, which suggests a vaccine could offer lasting protection.**

“That relative stability suggests the virus is less likely to become more or less dangerous as it spreads, and represents encouraging news for researchers hoping to create a long-lasting vaccine,” [Joel Achenbach reports](#). Peter Thielen, a molecular geneticist at John Hopkins who has been studying the virus, said there are only about four to 10 genetic differences between the strains that have infected people in the U.S. and the original virus that spread in Wuhan. This would mean that a vaccine against it could act like immunizations against the measles or chickenpox vaccines – protecting people for a long time.

### **The scramble for medical equipment remains chaotic.**

“Some hard-hit parts of the country are receiving fresh supplies of N95 masks, but others are still out of stock. Hospitals [and state officials] are requesting donations of masks and gloves from construction companies, nail salons and tattoo parlors, and considering using ventilators designed for large animals because they cannot find the kind made for people,” [Jeanne Whalen, Tony Romm, Aaron Gregg and Tom Hamburger report](#). “Although governors and hospital leaders welcome the many U.S. companies stepping forward to make masks and ventilators, they fear the voluntary efforts will be too scattershot without federal coordination. ... Trump seemed to acknowledge the chaos on Tuesday, however, calling the world market for masks and ventilators ‘crazy’ in a tweet, adding that it was ‘not easy’ to acquire them. But he also tweeted that he hasn’t had to use the Defense Production Act ‘because no one has said NO!’ ... Soaring demand and competitive bidding is driving prices up. Premier, a health-care company that purchases equipment and supplies for 4,000 acute-care hospitals, used to pay about 30 cents for an N95 mask but is now

seeing prices between \$3 and \$15 per mask."

- The federal government's Strategic National Stockpile, a reserve meant to fortify overwhelmed hospitals during a crisis, only has 16,660 ventilators. ([Center for Public Integrity](#))
- Ford, 3M and GE have teamed up to make ventilators and respirators, but the process could take months. Ford said it expects to deliver its first batch of 1,000 ventilators this week to Detroit-area hospitals. Eventually, it expects to produce 100,000 a week. ([Jacob Bogage](#))
- Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) urged Trump to use his powers under the Defense Production Act. "I don't want to see doctors having to make a choice of who gets to live and who has to die because they don't have the equipment to save their lives," he said. "You can't build a ventilator overnight." ([Dallas Morning News](#))
- More than 750,000 medical-grade masks were auctioned with huge markups in Texas by a private firm. Bottles of Purell went for \$40. ([Bloomberg News](#))
- The Securities and Exchange Commission warned of the risk of insider trading during virus-induced market turbulence. ([Rena Merle](#))
- The Justice Department said those who intentionally spread the virus could be charged as terrorists. ([Politico](#))
- The Federal Reserve enlisted BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, to shepherd some of its debt-buying programs. ([Bloomberg News](#))
- The American politicians and lawmakers leading the coronavirus response are in their 60s, 70s and 80s, meaning they are squarely within the age range of the most at-risk segments of the population. ([David Nakamura](#))

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## Domestic damage



## The feds instructed anyone who recently visited New York City to self-quarantine for 14 days.

“New York health experts predict the state will need about 140,000 hospital beds to handle the crisis, exceeding last week’s estimate by 30,000. Cuomo said Tuesday that the state has 53,000 existing beds,” [Ben Guarino, Shayna Jacobs and Tim Craig report](#). Fauci “said that 1 out of every 1,000 people in New York now have the coronavirus. ... New York now has more than 25,000 coronavirus cases, including more than 15,000 in New York City. The state has added about 5,000 new cases per day, and Cuomo said he expects those trends to accelerate at least for the next 14 to 21 days.”

- The New York City Subway is deserted during evening rush hour. “So much so that several regular observers — police officers, a janitor, a mail carrier and a busker — compared it to the deserted zombieland of the subway at 3 a.m. At least half of the few riders were wearing masks and latex gloves,” [Jada Yuan and Richard Morgan report](#).
- Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) urged New Yorkers to stay away. “He spent Tuesday amplifying his order requiring fliers from the New York area to self-isolate for two weeks upon arrival in the Sunshine State,” [Cleve Wootson and Lori Rozsa report](#). His order applies to

people who enter Florida by airplane, but it does not apply to those streaming into the state on Interstate 95.

- American islands – from Maine to Hawaii – are experimenting with isolation to stop the spread. ([Frances Stead Sellers](#))

## **We're seeing more second-order consequences from the outbreak.**

- Counties and states have released thousands of inmates around the country, as public health officials issued dire warnings that cramped and unsanitary conditions could turn prisons into havens for the virus. The federal prison system is coming under intense pressure to take similar action. ([Kimberly Kindy](#), [Emma Brown](#) and [Dalton Bennett](#))
- The National Rifle Association will cut salaries 20 percent and is bracing for layoffs after the pandemic forced the gun lobby to cancel its annual meeting set for April and a number of fundraisers. ([Beth Reinhard](#))
- The Los Angeles sheriff ordered all gun stores to close. Fear has prompted a spike in firearm sales. ([Mercury News](#))
- The non-famous people in the entertainment industry are getting hammered by production shutdowns. A union representing crew members estimated that 120,000 of its members have already lost work. ([Sonia Rao](#))
- Election officials in both parties are calling for emergency funding to expand mail-in voting before November. ([Amy Gardner](#), [Elise Viebeck](#) and [Joseph Marks](#))
- Bernie Sanders's campaign said he would like to debate Joe Biden in April, but the DNC has not scheduled a debate. The comments are the clearest indicator yet that, at least in the near term, Sanders has little intention of bowing out. "There is a growing sense among some in the Sanders campaign that Biden's response to the coronavirus has been shaky and that could justify Sanders's continued presence in the contest," [Sean Sullivan reports](#).

## **Washington-area leaders slammed Trump's mixed**

## messages.

“D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D), who has largely refrained from criticizing Trump, said the city is fighting coronavirus ‘absent any national direction’ and condemned the president’s about-face,” [Gregory Schneider, Fenit Nirappil, Ovetta Wiggins and Rachel Chason report](#). “She ordered the closure of nonessential businesses as of 10 p.m. Wednesday, following similar orders in Maryland and Virginia on Monday. She also lowered the threshold for prohibited mass gatherings from 50 people to 10. ... In Maryland, where a Prince George’s County man became the state’s fourth virus-related fatality, Gov. Larry Hogan (R) said the messaging coming out of the White House was ‘pretty confusing’ and didn’t seem to match up with actions by the federal and state governments. ... In Virginia, which announced three coronavirus-related deaths Tuesday, Gov. Ralph Northam (D) also took issue with Trump’s comments, saying residents need to understand the need for continued sacrifice and not hear ‘mixed messages.’”

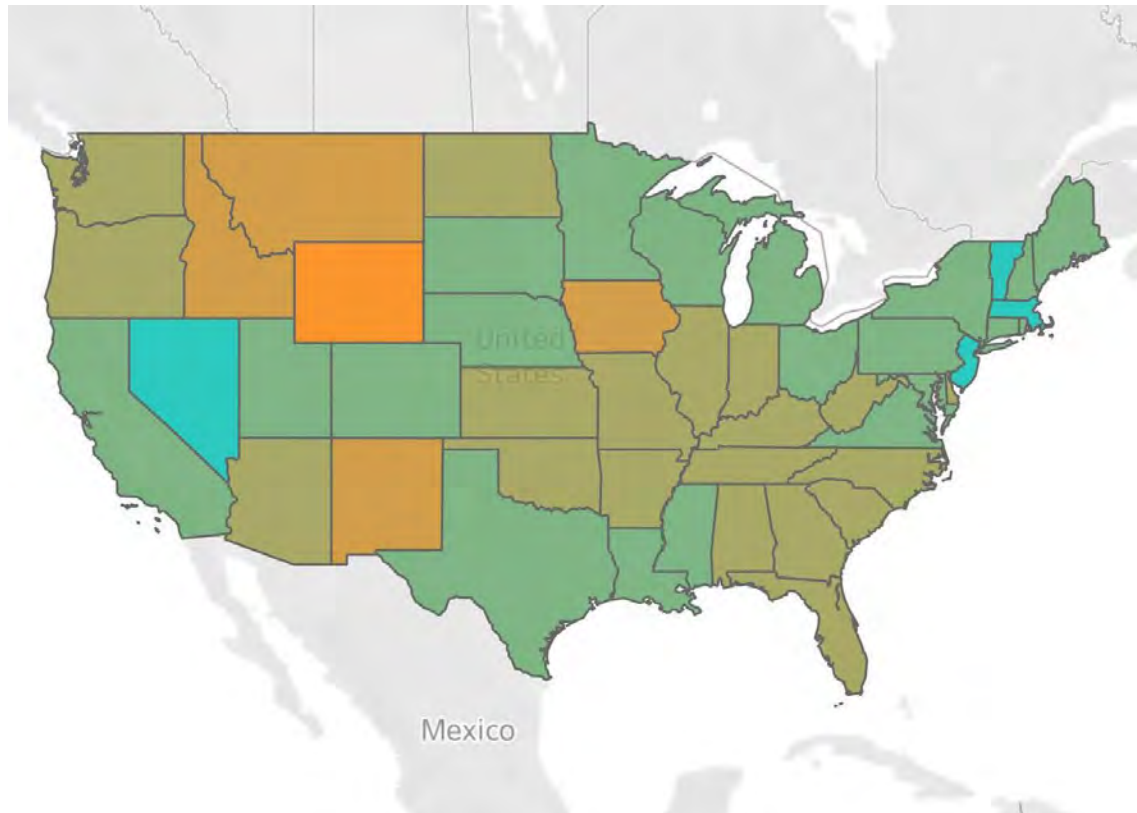
- The tally of known cases in the D.C. region jumped to 828. D.C. announced 46 new cases on Tuesday. D.C. extended tax deadlines and launched a \$25 million business relief fund. ([John Woodrow Cox and Dana Hedgpeth](#))
- Metro will close 19 stations indefinitely to limit the exposure of transit employees while keeping the system running. Closures will begin tomorrow. ([Justin George](#))
- Liberty University welcomed students back to campus despite the outbreak. Jerry Falwell Jr., the school’s president, has said people are overreacting to the contagion. ([Susan Svrluga and Laura Vozzella](#))

## Smartphone data reveals which states are social distancing.

Unacast, a company that collects and analyzes phone GPS location data, launched a scoreboard that grades, county by county, which residents are changing behavior at the urging of health officials. [Geoffrey Fowler](#)



explains that bright green represents an “A” score while bright orange is an “F.” Comparing the nation’s mass movements from March 20 to an average Friday, for example, D.C. got an “A” while Wyoming earned an “F”:



## Global fallout



## India's 1.3 billion people are now under a three-week lockdown.

“For the next 21 days, there will be restrictions on commerce and movement across the length and breadth of India. Even at the height of its battle against the virus, China did not impose a nationwide lockdown,” [Joanna Slater and Niha Masih report](#). “On Tuesday, India had about 500 confirmed coronavirus cases, but the number is growing rapidly. Testing remains limited, and there are signs that the virus could be spreading undetected. ... Prime Minister Narendra Modi made clear that the country was at a crucial juncture. ‘If we don’t manage these 21 days, the country will be set back by 21 years,’ he said. His emotional appeal to citizens not to step out of their homes did not include specifics about how they would meet basic needs. That immediately provoked frantic buying at grocery stores, which remain open as essential services.”

- Spain's death toll surpassed 3,400 today, surpassing China and making it the world's hardest-hit country behind Italy. The nation's 46 million people have been barred from leaving home with few exceptions as the government races to add hospital beds. ([Rick Noack](#))
- Malaysia, the world's main producer of medical gloves, cut its factory

staff in half amid new restrictions aimed at stemming the outbreak in that country. ([Miriam Berger](#))

- India banned the export of hydroxychloroquine, one of the drugs Trump claimed could treat the virus. The government said that it would fulfill current orders and provide the drug on case-by-case basis for humanitarian reasons. ([Berger](#))
- South Korea agreed to send spare medical equipment to the United States after Trump called President Moon Jae-in to make the request. ([Berger](#))
- Iranian President Hasan Rouhani announced there would be new restrictions, possibly including the closure of public parks and a ban on all travel. ([Paul Schemm](#))

### **Virologists are exploring why the death rate is so much lower in Germany than elsewhere.**

“In Italy, 9.5 percent of the people who have tested positive for the virus have succumbed to covid-19, according to data compiled at Johns Hopkins University. In France, the rate is 4.3 percent. But in Germany, it’s 0.4 percent,” [Loveday Morris reports](#). “The biggest reason for the difference, infectious disease experts say, is Germany’s work in the early days of its outbreak to track, test and contain infection clusters. That means Germany has a truer picture of the size of its outbreak than places that test only the obviously symptomatic, most seriously ill or highest-risk patients. ... Other factors, such as the age of those infected and the timing of Germany’s outbreak, also play a role in the differing death rates. But testing widely has been key. Germany, with 31,150 cases at midday Tuesday, appeared to have a larger outbreak than France, with 20,149. But the higher death rate in France implies there were more undiagnosed cases there. France’s outbreak could be larger than Germany’s.”

### **Europe is trying to contain the crisis with unprecedented offers to pay private-sector salaries.**

“France, Germany, Denmark, Britain and others have decided to take over

the payrolls of struggling companies, so that workers don't get laid off. The hope is that by paying people to stay home, governments can slow the virus's spread while also averting an economic depression," [Michael Birnbaum and Karla Adam report](#). "The pricey gamble could work if the coronavirus crisis lasts just a few months, many economists say, since companies would be able to exit their frozen status almost immediately. But if the restrictions drag on, the financial support could saddle European governments with gigantic bills while also failing to avert the collapse of businesses."

### **Russia's official count of cases is relatively low. Even Moscow's mayor is questioning it.**

"Russia, spanning two continents ravaged by the coronavirus pandemic, remains an anomaly: a population of around 145 million but just 495 confirmed cases of the disease and one possible death, although the cause has been disputed," [Isabelle Khurshudyan reports](#). "But the statistics have prompted skepticism — of both the method of testing and whether a nationwide uptick in pneumonia cases could be, as some doctors and government critics believe, linked to covid-19 ... President Vladimir Putin said last week that 'the situation in our country looks a lot better' than Europe and was 'under control.' But state television showed Putin wearing a full hazmat suit while visiting one of Moscow's coronavirus hospitals Tuesday. Two hours earlier, Moscow's mayor told him that the number of cases is probably much higher than what has been reported because of limitations in testing. ... Moscow saw a 37 percent increase in pneumonia in January compared with a year ago, according to Rosstat, Russia's statistics agency. The data showed 6,921 pneumonia cases in January, up from 5,058 during the same period in 2019."

### **Only one continent remains untouched by the virus: Antarctica.**

Some 4,000 people from around the world have watched the virus

progress from the barren continent, where it would be highly unlikely they catch the disease. If they did, it would be very risky. Most Arctic bases would struggle to contain an infection that spreads the way the coronavirus does. ([Adam Taylor and Stefano Pitrelli](#))

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## Social media speed read

Utah's junior senator tested negative but will remain in quarantine:



Trump's reaction seemed sarcastic:



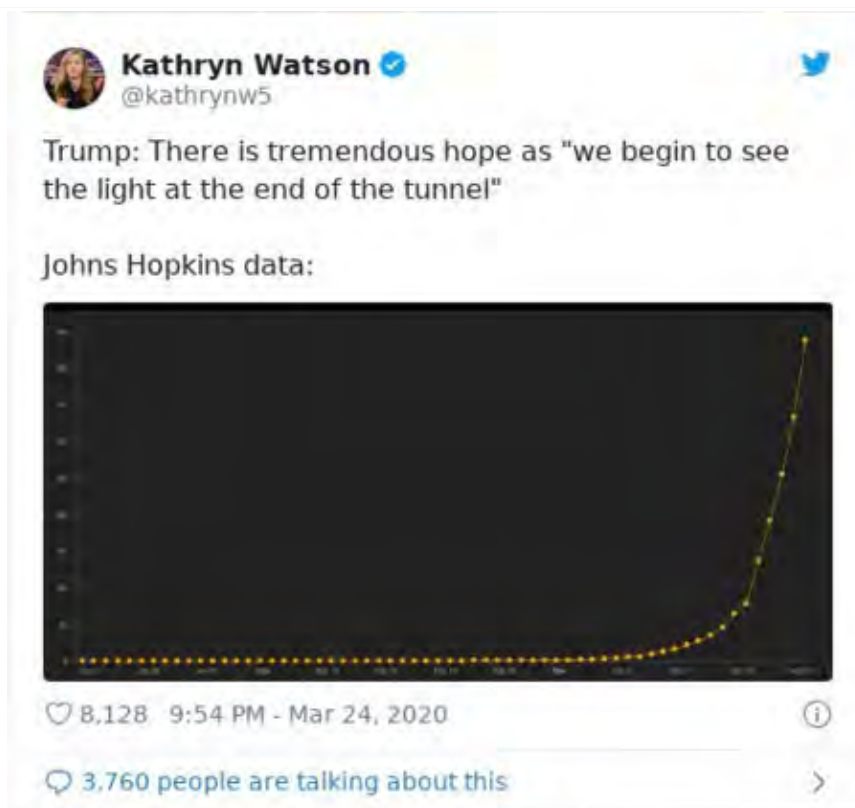
New York's governor had a blunt message for young people who aren't social distancing:



A conservative commentator shared this sad story:



The curve is not flattening yet, even as Trump muses about letting our guard down:



Hillary Clinton suggested Americans stop taking medical advice from the president:



Biden ripped Trump for downplaying the outbreak as it spread across America:



Olympic swimmer Katie Ledecky endorsed the delay of the Summer Games in Tokyo until 2021:



And Italians continue sharing heartbreaking warnings:





## Videos of the day

Seth Meyers and his team shared a few jokes Seth can't tell, all from the safety of their homes:



Trevor Noah has fully settled into his new “Daily Social Distancing Show”:



Jimmy Fallon video chatted with John Legend:



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] March 25 -- E&E News PM is ready  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 2:20:29 PM

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CONGRESS: Stimulus bill delayed: 'Massive drafting error'. Read this story and more in today's E&E News PM.  
PANDEMIC: Environmental Film Festival moves online.  
WILDLIFE: How will sea turtle nesting season weather the pandemic?  
Read today's E&E News PM on the web

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<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/25/full?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/25/full?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)> READ FULL EDITION

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1. CONGRESS:  
Stimulus bill delayed: 'Massive drafting error'

A group of Senate Republicans are raising concerns over a "massive drafting error" in the \$2 trillion stimulus deal, raising new questions about the timing of congressional action to quickly enact the largest COVID-19 emergency package to date.

#### TODAY'S STORIES

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/25/stories/1062700507?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/25/stories/1062700507?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
2. PANDEMIC:  
Environmental Film Festival moves online

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/25/stories/1062700293?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/25/stories/1062700293?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
3. WILDLIFE:  
How will sea turtle nesting season weather the pandemic?

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/25/stories/1062700431?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/25/stories/1062700431?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
4. CHEMICALS:  
EPA mulls rule to relax reporting requirements

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/25/stories/1062700505?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/25/stories/1062700505?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
5. AIR POLLUTION:  
EPA draft would ease permitting rules for plant upgrades

#### UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/25/calendars?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/25/calendars?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
6. CALENDAR:  
Activity for March 23 - March 29, 2020

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To: [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: Who's getting money in the stimulus bill  
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 3:14:04 PM

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# Coronavirus Updates

What to know about the novel coronavirus outbreak, from To Your Health.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Angela Fritz](#)  
with [Avi Selk](#)  
[✉ Email](#)

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest on the stimulus package

The Senate plans to **vote on its \$2 trillion stimulus bill this evening**, though it is still being challenged on several fronts.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) said the Senate's stimulus bill **wouldn't be nearly enough to meet New York's need**, saying it's "a drop in the bucket." Three Republican senators are opposing fast-tracking the vote because the unemployment benefits could mean people will make more money in unemployment than being employed. **And it includes \$17 billion in loans that is specifically worded for Boeing**, The Post reports, which is already under intense scrutiny for its deadly mishandling

of commercial jet safety.

If the bill passes the Senate today, the House expects to be able to vote on it Thursday. Here are some key pieces:

- Around \$301 billion will go directly to taxpayers in the form of a one-time \$1,200 check, or \$2,400 for couples filing jointly for those making less than \$75,000, plus \$500 per child, with some caveats.
- A \$367 billion loan program for small businesses, which will be able to take out loans of up to \$10 million, and employers could use the money to pay employees making up to \$100,000 a year.
- You can explore [more details here](#).

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Content from [Slack](#)

### Helpful how-tos for transitioning to remote work



Find yourself working remotely all of a sudden? Slack is here to help with this comprehensive set of [tips to make remote work productive](#). With all of your tools and communication in one place, [Slack brings the team together](#), no matter where everyone is working from.

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## Other news

**States are competing for hospital supplies as the number of cases in the U.S. surges.** President Trump has repeatedly said he doesn't need to implement the Defense Production Act to force companies

to produce supplies, but **states and hospitals are describing extraordinary efforts to secure equipment.** A former FEMA administrator told The Post the response should be led by governors but directed and funded by the federal government in order to avoid this problem.

The virus **doesn't appear to be mutating rapidly**, researchers say, which means **a vaccine — when it comes — could be long-lasting.** Scientists say it has looked the same almost everywhere it has appeared, and there's no indication that certain strains are deadlier than others.

A **chorus of conservatives** is lining up behind Trump's desire to “re-open the country” by mid-April, **despite warnings from health experts that ending social distancing too soon would lead to an overwhelming spike in new cases and deaths.** But Trump ultimately **won't be the one who decides** that. The 10th Amendment gives **governors clear power to protect the health and safety of their residents, no matter the consequence to the economy,** and some **governors are already expressing skepticism** that it would be possible to go back to normal by Easter.

Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey A. Rosen told law enforcement across the country that it should **consider using terrorism laws to prosecute “the purposeful exposure and infection of others with COVID-19.”** On Tuesday, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear (D) said some of **the latest cases in his state were the result of a “coronavirus party.”**

Thousands of police are calling out of work in New York City. **Around 3,200 officers were out sick on Wednesday, which is 9 percent of NYPD's workforce and three times the normal rate.** But Police Commissioner Dermot Shea told MSNBC serious crime was down 17 percent compared to this time last year.



Cramped and unsanitary conditions in **jails and prisons could spread the virus rapidly, not only to inmates but to the people who work in those facilities**. Counties and states **are releasing thousands of nonviolent inmates** to help control the potential spread, and the federal prison system is coming under intense pressure to take similar measures.

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## What is ‘essential?’

Many states have ordered non-essential businesses to close in order to promote social distancing. A Washington Post survey of 10 cities shows distinct differences in **what is considered “essential,”** not only in the enterprises allowed to remain open but in the efforts to enforce new restrictions. What qualifies where you live?

### What counts as an essential business in 10 U.S. cities

By Reuben Fischer-Baum, Daniela Santamariña and Juliet Eilperin • [Read more »](#)



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## Live updates

**Track the spread** of the outbreak in the U.S. and abroad with our updating map.

Post reporters around the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day**.

Follow live updates about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area**.

**How you can help people in need** during this outbreak.

**Submit a question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

---

## Your questions, answered

*As the crisis deepens, so do our negative emotions, a serious problem for many people suffering in quarantine. Dr. Andrea Bonior, a clinical psychologist with Georgetown University, hosted a [live chat on washingtonpost.com](#) Tuesday. She offered advice for coping with paranoia, insomnia, hopelessness, rage and many other common mental challenges for this moment.*

[The full transcript is here](#), with some highlights below:

**"It's feeling like every time my front door opens is a death sentence," a reader at high risk for covid-19 complained.** Others are facing fear and anxiety over the prospect of losing their income, or falling ill and abandoning their children.

"It's okay to be afraid," Bonior counsels. "But try to notice — gently — when your thoughts become distorted. Ask yourself, is this thought realistic, or is it an unreliable narrator that comes from my heightened anxiety?"

"Stress levels tend to lower when we increase our sense of predictability and controllability," she writes, and suggests keeping a daily routine to add "some structure in your day."

**"I can't sleep because I am terrified," one reader wrote, speaking for many now facing insomnia.**

Bonior warns that pressuring yourself to fall asleep makes doing so even harder, and suggests investigating meditation, breathing exercises and visualization.

She recommends those same techniques if you are prone to panic attacks. "Try to intervene in the moment to decrease that anxiety," she writes. Doing so will also help you avoid mistaking the panic for symptoms of covid-19.

**A reader whose sister-in-law died of cancer during quarantine asks, "How do I deal with not saying goodbye before she passed or after since there can be no funeral for the foreseeable future?"**

Grieving in isolation is especially hard. Bonior recommends creating your own rituals: write about the deceased, talk to friends about them, or even talk to the air about them. "A lack of memorial service now is not a lack forever, or an indication that your sister-in-law will be forgotten," she says.

**As politicians debate whether it's worth the effort to protect vulnerable populations from the virus, one 65-year-old reader is losing hope, writing: "I can't stop feeling lately like I'm disposable — and that we older folks should just grin and bear it."**

"Hopelessness and helplessness tend to go together and egg each other on," Bonior replies, and suggests creating a daily plan to protect yourself and feel more in control.

"There will always be people who value certain groups above others," she notes. "Let's not let those voices — which are being heightened in these times — indicate anything about our society right now. They are the dark parts, but we don't need to elevate them."

*There is far too much advice in the transcript to include it all here. [Read the whole thing](#) for tips on specific situations such as pregnancy, mental illness and eating disorders — and remember that whatever you are*

*feeling, many others are, too.*

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## Today's top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- An endangered species under threat because of coronavirus
- Immigrant doctors blocked from helping the Army fight the outbreak
- Advice from astronauts on surviving isolation

### **Here's what major cities look like now that the coronavirus has shut everything down**

By Karen Heller • [Read more »](#)



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### **Hospitals consider universal do-not-resuscitate orders for coronavirus patients**

By Ariana Eunjung Cha • [Read more »](#)

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### **Why Germany's coronavirus death rate is so much lower than other countries' rates**

By Loveday Morris • [Read more »](#)

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### **Should older Americans die to save the economy? Ethicists call it a false choice.**

By Sarah Pulliam Bailey • [Read more »](#)

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## Levity in prayer

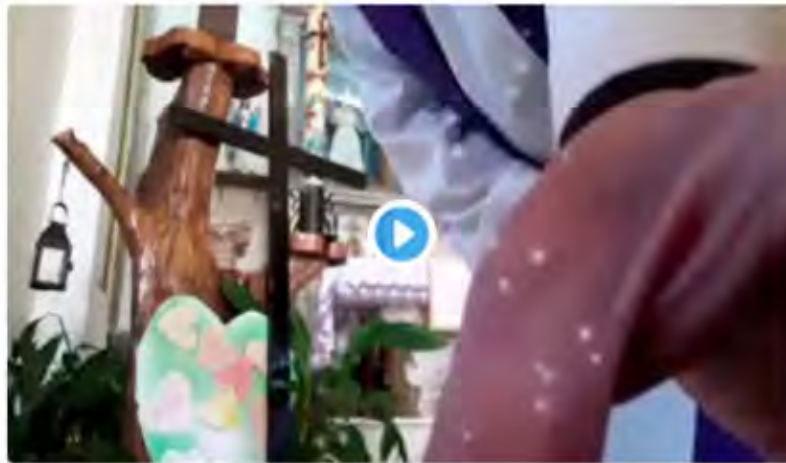


**Gavin Shoebridge**

@KiwiEV



In Italy today, a priest decided to live-stream a mass due to COVID-19. Unfortunately he activated the video filters by mistake.



♥ 357K 1:51 AM - Mar 24, 2020



💬 98.3K people are talking about this



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ENERGYWIRE — Thu., March 26, 2020

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## 1. CORONAVIRUS:

### Is pipeline construction 'essential' in a pandemic?

A pipeline fight is highlighting a growing debate over what type of energy employment should be considered "essential" during a public health crisis.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. CORONAVIRUS:

#### N.Y. hit with 'unprecedented' electricity demand shift

### 3. PIPELINES:

#### Judge axes NEPA review of Dakota Access. Will it shut down?

### 4. PANDEMIC:

#### Coronavirus could slash 1 million oil jobs – report

## TECHNOLOGY

### 5. NEWSMAKER:

#### Bill Gates on coronavirus, climate and 'the shutdown'

## FEDERAL AGENCIES

### 6. OIL AND GAS:

#### Interior under pressure to ease enforcement on public lands

## LAW

### 7. GRID:

#### Minn. law facing Trump opposition survives legal challenge

### 8. PIPELINES:

#### Federal judge rejects challenge to Bayou Bridge

## ELECTRICITY

### 9. BUSINESS:

#### Coronavirus starts to hit usually safe utility earnings

### 10. UTILITIES:

## PG&E's falling stock price worries fire victims eyeing deal

### 11. HYDROPOWER:

#### Maine ordered to verify signatures for ballot initiative

### OIL AND GAS

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### 12. METHANE:

#### Green LNG could help meet marine fuel targets — study

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**GREENWIRE — Thu., March 26, 2020**

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## 1. EPA:

### **More employees test positive for COVID-19 — emails**

At least four EPA employees have tested positive for the potentially fatal respiratory illness caused by the novel coronavirus, or have been presumptively deemed positive, according to an agency spokeswoman and internal email traffic obtained by E&E News.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. NEWSMAKER:

#### **Ousted regional EPA chief tapped for obscure energy post**

### 3. PROPERTY RIGHTS:

#### **Federal court rejects Calif. water 'takings' case**

### 4. PANDEMIC:

#### **EPA union negotiations in 'holding pattern'**

## CORONAVIRUS

### 5. INTERIOR:

#### **Pandemic forces some progress at land appeals board**

### 6. AGRICULTURE:

#### **Coronavirus fallout may spur farmers to plant less corn**

### 7. MINING:

#### **Pompeo: Pandemic shows U.S. needs to lead on uranium**

### 8. ENDANGERED SPECIES:

#### **Coronavirus threatens great apes**

### 9. NATIONAL PARKS:

#### **Acadia effectively shuts down because of virus**

## CONGRESS

### 10. CAMPAIGN 2020:

#### **Sunrise Movement takes aim at 2 more incumbents**

### 11. NUCLEAR WASTE:



## Lawmakers call for probe of DOE cleanup technology

### NATURAL RESOURCES

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#### 12. CHESAPEAKE BAY:

**Ecosystem improves despite extreme weather — report**

#### 13. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE:

**Tech issues hampered information on tsunami watch for Hawaii**

### LAW

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#### 14. MINING:

**Minn. Supreme Court agrees to hear PolyMet permit appeal**

### AIR AND WATER

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#### 15. AIR POLLUTION:

**Ga. plants reopen to combat medical supply shortage**

### STATES

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#### 16. ARIZONA:

**Edict keeps golf courses open as national park sites close**

#### 17. WASHINGTON:

**Inslee signs bill to ban single-use plastic bags**

#### 18. TENNESSEE:

**Red Cross extends financial help deadline after tornadoes**

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NATIONAL PARKS: 'Beyond reckless': Grand Canyon, Zion remain open. Read this story and more in today's E&E News PM.  
PANDEMIC: EPA relaxes rules on disinfectants.  
EPA: Agency outlines plans to ease enforcement during pandemic.  
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E&E NEWS PM — Thu., March 26, 2020  
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1. NATIONAL PARKS:  
'Beyond reckless': Grand Canyon, Zion remain open

While many large national parks have shut down during the coronavirus pandemic, Grand Canyon in Arizona and Zion in Utah have remained open — and that has critics outraged.

#### THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/26/stories/1062709307?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/26/stories/1062709307?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
2. PANDEMIC:  
EPA relaxes rules on disinfectants

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/26/stories/1062709381?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/26/stories/1062709381?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
3. EPA:  
Agency outlines plans to ease enforcement during pandemic

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/26/stories/1062709169?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/26/stories/1062709169?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
4. COAL:  
Union calls for coronavirus protections for miners

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/26/stories/1062709281?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/26/stories/1062709281?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
5. AIR POLLUTION:  
EPA IG digs into agency's handling of state cleanup plans

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/26/stories/1062709045?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/26/stories/1062709045?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
6. EPA:  
Former DOE official tapped to run toxics office

#### UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/26/calendars?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/26/calendars?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
7. CALENDAR:  
Activity for March 23 - March 29, 2020

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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: Use our calculator to see your stimulus payout  
**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 2:43:49 PM

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The Washington Post

# Coronavirus Updates

What to know about the novel coronavirus outbreak, from To Your Health.

Presented by [Slack](#)

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By [Angela Fritz](#)

with [Avi Selk](#)

[✉ Email](#)

*A substantial portion of our coronavirus coverage is free, including everything linked in this newsletter. We know you value this work because you're a Post subscriber. If you know someone else who would benefit from our vital reporting, consider [gifting them a subscription today](#).*

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## The latest

More than **80 percent of adults in the United States will receive a payment** from [the \\$2 trillion stimulus bill](#) that passed the Senate 96-0. Payments will arrive in the form of a check or direct deposit.

[You can use our calculator to see you much you'll get](#), then scroll down for answers to some common questions.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) are seeking to hold a voice vote Friday, which would not require all 429 members to be present. **But Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.)** said he opposes not only the bill, but the idea of a voice vote, and has yet to decide whether he will press that issue. It could delay a vote until the weekend.

The stimulus bill is massive, but economists say it **won't prevent a recession** — **the question is whether it will be enough to ward off an economic depression.** The two most important problems to fix are the health crisis itself, and making sure people get money quickly. **More than 9 in 10 Americans say they think an economic recession is likely**, according to a Washington Post-ABC poll released this afternoon, and more than 6 in 10 are predicting it will be as bad as or worse than the Great Recession.

Around **3.3 million people applied for unemployment last week, more than any other week in American history.** Economists think this is **the beginning of a massive spike in jobless claims**, and that at least 40 million Americans could be unemployed by April.

Washington, D.C., was **intentionally classified as a territory in the stimulus bill**, instead of a state. The District is almost always considered a full-fledged state when it comes to grants, highway funding, education and food assistance. The city — which has a population larger than Vermont and Wyoming — will now get less than half the funding it was expecting.

The **coronavirus has killed more than 1,000 people in the United States.** The Washington Post is tracking every known U.S. death, but overwhelmed state and local authorities are **shielding even basic details about age, gender and underlying conditions**, citing medical privacy laws. Some deaths aren't being counted at all,

misdiagnosed as the flu or another illness in people who were never tested.

**A negative test result doesn't always mean you don't have covid-19.** Something could have gone wrong with the test or, more often, you "may be early on in the infection and the viral load may be so low you don't get [a positive result]," Anthony S. Fauci told physicians.

**New York will use anti-malaria medications** — hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine in combination with the antibiotic azithromycin — to treat seriously ill patients. While **the effort has raised safety concerns**, Trump's direct intervention into the complex medical issue, as well as New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's embrace of the strategy, **has generated excitement about the drugs.**

The New York City area might be the epicenter of the outbreak in the United States, but **the number of confirmed cases is beginning to spike elsewhere, including Louisiana, Michigan and Texas.** This has led authorities to **question whether it's practical to restrict peoples' movement based on where they've traveled domestically.** "The CDC guidelines recommend you stay a social distance away whether that is in New York City or not," N.Y. health commissioner Howard A. Zucker said.

**Our Fact Checker team looked at 11 of the claims President Trump made on Tuesday alone, and found that most were either false or misleading:**

- We had the best economy in the history of the United States before this (it was better as recently as 1999);
- Coronavirus is no worse than the flu (it spreads easier, and it's more severe);
- The United States has tested more than South Korea (South Korea tested 1 in 146 people, the United States has only tested 1 in 911), and several more

**Is “social distancing” the wrong term? Some health experts think so, and the World Health Organization agrees. [We should probably refer to it as “physical distancing.”](#) Daniel Aldrich, a professor of political science and public policy at Northeastern University, lauded young people who were running errands for elderly neighbors for practicing “social connectedness with physical distance.”**

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Content from [Slack](#)

### **Helpful how-tos for transitioning to remote work**



Find yourself working remotely all of a sudden? Slack is here to help with this comprehensive set of [tips to make remote work productive](#). With all of your tools and communication in one place, [Slack brings the team together](#), no matter where everyone is working from.

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## **Live updates**

**Track the spread** of the outbreak in the United States and abroad with our updating map.

Post reporters around the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day.**

Follow live updates about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area.**

**How you can help people in need** during this outbreak.

**Submit a question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

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## Your questions, answered

A lot of readers are wondering how much money they can expect from the stimulus bill. Our [handy check calculator](#) will estimate how much you're eligible for based on your income and tax filing status, and here are quick answers to some common questions:

**Do we have to apply or will they be sent automatically? — Micah in Valley Forge, Pa.**

No application necessary. The check will be automatically deposited in your bank account or mailed to you if filed taxes in 2018 or 2019. If you are on Social Security and don't file taxes, the government will still send the payment using the contact information on your benefits statement.

Micah also asks: **What about a couple filing jointly where one person makes \$110,000 and the other makes \$20,000?**

Per our reporting, "married couples are eligible for a \$2,400 check as long as their adjusted gross income is under \$150,000 a year." Couples making up to \$198,000 a year get less money. Remember that couples also receive an additional \$500 for each child.

**Does the payout include the retired and the elderly, those in that group who are not employed? —Steven in Portland, Ore.**

Yes. Retirees and individuals on disability assistance or social security are eligible for payments, if their total income including benefits doesn't



exceed the maximum (up to \$99,000 a year for individuals).

**How much of a direct payment can a head of household expect with an adult dependent? — Anita in Bowie, Md.**

A head of household who makes up to \$112,500 a year is eligible for a \$1,200 check — or a smaller check if they make up to \$136,500 a year.

**I live alone, on disability, and am technically a dependent of my parents (but over 26). I don't have any income to pay taxes on so I'm not a 'taxpayer.' Do I benefit from the relief bill or am I counted as a 'child' on my parents'? — Anonymous**

The way the bill was written in the Senate, no. Dependents who can be claimed on someone else's tax return won't receive checks.

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## Today's top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- A guide to which socializing app is right for you during quarantine
- Eight acts of kindness: Stories of good deeds from the pandemic
- Full results from the Washington Post-ABC coronavirus poll

## He urged saving the economy over protecting those who are ‘not productive’ from the coronavirus. Then he faced America’s wrath.

By Marc Fisher • [Read more »](#)

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## The wait is endless. Supplies are gone. My New York hospital is on the brink.

Perspective • By Clifford Marks • [Read more »](#)

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## How to talk to others about not traveling during the coronavirus pandemic

By Natalie Compton • [Read more »](#)



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## My hometown showed us how a pandemic begins. Could it also show us how one ends?

Opinion • By Xinyan Yu • [Read more »](#)

## Thousands are crowding into free national parks. And workers are terrified of coronavirus.

By Darryl Fears and Dino Grandoni • [Read more »](#)



You're reading The Post's newsletter guide to the coronavirus outbreak. Not on the list?

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## A different kind of social distancing

Montana officials closed Yellowstone Park earlier this week due to the outbreak. KTVM reporter Deion Broxton went to the park to interview the superintendent, but got much more than he bargained for. [Here's the shot he got once he was at a safe distance.](#)





## We think you'll like this newsletter

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**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2020 4:54:35 AM

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# CLIMATEWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

CLIMATEWIRE — Fri., March 27, 2020

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### Trump pins coronavirus hope on a climate skeptic

President Trump turned to a French virologist with a history of criticizing climate science when offering the world hope about an unproven treatment for COVID-19.

## TOP STORIES

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### 2. WHITE HOUSE:

#### Trump omits unemployment aid when approving disasters

### 3. ADAPTATION:

#### Denser cities: A climate strategy that feeds the virus

### 4. POLITICS:

#### Future stimulus bills could address climate. Here's why

## GLOBAL

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### 5. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

#### Wind power is expanding but not enough for climate goals

### 6. RECOVERY:

#### Green focus for E.U. bailout plan seems more likely

## IN THE STATES

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### 7. CLIMATE IMPACTS:

#### Mild winter reduces springtime flood risk in New England

### 8. NATURAL DISASTERS:

#### Kan. sends National Guard to battle wildfires

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Climatewire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. It is designed to provide comprehensive, daily coverage of all aspects of climate change issues. From international agreements on carbon emissions to alternative energy technologies to state and federal GHG programs, Climatewire plugs readers into the information they need to stay abreast of this sprawling, complex issue.



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# E&E DAILY



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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### **Lawmakers look to the next coronavirus package**

While Capitol Hill has been largely united on the \$2 trillion pandemic response measure moving this week, congressional leaders are not yet in sync about what should come next.

## PANDEMIC

### 2. AGENDA:

#### **6 things you may have missed in the stimulus bill**

### 3. INFRASTRUCTURE:

#### **Water utilities, shippers line up for future pandemic aid**

## POLITICS

### 4. CAMPAIGN 2020:

#### **House GOP recruits don't reflect party's green efforts**

### 5. CAMPAIGN 2020:

#### **What Biden can do to woo Sanders' climate voters**

## ON THE HILL

### 6. PANDEMIC:

#### **How lawmakers use technology to reach constituents**

### 7. WILDLIFE:

#### **House members urge Interior to retain bird protections**

## UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

### 8. CALENDAR:

#### **Activity for March 23 - March 29, 2020**

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### How coronavirus became a crisis for solar power

The novel coronavirus has presented the solar industry with an unsavory smorgasbord of problems all at the same time.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. CORONAVIRUS:

#### FERC, state officials: Grid workers should be 'essential'

### 3. PANDEMIC:

#### Coronavirus spurs coal rush in China — report

### 4. ENERGY MARKETS:

#### 'Oil demand is in a free fall' – IEA chief

## TECHNOLOGY

### 5. CORONAVIRUS:

#### 'Reeling.' 30% of clean energy firms cut workers — report

## POLITICS

### 6. CAMPAIGN 2020:

#### Texas grapples with how to fight oil crash

## ELECTRICITY

### 7. PANDEMIC:

#### U.S. utilities line up \$14B as they weather virus fallout

### 8. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

#### N.M. regulators give green light to solar project

### 9. UTILITIES:

#### Del. PSC acts to protect Delmarva Power business customers

## LAW

### 10. VENEZUELA:

## U.S. indicts Maduro on narcoterrorism charges

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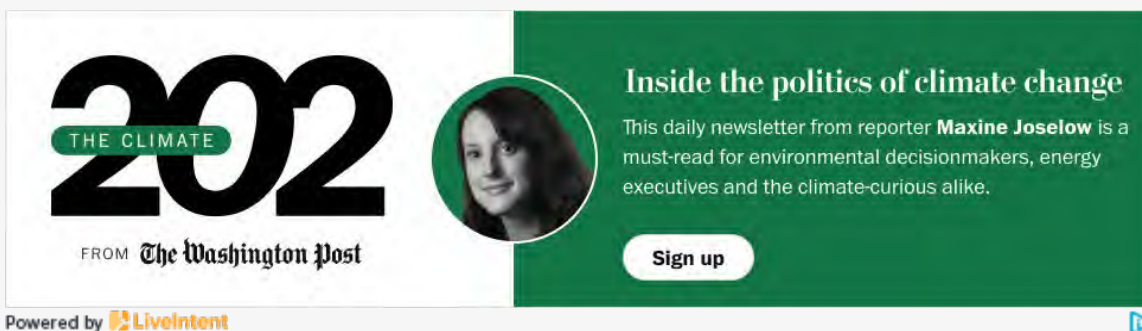
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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Book Club: Business is booming for some indie bookstores, and Tom Perrotta's "The Leftovers" might become U.S. policy  
**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2020 7:41:17 AM



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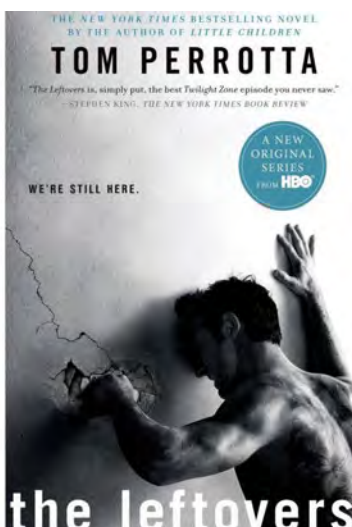
# Book Club

Reviews and recommendations from critic Ron Charles.



By **Ron Charles**

[✉ Email](#)



President Donald Trump (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster); St. Martin's Griffin; Tom Perrotta (Ben E. King/Courtesy of HBO)

**Tom Wolfe once pointed out that the bizarre events of real life**

**far exceed anything we would believe in a work of fiction.**

Imagine, for instance, a novel in which a multiply bankrupt president who's skeptical of science presides over the biggest financial-medical crisis in U.S. history. *Preposterous!* And yet here we are. If only this were a novel, instead of a novel coronavirus. This week, as **the number of infections** in the United States soars, President Trump proposed we all start thinking about going back to work. With an election on the horizon, Trump wants the economy “**opened up and raring to go**” by Easter. We need to be more accepting of death, the pro-life president implied. “We lose thousands and thousands of people a year to the flu, but we don’t turn the country off. We lose much more than that to automobile accidents.” Surely, we could tolerate losing just one or two percent of us, right?

Tom Perrotta has thought hard about losing just one or two percent of us. His 2011 novel, “The Leftovers,” imagines an apocalypse that’s strangely close to what the president is suggesting. His story begins a few years after 2 percent of the world population has simply vanished (**review**). The remaining 98 percent are untouched and physically healthy but, alas, not “raring to go by Easter.” Or by New Year’s. Or even by the year after that. Speaking from his home outside of Boston, Perrotta tells me he was startled by some people’s scornful response to the premise of “The Leftovers.” “*Two percent?*” they said. “That’s nothing.” But that would be 6.5 million Americans, and it could soon be this administration’s economic plan for the United States. The horror of even contemplating a loss of that magnitude is staggering. “I look out my window, and it’s a beautiful day, and the water comes out of the faucet when I turn it on, and my car works,” Perrotta says. “The infrastructure of the world is intact, but there is this feeling of dread and grief that makes it feel entirely different than what it did a month ago. I wake up and as soon as I go downstairs and come in contact with any information, this heaviness just comes over me that I carry through the whole day. And I think, you know, two percent is a lot.” (**Full story**)



Just a month ago, I attended a standing-room-only event featuring writers Tara Laskowski, Amber Sparks and Art Taylor at One More Page Books in Arlington, Va. Now the bookstore is closed, but it's still doing a brisk business by phone and online. (Ron Charles/The Washington Post)

**The coronavirus continues to roil the book market, but we readers are a hardy group.** While indie bookstores have been forced to shut their doors, anecdotal reports indicate that stores accepting phone orders and online sales are experiencing a surge of business. Eileen McGervey, owner of **One More Page Books** in Arlington, Va., has been overwhelmed by the community support. “We are working long hours to keep up with the volume of orders,” she told me. “A surprising number of the deliveries are to new customers. Several of them have already ordered several times in the short time we have been offering home delivery. Whenever we post about a book and puzzles (especially), we immediately receive orders.” When I called **Prairie Lights** in Iowa City to ask if they were busy, they told me I should call back because they were so busy. Co-owner Jan Weissmiller followed up later. “Our phones are ringing constantly, and our online orders are backed up,” she said. With the Iowa public schools closed, kids books are selling very fast, along with classics like “The Decameron,” “Brave New World” and “Slaughterhouse-Five.” Weissmiller added, “Like everyone else, we don’t know how or when this will end, so it’s nice to be too busy to think about it during the day.”

**Bookshop.org**, an online retailer specially designed to support indies, seemed quixotic when it launched three months ago, but now its arrival

looks divinely inspired. Founder Andy Hunter tells me, “Sales have risen 1,000 percent from four weeks ago. We have seen almost 100 new stores join the platform, and have raised over \$115,000 for bookstores — a figure that goes up about \$10,000 per day. We have a four person team, so it’s quite overwhelming, but it is good to be helping people right now.” (Give me a minute; I seem to have something in my eye.)

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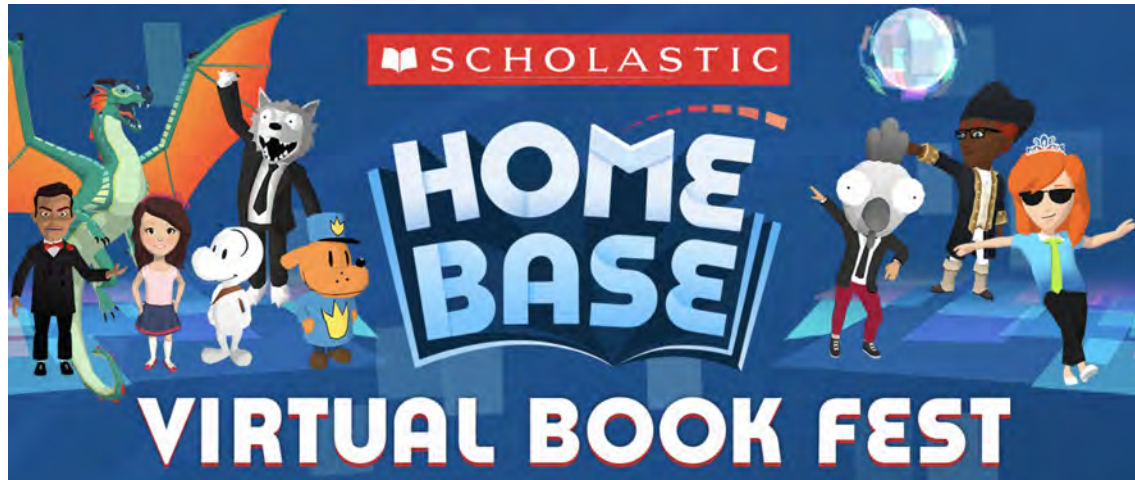
**At the moment, Emily St. John Mandel is best known for her previous novel, “Station Eleven,” about a flu pandemic that wipes out most of the world’s population.** But don’t let that overshadow her fine new novel, “The Glass Hotel” ([review](#)). It revolves around a devastating financial collapse, which makes me desperate to know what she’s going to write about next so I can prepare. “The Glass Hotel” is also the subject of the latest Totally Hip Video Book Review — two minutes of nutty critical chaos for a tough day ([watch](#)).



**With bookstores shuttered and book tours cancelled, the coronavirus threatens to create a silent spring for thousands of authors.** The situation is particularly grim for debut novelists. Imagine working on a book for *years* and then finally releasing it now: No one's searching for your book because no one's heard of you. In marketing terms, that's a discoverability nightmare. But behold: **A Mighty Blaze!** Novelists Caroline Leavitt and Jenna Blum are launching a website where authors can announce new releases, promote their colleagues' work and celebrate great bookstores. The response, Leavitt tells me, has been overwhelming. (Yes, I've been hearing that word a lot lately — in the best way.) What started just two weeks ago **on Facebook** has already attracted more than 50 partners, including the Authors Guild, Poets & Writers and LitHub. Hundreds of authors have signed on, including Michael Chabon, Elizabeth Strout, Celeste Ng, Chris Bohjalian and Anne Lamott. The group has an unpaid staff of 16 people. "We're all working like 10 hours a day because there's so much to do," Leavitt says. "It's a runaway train." A Mighty Blaze, which also appears on **Twitter** and **Instagram**, has already started posting **author interviews** and plans to offer social media classes for writers and host virtual cocktail parties every Friday.

Look around and you'll see such efforts to keep our literary culture alive everywhere. For instance, on Twitter, under the handle **@AtriaMysteryBus**, David Brown, the deputy director of publicity at Atria, has started posting zany two-minute interviews with indie

bookstore workers. His videos — [#SocialDistancingTheater](#) — offer three or four quick recommendations, and sometimes Brown even talks with bookish folks like me ([watch](#)).



(Courtesy of Scholastic Inc.)

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**Alice Cooper needs to update “School’s Out.”** Keeping 80 million kids cooped up at home is creating the largest (and fastest) educational experiment in American history. And so far, while school districts struggle to figure out the mechanics of distance learning, parents are largely on their own. Sales data show parents are reaching for books like William Potter’s “Totally Awesome Mazes and Puzzles,” Crystal Radke’s “My First Learn to Write Workbook” and School Zone’s “Big Kindergarten.” NPD BookScan, which tracks the publishing industry, [notes](#) that sales of educational and activity books for kids jumped almost 40 percent during the week ending March 14.

Lots of authors are stepping up to help. [Oliver Jeffers](#), [Susan Verde](#) and [Mac Barnett](#) (and his adorable dog!) are regularly reading books to kids on Instagram. DC Comics has launched DC Kids Camp on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) where kids can watch videos from graphic novelists and



illustrators such as Agnes Garbowska, Gene Luen Yang and **Minh Lê**. DC also supplies related activity sheets and coloring pages. ([Sign up here.](#))

Penguin Random House and Parents magazine had planned to team up this summer to produce a literacy program, but with the coronavirus keeping kids at home, they decided to launch this week. The **Read Together, Be Together** website offers daily storytimes with award-winning authors, illustrators and celebrities. (This week featured Misty Copeland, Danica McKellar, B.J. Novak and more.) The site also offers reading tips for parents and activities sheets and lists of recommended books for kids.

This afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m., Scholastic's **Home Base Virtual Book Fest** will feature kids authors Lauren Tarshis, Tracey West, Christina Soontornvat and Aida Salazar. (To participate, your child must register for a [free account here.](#))

Clearly, there are *lots* of virtual resources available, though I imagine what parents are really craving is a little downtime IRL. I can remember those early days when Dawn and I were essentially trapped in the house with two little kids, thinking it was both the sweetest and most miserable experience of my life. Take heart, young Mom and Dad: The good times are what you'll remember.

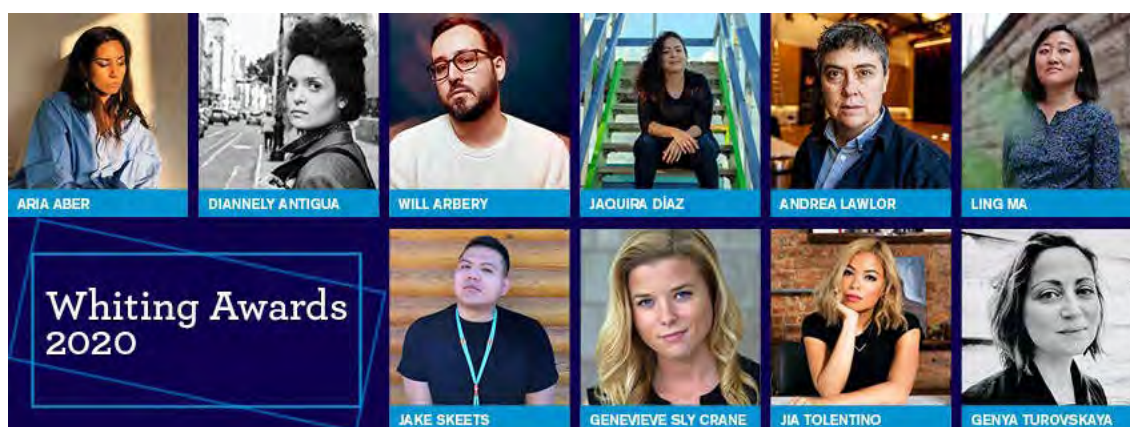
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A man stands in front of the closed Tenley/Friendship D.C. Public Library on March 16. (Photo by Mandel Ngan/AFP via Getty Images)

**Public libraries have closed their doors, but they certainly haven't closed down.** Demand for online access to e-books and audiobooks has soared. For Richard Reyes-Gavilan, executive director of the D.C. public library system, the current challenge is an opportunity to think more radically about the essential function of a library. “What we’re being asked to do is really sort of contrary to what libraries have excelled at over the past 25 years,” he tells me. “The programming, the civic engagement, the book clubs, the job search help — all of these things that encourage critical masses of people” must suddenly be done differently. His first priority has been making sure people know what’s available on the library’s website. “We’ve got access to hundreds of thousands of e-books and streaming films and streaming music and language learning,” he says. And his staff is also considering new programs to offer in a virtual environment. DCPL librarians have already started posting **storytime** and **arts & craft lessons** on **the library’s Facebook page**. Even the library’s **DC Reads program** is still on track. This year the book we’re all invited to read is “With the Fire on High,” by National Book Award-winner Elizabeth Acevedo (**interview**). Overdrive, which supplies digital books to libraries, has graciously allowed DCPL to have access to an unlimited number of e-book copies, and the library has provided **discussion**

**guides** and a chance to **chat about the novel online**. “This is what we have to continue to think through,” Reyes-Gavilan says. “How can we connect people to books? How can we help people understand that social distancing doesn't mean social isolation? How can we stay relevant when we're not able to do what we do every single day with great pride, which is open our doors?” As usual, there's nothing like talking to a librarian to make you grateful for the dedicated people who go into public service.



(Courtesy of the Whiting Foundation)

**Winners of the 2020 Whiting Awards were announced on Wednesday.** The prizes are intended to recognize exceptionally talented authors at the early stages of promising careers. That can be a crap shoot, but the Whiting Foundation has a good record of spotting freshmen stars. Previous winners have included such once-not-so-famous authors as Tracy K. Smith, Colson Whitehead, Mary Karr, Tony Kushner, Jeffrey Eugenides, August Wilson, Alice McDermott and Jonathan Franzen. Each of the 2020 winners will receive \$50,000:

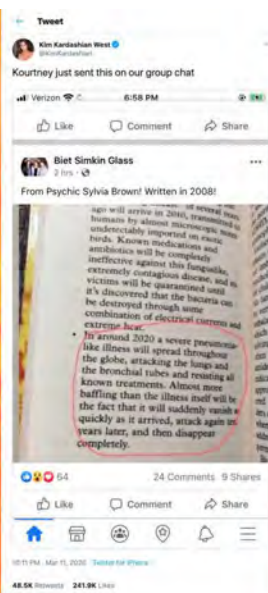
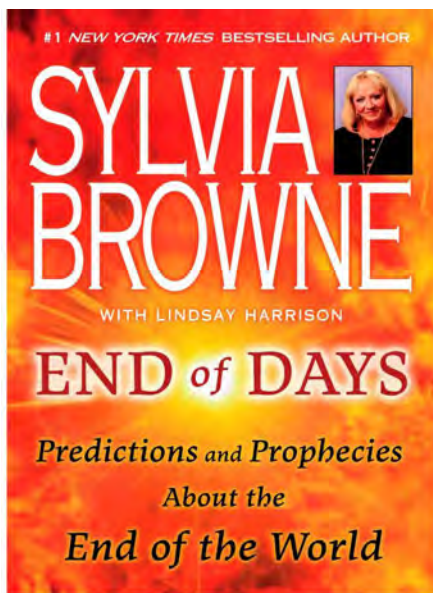
- Aria Aber (poetry)
- Ling Ma (fiction)
- Diannely Antigua (poetry)
- Jake Skeets (poetry)
- Will Arbery (drama)
- Genevieve Sly Crane (fiction)
- Jaquira Díaz (nonfiction)

- Jia Tolentino (nonfiction)
- Andrea Lawlor (fiction)
- Genya Turovskaya (poetry)



**When he was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 43, Bruce Feiler asked six friends to help raise his 3-year-old twins if he died.** Fortunately, Feiler survived – and then wrote a bestseller about the experience, his 2010 memoir, “The Council of Dads: My Daughters, My Illness, and the Men Who Could Be Me.” On Tuesday, a series adapted from that book started airing on NBC, starring Tom Everett Scott and Sarah Wayne Callies. I couldn’t even watch the previews without tearing up, but I’m an emotional sieve, so don’t take my word for it. Critics are calling the show a “This Is Us” wannabe.

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Berkley/Penguin Random House; Kim Kardashian West's retweet on March 11, 2020; the late psychic Sylvia Browne (File photo/Courtesy of Sylvia Browne Group)

**Times of stress often revive interest in the occult.** This month, “End of Days,” by the late psychic Sylvia Browne, is back on the nonfiction bestseller list because Kim Kardashian West discovered that Browne predicted the coronavirus. (If I never write another sentence, that one will be enough.) West **retweeted a photo** of a page from the 2008 bestseller on which Browne writes, “In around 2020 a severe pneumonia-like illness will spread throughout the globe, attacking the lungs and the bronchial tubes and resisting all known treatments. Almost more baffling than the illness itself will be the fact that it will suddenly vanish as quickly as it arrived.” The book is a mixture of amateur history, tabloid eschatology and gonzo wackiness that’s strangely entertaining. Before this year, “End of Days” had sold about 100,000 copies. In response to this month’s surge in demand, the publisher is racing to print 50,000 more. Don’t worry, in the first chapter Browne reassures us, “I promise you have time to read it more than once before the end of life on Earth.” (*Phew!*) President and publisher of Viking and Penguin Books Brian Tart remembers working with Browne when he was the editor in chief at Dutton. “Sylvia Browne was larger than life,” he tells me, “which makes sense since she had a direct line to the Other Side. She would be thrilled that her books are still being read, although, being psychic, not surprised. Sylvia gave a lot of

people great comfort in trying times. She wasn't always right, but her heart was always in the right place. She had a gift and shared it liberally. She was generous with me — predicting health issues, job changes, and assuring me the house I had just bought was not haunted.” Browne went entirely over to the Other Side in 2013, but her flame is kept alive by the **Sylvia Browne Group** in Silicon Valley.



Ice crystals on a picture window. (File photo/Washington Post)

**I discovered the quiet, stoic poetry of Joan Aleshire by accident while looking for something else.** “I’m kind of under the radar,” she told me from her home in Vermont. She went on to convince me that the poem of hers that I wanted to share here was too grim for the times. Instead, she offered this poem, hardly cheery, but more relevant to our quarantined moment -- and a reminder of the deprivations endured by earlier generations.

### **Notes for a Dark Winter**

Try not to listen to the wind.  
Turn up the radio and when the power goes,  
learn to play the flute, learn to sing  
in several languages, concentrate  
on the cyrillic alphabet, fading in  
and out as the lantern you read by  
sways in the draft.

In the siege of Leningrad,

remember, there was no heat  
and by the end one was lucky  
to get one potato a day.

Apartments were full  
of cold bodies getting colder,  
freezing where they fell.

Those who lived  
kept studying with gloves on,  
kept practicing their violins,  
however clumsily, kept doing  
their translations, sharing talk  
and hot water round the samovar  
after the tea leaves were exhausted.

*From “Cloud Train,” by Joan Aleshire (Texas Tech University Press, 1982). Published by permission of the author. Aleshire’s most recent book is “Days of Our Lives” (Four Way Books, 2019).*



Harper; Grove; Back Bay; HMH Books for Young Readers

**Day 11 of self-quarantine.** I hope you’re staying safe during the Great Cessation. We’re healthy and content here at la maison des Charleses. Oui, I’ve been learning French on Duolingo. If I ever get to Paris, I’ll be ready to point out, “Le chien est calme et riche,” which according to this app must be an essential phrase. My wife, a public high school teacher, is

gearing up to start teaching AP English over the internet. And my younger daughter is applying to graduate school and taking online dance classes in the living room. So far, cordiality reigns, though I suppose when we run out of toilet paper, it'll be like "Game of Thrones." Till then, we're adjusting to the tepid pace of housebound life. This week's big excitement is the imminent arrival of our HelloFresh box. Meanwhile, here's what we're reading:

- Ron: "Valentine," by Elizabeth Wetmore. An emotionally compelling debut that revolves around the rape of a 14-year-old girl in a small Texas town. (Forthcoming March 31.)
- Dawn: "Writers & Lovers," by Lily King. A delightful novel about a young woman trying to write a novel and find a good life partner ([review](#)).
- Madeline: "Less," by Andrew Sean Geer. This hilarious Pulitzer Prize-winning novel is about a heartbroken writer traveling around the world ([review](#)).
- Elissa via Skype: "George and Martha: The Complete Stories of Two Best Friends," by James Marshall. This collector's edition contains all 35 beloved stories about those two devoted hippos, and it makes us all smile every time.

If you have any questions or comments about our book coverage, contact me at [ron.charles@washpost.com](mailto:ron.charles@washpost.com). And if you know someone who would enjoy this newsletter, please forward it to them. [To subscribe, click here.](#)

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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: New York City is Ground Zero – again – with the coronavirus pandemic  
**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2020 9:43:12 AM



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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

Presented by **DXC**



By **James Hohmann**  
with Mariana Alfaro  
 Email

## New York City is Ground Zero – again – with the coronavirus pandemic

Emergency Medical Service workers in New York were told on Tuesday night that 6,406 people had called 911 seeking medical help in the preceding 24 hours. It was the highest volume of such calls recorded in the city, surpassing the total from Sept. 11, 2001, when the terrorist attack upended the city's communication networks.

A new record was set again on Wednesday, with 6,544 medical calls to 911.

On Thursday evening, EMS was on track to potentially receive as many as 7,000 calls by midnight.

Officials believe the numbers will only increase in the days ahead. Anecdotally, friends sheltering-in-place at their apartments in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens report hearing the haunting sound of ambulance sirens all night long.

Eighteen-and-a-half-years after the trauma of 9/11, the novel coronavirus outbreak has again made New York into America's Ground Zero. America's financial and cultural capital faces another sneak attack from an enemy that's once again indiscriminately targeting innocent civilians. There are obviously enormously significant differences between 2020 and 2001, but instead of hijacking our planes, this unseen pathogen hijacks our lungs.



Oren Barzilay, president of Local 2507, which represents emergency medical technicians and paramedics in the New York City Fire Department, confirmed the 911 call numbers. And a member of the fire department **told** my colleague Jesse Dougherty that the city's EMS workers are "shockingly low" on personal protective equipment because

that gear has to be switched out or discarded entirely after responding to coronavirus-related 911 calls.

The United States has 85,996 **confirmed cases** of covid-19, the disease caused by the virus, and 1,300 reported deaths. New York state has 39,140 confirmed cases and 461 deaths, with most concentrated around the nation's largest city. That's about 46 percent of the country's cases. New Jersey and Connecticut, which make up the tri-state area, are also seeing spikes. At least 65 New York nurses have **tested** positive, taking them off the front lines.

More than 5,300 people with the coronavirus are currently hospitalized in New York, and about 1,300 are being treated inside intensive care units. Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) said the state has 53,000 available hospital beds but will soon require up to 140,000. That's why plans are in motion to build 1,000-bed facilities in each of the five boroughs and in four counties. One of the medical surge centers will be inside the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center on the west side of Manhattan, where Hillary Clinton held her election night event in 2016 and which normally hosts auto shows and Comic-Con. New York leaders are also considering converting dormitories and hotel rooms for emergency use. A makeshift morgue is under construction outside one Manhattan hospital.

“Part of the reason for the need for auxiliary, emergency measures is that many hospitals have closed in recent years because of financial trouble,” **Ariana Eunjung Cha, Brittney Martin and Steven Mufson explain.** “The United States has fewer beds per capita — just 2.7 per 1,000 people — than many other countries. That compares with 6.5 per 1,000 for South Korea and France, for example, and 4.3 for China.”

Pregnant women at two major hospital networks in New York are now being forced to give birth without their partners at their side. At Mount Sinai Hospital, spouses and family members have been barred from

entering the labor and delivery floor as part of a plan that treats every expectant mother as if she has the coronavirus, [per Brittany Shammass, Frances Stead Sellers and Ariana.](#)



Despite the hellish deluge of bad news from his hometown, President Trump called into Sean Hannity's Fox News show on Thursday night to accuse the state's governor of inflating how many ventilators New York really needs to cope with the expected influx of patients. Ventilators help a person with compromised lungs keep breathing. Cuomo said earlier in the day that the state needs about 30,000 ventilators in the coming weeks but

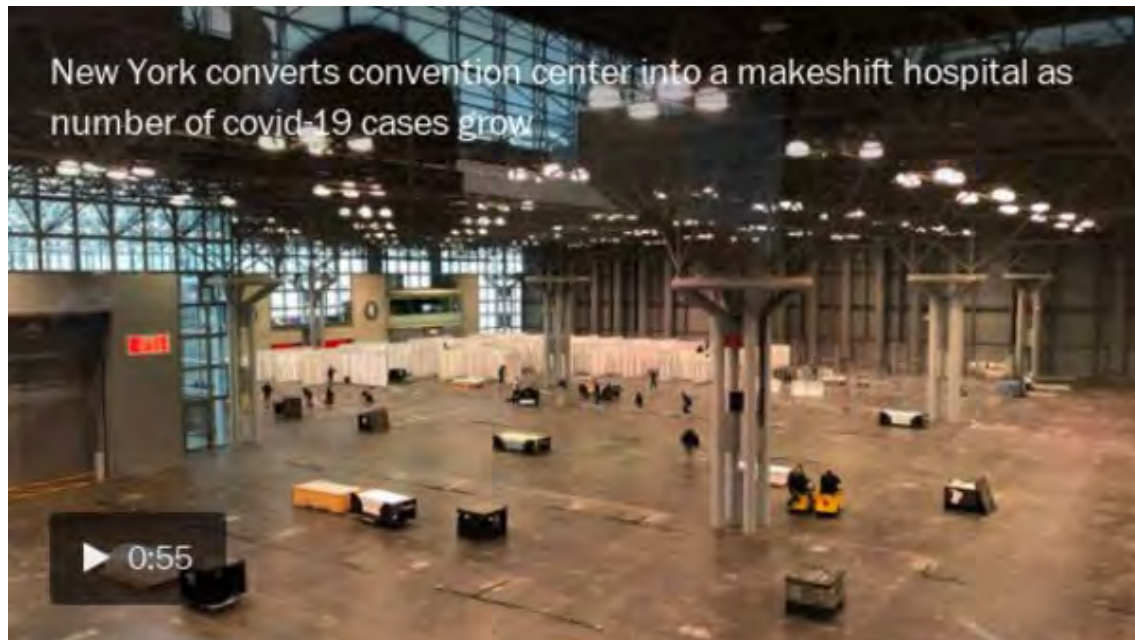
has so far acquired about 7,000, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency offering to provide 400 more. Vice President Pence said the federal government will send an additional 4,000 as part of an effort to “surge resources” into New York.

Trump [told Hannity](#) that the onus should mainly be on the states to find their own ventilators and that the federal government is “a second line” of defense. “A lot of equipment’s being asked for that I don’t think they’ll need,” Trump said. “I have a feeling that a lot of the numbers that are being said in some areas are just bigger than they’re going to be. I don’t believe you need 40,000 or 30,000 ventilators. ... When you talk about ventilators, that’s sort of like buying a car. It’s very expensive.”

But Trump and Cuomo are both supporting the use of an experimental treatment that is not proven to be effective against the coronavirus. “New York is moving at unprecedented speed and scale in a human experiment to distribute tens of thousands of doses of anti-malarial drugs to seriously ill patients,” [Chris Rowland, Jon Swaine and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Health experts say the Food and Drug Administration has moved with uncommon speed to authorize New York’s sweeping plan to distribute the drugs through hospital networks. Planning for such a complex initiative would ordinarily take up to nine months ... In New York, that timeline has been compressed into three days. The effort has raised concerns among health experts about safety risks — including the danger of fatal heart arrhythmia and vision loss associated with the drugs — and of raising false hopes in the American public. But Trump’s direct intervention into complex medical issues, as well as [Cuomo’s] embrace of the strategy, has generated popular excitement about the drugs.”

A silver lining: New York’s crime rate has plummeted amid the slowdown caused by the virus. Last week, the city recorded a single murder, compared with eight the week before. Burglaries and assaults were also way down, [per Shayna Jacobs and Devlin Barrett](#). This is notable because

crime usually increases in the springtime when it gets nicer outside. New York also saw a drop in crime in the immediate aftermath of 9/11.

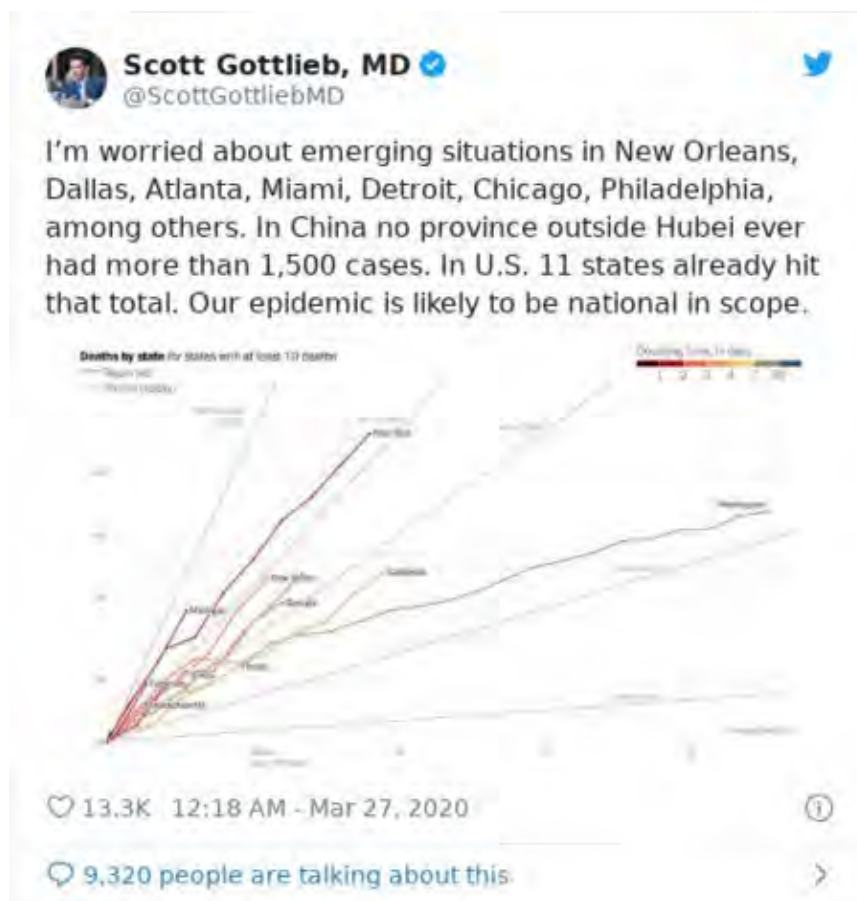


### Other hot spots to watch

“Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) said Thursday that he was concerned about sharp rise in coronavirus cases in his state, including one of the highest mortality rates in the country,” [Brady Dennis reports](#). “The state reported 510 newly confirmed cases of covid-19, bringing its total to 2,305. Officials also reported 18 additional deaths — many of them in the hard-hit **New Orleans** area — bringing the state’s overall count to 83. One of them was a 17-year-old from Orleans Parish. ... Federal officials also are keeping a close eye on the counties that include **Detroit and Chicago** as the next potential hotspots, said Deborah Birx, the White House’s coronavirus response coordinator.”

Trump's former FDA commissioner, who has been informally advising the coronavirus task force, warned that the epidemic could become national in scope:





Anne Schuchat, principal deputy director at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said New York's outbreak is probably just the first in a wave of local outbreaks likely to strike other big U.S. cities. She told [the Hill](#) the CDC has deployed about 1,500 of its epidemiologists, scientists and experts to hot spots around the country, including New York, Seattle and New Orleans, as well as states like Wisconsin and Colorado.

**Washington state, where the curve might be flattening, offers a reason for cautious optimism.**

“At EvergreenHealth Medical Center, two miles from the shuttered Lifecare nursing home where 35 patient deaths were linked to the virus, officials say their rate of new covid-19 cases has remained steady for two weeks, leveling off at a trickle,” [Robert Klemko reports](#) from Kirkland, Wash. “On some days, doctors here see just one new case and haven’t seen

more than four in a single day since mid-March. Few need admission to the intensive care unit, which is now half full, two weeks after overflow necessitated transfers to nearby hospitals. ... In the state that saw the nation's first confirmed covid-19 case on Jan. 31, and the first recorded coronavirus-related death on Feb. 29, initial dire predictions of massive spikes have waned even as testing has increased rapidly. While the number of cases in Washington state grew by as much as 28 percent in one day on March 15 — it has since slowed significantly statewide.”

“We don't know if this last two weeks has been a calm before the storm or if the social distancing and all those things that are being practiced are working,” said EvergreenHealth CEO Jeff Tomlin, whose hospital has handled 40 of the state's more than 130 virus-related deaths. He said the hospital is no longer overwhelmed, though it still lacks needed supplies. “You will never hear me declaring victory at any point of this. ... We're gearing up just in case a surge does happen like in New York or in Italy.”



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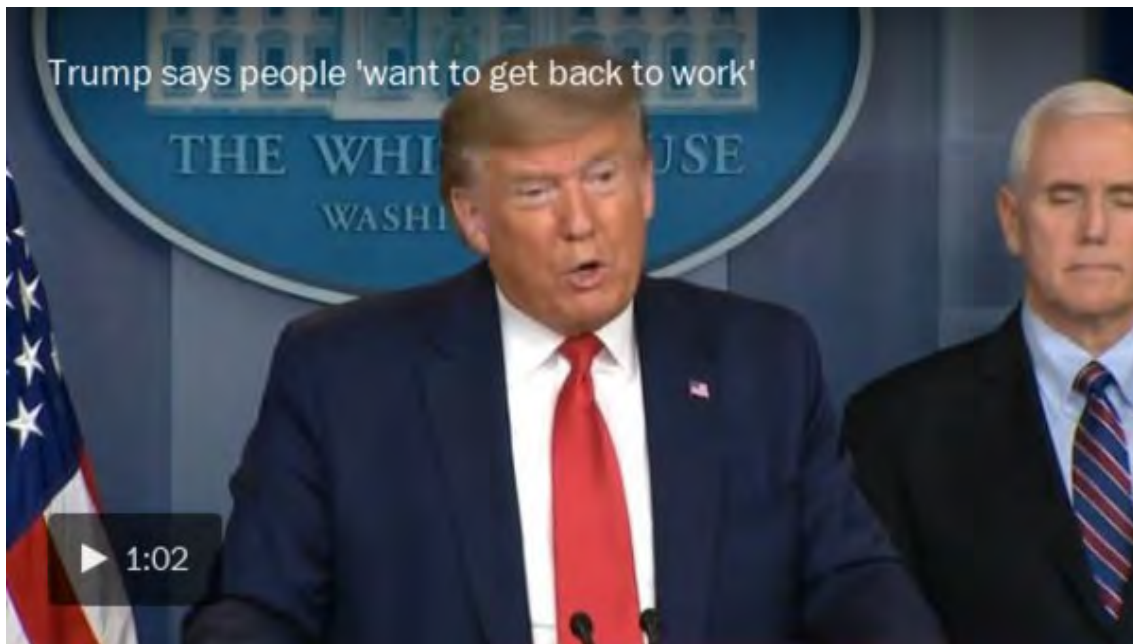


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## More on the federal response



### **The president clashed with governors during a private call.**

“Trump insisted Thursday that Americans are eager to ‘go back to work’ and advised the governors in a letter that his administration is developing new guidelines that will categorize the risk level for each county in the nation — potentially laying the groundwork for less-affected areas to relax some of the strictest measures,” [Robert Costa](#), [Laura Vozzella](#), [Josh Dawsey](#) and [David Nakamura](#) report. “On Thursday, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) pleaded with Trump during a conference call with the governors to take more dramatic federal action to secure medical supplies for his state ... After Trump told the group that his administration was ready to be the ‘backup’ for states in crisis, Inslee interjected: ‘We don’t need a backup. We need a Tom Brady.’ ... Though the president has faced mounting bipartisan calls to use his powers to compel private companies to help, he has said he is employing the [Defense Production Act] as leverage to win voluntary cooperation. His campaign on Thursday tweeted a list of major corporations, including 3M, that have said they will increase production of such supplies. Behind the scenes, business leaders have lobbied Trump not to invoke the law and conservative advisers have warned the president that doing so would draw a backlash and could cut into his argument of running against socialism in the fall, said two

administration officials."

## **Concern about cost prompted the White House to nix a plan for ventilator production.**

"The White House had been preparing to reveal on Wednesday a joint venture between General Motors and Ventec Life Systems that would allow for the production of as many as 80,000 desperately needed ventilators," [the New York Times reports](#). "The decision to cancel the announcement, government officials say, came after [FEMA] said it needed more time to assess whether the estimated cost was prohibitive. That price tag was more than \$1 billion, with several hundred million dollars to be paid upfront to General Motors to retool a car parts plant in Kokomo, Ind., where the ventilators would be made with Ventec's technology."

- The country's largest veterinary schools, animal hospitals and even zoos are offering up their ventilators to hospitals. ([ABC News](#))
- A Detroit-area health system has developed a contingency plan to deny ventilators and intensive care treatment to coronavirus patients with a poor chance of surviving, including those with some preexisting conditions. Henry Ford Health Systems said it has not yet needed to implement the policy. ([Teo Armus](#))
- The U.S. government has 1.5 million expired N95 masks sitting in an Indiana warehouse. Authorities have not shipped them because of their expiration date, despite CDC guidelines saying they're safe to use during the outbreak. ([Nick Miroff](#))
- Trump appointees at the EPA are using the epidemic as an excuse to announce the sweeping relaxation of environmental rules, allowing power plants, factories and other facilities to determine for themselves if they're able to meet legal requirements on reporting pollution. ([NYT](#))
- Internal emails obtained by [ProPublica](#) show how chaos at the CDC slowed the early response to the virus. The documents reveal an antiquated public health system struggling to adapt on the fly.

- John Demers, the chief of the Justice Department's National Security Division, warned that this pandemic may prompt some terrorists to speed up planned attacks against the United States. ([Politico](#))
- White House officials are reportedly discussing the possible deployment of U.S. troops to the Canadian border, prompting backlash from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who said it is "very much in both of our interests" for the U.S.-Canada border to remain unmilitarized. ([Independent](#))
- At least 23 sailors tested positive aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt. The aircraft carrier was directed to a port, and the Navy has administered tests to all of the more than 5,000 sailors aboard. ([WSJ](#))
- The Pentagon will begin withholding some data about infection within its ranks, citing concern that adversaries could capitalize on the information as the contagion undermines force readiness. ([Reuters](#))
- The acting director of ICE, Matthew Albence, is losing favor in Trump's White House after announcing that immigration authorities would halt most nonessential enforcement actions during the outbreak. The nativists in the West Wing complain that Albence's emergency posture is something the Obama administration would do. ([Politico](#))

### **House leaders are trying to expedite passage of the stimulus package.**

"House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) agreed to approve the measure with a voice vote Friday that would not require all 430 current members of the House to travel to the Capitol, given that two lawmakers have contracted the disease and others are self-quarantining due to exposure to confirmed carriers," [John Wagner, Paul Kane and Mike DeBonis report](#). "But at least one lawmaker is considering upending the plans for swift passage. Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) said Thursday that he opposed the bill, approved unanimously by the Senate on Wednesday, as it would add to the national

debt. The libertarian lawmaker also is concerned that voting without a quorum present — the majority of the House chamber — would violate the Constitution. He said he has yet to decide whether to press the issue, which could delay a House vote until late Saturday or Sunday. ... Pelosi said she was ready to defeat such an effort."

- Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) [said](#) her husband “took a good turn” in his battle with covid-19 and has been released from the hospital.
- Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-Tex.) has [self-quarantined](#) after experiencing flu-like symptoms, including a temperature above 101 degrees.

### **Cruise lines got cut out of the bailout package.**

Language in the 883-page bill says that, to be eligible for aid from the \$500 billion fund for large employers, companies must be certified as “created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States” as well as having “significant operations in” and a majority of employees based in the United States. “Major cruise companies have located their primary headquarters overseas, which for years has allowed them to pay almost no federal taxes and avoid some U.S. regulations,” [Jonathan O’Connell reports](#). “Carnival Corp., owner of the Princess cruise lines, is incorporated in Panama. Royal Caribbean is incorporated in Liberia, and Norwegian Cruise Lines in Bermuda.”

- A tweak to tax policy tucked into the bill could hand \$170 billion in tax savings to real estate tycoons, the [Times reports](#).
- Lawmakers said D.C. was intentionally classified as a territory in the stimulus bill so that the nation's capital would get less money. ([Jenna Portnoy and Fenit Nirappil](#))

### **Trump’s online base is going after Tony Fauci.**

“A cadre of right-wing news sites pulled from the fringes in recent years through repeated mention by Trump is now taking aim at ... the nation’s top infectious diseases expert, who has given interviews in which he has tempered praise for the president with doubts about his

pronouncements,” [Isaac Stanley-Becker reports](#). “The smear campaign taking root online, and laying the groundwork for Trump to cast aside the experts on his own coronavirus task force, relies centrally on the idea that there is no expertise that rises above partisanship, and that everyone has an agenda.”

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## More on the cascading domestic fallout



Andrea Austin, an emergency medicine physician, sits with her dogs, Mocha and Chips, at her home in California. (Sandy Huffaker for The Washington Post)

### **Health care workers are updating their wills and making funeral plans.**

“The first time Andrea Austin, 35, considered her own mortality, she was flying into Iraq aboard a C-130 military plane,” [Rachel Siegel reports](#).

“Though the emergency medicine physician had set up a living will and power of attorney before her seven-month deployment with a shock and trauma team, entering a war zone crystallized the dangers of her job. Now, more than three years later, Austin is again weighing worst-case scenarios

as she continues treating patients at Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center while coronavirus crisis expands at an alarming rate. She wrote down which of her fellow doctors she would entrust with end-of-life care. She made clear her preference for cremation. And she compiled her funeral playlist, starting with Israel Kamakawiwo'ole's 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow.' ... If there is a slide show played at her funeral, she wants it set to Meghan Trainor's 'Badass Woman.' For the end of the ceremony, she chose Stevie Wonder's 'Ave Maria.' ... Then she stored the details on Google Drive and shared the files with her husband and brother. 'My fear of dying is worse now than it was when I was in Iraq,' she said."

### **This was the worst week for our economy in decades.**

"The economy has entered a deep recession that has echoes of the Great Depression in the way it has devastated so many businesses and consumers, triggering mass layoffs and threatening to set off a chain reaction of bankruptcies and financial losses for companies large and small," [Heather Long reports](#). "It remains a wide open question whether this will become a long-lasting slump or a short-lived flash recession. Economists say the jobless claims reported Thursday, which reflected workers seeking unemployment insurance last week, is the start of a massive spike in unemployment that could result in over 40 million Americans losing their jobs by mid-April. Although no official figures exist yet, the unemployment rate has likely jumped to at least 5.5 percent, says economist Martha Gimbel of Schmidt Futures, a level not seen since 2015 and up from 3.5 percent in February." Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said: "We may well be in a recession."

**U.S. markets plunged Friday morning**, interrupting a stellar three-day run and offering a stinging reminder that the relief bill won't blunt investor anxiety just yet. The Dow sank 900 points, or 4 percent, midmorning. The Standard & Poor's and Nasdaq also posted losses of 3.6 and 3.5 percent, respectively. ([Rachel Siegel and Thomas Heath](#))



## **A Washington Post-ABC News poll shows the pandemic has disrupted most American lives.**

“Almost overnight, the threat from the virus has changed habits and lifestyles. Roughly 9 in 10 say they are staying home ‘as much as possible’ and are practicing social distancing to lessen the risk of getting the virus. Nearly 9 in 10 say they have stopped going to bars and restaurants. About 6 in 10 say they have stockpiled food and household supplies at home,” [Dan Balz and Emily Guskin report](#). “Trump narrowly wins approval for handling the outbreak and his overall approval rating has grown five percentage points since February to 48 percent, even as most Americans say he was too slow to take action in the early days of the virus’s spread. The rise in Trump’s approval rating, however, is far smaller than some other presidents have experienced in times of national crisis. ...

“More than 3 in 4 say their life has been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak, with half the population now saying there has been ‘a lot’ of disruption. Stress levels appear to be higher today than they were during the Great Recession that followed the financial collapse of 2008, with 7 in 10 Americans citing the virus outbreak as a source of that stress and 1 in 3 saying it caused ‘serious’ stress. ... Nearly 7 in 10 Americans say they are worried that they or someone in their immediate family might catch the disease. Asked to rate their personal risk of getting sick from the virus, 56 percent say they feel at risk, with 20 percent saying they believe they are at high risk. At this point, about 1 in 10 say they know someone who has been diagnosed with the virus but about four times as many say people in their local community have been diagnosed.”

## **Incomplete reporting from local authorities makes fighting the contagion harder.**

“The Post is tracking every known U.S. death, analyzing data from health agencies and gathering details from family and friends of the victims. In the first 1,000 fatalities, some patterns have begun to emerge,” [Abigail](#)

[Hauslohner, Reis Thebault and Jacqueline Dupree report.](#) “About 65 percent of the dead whose ages are known were older than 70, and nearly 40 percent were over 80, demonstrating that risk rises along with age. About 5 percent whose ages are known were in their 40s or younger, but many more in that age group have been sick enough to be hospitalized. Of those victims whose gender is known, nearly 60 percent were men. What remains murky is exactly who is dying in America during the pandemic, even as scientists and public health experts race to uncover information that can help save lives. Overwhelmed state and local authorities have been issuing widely varying reports on those who died, citing medical privacy laws to shield even basic details about age, gender and underlying conditions, the three signal categories that epidemiologists say are key indicators of risk. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which offers a well-regarded and oft-cited public weekly tracker for the annual influenza season, offers no similar real-time surveillance for the novel coronavirus.”

### **Visitors are flocking to national parks, as rangers express anger about their increased exposure.**

“Two days before he cursed a supervisor and quit the National Park Service job he loved, Dustin Stone arrived to work in a foul mood. A decision by Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to keep national park sites open despite the coronavirus outbreak left him angry and in disbelief,” [Darryl Fears and Dino Grandoni report.](#) “The virus hasn’t reached Skagway, a tiny town on the Alaskan panhandle where Stone lives and worked at the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. But if it does, he said, it could be a disaster. ‘I’ve lived here year-round through eight flu seasons, and I’ve seen how quickly an infection can spread,’ he said. ‘When one of us gets sick, most of us get sick.’ There’s no full-time doctor and no hospital in Skagway. A single community health clinic has a registered nurse and assistants. When it became clear that Klondike Gold Rush would not be among the few sites allowed to close, and would

continue hiring seasonal workers from the Lower 48 to come to Skagway for the spring and summer rush of visitors, Stone snapped. He barked a few choice words and stormed out.”

- While nonessential businesses are now shuttered in most states, just 21 governors have issued enforceable orders for people stay in their homes except to buy food or medicine or exercise. ([Paige Winfield Cunningham](#))
- People from the big cities are fleeing to Airbnbs in rural areas to escape the contagion. ([Hannah Sampson](#))
- Locals in the Texas desert want tourists to stay away. They’re coming anyway, forcing officials in three Texas counties to close all hotels and lodgings. ([Holly Bailey](#))
- The Waffle House Index – which measures how the popular breakfast chain is faring during an emergency situation – almost never hits red. Now it has. More than 400 of the company’s 1,992 locations are closed. ([Jacob Bogage](#))
- Stress-baking and hoarding have led to an egg shortage. If Americans continue to markedly change their cooking behaviors, egg producers will have to grow their flocks, but that takes time: It takes 22 weeks for a chick to become a laying hen. ([Laura Reiley](#))

### **Trump approved Maryland’s disaster declaration.**

“The tally of known coronavirus cases in the District, Maryland and Virginia stands at 1,277 Thursday after Maryland reported an additional 157 cases Thursday, bringing the state’s total to 581. Virginia reported 69 more cases Thursday for a total of 461. The District reported 36 new cases Thursday, bringing its total to 271,” [Joe Heim and Dana Hedgpeth report](#). “Trump has approved Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan’s request for a major disaster declaration in the state’s fight against the coronavirus. ... D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) ... condemned federal relief legislation that reduces the amount the District will receive by more than \$700 million because it treats the city as a territory. But Bowser acknowledged that any funding increase is unlikely ahead of any future relief measures.”

- A dozen D.C. firefighters tested positive.
  - Metro has now closed 19 stations and entrances at others to save on cleaning supplies. Ridership is down as much as 90 percent.
  - Maryland will close all child-care facilities by this evening.
  - The D.C. jail confirmed its first inmate with the virus and quarantined 36 others who may have come in contact with the 20-year-old man. ([Keith Alexander](#))
  - Access to testing in the D.C. area is still not simple. Showing up without a note from a physician or the local or state health department will not only result in disappointment. Medical authorities warn it may also delay or prevent testing for first responders, health-care workers and people at a high risk for death from the virus. ([Patricia Sullivan](#))
- 

## The global fallout



A field hospital is set up in Crema, Italy, where 52 doctors and nurses from Cuba will work. (Matteo Corner/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

**The U.S. traditionally leads in times of crisis. Now it's self-**

## **isolating.**

“Instead, the United States’ rivals, notably China and to a lesser extent Russia, have been stepping up to offer aid to other stricken nations, a role long fulfilled by the United States in crises stretching back to World War II. Planeloads of Chinese medical equipment, masks and protective gear have been landing in Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Ukraine, Iran and Iraq, among other nations. Jack Ma, China's wealthiest man, donated test kits, masks and protective suits to each of Africa’s 54 countries,” [Liz Sly](#), [Michael Birnbaum and Karen DeYoung](#) report. “America’s disengagement on the coronavirus fight is part of a broader retreat from the world. ... But such is the severity of this crisis that America’s absence could permanently affect its standing, ceding ground to an ascendant China in the great game of global influence.”

- Trump tweeted that he had a “very good” conversation with Chinese leader Xi Jinping. Trump said they “discussed in great deal the coronavirus” and claimed the two countries are “working closely together.” Trump said earlier that he had rescheduled his call with Xi in order to call into Sean Hannity’s Fox News show. ([Miriam Berger](#))
- Diplomats are racing to get Americans back home while they still can. The diplomats themselves, though, are stuck in place. ([Carol Morello](#))
- The U.S. government indicted Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on narcoterrorism charges, offering a \$15 million reward for his capture. Attorney General Bill Barr suggested the pandemic had delayed the announcement, but he said the time is right because Venezuela’s “people are suffering.” ([Anthony Faiola](#), [Matt Zapposky and DeYoung](#))

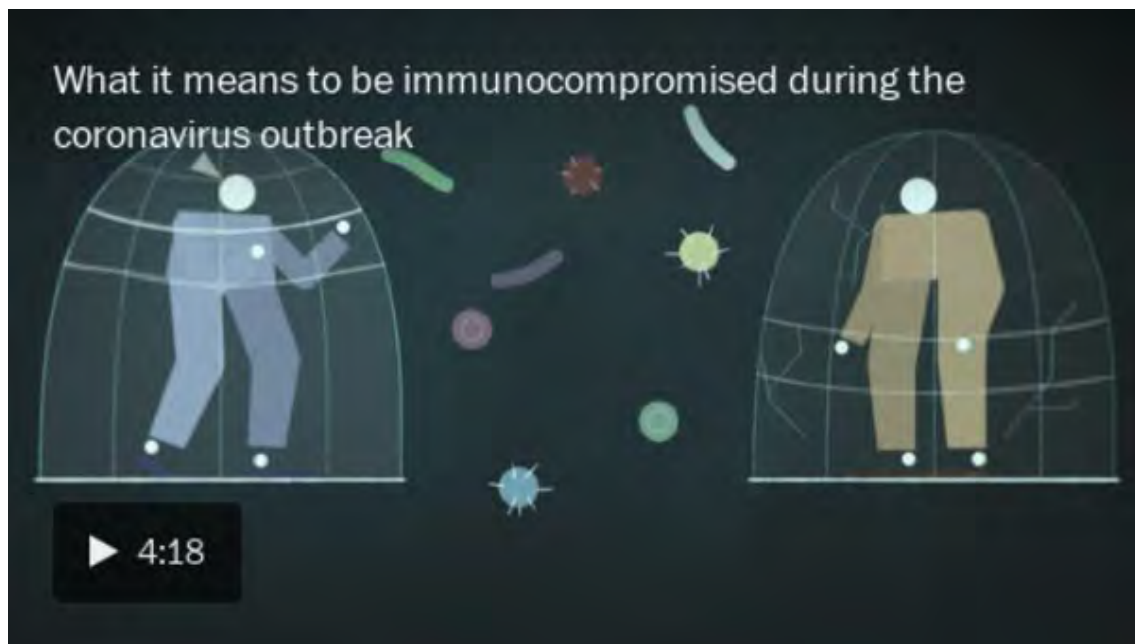
## **Italy’s new cases are slowing, but how soon will life return to normal?**

“Italy's nationwide lockdown is showing the first small signs of payoff. The number of coronavirus cases is still rising, but at the lowest day-on-day pace since the outbreak began. The World Health Organization calls the slowdown encouraging. The health chief in the hardest-hit region says

there's 'light at the end of the tunnel,'" [Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). "But while Trump has talked about revving up the U.S. economy by Easter, Italy has set no such timetable — and experts say the nation is still at risk of the virus resuming its extraordinary, deadly trajectory. ... Italy was the first Western country to contend with a mass outbreak and order a lockdown. But it is now at the forefront in making a more delicate calculation: figuring out how long the restrictions should last. ... Officially, Italy's lockdown — which restricts people's movement outside their homes and includes the closure of restaurants and retail stores — is supposed to end on April 3. But the government has signaled that the measures will surely be extended, something of little surprise to most people in the country."

- Hong Kong banned public gatherings of more than four, closed gyms and amusement centers but backtracked on a proposal to ban the sale of alcohol in bars and restaurants. ([Shibani Mahtani](#))
  - Singapore criminalized standing or sitting too close to someone. ([Berger](#))
  - The virus is igniting prison riots, as well as prompting early releases and crackdowns, around the world. ([Sudarsan Raghavan and Louisa Loveluck](#))
  - South Africa has gone into a three-week lockdown. Two coronavirus-related deaths have been reported in the nation, and it has more than 1,000 confirmed cases. ([Max Bearak](#))
- 

## What it's like to face covid-19



## **A ‘negative’ coronavirus test result doesn’t always mean you aren’t infected.**

“When a new test is rapidly created and deployed, its accuracy is often not fully known. The test is developed under controlled lab conditions, but it is used on samples taken, transported and performed by people in the real world — all of which increase the likelihood of errors,” [Carolyn Johnson reports](#).

## **Men continue to be hit hardest from the virus. Spain offers fresh data points.**

“The Spain data, based on an analysis of 20,648 cases so far and 722 deaths by the country’s Institute of Health Carlos III, a national public health agency, delivers a new level of detail. It shows that men are faring worse on multiple metrics for the disease,” [Chris Mooney and Pamela Rolfe report](#). “The gender divide shows up early, according to Spanish health officials. Men exhibit more of the initial symptoms: fever, cough and trouble breathing. And that carries through the course of sickness: Men progress more often to pneumonia, and have more cases of acute respiratory distress syndrome and more kidney failures. One prominent hypothesis to explain higher male deaths from the disease in other

countries is that men tend to smoke more. And yet in Spain, the gender-based smoking gap is small. ... Two Spanish experts agreed that whatever is going on, it does not seem to involve men contracting more cases. Rather, it's that their cases are worse once they do get the disease.”

**Our opinion page staff team is [collecting human stories about the virus's toll](#).**

“I held my wife as she heaved panicked sobs. She had been laid off. Her boss explained that there was just no way to keep paying employees if she wanted to reopen the business once this was all over. I’m a bartender, and a week earlier, I was also rendered unemployed after our governor ordered all bars and restaurants in the state to close,” wrote Stephen Hood, 34, from Chicago. “Our yearly collective income had been about \$80,000. Suddenly, we found ourselves applying for unemployment. My estimated weekly benefit was \$143. For my wife, \$486. Our \$1,650 rent is due April 1. I emailed our landlord letting her know we were just laid off and might ‘be a few days late on rent.’ Her reply crushed us. ‘I understand Amazon and delivery services are hiring thousands of employees.’”

“I’m 28 years old. I’ve been really sick once in my life,” Susan Deng writes from New York. “Today, I’m a statistic for confirmed cases of the coronavirus in New York. I was extremely sick for five days but denied testing after three attempts. My age and the strict regulations made it impossible, even though I had tested negative for the flu and 23 other viruses. After fainting three times, I was admitted to the ER and finally given the test, which came back positive. ... I never thought as a healthy 28-year-old I could be so negatively impacted by covid-19, both physically and mentally. I am grateful my body has been able to fight it off, but the reality is there are many people who have not and could not, and we need to do our part to protect them.”

**People are fighting the pandemic with music, gifts and whatever else they have to offer.**



“After her performance ended, and the strains of Bach, Randy Newman and an old klezmer song faded from 34th Street, Jodi Beder sat on her front porch with her cello and blew a kiss to her fans on the sidewalk. People clapped and yelled ‘Thank you Jodi!’ from across the street. They said they needed it. She said she needed it too,” [Michael Ruane reports](#). “Beder’s daily 30-minute cello concert in Mount Rainier, Md., is one of hundreds of kind gestures being made by people across the nation to combat the dislocation and isolation ... Restaurants have given away food to employees and passersby, and volunteers are making free deliveries. Sewing and quilting experts have been cranking out dozens of cotton medical masks for hospitals. ... Shilagh A. Mirgain, a psychologist at the University of Wisconsin, described this as ‘the ‘tend and befriend’ response, which we are seeing happening around the world.’ ... The normal stress response of flight or fight doesn’t quite work in this case, she said, but people can tap into their natural ‘tend and befriend’ impulse.”

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## Quote of the day

*“The truth is, it’s hard to say don’t be anxious,” said Demetre Daskalakis, deputy commissioner for the Division of Disease Control at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. “You can channel that anxiety into vigilance, that’s my advice. Everyone I know, including myself, we’re all either anxious or vigilant.” ([Ben Guarino](#))*

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## Social media speed read

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced he tested positive. He said has a temperature and mild cough and promises to continue leading his government's response to the virus from home:



**Boris Johnson #StayHomeSaveLives** ✓



@BorisJohnson

Over the last 24 hours I have developed mild symptoms and tested positive for coronavirus.

I am now self-isolating, but I will continue to lead the government's response via video-conference as we fight this virus.

Together we will beat this. [#StayHomeSaveLives](#)



♥ 47.2K 11:15 AM - Mar 27, 2020



💬 36.8K people are talking about this



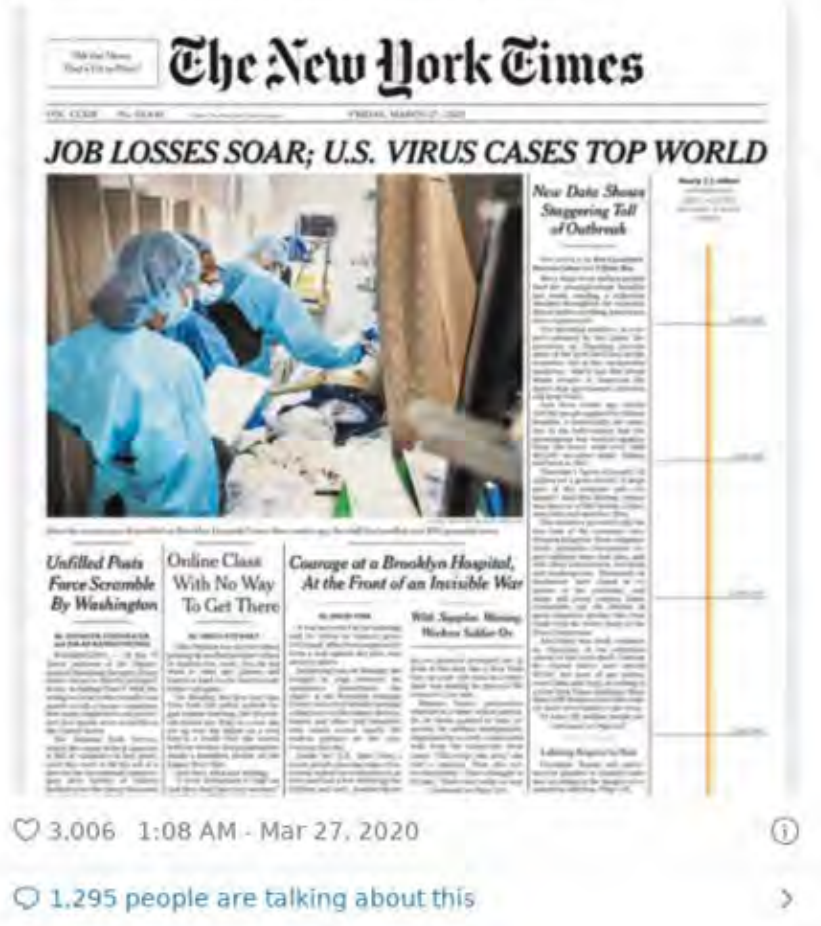
The Gray Lady starkly illustrates the spike on her front page:



**Suzanne Pope**  
@Suzannepope



The power of data visualization: The @nytimes breaks all the rules of layout to present a chart showing America's sudden spike in jobless claims.



The Democratic governor of Michigan replied to Trump's criticism of her on Fox News:



Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) also urged people to take this seriously:



Thousands watched NBA star Steph Curry interview Tony Fauci, including Barack Obama:



**Tasneem N** ✓  
@TasneemN



Barack Obama and Justin Bieber were watching and commenting on Steph Curry's IG live interview with Dr. Anthony Fauci about coronavirus. 2020, oh man.



♡ 139 5:43 PM - Mar 26, 2020



🗨️ 33 people are talking about this



A Kentucky congressman's live town hall featured an unlikely star:



And Joe Biden explained to Jimmy Kimmel why he wears a Phillies hat:



## Videos of the day

People around the world are clapping for health-care workers:



A world-famous work-from-home family was back on the telly:



Seth Meyers broke down Trump's fights with governors:



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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

Presented by **DXC**



By **James Hohmann**  
with Mariana Alfaro  
 Email

## New York City is Ground Zero – again – with the coronavirus pandemic

Emergency Medical Service workers in New York were told on Tuesday night that 6,406 people had called 911 seeking medical help in the preceding 24 hours. It was the highest volume of such calls recorded in the city, surpassing the total from Sept. 11, 2001, when the terrorist attack upended the city's communication networks.

A new record was set again on Wednesday, with 6,544 medical calls to 911.

On Thursday evening, EMS was on track to potentially receive as many as 7,000 calls by midnight.

Officials believe the numbers will only increase in the days ahead. Anecdotally, friends sheltering-in-place at their apartments in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens report hearing the haunting sound of ambulance sirens all night long.

Eighteen-and-a-half-years after the trauma of 9/11, the novel coronavirus outbreak has again made New York into America's Ground Zero. America's financial and cultural capital faces another sneak attack from an enemy that's once again indiscriminately targeting innocent civilians. There are obviously enormously significant differences between 2020 and 2001, but instead of hijacking our planes, this unseen pathogen hijacks our lungs.



Oren Barzilay, president of Local 2507, which represents emergency medical technicians and paramedics in the New York City Fire Department, confirmed the 911 call numbers. And a member of the fire department **told** my colleague Jesse Dougherty that the city's EMS workers are "shockingly low" on personal protective equipment because

that gear has to be switched out or discarded entirely after responding to coronavirus-related 911 calls.

The United States has 85,996 **confirmed cases** of covid-19, the disease caused by the virus, and 1,300 reported deaths. New York state has 39,140 confirmed cases and 461 deaths, with most concentrated around the nation's largest city. That's about 46 percent of the country's cases. New Jersey and Connecticut, which make up the tri-state area, are also seeing spikes. At least 65 New York nurses have **tested** positive, taking them off the front lines.

More than 5,300 people with the coronavirus are currently hospitalized in New York, and about 1,300 are being treated inside intensive care units. Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) said the state has 53,000 available hospital beds but will soon require up to 140,000. That's why plans are in motion to build 1,000-bed facilities in each of the five boroughs and in four counties. One of the medical surge centers will be inside the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center on the west side of Manhattan, where Hillary Clinton held her election night event in 2016 and which normally hosts auto shows and Comic-Con. New York leaders are also considering converting dormitories and hotel rooms for emergency use. A makeshift morgue is under construction outside one Manhattan hospital.

“Part of the reason for the need for auxiliary, emergency measures is that many hospitals have closed in recent years because of financial trouble,” **Ariana Eunjung Cha, Brittney Martin and Steven Mufson explain.** “The United States has fewer beds per capita — just 2.7 per 1,000 people — than many other countries. That compares with 6.5 per 1,000 for South Korea and France, for example, and 4.3 for China.”

Pregnant women at two major hospital networks in New York are now being forced to give birth without their partners at their side. At Mount Sinai Hospital, spouses and family members have been barred from

entering the labor and delivery floor as part of a plan that treats every expectant mother as if she has the coronavirus, [per Brittany Shammass, Frances Stead Sellers and Ariana.](#)



Despite the hellish deluge of bad news from his hometown, President Trump called into Sean Hannity's Fox News show on Thursday night to accuse the state's governor of inflating how many ventilators New York really needs to cope with the expected influx of patients. Ventilators help a person with compromised lungs keep breathing. Cuomo said earlier in the day that the state needs about 30,000 ventilators in the coming weeks but

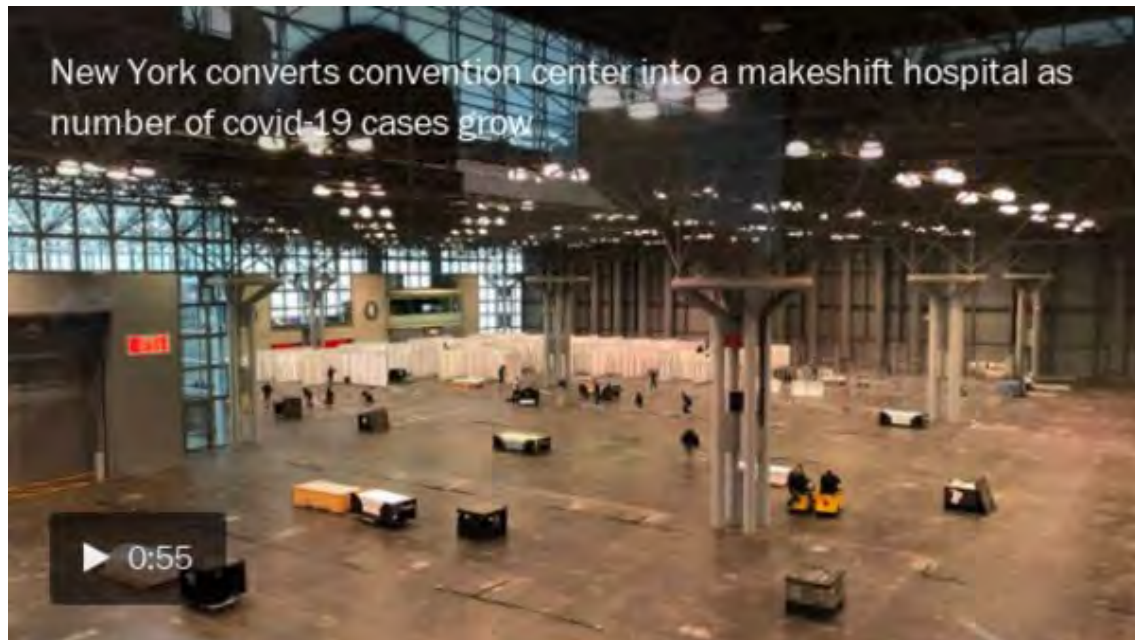
has so far acquired about 7,000, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency offering to provide 400 more. Vice President Pence said the federal government will send an additional 4,000 as part of an effort to “surge resources” into New York.

Trump [told Hannity](#) that the onus should mainly be on the states to find their own ventilators and that the federal government is “a second line” of defense. “A lot of equipment’s being asked for that I don’t think they’ll need,” Trump said. “I have a feeling that a lot of the numbers that are being said in some areas are just bigger than they’re going to be. I don’t believe you need 40,000 or 30,000 ventilators. ... When you talk about ventilators, that’s sort of like buying a car. It’s very expensive.”

But Trump and Cuomo are both supporting the use of an experimental treatment that is not proven to be effective against the coronavirus. “New York is moving at unprecedented speed and scale in a human experiment to distribute tens of thousands of doses of anti-malarial drugs to seriously ill patients,” [Chris Rowland, Jon Swaine and Josh Dawsey report](#). “Health experts say the Food and Drug Administration has moved with uncommon speed to authorize New York’s sweeping plan to distribute the drugs through hospital networks. Planning for such a complex initiative would ordinarily take up to nine months ... In New York, that timeline has been compressed into three days. The effort has raised concerns among health experts about safety risks — including the danger of fatal heart arrhythmia and vision loss associated with the drugs — and of raising false hopes in the American public. But Trump’s direct intervention into complex medical issues, as well as [Cuomo’s] embrace of the strategy, has generated popular excitement about the drugs.”

A silver lining: New York’s crime rate has plummeted amid the slowdown caused by the virus. Last week, the city recorded a single murder, compared with eight the week before. Burglaries and assaults were also way down, [per Shayna Jacobs and Devlin Barrett](#). This is notable because

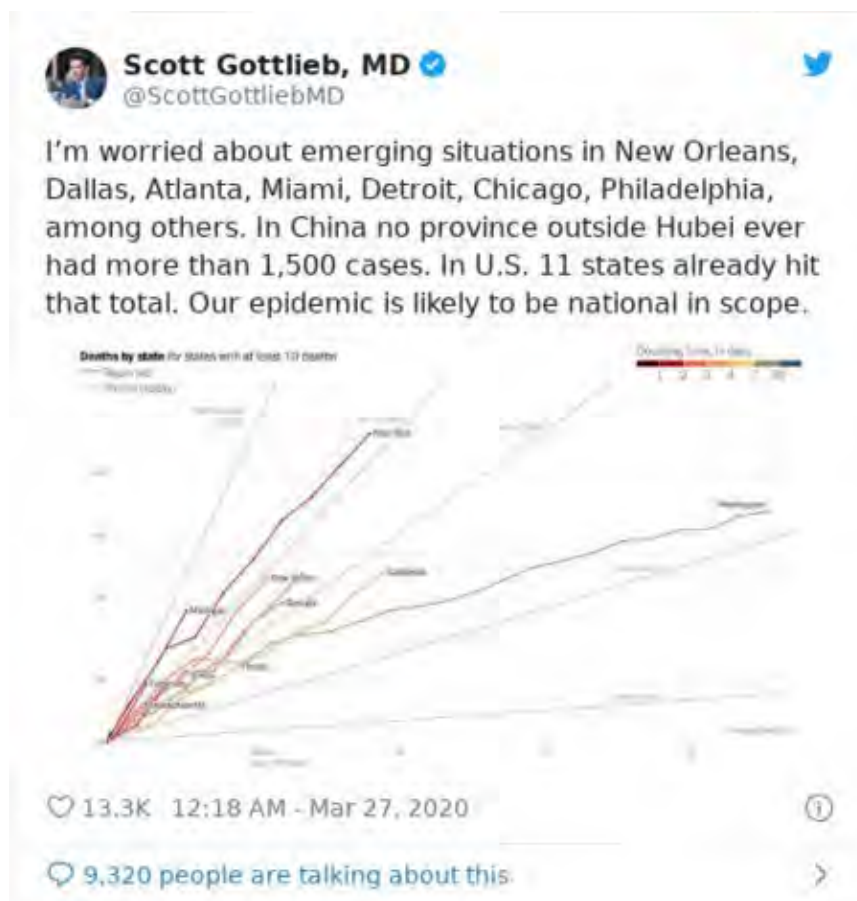
crime usually increases in the springtime when it gets nicer outside. New York also saw a drop in crime in the immediate aftermath of 9/11.



### Other hot spots to watch

“Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) said Thursday that he was concerned about sharp rise in coronavirus cases in his state, including one of the highest mortality rates in the country,” [Brady Dennis reports](#). “The state reported 510 newly confirmed cases of covid-19, bringing its total to 2,305. Officials also reported 18 additional deaths — many of them in the hard-hit **New Orleans** area — bringing the state’s overall count to 83. One of them was a 17-year-old from Orleans Parish. ... Federal officials also are keeping a close eye on the counties that include **Detroit and Chicago** as the next potential hotspots, said Deborah Birx, the White House’s coronavirus response coordinator.”

Trump's former FDA commissioner, who has been informally advising the coronavirus task force, warned that the epidemic could become national in scope:



Anne Schuchat, principal deputy director at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said New York's outbreak is probably just the first in a wave of local outbreaks likely to strike other big U.S. cities. She told [the Hill](#) the CDC has deployed about 1,500 of its epidemiologists, scientists and experts to hot spots around the country, including New York, Seattle and New Orleans, as well as states like Wisconsin and Colorado.

**Washington state, where the curve might be flattening, offers a reason for cautious optimism.**

“At EvergreenHealth Medical Center, two miles from the shuttered Lifecare nursing home where 35 patient deaths were linked to the virus, officials say their rate of new covid-19 cases has remained steady for two weeks, leveling off at a trickle,” [Robert Klemko reports](#) from Kirkland, Wash. “On some days, doctors here see just one new case and haven’t seen



more than four in a single day since mid-March. Few need admission to the intensive care unit, which is now half full, two weeks after overflow necessitated transfers to nearby hospitals. ... In the state that saw the nation's first confirmed covid-19 case on Jan. 31, and the first recorded coronavirus-related death on Feb. 29, initial dire predictions of massive spikes have waned even as testing has increased rapidly. While the number of cases in Washington state grew by as much as 28 percent in one day on March 15 — it has since slowed significantly statewide.”

“We don't know if this last two weeks has been a calm before the storm or if the social distancing and all those things that are being practiced are working,” said EvergreenHealth CEO Jeff Tomlin, whose hospital has handled 40 of the state's more than 130 virus-related deaths. He said the hospital is no longer overwhelmed, though it still lacks needed supplies. “You will never hear me declaring victory at any point of this. ... We're gearing up just in case a surge does happen like in New York or in Italy.”



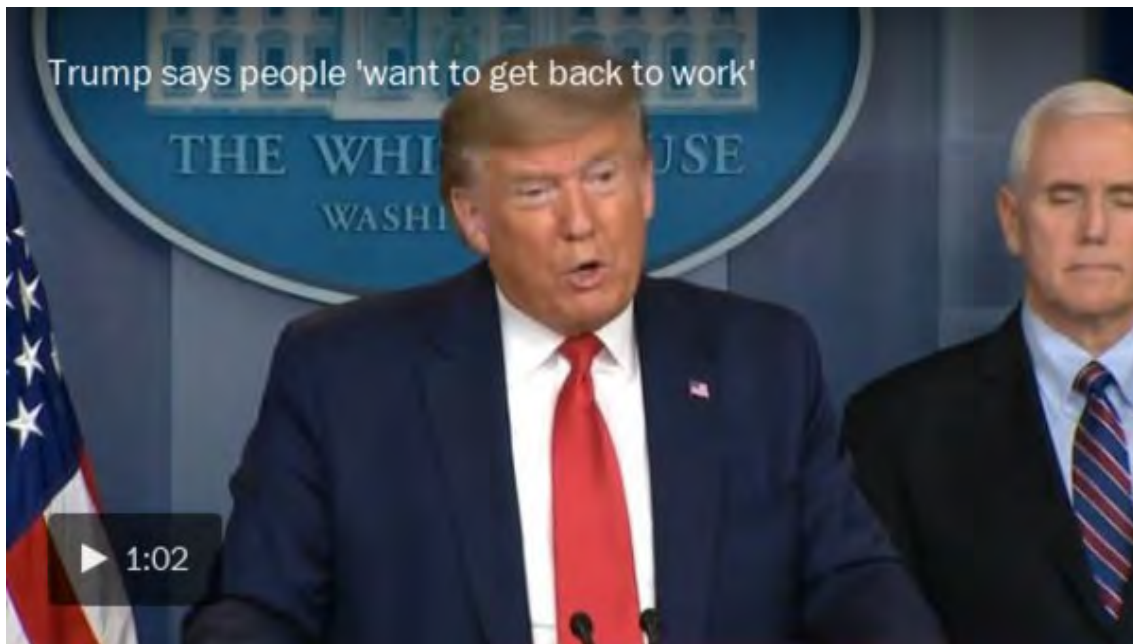
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## More on the federal response



### **The president clashed with governors during a private call.**

“Trump insisted Thursday that Americans are eager to ‘go back to work’ and advised the governors in a letter that his administration is developing new guidelines that will categorize the risk level for each county in the nation — potentially laying the groundwork for less-affected areas to relax some of the strictest measures,” [Robert Costa](#), [Laura Vozzella](#), [Josh Dawsey](#) and [David Nakamura](#) report. “On Thursday, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) pleaded with Trump during a conference call with the governors to take more dramatic federal action to secure medical supplies for his state ... After Trump told the group that his administration was ready to be the ‘backup’ for states in crisis, Inslee interjected: ‘We don’t need a backup. We need a Tom Brady.’ ... Though the president has faced mounting bipartisan calls to use his powers to compel private companies to help, he has said he is employing the [Defense Production Act] as leverage to win voluntary cooperation. His campaign on Thursday tweeted a list of major corporations, including 3M, that have said they will increase production of such supplies. Behind the scenes, business leaders have lobbied Trump not to invoke the law and conservative advisers have warned the president that doing so would draw a backlash and could cut into his argument of running against socialism in the fall, said two

administration officials."

## **Concern about cost prompted the White House to nix a plan for ventilator production.**

"The White House had been preparing to reveal on Wednesday a joint venture between General Motors and Ventec Life Systems that would allow for the production of as many as 80,000 desperately needed ventilators," [the New York Times reports](#). "The decision to cancel the announcement, government officials say, came after [FEMA] said it needed more time to assess whether the estimated cost was prohibitive. That price tag was more than \$1 billion, with several hundred million dollars to be paid upfront to General Motors to retool a car parts plant in Kokomo, Ind., where the ventilators would be made with Ventec's technology."

- The country's largest veterinary schools, animal hospitals and even zoos are offering up their ventilators to hospitals. ([ABC News](#))
- A Detroit-area health system has developed a contingency plan to deny ventilators and intensive care treatment to coronavirus patients with a poor chance of surviving, including those with some preexisting conditions. Henry Ford Health Systems said it has not yet needed to implement the policy. ([Teo Armus](#))
- The U.S. government has 1.5 million expired N95 masks sitting in an Indiana warehouse. Authorities have not shipped them because of their expiration date, despite CDC guidelines saying they're safe to use during the outbreak. ([Nick Miroff](#))
- Trump appointees at the EPA are using the epidemic as an excuse to announce the sweeping relaxation of environmental rules, allowing power plants, factories and other facilities to determine for themselves if they're able to meet legal requirements on reporting pollution. ([NYT](#))
- Internal emails obtained by [ProPublica](#) show how chaos at the CDC slowed the early response to the virus. The documents reveal an antiquated public health system struggling to adapt on the fly.

- John Demers, the chief of the Justice Department's National Security Division, warned that this pandemic may prompt some terrorists to speed up planned attacks against the United States. ([Politico](#))
- White House officials are reportedly discussing the possible deployment of U.S. troops to the Canadian border, prompting backlash from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who said it is "very much in both of our interests" for the U.S.-Canada border to remain unmilitarized. ([Independent](#))
- At least 23 sailors tested positive aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt. The aircraft carrier was directed to a port, and the Navy has administered tests to all of the more than 5,000 sailors aboard. ([WSJ](#))
- The Pentagon will begin withholding some data about infection within its ranks, citing concern that adversaries could capitalize on the information as the contagion undermines force readiness. ([Reuters](#))
- The acting director of ICE, Matthew Albence, is losing favor in Trump's White House after announcing that immigration authorities would halt most nonessential enforcement actions during the outbreak. The nativists in the West Wing complain that Albence's emergency posture is something the Obama administration would do. ([Politico](#))

### **House leaders are trying to expedite passage of the stimulus package.**

"House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) agreed to approve the measure with a voice vote Friday that would not require all 430 current members of the House to travel to the Capitol, given that two lawmakers have contracted the disease and others are self-quarantining due to exposure to confirmed carriers," [John Wagner, Paul Kane and Mike DeBonis report](#). "But at least one lawmaker is considering upending the plans for swift passage. Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) said Thursday that he opposed the bill, approved unanimously by the Senate on Wednesday, as it would add to the national

debt. The libertarian lawmaker also is concerned that voting without a quorum present — the majority of the House chamber — would violate the Constitution. He said he has yet to decide whether to press the issue, which could delay a House vote until late Saturday or Sunday. ... Pelosi said she was ready to defeat such an effort."

- Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) [said](#) her husband “took a good turn” in his battle with covid-19 and has been released from the hospital.
- Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-Tex.) has [self-quarantined](#) after experiencing flu-like symptoms, including a temperature above 101 degrees.

### **Cruise lines got cut out of the bailout package.**

Language in the 883-page bill says that, to be eligible for aid from the \$500 billion fund for large employers, companies must be certified as “created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States” as well as having “significant operations in” and a majority of employees based in the United States. “Major cruise companies have located their primary headquarters overseas, which for years has allowed them to pay almost no federal taxes and avoid some U.S. regulations,” [Jonathan O’Connell reports](#). “Carnival Corp., owner of the Princess cruise lines, is incorporated in Panama. Royal Caribbean is incorporated in Liberia, and Norwegian Cruise Lines in Bermuda.”

- A tweak to tax policy tucked into the bill could hand \$170 billion in tax savings to real estate tycoons, the [Times reports](#).
- Lawmakers said D.C. was intentionally classified as a territory in the stimulus bill so that the nation's capital would get less money. ([Jenna Portnoy and Fenit Nirappil](#))

### **Trump’s online base is going after Tony Fauci.**

“A cadre of right-wing news sites pulled from the fringes in recent years through repeated mention by Trump is now taking aim at ... the nation’s top infectious diseases expert, who has given interviews in which he has tempered praise for the president with doubts about his

pronouncements,” [Isaac Stanley-Becker reports](#). “The smear campaign taking root online, and laying the groundwork for Trump to cast aside the experts on his own coronavirus task force, relies centrally on the idea that there is no expertise that rises above partisanship, and that everyone has an agenda.”

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## More on the cascading domestic fallout



Andrea Austin, an emergency medicine physician, sits with her dogs, Mocha and Chips, at her home in California. (Sandy Huffaker for The Washington Post)

### **Health care workers are updating their wills and making funeral plans.**

“The first time Andrea Austin, 35, considered her own mortality, she was flying into Iraq aboard a C-130 military plane,” [Rachel Siegel reports](#).

“Though the emergency medicine physician had set up a living will and power of attorney before her seven-month deployment with a shock and trauma team, entering a war zone crystallized the dangers of her job. Now, more than three years later, Austin is again weighing worst-case scenarios

as she continues treating patients at Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center while coronavirus crisis expands at an alarming rate. She wrote down which of her fellow doctors she would entrust with end-of-life care. She made clear her preference for cremation. And she compiled her funeral playlist, starting with Israel Kamakawiwo'ole's 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow.' ... If there is a slide show played at her funeral, she wants it set to Meghan Trainor's 'Badass Woman.' For the end of the ceremony, she chose Stevie Wonder's 'Ave Maria.' ... Then she stored the details on Google Drive and shared the files with her husband and brother. 'My fear of dying is worse now than it was when I was in Iraq,' she said."

### **This was the worst week for our economy in decades.**

"The economy has entered a deep recession that has echoes of the Great Depression in the way it has devastated so many businesses and consumers, triggering mass layoffs and threatening to set off a chain reaction of bankruptcies and financial losses for companies large and small," [Heather Long reports](#). "It remains a wide open question whether this will become a long-lasting slump or a short-lived flash recession. Economists say the jobless claims reported Thursday, which reflected workers seeking unemployment insurance last week, is the start of a massive spike in unemployment that could result in over 40 million Americans losing their jobs by mid-April. Although no official figures exist yet, the unemployment rate has likely jumped to at least 5.5 percent, says economist Martha Gimbel of Schmidt Futures, a level not seen since 2015 and up from 3.5 percent in February." Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said: "We may well be in a recession."

**U.S. markets plunged Friday morning**, interrupting a stellar three-day run and offering a stinging reminder that the relief bill won't blunt investor anxiety just yet. The Dow sank 900 points, or 4 percent, midmorning. The Standard & Poor's and Nasdaq also posted losses of 3.6 and 3.5 percent, respectively. ([Rachel Siegel and Thomas Heath](#))

## **A Washington Post-ABC News poll shows the pandemic has disrupted most American lives.**

“Almost overnight, the threat from the virus has changed habits and lifestyles. Roughly 9 in 10 say they are staying home ‘as much as possible’ and are practicing social distancing to lessen the risk of getting the virus. Nearly 9 in 10 say they have stopped going to bars and restaurants. About 6 in 10 say they have stockpiled food and household supplies at home,” [Dan Balz and Emily Guskin report](#). “Trump narrowly wins approval for handling the outbreak and his overall approval rating has grown five percentage points since February to 48 percent, even as most Americans say he was too slow to take action in the early days of the virus’s spread. The rise in Trump’s approval rating, however, is far smaller than some other presidents have experienced in times of national crisis. ...

“More than 3 in 4 say their life has been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak, with half the population now saying there has been ‘a lot’ of disruption. Stress levels appear to be higher today than they were during the Great Recession that followed the financial collapse of 2008, with 7 in 10 Americans citing the virus outbreak as a source of that stress and 1 in 3 saying it caused ‘serious’ stress. ... Nearly 7 in 10 Americans say they are worried that they or someone in their immediate family might catch the disease. Asked to rate their personal risk of getting sick from the virus, 56 percent say they feel at risk, with 20 percent saying they believe they are at high risk. At this point, about 1 in 10 say they know someone who has been diagnosed with the virus but about four times as many say people in their local community have been diagnosed.”

## **Incomplete reporting from local authorities makes fighting the contagion harder.**

“The Post is tracking every known U.S. death, analyzing data from health agencies and gathering details from family and friends of the victims. In the first 1,000 fatalities, some patterns have begun to emerge,” [Abigail](#)



[Hauslohner, Reis Thebault and Jacqueline Dupree report.](#) “About 65 percent of the dead whose ages are known were older than 70, and nearly 40 percent were over 80, demonstrating that risk rises along with age. About 5 percent whose ages are known were in their 40s or younger, but many more in that age group have been sick enough to be hospitalized. Of those victims whose gender is known, nearly 60 percent were men. What remains murky is exactly who is dying in America during the pandemic, even as scientists and public health experts race to uncover information that can help save lives. Overwhelmed state and local authorities have been issuing widely varying reports on those who died, citing medical privacy laws to shield even basic details about age, gender and underlying conditions, the three signal categories that epidemiologists say are key indicators of risk. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which offers a well-regarded and oft-cited public weekly tracker for the annual influenza season, offers no similar real-time surveillance for the novel coronavirus.”

### **Visitors are flocking to national parks, as rangers express anger about their increased exposure.**

“Two days before he cursed a supervisor and quit the National Park Service job he loved, Dustin Stone arrived to work in a foul mood. A decision by Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to keep national park sites open despite the coronavirus outbreak left him angry and in disbelief,” [Darryl Fears and Dino Grandoni report.](#) “The virus hasn’t reached Skagway, a tiny town on the Alaskan panhandle where Stone lives and worked at the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. But if it does, he said, it could be a disaster. ‘I’ve lived here year-round through eight flu seasons, and I’ve seen how quickly an infection can spread,’ he said. ‘When one of us gets sick, most of us get sick.’ There’s no full-time doctor and no hospital in Skagway. A single community health clinic has a registered nurse and assistants. When it became clear that Klondike Gold Rush would not be among the few sites allowed to close, and would

continue hiring seasonal workers from the Lower 48 to come to Skagway for the spring and summer rush of visitors, Stone snapped. He barked a few choice words and stormed out.”

- While nonessential businesses are now shuttered in most states, just 21 governors have issued enforceable orders for people stay in their homes except to buy food or medicine or exercise. ([Paige Winfield Cunningham](#))
- People from the big cities are fleeing to Airbnbs in rural areas to escape the contagion. ([Hannah Sampson](#))
- Locals in the Texas desert want tourists to stay away. They’re coming anyway, forcing officials in three Texas counties to close all hotels and lodgings. ([Holly Bailey](#))
- The Waffle House Index – which measures how the popular breakfast chain is faring during an emergency situation – almost never hits red. Now it has. More than 400 of the company’s 1,992 locations are closed. ([Jacob Bogage](#))
- Stress-baking and hoarding have led to an egg shortage. If Americans continue to markedly change their cooking behaviors, egg producers will have to grow their flocks, but that takes time: It takes 22 weeks for a chick to become a laying hen. ([Laura Reiley](#))

### **Trump approved Maryland’s disaster declaration.**

“The tally of known coronavirus cases in the District, Maryland and Virginia stands at 1,277 Thursday after Maryland reported an additional 157 cases Thursday, bringing the state’s total to 581. Virginia reported 69 more cases Thursday for a total of 461. The District reported 36 new cases Thursday, bringing its total to 271,” [Joe Heim and Dana Hedgpeth report](#). “Trump has approved Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan’s request for a major disaster declaration in the state’s fight against the coronavirus. ... D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) ... condemned federal relief legislation that reduces the amount the District will receive by more than \$700 million because it treats the city as a territory. But Bowser acknowledged that any funding increase is unlikely ahead of any future relief measures.”

- A dozen D.C. firefighters tested positive.
  - Metro has now closed 19 stations and entrances at others to save on cleaning supplies. Ridership is down as much as 90 percent.
  - Maryland will close all child-care facilities by this evening.
  - The D.C. jail confirmed its first inmate with the virus and quarantined 36 others who may have come in contact with the 20-year-old man. ([Keith Alexander](#))
  - Access to testing in the D.C. area is still not simple. Showing up without a note from a physician or the local or state health department will not only result in disappointment. Medical authorities warn it may also delay or prevent testing for first responders, health-care workers and people at a high risk for death from the virus. ([Patricia Sullivan](#))
- 

## The global fallout



A field hospital is set up in Crema, Italy, where 52 doctors and nurses from Cuba will work. (Matteo Corner/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

**The U.S. traditionally leads in times of crisis. Now it's self-**

## **isolating.**

“Instead, the United States’ rivals, notably China and to a lesser extent Russia, have been stepping up to offer aid to other stricken nations, a role long fulfilled by the United States in crises stretching back to World War II. Planeloads of Chinese medical equipment, masks and protective gear have been landing in Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Ukraine, Iran and Iraq, among other nations. Jack Ma, China's wealthiest man, donated test kits, masks and protective suits to each of Africa’s 54 countries,” [Liz Sly](#), [Michael Birnbaum and Karen DeYoung](#) report. “America’s disengagement on the coronavirus fight is part of a broader retreat from the world. ... But such is the severity of this crisis that America’s absence could permanently affect its standing, ceding ground to an ascendant China in the great game of global influence.”

- Trump tweeted that he had a “very good” conversation with Chinese leader Xi Jinping. Trump said they “discussed in great deal the coronavirus” and claimed the two countries are “working closely together.” Trump said earlier that he had rescheduled his call with Xi in order to call into Sean Hannity’s Fox News show. ([Miriam Berger](#))
- Diplomats are racing to get Americans back home while they still can. The diplomats themselves, though, are stuck in place. ([Carol Morello](#))
- The U.S. government indicted Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on narcoterrorism charges, offering a \$15 million reward for his capture. Attorney General Bill Barr suggested the pandemic had delayed the announcement, but he said the time is right because Venezuela’s “people are suffering.” ([Anthony Faiola, Matt Zapposky and DeYoung](#))

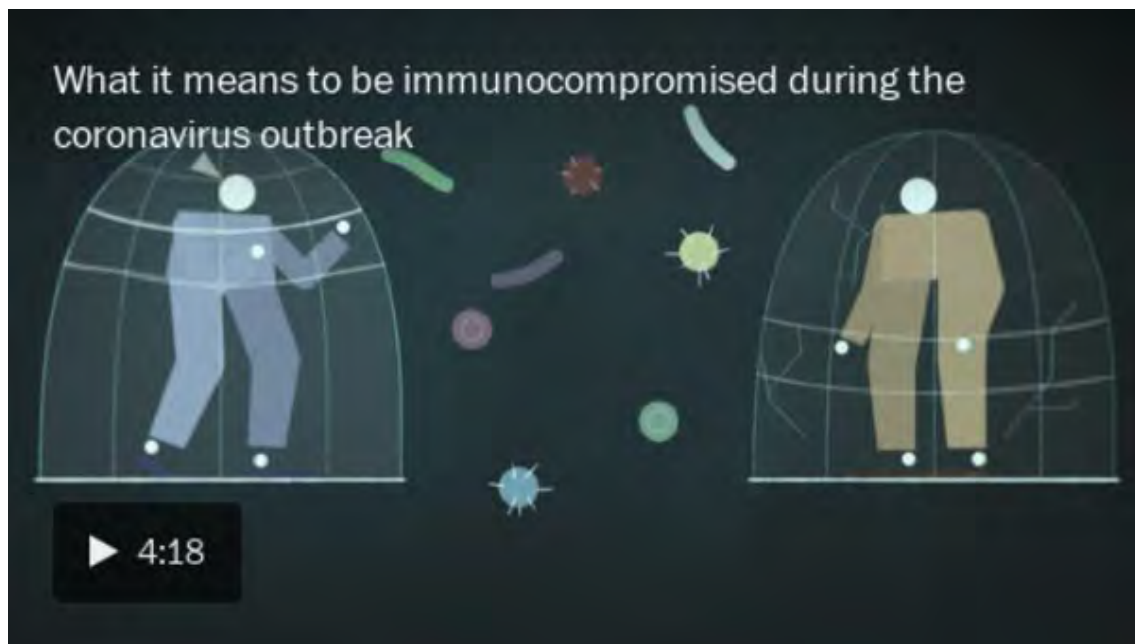
## **Italy’s new cases are slowing, but how soon will life return to normal?**

“Italy's nationwide lockdown is showing the first small signs of payoff. The number of coronavirus cases is still rising, but at the lowest day-on-day pace since the outbreak began. The World Health Organization calls the slowdown encouraging. The health chief in the hardest-hit region says

there's 'light at the end of the tunnel,'" [Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). "But while Trump has talked about revving up the U.S. economy by Easter, Italy has set no such timetable — and experts say the nation is still at risk of the virus resuming its extraordinary, deadly trajectory. ... Italy was the first Western country to contend with a mass outbreak and order a lockdown. But it is now at the forefront in making a more delicate calculation: figuring out how long the restrictions should last. ... Officially, Italy's lockdown — which restricts people's movement outside their homes and includes the closure of restaurants and retail stores — is supposed to end on April 3. But the government has signaled that the measures will surely be extended, something of little surprise to most people in the country."

- Hong Kong banned public gatherings of more than four, closed gyms and amusement centers but backtracked on a proposal to ban the sale of alcohol in bars and restaurants. ([Shibani Mahtani](#))
  - Singapore criminalized standing or sitting too close to someone. ([Berger](#))
  - The virus is igniting prison riots, as well as prompting early releases and crackdowns, around the world. ([Sudarsan Raghavan and Louisa Loveluck](#))
  - South Africa has gone into a three-week lockdown. Two coronavirus-related deaths have been reported in the nation, and it has more than 1,000 confirmed cases. ([Max Bearak](#))
- 

## What it's like to face covid-19



## **A ‘negative’ coronavirus test result doesn’t always mean you aren’t infected.**

“When a new test is rapidly created and deployed, its accuracy is often not fully known. The test is developed under controlled lab conditions, but it is used on samples taken, transported and performed by people in the real world — all of which increase the likelihood of errors,” [Carolyn Johnson reports](#).

## **Men continue to be hit hardest from the virus. Spain offers fresh data points.**

“The Spain data, based on an analysis of 20,648 cases so far and 722 deaths by the country’s Institute of Health Carlos III, a national public health agency, delivers a new level of detail. It shows that men are faring worse on multiple metrics for the disease,” [Chris Mooney and Pamela Rolfe report](#). “The gender divide shows up early, according to Spanish health officials. Men exhibit more of the initial symptoms: fever, cough and trouble breathing. And that carries through the course of sickness: Men progress more often to pneumonia, and have more cases of acute respiratory distress syndrome and more kidney failures. One prominent hypothesis to explain higher male deaths from the disease in other

countries is that men tend to smoke more. And yet in Spain, the gender-based smoking gap is small. ... Two Spanish experts agreed that whatever is going on, it does not seem to involve men contracting more cases. Rather, it's that their cases are worse once they do get the disease.”

**Our opinion page staff team is [collecting human stories about the virus's toll](#).**

“I held my wife as she heaved panicked sobs. She had been laid off. Her boss explained that there was just no way to keep paying employees if she wanted to reopen the business once this was all over. I’m a bartender, and a week earlier, I was also rendered unemployed after our governor ordered all bars and restaurants in the state to close,” wrote Stephen Hood, 34, from Chicago. “Our yearly collective income had been about \$80,000. Suddenly, we found ourselves applying for unemployment. My estimated weekly benefit was \$143. For my wife, \$486. Our \$1,650 rent is due April 1. I emailed our landlord letting her know we were just laid off and might ‘be a few days late on rent.’ Her reply crushed us. ‘I understand Amazon and delivery services are hiring thousands of employees.’”

“I’m 28 years old. I’ve been really sick once in my life,” Susan Deng writes from New York. “Today, I’m a statistic for confirmed cases of the coronavirus in New York. I was extremely sick for five days but denied testing after three attempts. My age and the strict regulations made it impossible, even though I had tested negative for the flu and 23 other viruses. After fainting three times, I was admitted to the ER and finally given the test, which came back positive. ... I never thought as a healthy 28-year-old I could be so negatively impacted by covid-19, both physically and mentally. I am grateful my body has been able to fight it off, but the reality is there are many people who have not and could not, and we need to do our part to protect them.”

**People are fighting the pandemic with music, gifts and whatever else they have to offer.**

“After her performance ended, and the strains of Bach, Randy Newman and an old klezmer song faded from 34th Street, Jodi Beder sat on her front porch with her cello and blew a kiss to her fans on the sidewalk. People clapped and yelled ‘Thank you Jodi!’ from across the street. They said they needed it. She said she needed it too,” [Michael Ruane reports](#). “Beder’s daily 30-minute cello concert in Mount Rainier, Md., is one of hundreds of kind gestures being made by people across the nation to combat the dislocation and isolation ... Restaurants have given away food to employees and passersby, and volunteers are making free deliveries. Sewing and quilting experts have been cranking out dozens of cotton medical masks for hospitals. ... Shilagh A. Mirgain, a psychologist at the University of Wisconsin, described this as ‘the ‘tend and befriend’ response, which we are seeing happening around the world.’ ... The normal stress response of flight or fight doesn’t quite work in this case, she said, but people can tap into their natural ‘tend and befriend’ impulse.”

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## Quote of the day

*“The truth is, it’s hard to say don’t be anxious,” said Demetre Daskalakis, deputy commissioner for the Division of Disease Control at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. “You can channel that anxiety into vigilance, that’s my advice. Everyone I know, including myself, we’re all either anxious or vigilant.” ([Ben Guarino](#))*

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## Social media speed read

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced he tested positive. He said has a temperature and mild cough and promises to continue leading his government's response to the virus from home:





**Boris Johnson #StayHomeSaveLives** ✓



@BorisJohnson

Over the last 24 hours I have developed mild symptoms and tested positive for coronavirus.

I am now self-isolating, but I will continue to lead the government's response via video-conference as we fight this virus.

Together we will beat this. [#StayHomeSaveLives](#)



♥ 47.2K 11:15 AM - Mar 27, 2020



💬 36.8K people are talking about this



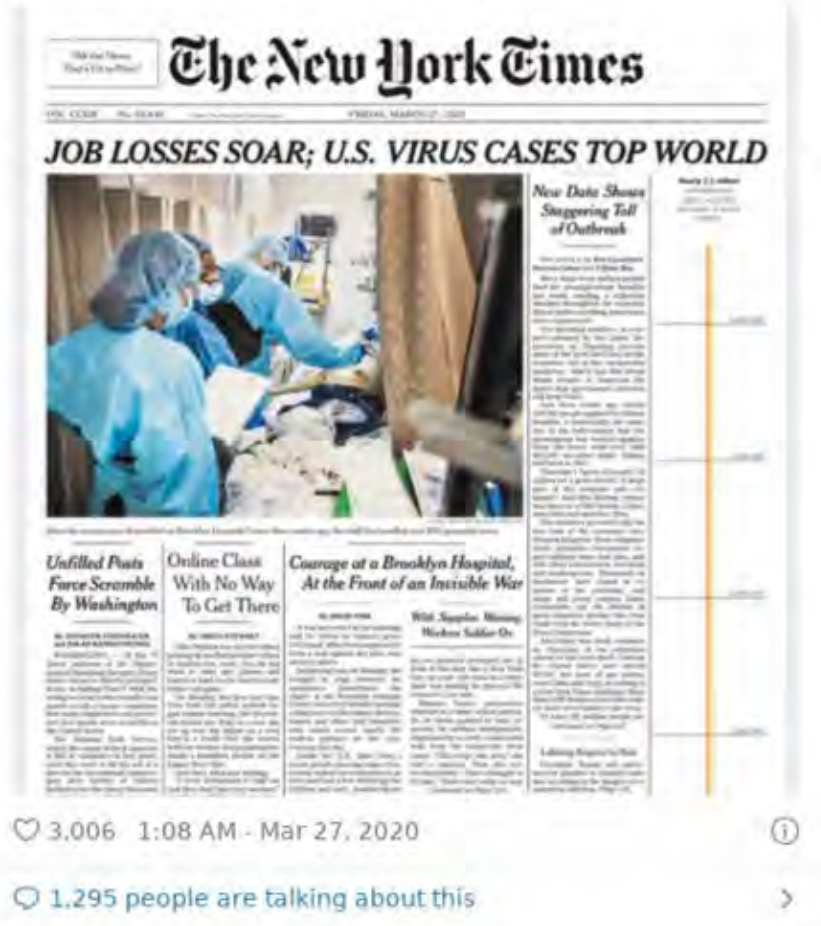
The Gray Lady starkly illustrates the spike on her front page:



**Suzanne Pope**  
@Suzannepope



The power of data visualization: The @nytimes breaks all the rules of layout to present a chart showing America's sudden spike in jobless claims.



The Democratic governor of Michigan replied to Trump's criticism of her on Fox News:



Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) also urged people to take this seriously:



Thousands watched NBA star Steph Curry interview Tony Fauci, including Barack Obama:



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@TasneemN



Barack Obama and Justin Bieber were watching and commenting on Steph Curry's IG live interview with Dr. Anthony Fauci about coronavirus. 2020, oh man.



♡ 139 5:43 PM - Mar 26, 2020



🗨️ 33 people are talking about this



A Kentucky congressman's live town hall featured an unlikely star:



And Joe Biden explained to Jimmy Kimmel why he wears a Phillies hat:



## Videos of the day

People around the world are clapping for health-care workers:



A world-famous work-from-home family was back on the telly:



Seth Meyers broke down Trump's fights with governors:



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# GREENWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

GREENWIRE — Fri., March 27, 2020

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### House approves \$2.2T stimulus

The House this afternoon passed by voice vote a \$2.2 trillion package to fight the novel coronavirus after lawmakers raced to the Capitol to beat back a threat from a lone member to slow the pandemic aid.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. PANDEMIC:

#### How COVID-19 could transform courts

### 3. CAR RULES:

#### Final rollback expected next week

### 4. OFF TOPIC:

#### Obama's stimulus guru sees post-pandemic Rx for clean energy

## CORONAVIRUS

### 5. BRISTOL BAY:

#### Pebble foes plead for coronavirus delay

### 6. WILD HORSES:

#### Coronavirus forces BLM to cancel adoption, sales events

### 7. SUPERFUND:

#### Colo. cleanup suspended due to pandemic

### 8. RENEWABLE FUELS:

#### Ethanol plants seek rule changes to resupply hand sanitizer

## POLITICS

### 9. ADVOCACY:

#### Oil giant leaves trade group over climate policies

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### 10. MINING:

#### BLM advances Alaska 'Road to Resources'

## ENERGY

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### 11. UTILITIES:

**N.M. regulators getting squeezed out of state building**

## AIR AND WATER

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### 12. AGRICULTURE:

**Mexican farmers burn trucks to protest U.S. water transfer**

## STATES

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### 13. GEORGIA:

**Judge won't halt salvage of capsized ship off coast**

### 14. TEXAS:

**2 earthquakes rattle oil drilling region**

### 15. NEW MEXICO:

**Fire danger level elevated in southwest**

### 16. TENNESSEE:

**FEMA grant to support tornado victims' mental health**

## INTERNATIONAL

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### 17. FRANCE:

**Sound maps show noise pollution plummets in Paris**

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#### BLM advances Alaska 'Road to Resources'

## ENERGY

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### 11. UTILITIES:

**N.M. regulators getting squeezed out of state building**

## AIR AND WATER

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### 12. AGRICULTURE:

**Mexican farmers burn trucks to protest U.S. water transfer**

## STATES

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### 13. GEORGIA:

**Judge won't halt salvage of capsized ship off coast**

### 14. TEXAS:

**2 earthquakes rattle oil drilling region**

### 15. NEW MEXICO:

**Fire danger level elevated in southwest**

### 16. TENNESSEE:

**FEMA grant to support tornado victims' mental health**

## INTERNATIONAL

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### 17. FRANCE:

**Sound maps show noise pollution plummets in Paris**

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## ABOUT GREENWIRE – THE LEADER IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

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Greenwire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. The one-stop source for those who need to stay on top of all of today's major energy and environmental action with an average of more than 20 stories a day, Greenwire covers the complete spectrum, from electricity industry restructuring to Clean Air Act litigation to public lands management. Greenwire publishes daily at 1 p.m.



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**To:** [denise\\_germann@nps.gov](mailto:denise_germann@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] March 27 -- Greenwire is ready  
**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2020 11:46:00 AM

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# GREENWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

GREENWIRE — Fri., March 27, 2020

 [READ FULL EDITION](#)

## 1. PANDEMIC:

### House approves \$2.2T stimulus

The House this afternoon passed by voice vote a \$2.2 trillion package to fight the novel coronavirus after lawmakers raced to the Capitol to beat back a threat from a lone member to slow the pandemic aid.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. PANDEMIC:

#### How COVID-19 could transform courts

### 3. CAR RULES:

#### Final rollback expected next week

### 4. OFF TOPIC:

#### Obama's stimulus guru sees post-pandemic Rx for clean energy

## CORONAVIRUS

### 5. BRISTOL BAY:

#### Pebble foes plead for coronavirus delay

### 6. WILD HORSES:

#### Coronavirus forces BLM to cancel adoption, sales events

### 7. SUPERFUND:

#### Colo. cleanup suspended due to pandemic

### 8. RENEWABLE FUELS:

#### Ethanol plants seek rule changes to resupply hand sanitizer

## POLITICS

### 9. ADVOCACY:

#### Oil giant leaves trade group over climate policies

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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] March 27 -- E&E News PM is ready  
**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2020 2:29:50 PM

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WHITE HOUSE: Trump to General Motors: Make ventilators now. Read this story and more in today's E&E News PM.  
FEDERAL WORKFORCE: Union offers disaster aid for COVID-19.  
PANDEMIC: Pa. postpones primary.  
Read today's E&E News PM on the web

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utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/pm?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION  
E&E NEWS PM — Fri., March 27, 2020  
<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/27/full?  
utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/27/full?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)> READ FULL  
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utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/27/stories/1062718089?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
1. WHITE HOUSE:  
Trump to General Motors: Make ventilators now

President Trump today signed a memorandum directing General Motors Co. to make ventilators to help fight the worst cases of COVID-19.

#### THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/27/stories/1062717889?  
utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/27/stories/1062717889?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
2. FEDERAL WORKFORCE:  
Union offers disaster aid for COVID-19

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/27/stories/1062717605?  
utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/27/stories/1062717605?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
3. PANDEMIC:  
Pa. postpones primary

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/27/stories/1062717977?  
utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/27/stories/1062717977?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
4. PANDEMIC:  
EPA eases gasoline blending requirements

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/27/stories/1062717939?  
utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/27/stories/1062717939?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
5. WILD HORSES:  
Advocates drop Forest Service lawsuit

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/27/stories/1062717741?  
utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/27/stories/1062717741?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
6. OIL AND GAS:  
Bill would pull troops from Saudi Arabia over price war

#### UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/27/calendars?  
utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/27/calendars?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
7. CALENDAR:  
Activity for March 23 - March 29, 2020

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ABOUT E&E NEWS PM – Late-Breaking News

E&E News PM is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. A late afternoon roundup providing coverage of all the breaking and developing policy news from Capitol Hill, around the country and around the world, E&E News PM is a must-read for the key players who need to be ahead of the next day's headlines. E&E News PM publishes daily at 4:30 p.m.

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From: [The Washington Post](#)  
To: [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: Trump orders GM to make ventilators, signs \$2.2 trillion aid package  
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 3:14:39 PM

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The Washington Post

# Coronavirus Updates

What to know about the novel coronavirus outbreak, from To Your Health.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Avi Selk](#)  
with [Angela Fritz](#)  
✉ [Email](#)

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**President Trump signed into law the largest stimulus bill in U.S. history** hours after [the House passed the \\$2.2-trillion relief package](#). The measure includes checks of up to \$1,200 for most Americans, hundreds of billions of dollars in business loans and unemployment protections — all of it intended to blunt a sudden recession that has already eliminated more than 3 million jobs [and in some ways echoes the Great Depression](#).

**Some House members wore surgical gloves or sat in the visitors' gallery** to avoid possible infection as they passed the bill on a voice vote. The bipartisan effort marked a rare spot of unity in a

government otherwise fractured and flailing against the pandemic. Governors and local health officials are demanding the federal government do more to help with huge shortages of medical equipment as **the United States leads the world in confirmed coronavirus cases, with more than 90,000 infections and 1,400 deaths,**

**“We don’t need a backup. We need a Tom Brady,”** Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) told Trump on a conference call with other governors on Thursday, comparing the president's strategy of leaving states in charge of getting their own supplies to a football team playing without a quarterback.

**Three months into the crisis, nearly nine in 10 mayors report shortages** of test kits, face masks, ventilators and other equipment, according to a national survey. Hospitals are competing against each other to buy scarce supplies, inflating prices and forcing some to cut deals with unverified cold-callers.

**The president invoked the Defense Production Act to force General Motors to make ventilators, after weeks of resistance.**

“I just haven’t had to use it,” Trump had said Thursday, insisting companies were volunteering the necessary efforts. But Friday morning, Trump **raged on Twitter** at GM chief executive Mary T. Barra, claiming she had backed away from an agreement to make tens of thousands of ventilators, and he invoked the act a few hours later.

Equipment shortages are “one of the most urgent threats to our collective ability to save lives,” World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned Friday, **as the global number of infections surpassed 575,000.**

**Prime Minister Boris Johnson has tested positive for coronavirus in Britain,** where firefighters have been tapped to deliver

food and collect bodies. Italy reported 919 new deaths — the largest one-day toll anywhere. Nearly 300 people in Iran died after drinking methanol, falsely believing it would help them ward off the disease. And the virus has been found in a cat in the Belgian city of Liège, adding to evidence that sick people may be able to infect their pets.

**In contrast to other countries with accelerating infection rates, the White House is pushing to relax guidelines on quarantines and business closures in some parts of the U.S.,** and the government is developing a program to assess risk levels for each county in the United States. Trump has said he would like Americans back at work and packed into churches by mid-April for Easter. Republican governors in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi are already resisting the kinds of strict social distancing measure other states have enforced.

**Many health officials believe more quarantines are needed, and fear reducing them any time soon could lead to catastrophic levels of disease.** But The Post reports that “a growing contingent of Trump supporters have pushed the narrative that health experts are part of a [deep-state plot to hurt Trump’s reelection efforts by damaging the economy and keeping America shut down as long as possible.](#)”

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Content from [Slack](#)

### **Helpful how-tos for transitioning to remote work**



Find yourself working remotely all of a sudden? Slack is here to help with

this comprehensive set of [tips to make remote work productive](#). With all of your tools and communication in one place, [Slack brings the team together](#), no matter where everyone is working from.

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## Live updates

**NEW: Track deaths and confirmed cases in the U.S.** at the county level.

**Follow the spread** of the outbreak around the world with our updating map.

Post reporters around the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day**.

Read live updates about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area**.

**How you can help people in need** during the outbreak.

**Submit a question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

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## Your questions, answered

***Does recovery from covid-19 confer future immunity, and could antibodies from the donated blood of those who have recovered be used on people who are still sick? — Tori Hall in Bethesda, Md.***

It does appear that after someone has recovered from covid-19, they have enough antibodies to the virus that they are immune from reinfection, at least for a period of time.

Antibodies in a recovered person's blood could potentially also help others. Infusions of antibody-rich plasma — the clear liquid that remains when blood cells are removed — may help a sick person's immune system fight off the illness. The same concept was successful against polio, measles, mumps and flu.

Doctors and researchers are hopeful that this “convalescent plasma” treatment will help provide short-term relief to the health-care system and its patients while scientists develop a long-lasting vaccine — something that could take more than a year — or full antibody therapies, which drug companies are also working on.

“None of us sees this as a long-term solution. This is a stopgap, pending availability of more definitive interventions,” such as a vaccine or antiviral drug, said Evan Bloch, associate professor of pathology at Johns Hopkins.

Health and Science reporters Carolyn Y. Johnson and Ben Guarino helped answer today's question. [You can read their full story about plasma and antibody therapy here.](#)

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# Today's top reads

Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:

- Small town battled coronavirus on its own, as outbreak spread in a red state
- The coronavirus recession is just getting started
- As Trump signals readiness to break with experts, his online base assails Fauci
- The history and mystery of Purell, the most sacred goo of our new era

## Here's the good some are doing to combat the fear and isolation of the coronavirus

By Michael Ruane • [Read more »](#)



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## Zoos are closed because of coronavirus, but the animals still need care

By Jason Bittel • [Read more »](#)



## From party to pandemic: New Orleans fears

## Mardi Gras fueled outbreak as cases spike

By David Montgomery, Ariana Eunjung Cha and Richard A. Webster • [Read more »](#)



## From unfazed to unprecedented: Inside the decision to postpone the Olympics

By Adam Kilgore, Simon Denyer and Rick Maese • [Read more »](#)



## Pandemic dreams ....

**maya kosoff** @mekosoff · 10h  
have you guys also been having more vivid dreams since this whole thing started or is this simply a "me" thing

**Amber Discko** @amberdiscko  
Very! I had a beautiful dream the other night where I woke up on top of a tall building in nyc surrounded by glass and there were plants and flowers everywhere. It was really cool.

7 12:04 PM - Mar 27, 2020

[See Amber Discko's other Tweets](#)

**Martha Crawford** @shänkthinks · 2h  
Lots of dreams of pregnancies, babies, and dreams of teeth @newworlddreams

**MistieMae1** @MistieMae1  
Not sure if it counts, but I had a dream 2 nights ago that I was given a clutch of fish eggs to care for. Couldn't hold them as I traveled through the dream. They kept slipping out of my hands and popping like bubbles on the ground.

1 4:58 PM - Mar 27, 2020

[See MistieMae1's other Tweets](#)



**Jono**  
@nqc\_jono



Had the most vivid dream last night about the last game of rugby league ever played before Coronavirus shut everything down.

A thread.

8:11 PM - Mar 22, 2020



[See Jono's other Tweets](#)



**sarah heikkinen** @sar\_heikkinen · 0h



Replying to @mekosoff

i has a dream last night that emily osment was dating this terrible large biker and she flew off the bike while he was doing a trick and landed in my hometown library's parking lot (where i was hanging out for some reason), i took her inside and cleaned up her scrapes with purell



**sarah heikkinen**  
@sar\_heikkinen

and then her large biker boyfriend came and found us in the bathroom and i stabbed him in the stomach??? and then the bathroom caught on fire and we trapped him in the stall and ran outside, where my boyfriend was waiting quietly with my mom's dog

12:26 PM - Mar 27, 2020



[See sarah heikkinen's other Tweets](#)



**\$arah is social distancing**  
@flayOTDscherbet



Been taking melatonin to sleep bc stress and it gives me weird and vivid dreams. Last night had a dream @KimKardashian sent us \$882,000 to get us thru the coronavirus shelter in place 🤔 very specific number

1:06 PM - Mar 27, 2020



[See \\$arah is social distancing's other Tweets](#)







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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Stay connected while social distancing  
**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2020 5:38:48 PM

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# The Washington Post

*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

## Stay connected. Stay informed.


Thank you for being part of The Washington Post community. We know how important it is to stay connected with our communities, especially during this period of social distancing. It reminds us that we have support and we're all in this together. We are grateful that you are part of our community, and invite you to explore all the ways you can engage directly with our journalists, our content — and one another.

### Join our live chats

[Participate in live Q&As](#) with our journalists on a variety of topics related to the impact of the outbreak on policy, personal finance, and relationships. Miss a chat? No problem, we provide transcripts of previous chats as well. Here are a few recent chats you may find interesting.

- **Carolyn Hax:** [How to stay positive during an outbreak](#)
- **Home Front:** [Cleaning in the age of covid-19](#)
- **Opinions Live with Eugene Robinson:** [At least our chats are socially distant](#)
- **Color of Money:** [How worried should we be about the stock market?](#)
- **Free Range on Food:** [Cooking and eating in the age of covid-19](#)

### Help and hope in these times

We've pulled together a selection of uplifting stories that show how people are finding ways to connect with one another and to support their families and neighbors in this time of crisis. We've found inspiration in these stories, and we hope you will, too. For a weekly selection of inspiring stories, get The Optimist newsletter. [Sign up](#) 

- [Here's the good some are doing to combat the fear and isolation of the coronavirus](#)
- [How you can help during the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- [Mom is stuck at home amid the coronavirus outbreak. Teens we never met gave us hope against hardship.](#)

- [Alone no more: People are turning to dogs, cats and chickens to cope with self-isolation](#)
- [At a place where memories are fleeting, some powerful ones are being made through a glass door](#)
- [Eating alone, together: Virtual dinner parties are helping people fight isolation](#)
- [The therapeutic value of the garden in trying times](#)



#### Find inspiration in the kitchen

Perhaps you are cooking more while you're spending time at home. Looking for more cooking and recipe ideas? [These resources](#) and the following may help.

- [Recipe Finder](#) - Plan meals, try new foods and explore cuisines with our database of tested recipes. You can rate recipes and share your feedback with fellow subscribers.
- **Baking Basics** - An eight-week newsletter series containing fundamentals, irresistible recipes and more. [Sign up](#) →
- **Plant Powered** - Learn how to cook more plant-forward meals with this 12-week newsletter series. [Sign up](#) →

As we navigate this unprecedented time together, we hope you'll find support in the communities here. Thank you for subscribing to The Washington Post.

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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Recipes! One-skillet pork chops, comforting mushroom quesadillas and baked chicken you'll swear was fried  
**Date:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 8:29:16 AM

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The Washington Post

# Recipes

What to cook during the week ahead, from Post Food editors.



By **Ann Maloney**

 Email

Last week, we wrote about how to make bread — [sourdough boule and starter](#), [sandwich loaves](#), [English muffins](#) and [gluten-free options](#) were among the recipes we shared. Next thing we know, there was a [flour and yeast shortage at grocery stores](#). This week, just in time for Easter and Passover, we're writing about eggs ([how to hard-cook them](#) and [how to poach them](#)) and folks are [struggling to find eggs as well](#).

[Are people hoarding](#) or is it just that many of you are spending more time in the kitchen during these weeks since the coronavirus pandemic required us to limit our movements and led to the shut-down of dine-in service at restaurants?

It's probably both, right?

With so many more people cooking, we've adjusted our work a bit at The Post. We've continued to write about easy weeknight dishes, including, most recently, my [Skillet Pork Chops with Spicy Pecan Rice](#), Nourish columnist Ellie Krieger's [Crispy Baked Parmesan Chicken With Chicory Salad](#) and food and dining editor Joe Yonan's [Mushroom Quesadillas](#), but

we've also dug a little deeper to offer tips and guidance for those who need it.

Food writer Daniela Galarza wrote about the [phenomenon of people being forced to cook for themselves for the first time](#). She noted that while past generations may have learned as youngsters with "... so many options for ready-made meals in urban areas, from grocer steam tables to fast food to delivery apps, some people fell through the cracks."

So, we've asked food writers like Angela Davis to join us in sharing advice. Davis wrote about [how to freeze fresh produce](#) — in case there is a run on the freezer aisle. Voraciously writer Becky Krystal tackled [using dry spices when fresh aren't available](#) and [easy baking recipes for beginners](#).

Even though I've cooked since I was too little to reach the counter without standing on a chair, I learned things from reading these pieces. I bet you will, too.

So, whether you've recently [made your first pot of home-cooked oatmeal](#) or you are [perfecting the finish of the perfect sourdough loaf](#), tell us how we can help. [We're here with you](#) through abundances and shortage, through good times and bad.

If you have questions or just want to talk about cooking, join us on [Wednesday at noon for our weekly live chat](#).

And, we'll see you in the kitchen.



## Skillet Pork Chops with Spicy Pecan Rice

The chops and flavorful, spicy rice are made in a single skillet, but to speed things up, give the rice a quick parboil in the microwave.

By Ann Maloney • [Read more »](#)

---

## Mushroom Quesadillas

If you don't have fresh mushrooms, try dried. If you have neither, feel free to use whatever you have that tastes good.

By Joe Yonan • [Read more »](#)



## Crispy Baked Parmesan Chicken With Chicory Salad

All the flavors of a Milanese minus the mess!

By Ellie Krieger • [Read more »](#)





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## More from Voraciously

### **Before the coronavirus epidemic, they didn't know how to cook. Now they are scrambling to learn.**

They're watching online tutorials, FaceTiming parents, and asking experts on Instagram and Twitter.

By Daniela Galarza • [Read more »](#)



### **Want to learn how to bake? These sweet recipes and guides will help you do it.**

We've got advice and recipes to help you.

By Becky Krystal • [Read more »](#)



### **Dry herbs get a bad rap, but they can be flavor powerhouses. Here's how to use them.**

They can be just as versatile as fresh when treated the right way.

By Becky Krystal • [Read more »](#)



### **How to freeze fresh vegetables while preserving their best qualities**

If you're faced with slim pickings in the freezer aisle, don't fret.

By Angela Davis • [Read more »](#)





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## Stove-top steaming is hands down our favorite way to hard-cook eggs

We experimented to find the best way to make hard-cooked eggs.

By Ann Maloney • [Read more »](#)



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## The best way to poach an egg also happens to be the easiest

Forget salt, vinegar or swirling. It's time to stop stressing and start eating.

By Becky Krystal • [Read more »](#)



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## Braises, breads and slow-cooker recipes to make the most of long days at home

It's time to do a lot of hands-off work, from letting bread dough rise to marinating meat.

By Becky Krystal • [Read more »](#)



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## Fresh or frozen, spinach is a power player. These 5 recipes prove it.

So good, we don't even care when it's stuck in our teeth.

By Kari Sonde • [Read more »](#)



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## Lunch at home is new for some of us. Here's how to make it count.

Or, how not to just eat snacks all day.



By Becky Krystal • [Read more »](#)

## Low-effort sandwiches that make you look forward to lunch

No you don't need to cook a five-star lunch, but you could gussy up that sandwich.



By Kari Sonde • [Read more »](#)

## The shows we're bingeing and the recipes we're pairing with them

Good television needs a good meal to go with it.



By Matt Brooks • [Read more »](#)



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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: N.Y. struggles to keep up with deaths  
Date: Saturday, March 28, 2020 2:33:17 PM

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# Coronavirus Updates

Important developments in the coronavirus pandemic.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Avi Selk](#)  
✉ Email

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**More than 100,000 people in the United States have tested positive for the coronavirus**, a world-topping caseload that has increased tenfold in the past week and a half, and that many experts predict will continue to rise for weeks or months.

The actual number of infections is almost certainly much larger because **only a fraction of 1 percent of Americans have been tested**, far behind countries such as South Korea and Italy.

**“Two weeks ago, President Trump promised a network of drive-**

**through covid-19 testing sites across the country** where people could be tested ‘very safely, quickly and conveniently,’” The Washington Post reported. But big-box store CEOs who said they would turn their parking lots into test sites have opened only five such locations, and some state-run sites sit idle waiting for testing supplies.

Though much of the country has been ordered to stay at home to slow the virus's spread, **many federal workers are still required to come to the office under potentially dangerous conditions, a Post investigation found.** “Hundreds of front-line workers sit side by side in small cubicles processing passport applications for the State Department,” the report said. “The employees have 15 minutes a day to wipe their desks clean with supplies they must bring from home.”

**Hundreds of Americans are dying each day from the disease — approaching 2,000 in total — and death-care workers are struggling to cope with the influx** in New York, the epicenter of the outbreak in the United States. Amid fears that bodies could spread the disease, **refrigerated trucks, tents and “a pop-up morgue” are being deployed to store the overload.** Hospital chaplains are delivering last rites through video chat or by standing outside patients' doors.

Trump has abruptly moved toward federalizing the country's fight against the virus in the past two days, after weeks of leaving states to implement their own policies and find their own medical supplies. **On Saturday, the president told reporters, “There’s a possibility that sometime today we’ll do a quarantine, short-term, two weeks, on New York. Probably New Jersey. Parts of Connecticut.”** The statement appeared to surprise and confuse New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D), who told reporters: “I don’t even know what that means.”

**Trump has also taken more control of the medical supply chain.** He invoked a wartime power on Friday that will allow him to order private

manufacturers to build ventilators, and promised that General Motors and other companies would produce a combined 100,000 ventilators in the next 100 days. (A 2005 study [estimated](#) the United States would need more than 740,000 of the machines in a severe pandemic.)

**Distrust and hostility between the White House and governors in some of the worst-hit states continues to complicate the fight against the virus.** Trump said Friday that he told Vice President Pence, who leads the White House's coronavirus task force, not to call two governors who have criticized the federal government: Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) and Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D). "I want them to be appreciative," Trump said. "We've done a great job." The White House announced Saturday that Trump granted Whitmer's request for a disaster declaration, despite the tension.

**The president also picked a fight with Congress immediately after it passed a historic \$2.2 trillion economic aid package on Friday.** As Trump signed the bill into law, he released a statement undermining the power of a Senate-approved inspector general, who is supposed to supervise how the Treasury Department would disburse \$400 billion in loans to companies and local governments. The oversight measure was key to winning Democratic support for the bill, but [Trump's statement indicates he intends to oversee himself](#).

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**How to work from home while being your best self**



Working from home can feel isolating, but it doesn't have to. We've compiled our [top tips for connecting](#) with coworkers.

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## Live updates

**Track deaths and confirmed cases in the United States** at the county level.

**Follow the spread** of the outbreak around the world with our updating map.

Post reporters around the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day**.

Read live updates about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area**.

**How you can help people in need** during the outbreak.

**Submit a question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

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## Your questions, answered

**“I'm in the really high-risk group. I've heard that even China has not reached herd immunity. So will I have to continue social distancing until a vaccine is found?” — Faith Markle in Madison, Wis.**

No one knows for sure — and more is being learned about the virus each day — but right now distancing is the only tool health officials have to protect people from the disease.

“Without a vaccine or a drug to stop infections, the best hope is to break the chain of transmission one infection at a time,” [Post science reporter Joel Achenbach wrote in a rundown of everything we know about the disease](#). Left to its own devices, the coronavirus is very contagious, but strict quarantine measures, such as those China imposed, can effectively reduce or stop it from spreading within a population. But until a vaccine is developed — “likely to take a year or more” — there is no guarantee the virus won't take off again when quarantines are relaxed.

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## Today's top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- Inside Trump's risky push to reopen the country amid the pandemic
- A major New York City hospital system battles coronavirus
- Perspective: How homeowners should handle plumbing and other services

### Postcards from a nervous world: Moments in time from life during the pandemic

By Brian Murphy • [Read more »](#)



## These are boom times for boredom and the researchers who study it

By Michael Rosenwald • [Read more »](#)



## ‘Pajama entertainment’ is the newest cultural shift of the coronavirus era

By Steven Zeitchik • [Read more »](#)



## People welcome online workouts to fill gap left by shuttered gyms and studios

By Ava Wallace • [Read more »](#)



## So you want to be a gamer. Here’s how you can start.

By Gene Park • [Read more »](#)



## Lack of sports hits broadcasters hard



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To: [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Week in Ideas: How to handle groceries and delivery bags amid the covid-19 outbreak  
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2020 5:11:34 AM

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The Washington Post

# The Week in Ideas

Opinions you may have missed.



By [Fred Hiatt](#)  
✉ [Email](#)

**We've been asking you to share your stories of our world turned upside down, and [we published a few more of them here](#): heartbreaking, inspiring, infuriating. Thanks to those who wrote in — and after reading these, if you have a story for us, [we'd love to read it](#).**

We also continue to publish smart, brief, constructive suggestions in what we're calling our "solutions" file. [Here you can find some new ones](#), from allowing foreign doctors living among us to practice to telling doctors to stop endangering themselves with traditional physical exams.

Speaking of constructive — many readers found helpful, and reassuring, [this explanation from a Harvard professor of public health](#) on how to handle groceries and delivery bags.

And I found [this column by David Von Drehle](#) spiritually constructive. As he [recovers](#) (thank goodness) from a bout with covid-19, he penned a luminous [essay](#) on illness, healing, community and more. I can't do it

justice; I can only say, you will be glad if you click on this one.

Last week we asked our Post Pundits to [rank who is likeliest to become our first female president](#). First of the 10 was not one of the Democratic also-rans from this year's campaign.

I've saved a real treat for last: [Karen Tumulty's engaging, revealing portrait](#) of the most powerful elected woman in America's history, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Wait, one more treat. Our satirist Alexandra Petri [imagines a sports talk radio session without sports](#). Hint: It doesn't go well.

And one more note. I'm currently writing a (much shorter!) note in our a.m. Opinions newsletter, recommending a piece or two. If you might find this useful, and don't yet subscribe to our six-day-a-week listings, [you can sign up here](#).

Thanks for reading.

## As the coronavirus spreads, readers share stories of its worsening effects

Post readers share their stories of covid-19.

[Read more »](#)



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**We are interested in hearing more stories about how the coronavirus is changing people's lives. Please tell us yours.**

[Read more »](#)



## We need smart solutions to mitigate the coronavirus's impact. Here are 12.

Fresh ideas are needed for dealing with this crisis. Here's a start.

[Read more »](#)



## Don't panic about shopping, getting delivery or accepting packages

We can never eliminate all risk; the goal is to minimize it.

By Joseph G. Allen • [Read more »](#)



## What the gift of this unpleasant infection has helped me understand

My experience of covid-19 has involved an unwelcome multitude of haints and goblins.

By David Von Drehle • [Read more »](#)



## The 10 women most likely to be the first female president

One has to wonder why yet again women have been relegated to the role of also-ran.

By The Ranking Committee • [Read more »](#)



## How Nancy Pelosi's unlikely rise turned her

## into the most powerful woman in U.S. history

The speaker of the house is making sure that it will be easier for those who come after her to find their way. And to go even further.



By Karen Tumulty • [Read more »](#)



## Sports talk radio turns instead to toxic masculinity

But we have to talk about something, Mike.



By Alexandra Petri • [Read more »](#)



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Optimist: Americans are digging out Christmas lights and inflatables to bring levity to neighborhoods  
**Date:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 7:28:53 AM

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# The Optimist

Stories that inspire.



(Ginny Dunn)

## Some families stuck at home by decorating their homes with Christmas lights, giant inflatables and balloons

It's late March, but it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas — and Halloween and Valentine's Day.

By Kellie B. Gormly • [Read more »](#)

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## Advice from astronauts on isolation on Earth

Having lived in aluminum bubbles in outerspace, in a laboratory at the bottom of the ocean and in a research station at the South Pole, they might just be the most qualified people on Earth to offer their advice on isolation.

By Meagan Flynn • [Read more »](#)

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## The completely correct guide to vacationing at home

As we all practice social distancing, experts weigh in with tips for re-creating our canceled trips, like purging needless items and reenacting hotel service.



By Natalie Compton • [Read more »](#)

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## In fight against coronavirus, the world gives medical heroes a standing ovation

People are emerging onto balconies, flinging open the windows, to applaud health-care workers.

By William Booth, Karla Adam and Pamela Rolfe • [Read more »](#)

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## Here's the good some are doing to combat the fear and isolation of the coronavirus

People are reaching out with gifts, music and whatever they have to offer in the midst of the pandemic.

By Michael Ruane • [Read more »](#)

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## This orchestra in Little Rock is performing bedtime lullabies for your self-quarantine

It's a bit of classical music for people who find themselves isolated at home.

By Teddy Amenabar • [Read more »](#)

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## You can still make new friends during the pandemic. Here's how.

Social distancing disrupts the normal patterns of establishing social networks.

By Elizabeth Segran • [Read more »](#)

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## Dallas teachers throw neighborhood car parade for cooped-up students

As the cars rolled down the streets, children called out their teachers' names and held up homemade signs.

By Lisa Kanarek • [Read more »](#)

---



## Eating alone, together: Virtual dinner parties are helping people fight isolation

Sure, there are glitches — remember the mute button! — but the gatherings can help maintain connection during an anxious time.

By Emily Heil • [Read more »](#)

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## The therapeutic value of the garden in trying times

What better place to practice social distancing than in your backyard? Apart from the practical purposes of gardening, you are also cultivating your mental health.

**Perspective** • By Adrian Higgins • [Read more »](#)

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# Coronavirus Updates

Important developments in the coronavirus pandemic.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Avi Selk](#)  
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*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**The White House will decide this week whether to relax national social distancing guidelines against the advice of medical experts**, even as the coronavirus death toll accelerates in the United States, [with more than 2,200 fatalities among 130,000 confirmed infections](#). State officials reported nearly 450 deaths on Saturday alone.

**A 15-day plan advising most Americans to slow the virus's spread by staying at home and avoiding groups of more than 10 people expires Monday**. With the economy in tatters, [Republican lawmakers and conservative economists have urged President Trump to](#)

roll the measures back. Doctors and public health officials warn any rollback could trigger new waves of disease and death. Even now, the virus is overwhelming hospitals, draining medical supply stockpiles and spreading undetected due to a shortage of tests.

**The United States could record 100,000 to 200,000 deaths and millions of infections**, according to current but rapidly evolving projections, White House task force member Anthony S. Fauci said Sunday on CNN. His comments came as another prominent member of the task force, Deborah Birx, offered a similarly grim assessment: **“No state, no metro area, will be spared.”**

Trump will review infection data before making a decision, Vice President Pence, who leads the coronavirus task force, said on Fox News this weekend. “While the president has said he’d like to open the country up in weeks not months,” Pence said, “ultimately, the president will make a decision that he believes is in the best interest of all of the American people.”

Trump has whipsawed between contradictory plans in his comments, sowing confusion among state officials and the public. He said last week he would like to **“open things up to very large sections of our country” as soon as Easter**. On Saturday, the president **said he might quarantine New York, New Jersey and parts of Connecticut** from the rest of the country by the end of the day, **blindsiding governors in those states and causing some people to flee New York City**. Ultimately, he scrapped the idea hours later, via tweet.

**The president might lack the power to send the country back to work, even if he decides to try**. Governors “will have the final say on when restaurants, stores and other gathering places in their states can reopen,” The Washington Post reported. Some governors have been coordinating with each other across party lines, creating an alternate

power center to the White House.

**Meanwhile, the virus is spreading from coastal hotspots into the country's interior.**

We report that “officials in Boston, Detroit, Chicago, Atlanta, Milwaukee and Los Angeles are watching caseloads climb and taking extraordinary measures to prepare,” including turning the continent's largest convention center into a makeshift hospital.

Millions of Americans are on the move to less infected towns and cities, or even to the edge of wilderness — a mass migration that “might contain the seeds of a wholesale shift in where and how Americans live.”

**A Post analysis of more than a dozen large cities found a notable decline in crime** since mass quarantines went into effect.

Police officers, however, have been catching the virus in some of those same cities. Three officers in Houston, for example, tested positive after fighting a suspect with feverlike symptoms.

**Other countries face their own forms of chaos.** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi apologized “to my underprivileged brothers and sisters” after a lockdown of the country's 1.3 billion residents and its train system forced tens of thousands of migrants to walk back to their villages — some for hundreds of miles. **Thousands of American travelers have been stranded in the country.**

In Europe, Spain and Italy still face daily death tolls in the hundreds despite lockdowns. **Australia has told people not to go outside in groups of more than two** as the infection proliferates in every corner of the world.

Still, there is some good news. **South Korea, with a viral tracking system far better than most countries, announced this weekend that its recoveries now outpace and outnumber infections.**

China's infection rate appears to have stabilized after an ultra-strict quarantine program, though visitors from abroad are still spreading the

disease, and some doubt the accuracy of the government's reports. **And a 101-year old man in Italy recovered from the virus**, according to local authorities. Identified only as “Mr. P,” he was born during the 20th century's greatest pandemic, in 1919.

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### How to work from home while being your best self



Working from home can feel isolating, but it doesn't have to. We've compiled our [top tips for connecting](#) with coworkers.

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**How you can help people in need** during the outbreak.

**Submit a question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

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## Your questions, answered

***“I read that you can self-test yourself by holding your breath for 10 seconds. If you can hold your breath for 10 seconds, then you don’t have respiratory problem and don’t have covid-19. Is this true?” — Larry, California***

No, this is bad information that has been spreading over social media.

“Most young patients with coronavirus will be able to hold their breaths for much longer than 10 seconds. And many elderly without the virus won’t be able to do it,” the University of Maryland’s chief of infectious diseases, Faheem Younus, tweeted last week. ([Read that thread for other bogus coronavirus tips.](#))

The early covid-19 symptoms to watch for are a fever, cough and shortness of breath, [according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.](#)

However, [research suggests that even people with no apparent symptoms could have the disease and spread it to others.](#) That's why medical experts recommend behaving as if you have the virus: avoid contact with others as much as possible, wash your hands thoroughly and consult a medical professional if you show symptoms.

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## Today’s top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- What to do if you don't have money for rent or your mortgage
- A history of the Trump War on Media — the obsession not even coronavirus could stop
- The toilet paper crisis Hawaii has never forgotten
- As cases explode in Iran, U.S. sanctions hinder its access to drugs and medical equipment

## **The Great American Migration of 2020: On the move to escape the coronavirus**

By Marc Fisher, Paul Schwartzman and Ben Weissenbach • [Read more »](#)



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## **Geriatricians' advice on what older adults need to do during this pandemic**

By Judith Graham • [Read more »](#)

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## **Simple DIY masks could help flatten the curve. We should all wear them in public.**

**Perspective** • By Jeremy Howard • [Read more »](#)

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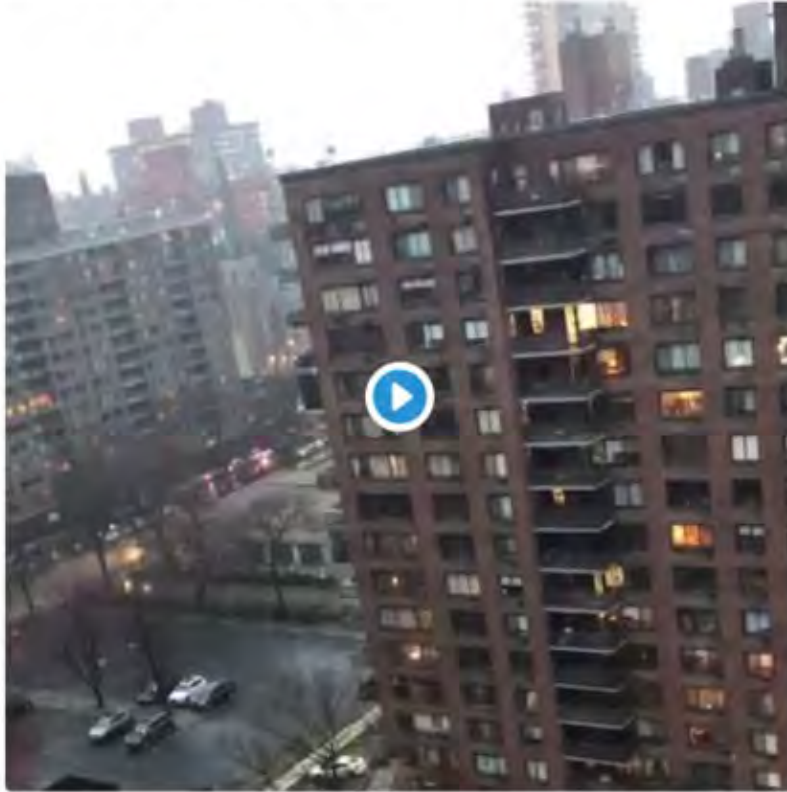
## **Cheers for the front line**



**carolynryan**   
@carolynryan



On Upper West Side in Manhattan, people are cheering like crazy for medical workers.



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# CLIMATEWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

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## 1. CAMPAIGN 2020:

### Does climate change still matter in the election?

Climate's star treatment on the campaign trail is over. Now it's the coronavirus election.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. CAR RULES:

#### Leaked draft: Trump emissions plan fails agency price test

### 3. FINANCE:

#### U.S. must prepare for 'climate shock,' experts warn

### 4. EPA:

#### Lax pollution enforcement can stress hospitals during virus

## PANDEMIC

### 5. CAR RULES:

#### 3 ways the rollback could worsen the outbreak

### 6. EUROPE:

#### Carbon market's virus blow softened by Brussels technocrats

## CLIMATE IMPACTS

### 7. WILDLIFE:

#### Whales face more fatal ship collisions as waters warm

## IN THE STATES

### 8. SALMON:

#### Largest U.S. dam removal stirs debate over Western water

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# GREENWIRE

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**GREENWIRE — Mon., March 30, 2020**

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### **Seasoned EPA whistleblower raises alarms, again**

Prominent EPA whistleblower Cate Jenkins has reemerged, challenging how federal agencies are responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

## TOP STORIES

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### 2. SAGE GROUSE:

#### **Trump admin rejects protections for Calif.-Nev. birds**

### 3. PANDEMIC:

#### **Ammon Bundy plans to fight states on virus efforts**

### 4. INTERIOR:

#### **Meet the officers leading FWS assault against coronavirus**

## CORONAVIRUS

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### 5. EPA:

#### **11 staffers test positive for coronavirus**

### 6. NATIONAL PARKS:

#### **Patchwork of closures draws congressional ire**

### 7. PANDEMIC:

#### **More lawmakers test positive for coronavirus**

### 8. LAW:

#### **Claims court warns: Scams on the rise during pandemic**

### 9. PANDEMIC:

#### **Wheeler to states: Name water sector workers as 'essential'**

### 10. COAL:

#### **Coronavirus shuts Pa.'s biggest mine**

## POLITICS

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### 11. WHITE HOUSE:

#### **Trump balks at congressional oversight of stimulus loans**

**12. PEOPLE:**

**Interior replaces top offshore regulator**

**13. INTERIOR:**

**Bernhardt orders 'disestablishment' of reservation — tribe**

**14. ADVOCACY:**

**Veteran of WWF, Microsoft to head sustainability group**

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**CONGRESS**

**15. OBITUARY:**

**Coburn, once the Senate's 'Dr. No', dies at 72**

**16. CHEMICALS:**

**Congress gives security program short-term extension**

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**NATURAL RESOURCES**

**17. WESTERN WATER:**

**Environmental groups complain about dam hearings format**

**18. SEVERE WEATHER:**

**Tornadoes in several states cause injuries, damage homes**

**19. WILDLIFE:**

**Idaho governor approves \$400,000 to kill problem wolves**

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**LAW**

**20. SUPREME COURT:**

**Justices: Citgo must pay for oil spill**

**21. COAL:**

**W.Va. regulator sues mine operator after abrupt closures**

**22. WILDLIFE:**

**Wash. man sentenced to 3 years in major poaching case**

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**ENERGY**

**23. NATURAL GAS:**

**Shell pulls out of La. export project**

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**STATES**

**24. HAWAII:**

**Mauna Kea telescopes close in response to virus order**

**25. INDIANA:**

**Law mandates that schools test for lead contamination**

**26. MICHIGAN:**

**Whitmer halts water shut-offs during pandemic**

**27. OHIO:**

**Storms cause '100-year flood,' power outages**

**28. NEW HAMPSHIRE:**

**Earth Day video challenge encourages doing 1 good thing**

**INTERNATIONAL**

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**29. INDONESIA:**

**Quake sends people fleeing despite efforts to keep distance**

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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] March 30 -- E&E News PM is ready  
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2020 2:18:30 PM

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PANDEMIC: Pelosi, Pallone eye infrastructure for next stimulus. Read this story and more in today's E&E News PM.  
WATER POLLUTION: Court won't revisit ruling on river temperature limits.  
INTERIOR: BLM drops appeal of order blocking sage grouse plan.  
Read today's E&E News PM on the web

<[https://www.eenews.net/pm?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/pm?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION  
E&E NEWS PM — Mon., March 30, 2020  
<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/30/full?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/30/full?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)> READ FULL EDITION

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1. PANDEMIC:

Pelosi, Pallone eye infrastructure for next stimulus

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) suggested today that water and infrastructure concerns could be part of the next coronavirus stimulus bill.

THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

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2. WATER POLLUTION:

Court won't revisit ruling on river temperature limits

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3. INTERIOR:

BLM drops appeal of order blocking sage grouse plan

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4. NUCLEAR:

Lawmakers want fees on industry delayed during outbreak

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/30/stories/1062743813?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/30/stories/1062743813?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>

5. UTILITIES:

Dems introduce resolution to halt electric, gas shut-offs

UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/30/calendars?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/03/30/calendars?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQslCZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>

6. CALENDAR:

Activity for March 30 - April 5, 2020

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From: [The Washington Post](#)  
To: [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: How long could we be social distancing?  
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 3:18:50 PM

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The Washington Post

# Coronavirus Updates

Important developments in the coronavirus pandemic.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Angela Fritz](#)  
✉ [Email](#)

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**President Trump on Sunday extended the social distancing guidance until the end of April.** He agreed “right away” to the extension after his task force presented him with data that showed the coronavirus could cause **between 100,000 and 200,000 U.S. deaths even with the current guidelines in place**, according to Anthony S. Fauci, the nation’s top infectious diseases expert.

**More than 1,000 people have died in New York alone**, the state said Sunday, with the number of confirmed cases climbing above 6,000. Howard A. Zucker, the New York health commissioner, said **the state's**



**known death rate is hovering around 1 percent.** The actual rate could be lower because **health officials don't know how many people have the virus** — testing priority is given to those who are health-comprised or exhibiting obvious symptoms.

**Trump seemed to embrace the projections he once downplayed, saying between 100,000 and 200,000 deaths would represent a victory.** On March 13, Trump criticized the Obama administration's response to the 2009 swine flu, which killed 14,000 people in the United States. **The model the White House is now using to predict the virus's spread assumes guidelines for social distancing will stay in effect until the end of May.**

The **FDA authorized widespread use of malaria drugs to treat the coronavirus**, though they remain unproven. Millions of doses of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine will be distributed to hospitals across the country. **Cardiac death is a possible risk in taking the drug, doctors say.** The FDA's approval does not include long-term use to prevent an infection.

**Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R), Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D) and D.C. mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) all issued stay-at-home orders** Monday that prohibit people from leaving except for essential trips such as venturing out for groceries or medicine. The number of known coronavirus cases in the District, Maryland and Virginia **exploded to just under 3,000 on Monday, up from around 1,300 on Thursday.**

**Officials in Virginia and Maryland have criticized the federal response to the outbreak**, which Virginia Finance Secretary Aubrey Layne called “abysmal.” Senate Republicans shortchanged the District in the stimulus bill by treating it like a territory instead of a state, which Congress normally does with such appropriations. **Because of that, the**

**District will get \$491 million instead of a minimum of \$1.25 billion granted to states.**

In an op-ed, **Hogan and Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D)** outlined **what they believe states need to battle the virus.**

A new piece from The Washington Post's **Fact Checker team explains what went wrong in U.S. testing.** Missteps were ignored by leaders at the highest level of government, they write, which allowed cases to go undetected and contributed to the virus's spread.

**A Vincent van Gogh painting was stolen from a Dutch museum.**

In the pre-dawn hours on Monday, van Gogh's birthday, thieves broke into the Singer Laren, which has been closed due to the outbreak. The alarm went off when they smashed the glass, but they got away before police arrived. The stolen painting, "The Spring Garden," had been loaned to the Singer Laren for a temporary exhibit.

**Macy's furloughed most of its 125,000 employees because of virus-related store closures.** It shuttered its 775 Macy's, Bloomingdales and Blue Mercury locations on March 18. Meanwhile, retail workers in their **60s, 70s and 80s say they're worried about contracting covid-19, but they continue to work because they need the money.**

The **Justice Department is investigating stock trades made by at least one member of Congress – Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.)** – during the early days of the global outbreak. As the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Burr received frequent briefings and reports on the threat. In mid-February, Burr sold 33 stocks that were estimated to be worth between \$628,033 and \$1.7 million.

## How to work from home while being your best self



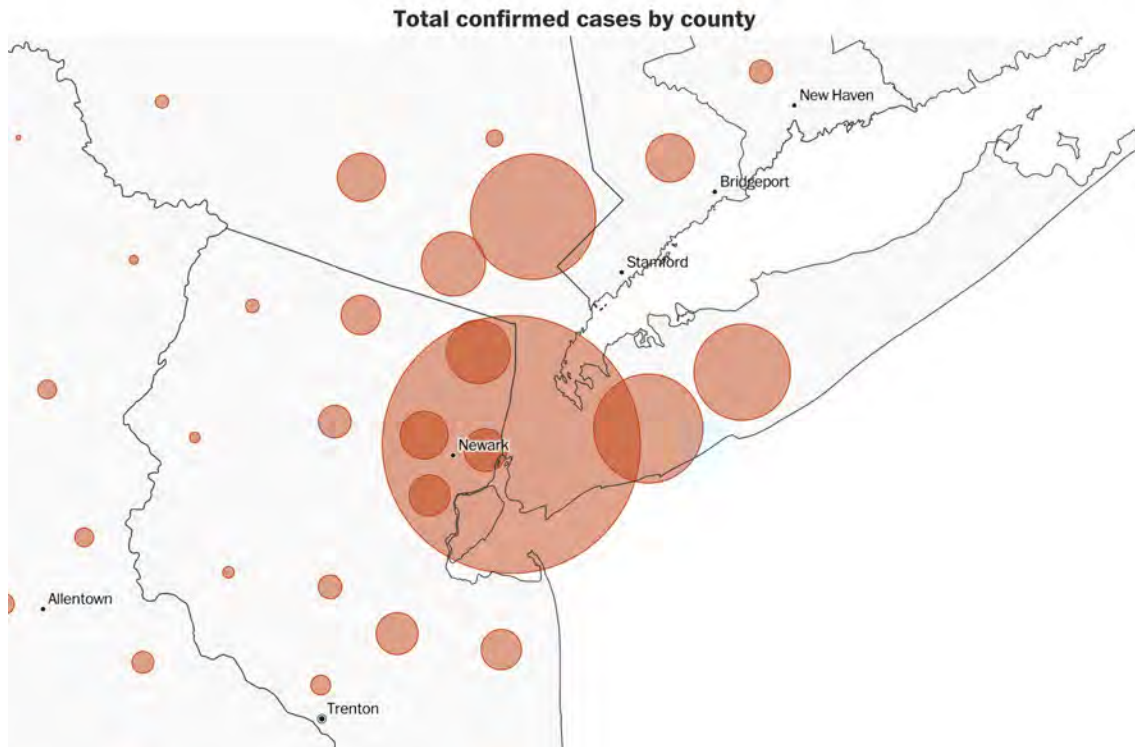
Working from home can feel isolating, but it doesn't have to. We've compiled our [top tips for connecting](#) with coworkers.

[Get more done with Slack](#), the channel-based messaging platform that helps you work better together.

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## Tracking U.S. deaths and cases

The Post is now tracking covid-19 deaths and confirmed cases [at the county level](#). Below is the New York region, the epicenter in the United States. [Click through to see cases in your state](#) and how the virus is spreading. We're updating this page several times a day.



(Joe Fox, Brittany Renee Mayes, Kevin Schaul and Leslie Shapiro)

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## Live updates

**Follow the spread** of the outbreak around the world with our updating map.

Post reporters around the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day**.

Read live updates about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area**.

**How you can help people in need** during the outbreak.

**Submit a question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

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## Your questions, answered

We've received an uptick in questions about microwaving things to kill the virus, including these two today:

***"If you have a face mask with no metal in it. Can you sterilize it in the microwave or with UV light for re-use?"*** — Van Lewis, Virginia

***"Our mail is about the only thing we have coming into our home. Can we disinfect it, like by putting it in the microwave for one minute?"*** — Jack Elwell, California

We asked Benjamin Neuman, the chair of the Biological Sciences department at Texas A&M University at Texarkana. Neuman said **there is actually some research that shows some viruses can be killed by being microwaved.**

“One study from 2004 demonstrated that microwaving on high in a 900-watt microwave for as little as 5 seconds was able to inactivate a chicken coronavirus on cotton swabs,” Neuman told us via email.

But those experiments were done in a controlled lab setting, and the scientists knew exactly what they were microwaving and how much virus was on the swabs. There are a lot of unknowns in our own kitchens — how much wattage our microwaves are actually pumping out, how much virus is on the material and what that material is really made of.

“But any inactivation protocol would probably have to take into account the size and material to be sterilized,” Neuman said. “And microwaving could be hard on some kinds of mail — there are some kinds of paper that print via heat rather than ink, and those would probably become unreadable if microwaved.”

Even if microwaving the virus kills it, which scientists haven't verified, there's still risk in microwaving anything other than food.

First, many masks — especially the super-effective N95 ones — have a little metal bar across the top that the wearer is supposed to use to form a seal around the top of the nose. Neuman said there's also a plastic box that holds the filter that will melt. **So N95 masks absolutely cannot go in a microwave.**

Second, the materials in other masks, even non-N95 masks, could be damaged by the heat of the microwave, rendering them ineffective.

**Finally, mail and other paper could be damaged or even catch on fire if put in the microwave.**

Some reassuring news: even though the virus lives on paper or cardboard surfaces for some amount of time, the risk of catching the virus from those surfaces is very low, according to Joseph G. Allen, an assistant professor of exposure and assessment science at Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health. [You can read his excellent op-ed on that subject here.](#)

If you can't get past the idea of opening mail during the outbreak, the safest thing to do would probably be to quarantine it in a closet for two or three days and open it after the virus dies naturally.

*Thanks to reporter [Joel Achenbach](#) for helping get to the bottom of these very good reader questions.*

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## Today's top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- What a stay-at-home order actually means

- Tips on home-school plans that are realistic
- D.C.'s patient zero: A priest's journey from the intensive care unit to a reunion
- The now-arrested megapastor who kept his church open, said closings are for 'pansies'

## He's 18 and wants to hang with 'his boys.' His mom hasn't been able to stop him.

By Sydney Trent • [Read more »](#)



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## Hospitals are being built on soccer fields, in state park cabins and converted convention centers

By Ariana Eunjung Cha, Brittney Martin and Steven Mufson • [Read more »](#)

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## Everything you need to know to set up a home office fast

By Laura Daily • [Read more »](#)

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## Please don't try this at home

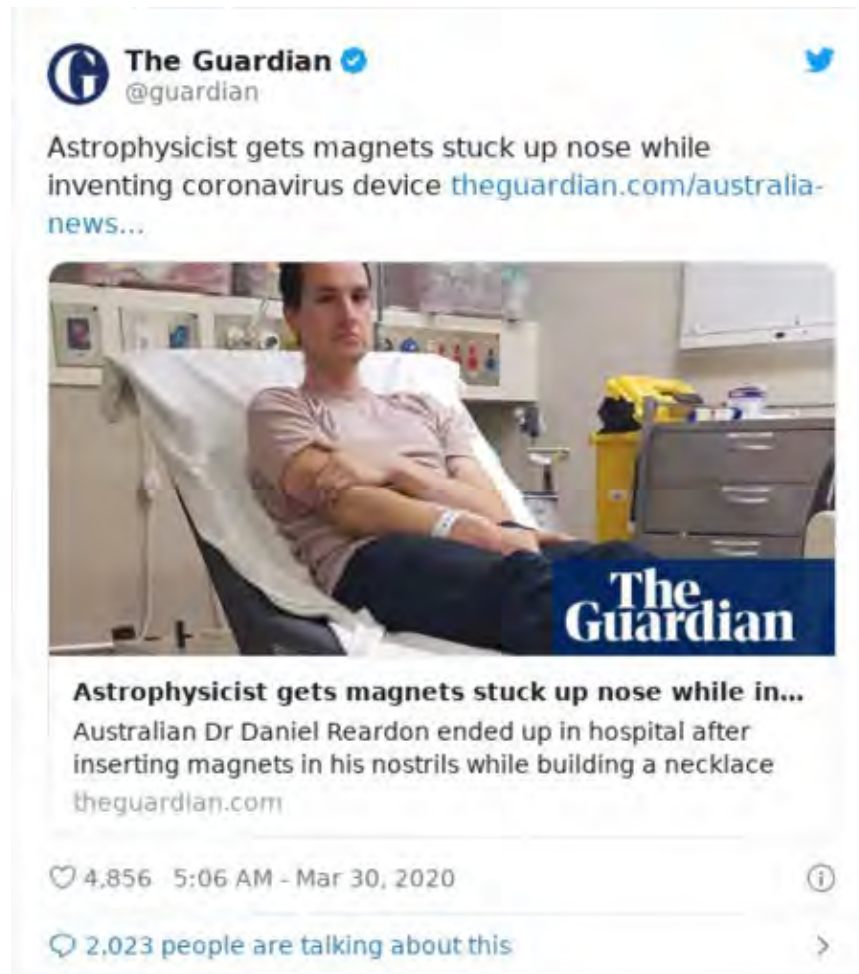
An astrophysicist wound up in the hospital with magnets stuck up his nose, after attempting to invent a coronavirus device that would warn the wearer if they were about to touch their face, [the Guardian reports](#).

Daniel Reardon, a research fellow at a Melbourne university, said he put magnets on the inside and outside of his nose, but the two inside stuck together. He then used the remaining magnets to try to remove them, but they locked on to the ones that were already up there.

According to hospital records, "two doctors applied an anaesthetic spray and manually removed the magnets," the Guardian reports.

Reardon told the Guardian he is done with magnets, and will find other

ways to pass the time at home.



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] March 31 -- Climatewire is ready  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 4:54:14 AM

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# CLIMATEWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

CLIMATEWIRE — Tue., March 31, 2020

 [READ FULL EDITION](#)

## 1. CLIMATE IMPACTS:

### How the Defense Production Act became a disaster law

The law invoked by President Trump to spark production of ventilators for COVID-19 is increasingly used by federal disaster agencies to access materials during climate-related catastrophes. Its explosive rise came after Hurricane Katrina.

## TOP STORIES

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### 2. SCIENCE:

#### Massive ocean blob could help predict climate disasters

### 3. EMISSIONS:

#### Outbreak reveals radical climate idea: Economic 'degrowth'

## PANDEMIC

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### 4. SCIENCE:

#### What the COVID-19 response can teach us about climate action

### 5. BUSINESS:

#### Will renewables ride out the virus better than oil and gas?

### 6. RECREATION:

#### Great outdoors offers an escape in tough times

## IN THE STATES

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### 7. CONSERVATION:

#### N.M. unveils 'pollinator protection' license plate

### 8. LAND MANAGEMENT:

#### National forest proposes using fire as tool for restoration

## GLOBAL

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### 9. RESEARCH:

#### Virus turns U.K. residents into climate 'citizen scientists'

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Climatewire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. It is designed to provide comprehensive, daily coverage of all aspects of climate change issues. From international agreements on carbon emissions to alternative energy technologies to state and federal GHG programs, Climatewire plugs readers into the information they need to stay abreast of this sprawling, complex issue.



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**Date:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 5:48:16 AM

[Read today's Energywire on the web](#)

# ENERGYWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

ENERGYWIRE — Wed., April 1, 2020

 [READ FULL EDITION](#)

## 1. PANDEMIC:

### Fears rise at energy trade groups as virus spreads

As the coronavirus spreads, there are growing concerns that some energy associations could close their doors because of the economic downturn.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. ELECTRIC VEHICLES:

#### Clean cars rollback adds to EVs' pain

### 3. ELECTRICITY:

#### Grid crisis plan gets pandemic test

### 4. OIL AND GAS:

#### Trump: 'You're going to lose an industry'

## FEDERAL AGENCIES

### 5. INTERIOR:

#### BLM under fire for advancing oil project during pandemic

### 6. FEREC:

#### Danly sworn in as commissioner

## OIL AND GAS

### 7. ENERGY TRANSITIONS:

#### Methane emissions may rise despite oil crash — report

### 8. PIPELINES:

#### KXL decision reignites climate fight

## ELECTRICITY

### 9. CORONAVIRUS:

#### 'A different type of storm.' Utilities try to protect workers

## LAW

### 10. OIL:

## Railway asks court for 2nd shot at Bakken crude dispute

### BUSINESS

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#### 11. ENERGY MARKETS:

**Refiners benefit from crude price plunge even as plants slow**

#### 12. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

**Wind industry still heads for record year**

#### 13. NATURAL GAS:

**Poland to seek \$1.5B from Russia's Gazprom**

### GEOPOLITICS

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#### 14. PIPELINES:

**Explosion in Turkey damages natural gas line from Iran**

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**To:** [pat\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:pat_kenney@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: With millions of American lives on the line, Trump finally agrees with the experts  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 8:56:00 AM



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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

Presented by [Blue Cross Blue Shield Association](#)



By [James Hohmann](#)  
with Mariana Alfaro  
 Email

## With millions of American lives on the line, Trump finally agrees with the experts

Tony Fauci put his hand on his face when President Trump referred to the State Department the Friday before last as “the Deep State Department,” [concealing](#) a bemused expression.

As director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984, Fauci has counseled six presidents and become an esteemed pillar of the federal civil service that Trump has loved to hate during his

three years in power. Until now.

For the first time since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, the president and the government's top medical experts seemed to be on the same page as they warned the American people on Tuesday evening of the nightmarish weeks ahead.

Right-wing media figures have **slimed Fauci** for weeks, including Lou Dobbs on Fox Business. On Tuesday, though, Trump praised him and White House coronavirus task force coordinator Debbie Birx, another physician who has devoted her career to government service. After years of **debasing expertise and marginalizing experts**, Trump signaled to his loyalists that now is the time to listen and take seriously what they say.

"It's a matter of life and death, frankly," the president said.



Trump and the doctors went over slides that showed a **best-case scenario** of 100,000 to 240,000 fatalities in the United States, even with social distancing and school closures to slow the spread. Without mitigation, the models presented at the White House showed that 1.5 million to 2.2 million Americans could die of covid-19, the disease the virus causes.

“I want every American to be prepared for the hard days that lie ahead,” Trump said during a news conference that lasted two hours and 12 minutes. “We’re going to go through a very tough two weeks. And then hopefully, as the experts are predicting — as I think a lot of us are predicting, after having studied it so hard — you’re going to start seeing some real light at the end of the tunnel. But this is going to be a very painful — very, very painful — two weeks.”

Since taking office, Trump has attacked career prosecutors for bringing charges against his longtime associates, intelligence officers for warning that Russia favored his election and scientists for sounding the alarm about his inaction on climate change

The president’s newfound respect for — and deference to — experts, careerists and technocrats is part of an even more **dramatic shift** in his tone over the past few days as the gravity of the crisis enveloping the country appeared to fully sink in. He’s no longer downplaying the danger, saying that the virus will kill fewer people than the seasonal flu or car crashes. A week ago, Trump predicted the country would be “raring to go” by Easter, which is April 12.

Despite the bad blood exposed by L’affaire Ukraine, Trump also went out of his way Tuesday to praise foreign service officers for their efforts to bring home 25,000 Americans who were stranded across more than 50 countries as countries closed their borders. “I salute the incredible public servants at the Department of State, as well as their counterparts at DHS and HHS, who have played such an important role in doing this,” said Trump, referring to Homeland Security and Health and Human Services, two departments that are populated almost entirely with non-patronage employees.

The contagion has **killed** at least 3,900 people in the United States as of this morning, including 1,550 in New York. Listening to him speak, the



gut-wrenching visuals from the president's hometown of New York – where Fifth Avenue is deserted, and Central Park is now home to a field hospital – appear to have chilled him as much as any charts or models.

For context on Trump's projection that 100,000 to 240,000 people will die of the virus, about 58,000 troops **died** during the entire Vietnam War. The 1918 influenza pandemic killed an estimated 675,000 Americans, and the 1957 influenza epidemic killed 70,000 to 116,000 people.

Tuesday's news conference was Trump's most somber performance as president, but he didn't fully muzzle his fiery personality. He still called impeachment a "total hoax," criticized the number of homeless people in Speaker Nancy Pelosi's congressional district in San Francisco and congratulated himself for doing a great job. Trump also has a history of erratically changing his tone and approach.

The president explained his strategy this way. "You know, I'm a cheerleader for the country," he said. "We're going through the worst thing that the country's probably ever seen ... but I want to give people in this country hope."

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Content from [Blue Cross Blue Shield Association](#)

**Caring when it counts the most**



Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies are [ensuring swift access to care](#) by waiving prior-authorization and copays for diagnostic testing, expanding telehealth and making prescription refills easier.

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## More on the uneven federal response



**State officials wonder whether politics is playing a role in resource allocation.**

“As states across the country have pleaded for critical medical equipment from a key national stockpile, Florida has promptly received 100 percent of its first two requests — with Trump and Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis both touting their close relationship,” [Toluse Olorunnipa, Josh Dawsey,](#)

[Chelsea Janes and Isaac Stanley-Becker report](#). “States including Oklahoma and Kentucky have received more of some equipment than they requested, while others such as Illinois, Massachusetts and Maine have secured only a fraction of their requests. It’s a disparity that has caused frustration and confusion in governors’ offices across the country ... State and congressional leaders are flooding FEMA with letters and calls seeking clarity about how it is allocating suddenly in-demand resources such as masks, ventilators and medical gowns. ...

**“Governors and state officials have become increasingly frustrated by what they describe as a byzantine and unsteady process for distributing medical supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile. ...** [S]ome GOP-led states such as Georgia have had trouble filling their requests. But Trump has contributed to the sense that politics could be a factor by publicly attacking Democratic governors who criticize his handling of the public health crisis. ... Still, some Democrats have given the Trump administration plaudits for being accessible and for responding to their requests. Even after verbally attacking Democrats such as Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, Trump has approved federal support for their states. ...

**"Privately, state and congressional officials have expressed alarm about a system beset by shortages, inefficiencies and disorder. ...** An administration official with knowledge of the rationing process said political affiliation is not a consideration in processing requests, though Trump has occasionally made promises [over the phone](#) that FEMA has had to accommodate."

### **Testing continues to be a failure.**

After Trump claimed testing is no longer a problem, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) said that’s “just not true.” None of the testing advancements the president touted in a conference call with governors Monday have been deployed, Hogan told NPR.

- A few weeks ago, Trump said the federal government would partner with major retailers to set up drive-thru coronavirus testing sites. HHS confirms there are only five locations from these major retailers – which include Walmart, CVS and Walgreens – offering testing, but none are open to the general public. ([CNN](#))
- Testing backlogs at private health labs have ballooned, making it difficult to deliver a comprehensive view to the medical community and policymakers of the contagion's spread. ([Atlantic](#))
- The FDA issued emergency approval for a two-minute antibody testing kit that can detect the virus. But the Bodysphere test can only detect covid-19 in people who have had the disease for several days. ([Axios](#))
- Serology tests for antibodies in the blood of coronavirus survivors could help establish how lasting immunity to the disease will be once someone recovers. ([Carolyn Johnson](#))

### **Leaked CDC memos lay out the rationale for widespread use of face coverings.**

Federal officials debating whether to recommend face coverings be routinely worn by the public are responding to increasing evidence infected people without symptoms can spread the virus, according to internal memos provided to the White House and [obtained by Lena Sun and Laurie McGinley](#). “Simple cloth masks that cover the mouth and nose can prevent virus transmission from such individuals when they are out buying groceries or seeking medical care, according to the memos ... But the documents note that widespread public use of masks is not culturally accepted in the United States the way it is in many Asian countries, where face coverings helped reduce the spread of the virus.”

Trump was asked about this at last night’s briefing. “My feeling is there is no harm in using a scarf or something,” he said, adding that medical masks should be reserved for hospitals. “I would say do it.”

## **The captain of a nuclear aircraft carrier pleaded with his commanders for help.**

A four-page letter from Capt. Brett Crozier aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt was [leaked to the San Francisco Chronicle](#). More than 100 sailors of a 4,000-person crew have tested positive. The carrier has been docked in Guam, and the captain wants to isolate sick crew members. “We are not at war. Sailors do not need to die. If we do not act now, we are failing to properly take care of our most trusted asset — our Sailors,” Crozier wrote. He said only a small contingent of infected sailors have been off-boarded and most of the remaining crew is unable to socially distance. “Due to a warship’s inherent limitations of space, we are not doing this,” he wrote. “The spread of the disease is ongoing and accelerating.”

He asked for “compliant quarantine rooms” on shore in Guam for his entire crew as soon as possible. “Keeping over 4,000 young men and women on board the TR is an unnecessary risk and breaks faith with those Sailors entrusted to our care,” he wrote. Asked what should be done about the Roosevelt last night, Trump said he would “let the military make that decision.”

**The Pentagon hasn’t shipped 2,000 ventilators because it doesn't know where to send them.** In order to ship the equipment to FEMA and the HHS, the Defense Department “has to be given a location to send them by civilian authorities who have to decide where the items are most needed,” [CNN reports](#). “Civilian Pentagon officials had repeatedly said they are making ventilators and five million N-95 respirator masks available. So far only 1.5 million masks have been shipped by the Pentagon. Another 500,000 are to be shipped within days.”

**The Defense Production Act has been invoked routinely, but the president continues to treat it like a “break the glass” last**

**resort.** “As recently as last summer, the Department of Defense used it to obtain rare earth metals needed to build lasers, jet engines and armored vehicles. [DOD] estimates that it has used the law’s powers 300,000 times a year. The Department of Homeland Security — including its subsidiary, FEMA — placed more than 1,000 so-called rated orders in 2018, often for hurricane and other disaster response and recovery efforts,” [the New York Times reports](#).

### **Trump said infrastructure should be the focus of the next stimulus package.**

He expressed support for another \$2 trillion of spending in the fourth phase of the congressional response. “Citing extraordinarily low interest rates that have reduced the cost of federal borrowing, Trump said on Twitter that now ‘is the time’ to push forward with an infrastructure package,” [Jeff Stein and Seung Min Kim report](#). “Numerous House Democrats have also discussed in recent weeks advancing infrastructure legislation as part of their response to the coronavirus pandemic.”

- The Dow sank more than 800 points, or 3.8 percent, at the open this morning on the expectation of rough weeks ahead. The S&P 500 also dropped 3.8 percent, and the Nasdaq was down 2.9 percent. ([Jacob Bogage and Thomas Heath](#))
- Federal officials are scrambling to make sure that tech glitches and mismanagement don’t delay the public’s \$1,200 relief checks. ([Tony Romm](#))
- The government is delegating the authority to make \$349 billion in new loans to the nation’s banks. Financial institutions are bracing for millions of small-business loan requests that could overwhelm the system. ([David Lynch](#))
- The Department of Agriculture has stalled on approving requests from states to speed up distribution in food banks by reducing paperwork burdens, which would help limit contact between the needy and workers amid a sudden and dramatic increase in demand. ([Jenna Johnson](#))

- The Trump administration has also decided not to reopen enrollment to the federal health exchanges for the uninsured, per [Politico](#).

### **Taxpayers paid a company millions to design a low-cost ventilator. Now it's selling overseas.**

“Five years ago, [HHS] tried to plug a crucial hole in its preparations for a global pandemic, signing a \$13.8 million contract with a Pennsylvania manufacturer to create a low-cost, portable, easy-to-use ventilator that could be stockpiled for emergencies,” [ProPublica reports](#). “This past September, with the design of the new Trilogy Evo Universal finally cleared by the [FDA], HHS ordered 10,000 of the ventilators for the Strategic National Stockpile at a cost of \$3,280 each. But as the pandemic continues to spread across the globe, there is still not a single Trilogy Evo Universal in the stockpile. Instead last summer, soon after the FDA’s approval, the Pennsylvania company that designed the device — a subsidiary of the Dutch appliance and technology giant Royal Philips N.V. — began selling two higher-priced commercial versions of the same ventilator around the world.”

**Vice President Pence has frozen coronavirus aid to foreign countries after discovering the efforts weren’t being coordinated with domestic requests.** The task force is now scrutinizing all of USAID’s deliveries to countries requesting equipment and, in some cases, asking that equipment be sent back, per [Politico](#).

### **Other governments around the world are taking drastic steps.**

The United Nations called the pandemic the single biggest challenge facing the globe since World War II. ([Paul Schemm](#))

- Israel is deploying security forces to make ultra-Orthodox Jews stay home as their neighborhoods become hot spots. ([Steve Hendrix and Ruth Eglash](#))

- Kenyan police fatally shot a teenager as he stood on his balcony during a coronavirus curfew crackdown. ([Max Bearak and Rael Ombuor](#))
  - China reported a sharp increase in new cases as it began officially counting the number of people who've been infected but aren't showing symptoms. ([Anna Fifield](#))
  - Farms across Western Europe depend on Eastern European migrants who come during the growing season, meaning that border closings because of the coronavirus outbreak threaten the continent's food supply. European countries say they have enough food for now, but there are growing concerns about what could happen if the crisis drags on. ([Michael Birnbaum and Quentin Ariés](#))
  - Turkmenistan banned the word "coronavirus" from its vocabulary in a radical attempt to suppress all information about the pandemic. State-controlled media outlets are no longer allowed to use the word, and it has been removed from [health information brochures](#) distributed in schools, hospitals and workplaces. ([Reporters Without Borders](#))
- 

## Tracking the spread





A body wrapped in plastic is unloaded from a refrigerated truck in Brooklyn on Tuesday. (John Minchillo/AP)



## Some New York hospitals have stopped resuscitating coronavirus victims.

“Last week, DNRs or do-not-resuscitate policies for coronavirus patients who stop breathing, or are in cardiac arrest, were being discussed as part of worst-case scenario planning. ... Over the past few days, however, as the city’s death count topped 1,000 with 10,900 people hospitalized amid

predictions the peak of the crisis is still two weeks off, some hospitals and medical centers activated those protocols,” [Ariana Eunjung Cha, Lenny Bernstein, Frances Stead Sellers and Shane Harris report](#). “Spokespeople for Montefiore, NYU Langone Health, and New York-Presbyterian’s Brooklyn Methodist said no new systemwide resuscitation protocols have been adopted. But doctors and nurses at those facilities say some doctors have been informally allowed in recent days to override a covid-19 patient’s ‘code status’ — the part of their medical record that expresses their desire for lifesaving medical intervention.”

- New data shows the disease is thrusting people with chronic conditions of all ages into intensive care units, reinforcing an important lesson: Although covid-19 is typically more severe among older people, people of any age with underlying medical conditions are at increased risk if they contract the virus. ([Joel Achenbach and William Wan](#))
- Blood banks are panicking they will face a supply crisis about four weeks from now. ([Alex Horton](#))
- More than 1,000 New York Police Department officers have tested positive. More than 5,600 officers, or 15.6 percent of the workforce, called in sick yesterday. ([Fox News](#))
- A husband in New York hid his symptoms from a hospital so he could see his wife after she gave birth. Then, she started showing symptoms. The family of three has been asked to self-quarantine. ([Timothy Bella](#))
- Hospitals are threatening to fire health-care workers who publicize their poor working conditions. Some have followed through, including a Washington state hospital that ousted an emergency room physician after he gave an interview detailing alleged inadequate equipment and testing. In Chicago, a nurse was fired after emailing colleagues she wanted to wear a more protective mask while on duty. ([Bloomberg News](#))

**Buffalo is bracing to become New York's next hot spot.**

An additional 332 New York state residents died Tuesday as cases topped 75,000. "In Buffalo and its suburbs, the number of coronavirus cases has been doubling every three days," [Justin Sondel and Tim Craig report](#).

"With local hospitals bracing for an influx of sick patients, the situation serves as a reminder that the worst of the crisis could soon shift away from coastal cities and deeper into the Midwest and here in the Great Lakes."

### **Deaths and infections in Louisiana rose 30 percent in a 24-hour period.**

"The 'very sobering numbers' brought the state's total number of cases to 5,237, and 239 covid-19 patients have died, Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) said at a news conference. That is an increase of 1,212 cases and 54 deaths over what the state reported Monday. The city of New Orleans had 1,834 total cases and 101 deaths," [David Montgomery and Richard Webster report](#). **"The new data pushed up the estimated date when the New Orleans region could run out of ventilators to April 4,** and advanced the date when hospital beds in the region may be filled to April 7, the governor said. Edwards offered one caveat to the numbers: State health officials said 90 percent of the new cases were based on tests processed by private labs, and officials have been unable to pin down whether the spike in cases is partly because of a sudden rush of reporting of tests that could have been collected many days ago."

**Yet New Orleans police continue jailing people for minor offenses.** "One man was accused of stealing whiskey from a drugstore. A homeless man had allegedly refused to leave a hotel lobby. A woman had walked out of a grocery store without paying for a cart full of food worth \$375, according to the police," [Richard Webster, Emma Brown and Kimberly Kindy report](#).

**Meanwhile, California will release 3,500 inmates early as the virus spreads inside the state's prisons,** per the [Los Angeles Times](#). The Golden State also told its schools to plan on staying closed for the rest

of the academic year. Alabama, Arizona, Kansas, New Mexico, Virginia and Vermont have already ordered their schools closed for the rest of the semester, per [Valerie Strauss](#).

### **The virus continues to take both the old and the young.**

- Jorge Ortiz-Garay, of Brooklyn, became the first Catholic priest known to have died of the virus in the United States. He passed just days after celebrating Mass via live stream. He was 49. ([NYT](#))
- Gita Ramjee, a world-renowned virologist and a leading HIV researcher, died at 64. ([HuffPost](#))
- Jeannie Danker, director of radiology at Ohio State University's medical center, was 60. She had just lost her husband to ALS. ([WBNS](#))
- Lorena Borjas, a transgender Latina activist who fought for immigrants and sex workers, died at 59. ([CNN](#))
- A 13-year-old boy in London, thought to be the youngest person to die from the virus in the U.K., had no apparent underlying health conditions. He just tested positive on Friday. ([BBC](#))

### **Not everyone who gets covid-19 is incapacitated.**

- CNN host Chris Cuomo, 49, [said he tested positive](#) but will continue broadcasting from his home basement because he feels okay.
- ESPN broadcaster Patrick McEnroe, 53, the 16-time men's tennis doubles champion, said he's recovering from mild symptoms. ([CNN](#))
- Twenty-eight University of Texas students tested positive after returning to Austin from a spring break trip to Cabo San Lucas in Mexico. Health officials say dozens more are being monitored. ([Austin American-Statesman](#))

### **Some people continue to ignore the warnings of experts.**

- Churchgoers flocked to a Louisiana church parking lot on Tuesday to hear pastor Tony Spell, who faces misdemeanor charges for holding services despite a ban on gatherings. Spell said he's going to keep his doors open, saying his church is at least as essential as Walmart. ([AP](#))

- Epidemiologists have advised Florida to issue a stay-at-home order, but Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) continues to insist it's unnecessary. ([Miami Herald](#))
- Hobby Lobby quietly reopened nearly all of its stores in Wisconsin and Ohio, defying state-mandated lockdowns. At least one store was forcibly shuttered by police in Wisconsin. A similar incident was reported in Indiana. ([Business Insider](#))
- A rural county in Minnesota, home to 20,000, is becoming a hot spot. A local public health official suggested conservative media downplaying the danger was a factor. “It's hard to prove that. I don't want to get political. But there were outlets saying it's a hoax, it's no worse than a cold, and those are things people listen to,” said Tim Langer, a public health sanitarian with Martin County Human Services. ([Grand Forks Herald](#))
- Bill Gates calls for a more “consistent nationwide approach to shutting down” [in an op-ed for today's paper](#).

### **The D.C. region reported 477 new cases.**

A day after District, Maryland and Virginia officials ordered residents to stay home, the region's number of confirmed cases rose to 3,411. Virginia reported 230 new infections and Maryland 247 — each number a one-day record. D.C. didn't report new overall coronavirus cases Tuesday because it is shifting the release of data from evenings to mornings. But it announced a dozen new cases among D.C. first responders.

The number of virus-related fatalities in the region grew to 63. Maryland and Virginia officials said they are consulting various computer models to figure out when the outbreak might peak. D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) said the city will release a projection this week. ([Gregory Schneider](#), [Rebecca Tan](#), [Rachel Chason](#) and [Erin Cox](#))

- George Washington University Hospital is preparing to offer drive-through coronavirus testing. ([Kyle Swenson](#))
- The sale of Trump's D.C. hotel was put on ice as the commercial real-

estate industry reels. ([Jonathan O'Connell and David Fahrenthold](#))

- A Maryland man who allegedly refused to comply with the state's stay-at-home order was pepper-sprayed and arrested by police. ([Justin Wm. Moyer](#))
- The Kennedy Center furloughed 250 workers for five weeks, less than a week after being awarded a \$25 million grant from the federal stimulus package. ([Peggy McGlone](#))
- Rats in D.C. are likely to go into "panic mode" as businesses shut down, and the vermin are expected to begin scouring for food in the streets. Bowser said pest control workers are therefore considered essential and staying on the job. ([WUSA9](#))

### **Joe Biden said "it's hard to envision" Democrats will hold their convention in July.**

"The likely presidential nominee [suggested] that the party's major gathering, slated for Milwaukee, may need to be altered or postponed," [Matt Viser reports](#).

**But Wisconsin is going forward with its primary next week.** "In Tuesday's Wisconsin elections, more than 100 municipalities will not have enough poll workers to open a single voting location," [Amy Gardner reports](#). "Across Wisconsin, voters, election officials and civil rights leaders are angry that the state legislature is going forward with the April 7 presidential primary and local elections ... The public-health risk is too high, and asking voters to venture out of their homes directly contradicts state and local emergency orders to shelter in place, they say."

**Biden and Bernie Sanders have become amateur online video hosts as they campaign amid the pandemic, but few are watching.** "The new style of campaigning comes as the contest is in a state of suspended animation. Without primaries, debates or crowds, it is difficult to gauge momentum or trajectory," [Annie Linskey and Matt report](#).

**Barack Obama is trying to inform and reassure the public about the crisis while avoiding a confrontation with Trump.** ([David Nakamura](#))

**The contagion is bringing out the worst in some people.**

Online trolls have been breaking into multiple Alcoholic Anonymous meetings being held via Zoom video conferences to harass recovering addicts with slurs and encouragement to drink. ([Business Insider](#))

**Some profiteers are price-gouging and selling low-quality masks at high mark-ups.** The frenzy has broken down standard quality controls, opening the market to an influx of masks of uncertain origin and effectiveness, [Reuters reports](#).

**But it's also bringing out inspiring acts of kindness and selflessness.**

“Studies have revealed that human connection — something as simple as getting an offer of help from a stranger or looking at a picture of someone you love — can ease pain and reduce physical symptoms of stress. People who feel supported by their social networks are more likely to live longer. ... For everyone quarantined in solitude, aching and afraid for far-flung family and friends, this science can provide some solace. A supportive phone call, an empathetic ear, an expression of love — these things can bolster the immune system on a molecular level. Whether you are the recipient or the giver, kindness is good for your health,” [Sarah Kaplan reports](#).

- A newspaper deliveryman in New Jersey is bringing groceries to his older customers on his morning route at no extra charge. ([Cathy Free](#))
- A Minnesota state trooper pulled over a doctor for speeding on Interstate 35. But instead of giving her a ticket, he gave her a fistful of N95 masks that has been issued for his own protection, [the Star](#)

[Tribune reports](#). “I burst into tears,” Sarosh Ashraf Janjua, a cardiologist, wrote on Facebook. “The veil of civilization may be thin, but not all that lies behind it is savage. We are going to be OK.”

- A 30-year-old man from England with terminal leukemia passed away after testing positive but telling doctors to use their limited resources to “save someone else.” ([Daily News](#))
- 

## Quote of the day

*Suzanne Hoylaerts, 90, died from the virus in Belgium after refusing a ventilator. “I had a good life, keep this for the younger,” she [reportedly](#) told doctors.*

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## Other news that shouldn't be overlooked

### **Problems with the FBI's surveillance powers extended far beyond the probe of Trump's 2016 campaign.**

“The Justice Department inspector general [Michael Horowitz] revealed Tuesday that his investigators found errors in every FBI application to a secret surveillance court examined as part of an ongoing review,” [Devlin Barrett and Ellen Nakashima report](#). “Trump has long decried the FBI investigation of him and his campaign's contacts with Russians as a politically motivated ‘witch hunt’ aimed at wrecking his candidacy and his presidency ... Tuesday's findings suggest, however, that the bureau may be suffering instead from broad, institutional weaknesses more than political bias, as problems were found in an array of cases managed by FBI field offices around the country.”

### **The U.S. proposed a transitional government for Venezuela.**

“The Trump administration said it would lift tough sanctions against



Venezuela if both President Nicolás Maduro and his political nemesis, opposition leader Juan Guaidó, step aside and agree to a transitional government guided by both the ruling socialists and opposition lawmakers,” [Anthony Faiola and Carol Morello report](#). “The deal, announced as Venezuelans confront grave danger from the global coronavirus pandemic, is the first road map to relief from some of the harshest sanctions ever imposed by Washington. Described by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at a news conference in Washington, it amounts to a power-sharing arrangement that would guarantee Maduro’s socialists — if not Maduro himself — a seat at the table of a transitional government. U.S. officials insisted Tuesday they did not support any particular political party in Venezuela. But the move nevertheless appeared to be an attempt to set up new elections in which U.S.-backed Guaidó could run.”



## Social media speed read

A doctor treating covid-19 patients paused his rounds to help a 100-year-old receive a final blessing:



**Avital Chizhik-Goldschmidt**

@avitalrachel



"I stopped what I was doing out of respect for this 100 year old woman and put the cell on speakerphone and told him to talk. He started the prayer of the dead and he began to cry and could barely get the words out. And I saw she had numbers tattooed on her arm."



**Mert Eroglu**

19 likes ·



So today in the middle of all the madness there was a one hundred year old Hasidic lady with Covid pneumonia and I was desperate to send her home so she wouldn't die in the hospital, but she dropped her blood pressure and we had to keep her. And then for an hour her son kept calling me to find out how she was and I finally told him look, she's a hundred years old with pneumonia in both lungs. She's not good. She's not going to do well. And then he wanted to talk to her and I said you cant I'm too busy, and he called back ten minutes later and I said, listen sir, your mother is not conscious anymore. And he said that's okay, it's very important that I do a prayer for her, could you hold the speaker to her ear. I had ten other pressing things to do. But I stopped what I was doing out of respect for this 100 year old woman and put the cell on speakerphone and told him to talk. He started the prayer of the dead and he began to cry and could barely get the words out. And I saw she had numbers tattooed on her arm. He was crying for his mother and praying the shema, the verses of unity and it woke up some emotion in me that I had forgotten about. Time slowed down and I felt restored to myself. When he was done he thanked me and blessed me and I said thank you to him.

33.5K 5:13 PM - Mar 30, 2020



10.2K people are talking about this



May her memory be a blessing.

Florida is already seeing the effects of allowing visitors during spring break:

**Josh Kraushaar** @HotlineJosh

Underscores how costly the decision not to shut down spring break was... [twitter.com/scottgottliebmd](https://twitter.com/scottgottliebmd)

**Scott Gottlieb, MD** @ScottGottliebMD

Florida continues to show an acceleration in new #COVID19 cases, with Miami as one of a number of epicenters of spread. The state was probably heavily seeded at some point in early/mid February given pace of the case growth, which suggests there are multiple expanding clusters.



577 8:40 PM - Mar 31, 2020

300 people are talking about this

In a light-hearted PSA, Larry David urged everyone to stay home:



**Office of the Governor of California** ✓

@CAGovernor



"You're hurting old people like me. Well, not me... I'll never see you."

Larry David wants everyone to stay home to protect older Californians from [#COVID19!](#)

He does not do these things.

Listen to Larry. [#StayHomeSaveLivescovid19.ca.gov](#)



♥ 17.5K 10:08 PM - Mar 31, 2020



💬 8,479 people are talking about this



## Videos of the day

New York's mayor regularly sought to downplay the danger, even as his city became the world's biggest hot spot. This is a very bad look for Bill de Blasio:



Seth Meyers said that, upon seeing the founder of My Pillow speak during a Trump news conference, he reached for his pillow to scream into:



Stephen Colbert asked folks not to celebrate April Fools' Day:



Trevor Noah went through some of the ways world leaders have screwed up during the pandemic:



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To: [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: The list of who won't get a stimulus check is growing  
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The Washington Post

# Coronavirus Updates

Important developments in the coronavirus pandemic.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Angela Fritz](#)  
with [Avi Selk](#)  
✉ Email

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**Important stimulus news:** The list of people who **won't get \$1,200 stimulus checks is growing**. The Trump administration is now requiring additional steps for one group and others don't qualify at all. [Read about the new requirements and restrictions.](#)

**Exclusive:** Two DHS officials told The Washington Post that **the national stockpile of respirator masks, gloves and other medical supplies is nearly gone**, despite assurances from the White House that there is availability. [Here's what we know.](#)



The White House coronavirus task force on Monday night **presented a grim picture of where the U.S. could be heading over the next couple of months**, even with interventions like physical distancing.

A new CDC report shows **people of any age with underlying medical conditions are at increased risk** if they contract the virus, including those with heart and lung disease, diabetes and current or former smokers. Health reporters Joel Achenbach and William Wan **explain who among us is at the highest risk**.

Scientists **report in the journal Nature** that **the virus spreads “efficiently” early in the infection, before a person develops significant symptoms. Memos from the CDC to the White House** show federal officials are debating **whether to recommend that everyone wear face coverings in public** because of increasing evidence like this that people who are asymptomatic can spread the virus.

**A 41-year-old ophthalmologist with three children is intubated in his fight against covid-19.** The malaria drugs didn't work. Neither did a second round of experimental remedies. Now his family is desperate for a third, but can't get access. **Read more about the struggle some families are facing** to get the unproven treatments.

**Cases are surging in Florida, but Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) had refused to issue a stay-at-home order — until this afternoon.** The new 30-day order tells residents to stay indoors unless they are pursuing “essential services.” Explore which **other states are resisting tougher measures**.

After reports of “prison-like” lockdown conditions at the Air Force Academy outside Colorado Springs, **two apparent cadet suicides alarmed officials. Read the report.**

It's April 1, which means **rent and mortgage payments are due.**

Advocates are concerned the country will soon face a housing crisis that would rival what took place a decade ago. Some states are offering **protection from evictions, and a few lenders have offered mortgage relief. [Here's what you need to know about paying up today.](#)**

Deaths in New York City are mounting so quickly that **freezer trucks are being used as makeshift morgues.** Several hospitals are **allowing doctors not to resuscitate people with covid-19** to keep the front-line health-care workers safe. **[Read more about the crisis in New York City](#)** and an analysis of **[Mayor Bill de Blasio's \(D\) repeated comments that downplayed the virus.](#)**

Wood River Valley, a beautiful ski town in Idaho — and a magnet for wealthy vacationers — **offers a preview of what happens when coronavirus leaves cities and attacks rural America.**

The **situation at food banks across the country has gotten worse.** Hours-long lines end with close contact between workers and families in need, which is a **recipe for virus spread.** The **[USDA has been slow to suspend the rules](#)** that govern the process.

Consumer complaints about covid-19 scams are increasing. **Herbs? Silver? Salt? Toothpaste? None of these are cures. [Here's what you need to know so you \(or a loved one\) don't get scammed.](#)**

Share Coronavirus Updates



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Content from [Slack](#)

**Bring your team together, wherever they are**



Navigating remote work is about more than setting up the right workstation. It's about [staying productive](#) and in the loop. With Slack, teams can access information and [communicate quickly](#) to get work done.

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## Live updates

**Track deaths and confirmed cases in the U.S.** at the county level.

**Follow the spread** of the outbreak worldwide with our updating map.

Post reporters across the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day.**

Read live updates about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area.**

How you can **help people in need** | The Washington Post **Helping Hand covid-19 relief campaign**

**Submit a question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

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## Your questions, answered

**"As I understand it, not everyone dies from covid-19. But the**

**media doesn't report on the numbers of people who recover. Why is that? Wouldn't the reports of those who recover give people hope?" —Norton Karp in Belleville, N.J.**

One of the most common questions we get is why our [national coronavirus tracker](#) includes the number of confirmed infections and deaths in each U.S. state, but not the number of recoveries.

Short answer: **we'd like to, but we simply don't have accurate data on how many people have recovered** from the virus (let alone how many people even have it to begin with).

"Our tracker hasn't been including the recovery statistics because **states haven't been reporting it consistently**," said [Armand Emamdjomeh](#), an editor on our graphics team. "We're monitoring this and plan to include recovery statistics if they become available and are being reliably reported."

State officials release daily updates on new infections and deaths in their region, which filter up to the federal government and then out to news outlets. **Many states, such as New York, simply don't include information about recoveries. Neither does the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which combines the state figures into a national total.**

We asked a few states why they don't include recovery statistics, but didn't get a great answer. A spokeswoman for the New York State Department of Health wrote that it is "working to accommodate requests for information regarding all aspects of our wide-ranging response." We've reported previously that [many states are struggling just to put out consistent and reliable death statistics](#), let alone count the (presumably) much larger number of recovered cases.

[The Johns Hopkins University](#) tracker, which ours is based on, does

include recovery figures for each country, but notes in a disclaimer that these are generally "estimates based on local media reports, and may be substantially lower than the true number." For example, the university counts about 8,400 recovered out of nearly 200,000 U.S. cases as of Wednesday afternoon.

Johns Hopkins spokesman Douglas Donovan sent us a bit more information on the difficulty of finding reliable statistics.

"When the outbreak was centered in China, the researchers built the map based on what data China and some other nations were releasing, which included recoveries," he wrote. "As it spread worldwide, the reporting of recoveries became less and less consistent. And in the U.S. states ... the recovery estimates did not come from any type of uniform process by county, state or federal government."

**Like us, Donovan said Johns Hopkins plans to revisit its recovery reporting once more reliable data become available.**

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## Today's top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- The latest on cruise ships with sick passengers, struggling to find places to dock
- Sent home from the hospital with a pneumonia diagnosis, he died days later of covid-19
- 'No one should pay rent until the coronavirus ends:' A new rallying cry among America's working class
- How to retrain your dog for social distancing

**Go grocery shopping every two weeks? You can — and without hoarding. Here's a guide.**

By Ann Maloney • [Read more »](#)

---

## Bill Gates: How to make up for lost time on covid-19

Opinion • By Bill Gates • [Read more »](#)

---

## Social distancing works. The earlier the better, California and Washington data show.

By Geoffrey Fowler, Heather Kelly and Reed Albergotti • [Read more »](#)



## Here are rules doctors can follow when they decide who gets care and who dies

Perspective • By Daniel Wikler • [Read more »](#)

---

## The list of those who won't get a \$1,200 stimulus check is growing — and includes some surprising groups

By Heather Long • [Read more »](#)

---

## Masterpiece!

Last week, the Getty museum in Los Angeles sent out a challenge to people stuck at home: recreate your favorite art using household objects. They received thousands of submissions that range from beautiful to hilarious.

“You’ve re-created Jeff Koons using [a pile of socks](#), restaged Jacques-Louis David with a [fleece blanket and duct tape](#), and MacGyvered costumes out of towels, pillows, scarves, [shower caps](#), [coffee filters](#), [bubble wrap](#), and—of course—[toilet paper](#) and [toilet rolls](#),” the Getty wrote.

[See some of the art on the museum's blog, the iris.](#)



**Getty** ✓  
@GettyMuseum



Can you re-create an artwork with items around your house? Get inspired by the creative genius of the internet: [#BetweenArtandQuarantine](#)  
[#tussenkunstenquarantaineblogs.getty.edu/iris/getty-art...](#)



**Getty Artworks Recreated with Household Items by...**

Thousands of people get creative with items on hand, from bubble wrap to their (very good) dogs  
[blogs.getty.edu](#)

♥ 421 12:09 AM - Mar 31, 2020



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[Read today's E&E News PM on the web](#)



AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**E&E NEWS PM — Wed., April 1, 2020**

[READ FULL EDITION](#)

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**1. PANDEMIC:**

**EPA employee dies of COVID-19**

An employee in EPA's Region 3 office has died from the novel coronavirus, an agency source confirmed this afternoon.

---

**THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES**

**2. INFRASTRUCTURE:**

**Pelosi eyes quick action on green-tinged stimulus**

**3. PEOPLE:**

**Trump's science adviser becomes NSF acting chief**

**4. INTERIOR:**

**FWS extends free-entrance policy at wildlife refuges**

**5. WILDFIRES:**

**Bernhardt approves 11K miles of fire breaks out West**

**6. PANDEMIC:**

**Democrats want info on EPA's COVID-19 operation plan**

**7. COAL:**

**Murray Energy on verge of liquidation**

**8. PANDEMIC:**

**Western governors ask BLM, Forest Service for COVID-19 help**

**9. PANDEMIC:**

**Outdoor industry advocates want tariff reprieve**

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**UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS**



## 10. CALENDAR:

### Activity for March 30 - April 5, 2020

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### ABOUT E&E NEWS PM – LATE-BREAKING NEWS

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E&E News PM is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. A late afternoon roundup providing coverage of all the breaking and developing policy news from Capitol Hill, around the country and around the world, E&E News PM is a must-read for the key players who need to be ahead of the next day's headlines. E&E News PM publishes daily at 4:30 p.m.



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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] April 2 -- Climatewire is ready  
**Date:** Thursday, April 2, 2020 4:49:29 AM

[Read today's Climatewire on the web](#)

# CLIMATEWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

CLIMATEWIRE — Thu., April 2, 2020

 [READ FULL EDITION](#)

## 1. EMISSIONS:

### Trump's car rule would cause more pollution deaths

On Page 1,525, the rule rolling back emissions standards for cars offers a striking assessment: It could cause 444 to 1,000 premature deaths from air pollution.

## TOP STORIES

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### 2. POLITICS:

**Skepticism soared during the last recession. Will it again?**

### 3. GEOPOLITICS:

**Pandemic delays global climate summit**

## CLIMATE IMPACTS

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### 4. UNITED NATIONS:

**Virus strikes adaptation program; 3 staffers infected**

### 5. PANDEMIC:

**Experts: Addressing climate change can blunt outbreaks**

## LAW

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### 6. SUPREME COURT:

**Big Oil brings Baltimore climate battle to justices**

## EMISSIONS

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### 7. SCIENCE:

**It's official: Antarctica used to have a rainforest**

### 8. AGRICULTURE:

**America's sugar cane growers have a burning problem**

## GLOBAL

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### 9. CRIME:

**Another member of forest guardian tribe slain in Brazil**

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#### **ABOUT CLIMATEWIRE – POLICY. SCIENCE. BUSINESS.**

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Climatewire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. It is designed to provide comprehensive, daily coverage of all aspects of climate change issues. From international agreements on carbon emissions to alternative energy technologies to state and federal GHG programs, Climatewire plugs readers into the information they need to stay abreast of this sprawling, complex issue.



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] April 2 -- Energywire is ready  
**Date:** Thursday, April 2, 2020 5:41:41 AM

[Read today's Energywire on the web](#)

# ENERGYWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

ENERGYWIRE — Thu., April 2, 2020

 [READ FULL EDITION](#)

## 1. WHITE HOUSE:

### Trump to host oil meeting: Who's going and why it matters

The country's top oil executives are expected to gather at the White House tomorrow and push President Trump to address the industry's slowdown. What's on the agenda and will it work?

## TOP STORIES

### 2. ENERGY TRANSITIONS:

#### N.M. OKs abandonment of coal plant after meeting 'sabotage'

### 3. PANDEMIC:

#### Is the world headed to negative oil prices?

### 4. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

#### Coronavirus threatens large-scale solar — report

## UTILITIES

### 5. CORONAVIRUS:

#### Southern Co: Plant Vogtle, supply chains at risk

## ENERGY TRANSITIONS

### 6. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

#### 100% clean energy group launches, with eyes on coronavirus

### 7. ELECTRICITY:

#### Renewables beat coal for 1st time ever on quarterly basis

## ENERGY POLICY

### 8. OIL AND GAS:

#### API issues standards for larger-sized gathering lines

## ELECTRICITY

### 9. MONTANA:

#### State to ban utility shut-offs amid virus order

### 10. NUCLEAR:

## Cheap energy shuts down Swedish reactor

### 11. UTILITIES:

#### Regulators mull reversing \$462M increase in PG&E fire fines

### OIL AND GAS

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### 12. ENERGY MARKETS:

#### 'Dead cow' oil play set to be next Permian is now, well, dead

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### ABOUT ENERGYWIRE – THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ENERGY SECTOR

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Energywire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. Energywire is designed to bring readers deep, broad and insightful coverage of the transformation of the energy sector. Energywire focuses on the business, environmental and political issues surrounding the rapidly expanding unconventional energy industry and the numerous factors -- from expanding natural gas use to renewables and more -- that are altering the traditional electric utility industry. Energywire publishes daily at 9:00 a.m.



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**Date:** Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:36:02 AM

[Read today's Greenwire on the web](#)

# GREENWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**GREENWIRE — Thu., April 2, 2020**

 [READ FULL EDITION](#)

## 1. PUBLIC HEALTH:

### **Years of toxic leaks raise cancer risk in refinery town**

Industrial pollution is a risk factor in the era of COVID-19. But an oil refinery in Artesia, N.M., poses a heightened threat to residents: It has some of the nation's highest annual emissions of cancer-causing benzene after a decade of slack government oversight.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. NATIONAL PARKS:

#### **Pandemic forces closure of Grand Canyon**

### 3. EPA:

#### **Total cases rise to 15 as first employee dies**

### 4. NATIONAL PARKS:

#### **Trump's Mount Rushmore fireworks plan ignites opposition**

## CORONAVIRUS

### 5. CAMPAIGN 2020:

#### **Democrats move convention to August**

### 6. OIL AND GAS:

#### **DOE looks to store 30M barrels of crude to help producers**

### 7. FEDERAL WORKFORCE:

#### **Agency staffers sue for extra pay after virus exposure**

### 8. PANDEMIC:

#### **Rural towns fear outbreak amid border wall, Keystone XL work**

## POLITICS

### 9. OIL AND GAS:

#### **Trump sees Saudi-Russian production cuts coming**

### 10. REGULATIONS:

#### **House Dems urge White House to extend public comment periods**

### 11. FORESTS:

## **'Money-loser': Conservative group blasts Trump Tongass rule**

### **12. INTERIOR:**

**Auditors cite flaws in grants management**

---

### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **13. RECREATION:**

**Interior advances proposed e-bike rules**

### **14. ENDANGERED SPECIES:**

**Settlement forces more water down Klamath River**

### **15. PUBLIC LANDS:**

**Ranchers can apply for grazing allotments Hammonds lost**

### **16. SEVERE WEATHER:**

**Double strike: Tornado, virus push Tennesseans to the limit**

### **17. MARINE MAMMALS:**

**Social distancing means leave those seals alone, NOAA says**

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### **LAW**

### **18. OBITUARY:**

**Judge who ordered overhaul of Columbia River system dies**

### **19. COAL:**

**W.Va. governor's firms to pay \$5M in mine safety fines**

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### **STATES**

### **20. IDAHO:**

**Authorities say no major damage after 6.5 earthquake**

### **21. ALASKA:**

**Wildlife officials to residents: Don't feed the moose**

### **22. CALIFORNIA:**

**Possible hazmat crash snarls interstate north of LA**

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### **ABOUT GREENWIRE – THE LEADER IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS**

Greenwire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. The one-stop source for those who need to stay on top of all of today's major energy and environmental action with an average of more than 20 stories a day, Greenwire covers the complete spectrum, from electricity industry restructuring to Clean Air Act litigation to public lands management. Greenwire publishes daily at 1 p.m.

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To: [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: Stimulus check requirements changed (again)  
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:36:13 PM

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# Coronavirus Updates

Important developments in the coronavirus pandemic.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Angela Fritz](#)  
with [Avi Selk](#)  
✉ Email

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**Stimulus reversal:** On Wednesday, we told you that people who get Social Security would have to file a simple tax return in order to get their stimulus checks. The new hurdle drew enormous criticism, and a few hours after we sent the newsletter, the Treasury Department [reversed its decision](#). You can catch up on [stimulus check details here](#).

A record **6.65 million people filed new jobless claims last week**, bringing the total in March to more than 10 million. [Read how economists are reacting to the news](#) and what they think this means for the economy. Gig workers were promised unemployment benefits but

**it could be weeks until they get them.** (Plus: here are the companies that have [pledged to keep people employed.](#))

The **extremely grim American death-toll projections that the White House shared on Tuesday have already been revised upward.** [Here's what we know about the model](#) the task force is using, and how it has changed.

The covid-19 **death toll passed 50,000 worldwide today, with some 1 million confirmed cases.** The United States has more than [230,000 confirmed infections so far, and more than 5,500 people have died.](#) **The U.S. is now the outbreak's epicenter, with more confirmed infections than any other country.**

Early last month, **3M was ramping up to produce masks, but there was a problem,** and it was just one of a number of roadblocks. [Read our story that dives inside how America got into this mask crunch.](#)

The White House is debating **where to send the new rapid covid-19 tests.** Members of the president's task force talked about sending them to areas where there are relatively few cases, but officials in the hardest-hit areas want them going to hot spots. [Read about the struggle to determine who will be best served by the new tests.](#)

Ambassadors from Italy and Spain cautiously reported **signs of improvement on Thursday.** [Read how their measures have started to pay off and what the U.S. is learning.](#)

The White House has **rejected the idea of re-opening healthcare.gov** — the Affordable Healthcare Act website — **to help people find insurance.** In Wednesday's White House briefing, Pence answered a question about opening the marketplace by saying, “We have Medicaid for underprivileged Americans,” though Medicaid does not

address the people in the middle, who either didn't have health care coming into the coronavirus crisis or were recently laid off and lost their coverage.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) announced the creation of a **committee to scrutinize the Trump administration's response to the crisis and its management of the \$2 trillion stimulus package.**

**Anthony S. Fauci, the nation's top infectious-diseases expert and widely beloved face of the White House task force, has received threats to his personal safety,** prompting the government to step up his security.

The **Empire State Building blinked red this week** as New York became the new focal point in the battle against the virus. New York is running out of time, quickly approaching an expected apex of cases, and **the state's scramble is a siren to the rest of the U.S.**

After the SARS epidemic, **many insurers added exclusions to their business policies for losses caused by viruses or bacteria,** and now insurance companies are avoiding paying claims because of coronavirus. **Here's what we know about the exclusions and the effect they are having on American businesses.**

**Because of a strange coronavirus conspiracy theory, an engineer derailed a train on purpose** near the USNS Mercy hospital ship in Los Angeles, federal officials say.

Share Coronavirus Updates



**Bring your team together, wherever they are**



Navigating remote work is about more than setting up the right workstation. It's about [staying productive](#) and in the loop. With Slack, teams can access information and [communicate quickly](#) to get work done.

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## **Live updates**

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**Follow the spread** of the outbreak worldwide with our updating map.

Post reporters across the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day.**

Read live updates about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area.**

How you can **help people in need** | The Washington Post **Helping Hand covid-19 relief campaign**

**Submit a question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

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## **Your questions, masked and answered**

***"Are there instructions for making useful masks at home? Not just generalized, such as two layers of T-shirt and rubber bands, but detailed?" – Teddy Knight in Berkeley, Calif.***

Are there ever! We'll suggest some tutorials below, **but first we need to address whether homemade masks are a good idea at all.**

There is no simple answer to this. Current government guidelines say healthy people don't need to cover their faces in public; some officials even warn against it. There hasn't been a lot of research on whether homemade masks work against viruses. **Masks also have the potential do more harm than good if used improperly:** they can get dirty and collect bacteria, encourage face touching and give people a false sense of security.

But the federal government is considering changing course and recommending more widespread mask usage. There is at least *some* limited evidence that masks can slow disease spread, and several medical experts have recently endorsed masks for everyone, [including in our op-ed page](#).

**If you decide to make a mask, here's what you should know from [our recent guide to the subject](#):**

**Don't rely on a mask to protect you from the virus.** Homemade masks were widely used during the 1918 pandemic, [and people still died by the millions](#). There are some clever DIY designs on the Internet, but so far none has been proven effective. So mask or no mask, keep doing all the usual hand-washing and social-distancing.

**Choose a mask design that fits snugly.** It won't protect anyone if contaminated particles and air are leaking out the edges. The mask should reach above the bridge of your nose and under your chin, and strap tightly around your ears.

**Choose good material.** Too porous, and it won't filter anything. Not porous enough, you'll have trouble breathing. Several medical centers recommend using tightly woven, high-quality cotton or cotton blends. Peter Tsai, a scientist who invented the electrostatic charging technology used in medical-grade N95 masks, suggests using blue shop towels. In general, you'll want to layer the material for more protection.

**If you can sew, several hospitals have released tutorials online.** Providence St. Joseph Health has [an 11-minute video](#) showing how to make a cotton mask with half a yard of fabric and some thread. Other health systems have released their own instructions, which [you can find in our story](#).

**Amateur videos show how to make masks with basic household supplies.** This one, for example, [uses shop towels, rubber bands, paper clips, tape and a stapler](#). YouTube abounds with more, and [there's a Facebook group](#) for people experimenting with other designs. **Be especially cautious when following amateur advice.**

**Never wear a dirty mask.** One of the worries about homemade masks is their potential to trap moisture, bacteria or virus particles. You should wash yours with soap daily and hang it to dry, ideally in the sun. Never share it with others, and consider making multiple masks so you can rotate them.

**Be careful taking it on and off, or adjusting it.** Another issue with homemade masks is they can encourage people to touch their faces, which is one way the virus spreads. An assistant professor of exposure and assessment science at Harvard University offers [advice on how to handle yours safely here](#).

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**Show us your creativity**

How are you adapting to spending so much time at home? Have you used the time to start or finish a special project? Are you creating something in your home, like a wall mural, or learning a new technique like micro-gardening? Have stay-at-home orders inspired you to learn or attempt something you've never tried before? [Tell us your story here.](#)

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## Today's top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- Exclusive: Wash. nursing home faces \$611,000 fine over lapses during fatal outbreak, inspectors say
- How to actually do this remote-learning thing while also working from home
- When the store is out of eggs, here's what to substitute
- Everybody seems to be using Zoom. But its security flaws could leave users at risk.

### **The do's and don'ts of apartment living, self-quarantine edition**

By Anying Guo • [Read more »](#)

---

### **The pandemic canceled their wedding. So they held it in Animal Crossing.**

By Aron Garst • [Read more »](#)



### **The grim death-toll projections the White House offered Monday have already been revised upward**

Analysis • By Philip Bump • [Read more »](#)

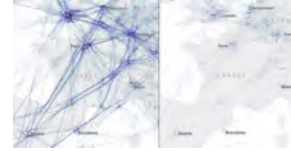
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## I didn't have a quarantine plan when I got covid-19. Trust me: You'll want one.

Perspective • By Baynard Woods • [Read more »](#)

## How coronavirus grounded the airline industry

By Andrew Freedman, John Muyskens, Chris Alcantara and Monica Ulmanu • [Read more »](#)



## This guy ran a marathon in his backyard (!)

Hemmed in by the coronavirus lockdown, a British man ran a marathon in his 20-foot backyard and thousands watched online. By early Thursday morning, he had raised the equivalent of just over \$32,000 for the United Kingdom's National Health Service.

[Read the full story \(and watch some video\) from The Post's Antonia Noori Farzan.](#)







[View More on Instagram](#)



893 likes

**leemryan**

Breaking the tape on my own little "Backyard Marathon" 🏃‍♂️

42.2km 🏃‍♂️ 30 (Meters) = 1,406.666 times I ran up and down my garden to complete the "backyard marathon"- 5hrs 23mins 50secs.

The world is messed up right now, people are lost and don't know what to do. I am the same, quarantine in the UAE has us staying in doors for the safety of everyone which I get and totally understand and back it #stayhome . But I missed my running and decided to make use of what I have and do the best I could. Coming out of it very positive and happy. Almost as much happiness as any @wmmajors I have ran before. Because in my head I made it that way. If my mindset was wrong this could of been so boring and miserable.

But it wasn't, I had fun, I feel and felt good and hopefully it may of helped and inspired others to get up and get active in this difficult time, not to run a marathon in the back garden. But just to move, do a circuit session from your social feed, take 10mins to run along your balcony, down the garden path, up the stairs at home. Anything is better than nothing. Mentally and physically your body and mind needs it. Do it. Do anything. Smile, be positive and be safe when you do it! PLEASE!! You will help yourself and you will inspire others to do the same.

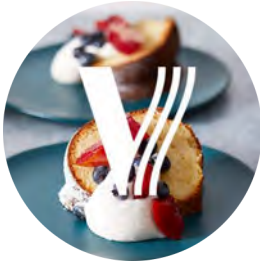
Amazing to have my little support crew there to run with me in some parts and then to be there at the end to help me finish strong and pass me a very unique and special handmade medal 🏆 😊. One medal no one else will ever get 😊

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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] April 3 -- Energywire is ready  
**Date:** Friday, April 3, 2020 5:30:09 AM

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# ENERGYWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

ENERGYWIRE — Fri., April 3, 2020

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## 1. CORONAVIRUS:

### 'Ground to a halt.' State shutdowns put clean energy on ice

The coronavirus pandemic has delayed sessions in at least half of state legislatures, threatening solar booms, grid overhauls and 100% clean energy plans.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. WHITE HOUSE:

#### Exxon, Mnuchin, lawmakers weigh in ahead of Trump oil meeting

### 3. CARBON CAPTURE:

#### Companies ink deal to build world's first gas CCS plant

### 4. PANDEMIC:

#### Brouillette intervenes in Pa. nuclear fight

## ELECTRICITY

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#### N.Y. passage of renewable plan stirs NIMBY, climate debate

## FEDERAL AGENCIES

### 6. CORONAVIRUS:

#### FERC eases enforcement rules

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#### Oil crisis puts public lands at risk, advocates warn

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#### Toyota, China's BYD announce EV venture

### 10. PANDEMIC:

## 'We can do this.' Fuel cell engineer fixes ventilators

### OIL AND GAS

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#### 11. ENERGY MARKETS:

### Oil at \$4 a barrel? Belarus offers Russia that price

### GRID

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#### 12. MAINE:

### Transmission referendum to advance despite tossed signatures

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Energywire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. Energywire is designed to bring readers deep, broad and insightful coverage of the transformation of the energy sector. Energywire focuses on the business, environmental and political issues surrounding the rapidly expanding unconventional energy industry and the numerous factors -- from expanding natural gas use to renewables and more -- that are altering the traditional electric utility industry. Energywire publishes daily at 9:00 a.m.



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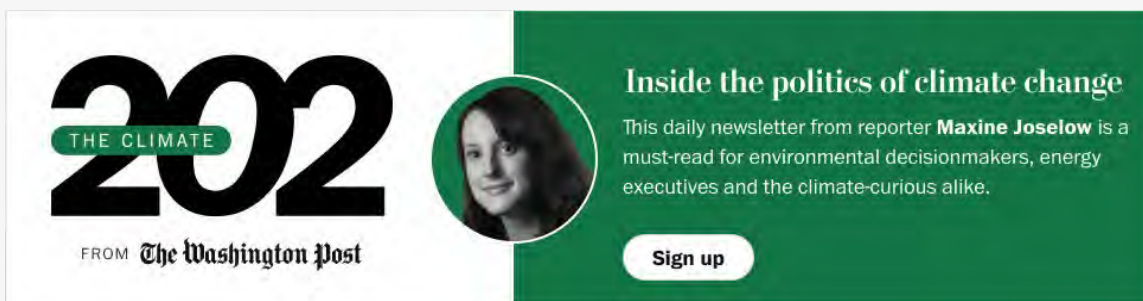
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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Book Club: James Patterson fights to keep bookstores afloat, and Dolly Parton wants to read you to sleep  
**Date:** Friday, April 3, 2020 7:32:37 AM



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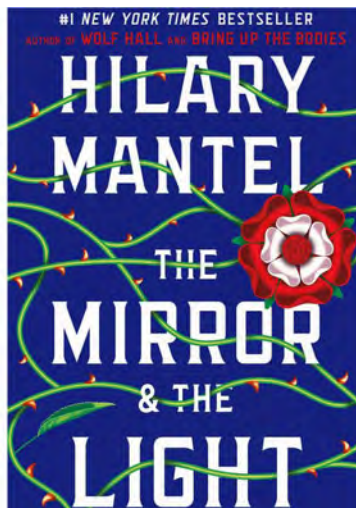
# Book Club

Reviews and recommendations from critic Ron Charles.



By **Ron Charles**

 [Email](#)



President Trump at the White House, April 2, 2020 (AP Photo/Alex Brandon); Henry Holt; two-time Booker-winner Hilary Mantel (Photo by Els Zweerink)

**“The Mirror & the Light,” the third volume of Hilary Mantel’s**

**Wolf Hall trilogy, is reportedly another triumph (review).** From the machinations of Henry VIII's powerful adviser Thomas Cromwell, Mantel has spun one of the most monumental works of historical fiction ever written. That's giving me a little hope as we endure the deadly chaos of the Trump administration. For two months, President Trump dismissed the coronavirus, mocked anyone who took it seriously and blamed the media for inflaming a situation he had entirely under control. This week he suggested with royal confidence that if only 100,000 Americans die, "we all together have done a very good job." That's not so much moving the goal post as melting the goal post down and making commemorative coins out of it. Brilliant novelists like Salman Rushdie, Howard Jacobson and Dave Eggers have tried, but none has fully captured the absurd mendacity of Donald Trump and the sycophants who cheer him on. Perhaps our contemporary fiction writers are just too close. Maybe disorder of this magnitude requires time, even centuries to decompose, to fade away, to grow wholly unfamiliar. But be encouraged, book lovers! Hundreds of years from now, some brilliant Martian artist scanning ancient Earth tweets will uncover the unbelievable history of what happened to America and tell the most astonishing tale.

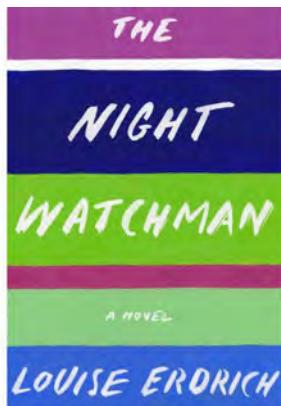


James Patterson (Courtesy of Hachette Book Group); American Booksellers Association

**James Patterson has donated \$500,000 to help keep indie bookstores solvent through this challenging time.** The best-selling author is working with the Book Industry Charitable Foundation (Binc) to

promote an April campaign called [#SaveIndieBookstores](#), in conjunction with the American Booksellers Association. (Reese Witherspoon and her book club are on board, too.) In a statement released Thursday, Patterson said, “The White House is concerned about saving the airline industry and big businesses – I get that. But I’m concerned about the survival of independent bookstores, which are at the heart of main streets across the country. I believe that books are essential. They make us kinder, more empathetic human beings. And they have the power to take us away – even momentarily – from feeling overwhelmed, anxious, and scared.” Patterson has a long record of charitable giving: A spokesperson for Hachette says that he has donated more than \$75 million (!) and more than 1 million books to support literacy causes. [Publishers Weekly reports](#) that Patterson is personally asking fellow super-rich people like Michael Bloomberg and MacKenzie Bezos to support the cause. You can make your own tax-deductible donation to [#SaveIndieBookstores here](#).

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Harper; Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal lands in Massachusetts (AP Photo/Steven Senne); Louise Erdrich (Hilary Abe/Courtesy of Harper)

**Louise Erdrich has just published a historical novel that suddenly feels ripped from today’s headlines.** “The Night Watchman” is a story inspired by her grandfather who fought the federal government’s efforts to disband Indian tribes in the 1950s ([review](#)). This

week, in the middle of the coronavirus crisis, the Trump administration made time to revive those efforts. The Secretary of the Interior has ordered that the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reservation be disestablished and its land in Massachusetts be taken out of trust. The tribe leaders have denounced the decision and vowed to fight back ([statement](#)). For Erdrich, this fresh U.S. attack on people who have been here since before the Pilgrims is contemptible. “This is personal for me,” she told me. “Just out of college, I worked at the Boston Indian Council with many admirable Mashpee Wampanoag tribal members who were dedicated to revitalizing their language, culture, traditional spirituality. They have rebuilt their community time after time, devastation after devastation. Now they are facing the deadly coronavirus and instead of extending assistance the Trump administration has issued a termination decree. It is a shameful, spiteful, and transparently greedy act.”



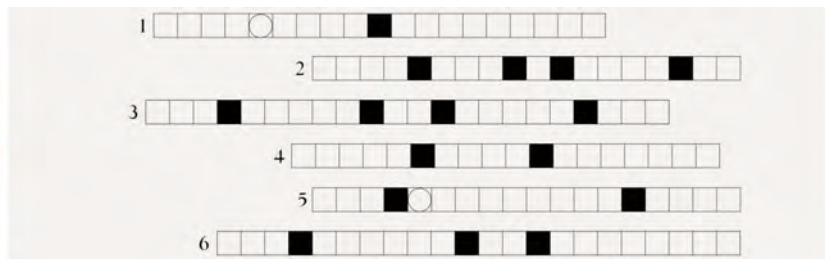
(Chicago Review; Atria; Penguin; Knopf; Amulet; Pantheon)

**Many bookstores are adapting to the coronavirus quarantine by shifting their business online.** But many publishers are taking a different approach: Hundreds of spring books are being delayed so that they can be released this summer or fall when, presumably, stores have reopened. Titles by George Harrison, Maggie Smith, Ottessa Moshfegh, Jeff Kinney, Peter Geye, Graham Swift, Robert D. Putnam, Laila Lalami and many more have all been rescheduled for later this year. These delays suggest just how crucial brick-and-mortar bookstores remain despite the prominence of Amazon. Clearly, lots of titles still depend on the persuasive power of books stacked in Barnes & Noble and hand-sold in indie bookstores. Take all that away — as the coronavirus has done temporarily



— and you'd have a publishing market that could support far fewer authors than we enjoy today. (NPD Bookscan reports that last week's sales of print books fell more than 9 percent, with adult fiction dropping more than 20 percent.)

Releasing a book during this retail apocalypse is risky, but doubling up releases in the second half of 2020 will be risky, too. This fall is shaping up to be the most crowded season I can remember. Will Fresh Air, the Today Show, Oprah and your favorite newspaper book section respond to this avalanche by covering twice as many books? (Unlikely.) Will readers buy twice as many new titles in September? (Probably not.) Will all these big releases simply smother each other? (That's what I'm worried about.)



Meg Wolitzer (Photo: © Nina Subin/Courtesy of Riverhead)

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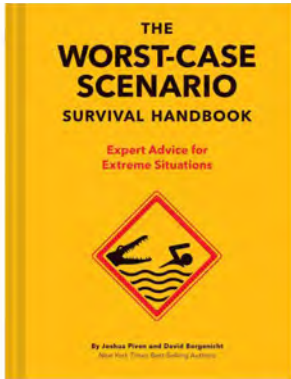
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**Meg Wolitzer isn't just a brilliantly witty novelist. She's a wickedly smart puzzle maven.** Riverhead, her publisher, has just released a cryptic crossword designed by Wolitzer using titles from its upcoming summer catalogue. The clues are a mixture of wordplay and esoteric associations like this: “Rotten guavas incur victory after Trump, perhaps, in Masha Gessen’s latest.” The answer is obvious to me, of course, but I don’t want to spoil it for the rest of you. . . . [Download the Wolitzer's cryptic crossword.](#)



Chronicle Books; OpenClipart-Vectors on Pixabay.

**Not the Onion: The Worst-Case Scenario museum in Philadelphia had to close because we're now facing the worst-case scenario.** The irony isn't lost on **Josh Piven**, co-author of the best-selling "Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook." He points out that the latest edition presciently includes a chapter on "How to Survive a Viral Outbreak or Super-flu." But he and co-author David Borgenicht didn't anticipate what else we really need to know, which is "How to Make Your Own Hand Sanitizer" and "How to Survive When Quarantined with Teenagers." Those crucial instructions are now available on **the newly designed website**, which launched this week. There you'll also find a place to describe your own worst-case scenario. Piven and Borgenicht will respond to the best-worst ones every Wednesday.



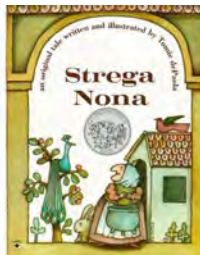
F. Scott Fitzgerald in the 1920s (AP Photo/File); Zelda Sayre, 1917; Scribner, 1920; St. Martin's, 2013

**Today is the 100th wedding anniversary of Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald, the most famous couple in American literary**

**history.** Almost from the start, their glamorous, stormy and finally tragic relationship was woven into the mythos of the Roaring Twenties. In 1918, Zelda was a 17-year-old belle of Montgomery, the daughter of a wealthy Alabama Supreme Court judge who thought Fitzgerald wasn't good enough to join the family. Newly discharged from the Army, Fitzgerald eventually moved back in with his parents (See? Nothing wrong with that) and decided to write a bestseller to prove his worthiness. It was an outlandish scheme, of course, but it worked, which is all that mattered. "This Side of Paradise" was published to rapturous attention; Zelda and Scott married a few days later. The conflation of their lives with Fitzgerald's fiction would buoy and dog them forever. Therese Anne Fowler published a biographical novel about Zelda called "Z" in 2013. "This is such a terrific true love story, if one believes in true love, and I think that they actually did," Fowler tells me. "That might be one of the reasons that they stayed together." Neither of them was faithful to the other, and Zelda was eventually institutionalized, but they never divorced. "It certainly wasn't just duty," Fowler says, "because they knew people who were divorcing and going on to other relationships — Ernest Hemingway first among them. So I have to think that as bad as they sometimes were for each other, that there was something essential to each of them about the relationship. We'd probably call them codependent now because we're cynical about such things, but they both really believed in what they had together." To Scott and Zelda — here's to another century.

Fowler, by the way, just published a new novel called "A Good Neighborhood," which Barnes & Noble has chosen for its book club ([review](#)). Fowler's tour has been canceled because of the coronavirus, but you can participate in the virtual book club discussion on Tuesday, April 7, at 7 p.m. ET on Facebook [@barnesandnoble](#). ([Join here.](#))

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(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Scholastic; Dolly Parton (Courtesy of Imagination Library); Kobe Bryant (File photo by Andrew D. Bernstein)

## **This week was the best of times and the worst of times for children's literature.**

- Author and illustrator Tomie dePaola, who **died this week** at the age of 85, was beloved around the world and particularly in the little town of New London, N.H. where he lived. **The Morgan Hill Bookstore** in New London, which I visit every summer, enjoyed a close relationship with dePaola for years. The coronavirus has closed the store, but the owners have been overwhelmed by phone and email orders for books that dePaola autographed. Unfortunately, unlike Strega Nona's pasta, the supply is limited. To satisfy as many customers as possible, sales are restricted to just one copy per title.
- Dav Pilkey, the creator of Dog Man and Captain Underpants, has started posting readings and lessons online for homebound kids. You'll find his new video content every Friday morning on the **Scholastic** and **Library of Congress** websites. Also this week, Scholastic announced that Pilkey will launch a new graphic novel series called "Cat Kid Comic Club" on Dec. 1, 2020. (Don't tell your kids about this unless you want them to ask you every day: "Is it December 1 yet?")
- Dolly Parton has written a brief introduction for the 90th anniversary edition of "The Little Engine that Could," newly illustrated by Dan Santat (Penguin Young Readers, April 7). "On many occasions, when my dreams seemed far away, my Mama would tell me the story of the Little Engine to comfort and encourage me," she writes. How important is this book to Parton? She's given away more than 5 million copies. (Since 1995, Parton's Imagination Library has donated more than 135 million children's books.) And last night,

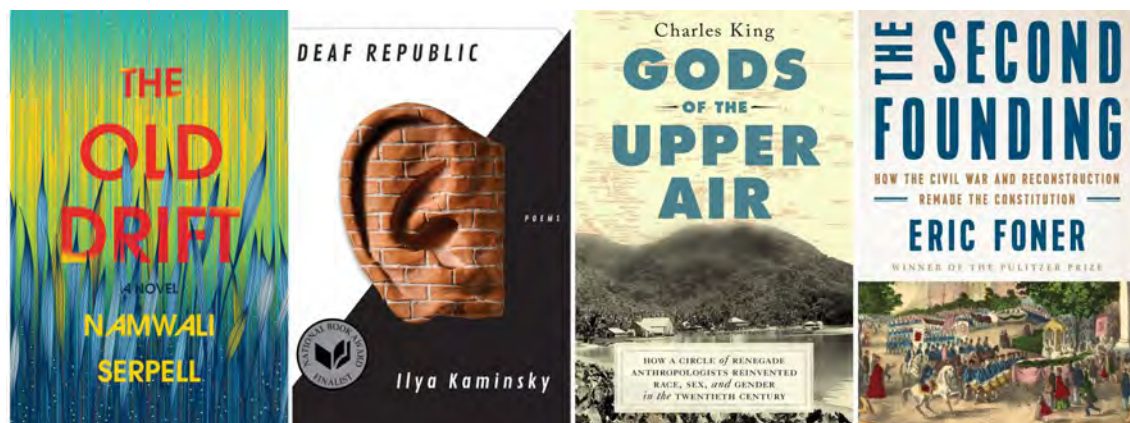
sitting up in bed in her pajamas surrounded by white pillows, Parton started a 10-week reading series called “Goodnight with Dolly.” (More than 26,000 people — including me — watched the series launch on YouTube.) Parton will post new readings every Thursday at 7 p.m. ET. ([watch](#)).

- This week brings the bittersweet publication of a second book in the middle-grade Wizenard Series by Wesley King and the late Kobe Bryant, who died along with his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others in a helicopter crash earlier this year. The new book, “Season One,” is a sequel to the authors’ 2019 bestselling “Wizenard Series: Training Camp.” King tells me, “Working with Kobe Bryant was like working with a mad combination of friends: the encouraging one who believes in you unconditionally, the dreamer who wants to change the world, and the wildly successful one who somehow retains an almost inexplicably good heart. And all this while we run around the backyard in the downpour of his creative output, trying to capture just the right amount in a bottle.”
- A good problem to have: With schools closed and kids cut off from libraries, First Book, the children’s literacy organization, made a special appeal to publishers like Penguin Random House, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Disney, Lee & Low and Candlewick Press. They responded by donating 7 million books. But now First Book desperately needs money to ship these books to kids around the country. ([Make a tax-deductible donation.](#))



HarperOne; Bruce Daisley (Photo by Sam Hodges)

**Remember last month when you thought working from home would be heaven? What a difference a world-wide pandemic makes.** In late February, Bruce Daisley published a book about improving office life called “Eat Sleep Work Repeat.” But now that we’re all stuck at home, it feels more like eatsleepworkrepeat. The common irritations of the office have been replaced by the demands of child care, the challenges of isolation and the constant fear of losing loved ones. Daisley, the vice president of Twitter Europe, has some good advice for remote workers. “The people who are going to survive best,” he tells me from his apartment in London, “are going to have to take on doing an action that initially feels a bit uncomfortable: picking up the phone and calling a few colleagues once or twice a week. We’ve got to make sure that we retain human connections.” I didn’t know, for instance, that remote workers typically have higher stress levels than office workers. Daisley reminds us all to be gentle with ourselves. “When people feel a low level of anxiety through the day,” he says, “it does manifest in us feeling exhausted by the emotional drain of it. So let’s not drive ourselves into the ground right now. Let’s at least use this opportunity to reflect on what’s important, rather than trying to retain unsustainable levels of performance in such a singular and wretched time.” ([Full interview](#))



(Hogarth; Graywolf; Doubleday; W. W. Norton)

**For more than 80 years, the [Anisfield-Wolf awards](#) have honored books that confront racism and explore diversity.**

Henry Louis Gates Jr. serves as chair of the jury, which includes Rita Dove, Joyce Carol Oates, Steven Pinker and Simon Schama. This year's winners are:

- **Fiction:** “The Old Drift,” by Namwali Serpell ([review](#)).
- **Poetry:** “Deaf Republic,” by Ilya Kaminsky ([review](#)).
- **Nonfiction:** “Gods of the Upper Air,” by Charles King ([review](#)).
- **Lifetime Achievement:** Historian Eric Foner for his writings on the Civil War and reconstruction ([review](#)).



Christian Wiman (Courtesy of Yale University); FSG

**Christian Wiman, who teaches religion and literature at Yale, is the author of seven poetry collections.** In 2013, several years after being told he had a rare, incurable cancer, he published a memoir called “My Bright Abyss.” Toward the end of that powerful book, he revealed, “There is every reason to think that I am at the beginning of a long remission, maybe five years, maybe ten, maybe even more.” His new collection of poetry is called “Survival Is a Style.”

### **All My Friends Are Finding New Beliefs**

All my friends are finding new beliefs.

This one converts to Catholicism and this one to trees.

In a highly literary and hitherto religiously indifferent Jew  
God whomps on like a genetic generator.  
Paleo, Keto, Zone, South Beach, Bourbon.  
Exercise regimens so extreme she merges with machine.  
One man marries a woman twenty years younger  
and twice in one brunch uses the word *verdant*;  
another's brick-fisted belligerence gentles  
into dementia, and one, after a decade of finical feints and teases  
like a sandpiper at the edge of the sea,  
decides to die.  
Priesthoods and beasthoods, sombers and glees,  
high-styled renunciations and avocations of dirt,  
sobrieties, satieties, pilgrimages to the very bowels of being . . .  
All my friends are finding new beliefs  
and I am finding it harder and harder to keep track  
of the new gods and the new loves,  
and the old gods and the old loves,  
and the days have daggers, and the mirrors motives,  
and the planet's turning faster and faster in the blackness,  
and my nights, and my doubts, and my friends,  
my beautiful, credible friends.

*Excerpted from "Survival Is a Style," by Christian Wiman. Published by  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, February 4, 2020. Copyright © 2020 by  
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**The Charleses have reached Day 18 in quarantine without irritating each other to death. Stay tuned.** Wherever you are, I hope you're healthy and finding good books to read. If you have any questions or comments about our book coverage, contact me at [ron.charles@washpost.com](mailto:ron.charles@washpost.com). And if you know someone who would enjoy this newsletter, please forward it to them. **To subscribe, click**



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## I just published a novel with a pandemic plot. It's both eerie and a chance to reflect.

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## Never mind the Brits, here are five American novels perfect for 'Masterpiece' treatment

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## Elizabeth Wetmore's 'Valentine' is a thrilling debut that deserves your attention

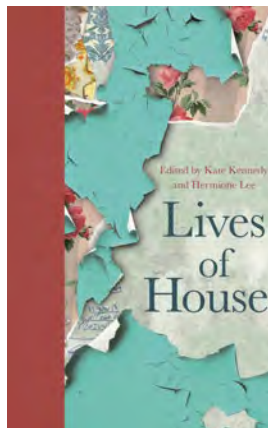
Review • By Ron Charles • [Read more »](#)



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## 'Lives of Houses' is a lovely book to savor while you're stuck at home

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## Ten books to read in April

By Bethanne Patrick • [Read more »](#)



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## In ‘House of Glass,’ Hadley Freeman unearths the World War II-era secrets of her family’s past

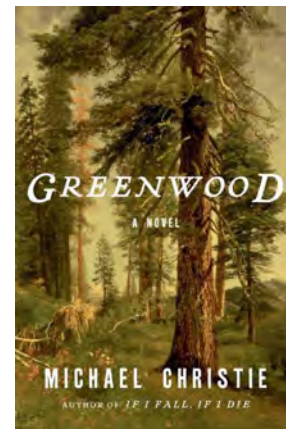
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## ‘Greenwood’ is an absorbing saga of families and trees — and how they survive

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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: Losing a job can also mean losing health coverage, adding to anxiety amid coronavirus pandemic  
**Date:** Friday, April 3, 2020 9:32:50 AM



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# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

Presented by [Blue Cross Blue Shield Association](#)



By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
✉ Email

## Losing a job can also mean losing health coverage, adding to anxiety amid coronavirus pandemic

Ramona Valdez is one of the more than 10 million Americans who filed for unemployment benefits last month. The 64-year-old was laid off on March 10 after 22 years as a housekeeper at the Sheraton in Stamford, Conn., when occupancy rates plummeted at hotels because of the coronavirus contagion. Her employer-sponsored health insurance coverage ended

effective April 1. This is especially problematic because she broke her right wrist after falling at home, and she has a doctor's appointment scheduled for April 15 to get the cast removed.

"I have to get it removed, but I don't have the money," she said in Spanish. "On top of that, they might tell me to do physical therapy. I don't know how I'd pay for that. I don't know what I'm going to do."

Losing a job doesn't just mean losing a paycheck. For millions, it will also mean losing employer-covered health care. Valdez immigrated to the United States in 1984 from Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic, and does not speak English. Her daughter and union steward have been trying to help figure out a way for her to get insured again, but they've found the process byzantine and the options costly.

Making it harder is the uncertainty of not knowing when she might get rehired. When will people begin traveling again? When will life return to normal? "I can only rely on God," Valdez said. "I just pray every single day that people will stay home so this will be over quickly."

She is a member of Unite Here, a union of hotel, casino, restaurant and cafeteria workers. "We represent 300,000 people. My bet is about 280,000 have lost their jobs," said union President Donald "D." Taylor. "That might be a low number. It might be 290,000."

The Labor Department, which [reported](#) this morning that the jobless rate rose to 4.4 percent in March, said almost two-thirds of job losses occurred in the leisure and hospitality sector.



Bartender Jessie Klenke, who is out of work because of closures caused by the coronavirus, holds her cat Tito outside her home in Las Vegas on Thursday. (Ronda Churchill/AFP via Getty Images)

**Taylor, calling from his home in Las Vegas, expressed disgust that last week's \$2 trillion stimulus bill did not include insurance subsidies for the unemployed or mandates that companies receiving government assistance provide health coverage for workers who get laid off. He said many of his members are covered by labor agreements that allow for extending coverage through June 30, but others who depend on company plans – and millions who are not unionized – have already lost coverage.**

**“What I cannot understand is how, in the midst of a health-care crisis, we have millions of people losing health care and no one's talking about it,” said Taylor. “It's the epitome of an ironic situation that a \$2 trillion bailout, the largest bill ever passed by Congress, contains nothing about continuing or expanding people's health care.”**

**The Trump administration has decided not to reopen the enrollment period under the Affordable Care Act, but losing a job qualifies as a significant life event. That starts a 60-day window during which people can register for a new insurance plan at [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). Quality coverage**

in these marketplaces can still be costly, as well.

Most people who lose employer-based coverage are eligible to extend it for up to 18 months under the COBRA program, but this can be prohibitively expensive – especially if you have little savings and need to buy food and other necessities. People on COBRA are required to pick up their employer’s full share of the monthly premium. Congress subsidized these payments during the Great Recession but did not do so in last week’s legislation, known as the CARES Act.

To be eligible for Medicaid, many states require people's income to be at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty line. States typically want to see their tax returns from the previous year, and many laid-off workers will be above the threshold. President Trump said during his Wednesday evening news conference that he is looking into expanding Medicare and Medicaid eligibility to cover some of the newly uninsured, but he was quite **vague** about the details. And Vice President Pence signaled that this idea is not under serious consideration. Trump even joked with a Fox News reporter about how Pence had ducked the topic. “Mike was able to speak for five minutes and not even touch your question,” the president said. “That’s what you call a great professional!”

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin emphasized on Thursday that millions of Americans will receive their \$1,200 (or less) stimulus check via direct deposit in about two weeks while others will see them a few “weeks” after that.

“The \$1,200 check won’t cover rent in any major metropolitan area in America. If you walk into an emergency room, that's gone,” said Taylor, who added that many of his members earned too much last year to qualify for Medicaid this year. “Listen, extending unemployment is good. But if you get sick, that's not going to cover any medical bills. ... Co-pays are not the issue if you don’t have coverage.”

Jose Guerra lost his job as a bartender in a Houston airport restaurant called Ember last Tuesday. Initially, the 61-year-old said he felt relieved because he's been terrified that he'd contract covid-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, from one of the travelers who cycle through from all over the world. But then he panicked when he realized he would lose his health insurance.

The recovering alcoholic celebrated his birthday alone this week, sheltering in place at his apartment, and he's been joining Alcoholics Anonymous meetings via Zoom to get support. In the past year alone, he's had three surgeries: hand surgery because his fingers kept locking into place at work, nasal surgery because he was struggling to breathe and knee surgery because he tore his meniscus. He said the Cigna insurance he had until Wednesday was good and covered everything above his \$1,000 deductible. Some friends have told him to apply for Medicaid, but he thinks his income is too high to qualify. He said he does not know what his options are under the ACA.

"I'm in uncharted territory," he said. "I don't know what I am going to do."





People wait in line to get help applying for unemployment benefits at a career center in Las Vegas on March 17. (John Locher/AP)

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Content from [Blue Cross Blue Shield Association](#)

### **Caring when it counts the most**



Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies are [ensuring swift access to care](#) by waiving prior-authorization and copays for diagnostic testing, expanding telehealth and making prescription refills easier.

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**Galiv Shishir, 31, was laid off along with 20 of his colleagues on March 12 as a bartender at Charmaine's in San Francisco. After two years of working**

at the trendy rooftop spot, he got a severance check for \$1,500, not enough to even meet rent in the Tenderloin neighborhood where he lives. He said he had a stroke two years ago, at 29, and the doctors were not able to fully understand why. But his insurance covered tens of thousands of dollars in medical bills.

“So I am constantly worrying in the back of my mind,” he said. “I really don’t know where things will go past May for me. I know that it would not be the right decision, probably, with the way the virus is spreading and how people are interacting, but because I’m so anxious, and I’ll be out of money soon, I just want everything to open again.”


Shishir’s asthmatic wife, who works in retail and doesn’t get insurance through her job, also depended on his lapsed insurance to get the inhalers she needs. He’s collecting unemployment benefits, and he’s looking into signing up for COBRA, but he said no one has explained to him how it works. As he sat at home, he’s found himself missing his home country of Bangladesh, which he emigrated from in 2008.

“In Bangladesh, we have a lot of floods and everything and we are kind of prone to disasters all the time,” he said. “But I never felt very insecure back there, ever. To be frank, being in America right now, I really don’t feel secure. ... I sort of think that I should have been home for all this, and that it might have been better, because people are much more communal. Capitalism has left so many holes here in this country that are being exposed. It makes people like me feel really helpless.”

I also spoke with an engineer, a member of a different union, who was laid off in Las Vegas by the casino where he has worked for more than two decades. He said he has not been able to file for unemployment benefits yet because he has been stuck on hold for hours each of the three days he called. “I’ve only got enough money to pay my mortgage for a couple of months, and I don’t know what I’ll do about health care,” he said.

He spoke on the condition of anonymity because he does not want his longtime girlfriend to know that a desire to get on her employer's health insurance might be what prompts him to finally pop the question and take the plunge toward matrimony. "That's a [messed] up reason to do it," he explained. "But even if I took a menial job, there's really nothing I can do. Everyone in Vegas got laid off at the same time."

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## More on the cascading economic calamity



Mercedes Addington lost her job in Kansas City, Kan., on March 23. She was approved for unemployment, but her benefits were subsequently suspended without an explanation. (Christopher Smith for The Washington Post)

**“The Economic Policy Institute predicts nearly 20 million Americans will be out of work by July, which would be the worst unemployment situation the United States has faced since the Great Depression,”** [Heather Long and Abha Bhattacharai report](#).  
“Even the normally cautious Congressional Budget Office predicts the

unemployment rate will exceed 10 percent. ... The massive aid packages Congress passed in March will help, many say, but Goldman Sachs still predicts a 9 percent contraction in the first quarter and a 34 percent contraction in the second quarter. ... Economists think the true number of laid off workers is probably higher than the nearly 10 million who filed jobless claims in March, since so many people have not been able to complete their application as state unemployment office websites crash and phone lines are swamped. ...

“Hotels, restaurants, malls, hair salons and theaters have been among the hardest hit. ... Also, **industries often considered recession-proof, including white-collar education, health care and transportation, also are experiencing furloughs and layoffs.** Aerospace giant Boeing on Thursday began offering buyouts to its nearly 100,000 U.S. workers.”

**“Uber drivers and other gig economy workers were promised unemployment benefits. It may be a long wait,”** [Tony Romm reports](#). “In California, Illinois, Washington and a slew of other states, local unemployment officials are signaling they aren’t yet ready to start processing aid for laborers in what is known as the gig economy. Already inundated with record numbers of jobless claims and lacking federal guidance, many states say they need more time to set up a new system that can process additional benefits — and some say they may not be able to accept applications until later in April. Until now, many gig workers were ineligible for traditional unemployment benefits, even if driving passengers or delivering goods was their primary source of income. That’s because they are often categorized as independent contractors, not full-time employees, for companies such as Airbnb, Uber, Lyft and Postmates.”

**“The day before the scheduled launch of the federal government’s massive new small-business lending program, banks being tapped to dole out the money questioned whether it**

**was ready to launch,”** [Aaron Gregg and Renae Merle report](#). “The \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program is a key element of the \$2 trillion economic rescue package. ... Administration officials have said money from the emergency loan fund will start flowing to small businesses affected by the coronavirus outbreak Friday, delivering a sharply streamlined, same-day approval process unheard of in the history of federally backed small-business lending. But JPMorgan Chase, the country’s largest lender, said Thursday it did not expect to begin accepting applications for the program Friday, as scheduled. ...

“Some banking officials have warned that the abbreviated review process – which allows borrowers to attest to their own eligibility without the government’s approval – will make the program a magnet for fraud. **Although the SBA will be able to audit lenders and borrowers later, it will fall primarily to private bankers to make decisions about who should receive taxpayer-backed loans.**”

“The forced closure of businesses nationwide ... would seem to be the perfect scenario for filing a ‘business interruption’ insurance claim. But **most companies will probably find it difficult to get an insurance payout because of policy changes made after the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak,**” [Todd Frankel reports](#). “SARS, which infected 8,000 people mostly in Asia and is now seen as foreshadowing the current pandemic, led to millions of dollars in business-interruption insurance claims. ... As a result, many insurers added exclusions to standard commercial policies for losses caused by viruses or bacteria. Now, the added policy language will potentially allow insurance companies to avoid hundreds of billions of dollars in business-interruption claims.”

“As renters and homeowners grapple with mass layoffs and business closures, **housing advocates are growing increasingly concerned the country will soon face a housing crisis to rival the one that**

**nearly took down the economy a decade ago,”** [Merle reports](#). “Federal officials have imposed a nationwide halt to foreclosures and evictions for more than 30 million Americans with home mortgages backed by the Federal Housing Administration or two government-controlled companies, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. But the federal moratoriums do not cover more than 40 million renters or 5 million homeowners with mortgage loans not backed by the government. And while the halt to foreclosures and evictions will keep many people in their homes temporarily, a bigger financial shock is brewing as people fall behind on their payments, industry analysts say. Mortgage servicers, which collect homeowners’ monthly loan payments, say they have already begun to see an uptick in borrowers seeking help and could quickly become swamped.”

It's no wonder alcohol consumption has [surged](#).



**More on the federal response**



## **U.S. coronavirus deaths topped 1,000 in a single day.**

“The United States cemented its position as the new front line of the outbreak Thursday as it tallied a total of more than 240,000 infections and 5,800 virus-related deaths. The number of people infected worldwide passed 1 million, and the number who have died of the disease rose above 52,000,” [Matt Zapotosky, Isaac Stanley-Becker and John Wagner report](#).

“The hard-hit areas inside of the United States continued to see virus-related casualties rise precipitously Thursday. New York added more than 430 to its death toll, bringing the total there to more than 2,300.

Neighboring New Jersey added more than 180, bringing its total to 530.

Michigan, which is drawing increasing concern, added 80 deaths on Thursday, bringing its total to more than 410.” Louisiana saw a 42 percent increase in known cases on Thursday, a spike Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) [attributed](#) to backlogs in testing. The state has 9,150 confirmed cases and 310 deaths.

## **The administration shoots the messenger.**

“Navy Capt. Brett Crozier, the commanding officer of the USS Theodore Roosevelt, was relieved of command at the direction of acting Navy secretary Thomas Modly. The Navy had become increasingly convinced

that Crozier was involved in leaking the letter to the news media to force the service to address his concerns over the outbreak on his ship,” [Dan Lamothe, Missy Ryan and Paul Sonne report](#). “Modly said the letter, first reported by the San Francisco Chronicle on Tuesday, undermined more senior Navy leaders and could have emboldened adversaries of the United States in the Pacific region. ... Crozier asked that 90 percent of the crew, comprising more than 4,800 sailors, be removed to allow for testing, quarantining and disinfecting of the ship. ... Some 113 members of the crew had tested positive as of Thursday, Modly said, predicting that ‘hundreds’ ultimately could.”

### **The Navy's hospital ship in New York has only 20 patients.**

On Thursday, the U.S.N.S. Comfort “sat mostly empty, infuriating executives at local hospitals. The ship’s 1,000 beds are largely unused, its 1,200-member crew mostly idle. Only 20 patients had been transferred to the ship, officials said, even as New York hospitals struggled to find space for the thousands infected with the coronavirus,” [the Times reports](#).

“Another Navy hospital ship, the U.S.N.S. Mercy, docked in Los Angeles, has had a total of 15 patients. **‘If I’m blunt about it, it’s a joke,’ said Michael Dowling, the head of Northwell Health, New York’s largest hospital system.** ... On top of its strict rules preventing people infected with the virus from coming on board, the Navy is also refusing to treat a host of other conditions. **Guidelines disseminated to hospitals included a list of 49 medical conditions that would exclude a patient from admittance to the ship.** Ambulances cannot take patients directly to the Comfort; they must first deliver patients to a city hospital for a lengthy evaluation — including a test for the virus — and then pick them up again for transport to the ship.”

- New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) said if his state continues to use ventilators at the current rate, its stockpiles would be depleted in just six days.
- New data shows New York, in desperation, is paying enormous



markups for supplies, including almost \$250,000 for a single X-ray machine. Laws against price gouging generally don't apply to government purchases. ([ProPublica](#))

- New York's aging gay population survived the HIV crisis. Now they're confronting a new plague that has brought flashbacks of what they once endured: Fury at the government over its haphazard initial response, suspicion about abatement or promises of a vaccine, and anxiety about how much worse this could get for the marginalized. ([Richard Morgan and Jada Yuan](#))
- New Yorkers have become the face of the fearsome infection in America. The city's residents have become virtual pariahs whose potential arrival has spurred anxious demands for roadblocks up and down the East Coast. ([Paul Schwartzman](#))

### **The White House will soon urge Americans to wear face coverings in public.**

Trump said "that 'a recommendation is coming out,' but 'I don't think it will be mandatory. If people want to wear them, they can,'" [Lena Sun and Dawsey report](#). "Later, however, a White House official ... said that the guidance being considered is 'narrowly targeted to areas with high community transmission' and that the matter remains under discussion."

### **Trump invoked the Defense Production Act for 3M.**

The president announced he's using the Korean War-era law to compel 3M to provide more N95 masks for medical workers, a sharp turnabout in the administration's posture toward the company. "The confluence of a slow initial response by the Trump administration, its wariness of compelling the industry to produce gear and a long-running debate about granting manufacturers legal protection in a health emergency contributed to a critical shortage of masks to front-line workers," [Jeanne Whalen, Rosalind Helderman and Tom Hamburger report](#). "The need to dramatically ramp up U.S. production and distribution of masks should have been apparent early on in the crisis, former disaster preparedness

officials said. For years, public health advocates had warned that the U.S. national stockpile of medical supplies was woefully inadequate. The dearth of masks for medical workers ... has become symbolic of the nation's wider failure to properly prepare for the pandemic."

### **Virginia, Maryland and the District received a fraction of what was requested from FEMA.**

The District got zero hospital ventilators and Maryland got none of the nasal swabs used for testing. D.C. also got none of the safety goggles and hand sanitizer it asked for and received less than 1 percent of a requested 663,760 gloves and 1,132,478 respirator masks. "Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D) said the equipment delivered 'isn't close to enough," [Antonio Olivo, Jenna Portnoy and Fenit Nirappil report](#). "The White House referred questions to FEMA, which said the stockpile was never intended to fulfill all state and local needs." The information became public as the region reported hundreds of new cases, totaling 4,698, with Maryland seeing its biggest per-day increase and Virginia and D.C. seeing big jumps. "The number of regional fatalities attributed to covid-19 reached 90, underscoring officials' concerns that the national capital region will become a new epicenter of infection in coming weeks."

### **Experts and Trump's own advisers doubt the White House's official death estimates.**

"Leading disease forecasters, whose research the White House used to conclude 100,000 to 240,000 people will die nationwide from the coronavirus, were mystified when they saw the administration's projection this week. The experts said they don't challenge the numbers' validity but that they don't know how the White House arrived at them," [William Wan, Josh Dawsey, Ashley Parker and Joel Achenbach report](#). "White House officials have refused to explain how they generated the figure — a death toll bigger than the United States suffered in the Vietnam War or the 9/11 terrorist attacks. They have not provided the underlying data so

others can assess its reliability or provided long-term strategies to lower that death count. ...

**“Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told others there are too many variables at play in the pandemic to make the models reliable ...**

Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the vice president’s office have similarly voiced doubts about the projections’ accuracy ... Another key question is what time period the White House’s 100,000-to-240,000 projection covers. Imperial College’s worst-case scenario calculated the toll exacted by the virus over a couple of years. But if the White House’s projection covers only the next few months, ... the true death toll will almost certainly be larger because the United States will probably see additional waves of covid-19 until a vaccine is deployed.”

**Debbie Birx, the coordinator of the White House task force, said the government is still not receiving the results of 50 percent of coronavirus tests being administered.** “I have 660,000 tests reported in. We’ve done 1.3 million,” she said. When asked about the possibility 1 in 3 tests produced false negatives, Birx said, "I haven't seen that kind of anomaly." ([CNN](#))

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## Quote of the day

*Trump tested negative a second time for the coronavirus, using the new test that takes less than 15 minutes to reveal results. “I think I took it out of curiosity to see how quickly it worked and fast it worked,” the president said. “I’ve done them both. And the second one is much more pleasant, I can tell you that.”* ([Politico](#))



## **Jared Kushner is squarely in the middle of the administration's chaotic response.**

The president's son-in-law and senior adviser "has made himself the point of contact for many agency officials who know that he can force action and issue decisions without going to the president. But while Mr. Kushner and his allies say that he has brought more order to the process, the government's response remains fragmented and behind the curve," [the New York Times reports](#). "Some officials said Mr. Kushner had mainly added another layer of confusion to that response, while taking credit for changes already in progress and failing to deliver on promised improvements. He promoted a nationwide screening website and a widespread network of drive-through testing sites. Neither materialized. ...

"Normally out of public view, Mr. Kushner made a rare appearance on camera on Thursday, joining his father-in-law's daily briefing on the virus to describe his own efforts ... [and] adding a complaint that states had been imprecise in their estimates of needed supplies. ... Mr. Kushner has embedded dozens of political appointees and recruits from the private sector in critical spots like FEMA. His 'impact team,' as he calls it, has been nicknamed the Slim Suit Crowd for its sartorial preferences by khaki-wearing FEMA veterans. ... **(A) senior official described the Kushner team as a 'frat party' that descended from a U.F.O. and**

**invaded the federal government.”**

## **The National Security Council is preparing for contingencies.**

Deputy national security adviser Matt Pottinger, who covered SARS in China in the early 2000s as a reporter for the Wall Street Journal, moved out of his old office in the West Wing two-and-a-half weeks ago into an isolated part of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, [Politico reports](#). “Pottinger also took half of the NSC’s front-office support staff with him. Although Pottinger is on frequent phone calls with [his boss Robert] O’Brien, he doesn’t interact with him much in person anymore in case one of them is infected. And Pottinger, as the deputy, is ready to step in temporarily should O’Brien get the virus.”

## **A nursing home faces a \$611,000 fine over lapses.**

Life Care Center of Kirkland, Wash., the nursing home tied to at least 37 covid-19 deaths, could also lose Medicare and Medicaid funding if it does not correct a slew of deficiencies by September that led to the country’s first major outbreak. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services wrote that the nursing home failed to report an outbreak of respiratory illness to local authorities for two weeks as required by law, gave inadequate care to its residents during the outbreak and failed to provide 24-hour emergency doctor services, [Maria Sacchetti and Jon Swaine report](#).

## **Nancy Pelosi created a committee to conduct oversight of Trump’s virus response.**

“Where there’s money, there’s also frequently mischief,” the House speaker said as she announced the creation of the special bipartisan panel she said would be focused on rooting out waste, fraud and abuse. “Without specifically mentioning Pelosi or her new committee, Trump bristled Thursday at the prospect of additional congressional investigations,” [Erica](#)

[Werner and Paul Kane report](#). "Here we go again. ... It's a witch hunt after a witch hunt,' Trump said ... The House Select Committee on the Coronavirus, as Pelosi called it, will be chaired by Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.), who is the No. 3 Democratic leader as majority whip."

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## American carnage



### **The virus is devastating Americans of every age.**

Jason Hargrove, a bus driver in Detroit, posted a video on March 21 complaining of picking up a passenger who was coughing openly, exposing him to the virus. Now he's dead at 50. While there's no way of knowing for sure whether Hargrove got the illness from the rider he mentioned, his foreboding words have rocked the city. ([Timothy Bella](#))

- Caroline Saunby, the mother of 6-year-old twins, died at 48 even though she had no underlying health problems. She was described by family members as a "germophobe and obsessive hand-washer." ([New York Post](#))
- Urszula Osborne, 41 and nearly eight months pregnant with her second child, is isolating in her Boston home with her 3-year-old son

after testing positive. Her husband Ray, 40, is intubated on a ventilator and in a coma after contracting the virus. She's a Polish immigrant with no family here. ([Boston Globe](#))

- Jessica Beatriz Cortez, 32, died a day after being diagnosed in Los Angeles. She emigrated from El Salvador three years ago. ([L.A. Times](#))
- Conrad Buchanan, a healthy 39-year-old DJ, died in Florida after being denied a test because he was young and lacked preexisting health issues, his wife said. ([CNN](#))
- Andrew Jack, an actor known for his role as Caluan Ematt in "Star Wars," died at 76. ([Hollywood Reporter](#))
- Bert Argo, a mortgage banker who attended a birthday party at Trump's seaside golf club in Los Angeles on March 8, died at 75. His wife fell ill as well, their daughter said, but has since recovered. ([David Fahrenthold](#))
- Ken Shimura, a beloved comedian in Japan, died at 70. ([NYT](#))
- Noel Sinkiat, a nurse who worked at Howard University Hospital in D.C. for 41 years, died of the virus at 61. His wife, Lourdes Gerardo, tested positive after his death, which meant she couldn't pick up his body or mourn his death with anyone else. ([Rachel Weiner and Justin Wm. Moyer](#))
- Kenneth Moore, who worked for D.C. Youth Rehabilitation Services for 16 years, died at 52. ([Tom Jackman](#))

### **Good news: A 104-year-old in Oregon beat the virus.**

"When William 'Bill' Lapschies celebrated his 104th birthday with his family over chocolate cake and his favorite pizza on Wednesday, he wasn't just marking another annual milestone in his long, full life. He was also celebrating a full recovery from the [virus] as one of the oldest-known survivors," [Katie Shepherd reports](#). "Lapschies's illness played out like a roller-coaster ride. ... By Wednesday, his 104th birthday, Lapschies was feeling healthy again, able to remove his mask and step outside for the first time in weeks. 'He is fully recovered. He is very perky,' daughter Carolee Brown told the Oregonian. 'And he is very excited.'"

## **Widespread resistance to stay-at-home orders has exposed cultural rifts.**

“Kay Ivey, the Republican governor of Alabama, put down a marker last week in affirming that it was ‘not the time to order people to shelter in place.’ ... In Missouri, Republican Gov. Mike Parson said he was not inclined to ‘make a blanket policy,’ adding, ‘It’s going to come down to individual responsibilities,’” [Isaac Stanley-Becker and Chelsea Janes report](#). “And in Florida, where Gov. Ron DeSantis issued a statewide stay-at-home order this week under growing pressure as his state’s death toll mounted, a Tampa-area megachurch pastor who was arrested for holding services in violation of a local order announced Thursday he was considering reopening the church in time for Easter.” Brian Kemp, Georgia’s Republican governor who resisted a statewide order until Wednesday, said he did not learn until Tuesday that the virus was “transmitting before people see signs.” This has been common public knowledge for weeks. The CDC, which is based in Atlanta, and other experts have been loudly warning about the disease’s spread in asymptomatic people.

Fauci said last night on [CNN](#) that he “doesn’t understand” why every state hasn’t issued a stay-at-home order and urged governors to “reconsider.”

## **Many in Florida wonder if the latest restrictions came in time.**

“Calle Ocho, the vibrant Miami street once bustling with Cuban restaurants and Latin music, is silent amid a nightly curfew. And in The Villages, a sprawling senior-living community near Ocala, town square concerts have ceased and the pools have closed. Slowly and reluctantly over the past month, as coronavirus infections grew from almost none to nearly 8,000 and more than 125 residents have died, Florida has sobered up,” [Cleve Wootson, Lori Rozsa and Brady Dennis report](#). “Florida’s bout with the virus is likely to peak in early May, when an estimated 175 people



will die of covid-19 every day, according to the University of Washington Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. ... In total, it predicts 6,897 Sunshine State residents could eventually die of the coronavirus.”

**The Coral Princess cruise ship bound for Fort Lauderdale confirmed 12 cases aboard.** But only 13 people have been tested on a vessel that has 1,020 guests and 878 crew. It's coming into port on the heels of the Zaandam and Rotterdam ships, which arrived in Port Everglades yesterday and [started disembarking passengers](#) after a clash between federal and local authorities. Between those two ships, 250 guests and crew have reported flu-like symptoms since March 22. Four people died on the Zaandam, including two who tested positive. Most passengers are expected to leave South Florida by tonight. ([Hannah Sampson](#))

**Democrats delayed their national convention until August 17.**

The decision puts the gathering in Milwaukee one week before the Republican convention, which both Trump and the RNC said will go forward in Charlotte, per [Michael Scherer and Annie Linskey](#). But a federal judge declined to postpone next Tuesday's Wisconsin's primary, [Amy Gardner reports](#). In other political news: The president's reelection campaign called former Attorney General Jeff Sessions “delusional” for linking himself to Trump and asked in cease-and-desist letter that he stop attaching himself in an attempt to win back his old Senate seat in Alabama's runoff, per the [Times](#).

**Zoom users are at risk.**

Security researchers who've analyzed the programming code said the videoconferencing software many of us are using to communicate with coworkers relies on techniques that could expose some people to breaches. The company apologized for falling short on privacy expectations. ([Drew Harwell](#))

## The foreign fallout



Coronavirus patients are in a temporary hospital inside a conference center in Madrid. (Sergio Perez/Reuters)

### **Italy and Spain are seeing their first positive indicators.**

“The Italian and Spanish ambassadors to the United States reported signs of improvement in the coronavirus situation in their countries Thursday, where numbers of confirmed infections, hospitalizations and deaths remain high but are beginning to stabilize,” [Karen DeYoung reports](#).

“These are just the first positive signs, and they have to be taken cautiously,’ Italian Ambassador Armando Varricchio said. ‘But they show that measures taken both nationally and at the local level have started to pay off.’ ... Both Varricchio and Spanish Ambassador Santiago Cabanas ... stressed the need for international solidarity and cooperation. But they cited the risk of growing authoritarianism ... The virus, Cabanas said, is ‘putting pressure not just on the health of our citizens but also on the health of our democracies.’”

## **European leaders fear the epidemic could lead to the break up of their union.**

Countries have begun to coordinate their efforts to procure supplies, and they have sent more aid to hard-hit Italy than China has. But the past week has seen a reemergence of a north-south rift over how to handle the economic response. The union is also being pulled east and west, as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has used emergency powers to effectively suspend democracy, riding roughshod over Europe's basic principles of the rule of law. Collectively, these tensions could overwhelm the alliance, [Loveday Morris and Michael Birnbaum report](#) from the continent.

- Portions of Paris's sprawling Rungis food market – the largest wholesale meat and vegetable market in the world – were turned into a temporary morgue to accommodate the surplus of corpses. France has reported 5,400 fatalities from the virus. ([James McAuley](#))
- The U.K. government announced an effort to produce 30,000 ventilators. Just 30 will be delivered to British hospitals next week, officials warned, with the other 29,970 coming in the following weeks, [William Booth and Christine Spolar report](#).
- Britain is expected to reach peak infection this month. The [Financial Times estimates](#) 1 in 15 Londoners may be infected. One of the dead is Areema Nasreen, a mother of three and a 36-year-old nurse who worked for the National Health System. ([Jennifer Hassan](#))
- A refugee camp in Greece was quarantined after 20 displaced people there tested positive. The European Union called this a stark “warning signal” of the calamity that could ensue on the Greek islands, where facilities for over 40,000 asylum seekers are poorly equipped. ([Miriam Berger](#))

## **Chinese leaders are preparing for their [second wave](#).**

Saturday is Tomb-Sweeping Day in China, in which families remove weeds and brush away dirt from the graves of their ancestors. But few will be

tending to graves this year. In fact, thousands of families, especially those in Wuhan, have still been unable to bury their dead. ([Anna Fifield](#))

- A top Chinese Communist Party official in Wuhan, Wang Zhonglin, warned the outbreak could soon return and ravage the city again. He is urging higher-level officials to provide more guidance, including telling residents to only leave home when it's necessary. ([Adam Taylor](#))
- The CIA is hunting for China's authentic virus totals. Obtaining a more accurate count is critical to better understand how the virus will impact us. So far, however, intelligence agencies have concluded that the Chinese government itself doesn't know the extent of the spread. ([NYT](#))
- Beijing told foreign diplomats not to return to China. The foreign ministry said officials are aware of cases of the virus among the diplomatic corps and announced it would stop issuing new identification cards to foreign emissaries. ([Taylor](#))

### **India is confronting its first "super-spreader."**

More than 400 members of a Muslim missionary group are infected. This represents about one-fifth of India's total confirmed cases, sparking a frantic effort to track down anyone who attended their meetings. ([Joanna Slater, Niha Masih and Shams Irfan](#))

- Schools in Singapore and other nonessential businesses will close as cases jump tenfold in a month. ([Shibani Mahtani](#))
- Canada became the latest country to pull its military trainers out of Iraq because of the outbreak. ([CBC](#))
- The virus's latest casualty in Mexico is Corona beer. Modelo, the Mexican brewing company behind the top-selling pale lager, said it will no longer be produced because it is considered a "nonessential" product. ([Teo Armus](#))

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## **Social media speed read**


The director of Global Health in Emergency Medicine at Columbia University's medical school reflected on how drastically things have changed in the past week:



Michelle Obama reminded us to avoid buying products with the label WIC on their price tag so people who depend on food assistance can buy them:

**Michelle Obama**   
@MichelleObama



.@KerryWashington is right. The first few days of each month are crucial for families that depend on WIC products. Let's look out for each other by taking the extra few seconds to look at those labels. Every act of kindness counts.  [twitter.com/kerrywashington](https://twitter.com/kerrywashington)...

**kerry washington**  @kerrywashington

When stocking up for #SocialDistancing...if you see something labeled "WIC" please chose another brand. People who rely on WIC products to feed their kids cannot. We're all in this together 🙏



31.5K 12:48 AM - Apr 3, 2020



8,194 people are talking about this.



## Videos of the day

Seth Meyers looked at some of the ways Jared Kushner has already failed:



Stephen Colbert thinks he's a bad roommate to the rest of his quarantined family:



And Trevor Noah talked to Bill Gates about the epidemic:



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Intelligence for leaders.

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By **James Hohmann**  
with *Mariana Alfaro*  
✉ Email

## Losing a job can also mean losing health coverage, adding to anxiety amid coronavirus pandemic

Ramona Valdez is one of the more than 10 million Americans who filed for unemployment benefits last month. The 64-year-old was laid off on March 10 after 22 years as a housekeeper at the Sheraton in Stamford, Conn., when occupancy rates plummeted at hotels because of the coronavirus contagion. Her employer-sponsored health insurance coverage ended

effective April 1. This is especially problematic because she broke her right wrist after falling at home, and she has a doctor's appointment scheduled for April 15 to get the cast removed.

"I have to get it removed, but I don't have the money," she said in Spanish. "On top of that, they might tell me to do physical therapy. I don't know how I'd pay for that. I don't know what I'm going to do."

Losing a job doesn't just mean losing a paycheck. For millions, it will also mean losing employer-covered health care. Valdez immigrated to the United States in 1984 from Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic, and does not speak English. Her daughter and union steward have been trying to help figure out a way for her to get insured again, but they've found the process byzantine and the options costly.

Making it harder is the uncertainty of not knowing when she might get rehired. When will people begin traveling again? When will life return to normal? "I can only rely on God," Valdez said. "I just pray every single day that people will stay home so this will be over quickly."

She is a member of Unite Here, a union of hotel, casino, restaurant and cafeteria workers. "We represent 300,000 people. My bet is about 280,000 have lost their jobs," said union President Donald "D." Taylor. "That might be a low number. It might be 290,000."

The Labor Department, which [reported](#) this morning that the jobless rate rose to 4.4 percent in March, said almost two-thirds of job losses occurred in the leisure and hospitality sector.



Bartender Jessie Klenke, who is out of work because of closures caused by the coronavirus, holds her cat Tito outside her home in Las Vegas on Thursday. (Ronda Churchill/AFP via Getty Images)

**Taylor, calling from his home in Las Vegas, expressed disgust that last week's \$2 trillion stimulus bill did not include insurance subsidies for the unemployed or mandates that companies receiving government assistance provide health coverage for workers who get laid off. He said many of his members are covered by labor agreements that allow for extending coverage through June 30, but others who depend on company plans – and millions who are not unionized – have already lost coverage.**

**“What I cannot understand is how, in the midst of a health-care crisis, we have millions of people losing health care and no one's talking about it,” said Taylor. “It's the epitome of an ironic situation that a \$2 trillion bailout, the largest bill ever passed by Congress, contains nothing about continuing or expanding people's health care.”**

**The Trump administration has decided not to reopen the enrollment period under the Affordable Care Act, but losing a job qualifies as a significant life event. That starts a 60-day window during which people can register for a new insurance plan at [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). Quality coverage**

in these marketplaces can still be costly, as well.

Most people who lose employer-based coverage are eligible to extend it for up to 18 months under the COBRA program, but this can be prohibitively expensive – especially if you have little savings and need to buy food and other necessities. People on COBRA are required to pick up their employer’s full share of the monthly premium. Congress subsidized these payments during the Great Recession but did not do so in last week’s legislation, known as the CARES Act.

To be eligible for Medicaid, many states require people's income to be at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty line. States typically want to see their tax returns from the previous year, and many laid-off workers will be above the threshold. President Trump said during his Wednesday evening news conference that he is looking into expanding Medicare and Medicaid eligibility to cover some of the newly uninsured, but he was quite **vague** about the details. And Vice President Pence signaled that this idea is not under serious consideration. Trump even joked with a Fox News reporter about how Pence had ducked the topic. “Mike was able to speak for five minutes and not even touch your question,” the president said. “That’s what you call a great professional!”

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin emphasized on Thursday that millions of Americans will receive their \$1,200 (or less) stimulus check via direct deposit in about two weeks while others will see them a few “weeks” after that.

“The \$1,200 check won’t cover rent in any major metropolitan area in America. If you walk into an emergency room, that's gone,” said Taylor, who added that many of his members earned too much last year to qualify for Medicaid this year. “Listen, extending unemployment is good. But if you get sick, that's not going to cover any medical bills. ... Co-pays are not the issue if you don’t have coverage.”

Jose Guerra lost his job as a bartender in a Houston airport restaurant called Ember last Tuesday. Initially, the 61-year-old said he felt relieved because he's been terrified that he'd contract covid-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, from one of the travelers who cycle through from all over the world. But then he panicked when he realized he would lose his health insurance.

The recovering alcoholic celebrated his birthday alone this week, sheltering in place at his apartment, and he's been joining Alcoholics Anonymous meetings via Zoom to get support. In the past year alone, he's had three surgeries: hand surgery because his fingers kept locking into place at work, nasal surgery because he was struggling to breathe and knee surgery because he tore his meniscus. He said the Cigna insurance he had until Wednesday was good and covered everything above his \$1,000 deductible. Some friends have told him to apply for Medicaid, but he thinks his income is too high to qualify. He said he does not know what his options are under the ACA.

"I'm in uncharted territory," he said. "I don't know what I am going to do."



People wait in line to get help applying for unemployment benefits at a career center in Las Vegas on March 17. (John Locher/AP)

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Content from [Blue Cross Blue Shield Association](#)

### **Caring when it counts the most**



Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies are [ensuring swift access to care](#) by waiving prior-authorization and copays for diagnostic testing, expanding telehealth and making prescription refills easier.

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**Galiv Shishir, 31, was laid off along with 20 of his colleagues on March 12 as a bartender at Charmaine's in San Francisco. After two years of working**

at the trendy rooftop spot, he got a severance check for \$1,500, not enough to even meet rent in the Tenderloin neighborhood where he lives. He said he had a stroke two years ago, at 29, and the doctors were not able to fully understand why. But his insurance covered tens of thousands of dollars in medical bills.

“So I am constantly worrying in the back of my mind,” he said. “I really don’t know where things will go past May for me. I know that it would not be the right decision, probably, with the way the virus is spreading and how people are interacting, but because I’m so anxious, and I’ll be out of money soon, I just want everything to open again.”

Shishir’s asthmatic wife, who works in retail and doesn’t get insurance through her job, also depended on his lapsed insurance to get the inhalers she needs. He’s collecting unemployment benefits, and he’s looking into signing up for COBRA, but he said no one has explained to him how it works. As he sat at home, he’s found himself missing his home country of Bangladesh, which he emigrated from in 2008.

“In Bangladesh, we have a lot of floods and everything and we are kind of prone to disasters all the time,” he said. “But I never felt very insecure back there, ever. To be frank, being in America right now, I really don’t feel secure. ... I sort of think that I should have been home for all this, and that it might have been better, because people are much more communal. Capitalism has left so many holes here in this country that are being exposed. It makes people like me feel really helpless.”

I also spoke with an engineer, a member of a different union, who was laid off in Las Vegas by the casino where he has worked for more than two decades. He said he has not been able to file for unemployment benefits yet because he has been stuck on hold for hours each of the three days he called. “I’ve only got enough money to pay my mortgage for a couple of months, and I don’t know what I’ll do about health care,” he said.

He spoke on the condition of anonymity because he does not want his longtime girlfriend to know that a desire to get on her employer's health insurance might be what prompts him to finally pop the question and take the plunge toward matrimony. "That's a [messed] up reason to do it," he explained. "But even if I took a menial job, there's really nothing I can do. Everyone in Vegas got laid off at the same time."

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## More on the cascading economic calamity



Mercedes Addington lost her job in Kansas City, Kan., on March 23. She was approved for unemployment, but her benefits were subsequently suspended without an explanation. (Christopher Smith for The Washington Post)

**“The Economic Policy Institute predicts nearly 20 million Americans will be out of work by July, which would be the worst unemployment situation the United States has faced since the Great Depression,”** [Heather Long and Abha Bhattacharai report](#).  
“Even the normally cautious Congressional Budget Office predicts the



unemployment rate will exceed 10 percent. ... The massive aid packages Congress passed in March will help, many say, but Goldman Sachs still predicts a 9 percent contraction in the first quarter and a 34 percent contraction in the second quarter. ... Economists think the true number of laid off workers is probably higher than the nearly 10 million who filed jobless claims in March, since so many people have not been able to complete their application as state unemployment office websites crash and phone lines are swamped. ...

“Hotels, restaurants, malls, hair salons and theaters have been among the hardest hit. ... Also, **industries often considered recession-proof, including white-collar education, health care and transportation, also are experiencing furloughs and layoffs.** Aerospace giant Boeing on Thursday began offering buyouts to its nearly 100,000 U.S. workers.”

**“Uber drivers and other gig economy workers were promised unemployment benefits. It may be a long wait,”** [Tony Romm reports](#). “In California, Illinois, Washington and a slew of other states, local unemployment officials are signaling they aren’t yet ready to start processing aid for laborers in what is known as the gig economy. Already inundated with record numbers of jobless claims and lacking federal guidance, many states say they need more time to set up a new system that can process additional benefits — and some say they may not be able to accept applications until later in April. Until now, many gig workers were ineligible for traditional unemployment benefits, even if driving passengers or delivering goods was their primary source of income. That’s because they are often categorized as independent contractors, not full-time employees, for companies such as Airbnb, Uber, Lyft and Postmates.”

**“The day before the scheduled launch of the federal government’s massive new small-business lending program, banks being tapped to dole out the money questioned whether it**

**was ready to launch,”** [Aaron Gregg and Renae Merle report](#). “The \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program is a key element of the \$2 trillion economic rescue package. ... Administration officials have said money from the emergency loan fund will start flowing to small businesses affected by the coronavirus outbreak Friday, delivering a sharply streamlined, same-day approval process unheard of in the history of federally backed small-business lending. But JPMorgan Chase, the country’s largest lender, said Thursday it did not expect to begin accepting applications for the program Friday, as scheduled. ...

“Some banking officials have warned that the abbreviated review process – which allows borrowers to attest to their own eligibility without the government’s approval – will make the program a magnet for fraud. **Although the SBA will be able to audit lenders and borrowers later, it will fall primarily to private bankers to make decisions about who should receive taxpayer-backed loans.**”

“The forced closure of businesses nationwide ... would seem to be the perfect scenario for filing a ‘business interruption’ insurance claim. But **most companies will probably find it difficult to get an insurance payout because of policy changes made after the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak,**” [Todd Frankel reports](#). “SARS, which infected 8,000 people mostly in Asia and is now seen as foreshadowing the current pandemic, led to millions of dollars in business-interruption insurance claims. ... As a result, many insurers added exclusions to standard commercial policies for losses caused by viruses or bacteria. Now, the added policy language will potentially allow insurance companies to avoid hundreds of billions of dollars in business-interruption claims.”

“As renters and homeowners grapple with mass layoffs and business closures, **housing advocates are growing increasingly concerned the country will soon face a housing crisis to rival the one that**

**nearly took down the economy a decade ago,”** [Merle reports](#). “Federal officials have imposed a nationwide halt to foreclosures and evictions for more than 30 million Americans with home mortgages backed by the Federal Housing Administration or two government-controlled companies, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. But the federal moratoriums do not cover more than 40 million renters or 5 million homeowners with mortgage loans not backed by the government. And while the halt to foreclosures and evictions will keep many people in their homes temporarily, a bigger financial shock is brewing as people fall behind on their payments, industry analysts say. Mortgage servicers, which collect homeowners’ monthly loan payments, say they have already begun to see an uptick in borrowers seeking help and could quickly become swamped.”

It's no wonder alcohol consumption has [surged](#).



**More on the federal response**



## **U.S. coronavirus deaths topped 1,000 in a single day.**

“The United States cemented its position as the new front line of the outbreak Thursday as it tallied a total of more than 240,000 infections and 5,800 virus-related deaths. The number of people infected worldwide passed 1 million, and the number who have died of the disease rose above 52,000,” [Matt Zapotosky, Isaac Stanley-Becker and John Wagner report](#).

“The hard-hit areas inside of the United States continued to see virus-related casualties rise precipitously Thursday. New York added more than 430 to its death toll, bringing the total there to more than 2,300.

Neighboring New Jersey added more than 180, bringing its total to 530.

Michigan, which is drawing increasing concern, added 80 deaths on Thursday, bringing its total to more than 410.” Louisiana saw a 42 percent increase in known cases on Thursday, a spike Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) [attributed](#) to backlogs in testing. The state has 9,150 confirmed cases and 310 deaths.

## **The administration shoots the messenger.**

“Navy Capt. Brett Crozier, the commanding officer of the USS Theodore Roosevelt, was relieved of command at the direction of acting Navy secretary Thomas Modly. The Navy had become increasingly convinced

that Crozier was involved in leaking the letter to the news media to force the service to address his concerns over the outbreak on his ship,” [Dan Lamothe, Missy Ryan and Paul Sonne report](#). “Modly said the letter, first reported by the San Francisco Chronicle on Tuesday, undermined more senior Navy leaders and could have emboldened adversaries of the United States in the Pacific region. ... Crozier asked that 90 percent of the crew, comprising more than 4,800 sailors, be removed to allow for testing, quarantining and disinfecting of the ship. ... Some 113 members of the crew had tested positive as of Thursday, Modly said, predicting that ‘hundreds’ ultimately could.”

### **The Navy's hospital ship in New York has only 20 patients.**

On Thursday, the U.S.N.S. Comfort “sat mostly empty, infuriating executives at local hospitals. The ship’s 1,000 beds are largely unused, its 1,200-member crew mostly idle. Only 20 patients had been transferred to the ship, officials said, even as New York hospitals struggled to find space for the thousands infected with the coronavirus,” [the Times reports](#).

“Another Navy hospital ship, the U.S.N.S. Mercy, docked in Los Angeles, has had a total of 15 patients. **‘If I’m blunt about it, it’s a joke,’ said Michael Dowling, the head of Northwell Health, New York’s largest hospital system.** ... On top of its strict rules preventing people infected with the virus from coming on board, the Navy is also refusing to treat a host of other conditions. **Guidelines disseminated to hospitals included a list of 49 medical conditions that would exclude a patient from admittance to the ship.** Ambulances cannot take patients directly to the Comfort; they must first deliver patients to a city hospital for a lengthy evaluation — including a test for the virus — and then pick them up again for transport to the ship.”

- New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) said if his state continues to use ventilators at the current rate, its stockpiles would be depleted in just six days.
- New data shows New York, in desperation, is paying enormous

markups for supplies, including almost \$250,000 for a single X-ray machine. Laws against price gouging generally don't apply to government purchases. ([ProPublica](#))

- New York's aging gay population survived the HIV crisis. Now they're confronting a new plague that has brought flashbacks of what they once endured: Fury at the government over its haphazard initial response, suspicion about abatement or promises of a vaccine, and anxiety about how much worse this could get for the marginalized. ([Richard Morgan and Jada Yuan](#))
- New Yorkers have become the face of the fearsome infection in America. The city's residents have become virtual pariahs whose potential arrival has spurred anxious demands for roadblocks up and down the East Coast. ([Paul Schwartzman](#))

### **The White House will soon urge Americans to wear face coverings in public.**

Trump said "that 'a recommendation is coming out,' but 'I don't think it will be mandatory. If people want to wear them, they can,'" [Lena Sun and Dawsey report](#). "Later, however, a White House official ... said that the guidance being considered is 'narrowly targeted to areas with high community transmission' and that the matter remains under discussion."

### **Trump invoked the Defense Production Act for 3M.**

The president announced he's using the Korean War-era law to compel 3M to provide more N95 masks for medical workers, a sharp turnabout in the administration's posture toward the company. "The confluence of a slow initial response by the Trump administration, its wariness of compelling the industry to produce gear and a long-running debate about granting manufacturers legal protection in a health emergency contributed to a critical shortage of masks to front-line workers," [Jeanne Whalen, Rosalind Helderman and Tom Hamburger report](#). "The need to dramatically ramp up U.S. production and distribution of masks should have been apparent early on in the crisis, former disaster preparedness

officials said. For years, public health advocates had warned that the U.S. national stockpile of medical supplies was woefully inadequate. The dearth of masks for medical workers ... has become symbolic of the nation's wider failure to properly prepare for the pandemic."

### **Virginia, Maryland and the District received a fraction of what was requested from FEMA.**

The District got zero hospital ventilators and Maryland got none of the nasal swabs used for testing. D.C. also got none of the safety goggles and hand sanitizer it asked for and received less than 1 percent of a requested 663,760 gloves and 1,132,478 respirator masks. "Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D) said the equipment delivered 'isn't close to enough," [Antonio Olivo, Jenna Portnoy and Fenit Nirappil report](#). "The White House referred questions to FEMA, which said the stockpile was never intended to fulfill all state and local needs." The information became public as the region reported hundreds of new cases, totaling 4,698, with Maryland seeing its biggest per-day increase and Virginia and D.C. seeing big jumps. "The number of regional fatalities attributed to covid-19 reached 90, underscoring officials' concerns that the national capital region will become a new epicenter of infection in coming weeks."

### **Experts and Trump's own advisers doubt the White House's official death estimates.**

"Leading disease forecasters, whose research the White House used to conclude 100,000 to 240,000 people will die nationwide from the coronavirus, were mystified when they saw the administration's projection this week. The experts said they don't challenge the numbers' validity but that they don't know how the White House arrived at them," [William Wan, Josh Dawsey, Ashley Parker and Joel Achenbach report](#). "White House officials have refused to explain how they generated the figure — a death toll bigger than the United States suffered in the Vietnam War or the 9/11 terrorist attacks. They have not provided the underlying data so

others can assess its reliability or provided long-term strategies to lower that death count. ...

**“Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told others there are too many variables at play in the pandemic to make the models reliable ...**

Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the vice president’s office have similarly voiced doubts about the projections’ accuracy ... Another key question is what time period the White House’s 100,000-to-240,000 projection covers. Imperial College’s worst-case scenario calculated the toll exacted by the virus over a couple of years. But if the White House’s projection covers only the next few months, ... the true death toll will almost certainly be larger because the United States will probably see additional waves of covid-19 until a vaccine is deployed.”

**Debbie Birx, the coordinator of the White House task force, said the government is still not receiving the results of 50 percent of coronavirus tests being administered.** “I have 660,000 tests reported in. We’ve done 1.3 million,” she said. When asked about the possibility 1 in 3 tests produced false negatives, Birx said, "I haven't seen that kind of anomaly." ([CNN](#))

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## Quote of the day

*Trump tested negative a second time for the coronavirus, using the new test that takes less than 15 minutes to reveal results. “I think I took it out of curiosity to see how quickly it worked and fast it worked,” the president said. “I’ve done them both. And the second one is much more pleasant, I can tell you that.”* ([Politico](#))





## **Jared Kushner is squarely in the middle of the administration's chaotic response.**

The president's son-in-law and senior adviser "has made himself the point of contact for many agency officials who know that he can force action and issue decisions without going to the president. But while Mr. Kushner and his allies say that he has brought more order to the process, the government's response remains fragmented and behind the curve," [the New York Times reports](#). "Some officials said Mr. Kushner had mainly added another layer of confusion to that response, while taking credit for changes already in progress and failing to deliver on promised improvements. He promoted a nationwide screening website and a widespread network of drive-through testing sites. Neither materialized. ...

"Normally out of public view, Mr. Kushner made a rare appearance on camera on Thursday, joining his father-in-law's daily briefing on the virus to describe his own efforts ... [and] adding a complaint that states had been imprecise in their estimates of needed supplies. ... Mr. Kushner has embedded dozens of political appointees and recruits from the private sector in critical spots like FEMA. His 'impact team,' as he calls it, has been nicknamed the Slim Suit Crowd for its sartorial preferences by khaki-wearing FEMA veterans. ... **(A) senior official described the Kushner team as a 'frat party' that descended from a U.F.O. and**

**invaded the federal government.”**

## **The National Security Council is preparing for contingencies.**

Deputy national security adviser Matt Pottinger, who covered SARS in China in the early 2000s as a reporter for the Wall Street Journal, moved out of his old office in the West Wing two-and-a-half weeks ago into an isolated part of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, [Politico reports](#). “Pottinger also took half of the NSC’s front-office support staff with him. Although Pottinger is on frequent phone calls with [his boss Robert] O’Brien, he doesn’t interact with him much in person anymore in case one of them is infected. And Pottinger, as the deputy, is ready to step in temporarily should O’Brien get the virus.”

## **A nursing home faces a \$611,000 fine over lapses.**

Life Care Center of Kirkland, Wash., the nursing home tied to at least 37 covid-19 deaths, could also lose Medicare and Medicaid funding if it does not correct a slew of deficiencies by September that led to the country’s first major outbreak. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services wrote that the nursing home failed to report an outbreak of respiratory illness to local authorities for two weeks as required by law, gave inadequate care to its residents during the outbreak and failed to provide 24-hour emergency doctor services, [Maria Sacchetti and Jon Swaine report](#).

## **Nancy Pelosi created a committee to conduct oversight of Trump’s virus response.**

“Where there’s money, there’s also frequently mischief,” the House speaker said as she announced the creation of the special bipartisan panel she said would be focused on rooting out waste, fraud and abuse. “Without specifically mentioning Pelosi or her new committee, Trump bristled Thursday at the prospect of additional congressional investigations,” [Erica](#)

[Werner and Paul Kane report](#). "Here we go again. ... It's a witch hunt after a witch hunt,' Trump said ... The House Select Committee on the Coronavirus, as Pelosi called it, will be chaired by Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.), who is the No. 3 Democratic leader as majority whip."

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## American carnage



### **The virus is devastating Americans of every age.**

Jason Hargrove, a bus driver in Detroit, posted a video on March 21 complaining of picking up a passenger who was coughing openly, exposing him to the virus. Now he's dead at 50. While there's no way of knowing for sure whether Hargrove got the illness from the rider he mentioned, his foreboding words have rocked the city. ([Timothy Bella](#))

- Caroline Saunby, the mother of 6-year-old twins, died at 48 even though she had no underlying health problems. She was described by family members as a "germophobe and obsessive hand-washer." ([New York Post](#))
- Urszula Osborne, 41 and nearly eight months pregnant with her second child, is isolating in her Boston home with her 3-year-old son

after testing positive. Her husband Ray, 40, is intubated on a ventilator and in a coma after contracting the virus. She's a Polish immigrant with no family here. ([Boston Globe](#))

- Jessica Beatriz Cortez, 32, died a day after being diagnosed in Los Angeles. She emigrated from El Salvador three years ago. ([L.A. Times](#))
- Conrad Buchanan, a healthy 39-year-old DJ, died in Florida after being denied a test because he was young and lacked preexisting health issues, his wife said. ([CNN](#))
- Andrew Jack, an actor known for his role as Caluan Ematt in "Star Wars," died at 76. ([Hollywood Reporter](#))
- Bert Argo, a mortgage banker who attended a birthday party at Trump's seaside golf club in Los Angeles on March 8, died at 75. His wife fell ill as well, their daughter said, but has since recovered. ([David Fahrenthold](#))
- Ken Shimura, a beloved comedian in Japan, died at 70. ([NYT](#))
- Noel Sinkiat, a nurse who worked at Howard University Hospital in D.C. for 41 years, died of the virus at 61. His wife, Lourdes Gerardo, tested positive after his death, which meant she couldn't pick up his body or mourn his death with anyone else. ([Rachel Weiner and Justin Wm. Moyer](#))
- Kenneth Moore, who worked for D.C. Youth Rehabilitation Services for 16 years, died at 52. ([Tom Jackman](#))

### **Good news: A 104-year-old in Oregon beat the virus.**

"When William 'Bill' Lapschies celebrated his 104th birthday with his family over chocolate cake and his favorite pizza on Wednesday, he wasn't just marking another annual milestone in his long, full life. He was also celebrating a full recovery from the [virus] as one of the oldest-known survivors," [Katie Shepherd reports](#). "Lapschies's illness played out like a roller-coaster ride. ... By Wednesday, his 104th birthday, Lapschies was feeling healthy again, able to remove his mask and step outside for the first time in weeks. 'He is fully recovered. He is very perky,' daughter Carolee Brown told the Oregonian. 'And he is very excited.'"

## **Widespread resistance to stay-at-home orders has exposed cultural rifts.**

“Kay Ivey, the Republican governor of Alabama, put down a marker last week in affirming that it was ‘not the time to order people to shelter in place.’ ... In Missouri, Republican Gov. Mike Parson said he was not inclined to ‘make a blanket policy,’ adding, ‘It’s going to come down to individual responsibilities,’” [Isaac Stanley-Becker and Chelsea Janes report](#). “And in Florida, where Gov. Ron DeSantis issued a statewide stay-at-home order this week under growing pressure as his state’s death toll mounted, a Tampa-area megachurch pastor who was arrested for holding services in violation of a local order announced Thursday he was considering reopening the church in time for Easter.” Brian Kemp, Georgia’s Republican governor who resisted a statewide order until Wednesday, said he did not learn until Tuesday that the virus was “transmitting before people see signs.” This has been common public knowledge for weeks. The CDC, which is based in Atlanta, and other experts have been loudly warning about the disease’s spread in asymptomatic people.

Fauci said last night on [CNN](#) that he “doesn’t understand” why every state hasn’t issued a stay-at-home order and urged governors to “reconsider.”

## **Many in Florida wonder if the latest restrictions came in time.**

“Calle Ocho, the vibrant Miami street once bustling with Cuban restaurants and Latin music, is silent amid a nightly curfew. And in The Villages, a sprawling senior-living community near Ocala, town square concerts have ceased and the pools have closed. Slowly and reluctantly over the past month, as coronavirus infections grew from almost none to nearly 8,000 and more than 125 residents have died, Florida has sobered up,” [Cleve Wootson, Lori Rozsa and Brady Dennis report](#). “Florida’s bout with the virus is likely to peak in early May, when an estimated 175 people

will die of covid-19 every day, according to the University of Washington Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. ... In total, it predicts 6,897 Sunshine State residents could eventually die of the coronavirus.”

**The Coral Princess cruise ship bound for Fort Lauderdale confirmed 12 cases aboard.** But only 13 people have been tested on a vessel that has 1,020 guests and 878 crew. It's coming into port on the heels of the Zaandam and Rotterdam ships, which arrived in Port Everglades yesterday and [started disembarking passengers](#) after a clash between federal and local authorities. Between those two ships, 250 guests and crew have reported flu-like symptoms since March 22. Four people died on the Zaandam, including two who tested positive. Most passengers are expected to leave South Florida by tonight. ([Hannah Sampson](#))

**Democrats delayed their national convention until August 17.**

The decision puts the gathering in Milwaukee one week before the Republican convention, which both Trump and the RNC said will go forward in Charlotte, per [Michael Scherer and Annie Linskey](#). But a federal judge declined to postpone next Tuesday's Wisconsin's primary, [Amy Gardner reports](#). In other political news: The president's reelection campaign called former Attorney General Jeff Sessions “delusional” for linking himself to Trump and asked in cease-and-desist letter that he stop attaching himself in an attempt to win back his old Senate seat in Alabama's runoff, per the [Times](#).

**Zoom users are at risk.**

Security researchers who've analyzed the programming code said the videoconferencing software many of us are using to communicate with coworkers relies on techniques that could expose some people to breaches. The company apologized for falling short on privacy expectations. ([Drew Harwell](#))

## The foreign fallout



Coronavirus patients are in a temporary hospital inside a conference center in Madrid. (Sergio Perez/Reuters)

### **Italy and Spain are seeing their first positive indicators.**

“The Italian and Spanish ambassadors to the United States reported signs of improvement in the coronavirus situation in their countries Thursday, where numbers of confirmed infections, hospitalizations and deaths remain high but are beginning to stabilize,” [Karen DeYoung reports](#).

“These are just the first positive signs, and they have to be taken cautiously,’ Italian Ambassador Armando Varricchio said. ‘But they show that measures taken both nationally and at the local level have started to pay off.’ ... Both Varricchio and Spanish Ambassador Santiago Cabanas ... stressed the need for international solidarity and cooperation. But they cited the risk of growing authoritarianism ... The virus, Cabanas said, is ‘putting pressure not just on the health of our citizens but also on the health of our democracies.’”

## **European leaders fear the epidemic could lead to the break up of their union.**

Countries have begun to coordinate their efforts to procure supplies, and they have sent more aid to hard-hit Italy than China has. But the past week has seen a reemergence of a north-south rift over how to handle the economic response. The union is also being pulled east and west, as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has used emergency powers to effectively suspend democracy, riding roughshod over Europe's basic principles of the rule of law. Collectively, these tensions could overwhelm the alliance, [Loveday Morris and Michael Birnbaum report](#) from the continent.

- Portions of Paris's sprawling Rungis food market – the largest wholesale meat and vegetable market in the world – were turned into a temporary morgue to accommodate the surplus of corpses. France has reported 5,400 fatalities from the virus. ([James McAuley](#))
- The U.K. government announced an effort to produce 30,000 ventilators. Just 30 will be delivered to British hospitals next week, officials warned, with the other 29,970 coming in the following weeks, [William Booth and Christine Spolar report](#).
- Britain is expected to reach peak infection this month. The [Financial Times estimates](#) 1 in 15 Londoners may be infected. One of the dead is Areema Nasreen, a mother of three and a 36-year-old nurse who worked for the National Health System. ([Jennifer Hassan](#))
- A refugee camp in Greece was quarantined after 20 displaced people there tested positive. The European Union called this a stark “warning signal” of the calamity that could ensue on the Greek islands, where facilities for over 40,000 asylum seekers are poorly equipped. ([Miriam Berger](#))

## **Chinese leaders are preparing for their [second wave](#).**

Saturday is Tomb-Sweeping Day in China, in which families remove weeds and brush away dirt from the graves of their ancestors. But few will be



tending to graves this year. In fact, thousands of families, especially those in Wuhan, have still been unable to bury their dead. ([Anna Fifield](#))

- A top Chinese Communist Party official in Wuhan, Wang Zhonglin, warned the outbreak could soon return and ravage the city again. He is urging higher-level officials to provide more guidance, including telling residents to only leave home when it's necessary. ([Adam Taylor](#))
- The CIA is hunting for China's authentic virus totals. Obtaining a more accurate count is critical to better understand how the virus will impact us. So far, however, intelligence agencies have concluded that the Chinese government itself doesn't know the extent of the spread. ([NYT](#))
- Beijing told foreign diplomats not to return to China. The foreign ministry said officials are aware of cases of the virus among the diplomatic corps and announced it would stop issuing new identification cards to foreign emissaries. ([Taylor](#))

### **India is confronting its first "super-spreader."**

More than 400 members of a Muslim missionary group are infected. This represents about one-fifth of India's total confirmed cases, sparking a frantic effort to track down anyone who attended their meetings. ([Joanna Slater, Niha Masih and Shams Irfan](#))

- Schools in Singapore and other nonessential businesses will close as cases jump tenfold in a month. ([Shibani Mahtani](#))
- Canada became the latest country to pull its military trainers out of Iraq because of the outbreak. ([CBC](#))
- The virus's latest casualty in Mexico is Corona beer. Modelo, the Mexican brewing company behind the top-selling pale lager, said it will no longer be produced because it is considered a "nonessential" product. ([Teo Armus](#))

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## **Social media speed read**


The director of Global Health in Emergency Medicine at Columbia University's medical school reflected on how drastically things have changed in the past week:



Michelle Obama reminded us to avoid buying products with the label WIC on their price tag so people who depend on food assistance can buy them:

**Michelle Obama**   
@MichelleObama



.@KerryWashington is right. The first few days of each month are crucial for families that depend on WIC products. Let's look out for each other by taking the extra few seconds to look at those labels. Every act of kindness counts.  [twitter.com/kerrywashington](https://twitter.com/kerrywashington)...

**kerry washington**  @kerrywashington

When stocking up for #SocialDistancing...if you see something labeled "WIC" please chose another brand. People who rely on WIC products to feed their kids cannot. We're all in this together 🙏



31.5K 12:48 AM - Apr 3, 2020



8,194 people are talking about this.



## Videos of the day

Seth Meyers looked at some of the ways Jared Kushner has already failed:



Stephen Colbert thinks he's a bad roommate to the rest of his quarantined family:



And Trevor Noah talked to Bill Gates about the epidemic:



### We think you'll like this newsletter

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#### Firefighters: Is our chemically treated gear making us sick?

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SUPREME COURT: Pandemic stalls water, tribal lands cases indefinitely. Read this story and more in today's E&E News PM.  
INTERIOR: Pendley to remain acting BLM chief with Bernhardt order.  
PANDEMIC: USDA reports new coronavirus cases.  
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1. SUPREME COURT:  
Pandemic stalls water, tribal lands cases indefinitely

The Supreme Court today postponed oral arguments slated for this month, indefinitely delaying a dispute between Texas and New Mexico over water allocations from the Pecos River and a tribal lands battle with the potential to affect oil and gas operations in eastern Oklahoma.

#### THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/04/03/stories/1062779059?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/04/03/stories/1062779059?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
2. INTERIOR:  
Pendley to remain acting BLM chief with Bernhardt order

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/04/03/stories/1062778703?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/04/03/stories/1062778703?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
3. PANDEMIC:  
USDA reports new coronavirus cases

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/04/03/stories/1062778725?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/04/03/stories/1062778725?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
4. INTERIOR:  
Senate Dems urge freeze on non-virus actions

#### UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

<[https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/04/03/calendars?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm\\_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2020/04/03/calendars?utm_medium=email&utm_source=eenews%3Aeenewspm&utm_campaign=edition%2BdLBJZiMFQsICZ1OwM3ajJw%3D%3D)>  
5. CALENDAR:  
Activity for March 30 - April 5, 2020

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: Masks for all?  
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 2:28:23 PM

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The Washington Post

# Coronavirus Updates

Important developments in the coronavirus pandemic.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Avi Selk](#)  
✉ [Email](#)

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**The federal government might soon recommend that people wear face masks in public**, at least in regions where covid-19 is prevalent, as more than 1,000 Americans were reported dead on Thursday alone. A social media campaign and some medical experts have been popularizing the idea of wearing homemade masks, and Vice President Pence said guidance would be issued within days, though White House officials are still debating the merits of the idea. [Read about the debate here.](#)

**A border town in Texas has moved to the fore of the mask**



**movement, threatening \$1,000 fines for those who don't cover their noses and mouths.** It hasn't gone over very well with the residents of Laredo, though. [“I'd rather bury them in debt than bury them in a coffin,”](#) city councilman George Altgelt said this week.

**Meanwhile, efforts to slow the virus's spread through mass quarantines are running up against resistance from government officials, religious leaders and businesses in some states.** “Experts are now warning that a group of governors in the South and the Great Plains — largely Republican-led states — risk acting too late,” [we write in a report about quarantine resistance.](#) President Trump has so far let states decide their own policies, but one of his top coronavirus advisers, [Anthony S. Fauci, told CNN on Thursday that it's time for a national stay-at-home order.](#)

**Leading disease forecasters are questioning the government's widely publicized prediction of 100,000 to 240,000 coronavirus deaths in the country.** “White House officials have refused to explain how they generated the figure — a death toll bigger than the United States suffered in the Vietnam War or the 9/11 terrorist attacks,” we write. Even the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has doubts about the model's accuracy, [which you can read about here.](#)

**The \$2.2 trillion stimulus package signed into law last week is running into early snags** as the government tries to get the money to Americans. Some banks are balking at a program that offers \$349 billion in government-backed loans to small businesses, which started Friday. And while the IRS says most Americans will be wired payments of up to \$1,200 as soon as late next week, others could end up waiting months to be mailed checks. [Find details about the lag here.](#) Speedy distribution of the money is believed to be crucial, after [mass layoffs, quarantines and business closures triggered what some economists fear will be a long depression.](#)

**With more than 1 million confirmed infections across the world, the pandemic is causing civic breakdowns and threatening to upset international order.** A rash of haphazard border restrictions, export bans and nationalistic finger pointing is **undermining the already weakened European Union.** In the Ecuadoran city of Guayaquil, we report that bodies have been “abandoned in busy hospitals. Left decomposing inside homes. **In some cases, even wrapped in plastic and cardboard and put out on the streets.**”

**U.S. Navy Capt. Brett Crozier has turned into something of a martyr for sailors on a virus-stricken aircraft carrier in Guam.**

A leaked letter Crozier wrote accused his commanders of “failing to properly take care of our most trusted asset — our sailors” by refusing to evacuate the ship. The Navy subsequently relieved the captain of his command, **prompting hundreds of sailors to fill the deck and chant: “Captain Crozier!”**

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Content from [Slack](#)

**Bring your team together, wherever they are**



Navigating remote work is about more than setting up the right workstation. It's about [staying productive](#) and in the loop.

With Slack, teams can access information and [communicate quickly](#) to get work done.

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## Live updates

**Track deaths and confirmed cases in the U.S.** at the county level.

**Follow the spread** of the outbreak worldwide with our updating map.

Post reporters across the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day.**

Read live updates about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area.**

How you can **help people in need** | [The Washington Post Helping Hand covid-19 relief campaign](#)

**Submit a question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

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## Your questions, answered

***“I’m working at a dispensary. My boss has us doing curbside orders. He doesn’t want to shut down; he still has bills to pay. He says if we want to leave, then we can, but he can’t guarantee we will still have our jobs. What should I do? I have a child.” — Anonymous***

The Post received this question from a reader as we investigate how employers are treating employees during the pandemic. Unfortunately, it’s far from the only example of someone being forced to choose between a paycheck and their family’s safety.

Our columnist Karla L. Miller [outlined some new laws and benefits](#) that might make the choice easier, including a federal act that adds \$600 a week to unemployment checks. She quotes one expert who recommends

that you file a jobless claim sooner than later — even if your boss refuses to lay you off or furlough you.

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## Has the outbreak affected your relationships?

Has quarantine caused you to break up or get back together with an ex? Did you decide to get serious and move in with someone you just started dating? How has the outbreak affected your relationship with a co-worker, friend or relative? If you live alone, how is it going?

We want to know what you're going through. [If you have a story you'd like to tell, send it to The Post using this submission form.](#) We respect your privacy and will not publish your name or response without contacting you first.

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## Today's top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- The dark side of ventilators: Those hooked up for long periods may face difficult recoveries
- I left Singapore because I bristled at the country's restrictions. Now I'm convinced its ethos could save us.
- Thousands of Zoom video calls left exposed on open Web



## **School's closed, the year's lost. But yearbook editors are not missing this deadline.**

"This book is the only thing [seniors] have left to look forward to," said one editor in chief.

By Hannah Natanson • [Read more »](#)

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## **Even when you can't travel, you can still bring the sounds of a far-off city to you.**

[Read more »](#)

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A family photo of Bill Lapschies, who recovered from covid-19 in time to celebrate his 104th birthday in Lebanon, Ore.

## **‘He just got better and better’: 104-year-old veteran beats coronavirus in time to celebrate his birthday**

“We all thought, ‘He’s 103, what are the odds he’s going to come out of this?’ ” his granddaughter Jamie Yutzie told The Washington Post.

By Katie Shepherd • [Read more »](#)

---

## **Dictators are using the coronavirus to strengthen their grip on power**

Perspective • By Joshua Kurlantzick • [Read more »](#)

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## **Four weeks of Italy’s coronavirus lockdown, behind four apartment doors**

By Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli • [Read more »](#)

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## **The age of nail-clipper haircuts is upon us**



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Check out **The 5-Minute Fix** for a weekday afternoon cheat sheet on the biggest story in politics — that can be read in 5 minutes or less. [Sign up »](#)

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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Recipes! Satisfying veggie-filled pastas, picture-perfect quiche and tender Passover brisket  
**Date:** Saturday, April 4, 2020 8:23:50 AM

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The Washington Post

# Recipes

What to cook during the week ahead, from Post Food editors.



By **Ann Maloney**

 Email

Something simple and lovely. Maybe it's weeding your garden on a pretty day, or having your dog slip his snout on your lap for a little head scratch. We're welcoming respite from lives upended by this pandemic.

For me, that brief break from the latest heavy headline comes when I step into the kitchen. With so much on my mind, I'm less inclined toward complicated, multi-step recipes. Some folks like to lose themselves in those. I used to, and probably will again, but now I want minimal effort and big reward.

I found that in this [Quiche With Broccoli, Gorgonzola and Walnuts](#). A sheet of puff pastry is laid in a pan, filled with yummy ingredients and slipped into the oven. Minutes later, a crisp, golden square with a veggie-specked filling is a picture-perfect centerpiece on my table. Simple and lovely.

I took out a few of my pent up feelings on a butternut squash and a few



ripe tomatoes in the kitchen while testing recipes for [Julia Clancy's box grater dishes](#). The produce is shredded on a typical cheese grater to create quick-cooking, vibrantly flavored sauces that cling beautifully to the satisfying pasta.

I find myself craving pasta right now, and I see, from my social media accounts, that others are as well. Maybe Joe Yonan is, too. He made a [Pasta with Pecorino and Pistachios](#) that I loved because it was delicious and because he offered so many ideas for substitutions.

That's something we need these days as we go to the grocery — list in hand — only to *not* find what we're looking for.

If finding eggs has been an issue for you, check out [Becky Krystal's fantastic primer on egg substitutions](#) and her roundup of [sweets that require NO flour, butter or eggs](#). And, stay tuned: She's working on an even more fulsome guide to recipe substitutions.

One thing there is no substitute for is being with family and friends at the holidays. With Passover, Easter and Ramadan arriving this month, we're faced with figuring out how to commemorate while apart. [Susan Barocas tackled that topic in her story on Passover](#), which also offered ideas for a vegetarian matzoh ball soup, a veggie-filled kuku and a nut-free haroset.

And Ellie Krieger shared a touching family story about passing the holiday meal torch from one generation to another, along with a [melt-in-your-mouth tender brisket](#) that freezes beautifully, too.

The holidays remind us that there is so much we don't have control over right now, but [we can make wise choices when it comes to what we eat](#) — or at least find balance between indulging and eating well.

If you've been snacking or sipping a bit too much in recent weeks, we offer two better-for-you options: [Becky's mango dal](#) and [Ellie's grain bowl with](#)

fresh herbs and vegetables.

Both prove that taking care of ourselves can be delicious.

See you next week.



## Quiche With Broccoli, Gorgonzola and Walnuts

If you've got puff pastry in your freezer and fresh or frozen broccoli on hand, you can turn out this quiche in no time.

By Ann Maloney • [Read more »](#)

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### Passover brisket

This is the traditional brisket recipe that graces the holiday tables of much of the Eastern European Jewish diaspora.

By Ellie Krieger • [Read more »](#)



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### Vegan Matzoh Ball Soup

The only thing missing from this beloved soup is the chicken, but with all the rich flavor and golden color (thanks to turmeric and onion skins) few will miss it.



By Susan Barocas • [Read more »](#)

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## Bust out the box grater for these quick, no-knife-needed pasta sauces

Tender, collapsing strands of garlicky, grated butternut squash cling to short and long noodles alike.



By Julia Clancy • [Read more »](#)

## This flexible pesto pasta is a keeper for whatever vegetable you have handy

The feel-free-to-substitute vibe of this recipe makes it a pantry-, refrigerator-friendly hit.



By Joe Yonan • [Read more »](#)

## Grain Salad With Carrot, Herbs and Sesame Seeds

Pairs nicely with roasted chicken, kebabs or mezze platter.



By Ellie Krieger • [Read more »](#)

## Mango Dal

So many of us are relying on legumes these days, so here's an excellent Indian dish to try.

By Becky Krystal • [Read more »](#)



## Chef Floyd Cardoz's stellar dessert is a tangible reminder of his legacy

The groundbreaking chef died at age 59 from coronavirus complications.

By Jim Webster • [Read more »](#)



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## More from Voraciously

### Egg substitutions for cooking and baking when the store shelves are empty

Take a page from the vegans who are well-versed in substitutions.

By Becky Krystal • [Read more »](#)



### No flour, butter or eggs? We have 6 sweet recipes for that.

You won't feel deprived with these fantastic treats.

By Becky Krystal • [Read more »](#)



### 7 layer cake recipes to help you bake your

## way through whatever life piles on

These cakes can help boost your mood and give you something fun to do.

By Becky Krystal • [Read more »](#)



## Go grocery shopping every two weeks? You can — and without hoarding.

Do an inventory of the pantry, refrigerator and freezer, create a healthy meal plan and then make a grocery list.

By Ann Maloney • [Read more »](#)



## What to know about the risks of restaurant takeout and delivery — and how to minimize them

Customers, restaurant workers and drivers must all follow some rules to make these meal options safe.

By Tim Carman • [Read more »](#)



## Being stuck at home may have an upside when it comes to eating: You can take control

Once you get past the stress-baking, you can make your food environment more conducive to health. Here's how.

**Perspective** • By Tamar Haspel • [Read more »](#)



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Check out **Bold School** for smart advice on how to get better with age, plus tried-and-true tips from our readers, every Monday and Friday for 12 weeks.

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: Wasted days  
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# Coronavirus Updates

Important developments in the coronavirus pandemic.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Avi Selk](#)  
✉ Email

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

This newsletter usually opens with the **U.S. death toll**, but today let's spend a moment on **the day toll**: The early days of the spread of the coronavirus in which crucial opportunities to respond were squandered by systemic federal government failures, as chronicled in several new stories.

**Seventy days elapsed from the first time the White House was formally notified of the outbreak in China** on Jan. 3 until President Trump began to treat the virus “as a lethal force that had outflanked America’s defenses and was poised to kill tens of thousands of citizens,” according to Washington Post reporting based on 47 interviews with

administration officials, public health experts, intelligence officers and others.

**Twenty-one days in February were lost as the administration relied on a coronavirus test known to be flawed** and prevented private labs from deploying better ones, blinding doctors and scientists as the virus spread across the country. [Read our deep dive into scientists' alarm and exasperation during that period.](#)

**Eighteen months ago — long before the outbreak — “the Trump administration received detailed plans for a new machine designed to churn out millions of protective respirator masks at high speed during a pandemic,”** [we report in another story.](#) It was never built, and the U.S. government is now so desperate for masks [it has asked 3M to stop sending them to Canada and other countries,](#) prompting Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to warn the United States would be “hurting itself as much as Canada” because essential goods and services flow both ways.

**Eleven days from now, the country will need 32,000 ventilators,** far more than are in the government stockpile, according to an estimate by the University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. Because U.S. officials played down the virus for so long, Ford and General Motors only recently overhauled their factories to make the machines, and the bulk of their production won't come on line until May. [Read more here.](#)

These cumulative problems mean “the United States will likely go down as the country that was supposedly best prepared to fight a pandemic but ended up catastrophically overmatched by the novel coronavirus, sustaining heavier casualties than any other nation,” [we write in our story on the 70 lost days.](#)



**Other numbers:** The U.S. has suffered **more than 7,800 deaths** and **more than 290,000 confirmed infections** from the virus. The jobless rate jumped to **4.4 percent** in March, **its sharpest one-month rise since 1975**. Millions of Americans have been laid off or furloughed, **more than 60,000 stores have shuttered**, and **analysts say many of them will never open again**. A week after Trump signed a **\$2.2 trillion stimulus bill**, key Democrats are already talking about another one.

**And new signs of dysfunction:** After a behind-the-scenes debate between officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and White House officials, Trump unenthusiastically announced the agency's recommendation that Americans start wearing face coverings in public. Even as he shared the guidance, Trump said he would not follow it himself. [Read more about that here.](#)

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Content from [Slack](#)

**Bring your team together, wherever they are**



Navigating remote work is about more than setting up the right workstation. It's about [staying productive](#) and in the loop.

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How you can **help people in need** | The Washington Post **Helping Hand covid-19 relief campaign**

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## Your questions, answered

***“Why isn't the role that animal agriculture and the sale of wildlife have played in the creation and spread of these infectious organisms gotten more attention in the press? It is time to move away from raising domesticated animals for, not just their meat, but any other products derived from them. Won't you take the lead in bringing this front and center?” — Jerry Cagle in Tucson***

Our reporting doesn't go that far, but scientists are indeed warning that “a global wildlife trade worth billions of dollars, agricultural intensification, deforestation and urbanization are bringing people closer to animals, giving their viruses more of what they need to infect us: opportunity,” as we write in one report.

The story explains how the virus almost certainly originated inside bats and mutated to infect humans, as also happened with the SARS, MERS

and Ebola outbreaks. Other human diseases have been linked to wild birds, rodents, pigs and chickens.

“Pandemics as a whole are increasing in frequency,” disease ecologist Peter Daszak told The Post. “It’s not a random act of God. It’s caused by what we do to the environment. We need to start connecting that chain and say we need to do these things in a less risky way.”

**You can read the whole story** on the ways experts say we need to change our interactions with animals to avoid facing many more outbreaks in the future.

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## Today’s top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our **coronavirus page**, including:*

- How Trump’s attempts to win the daily news cycle feed a chaotic coronavirus response
- Coping with the effects of social isolation: Advice from experts
- How long until sports can return? You might not like the answer.



## **Which DIY mask pattern should you use? Even experts can't pick one to recommend.**

There is little research about homemade masks, and some researchers think they give wearers a false sense of security.

By Sindya Bhanoo • [Read more »](#)

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## **'The holiday of a lifetime': An oral history of the infected, rejected Zaandam cruise ship**

By Monica Hesse and Dan Zak • [Read more »](#)

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## **What to know about the risks of restaurant takeout and delivery — and how to minimize them**

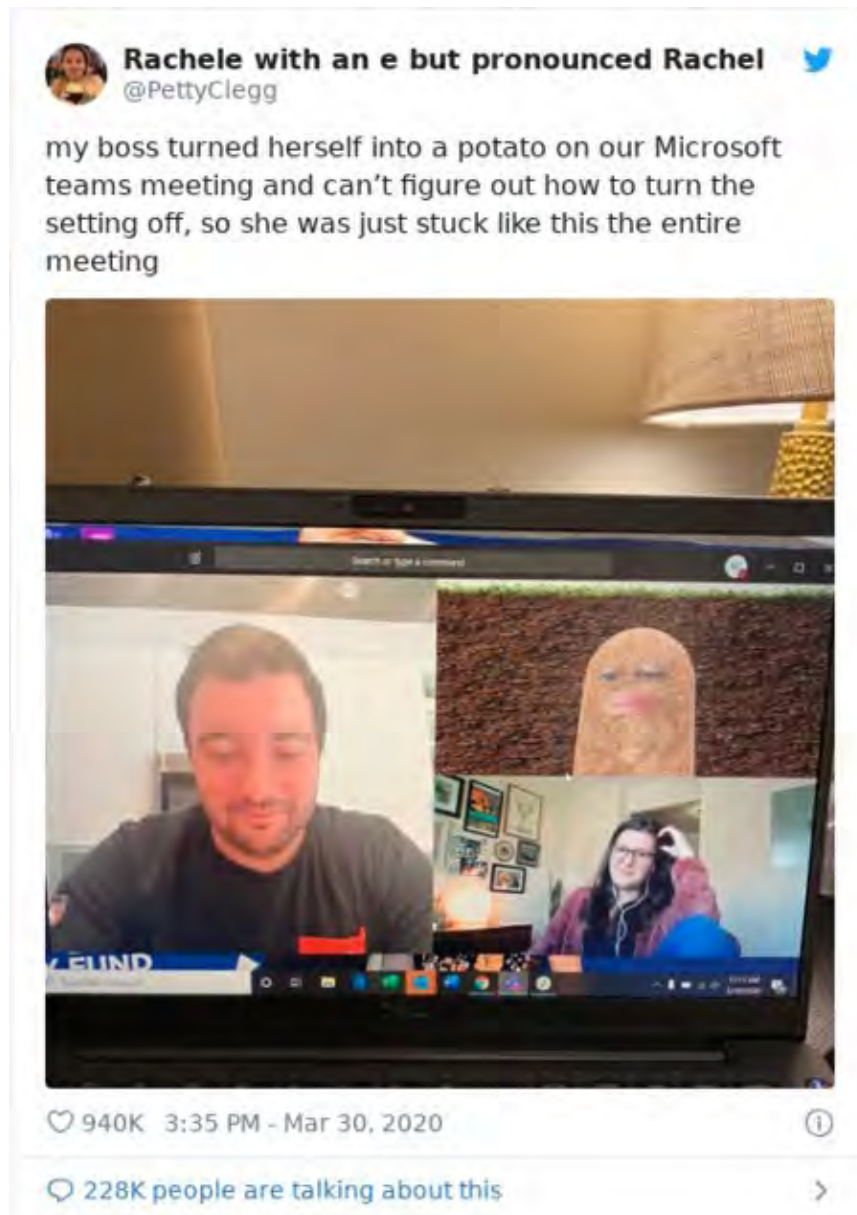
By Tim Carman • [Read more »](#)

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## **Pandemic anxiety is making us sleepless, forgetful and angry. Here are tips for coping.**

By Jelena Kecmanovic • [Read more »](#)

## Well that was depressing. Let's all look at a potato lady!



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Week in Ideas: In Singapore, surprising lessons from a two-week quarantine  
**Date:** Sunday, April 5, 2020 5:17:37 AM

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The Washington Post

# The Week in Ideas

Opinions you may have missed.



By [Fred Hiatt](#)  
✉ [Email](#)

**Knowing this is a tough time for everyone**, we try to pierce the gloom even as we offer unflinching commentary. One way is to publish some of the smart ideas that people are coming up with to cope and overcome.

Last week we added four more proposals to [our “solutions” file](#). For example: create a Covid-19 Recovery Corps “to perform tasks that non-immune individuals cannot safely do and to get the economy moving.”

Of course, few people are smarter when it comes to dealing with infectious disease than Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft and co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He acknowledges that we’ve made mistakes and lost time — but he says it’s not too late to save lives and get the economy going again. [Here’s his road map](#).

As deaths mount over the next few weeks, it will be essential from time to time to stop, catch our breath, and celebrate some of the people we are

losing. To that end, here are appreciations of two extraordinary people: [Ellis Marsalis](#), who Gene Robinson writes was a great musician but an even greater teacher; and [Lorena Borjas](#), guardian angel of a particular community in New York City.

And I think you will enjoy [this account of social distancing](#), Singapore style. “Twice a day, I get a text message requiring me to verify my whereabouts,” writes the surprisingly cheerful, if somewhat bemused, Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan. “On occasion, I have had to take a photograph of myself, as well as my surroundings, to prove I am where I am supposed to be. My phone’s GPS has to be on so I can be tracked.”

Not enjoyable, exactly, but not to be missed is [this scorching, heartfelt essay by Sophie A. Greenberg](#), a physician volunteering in a New York hospital to help fight the pandemic. She heard President Trump appear to dismiss pleas for protective equipment when he said, “We’re not a shipping clerk,” and she — well, don’t let me speak for her. Read her reaction [here](#).

Finally, for the first time, the Post Pundit 2020 Power Ranking “is going chart-less,” [as Ranking editor Drew Goins notes](#), “and taking on — gulp — the big question ... who has the edge: Biden or Trump?”

## **We need smart solutions to mitigate the coronavirus’s impact. Here are 16.**

Fresh ideas are needed for dealing with this crisis. Here's a start.

[Read more »](#)



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**Here’s how to make up for lost time on covid-19**



With science-based decisions, we can save lives and get the country back to work.

By Bill Gates • [Read more »](#)



## Ellis Marsalis was a great musician and an even greater teacher

The passing of a musical legend is a reminder of the awful toll of this relentless pandemic.

By Eugene Robinson • [Read more »](#)



## Lorena Borjas was a guardian and healer of the trans community in New York

Borjas, 59, was a relentless advocate who seemed to work 24 hours a day.

By Chase Strangio • [Read more »](#)



## Inside a two-week quarantine in Singapore

I left because I bristled at the country's restrictions. Now I'm convinced its ethos could save us all.

By Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan • [Read more »](#)



**As a doctor, I am willing to do whatever it**

## takes to defeat this virus. Why isn't Trump?

Now, when our lives depend on it, the president is not pulling out all the stops.

By Sophie A. Greenberg • [Read more »](#)



## Who has the edge? Trump or Biden?

And how will the handling of this pandemic decide it?

By The Ranking Committee • [Read more »](#)



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# Coronavirus Updates

Important developments in the coronavirus pandemic.

Presented by [Slack](#)



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## The latest

**“This is going to be the hardest and saddest week of most Americans’ lives,” Surgeon General Jerome M. Adams said on Fox News today**, as hospitals in the New York region and other high-infection areas brace for an expected surge in patients and deaths. “This is going to be our Pearl Harbor moment, our 9/11 moment, only it’s not going to be localized. It’s going to be happening all over the country.”

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) said [his state could run out of ventilators as soon as Thursday](#), and ICU beds two days later. Some other states are projecting the crisis to peak in late April or May.

**We sent reporters to the front lines: two rarely-seen treatment centers in New York**, which already accounts for almost half the nation's 9,000-plus coronavirus deaths. [Read what it's like inside Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn](#), where 80 percent of patients have the virus, visitors are banned and an ICU nurse sings to the dying, though most can no longer hear her.

[Then read about the surreal scene in Manhattan](#), where a 2.1 million-square-foot convention center has been turned into a militarized hospital: “Here, if someone ‘pops hot,’ as one soldier said, they’ll be descended upon by medics and rushed to an isolation tent.”

**President Trump said 1,000 military doctors and nurses will deploy to New York City, and urged states to share any spare ventilators with others amid a national shortage.** Oregon has pledged to donate most of its reserve supply of ventilators to New York — though those 140 machines will still leave the nation's coronavirus epicenter far short of what state officials say are needed.

A Post analysis of more than 3,600 deaths in 13 states found evidence of a strange pattern that doctors have been reporting anecdotally: **The virus appears to be killing significantly more men than women**, for reasons no one can explain. [The U.S. death toll](#) is almost certainly being undercounted due to a shortage of tests, federal health officials acknowledge. [Read about what that means here.](#)

**We have another insider piece, in the form of a column by David Ignatius, on the unusual ouster of Navy Capt. Brett Crozier**, who was removed from command of a virus-stricken aircraft carrier in Guam after he wrote a plea for help to his superiors that leaked to the media. “Breaking news: Trump wants him fired,” Acting Navy secretary Thomas Modly reportedly told a colleague the day before he personally removed Crozier from the ship.

**Mental health check:** It's not easy for any of us to contend with all the grim news while we watch everything that was familiar about our daily lives fade away. **It can actually be dangerous**, if we fail to recognize signs of serious maladies amid the chaos. We talked with mental health professionals about how you can take an honest look at yourself and determine what type of help you might need. **Please read it, and be safe.**

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Content from [Slack](#)

### The manager's manual for remote teams



Leading a newly remote team? Here are some [actionable tips](#) to inspire trust, clarity, and confidence.

Slack keeps [everyone on your team](#) in the loop, no matter the location or distance.

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## How to make a fabric mask



(The Post)

After the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended Americans wear face coverings in public, many of you have asked how to obtain one, given stores are sold out of masks and even hospitals are having trouble getting them.

We have a new, six-step guide up for how to make a simple cloth mask. Some sewing is required, but you don't need any fancy equipment.

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## Live updates

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## Hand covid-19 relief campaign

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## Your questions, answered

***“With so many countries banning walks and bike rides in order to ‘flatten the curve,’ why does the U.S. encourage getting outside? Is there a danger in just being outside walking?” — Jessica Knoop in Atlanta***

It's true that other countries have adopted widely different physical distancing policies, including outdoor exercise restrictions in many. For example, France has banned cycling and long-distance jogs in an effort to keep infected people from spreading the virus far and wide, [according to Business Insider](#).

States in the United States have generally been more lenient about outdoor exercise — and for good reason, according to Jeanne Marrazzo, director of the division of infectious diseases at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

“If we don’t encourage people to get outside, we will have a widespread social insurrection,” she told The Post in a recent article.

Experts say you're actually safer outside than indoors, provided you maintain a six-foot distance from others. But that doesn't mean there aren't risks in taking a stroll; almost everything comes with risk, these days.

They recommend keeping your distance from friends if you happen to meet one while out for a stroll and making sure you have a six-foot leash

for your dog, so you don't come into contact with other owners. Elderly and ill people also need to take special care. [Read our Q&A for more advice.](#)

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## Today's top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- Unafraid to call out Trump, Gov. Hogan emerges as lead GOP voice for urgent action
- Queen reassures Britons as health secretary begs them to stop sunbathing
- Fauci and Birx worked together on AIDS. Now, 37 years later, they're partners again.
- Coronavirus is testing the limits of Russia's surveillance state

### **A funeral is thought to have sparked a covid-19 outbreak in Albany, Ga. — and led to many more funerals**

By Haisten Willis and Vanessa Williams • [Read more »](#)

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### **How long will we doctors last?**

Opinion • By Craig Spencer • [Read more »](#)

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### **Death without ritual: Inside a funeral home in the nation's hardest-hit city**

By Stephanie McCrummen • [Read more »](#)



### **Is social isolation getting to you? Here's how to know — and what experts say to do.**

By Lateshia Beachum and Alex Horton • [Read more »](#)

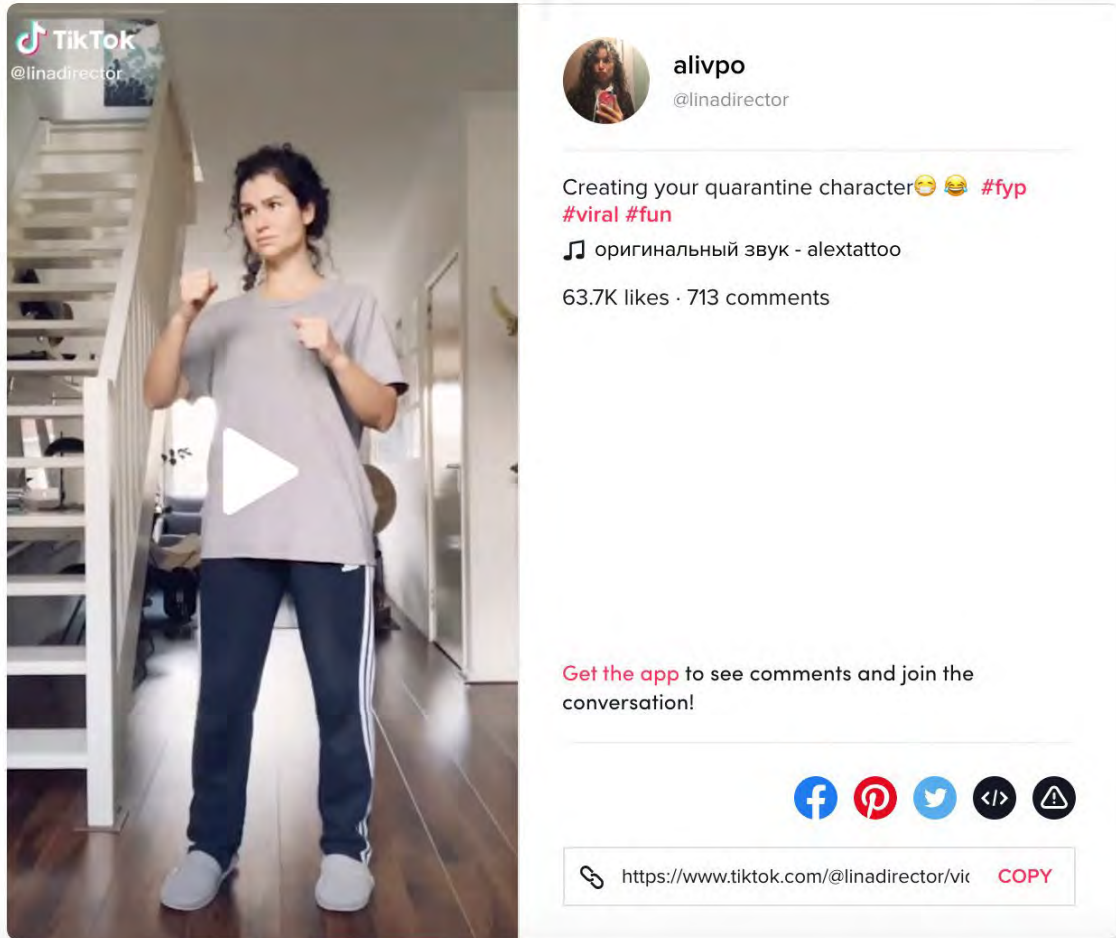
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# Undocumented workers among those hit first — and worst — by the coronavirus shutdown

By Tracy Jan • [Read more »](#)

## Who needs video games?



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AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

CLIMATEWIRE — Mon., April 6, 2020

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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] April 6 -- Energywire is ready  
**Date:** Monday, April 6, 2020 5:32:27 AM

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# ENERGYWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**ENERGYWIRE — Mon., April 6, 2020**

 [READ FULL EDITION](#)

## 1. WHITE HOUSE:

### **Trump's oil meeting: The aftermath, details and drama**

Over the weekend, Trump first nixed the idea of tariffs to protect the oil industry, then reversed. Meanwhile, oil executives and lawmakers who attended a White House oil summit Friday said they pressed the president on other ideas. What's the administration's plan?

## TOP STORIES

### 2. PANDEMIC:

#### **A warning sign? N.Y. lockdown jolts electricity demand**

### 3. CARBON CAPTURE:

#### **EPA issues rule for CO2 injection**

### 4. RENEWABLE ENERGY:

#### **Kan. Supreme Court strikes down fee for rooftop solar**

## ELECTRICITY

### 5. NUCLEAR:

#### **Plant Vogtle worker tests positive for coronavirus**

### 6. EMISSIONS:

#### **Energy audits 'insufficient' to meet climate goals — study**

## FEDERAL AGENCIES

### 7. PEOPLE:

#### **DOE taps chief to oversee energy cuts at federal agencies**

## TECHNOLOGY

### 8. ELECTRIC VEHICLES:

#### **Tesla's car sales surged before pandemic shut things down**

## OIL AND GAS

### 9. HYDRAULIC FRACTURING:

#### **Calif. issues first new fracking permits since July**

10. MICHIGAN:

**Court revives anti-fracking effort that could get on ballot**

UTILITIES

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11. CALIFORNIA:

**Another member of fire panel resigns, slams PG&E plan**

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**ABOUT ENERGYWIRE – THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ENERGY SECTOR**

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Energywire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. Energywire is designed to bring readers deep, broad and insightful coverage of the transformation of the energy sector. Energywire focuses on the business, environmental and political issues surrounding the rapidly expanding unconventional energy industry and the numerous factors -- from expanding natural gas use to renewables and more -- that are altering the traditional electric utility industry. Energywire publishes daily at 9:00 a.m.



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# GREENWIRE

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## 1. INTERIOR:

### **Pandemic isn't only challenge facing new FWS chief**

After just four months on the job, Fish and Wildlife Service Director Aurelia Skipwith is managing an agency in the midst of a pandemic. But the federal agency's first African American leader isn't abandoning her long-term goal to boost the number of minority employees.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. EPA:

#### **Wheeler spurns calls to scrap memo that would limit IG**

### 3. ADVOCACY:

#### **Should Chesapeake Bay be a national park? Group starts push**

### 4. PANDEMIC:

#### **Ranchers see universal lessons in combating lonesomeness**

## CORONAVIRUS

### 5. EPA:

#### **No waivers granted, so far**

### 6. CHEMICALS:

#### **Hurdles loom over efforts to pump out hand sanitizer**

### 7. WILDLIFE:

#### **Tiger at NYC's Bronx Zoo tests positive for coronavirus**

### 8. NATIONAL PARKS:

#### **Virus outbreak leads Niobrara River visitor center to close**

## CONGRESS

### 9. REGULATIONS:

#### **Critics accuse White House of favoring industry in NEPA redo**

## POLITICS

### 10. INTERIOR:

## Former press secretary returns in new role

### 11. EPA:

**Ex-ethanol lobbyist, former Hill aides join agency**

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## NATURAL RESOURCES

### 12. WILDFIRES:

**Progress made on blazes in 2 N.C. national forests**

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## LAW

### 13. SUPREME COURT:

**Feds ask justices to reject RFS appeal**

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## ENERGY

### 14. NUCLEAR WASTE:

**Spent fuel transfer at closed plant to go on despite virus**

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## STATES

### 15. PUERTO RICO:

**Upside of bungled Maria supplies: More health equipment now**

### 16. GEORGIA:

**Island mayor battles governor over beach closure amid virus**

### 17. MICHIGAN:

**Public comment extended on Lake Erie water quality plan**

### 18. CALIFORNIA:

**Magnitude 4.9 earthquake rattles inland south**

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## INTERNATIONAL

### 19. UKRAINE:

**Forest fire near Chernobyl raises radiation concerns**

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Greenwire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. The one-stop source for those who need to stay on top of all of today's major energy and environmental action with an average of more than 20 stories a day, Greenwire covers the complete spectrum, from electricity industry restructuring to Clean Air Act litigation to public lands management. Greenwire publishes daily at 1 p.m.





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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: Grocery workers are beginning to die  
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:44:31 PM

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The Washington Post

# Coronavirus Updates

Important developments in the coronavirus pandemic.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Angela Fritz](#)  
✉ [Email](#)

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**British Prime Minister Boris Johnson**, who tested positive for covid-19 more than a week ago, **was moved into an intensive care unit this evening after being hospitalized Sunday.** The prime minister “[remains conscious at this time,](#)” a 10 Downing Street spokeswoman said.

More than **10,000 people have died in the U.S.**, and there are at least 352,000 confirmed covid-19 cases. Louisiana, Pennsylvania and Florida are seeing a surge in positive tests.

**Grocery workers, who have been among the most-exposed employees in the outbreak, are starting to die of covid-19.** At least four people — who had worked at Walmart, Trader Joe’s and Giant — have passed in recent days. [Here's what we know about how the outbreak is affecting supermarkets and their staffs.](#)

A survey of hospitals across the country showed **health-care workers are facing shortages of tests, masks, face shields, ventilators and staff as they work tirelessly to save lives.** The report confirmed what workers have been telling journalists for weeks. [Read about how hospital staffers are scrounging for supplies and the emotional strain they face.](#)

Anthony S. Fauci, a leader on the White House coronavirus task force, was asked Sunday about the **effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine in treating covid-19.** It's an experimental treatment the president has touted and even floated taking himself despite testing negative. [Trump blocked the doctor from answering.](#) (Why does Trump call an 86-year-old unproven drug a game changer against coronavirus? [Read our FAQ.](#))

[The Dow surged 1,600 points today](#) even as the country braces for the “hardest and saddest” week of the pandemic. **Missteps are undermining the Trump administration's stimulus efforts,** with small businesses being the latest group to report roadblocks. [Here's our story](#) about the confusion and fear among people who need the stimulus money to stay afloat.

**Millions of newly unemployed people** are encountering state websites that are buckling, phone lines that are busy or disconnected and giant backlogs in benefit distributions. [Read how unemployment offices are struggling with the overwhelming number of jobless claims](#) and what could happen next. (And you can visit our FAQ on [what to do](#)

**if you get laid off or furloughed.)**

To slow the spread of the coronavirus and reinforce the physical distancing guidance that health experts say is one of our best lines of defense, **almost all states are under a stay-at-home order. Here's what that means in your state.**

Officials in Georgia are **criticizing Gov. Brian Kemp's order to reopen the state's beaches.** The mayor of Tybee Island was particularly incensed. **Read about the governor's decision and the backlash.**

Gov. Tony Evers (D) **suspended in-person voting in Wisconsin's primary elections Tuesday, after the Republican-controlled state legislature chose not to postpone the vote.** A court challenge to the governor's order is likely.

**Austria is the first European country to announce a concrete plan to reopen its society** after lockdown, as the infection rate appeared to slow in Spain and Italy.

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**The manager's manual for remote teams**



Leading a newly remote team? Here are some [actionable tips](#) to inspire trust, clarity, and confidence.

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**Track deaths and confirmed cases in the U.S.** at the county level.

**Follow the spread** of the outbreak worldwide with our updating map.

Post reporters across the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day.**

Read live updates about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area.**

Unemployment guide: **What to do if you get laid off or furloughed**

How you can **help people in need** | The Washington Post **Helping Hand covid-19 relief campaign**

**Submit a question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

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## Your questions, answered

***“If needed, and in lieu of a ventilator, would a CPAP machine be useful? Or would it be harmful?” — Katherine in Ohio***

Ventilators are the gold standard in this outbreak because they're a closed system that forces air in and out of the lungs with a breathing tube. **The breathing tube prevents the virus from escaping into the**

**surrounding air and infecting people nearby.**

CPAP machines create “continuous positive airway pressure” which is delivered to the user's lungs with a mask. Many people use the machines at night to prevent sleep apnea. But the two main components of the CPAP — the continuous pressure in one direction and the mask itself — are why **medical experts say the machine is not good to treat people with covid-19**, since it forces the virus outside the mask into the air and could spread it even further.

James Finigan [told Kaiser Health News](#) that some machines can be converted into ventilator-like devices — particularly the “BiPAP” machines that use high pressure to force air into the lungs, but then lower the pressure to allow exhale. Still, the key is how the machine connects to the patient. A modified CPAP or BiPAP needs to first be fitted with a breathing tube.

The [FDA recently loosened the guidelines](#) on refitting CPAP and BiPAP machines so health-care workers could create ventilator-like devices in a pinch. But the breathing tube appears to be the key component; any device with a mask could turn into a virus-spreading machine.

*Related reading: Although ventilators can mean the difference between life or death, [they often cause other complications and difficult recoveries.](#)*

---

## Today's top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- Small businesses worry \$349 billion emergency lending program isn't big enough

- Acting Navy secretary says ousted captain leaked concerns to media, or was ‘too naive or too stupid to command a ship’
- How to make substitutions for spices, herbs, dairy and meat in your everyday cooking
- Your Internet is working. Thank these Cold War-era pioneers who designed it to handle almost anything

## You’re under a stay-at-home order? Here’s what that means in your state.

By Thomas Johnson and Angela Fritz • [Read more »](#)



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## Don’t feel like ‘getting things done?’ It’s okay not to be productive during a pandemic.

By Sunny Fitzgerald • [Read more »](#)

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## The covid-19 crisis is going to get much worse when it hits rural areas

**Opinion** • By Michelle A. Williams, Bizu Gelaye and Emily M. Broad Leib • [Read more »](#)

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## The dark side of ventilators: Those hooked up for long periods face difficult recoveries

By Carolyn Y. Johnson and Ariana Eunjung Cha • [Read more »](#)

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## How to grow your own food in a modern-day victory garden

By Adrian Higgins • [Read more »](#)



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## Hamilton reunion, Zoom-style

Actor John Krasinski recently launched a YouTube series called [Some Good News](#), and in one of his first videos, he surprised a girl with a

“Hamilton” reunion.

Aubrey was planning to see “Hamilton” for her 9th birthday, until the outbreak hit. Instead, the cast performed the song “Alexander Hamilton” over Zoom and she was thrilled. Click through below [to watch](#).



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AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

CLIMATEWIRE — Tue., April 7, 2020

 [READ FULL EDITION](#)

## 1. POLITICS:

### **Pandemic response test-drives climate policy. Will it work?**

The federal government's plan to dole out money for the coronavirus outbreak bears some similarity to a carbon fee and dividend, the proposed system for cutting emissions favored by free-market economists, consensus-minded environmentalists and Big Oil.

## TOP STORIES

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### 2. CITIES:

#### **Ann Arbor plows ahead with climate plan amid pandemic**

### 3. STATE POLICY:

#### **Minn. hits pause on effort to adopt Calif. car regulations**

### 4. EMISSIONS:

#### **As pandemic forces steep CO2 cuts, some see methane on rise**

## BUSINESS

---

### 5. FINANCE:

#### **3 issues climate hawks are tracking this proxy season**

## GLOBAL

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### 6. SECURITY:

#### **Study finds link between climate disasters, armed conflict**

### 7. CRIME:

#### **Brazil state seeks federal troops over indigenous killings**

### 8. INTERNATIONAL:

#### **What it means to have a year without climate diplomacy**

## IN THE STATES

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### 9. WILDLIFE:

#### **Scientists to study effects of warming on baby lobsters**

## ENERGY TRANSITIONS

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## 10. RENEWABLES:

### Demand sinks after solar industry was poised for strong year

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Climatewire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. It is designed to provide comprehensive, daily coverage of all aspects of climate change issues. From international agreements on carbon emissions to alternative energy technologies to state and federal GHG programs, Climatewire plugs readers into the information they need to stay abreast of this sprawling, complex issue.



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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: How one country totally squashed the curve  
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:31:19 PM

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The Washington Post

# Coronavirus Updates

Important developments in the coronavirus pandemic.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Angela Fritz](#)  
✉ [Email](#)

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**It only took 10 days for people in New Zealand to realize their approach to fighting the coronavirus was working.** The number of new cases has fallen for two consecutive days, despite a huge increase in testing. The country only has around 1,200 confirmed cases — total. **This is how New Zealand squashed its curve.**

**New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) said he thinks the state is starting to flatten its own curve,** but cautioned that it's still vital to stay at home and maintain physical distancing. **This is the data that is giving Cuomo hope,** though New York remains the hardest-hit state.

A key forecasting model used by the White House to chart the coronavirus pandemic has **revised its estimates downward**, though it conflicts with many others showing higher equipment shortages and deaths. Today, **the U.S. reported more than 1,800 coronavirus-related fatalities, a new one-day high**, with some states still to release their totals.

**Acting Navy secretary Thomas Modly has resigned**, one day after he assailed the character of the USS Theodore Roosevelt's former captain, who expressed alarm at the service's handling of a virus outbreak on the ship. **Read about the political firestorm**, from the captain's initial letter criticizing the Navy to Modly's outburst, the apology and finally the resignation.

British Prime Minister **Boris Johnson is receiving “oxygen support”** and spending a second night in an intensive-care unit as he battles covid-19. **Read more about the prime minister's condition and the foreign secretary who has taken over in his absence.**

This afternoon, President Trump **removed the inspector general** who was to oversee the \$2 trillion stimulus spending package, a move criticized by some as another instance of the president chafing at independent oversight.

**Everyone seems to agree that another economic assistance bill is necessary.** House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) told lawmakers the next bill could “easily” cost more than \$1 trillion. Trump is voicing support for the same things Democrats are backing, like more help for small businesses and direct checks. Republicans have called for more corporate aid and money to boost the overwhelmed health-care system.

**Banks and the Small Business Administration have faced a deluge of requests for funding** from the relief bill. **Here's how the**

**Treasury Department plans to replenish the program**, which has outstripped initial expectations.

**Coronavirus is hitting black communities especially hard. In Chicago, black people are six times more likely to die than white Chicagoans.** That is also the case in Milwaukee, where 73 percent of Monday's deaths were black residents, though they make up just 28 percent of the county's population. For some black Americans, **anxiety about wearing face coverings in public may keep them from doing so.** Now, the federal government is **being called on to release race and ethnicity data** on infections and deaths from covid-19.

**Kids in the U.S. are much less likely to show severe symptoms, or any symptoms at all, if they get covid-19. Read about the latest report from the CDC and its caveats.**

Rapid developments on Monday left **Wisconsin voters confused about the status of today's elections.** Hours after the governor suspended in-person voting, **a court ruling reinstated it.** Then a U.S. Supreme Court decision reversed an extension of the mail-in ballot deadline. **Right now voters are standing in lines that stretch for blocks, and many are angry that they have to risk their health to cast their ballots.**

In the world of sports: **Major League Baseball is reportedly trying to start up again in May or June,** but there are many health and logistical problems to be solved before that can happen. **Trump's hope to have sports return soon (with fans in the bleachers) has been met with resistance from governors.**

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How you can **help people in need** | The Washington Post **Helping Hand covid-19 relief campaign**

**Submit a question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

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## Your questions, answered

***"What is the length of time the coronavirus can remain suspended in the air? Can transmission of covid-19 through aerosolization occur after an infected individual has left the vicinity?" —Kay in Massachusetts***

This answer is good news. **Bottom line: the virus doesn't appear to linger in the air.**

The [CDC tells us](#) covid-19 spreads very easily between people, “mainly through close contact from person to person in respiratory droplets from someone who is infected.” This basically means **someone who is infected needs to cough or sneeze directly on you.**

Another way it's transmitted is if you [touch something that has the virus on it](#), and then you touch your face. This is why shaking hands is so taboo right now; if someone with covid-19 coughs or sneezes into their hand, and then you shake their hand, there's a high chance you're going to touch your face before you remember to wash up. The virus enters the body through our mouths and nose, and probably also our eyes, [according to the CDC](#).

Those two routes — being coughed or sneezed on, or touching your face after you've touched something with the virus on it — present the highest risk of infection. **The chance of catching it by breathing the same air that an infected person has breathed is extremely small.**

[Scientists found](#) that the virus can live in the air for a couple of hours, but it is not viable for much longer than that. And they had to use a machine to force the virus into the air in the first place — as far as scientists can tell, it is not easily “aerosolized” by humans.

When someone coughs or sneezes, the vast majority of the virus falls to the ground (or other surfaces) in heavy droplets. [Stat News reported](#) that **in Singapore, researchers tested the air in the rooms of three covid-19 patients and found no virus.** A similar test in Wuhan, China showed the same thing: no virus in the rooms, halls or outside the hospital.

*Related reading: [Coronavirus can stay infectious for days on surfaces.](#)  
[But it's still okay to check your mail.](#)*

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## Today's top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- Going outside used to be our escape. But now that's scary, too.
- The latest flexible policies at major airlines in the wake of coronavirus
- As shortage worsens, federal officials ask agencies to donate spare medical supplies
- Perspective: What to do — and not do — when teaching kids at home

### **Flushing out the true cause of the global toilet paper shortage amid coronavirus pandemic**

By Marc Fisher • [Read more »](#)



### **America's most influential coronavirus model just revised its estimates downward. But not every model agrees.**

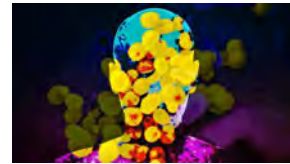
By William Wan and Carolyn Y. Johnson • [Read more »](#)

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### **What an infectious disease specialist learned about the virus — from getting it**



Opinion • By Michael S. Saag • [Read more »](#)



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## ‘This is not the time for a broken arm’: How the pandemic is affecting parents’ perception of risk

Perspective • By Sindya N. Bhanoo • [Read more »](#)

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## Meet the ‘Weird AI’ Yankovics of our social distancing era

By Travis M. Andrews • [Read more »](#)



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## Recovery dance

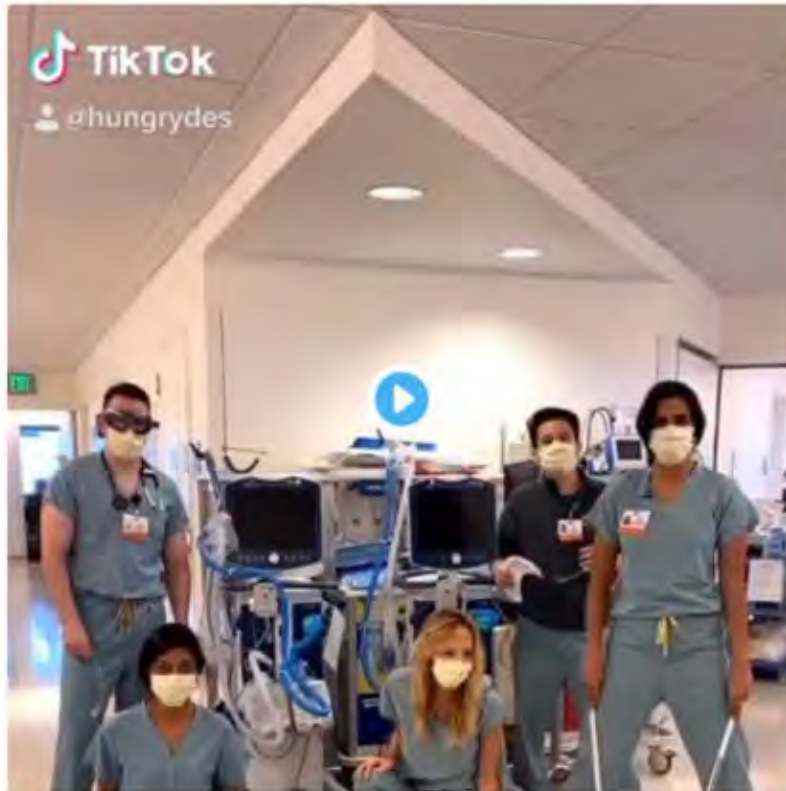


**Nida Qadir, MD**

@NidaQadirMD



Yes, patients do recover from [#COVID19](#) [#ARDS](#). And yes, my [#ICU](#) team does do an [#extubation](#) dance every time we liberate someone from a [#Ventilator](#). [#ARDSAvengers](#) [#coronavirus](#) [#bestteamever](#) [@uclaimchiefs](#) [@UCLAHealth](#) [@atscommunity](#) [@GiladJaffe](#) [@HungryDes](#) [@NoCoughEng](#)



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CLIMATEWIRE — Wed., April 8, 2020

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## 1. EMISSIONS:

### Can coal survive the coronavirus?

U.S. coal use declined sharply in March compared to natural gas and wind, suggesting the pandemic could hit the reeling industry disproportionately.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. EPA:

#### Pandemic threatens to delay greenhouse gas reporting

### 3. PANDEMIC:

#### 'We're the virus.' How eco-fascism hurts climate action

### 4. POLITICS:

#### Red states slower to respond to virus and climate — experts

## GLOBAL

### 5. INTERNATIONAL:

#### Climate not a priority as world leaders plan virus recovery

### 6. COAL:

#### Germany's green ambitions slip further behind schedule

## BUSINESS

### 7. OIL & GAS:

#### Shell's 2019 GHG emissions fell due to asset sales

## POLITICS

### 8. WHITE HOUSE:

#### Trump approves disaster declaration after Ore. floods

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ENERGYWIRE — Wed., April 8, 2020

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### Inside clean energy's coronavirus job crash

Hundreds of thousands of people in clean energy jobs have been idled and furloughed.

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## TOP STORIES

### 2. PANDEMIC:

#### Coronavirus to slash coal use, CO2, electricity demand — EIA

### 3. UTILITIES:

#### Coronavirus and wildfires: Is Calif. ready?

### 4. OIL AND GAS:

#### Exxon to cut spending \$10B as industry layoffs grow

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## ENERGY TRANSITIONS

### 5. ELECTRICITY:

#### Dominion axes plan for 'significant' natural gas build-out

### 6. CHINA:

#### Post-pandemic coal stimulus may be coming — report

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## OIL AND GAS

### 7. METHANE:

#### Emissions hit record, and scientists aren't sure why

### 8. NEW MEXICO:

#### Lawmakers face hard choices as oil crash hits budget

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## ELECTRICITY

### 9. BIOFUELS:

#### How burning wood fell out of favor in U.S.

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## FEDERAL AGENCIES

### 10. NUCLEAR WASTE:

## Most Hanford employees work from home due to virus

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### ABOUT ENERGYWIRE – THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ENERGY SECTOR

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Energywire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. Energywire is designed to bring readers deep, broad and insightful coverage of the transformation of the energy sector. Energywire focuses on the business, environmental and political issues surrounding the rapidly expanding unconventional energy industry and the numerous factors -- from expanding natural gas use to renewables and more -- that are altering the traditional electric utility industry. Energywire publishes daily at 9:00 a.m.



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From: [The Washington Post](#)  
To: [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: Young Americans are dying of covid-19  
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 3:10:15 PM

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The Washington Post

# Coronavirus Updates

Important developments in the coronavirus pandemic.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Angela Fritz](#)  
with [Avi Selk](#)  
✉ Email

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**Hundreds of young Americans have now been killed by the coronavirus, a Washington Post analysis found**, and the true number of deaths among younger people is probably higher, because not all states provided data that includes age. **“Just because they are young doesn’t mean they aren’t vulnerable,”** one ER doctor said. [Read the analysis](#) that underscores the harsh reality that young, seemingly fit people aren't immune.

A panel of scientists convened by the National Academies of Sciences got together **to figure out whether coronavirus would wane with the**



**arrival of summer. Its findings were that it is unlikely to significantly diminish.**

On Tuesday, **President Trump threatened to withhold funds from the World Health Organization**, saying it “seemed to be very China-centric.” Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the group's director-general, pushed back on that and said **politicizing the pandemic could make it worse, and lead to "many more body bags."**

As we mentioned yesterday with data from Chicago and Milwaukee, **covid-19 appears to be infecting and killing black Americans at a disproportionately high rate.** A new Post analysis dives into the numbers from several additional jurisdictions that are reporting cases and deaths by race. In last night's task force briefing, Trump said his administration would release some “very, very nasty” numbers over the next few days. **You can explore the data and our analysis here.**

**State officials and doctors warn that rationing of medical equipment like ventilators is inevitable in some places.** If that happens, many hospitals are planning to activate grim triage plans that would rank patients to determine priority. **Read about the hard, controversial decisions being discussed to determine who should get ventilator priority.**

In a video obtained by The Post, **a high-level Small Business Administration official blasted several big banks for their reluctance to get involved in the federally-subsidized small business lending program**, despite taking bailout money in 2008. **Watch the video.**

Across party lines, leaders in the capital are coalescing around the idea that another stimulus bill will be necessary. In the meantime, **Democratic leaders have called for hundreds of billions of**

**dollars for hospitals, state and local governments and food stamp recipients** in response to the Trump administration's urgent request for \$250 billion more for small businesses. [Here's what we know about the possible interim funding.](#)

**Nadia, a 4-year-old Malayan tiger at the Bronx Zoo, has covid-19.** No one is sure how she could have contracted it. [Here's what scientists know about how disease passes between animals and humans.](#)

Communities across the country are **clamoring to get access to the Abbot Laboratories rapid-result covid-19 test.** It's already being used at the White House to test visitors who come into contact with Trump and Vice President Pence. [Read about the testing procedure the White House has implemented.](#)

The British government asked for **volunteers to help the National Health Service and 750,000 people signed up.** [Now they're being deployed.](#)

On the outside, flight attendants are smiling and helpful. Inside, many are frightened and uncertain about the chance they will contract covid-19 at work. [The people who keep us comfortable in the skies are now fearful of flying.](#)

Wuhan's lockdown is over. Now **people in China are leaving grateful messages for the doctor who sounded the alarm on coronavirus, then died from it on Feb. 7.** Some message his social media accounts just to say they have been thinking about him. Others leave personal updates about how they feel as if things are getting back to normal, or the flowers outside are starting to bloom.

Share Coronavirus Updates



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Content from [Slack](#)

## The manager's manual for remote teams



Leading a newly remote team? Here are some [actionable tips](#) to inspire trust, clarity, and confidence.

Slack keeps [everyone on your team](#) in the loop, no matter the location or distance.

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## More guidance on homemade masks

Since U.S. officials recommended last week that all people should wear a cloth face covering in public, we know you have a lot of questions about how to construct one. So we [published a Q&A today](#) that answers some of the big ones:

- What material should I use? (Including a very helpful graph mapping where fabrics you may have around the house fall on a scale of breathability and filtration, from old T-shirts to tea towels)
- What pattern should I follow, and what if I can't sew?
- When can I take it off, and how can I do that safely?



## Live updates

**Track deaths and confirmed cases in the U.S.** at the county level.

**Follow the spread** of the outbreak worldwide with our updating map.

Post reporters across the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day.**

Read live updates about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area.**

Unemployment guide: **What to do if you get laid off or furloughed**

How you can **help people in need** | The Washington Post **Helping Hand covid-19 relief campaign**

**Submit a question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

## Your questions, answered

***"Did the Supreme Court give any reasoning for their decision to have the voting in Wisconsin go forward? (I know this isn't specifically about covid-19, but it's definitely related.)" — Elizabeth in New York***

It certainly is related. The deeper the pandemic stretches into the 2020 election cycle, the more havoc it wreaks on our voting system, as Wisconsin just proved with its primary election. On Tuesday, the state became the first to hold in-person voting during the coronavirus crisis, despite efforts by Democratic officials to extend deadlines.

First, let's clarify Elizabeth's question slightly: **It was the Wisconsin Supreme Court, not the U.S. Supreme Court, that ordered in-person voting to happen as scheduled on Tuesday.** The state court ruled Monday along partisan lines that Democratic Gov. Tony Evers could not postpone the date, even though [only five out of 180 polling places had enough staff to open in Milwaukee](#), the state's liberal stronghold.

**The U.S. Supreme Court looked at a related question at the same time: whether to extend the deadline to cast mail-in ballots until next Monday, given that thousands of would-be voters had not yet received theirs by this week.** "The court's five conservatives said [a lower court] judge did not have that authority, because it in effect extended the election by six days," said Robert Barnes, The Post's Supreme Court correspondent.

So the election was held as planned on Tuesday, and people who hadn't received their mail-in ballots had to choose whether to skip voting entirely, or risk infection by standing in long lines at the few available polling locations. ([Many chose the latter, we reported.](#))

In what Barnes describes as a "scant, 10-page opinion issued Monday night," the U.S. Supreme Court's conservative majority wrote that their

decision was specific to this case, and “should not be viewed as expressing an opinion ... whether other reforms or modifications in election procedures in light of COVID–19 are appropriate.”

**But the court's liberal justices said the majority ignored the current danger.** Their "suggestion that the current situation is not ‘substantially different’ from ‘an ordinary election’ boggles the mind," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote in the dissent.

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## Today’s top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- A funeral and a birthday party: CDC traces Chicago coronavirus outbreak to two family gatherings
- Why exactly is President Trump lashing out at the World Health Organization?
- My husband’s home with 3 boys, and cabin fever is setting in. How can I help?

### **I just got a shot of a coronavirus vaccine. I hope it works!**

Perspective • By Ian Haydon • [Read more »](#)

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**Gen Z was fed up with the status quo. The coronavirus could reinforce their liberal politics.**

By Hannah Knowles • [Read more »](#)



### **Four ways U.S. intelligence efforts should change in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic**

Opinion • By Glenn S. Gerstell and Michael Morell • [Read more »](#)

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## Can't pay your mortgage? Here's what you need to know.

Perspective • By Michelle Singletary • [Read more »](#)

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## Travel photographers are taking epic nature photos using indoor optical illusions

By Natalie Compton • [Read more »](#)



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## Grocery hero

Director Tyler Perry on Wednesday bought all the groceries for people who were shopping during the senior hours at many grocery stores in Atlanta and New Orleans.

Stores across the country have reserved early morning hours for the shoppers who are most at risk, like the elderly and immuno-compromised, so they come into contact with as few people as possible.

When shoppers at 44 Krogers and 30 Winn-Dixies got into the checkout lines this morning, they found out their bill was already paid, [Atlanta's 11Alive reports](#).



**Brendan Keefe**   
@BrendanKeefe



CONFIRMED: @tylerperry paid for all groceries during Seniors Hour at 44 Atlanta-area @Kroger stores. Look at these faces -- you can see the smiles and tears through the masks!



♡ 20.1K 4:20 PM - Apr 8, 2020



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] April 9 -- Climatewire is ready  
**Date:** Thursday, April 9, 2020 5:00:58 AM

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# CLIMATEWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

CLIMATEWIRE — Thu., April 9, 2020

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### Disaster agency foresaw killer virus months before COVID-19

FEMA warned the government in July that a pandemic would cripple the country's response capabilities by driving millions of people into overwhelmed hospitals. The coronavirus surfaced five months later.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. CAMPAIGN 2020:

#### Climate could be Sanders' biggest legacy

### 3. ADAPTATION:

#### City resilience offices shutter in wake of virus

### 4. RELIGION:

#### Pope Francis: Pandemic, like climate, highlights hypocrisy

## PANDEMIC

### 5. LAW:

#### Coronavirus could alter climate litigation. Here's how

## SCIENCE

### 6. CLIMATE IMPACTS:

#### Animals threatened by 'abrupt exposure' to hotter temps

## BUSINESS

### 7. AVIATION:

#### Airline bid to cut pollution cost may wipe out carbon demand

### 8. ENERGY TRANSITIONS:

#### Hydrogen power plants get backing from 2 big German firms

## IN THE STATES

### 9. AGRICULTURE:

#### Coronavirus claims an unexpected victim: Fla. vegetables

### 10. HEALTH:

## Southwest air quality benefits from stay-at-home orders

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### ABOUT CLIMATEWIRE – POLICY. SCIENCE. BUSINESS.

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Climatewire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. It is designed to provide comprehensive, daily coverage of all aspects of climate change issues. From international agreements on carbon emissions to alternative energy technologies to state and federal GHG programs, Climatewire plugs readers into the information they need to stay abreast of this sprawling, complex issue.



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ENERGYWIRE — Thu., April 9, 2020

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## 1. PANDEMIC:

### Coronavirus and electricity: 3 issues to watch

The novel coronavirus' shutdown of American life is disrupting the electricity sector and threatening energy projects as state regulators, power companies and customers scramble to cope with layoffs and an inability to gather in large groups.

## TOP STORIES

### 2. WHITE HOUSE:

**Trump on oil crash: 'A lot of good options, beauties'**

### 3. ELECTRIC VEHICLES:

**EV sales to plunge 43% this year — report**

### 4. TECHNOLOGY:

**States race for battery breakthrough. Who's winning?**

## POLITICS

### 5. WHITE HOUSE:

**Trump: TVA boss's pay has 'been bothering me for a long time'**

## ELECTRICITY

### 6. PANDEMIC:

**Calif. joins N.Y. in having workers live at grid centers**

### 7. ENERGY TRANSITIONS:

**Fla. utility to exit nation's largest coal plant**

## OIL AND GAS

### 8. PANDEMIC:

**Oil companies warn of 'massive' bankruptcies**

### 9. CORONAVIRUS:

**Colo. urged to halt coal, oil activity during pandemic**

## LAW

**10. OIL AND GAS:**

**Court halts FERC, N.Y. fight over Constitution pipeline**

**BUSINESS**

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**11. PANDEMIC:**

**Alberta premier sees negative oil prices**

**12. PIPELINES:**

**Enbridge seeks permits to build Great Lakes oil tunnel**

**UTILITIES**

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**13. CALIFORNIA:**

**Judge won't approve fire victims' letter attacking PG&E**

**14. RENEWABLE ENERGY:**

**Giant wind park's launch is another blow to nuclear industry**

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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Book Club: The Bookstore of the Year is closed, and four U.S. Poets Laureate want to take you home  
**Date:** Friday, April 10, 2020 7:55:20 AM



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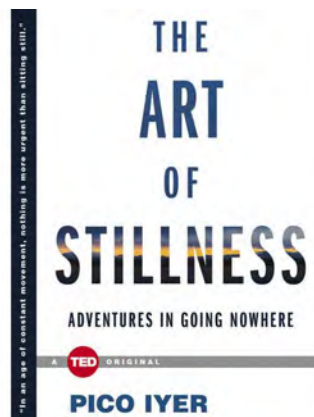
# Book Club

Reviews and recommendations from critic Ron Charles.



By **Ron Charles**

 [Email](#)



Author Pico Iyer (Photo by Derek Shapton); Simon & Schuster/TED

**At the age of 29, a Time magazine writer named Pico Iyer decided to leave his exciting life in New York City and spend a year in a single room in Kyoto, Japan. It seemed like an eccentric,**

career-ending move, but Iyer felt convinced that he wanted to explore something quiet and interior. He mentions that youthful experiment in a thoughtful little book he published in 2014 called “The Art of Stillness: Adventures in Going Nowhere.” Quarantined for the past month, I’ve been feeling like I’m “going nowhere” — but without the transcendental insights. This week, I sent Iyer a whiny note about the trials of being stuck at home, and he graciously responded with the humble wisdom that readers have come to appreciate from him. “All of us are most concerned about those without homes or resources and the ill,” he said. “But for those of us lucky enough to be safe, so far, and maybe to have jobs to return to, or roofs over our head, I think it offers us a perfect chance to think about what really sustains us.” A crisis like this, he suggests, can provide a moment of clarity on what really ails us. “My sense is that many of us have been living out of balance in recent years, with much more data than we have time to make sense of, with much more distraction than can ever make us happy, and with so much clutter in our heads or in our calendars that we can't lay our hands on what is most essential.” If you’re caring for others and struggling to make ends meet, you may think that stillness is a luxury you can’t afford, but Iyer claims it’s a necessity as crucial as food or exercise. As you might expect from a personal friend of the Dalai Lama, Iyer insists that we always have the power to determine how we respond to challenges. “Treat this moment as a chance to take a break,” he says, “so as to return to your life with clearer direction and a more definite sense of priorities.”

‘Elderly storytellers will write tales  
that outlast our extinction.’

– Edward Iwata, born 1957, from “A Force Outside Myself,” McSweeney's.

**As a future old person who cherishes several currently old people, I’ve been alarmed by some of the “reassuring” rhetoric around the Covid-19 crisis.** The worst example came last month from **Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick**, who sounded like he might push

grandparents into a pit if it meant the rest of us could start shopping sooner. Dave Eggers, the founder of McSweeney's, heard Patrick's comments after visiting with his in-laws, and the "Logan's Run" theme didn't sit well with him. In response, McSweeney's has started publishing a series of short statements called "A Force Outside Myself: Citizens Over 60 Speak" ([full list](#)). Their pieces are haunting, sobering, sometimes witty, always achingly sincere. Parents write about being quarantined with their college age children; a woman describes her sudden interest in dystopias; a man remembers surviving the AIDS crisis; a new grandma hears the baby cry over the phone. New stories are added every day. None of these writers is going gently into that good night to save our malls.

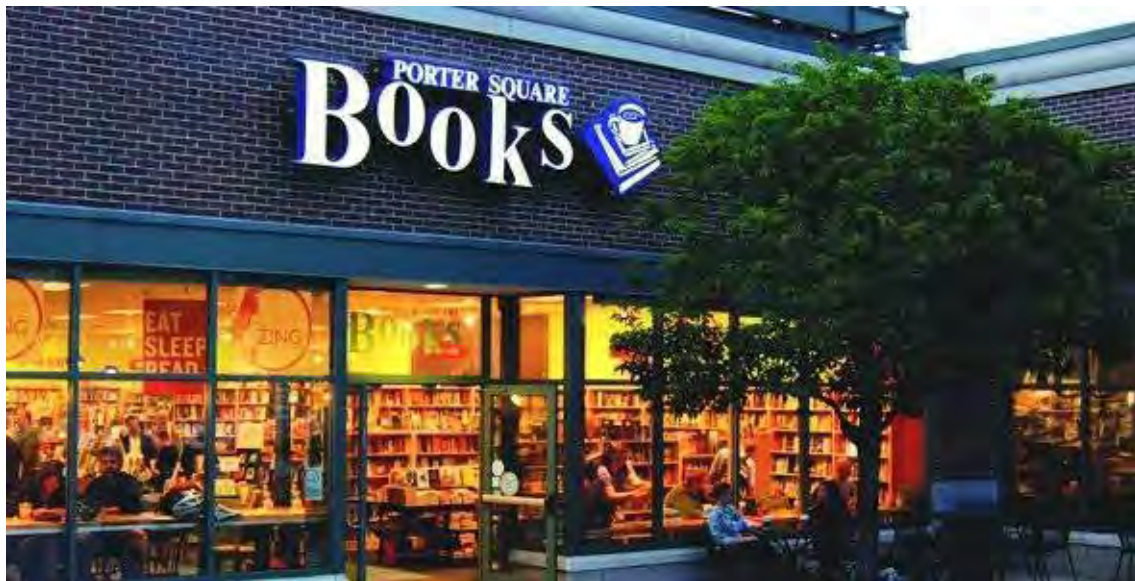
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Courtesy of Porter Square Books in Cambridge, Mass.

**Good News/Bad News: Publishers Weekly has named Porter Square Books in Cambridge, Mass., the Bookstore of the Year. Porter Square Books is closed.** "It's surreal," co-owner David

Sandberg tells me. “We couldn’t even celebrate.” Because the store has been shuttered by a state-wide closure order, he and his wife, Dina Mardell, had to let the other owners and staff members know about the PW honor via email. That’s the least of their challenges, though. By leveraging the store’s healthy social media presence, online sales have risen dramatically since the coronavirus crisis began. But those sales still represent only “a quarter to a third” of the store’s pre-crisis business. And transitioning instantly to a web-based operation is no easy feat, even for a store with almost 30 employees. “We’ve had to create a new plan pretty much every week,” Mardell says. “The fulfillment experience from our side is just radically, radically different,” Sandberg adds. “Every indie bookstore I’ve talked to is having the same issue. We’re not set up for the infrastructure to do this. We’re set up for the infrastructure to be a physical location for people to come in and browse books and buy them at cash registers.” Sandberg estimates that Porter Square Books can maintain its current structure with online-only sales through June. “If it goes on beyond that,” he says, “then we just have to rethink how we do our business.”



**Although the coronavirus poses an existential challenge for**



**brick-and-mortar booksellers, it's been a boon for audiobook sales.** Those of you who like to listen to your books *and* support beleaguered indie bookstores need to know about **Libro.fm**. It's the audiobook service used by indies as an alternative to **Audible**, which is owned by Amazon. (Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post.) Libro.fm co-founder Mark Pearson tells me that his company, with a small staff of 10, has been experiencing explosive growth: Memberships were up 300 percent in March, and more people are now listening to audiobooks through Libro.fm than ever before. What's more, Libro.fm splits profits with indie bookstores and has been raising tens of thousands of dollars in **additional financial support for indies** since the Covid-19 crisis began. This week, the company announced an extraordinary new initiative: To help deal with the flood of new business, Libro.fm has hired 10 recently laid-off booksellers for a month. You might call them Libro.fmmellowships. They'll work on all aspects of the company, including curation and creating enhanced audiobook pages and videos. Congratulations to these 10 new hires, chosen from hundreds of experienced applicants from around the country:

- Rebecca Baruc (Chicago)
  - Kathy Burnette (South Bend, Ind.)
  - Charlene Browne (Boston)
  - Devon Dunn (New York)
  - BrocheAroe Fabian (Portland)
  - Katie Fee (New York)
  - Claire Handscombe (Washington)
  - Michael Kelleher (Oakland, Calif.)
  - Barbara Lane (Marin, Calif.)
  - Kelsey Norris (Washington)
  - Cristina Rodriguez (Dallas)
-



Doubleday; author Adam Levin (Photo by Renaud Monfourny)

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**Adam Levin’s new novel stinks.** That’s not a critical judgment; it’s a fact. The bright pink jacket cover of “Bubblegum” smells like bubblegum. It’s the first scratch-n-sniff adult book I’ve seen. . . or, uh, *smelled*. (Like Proust’s madeleine, it draws me back to John Waters’s 1981 movie “Polyester” with its Odorama cards.) “Bubblegum,” Levin’s second giant novel — after “The Instructions” (2010) — is a dystopian comedy that imagines our world filled with Curios, cute little robots that smell like bubblegum. As soon as Levin’s editor, Rob Bloom, read the manuscript, he asked Doubleday’s art director, Michael Windsor, “to go crazy” on the jacket design. He started from scratch, literally, by sniffing through samples of bubblegum scented children’s books. When Windsor presented the design to the publicity team, everybody gasped. And loved it. Of course, it’s a bitter shame that, with bookstores closed, prospective readers won’t be drawn to “Bubblegum” by its odoriferous jacket. But Windsor is philosophical about that: “The people who order it off Amazon

or whatever, they'll get a nice little surprise when they get it home.”

Given the physical advantage that bound books have over e-books, I'm disappointed that we don't see (or smell) more creative experiments like “Bubblegum.” There was a time when publishers knew that books should be enticing objects, with elegant initials and beautiful illustrations. Now they all look the same: blank boards around page after page of utilitarian text. But there are folks keeping the flame alive. “**We Love Endpapers**” — a Facebook group devoted to the appreciation of decorative endpapers — just passed 5,000 members, which is the happiest nerdy news of the week.



Courtesy of White Mountain Puzzles

**The Missing Peace: If you're a book person, there's a good chance you're also a puzzle fanatic, so you know puzzles have become as hard to find as toilet paper. White Mountain Puzzles,** a family-owned operation in Jackson, N.H., has been completely overwhelmed by orders during the Great Quarantine. To deal with the backlog, the company stopped accepting new business for 10 days. When they reopened on Tuesday, they received more orders in 12 hours than they had in the entire month of April last year. “It's insanely busy,” co-owner Sean Minton tells me. Both their factories — in Indiana and Massachusetts — were shut down as “non-essential businesses,” which my puzzle-fiend parents strongly object to. White Mountain typically sells a substantial segment of its merchandise through bookstores, which are all closed now, of course, but online sales in addition to sales through big-box

retailers like Target continue to pour in. “They’re begging for puzzles,” Minton says. “It’s a lot of moving parts, logistical challenges that we’ve never had to deal with before” — like a giant puzzle, one might say, but Minton makes no puzzle puns. Perhaps he’s too busy. White Mountain has been growing strongly for a while. “The whole political climate that we’ve seen in the last three or four years has caused a lot of anxiety in this country,” he says, “and puzzles have been a great way to relieve stress.”  
Make America Puzzle Again!



Catapult; PEN/Faulkner; author Chloe Aridjis (Photo by Nick Tucker/Courtesy of PEN/Faulkner)

**As the country's largest literary prize juried by other fiction writers, the \$15,000 PEN/Faulkner Award tends to be less dazzled by big names and more attentive to small publishers.** It’s the annual prize most likely to draw my attention to a great work of fiction that I missed. This year’s winner is “Sea Monsters,” by Mexican American writer Chloe Aridjis (**Catapult**). After considering more than 400 submissions, the PEN/Faulkner judges released **a statement** on Monday praising “Sea Monsters” as a “dreamlike near-fable of equal parts philosophical and intellectual vigor . . . a gift for these times in which we are all craving escape.” Aridjis, who lives in London, has a Ph.D. from Oxford in 19th-century French poetry *and* magic shows, so I’m already hooked. Unfortunately, this year’s super-fancy 40th annual award ceremony has been canceled due to the quarantine, but PEN/Faulkner will

release a video on May 4 that includes appearances by Aridjis and the four finalists ([list](#)).

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From "Long Story Short," by Lisa Brown (Algonquin).

**You probably began this quarantine with dreams of rereading “Moby-Dick” or “Persuasion.”** But if you’re like me, you’re finding it hard to concentrate on anything more than a tweet. Fortunately, Lisa Brown has just published “Long Story Short,” a witty collection of cartoon book reviews. In three panels, she dispenses with “As I Lay Dying,” “Heart of Darkness” and a hundred other classics. “You should have to pay a fine if your book is more than 400 pages,” she tells me from her home in San Francisco. The key to compressing any story is to “think about what you can’t stop thinking about,” she says. “So if you have, say, ‘Anna Karenina,’ even if you read it years and years ago, you’re like, ‘Oh, she threw herself in front of a train. The core of ‘Anna Karenina’ is *train*.” As an old English teacher, I wonder if students could study her cartoons instead of wrestling with the actual classics. “Hopefully, they’ll just use my book in order to read ‘Tess of the D’Urbervilles,’” Brown says, “and they’ll read something like Maxine Hong Kingston in their high school classes, which is much more exciting and relevant today.” (But seriously: Asking students to draw a three-panel book review could be a fun assignment.)

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The Freedom  
to Write



Author Jennifer Egan (Photo courtesy of PEN/America)

**With so many book events canceled during the coronavirus outbreak, PEN America, the literary nonprofit that defends free expression, has launched a podcast called The PEN Pod (subscribe).** On Tuesday’s episode, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Jennifer Egan described her three-week battle with a suspected case of COVID-19. (Her doctor diagnosed her over the phone, which is this disaster in a nutshell.) “My hope for this moment is that we come out of this with some pretty radical changes to our lives,” Egan says. “Underpaid healthcare workers are basically what are keeping us alive here in New York. We don’t value our physical environment. We desperately need to recalibrate that relationship. I really hope that this cataclysm becomes an opportunity for healing a deeper sickness in our culture.” **(Listen)**

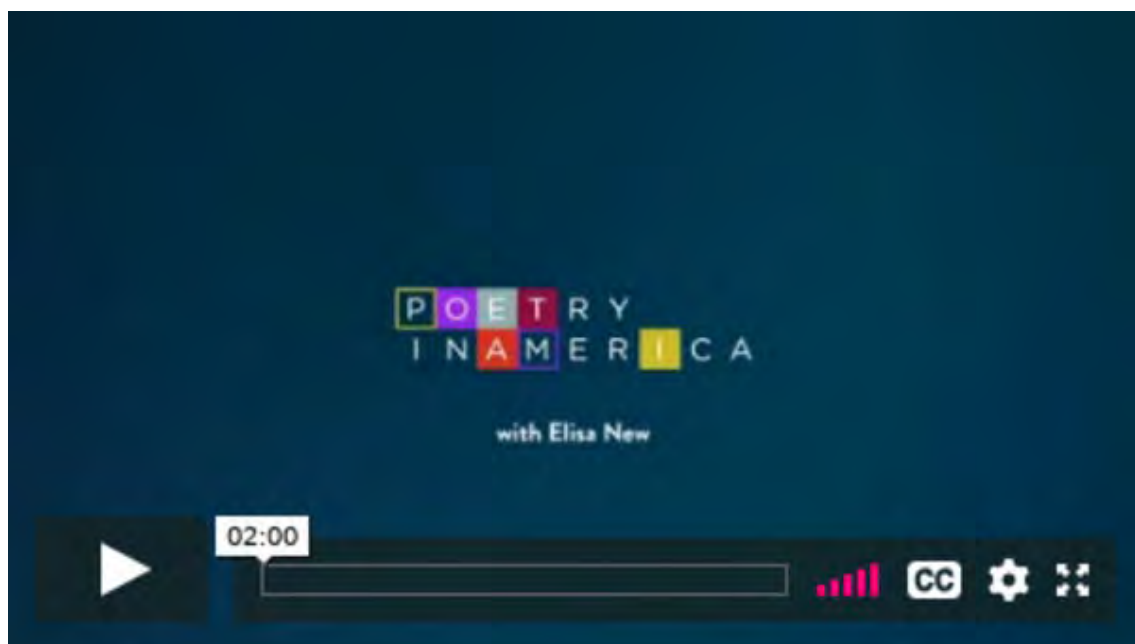


Mad Libs Workbooks Grade 1 and Grade 2 will be released on April 14. Grade 3 and Grade 4 will be released on Sept. 1 (Penguin Workshop).

**And now, for something completely \_\_\_\_\_ (adj.)**

Almost 70 years ago, a pair of comedy writers devised a parlor game they called “Mad Libs.” In the late 1950s, TV talk show host Steve Allen used the Mad Lib format to introduce guests, which made the game a national

craze. Since then, books full of silly fill-in-the-blank tales have sold more than 125 million copies, which is a \_\_\_\_\_ (*noun*) of copies. Language teachers have used Mad Libs to teach grammar for years, and now Penguin Workshop is getting serious about the games. In response to the coronavirus quarantine and the surge of new interest in home-teaching, two new Mad Lib educational workbooks are being released early for first and second graders. The content is a bit schoolmarmy — phonics, spelling, grammar and vocabulary. And any educational consultant who thinks a 7-year-old should confront terms like “Inflectional Endings” and “Digraphs” should be given a time-out. But an element of fun persists in these workbooks. If you’ve suddenly been cast as a home-school teacher for beginning readers, check these out.



**The second season of “Poetry in America” begins this week on public television.** Each episode, hosted by Harvard professor **Elisa New**, explores a single American poem. The season kicks off with “Urban Love Poem,” by Chinese American writer **Marilyn Chin**. (I had the pleasure of interviewing her for **Life of a Poet** in 2018 – she's brilliant.) In addition to Chin, episode 1 includes a range of special guests, from Silicon Valley executive Randy Komisar to celebrated writer Maxine Hong

Kingston. You can also find related educational material on the “Poetry in America” website ([here](#)).



**Today, The Washington Post launches a beautiful project with the Library of Congress called “[The Poetry of Home](#).”** During the coronavirus crisis, I’ve been Zooming with poets and asking them to share a poem they’ve written. In today’s episode, U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo talks about “Perhaps the World Ends Here.” That poem appeared in “The Woman Who Fell From the Sky,” a collection Harjo published back in 1994, but it sounds like it was written for this quarantined era we find ourselves in now. Over the next three weeks, we’ll hear from former laureates Robert Pinsky, Natasha Trethewey and Juan Felipe Herrera. I hope you enjoy this series – and share it with people who need it.

### **Perhaps the World Ends Here**

The world begins at a kitchen table. No matter what, we must eat to live.

The gifts of earth are brought and prepared, set on the table. So it has been since creation, and it will go on.



We chase chickens or dogs away from it. Babies teethe at the corners. They scrape their knees under it.

It is here that children are given instructions on what it means to be human. We make men at it, we make women.

At this table we gossip, recall enemies and the ghosts of lovers.

Our dreams drink coffee with us as they put their arms around our children. They laugh with us at our poor falling-down selves and as we put ourselves back together once again at the table.

This table has been a house in the rain, an umbrella in the sun.

Wars have begun and ended at this table. It is a place to hide in the shadow of terror. A place to celebrate the terrible victory.

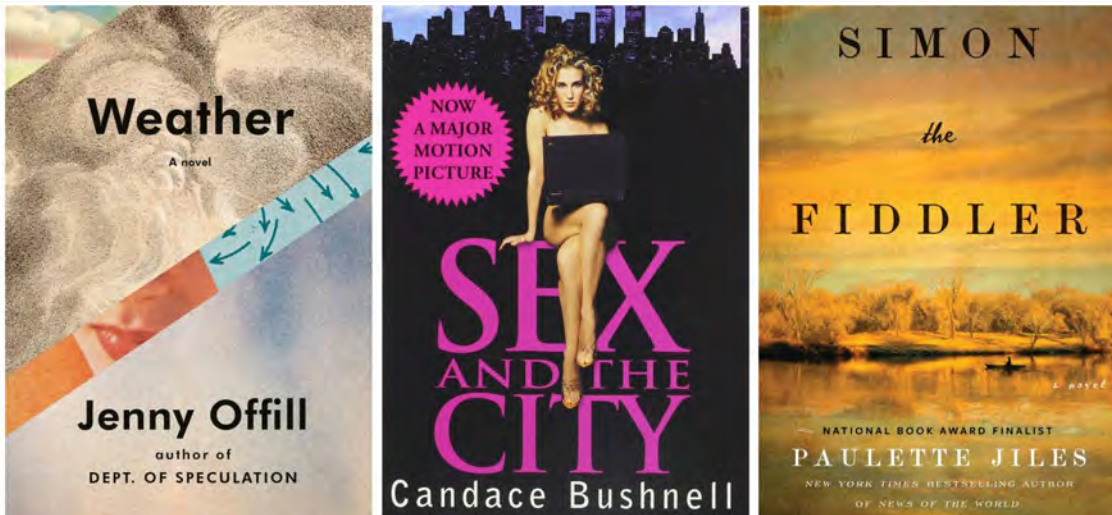
We have given birth on this table, and have prepared our parents for burial here.

At this table we sing with joy, with sorrow. We pray of suffering and remorse. We give thanks.

Perhaps the world will end at the kitchen table, while we are laughing and crying, eating of the last sweet bite.

*From The Woman Who Fell From the Sky by Joy Harjo. Copyright © 1994 by Joy Harjo. Used by permission of W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.*

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(Knopf; Grand Central; William Morrow)

**The Charleses have reached Day 25 in quarantine.** My wife, Dawn, is reading Jenny Offill's witty novel “Weather” ([review](#)). My younger daughter, Madeline, is reading Candace Bushnell's “Sex and the City,” which reminds me that I went to a dinner party with Bushnell in the late 1990s, but I was such a rube that I didn't know who she was. This horrifies but does not surprise Madeline. Meanwhile, I'm reading a charming western that I'll tell you about next week. Till then, wherever you are, I hope you're staying healthy and finding good books. If you have any questions or comments about our book coverage, contact me at [ron.charles@washpost.com](mailto:ron.charles@washpost.com). And if you know someone who would enjoy this newsletter, please forward it to them. **To subscribe, click [here](#).**

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**‘Walden’ may be the most famous act of social distancing. It’s also a lesson on the importance of community.**

Perspective • By Ron Charles • [Read more »](#)



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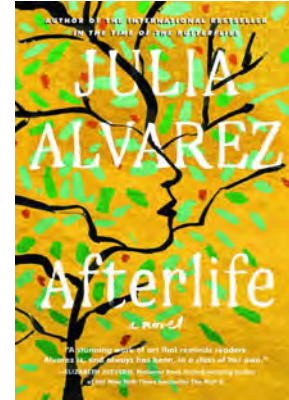
**The new Oprah Book Club pick: 'Inside the Mind of an American Family,' by Robert Kolker**

Review • By Karen Tucker • [Read more »](#)

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## **In Julia Alvarez's 'Afterlife,' a widow faces a moral quandary**

Review • By Kristen Millares Young • [Read more »](#)



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## **Anne Tyler's 'Redhead by the Side of the Road' is light on drama. Not that we could handle more drama now anyway.**

Review • By Ron Charles • [Read more »](#)

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## **'Temporary' puts a whole new spin on millennial woe**

Review • By Rebekah Frumkin • [Read more »](#)

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## **Marie Kondo has a new book on tidying up at the office. Her tips work at the home office, too.**

Review • By Angela Haupt • [Read more »](#)



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## **For fans of Indiana Jones and Dan Brown, an adventure story for the ages**

Review • By Michael Dirda • [Read more »](#)

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## **'Calder: The Conquest of Space' paints a stunning portrait of an ever-evolving artist**

Review • By Alexander C. Kafka • [Read more »](#)



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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Daily 202: GOP senator's coronavirus plan: Get federal government to cover 80 percent of wages.  
**Date:** Friday, April 10, 2020 8:39:04 AM



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PowerPost from *The Washington Post*

# The Daily 202

Intelligence for leaders.

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By **James Hohmann**  
with Mariana Alfaro  
 Email

## **GOP senator's coronavirus plan: Get federal government to cover 80 percent of wages.**

Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) wants the United States to follow Europe's lead. That's not something conservatives like him normally say, but he believes desperate times call for desperate measures.

The rising star on the right proposes that the federal government replicate what's been working in the United Kingdom to keep layoffs limited and immediately begin covering 80 percent of worker wages at all private

businesses, up to the national median wage, until the emergency caused by the novel coronavirus is over. He also advocates paying financial bonuses for businesses to rehire workers laid off over the past month.

As party leaders squabble over how best to expand the pool of money available for small businesses through the Paycheck Protection Program, what the freshman senator envisions in the fourth phase of congressional action is vastly more ambitious and costly than anything his Republican colleagues have outlined. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has cast doubt on the need for another gargantuan spending measure after the third phase cost \$2 trillion. But Hawley is adamant that half measures won't avert another Great Depression.



City employees in Hialeah, Fla., hand out unemployment applications to people in their vehicles on Wednesday. They've moved to printed forms because the state's unemployment website keeps crashing under the strain of new claims. (Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

The Labor Department said Thursday that more than 17 million Americans have filed for unemployment benefits in the past four weeks, [including](#) 6.6 million last week. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell

unveiled over \$2 trillion in new loans in his latest bid to keep the economy afloat. JPMorgan Chase now predicts the unemployment rate will hit 20 percent, and the economy will shrink by 40 percent, in the second quarter.

“Events are overtaking us, and so now we’ve got to adapt. That’s what I’m trying to do here,” Hawley said toward the end of a 35-minute phone interview from his house in Springfield, Mo. “I personally do not want to ride the roller coaster, not knowing where the bottom is, and that’s what I’m afraid that we’re on right now. It’s like, ‘Wow, we’re going down, down, down, down, down, down, down.’ Nobody can see the bottom. I personally don’t care to find out where the bottom might be!”

The Stanford-trained historian and Yale-educated lawyer has spoken at length with several economists, obsessively studied what other Western countries are doing to stanch their economic wounds and intensively read about what worked and what didn’t during the New Deal. “One of the things that I take away from that study – thinking back through our history, thinking back to the ‘20s and the ‘30s – is that one of the things you have to be willing to do is be adaptable,” Hawley said. “You can’t get locked into the mentality that ‘this is the only way we have to deal with this situation.’ You’ve got to be willing to say, ‘if that’s not working, let’s try something else.’”

Hawley insists that his preferred approach, while unorthodox, is not inherently unconservative because government policies have effectively blocked people from working – for good public health reasons, he hastens to add. This makes it only fair to compensate workers for the duration of the crisis, he argues, adding that relief should focus more on helping people than corporations.

“The only reason that you deliver the money through the employer is the employer pays the wages,” he said. “My view is that the American worker shouldn’t be asked to shoulder the burden of unemployment when they

haven't done anything wrong. In these extraordinary times, I think the government ought to step forward and say we are going to protect as many jobs as we can. We ought to make it our goal to protect every job.”

I asked Hawley whether he worries that the federal government will accumulate too much power during this crisis and never give it back. “I guess, at the moment, I'm more concerned about chaos that leads to 20 and 30 percent unemployment,” he said.



Sen. Josh Hawley speaks to reporters at the Capitol last month. (Al Drago/Bloomberg News)

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Content from [Facebook](#)

**\$100M grant program for small businesses impacted by COVID-19**





Know a small business in need of extra support right now?  
We are offering \$100 million to provide businesses with resources they need during COVID-19.

[Get started: Learn more.](#)

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Hawley, who [defeated](#) Democratic incumbent Claire McCaskill in the 2018 midterms, has been a vocal supporter of President Trump and consistently voted for his agenda. He has also emerged as an outspoken critic of corporate power, especially large technology companies, and emphasizes that the right needs to evolve to offer more help for those being left behind in the gig economy. Hawley is part of [the small conservative clique](#) in Congress that's challenging what's increasingly being called free-market fundamentalism. His view is that Republicans have been too focused on promoting individualism and corporatism over the last generation at the expense of communities and churches. ([I wrote last year](#) on his brand of right-wing populism and emergence as a new variety of culture warrior.)

His broader [proposal](#) for the fourth phase of the congressional response is on brand in that regard. He wants to shore up the medical supply chain by requiring that certain products be produced in the United States. He calls for federally backed, low-interest financing for capital expenditures by firms that bring jobs “onshore” from overseas to manufacture products there have been shortages of during the pandemic. He wants to require that companies maintain “rainy day funds” so that they have liquidity cushions during future crises.

“Frankly, it's a little bit of a constraint on size because the larger the entity, the more cushion you have to have,” Hawley said. “It puts a curb on concentration. What we don't want to see coming out of this crisis is a further acceleration of our trend towards consolidation of the American economy. My nightmare scenario is that small businesses across the country fail in this crisis, and we come out of this further consolidated.”



A man crosses the street in deserted downtown Kansas City, Mo., on what would normally be a busy workday. (Charlie Riedel/AP)

The 40-year-old clerked for Chief Justice John Roberts, which is how he met his wife, Erin, a fellow clerk. She's still practicing law and teaching, and worked to keep their kids, Elijah, 7, and Blaise, 5, occupied as we chatted. They moved to his home state a few years back so he could teach constitutional law at the University of Missouri. He was elected the state's attorney general in 2016 and became the youngest member of the Senate in 2019.

Hawley fears that small towns like the one he grew up in will not recover without dramatic government action. He's worried that vultures will take

advantage of the crisis to line their own pockets. That's why the senator wants to strengthen disclosure requirements that would make it harder for activist investors and hedge funds to buy up companies and force layoffs and liquidations.

“The number one thing is that this crisis should not be opportunity for profiteering by Wall Street,” Hawley said. “It should not be that a select few folks on Wall Street are able to make out like bandits from this while the rest of our nation suffers.”

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## Dispatches from the front lines

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Content from [Facebook](#)

### Resources for small businesses during the COVID-19 outbreak



We know it's a challenging time for small businesses. To help, Facebook set up a resource hub with information, from how to set up a customer service plan to experimenting with online events.

Visit our new Business Resource Hub for more.

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### **Cash-starved hospitals are cutting staff.**

“Hospitals across the country have deferred or canceled non-urgent surgeries to free up bed space and equipment for covid-19 patients. But that triage maneuver cut off a main source of income, causing huge losses that have forced some hospitals to let go of health-care workers as they struggle to treat infected patients,” [Shane Harris, Justin Sondel and Gregory Schneider report](#). “Hospital executives and analysts emphasize that not all the furloughed or fired workers are directly involved in treating covid-19 patients. Others say the furloughs help reduce the number of people in hospitals, slowing the spread of the virus. But the absences have put a strain on doctors, nurses and other health-care workers treating a surge of patients that has already stretched some health-care systems to the breaking point. Remaining front-line workers face longer hours, and some have seen their pay cut and benefits reduced. For hospitals already in bad financial shape before the outbreak, the loss of income has raised doubts about their ability to keep treating patients.”

- As patients die in their hallways, Michigan hospitals are running out of body bags and staffers. ([MLive](#))
- The virus is the first big test for Chicago’s Rush University Medical

Center, which was built after Sept. 11, 2001, to handle mass casualty events. As the number of cases flew past 16,000 in Illinois, Rush has about 20 percent of the ventilated cases in the state. ([Mark Guarino](#))

- The Post assembled data to analyze the availability of the critical-care resources needed to treat severely ill patients who require extended hospitalization across the nation. We conducted a stress test of sorts on available resources, which revealed a patchwork of shortcomings in cities and towns where the full force of the virus has yet to hit and where people may not be following social distancing orders. ([Amy Brittain](#), [Ted Mellnik](#), [Dan Keating](#) and [Joe Fox](#))
- A rural hospital in Sweet Springs, Mo., shut down, forcing area residents to drive long distances if they're stricken. ([News & Observer](#))
- A 25-bed rural hospital in Louisiana has become the lifeline to a hot spot where 22,000 live. Previously battered by hurricanes and a flood, the facility is struggling to keep up with a crush of patients. It has just two ventilators. ([Guardian](#))

## **The National Guard is retrieving dead bodies in New York.**

New York City has 87,725 confirmed cases of covid-19, including 21,571 hospitalizations and 4,778 deaths. “At a base down the road from Niagara Falls, a specialized unit from the New York Air National Guard had spent years preparing for one of the military’s grimmest missions: find and recover the bodies of those killed in a chemical attack, natural disaster or other mass tragedy,” [Paul Sonne reports](#). “But when their deployment orders arrived March 21, they were sent to do a job their practice sessions didn’t foresee. ... [New York City’s] medical examiners, who pick up the bodies of those who die unattended by a physician or in unexplained circumstances, were on the verge of being overwhelmed. ... [So they] have been carrying body after body out of New York City homes and apartment buildings, in some cases winding 200 pounds down the narrow staircases of walk-ups without an elevator. ... They are aiding the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, ... which typically collects about 25 bodies for investigation in New York City on a normal day and now is retrieving as

many as 150.”

- Frank Gabrin, a New York physician, became the first American ER doctor to die from the coronavirus. “I have to admit,” he wrote on Facebook as the virus spread, “I am having some anxiety.” He was 60. ([Guardian](#))
- Tasha Smith, a nurse for New York’s Mount Sinai Health System, was fired after complaining to her boss that she was uncomfortable treating coronavirus patients without proper equipment. The hospital says she was terminated because she walked off the job. Smith, who had worked there for three years, said her situation has frightened other nurses, who share her fears. “They’re afraid to speak up,” she said. “I was made an example of.” ([NYT](#))
- “This is worse than the Sept. 11 attacks,” Luis Lopez, a paramedic in the city, [told the New York Post](#). “Sept. 11 was a tragedy that happened quick. This is different. This is unsettling. It’s an odd feeling. You think it’s the flu. People are just dropping.”
- The city’s plan for the continuing surge in bodies is still unclear. While the medical examiner’s office told the [New York Daily News](#) that the city’s morgues don’t “currently anticipate reaching capacity,” the mayor’s office said unclaimed coronavirus victims could soon be buried on Hart Island, a public cemetery.

## **Parties went on as the coronavirus spread. Now comes the pain.**

“In the early days of the United States’ struggle with the coronavirus pandemic — and even well beyond — birthdays, weddings, dances, club meetings, concerts, and other large get-togethers continued more or less as normal. The virus was here, but the party went on,” [Griff Witte and Chelsea Janes report](#).

- The virus is ripping through the Navajo Nation, killing 20 people so far on the reservation, compared with 16 in the entire state of New Mexico, which has a population 13 times larger. ([NYT](#))
- A man in Florida was arrested on kidnapping and murder charges

after he allegedly plotted to obscure his wife's disappearance by pretending she was in the hospital with a severe coronavirus case. ([Katie Shepherd](#))

- A dying coronavirus patient asked Alexa for help. After Lou Ann Dagen, 66, became one of six residents at a nursing home in Cedar Springs, Mich., to die of covid-19, her sister discovered voice recordings on an Echo device as she pleaded for help while her condition deteriorated. "How do I get help?" she asked in the recording. "How do I get to the police?" ([NYT](#))
- New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu (R) will allow mail-in voting in November because of the outbreak. Sununu said the state is considering other voting alternatives, too, including "drive-up voting." ([Colby Itkowitz and Amy Gardner](#))

### **Some cities and counties are making masks mandatory.**

Governments in Los Angeles, Miami and Montgomery County in the D.C. suburbs enacted measures that order residents to wear face coverings when visiting grocery stores, pharmacies and other essential businesses. The CDC only recommends doing so. ([Rebecca Tan](#))

Alabama will no longer enforce its anti-masking law. In the 1940s, as the state tried to distance itself from the Ku Klux Klan, lawmakers banned anyone from wearing a mask in public. The only previous exception was for revelers wearing decorative eyewear during Mardi Gras celebrations. ([Teo Armus](#))

**"I spent six days on a ventilator with covid-19. It saved me, but my life is not the same."**

"Many patients who come off ventilators suffer lasting physical, mental and emotional issues, including cognitive deficits, lost jobs and psychological issues, such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder," [writes David Lat](#), founding editor of Above the Law. "I used to run marathons; now I can't walk across a room or up a flight of stairs without getting winded. I can't go around the block for fresh air unless my

husband pushes me in a wheelchair. ... Being on the ventilator for almost a week damaged my vocal cords, and now my voice is extremely hoarse. My speech pathologist expressed optimism that the damage is not permanent. Only time will tell. I'm not complaining. I am incredibly grateful to be alive. And for that, I have the ventilator to thank."

## **Coronavirus deaths hit a new high in the D.C. region.**

"The District, Maryland and Virginia on Thursday reported 53 additional coronavirus fatalities combined, another single-day record, as the region's leaders braced for the death toll to continue rising and confronted the disproportionate impact the pandemic was having on the area's black residents," [Fenit Nirappil, Ovetta Wiggins and John Harden report](#). "The three jurisdictions now have a combined 11,766 confirmed coronavirus cases and 280 deaths. ... Virginia reported 34 fatalities Thursday morning — more than the previous six days combined. Officials said the single-day jump is partially because of delays in adding deaths at a Richmond-area long-term care facility to the state tally. ... The District reported five new deaths and Maryland reported 14 new fatalities. Neither marked a significant increase."

- Maryland for the first time also released racial demographics of its cases and fatalities, confirming that black residents are disproportionately affected in all three jurisdictions. Maryland is about 30 percent black, but African Americans made up half of the deaths and cases where race is known. In the District, all five of the new victims disclosed on Thursday were black. In a city that is less than 50 percent black, more than 60 percent of the 33 fatalities are African American.
- D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) said the District would launch a hotline to deliver essential items, including groceries, at no-cost to those under self-quarantine or unable to leave their homes.
- A surge of spring cleaning, inspired by people stuck at home because of the the virus, is leaving residential garbage cans overflowing,



putting stress on suburban trash collection systems. Jurisdictions are collecting up to 40 percent more residential trash, even as they encourage residents to forgo yard waste disposal or tidying up. ([Justin Moyer and Jahi Chikwendiu](#))

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## More on the federal response



### **Trump is pushing to reopen much of the country next month.**

“Behind closed doors, Trump — concerned with the sagging economy — has sought a strategy for resuming business activity by May 1,” [Matt Zapotosky, Josh Dawsey, Jose Del Real and William Wan report](#). “In phone calls with outside advisers, Trump has even floated trying to reopen much of the country before the end of this month, when the current federal recommendations to avoid social gatherings and work from home expire ... Trump regularly looks at unemployment and stock market numbers, complaining that they are hurting his presidency and reelection prospects ... The president ... asks regularly: ‘When can we reopen?’ ...

“There have already been vigorous debates, with public-health experts and

some presidential advisers warning against reopening too soon, while key members of the president's economic team — and some conservatives in the vice president's orbit — push for a quicker return to normality. Among those pushing to reopen the economy ... is Marc Short, the vice president's chief of staff and a top adviser to Trump. Short has argued there will be fewer deaths than the models show and that the country has already overreacted ... Anthony S. Fauci, the nation's top expert on infectious diseases, said Thursday that some places might reopen sooner than others, and that hard-hit New York, for example, shouldn't loosen its restrictions until there was a 'very steep decline' in infections. 'It's not going to be one size fits all,' he said.

"New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D) said Thursday that hospitalizations and intensive-care admissions in the state have fallen, suggesting progress. But he stressed that he did not know when New Yorkers would be able to begin a return to normal life. 'We're not going to go from red to green; we're going to go from red to yellow,' Cuomo said. ... [Jerome] Powell, the Federal Reserve chair, notably did not advocate a May reopening, saying such steps were more likely after July. And even some close to Trump seemed wary of supporting an early date."

**History is at risk of repeating itself:** A 2007 study funded by the CDC examined the fate of several U.S. cities after they eased restrictions too soon during the 1918 flu pandemic. Those cities believed they were on the other side of the peak, and, like today, had residents and business leaders worried about the economy. Once these cities lifted the restrictions, however, their trajectory soon turned into a double-humped curve with two peaks instead of one. In many cases, the second outbreak was worse than the first.

**Ohio's early intervention is paying off.** With about 5,100 cases, it has fewer than a third the number of people with the coronavirus as three comparably sized states — Michigan, Pennsylvania and Illinois. And Ohio,

under the leadership of Gov. Mike DeWine (R), has just a small fraction of the deaths reported in those states, [Lenny Bernstein reports](#).

**Washington state is flattening the curve:** The Seattle region's use of early intervention policies, and its expansion of widespread testing, has helped the region begin to bring the virus to heel. Although King County was the site of the nation's first deadly outbreak, the latest data shows the rate of infection slowing and hospitalizations dropping. The numbers of deaths and new cases are expected to peak this week, [Robert Klemko reports](#).

### **But eight Republican governors still refuse to issue stay-at-home orders.**

The leaders of Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming have yet to impose stay-at-home orders for everyone in their states, despite some being urged to do so this week by Surgeon General Jerome Adams and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, per [Bloomberg News](#).

- Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts issued a proclamation urging residents to stay home for the next three weeks, but he explicitly said it is not a shelter-in-place order. ([KCAU9](#))
- Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt argued that his safer-at-home order is essentially the same as shelter-in-place orders issued elsewhere, but the directive only says that people over 65 or who have serious underlying medical conditions should stay home. ([Oklahoman](#))
- Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, who ordered nonessential businesses to close, said the virus is not poised to affect Iowa's June primary election. The state's public health director said Iowa is "starting to see our curve kind of flatten out." There are 1,270 cases in the state, with 29 deaths. ([Des Moines Register](#))
- North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum cited low case numbers – 251 total – as the reason why he's not ordering people to stay home. The state does have a self-quarantine order that asks people to stay at home for

14 days after returning from about three dozen states, including neighboring Minnesota. ([CBS Minnesota](#))

- Meanwhile, Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly (D) sued the state's Republican-controlled legislative council after it revoked her executive order that limits church gatherings before Easter. Kelly said the "purely political move" put Kansans at risk. ([Meagan Flynn and Isaac Stanley-Becker](#))



## Quote of the day

*"Everybody is assuming, well, once we get through this, we're done. I wouldn't be so quick to assume that," said New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D). "This virus has been ahead of us from Day One. We've underestimated the enemy, and that is always dangerous, my friends. We should not do that again." (Heather Long, Matt Zapposky and David Fahrenthold)*

## Senators clashed over how best to help small businesses.

"Competing proposals for coronavirus relief failed in the Senate on Thursday morning, as Democrats objected to a proposed \$250 billion increase in a small business program and Republicans shot down the counter-offer," [Erica Werner and Mike DeBonis report](#). "Senate Majority

Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) accused Democrats of treating ‘working Americans as political hostages’ by refusing to add more money to the ‘Paycheck Protection Program,’ a new \$350 billion small business loan program that is being overwhelmed by demand. ... Democrats disputed that the program was in immediate need of more funds, saying they wanted changes to ensure fairness and transparency. They are also seeking major funding increases for hospitals and health systems and cities and states, along with a 15 percent increase in food stamp benefits. ... Democrats’ proposal would allocate the additional \$250 billion for small businesses, but specify that only half of that would go to the Paycheck Protection Program. The other half would include \$60 billion for community-based lenders, and \$65 billion for disaster loans and disaster grants, among other items."

- About 70 percent of small businesses have applied for an emergency loan. It’s unclear how many have received them. ([Renaë Merle](#))

### **Trump has used emergency public health powers to expel 10,000 migrants at the border.**

The administration is using the contagion to give Customs and Border Protection broad authority to bypass immigration laws, [Nick Miroff reports](#). “The measures have allowed the agency to quickly turn away most unauthorized migrants — sending them back across the U.S.-Mexico border. The moves have dramatically slashed the number of detainees held in border stations, where they fear the coronavirus could spread ... CBP has fewer than 100 detainees in custody, down from nearly 20,000 at this time last year during the border crisis ... Since the implementation of the rapid expulsions, migration levels have fallen to near their lowest point in decades, with unlawful border crossings down 56 percent, said acting CBP commissioner Mark Morgan. He also acknowledged that the United States has all but closed its borders to asylum seekers who are fleeing persecution, including those who attempt to enter legally at U.S. ports of entry.”

- A federal judge ordered ICE to disclose how many detained migrants are being released in five southern states under expanded coronavirus medical reviews. ([Spencer Hsu](#))
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## The foreign fallout



A patient suffering from covid-19 is treated in the intensive care unit at Circolo Hospital in Varese, Italy. (Flavio Lo Scalzo/Reuters)

An advertisement featuring a photograph of a woman smiling and holding a young child. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text "BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM" in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom left, there are two logos: a blue cross and a blue shield, followed by the text "BlueCross BlueShield Association". At the bottom right, there is a blue button with the text "PASS THE MOMNIBUS" and a white right-pointing arrow.

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## **The E.U. reached a deal to help its hardest-hit countries.**

“In Italy, nationalist politicians for years have bashed the European Union, but this time it’s been the pro-E.U. establishment in Rome that wondered whether the bloc was failing one of its most critical tests,” [Chico Harlan, Michael Birnbaum and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). “The frustration in Italy started building after E.U. countries last month were slow to come to Italy’s aid with medical supplies. The E.U. belatedly stepped up its efforts, but resentment crested as leaders bickered over how to support the bloc’s stricken economies. A Thursday meeting of E.U. finance ministers ended with a \$590 billion compromise after days of bitterness, but it was clear that tough discussions would continue over future rounds of rescue efforts. ... The deal — which still needs to be signed off by national leaders — would use the euro zone’s bailout fund to offer up to \$262 billion in credit lines to struggling countries. In a nod to Italy’s concerns, the demands placed on countries that sought the money would be minimal. An additional \$109 billion would go toward support for employment programs that aim to avoid layoffs. Other programs would support struggling businesses and help fund medical relief efforts. And the agreement left open the possibility that euro zone countries eventually share borrowing costs.”

- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson left the intensive care unit but remains hospitalized in London. ([Reuters](#))

## **The virus may “reactivate” in cured patients, the South Korean CDC warned.**

“About 51 patients [classified] as having been cured in South Korea have tested positive again ... Rather than being infected again, the virus may have been reactivated in these people, given they tested positive again shortly after being released from quarantine,” [Bloomberg News reports](#). “A patient is deemed fully recovered when two tests conducted with a 24-hour interval show negative results. The Korean CDC will conduct an

epidemiological probe into the cases ... Fear of re-infection in recovered patients is also growing in [China] after reports that some tested positive again -- and even died from the disease -- after supposedly recovering and leaving the hospital. There's little understanding of why this happens, although some believe that the problem may lie in inconsistencies in test results."

- Tens of millions who carry HIV and tuberculosis in the developing world are among the most vulnerable to the coronavirus. The countries most at risk include South Africa, home to the world's largest number of HIV-positive people, and India, which has the highest number of tuberculosis cases in the world. ([Max Bearak and Joanna Slater](#))
- Fifteen passengers from the Ruby Princess cruise ship have died, and about 660 have been infected, making it the deadliest known outbreak on any ship and the biggest individual contributor to cases in Australia. The Australian police have assembled a team under the leadership of a homicide detective to investigate the ship and its owner, Carnival, the world's largest vacation travel company. ([A. Odysseus Patrick](#))
- Russia and the Saudis agreed on some cuts in oil production to end the current price war. Analysts cautioned that the cuts are probably too little to make much difference as the global economy fizzles. ([Will Englund, Isabelle Khurshudyan and Dino Grandoni](#))
- "World of Warcraft" experienced a pandemic in 2005 when a damaging effect called "Corrupted Blood" spread through the video-game world, forcing players to search frantically for news about what was going on. The incident has shaped one epidemiologist's understanding of human behavior during a crisis like the one we're living through now. ([Jhaan Elker](#))

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## Social media speed read

Trump once again tweeted about the ratings for his briefings, even as



hundreds of Americans died. This drew criticism from some voices on the right:



Many on the left are saying the crisis shows why a new era of big government is needed:



A Times reporter who was in Wuhan left the city now that the travel ban has been lifted:



**Chris Buckley** @ChuBailiang · 4h

Goodbye for now Wuhan. I'm leaving after 78 days. It's been an unforgettable privilege. I haven't been able to report or say much since my visa expired mid. Feb, but I leave with profound memories and friendships. I'll be in quarantine in Beijing while my next steps are decided.



**Chris Buckley** @ChuBailiang

It's a relief to be a step closer to rejoining family and friends. Right now, though, I feel sad to leave Wuhan, and gratitude for the many people who helped there — colleagues, the staff at my hotel, strangers who stopped to tell their stories, new friends now friends for life.



1,074 1:38 AM - Apr 10, 2020

133 people are talking about this

A new Trump campaign attack ad against Joe Biden, trying to link him to China, appeared to suggest that an Asian American politician is not American:

 **Edward-Isaac Dove**   
@IsaacDovere

Latest Trump ad features a montage of Biden meeting with Chinese officials. Amid that montage at the :39 mark: a clip of him with Gary Locke, the former governor of Washington/Commerce secretary/ambassador to China, who is Asian-American, but... American  
[youtu.be/Nv7yVCwv6NU](https://youtu.be/Nv7yVCwv6NU)



3,044 11:53 PM - Apr 9, 2020

1,326 people are talking about this

The top of One World Trade Center shines blue in honor of all the health-care workers on the front lines:



## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert, who has performed without an audience for weeks, shared tips for priests who plan on performing Easter services in empty churches:



Seth Meyers doesn't think Trump's coronavirus failures will be quickly forgotten:



And the "Daily Show" rounded up the do's and don'ts of video chatting:



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# The Daily 202

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with Mariana Alfaro  
 Email

## **GOP senator's coronavirus plan: Get federal government to cover 80 percent of wages.**

Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) wants the United States to follow Europe's lead. That's not something conservatives like him normally say, but he believes desperate times call for desperate measures.

The rising star on the right proposes that the federal government replicate what's been working in the United Kingdom to keep layoffs limited and immediately begin covering 80 percent of worker wages at all private

businesses, up to the national median wage, until the emergency caused by the novel coronavirus is over. He also advocates paying financial bonuses for businesses to rehire workers laid off over the past month.

As party leaders squabble over how best to expand the pool of money available for small businesses through the Paycheck Protection Program, what the freshman senator envisions in the fourth phase of congressional action is vastly more ambitious and costly than anything his Republican colleagues have outlined. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has cast doubt on the need for another gargantuan spending measure after the third phase cost \$2 trillion. But Hawley is adamant that half measures won't avert another Great Depression.



City employees in Hialeah, Fla., hand out unemployment applications to people in their vehicles on Wednesday. They've moved to printed forms because the state's unemployment website keeps crashing under the strain of new claims. (Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

The Labor Department said Thursday that more than 17 million Americans have filed for unemployment benefits in the past four weeks, [including](#) 6.6 million last week. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell



unveiled over \$2 trillion in new loans in his latest bid to keep the economy afloat. JPMorgan Chase now predicts the unemployment rate will hit 20 percent, and the economy will shrink by 40 percent, in the second quarter.

“Events are overtaking us, and so now we’ve got to adapt. That’s what I’m trying to do here,” Hawley said toward the end of a 35-minute phone interview from his house in Springfield, Mo. “I personally do not want to ride the roller coaster, not knowing where the bottom is, and that’s what I’m afraid that we’re on right now. It’s like, ‘Wow, we’re going down, down, down, down, down, down, down.’ Nobody can see the bottom. I personally don’t care to find out where the bottom might be!”

The Stanford-trained historian and Yale-educated lawyer has spoken at length with several economists, obsessively studied what other Western countries are doing to stanch their economic wounds and intensively read about what worked and what didn’t during the New Deal. “One of the things that I take away from that study – thinking back through our history, thinking back to the ‘20s and the ‘30s – is that one of the things you have to be willing to do is be adaptable,” Hawley said. “You can’t get locked into the mentality that ‘this is the only way we have to deal with this situation.’ You’ve got to be willing to say, ‘if that’s not working, let’s try something else.’”

Hawley insists that his preferred approach, while unorthodox, is not inherently unconservative because government policies have effectively blocked people from working – for good public health reasons, he hastens to add. This makes it only fair to compensate workers for the duration of the crisis, he argues, adding that relief should focus more on helping people than corporations.

“The only reason that you deliver the money through the employer is the employer pays the wages,” he said. “My view is that the American worker shouldn’t be asked to shoulder the burden of unemployment when they

haven't done anything wrong. In these extraordinary times, I think the government ought to step forward and say we are going to protect as many jobs as we can. We ought to make it our goal to protect every job.”

I asked Hawley whether he worries that the federal government will accumulate too much power during this crisis and never give it back. “I guess, at the moment, I'm more concerned about chaos that leads to 20 and 30 percent unemployment,” he said.



Sen. Josh Hawley speaks to reporters at the Capitol last month. (Al Drago/Bloomberg News)

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Content from [Facebook](#)

**\$100M grant program for small businesses impacted  
by COVID-19**



Know a small business in need of extra support right now?  
We are offering \$100 million to provide businesses with resources they need during COVID-19.

[Get started: Learn more.](#)

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Hawley, who [defeated](#) Democratic incumbent Claire McCaskill in the 2018 midterms, has been a vocal supporter of President Trump and consistently voted for his agenda. He has also emerged as an outspoken critic of corporate power, especially large technology companies, and emphasizes that the right needs to evolve to offer more help for those being left behind in the gig economy. Hawley is part of [the small conservative clique](#) in Congress that's challenging what's increasingly being called free-market fundamentalism. His view is that Republicans have been too focused on promoting individualism and corporatism over the last generation at the expense of communities and churches. ([I wrote last year](#) on his brand of right-wing populism and emergence as a new variety of culture warrior.)

His broader [proposal](#) for the fourth phase of the congressional response is on brand in that regard. He wants to shore up the medical supply chain by requiring that certain products be produced in the United States. He calls for federally backed, low-interest financing for capital expenditures by firms that bring jobs “onshore” from overseas to manufacture products there have been shortages of during the pandemic. He wants to require that companies maintain “rainy day funds” so that they have liquidity cushions during future crises.

“Frankly, it's a little bit of a constraint on size because the larger the entity, the more cushion you have to have,” Hawley said. “It puts a curb on concentration. What we don't want to see coming out of this crisis is a further acceleration of our trend towards consolidation of the American economy. My nightmare scenario is that small businesses across the country fail in this crisis, and we come out of this further consolidated.”



A man crosses the street in deserted downtown Kansas City, Mo., on what would normally be a busy workday. (Charlie Riedel/AP)

The 40-year-old clerked for Chief Justice John Roberts, which is how he met his wife, Erin, a fellow clerk. She's still practicing law and teaching, and worked to keep their kids, Elijah, 7, and Blaise, 5, occupied as we chatted. They moved to his home state a few years back so he could teach constitutional law at the University of Missouri. He was elected the state's attorney general in 2016 and became the youngest member of the Senate in 2019.

Hawley fears that small towns like the one he grew up in will not recover without dramatic government action. He's worried that vultures will take

advantage of the crisis to line their own pockets. That's why the senator wants to strengthen disclosure requirements that would make it harder for activist investors and hedge funds to buy up companies and force layoffs and liquidations.

“The number one thing is that this crisis should not be opportunity for profiteering by Wall Street,” Hawley said. “It should not be that a select few folks on Wall Street are able to make out like bandits from this while the rest of our nation suffers.”

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## Dispatches from the front lines

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Content from [Facebook](#)

### Resources for small businesses during the COVID-19 outbreak



We know it's a challenging time for small businesses. To help, Facebook set up a resource hub with information, from how to set up a customer service plan to experimenting with online events.

Visit our new Business Resource Hub for more.

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### **Cash-starved hospitals are cutting staff.**

“Hospitals across the country have deferred or canceled non-urgent surgeries to free up bed space and equipment for covid-19 patients. But that triage maneuver cut off a main source of income, causing huge losses that have forced some hospitals to let go of health-care workers as they struggle to treat infected patients,” [Shane Harris, Justin Sondel and Gregory Schneider report](#). “Hospital executives and analysts emphasize that not all the furloughed or fired workers are directly involved in treating covid-19 patients. Others say the furloughs help reduce the number of people in hospitals, slowing the spread of the virus. But the absences have put a strain on doctors, nurses and other health-care workers treating a surge of patients that has already stretched some health-care systems to the breaking point. Remaining front-line workers face longer hours, and some have seen their pay cut and benefits reduced. For hospitals already in bad financial shape before the outbreak, the loss of income has raised doubts about their ability to keep treating patients.”

- As patients die in their hallways, Michigan hospitals are running out of body bags and staffers. ([MLive](#))
- The virus is the first big test for Chicago’s Rush University Medical

Center, which was built after Sept. 11, 2001, to handle mass casualty events. As the number of cases flew past 16,000 in Illinois, Rush has about 20 percent of the ventilated cases in the state. ([Mark Guarino](#))

- The Post assembled data to analyze the availability of the critical-care resources needed to treat severely ill patients who require extended hospitalization across the nation. We conducted a stress test of sorts on available resources, which revealed a patchwork of shortcomings in cities and towns where the full force of the virus has yet to hit and where people may not be following social distancing orders. ([Amy Brittain](#), [Ted Mellnik](#), [Dan Keating](#) and [Joe Fox](#))
- A rural hospital in Sweet Springs, Mo., shut down, forcing area residents to drive long distances if they're stricken. ([News & Observer](#))
- A 25-bed rural hospital in Louisiana has become the lifeline to a hot spot where 22,000 live. Previously battered by hurricanes and a flood, the facility is struggling to keep up with a crush of patients. It has just two ventilators. ([Guardian](#))

## **The National Guard is retrieving dead bodies in New York.**

New York City has 87,725 confirmed cases of covid-19, including 21,571 hospitalizations and 4,778 deaths. “At a base down the road from Niagara Falls, a specialized unit from the New York Air National Guard had spent years preparing for one of the military’s grimmest missions: find and recover the bodies of those killed in a chemical attack, natural disaster or other mass tragedy,” [Paul Sonne reports](#). “But when their deployment orders arrived March 21, they were sent to do a job their practice sessions didn’t foresee. ... [New York City’s] medical examiners, who pick up the bodies of those who die unattended by a physician or in unexplained circumstances, were on the verge of being overwhelmed. ... [So they] have been carrying body after body out of New York City homes and apartment buildings, in some cases winding 200 pounds down the narrow staircases of walk-ups without an elevator. ... They are aiding the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, ... which typically collects about 25 bodies for investigation in New York City on a normal day and now is retrieving as

many as 150.”

- Frank Gabrin, a New York physician, became the first American ER doctor to die from the coronavirus. “I have to admit,” he wrote on Facebook as the virus spread, “I am having some anxiety.” He was 60. ([Guardian](#))
- Tasha Smith, a nurse for New York’s Mount Sinai Health System, was fired after complaining to her boss that she was uncomfortable treating coronavirus patients without proper equipment. The hospital says she was terminated because she walked off the job. Smith, who had worked there for three years, said her situation has frightened other nurses, who share her fears. “They’re afraid to speak up,” she said. “I was made an example of.” ([NYT](#))
- “This is worse than the Sept. 11 attacks,” Luis Lopez, a paramedic in the city, [told the New York Post](#). “Sept. 11 was a tragedy that happened quick. This is different. This is unsettling. It’s an odd feeling. You think it’s the flu. People are just dropping.”
- The city’s plan for the continuing surge in bodies is still unclear. While the medical examiner’s office told the [New York Daily News](#) that the city’s morgues don’t “currently anticipate reaching capacity,” the mayor’s office said unclaimed coronavirus victims could soon be buried on Hart Island, a public cemetery.

## **Parties went on as the coronavirus spread. Now comes the pain.**

“In the early days of the United States’ struggle with the coronavirus pandemic — and even well beyond — birthdays, weddings, dances, club meetings, concerts, and other large get-togethers continued more or less as normal. The virus was here, but the party went on,” [Griff Witte and Chelsea Janes report](#).

- The virus is ripping through the Navajo Nation, killing 20 people so far on the reservation, compared with 16 in the entire state of New Mexico, which has a population 13 times larger. ([NYT](#))
- A man in Florida was arrested on kidnapping and murder charges



after he allegedly plotted to obscure his wife's disappearance by pretending she was in the hospital with a severe coronavirus case. ([Katie Shepherd](#))

- A dying coronavirus patient asked Alexa for help. After Lou Ann Dagen, 66, became one of six residents at a nursing home in Cedar Springs, Mich., to die of covid-19, her sister discovered voice recordings on an Echo device as she pleaded for help while her condition deteriorated. "How do I get help?" she asked in the recording. "How do I get to the police?" ([NYT](#))
- New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu (R) will allow mail-in voting in November because of the outbreak. Sununu said the state is considering other voting alternatives, too, including "drive-up voting." ([Colby Itkowitz and Amy Gardner](#))

### **Some cities and counties are making masks mandatory.**

Governments in Los Angeles, Miami and Montgomery County in the D.C. suburbs enacted measures that order residents to wear face coverings when visiting grocery stores, pharmacies and other essential businesses. The CDC only recommends doing so. ([Rebecca Tan](#))

Alabama will no longer enforce its anti-masking law. In the 1940s, as the state tried to distance itself from the Ku Klux Klan, lawmakers banned anyone from wearing a mask in public. The only previous exception was for revelers wearing decorative eyewear during Mardi Gras celebrations. ([Teo Armus](#))

**"I spent six days on a ventilator with covid-19. It saved me, but my life is not the same."**

"Many patients who come off ventilators suffer lasting physical, mental and emotional issues, including cognitive deficits, lost jobs and psychological issues, such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder," [writes David Lat](#), founding editor of Above the Law. "I used to run marathons; now I can't walk across a room or up a flight of stairs without getting winded. I can't go around the block for fresh air unless my

husband pushes me in a wheelchair. ... Being on the ventilator for almost a week damaged my vocal cords, and now my voice is extremely hoarse. My speech pathologist expressed optimism that the damage is not permanent. Only time will tell. I'm not complaining. I am incredibly grateful to be alive. And for that, I have the ventilator to thank."

## **Coronavirus deaths hit a new high in the D.C. region.**

"The District, Maryland and Virginia on Thursday reported 53 additional coronavirus fatalities combined, another single-day record, as the region's leaders braced for the death toll to continue rising and confronted the disproportionate impact the pandemic was having on the area's black residents," [Fenit Nirappil, Ovetta Wiggins and John Harden report](#). "The three jurisdictions now have a combined 11,766 confirmed coronavirus cases and 280 deaths. ... Virginia reported 34 fatalities Thursday morning — more than the previous six days combined. Officials said the single-day jump is partially because of delays in adding deaths at a Richmond-area long-term care facility to the state tally. ... The District reported five new deaths and Maryland reported 14 new fatalities. Neither marked a significant increase."

- Maryland for the first time also released racial demographics of its cases and fatalities, confirming that black residents are disproportionately affected in all three jurisdictions. Maryland is about 30 percent black, but African Americans made up half of the deaths and cases where race is known. In the District, all five of the new victims disclosed on Thursday were black. In a city that is less than 50 percent black, more than 60 percent of the 33 fatalities are African American.
- D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) said the District would launch a hotline to deliver essential items, including groceries, at no-cost to those under self-quarantine or unable to leave their homes.
- A surge of spring cleaning, inspired by people stuck at home because of the the virus, is leaving residential garbage cans overflowing,

putting stress on suburban trash collection systems. Jurisdictions are collecting up to 40 percent more residential trash, even as they encourage residents to forgo yard waste disposal or tidying up. ([Justin Moyer and Jahi Chikwendiu](#))

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## More on the federal response



### **Trump is pushing to reopen much of the country next month.**

“Behind closed doors, Trump — concerned with the sagging economy — has sought a strategy for resuming business activity by May 1,” [Matt Zapotosky, Josh Dawsey, Jose Del Real and William Wan report](#). “In phone calls with outside advisers, Trump has even floated trying to reopen much of the country before the end of this month, when the current federal recommendations to avoid social gatherings and work from home expire ... Trump regularly looks at unemployment and stock market numbers, complaining that they are hurting his presidency and reelection prospects ... The president ... asks regularly: ‘When can we reopen?’ ...

“There have already been vigorous debates, with public-health experts and

some presidential advisers warning against reopening too soon, while key members of the president's economic team — and some conservatives in the vice president's orbit — push for a quicker return to normality. Among those pushing to reopen the economy ... is Marc Short, the vice president's chief of staff and a top adviser to Trump. Short has argued there will be fewer deaths than the models show and that the country has already overreacted ... Anthony S. Fauci, the nation's top expert on infectious diseases, said Thursday that some places might reopen sooner than others, and that hard-hit New York, for example, shouldn't loosen its restrictions until there was a 'very steep decline' in infections. 'It's not going to be one size fits all,' he said.

"New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D) said Thursday that hospitalizations and intensive-care admissions in the state have fallen, suggesting progress. But he stressed that he did not know when New Yorkers would be able to begin a return to normal life. 'We're not going to go from red to green; we're going to go from red to yellow,' Cuomo said. ... [Jerome] Powell, the Federal Reserve chair, notably did not advocate a May reopening, saying such steps were more likely after July. And even some close to Trump seemed wary of supporting an early date."

**History is at risk of repeating itself:** A 2007 study funded by the CDC examined the fate of several U.S. cities after they eased restrictions too soon during the 1918 flu pandemic. Those cities believed they were on the other side of the peak, and, like today, had residents and business leaders worried about the economy. Once these cities lifted the restrictions, however, their trajectory soon turned into a double-humped curve with two peaks instead of one. In many cases, the second outbreak was worse than the first.

**Ohio's early intervention is paying off.** With about 5,100 cases, it has fewer than a third the number of people with the coronavirus as three comparably sized states — Michigan, Pennsylvania and Illinois. And Ohio,

under the leadership of Gov. Mike DeWine (R), has just a small fraction of the deaths reported in those states, [Lenny Bernstein reports](#).

**Washington state is flattening the curve:** The Seattle region's use of early intervention policies, and its expansion of widespread testing, has helped the region begin to bring the virus to heel. Although King County was the site of the nation's first deadly outbreak, the latest data shows the rate of infection slowing and hospitalizations dropping. The numbers of deaths and new cases are expected to peak this week, [Robert Klemko reports](#).

### **But eight Republican governors still refuse to issue stay-at-home orders.**

The leaders of Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming have yet to impose stay-at-home orders for everyone in their states, despite some being urged to do so this week by Surgeon General Jerome Adams and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, per [Bloomberg News](#).

- Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts issued a proclamation urging residents to stay home for the next three weeks, but he explicitly said it is not a shelter-in-place order. ([KCAU9](#))
- Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt argued that his safer-at-home order is essentially the same as shelter-in-place orders issued elsewhere, but the directive only says that people over 65 or who have serious underlying medical conditions should stay home. ([Oklahoman](#))
- Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, who ordered nonessential businesses to close, said the virus is not poised to affect Iowa's June primary election. The state's public health director said Iowa is "starting to see our curve kind of flatten out." There are 1,270 cases in the state, with 29 deaths. ([Des Moines Register](#))
- North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum cited low case numbers – 251 total – as the reason why he's not ordering people to stay home. The state does have a self-quarantine order that asks people to stay at home for

14 days after returning from about three dozen states, including neighboring Minnesota. ([CBS Minnesota](#))

- Meanwhile, Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly (D) sued the state’s Republican-controlled legislative council after it revoked her executive order that limits church gatherings before Easter. Kelly said the “purely political move” put Kansans at risk. ([Meagan Flynn and Isaac Stanley-Becker](#))



## Quote of the day

*“Everybody is assuming, well, once we get through this, we’re done. I wouldn’t be so quick to assume that,” said New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D). “This virus has been ahead of us from Day One. We’ve underestimated the enemy, and that is always dangerous, my friends. We should not do that again.”* ([Heather Long, Matt Zapposky and David Fahrenthold](#))

## Senators clashed over how best to help small businesses.

“Competing proposals for coronavirus relief failed in the Senate on Thursday morning, as Democrats objected to a proposed \$250 billion increase in a small business program and Republicans shot down the counter-offer,” [Erica Werner and Mike DeBonis report](#). “Senate Majority

Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) accused Democrats of treating ‘working Americans as political hostages’ by refusing to add more money to the ‘Paycheck Protection Program,’ a new \$350 billion small business loan program that is being overwhelmed by demand. ... Democrats disputed that the program was in immediate need of more funds, saying they wanted changes to ensure fairness and transparency. They are also seeking major funding increases for hospitals and health systems and cities and states, along with a 15 percent increase in food stamp benefits. ... Democrats’ proposal would allocate the additional \$250 billion for small businesses, but specify that only half of that would go to the Paycheck Protection Program. The other half would include \$60 billion for community-based lenders, and \$65 billion for disaster loans and disaster grants, among other items."

- About 70 percent of small businesses have applied for an emergency loan. It’s unclear how many have received them. ([Renaë Merle](#))

### **Trump has used emergency public health powers to expel 10,000 migrants at the border.**

The administration is using the contagion to give Customs and Border Protection broad authority to bypass immigration laws, [Nick Miroff reports](#). “The measures have allowed the agency to quickly turn away most unauthorized migrants — sending them back across the U.S.-Mexico border. The moves have dramatically slashed the number of detainees held in border stations, where they fear the coronavirus could spread ... CBP has fewer than 100 detainees in custody, down from nearly 20,000 at this time last year during the border crisis ... Since the implementation of the rapid expulsions, migration levels have fallen to near their lowest point in decades, with unlawful border crossings down 56 percent, said acting CBP commissioner Mark Morgan. He also acknowledged that the United States has all but closed its borders to asylum seekers who are fleeing persecution, including those who attempt to enter legally at U.S. ports of entry.”

- A federal judge ordered ICE to disclose how many detained migrants are being released in five southern states under expanded coronavirus medical reviews. ([Spencer Hsu](#))
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## The foreign fallout



A patient suffering from covid-19 is treated in the intensive care unit at Circolo Hospital in Varese, Italy. (Flavio Lo Scalzo/Reuters)

An advertisement for the BlueCross BlueShield Association. The top half features a photograph of a woman with dark hair and a young child, both smiling and looking at each other. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text "BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM" in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom left, there are two logos: a blue shield with a white cross and a blue shield with a white cross, followed by the text "BlueCross BlueShield Association". At the bottom right, there is a blue button with the text "PASS THE MOMNIBUS &gt;" in white. The background of the advertisement is dark.

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## **The E.U. reached a deal to help its hardest-hit countries.**

“In Italy, nationalist politicians for years have bashed the European Union, but this time it’s been the pro-E.U. establishment in Rome that wondered whether the bloc was failing one of its most critical tests,” [Chico Harlan, Michael Birnbaum and Stefano Pitrelli report](#). “The frustration in Italy started building after E.U. countries last month were slow to come to Italy’s aid with medical supplies. The E.U. belatedly stepped up its efforts, but resentment crested as leaders bickered over how to support the bloc’s stricken economies. A Thursday meeting of E.U. finance ministers ended with a \$590 billion compromise after days of bitterness, but it was clear that tough discussions would continue over future rounds of rescue efforts. ... The deal — which still needs to be signed off by national leaders — would use the euro zone’s bailout fund to offer up to \$262 billion in credit lines to struggling countries. In a nod to Italy’s concerns, the demands placed on countries that sought the money would be minimal. An additional \$109 billion would go toward support for employment programs that aim to avoid layoffs. Other programs would support struggling businesses and help fund medical relief efforts. And the agreement left open the possibility that euro zone countries eventually share borrowing costs.”

- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson left the intensive care unit but remains hospitalized in London. ([Reuters](#))

## **The virus may “reactivate” in cured patients, the South Korean CDC warned.**

“About 51 patients [classified] as having been cured in South Korea have tested positive again ... Rather than being infected again, the virus may have been reactivated in these people, given they tested positive again shortly after being released from quarantine,” [Bloomberg News reports](#). “A patient is deemed fully recovered when two tests conducted with a 24-hour interval show negative results. The Korean CDC will conduct an

epidemiological probe into the cases ... Fear of re-infection in recovered patients is also growing in [China] after reports that some tested positive again -- and even died from the disease -- after supposedly recovering and leaving the hospital. There's little understanding of why this happens, although some believe that the problem may lie in inconsistencies in test results."

- Tens of millions who carry HIV and tuberculosis in the developing world are among the most vulnerable to the coronavirus. The countries most at risk include South Africa, home to the world's largest number of HIV-positive people, and India, which has the highest number of tuberculosis cases in the world. ([Max Bearak and Joanna Slater](#))
- Fifteen passengers from the Ruby Princess cruise ship have died, and about 660 have been infected, making it the deadliest known outbreak on any ship and the biggest individual contributor to cases in Australia. The Australian police have assembled a team under the leadership of a homicide detective to investigate the ship and its owner, Carnival, the world's largest vacation travel company. ([A. Odysseus Patrick](#))
- Russia and the Saudis agreed on some cuts in oil production to end the current price war. Analysts cautioned that the cuts are probably too little to make much difference as the global economy fizzles. ([Will Englund, Isabelle Khurshudyan and Dino Grandoni](#))
- "World of Warcraft" experienced a pandemic in 2005 when a damaging effect called "Corrupted Blood" spread through the video-game world, forcing players to search frantically for news about what was going on. The incident has shaped one epidemiologist's understanding of human behavior during a crisis like the one we're living through now. ([Jhaan Elker](#))

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## Social media speed read

Trump once again tweeted about the ratings for his briefings, even as

hundreds of Americans died. This drew criticism from some voices on the right:



Many on the left are saying the crisis shows why a new era of big government is needed:



A Times reporter who was in Wuhan left the city now that the travel ban has been lifted:



**Chris Buckley** @ChuBailiang · 4h

Goodbye for now Wuhan. I'm leaving after 78 days. It's been an unforgettable privilege. I haven't been able to report or say much since my visa expired mid. Feb, but I leave with profound memories and friendships. I'll be in quarantine in Beijing while my next steps are decided.



**Chris Buckley** @ChuBailiang

It's a relief to be a step closer to rejoining family and friends. Right now, though, I feel sad to leave Wuhan, and gratitude for the many people who helped there — colleagues, the staff at my hotel, strangers who stopped to tell their stories, new friends now friends for life.



1,074 1:38 AM - Apr 10, 2020

133 people are talking about this

A new Trump campaign attack ad against Joe Biden, trying to link him to China, appeared to suggest that an Asian American politician is not American:

 **Edward-Isaac Dove**   
@IsaacDovere

Latest Trump ad features a montage of Biden meeting with Chinese officials. Amid that montage at the :39 mark: a clip of him with Gary Locke, the former governor of Washington/Commerce secretary/ambassador to China, who is Asian-American, but... American  
[youtu.be/Nv7yVCwv6NU](https://youtu.be/Nv7yVCwv6NU)



3,044 11:53 PM - Apr 9, 2020

1,326 people are talking about this

The top of One World Trade Center shines blue in honor of all the health-care workers on the front lines:



## Videos of the day

Stephen Colbert, who has performed without an audience for weeks, shared tips for priests who plan on performing Easter services in empty churches:



Seth Meyers doesn't think Trump's coronavirus failures will be quickly forgotten:



And the "Daily Show" rounded up the do's and don'ts of video chatting:



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] April 10 -- Greenwire is ready  
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AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**GREENWIRE — Fri., April 10, 2020**

 [READ FULL EDITION](#)

## 1. ENERGY MARKETS:

### **Oil still volatile as Trump touts potential OPEC deal**

President Trump welcomed a potential deal among the world's oil-producing nations to prop up oil prices, saying it could avert widespread layoffs, but the price of oil fell as analysts said the deal didn't go far enough to fix the price crash caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

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**Former FERC staffer tapped to lead electricity group**

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**Marsh dwellers star in films about La. bayous**

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From: [The Washington Post](#)  
To: [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: Where will we be on May 1?  
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 2:23:07 PM

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The Washington Post

# Coronavirus Updates

Important developments in the coronavirus pandemic.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Avi Selk](#)  
✉ Email

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**The economy is deteriorating “with alarming speed,”** Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome H. Powell said Thursday, as nationwide quarantines have caused more than 17 million people to file jobless claims and **some economists believe we are in a depression.** [We report that “the nation has not experienced this magnitude of layoffs and economic contraction since the Great Depression, many experts say, and recovery is unlikely to be swift.”](#)

**The collapse is manifesting itself in eye-popping financial reports from states and cities:** Illinois owes \$8.3 billion in unpaid

bills. New York could lose billions in tax revenue. Pennsylvania has stopped paying 9,000 quarantined state employees. [Find further details on shortages in other parts of the country, as well as on the split in Congress over what to do about it.](#)

**Worried about the economy's effect on his reelection prospects, President Trump is pushing to send Americans back to work before many health experts believe is safe.** He has publicly suggested the worst of the outbreak will soon be over, and has privately asked aides for a strategy to resume business activity by May 1. [Read about the White House push to reopen the country.](#)

Lifting quarantines just as they are showing signs of reducing infections would lead to disaster, experts warn, because **the United States still lacks the testing capabilities needed to identify and contain new outbreaks.** It's also unclear how Trump would force governors to relax stay-at-home orders in their states.

**Ohio is emerging as a model example of how to manage the virus: identify it early, plan for the worst and hope for the best.** Gov. Mike DeWine (R) shut down a major convention in early March, before the state had a single confirmed infection, and the Cleveland Clinic began planning to add hundreds of new hospital beds even earlier. That head start appears to be paying off, with Ohio reporting dramatically lower infection and death rates than similarly sized states such as Michigan, Pennsylvania and Illinois. [More on its aggressive strategy here.](#) Then [check out a video from the state's Department of Health](#) that has gone viral as a crystal-clear visualization of how social distancing is meant to fight the virus's spread.

## More important reads

- [One chart puts this week's awful unemployment numbers in perspective](#)

- [Apple, Google debut major effort to help people track if they've been in contact with virus](#)
- [Analysis: How advocates of a return to normal misrepresent death tolls](#)
- [Rare voices from Iran's outbreak tell of stumbling government, deluged hospitals](#)
- [The European Union struck a deal to help its worst-hit countries, but still risks fracturing](#)
- [“Speak the truth,” Obama tells mayors in coronavirus address. “The biggest mistake any \[of\] us can make in these situations is to misinform.”](#)

If you or someone you know would like to read Post coverage on the pandemic in Spanish, [sign up for the Post Opinión, Edición Coronavirus newsletter](#) to get updates and commentary straight to your inbox on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Share Coronavirus Updates



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Content from [Slack](#)

## Staying productive while working from home



Working remotely in Slack? Try these simple Slack [habits and tricks](#) that make remote teamwork work.

[Stay connected and productive](#) with Slack, the channel-based messaging platform.

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## Live updates

**Track deaths and confirmed cases in the U.S.** at the county level.

**Follow the spread** of the outbreak worldwide with our updating map.

Post reporters across the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day.**

Read live updates about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area.**

How you can **help people in need** | The Washington Post **Helping Hand covid-19 relief campaign**

**Submit a question** and The Post may answer it in a future story, live chat or newsletter.

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## Your questions, answered

***“The coronavirus started in bats, traveled around the world in people and has also infected felines. Could the corona end up infecting and spreading in our own bat population?” — Susan Wetmore in Nebraska***

Yes it could, and thank you for asking about the bats, which have been unfairly demonized for their role in the virus's origin story.

The novel coronavirus is a species-hopper. Scientists believe it first incubated inside horseshoe bats in China — which have amazing immune systems that makes them unwitting hosts for many pathogens — and mutated to spread to humans last year.

Since then, the virus has infected at least 1.5 million people, but also some dogs, cats — [even a tiger at the Bronx Zoo](#).

**Now the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is worried the coronavirus could spread to North American bats** such as the vesper bat, which last shared a common ancestor with the horseshoe bats of China approximately 50 million years ago. “They are about as different as bats get from one another,” Bruce Patterson, a curator of mammals at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, told The Post.

The chance is fairly low of the virus going full circle — from bats to people then back into bats on the other side of the planet. But, as The Post reports, it would be bad for bats and non-bats alike if it happened.

The North American bat population is already being decimated by an unrelated fungal disease, and their long-distance flight patterns could spread the coronavirus over a huge area if they became incubators.

**There could even be a “spill-back of [the novel coronavirus] from bats back into humans ...** which would make eradication of [the virus] unlikely,” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service veterinarian Samantha Gibbs wrote in a notice to researchers, asking them to suspend all bat fieldwork, lest an infected scientist sicken a bat. [Read the whole story for more.](#)

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## Today’s top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- How to keep Easter meals special, even if they have to be different this year

- On Parenting: This is a time to strengthen sibling bonds
- Perspective: Streets are empty, but Home Depot is packed

## **He's delivering your groceries to you. He's also risking his life.**

By Ellen McCarthy • [Read more »](#)



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## **'People just didn't care': How the Ruby Princess cruise ship became a deathtrap**

By A. Odysseus Patrick • [Read more »](#)

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## **Grandmother famous for accidentally inviting teen to Thanksgiving loses husband to covid-19**

By Hannah Knowles • [Read more »](#)

---

## **Suspicious texts claimed a missing woman had coronavirus. Then, police arrested her husband on murder charges.**

By Katie Shepherd • [Read more »](#)

---

## **Joy Harjo: 'What joins us together is poetry'**

[Read more »](#)

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## **It's come to this**



**ICE T** ✓  
@FINALLEVEL



Wait.... Before you Hate. Lol #QuarantineLife



♥ 95.1K 11:30 PM - Apr 8, 2020



🗨 25.2K people are talking about this



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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Recipes! A perfect pot of beans, super-easy taquitos and beyond-ham recipes for Easter  
**Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 8:11:49 AM

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The Washington Post

# Recipes

What to cook during the week ahead, from Post Food editors.



By **Ann Maloney**

 Email

My [sourdough starter](#) died. And, frankly, on my list of things to be stressed about, that's dead last. Some people are using this time at home during the pandemic to [learn a new language](#) or, well, [master the art of sourdough bread making](#). Some of us — including me — are not.

And, folks, that's okay.

We may all be in the same boat, metaphorically, but in reality each of our boats is unique and loaded with vastly different things. (My colleague Becky Krystal articulated this beautifully with a column she wrote: [Why sourdough baking is a non-starter for me right now](#). Spoiler alert: The column is not really about bread-making, y'all.)

My heart aches to [be with family at Easter on Sunday](#). Others are facing [Passovers](#) or Ramadans without loved ones. Many are facing deeper issues related to health and finances.

A well-made meal might seem like a tiny thing, but it is still a bright tiny thing, a mood lifter, a comfort.

Right now what I want from food is sustenance, great taste and ease. If you feel the same way, we've got some sure things on the menu this week.

I made baked [black bean and corn taquitos](#). It's a fun little dish to make. The kids can help. It is a dish that calls to mind care-free college years, when dinner was often a snacky food eaten with pals.

Food and dining editor Joe Yonan put together guidance for making a ["simply perfect pot of beans."](#) Cook a pot and then make a few of the five dishes that that one pot will support.

Nourish columnist Ellie Krieger contributed a [one-skillet, pantry-friendly dish of grains and salmon](#).

Ali Slagle suggested a dish so simple, I did a face-palm for why I never thought of it. She builds [herby salads that include the whole herb, stems and all](#). It tasted like a spring garden.

And, Kari Sonde [made ramen eggs, a delicious snack](#) that gives the humble egg a flavor boost.

Olga Massov came up with a kitchen project that meets my criteria: [Make yogurt at home](#). I had never done it before, and it is so very easy and results in a tangy yogurt that can be used in many ways.

Well before the pandemic and [the egg shortage](#), I experimented with several ways to hard-cook eggs. If your Easter tradition includes boiling and dyeing eggs, [check out the primer](#). Then, make delicious dishes with those eggs with [classic egg salad](#) or [simple deviled egg recipes](#).

At a time when you can't do this and you can't do that, you can take solace in the things you *can* control and enjoy. If food is one of those things, take it easy or make it a challenge. No judgment folks.

Do watcha wanna ... in the kitchen.



## Baked Black Bean and Corn Taquitos with Mango Salsa

Make a platter to serve with your favorite salsa and garnishes such as cilantro, Mexican crema and diced onion and tomato.

By Ann Maloney • [Read more »](#)

## Simply Perfect Pot of Beans

Use whatever bean you like, and these instructions will help you cook it right — and use it to make delicious meals.

By Joe Yonan • [Read more »](#)



## Orzo Skillet With Salmon, Peas, Dill and Feta

Demands for seconds are guaranteed.

By Ellie Krieger • [Read more »](#)





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## Herbs and Their Stems Salad

Finely chop the herb's thicker stems and add them to your salad. You'll get more textures and flavors from a single herb.

By Ali Slagle • [Read more »](#)



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## Marinated ramen eggs are simple to make and sheer joy to eat

You may never want to make plain boiled eggs again.

By Kari Sonde • [Read more »](#)



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## Making yogurt at home is easier than you think

This homemade version will taste more nuanced, creamier and tangier than any store-bought brand.

By Olga Massov • [Read more »](#)



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## More from Voraciously

**Smaller, virtual or ham-less, our Easter meals will look different this year. Here's how to keep it special.**

We asked experts for advice.

By Emily Heil • [Read more »](#)





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## 6 Easter recipes for a scaled-down, but still festive holiday feast

Whether with many or few, with eggs or without, Easter is a moment of culinary joy.

By Kari Sonde • [Read more »](#)



## Healthy snacks can be tempting treats: These 5 recipes prove it

Bored with your usual snacks? Here is a batch of healthful options you'll love.

By Kari Sonde • [Read more »](#)



## Dig into these 4 delicious, guilt-free dishes that are easy to make, too

Not every day can be a cake day! That's where these Nourish recipes come in handy.

By Kari Sonde • [Read more »](#)



## 8 chickpea recipes that prove this legume is a do-it-all pantry star

From curries and salads to hummus and falafel, we've got plenty of inspiration.

By Becky Krystal • [Read more »](#)



## How to make substitutions for spices, herbs, dairy and meat in your everyday cooking

Pep talk: Your food will turn out just fine.



By Becky Krystal • [Read more »](#)

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**From:** [The Washington Post](#)  
**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: IRS prepares to send your stimulus checks  
**Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 2:12:45 PM

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# Coronavirus Updates

Important developments in the coronavirus pandemic.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Avi Selk](#)  
✉ [Email](#)

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**The United States has more confirmed covid-19 deaths than any other nation**, with nearly 19,000 fatal cases, including more than 2,000 reported on Friday alone. The country also accounts for nearly 30 percent of **the world's known infections**: about 500,000 out of more than 1.7 million, although all these figures are probably too low due to a general scarcity of coronavirus testing and suspect reports from such countries as China.

**U.S. governors have asked Congress for \$500 billion in rescue funds**, as many states face massive budget shortfalls after paying for the



public health responses at the outbreak's front lines. The economic crisis has also pushed the Postal Service to the brink of collapse, [we report in a story about President Trump's refusal to bail out the mail service.](#)

**The IRS has created an online tool to help people who don't file taxes,** such as many Social Security recipients, get their stimulus payments sooner. Payments of up to \$1,200 a person will be sent to most people's bank accounts starting next week, according to the tax agency. [Find out more about how you can track your payment.](#)

**Another stimulus program to loan \$349 billion to small businesses is faltering,** The Post reports: “Banks, tasked with disbursing the money, have been confused about the rules, which has delayed lending. Entrepreneurs are reporting troubles applying. And even some who make it through the application process say they’re facing dilemmas about how to use the money.” [Read more here.](#)

Concerned that last month’s stimulus package was too generous with unemployment benefits, Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia has tweaked rules to make it more difficult for gig workers to get money and easier for businesses to avoid paying workers sick and family leave. [The full report can be found here.](#)

**The pandemic has turbocharged a movement to eliminate SAT and ACT testing requirements for college applicants.** Advocates have argued for years that the tests penalize freshmen who lack access to good teachers and prep courses. We report that a record number of schools have made the tests optional in the past few weeks — [“actions that could presage a broad shift away from admissions testing in higher education.”](#)

[A psychologist explains why the pandemic is making you dream about organizing a duck boat tour](#) at an eerily deserted shopping

mall where all the stores are shrouded in wrapping paper, or, you know, whatever's on your subconscious.

## More important reads

- [Four reasons the coronavirus is killing so many black Americans.](#)
- [Islamists and far-right extremists are using the same apps to recruit people during the pandemic.](#)
- [A conservative senator's plan for the federal government to cover 80 percent of people's wages.](#)
- [Both parties want another huge stimulus but are at a stalemate over where the money should go.](#)
- [An early study shows promising signs for an experimental covid-19 treatment.](#)

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### Staying productive while working from home



Working remotely in Slack? Try these simple Slack [habits and tricks](#) that make remote teamwork work.

[Stay connected and productive](#) with Slack, the channel-based messaging platform.

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## Live updates

[Track deaths and confirmed cases in the United States](#) at the

county level.

**Follow the spread** of the outbreak worldwide with our updating map.

Post reporters across the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day**.

Read the latest updates about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area**.

How you can **help people in need** | The Washington Post **Helping Hand covid-19 relief campaign**

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## Your questions, answered

***“What other physical and/or mental impairments post-covid-19 will a survivor have?” – Kathi Higgison in Michigan***

Sadly, there are quite a few.

Even though covid-19 is a new disease, the lung failure that is its most deadly symptom is not. About 200,000 Americans suffer from acute respiratory distress every year for various reasons. Roughly 60 percent of patients survive the condition, giving doctors “a deep reservoir of knowledge about what happens to such people after they leave the hospital,” The Post reported.

A prolonged stay in intensive care can be traumatic, with many patients experiencing nightmarish hallucinations that, because of isolation measures taken during the pandemic, are compounded by not being allowed to see visitors, or even their doctor's face. **“Even a year after**

**leaving the intensive care unit, many people experience post-traumatic stress disorder, Alzheimer’s-like cognitive deficits, depression, lost jobs and problems with daily activities such as bathing and eating,”** we write.

About 1 in 12 people with covid-19 will need to be hooked up to a mechanical ventilator to keep breathing, which can create a whole new set of complications.

[We published a first-person essay by a coronavirus survivor in New York](#) who writes: “I used to run marathons; now I can’t walk across a room or up a flight of stairs without getting winded. I can’t go around the block for fresh air unless my husband pushes me in a wheelchair. When I shower, I can’t stand the entire time; I take breaks from standing to sit down on a plastic stool I have placed inside my bathtub.”

Many recovered patients will likely leave the hospital with these sorts of physical and psychological issues, only to face a quarantined world that discourages hugging and touching, where others may stigmatize them for fear of contagion. [Please read our story so that you might better empathize — or \(we hope not\) prepare for the ordeal.](#)

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## Today’s top reads

*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- *Learn the FDA's updated list of best safety practices for supermarket and food retail workers.*
- *A Q&A on manners in the age of the coronavirus.*
- *Overeating during the shutdown? Research says don't beat yourself up — try being kind.*



## Anguished nurses say Pennsylvania hospital risked infecting cancer patients, babies and staff with covid-19

Like many hospitals across the country, Moses Taylor Hospital in Scranton, Pa., wasn't prepared for the influx of covid-19 patients.

By Desmond Butler • [Read more »](#)

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## Watching kids play in the neighborhood buoys spirits the way sports once did

Perspective • By Sally Jenkins • [Read more »](#)

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## In India, life under coronavirus brings blue skies and clean air

By Joanna Slater • [Read more »](#)

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## A plan to defeat coronavirus finally emerges, but it's not from

## the White House

By Lena H. Sun, William Wan and Yasmeen Abutaleb • [Read more »](#)

# Artists are tweaking famous paintings for the coronavirus era

Want to see what a socially distanced “Last Supper” looks like? Or an empty “Pont Neuf, Paris?” [Sure you do, and we have a whole story on this weird and melancholy art fad.](#)





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**To:** [jeff\\_mow@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_mow@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Week in Ideas: What's it like to give birth in the middle of a pandemic  
**Date:** Sunday, April 12, 2020 5:05:46 AM

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# The Week in Ideas

Opinions you may have missed.



By [Fred Hiatt](#)  
✉ [Email](#)

You know how Albert Einstein spent much of his childhood? Building houses of cards. Not to say your little ones are future Nobelists (though who's to say?); but, [says Lenore Skenazy](#), it does suggest you should not feel obliged to be constantly teaching and stimulating them while they are out of school. "What is a parent to do?" she asks. "Here's a thought: Give up!!!!"

Even if you're one of the many Americans consoling and occupying yourself by baking bread, you might wonder how much there is to say, or learn, about yeast. [Here is a lovely answer from Sudeep Agarwala](#).

Speaking of consoling: We asked a diverse group of pastors to share abbreviated versions of the sermons they're unable to deliver in person today. One of them, Michael Curry, presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal Church, writes, "Maybe our empty churches, synagogues, temples, mosques and other places of worship — and even stadiums and stores and coffee shops — are actually signs of hope." [You can read his full](#)



[message, and eight others, here.](#)

What's it like to give birth in the middle of a pandemic? Dr. Leana S. Wen, an emergency physician and public health expert who writes for us from time to time, had her second child just over a week ago. [Here is her moving, bittersweet report.](#)

As I mentioned last week, we've tried to pause when we can to remember and appreciate some of the lives we are losing to covid-19. Columnist David Von Drehle celebrated one you probably know, [John Prine](#), and one, [Lisa Ewald](#), who wasn't famous but whose story will touch your heart.

Sen. Bernie Sanders suspended his campaign and, [as our Post Pundit Power Ranking editor Drew Goins notes](#), "unless 82 turns out to be the new 78, he'll be too old to run in 2024." So who will be the next "movement" candidate — progressive, populist or otherwise? Our pundits come up with some surprising possibilities.

Thank you as always for reading, and please continue to socially distance!

## What's a parent to do during a pandemic? Give up.

The idea that parents have to enrich every second of their kids' lives was a crazy lie even before the coronavirus.

By Lenore Skenazy • [Read more »](#)



## Think you're out of baker's yeast? Think again.

Supermarkets may be sold out of bakers' yeast. But luckily, yeast isn't gone — it's still all around us.

By Sudeep Agarwala • [Read more »](#)





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## The one thing about giving birth during the covid-19 pandemic that I didn't anticipate

Patients and providers inhabit a new normal in which we worry about — and for —each other.

By Leana S. Wen • [Read more »](#)



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## Their churches will be closed on Easter. Here's what they would have said.

How the story of the first Easter provides solace to those suffering this Easter.

[Read more »](#)



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## John Prine was a rare poet of American song

He made us laugh until we cried. Or cry until we laughed. Or laugh and cry simultaneously.

By David Von Drehle • [Read more »](#)

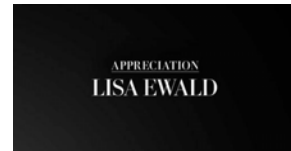


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## Lisa Ewald was a soldier who didn't really have a chance to fight

We must not forget the first wave of warriors who fell in this war.

By David Von Drehle • [Read more »](#)





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## Bernie is out. Here's who'll lead the next big movement.

Progressive, populist or otherwise.

By The Ranking Committee • [Read more »](#)



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**Date:** Sunday, April 12, 2020 7:30:20 AM



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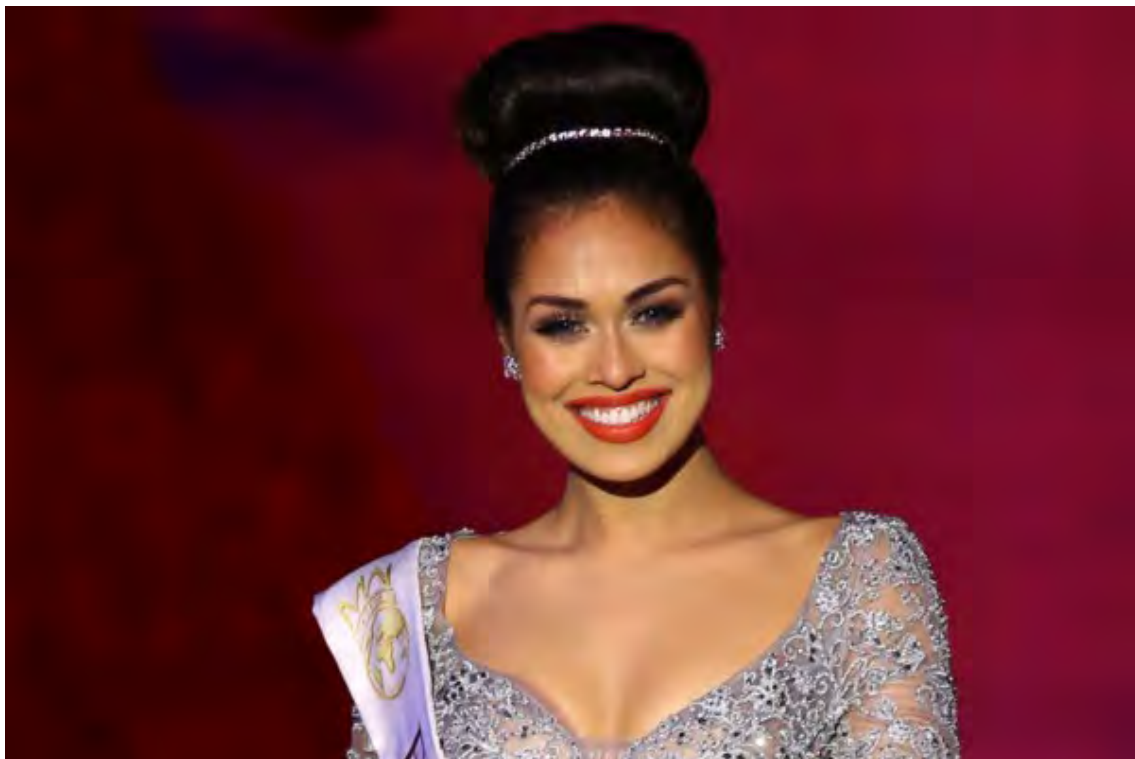
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# The Optimist

Stories that inspire.



(Joel C. Ryan/Invision/AP)

## Miss England 2019 is reporting for hospital duty. She's a doctor who specializes in respiratory medicine.

Bhasha Mukherjee, 24, packed up her crown and gowns and flew home to Britain, where she is now in quarantine until early next week, when she reports to the hospital for work.

By Cathy Free • [Read more »](#)

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## The nightly ovation for hospital workers may be New York's greatest performance

The new ritual is a collective expression of a stricken city's anxiety and appreciation.



**Perspective** • By Peter Marks • [Read more »](#)

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## Lawyers, hobbyists and even a bridal shop are making masks — and giving them away

"This is a war," said the owner of a bridal shop. "We need to come together."

By Teddy Amenabar • [Read more »](#)

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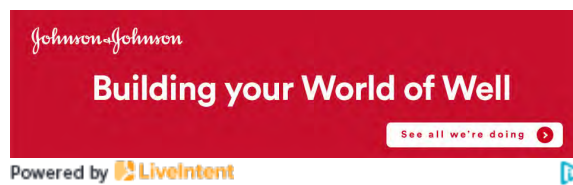
## Christian Siriano has become the face of a fashion industry that once dismissed him

The designer's company has made 7,000 masks for New York — one of the many causes that his pop-culture status has helped him take on.


By Robin Givhan • [Read more »](#)

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## Chicago mayor deploys humor and memes in coronavirus fight

The usually serious Lori Lightfoot is popping up everywhere — in videos and memes — with unusually comedic stay-home messaging.



By Mark Guarino • [Read more »](#)

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## Thanks, Barbie, for making me a better parent

When my girls are playing with Barbie, they recreate their days in exacting detail.

**Perspective** • By Theresa Blackinton • [Read more »](#)

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## This jazz musician toured the world with Prince and Stevie Wonder. Now he's performing for his neighbors.

Harmonica virtuoso Frédéric Yonnet is hosting jam sessions from his house on Sunday afternoons.



By Fritz Hahn • [Read more »](#)

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## As a warming climate delivers more rain, overwhelming sewers and polluting waterways, one city is trying a green solution

More frequent flooding is overwhelming city drainage systems, sending raw sewage into rivers and streams. But Philadelphia is trying an innovative fix — capturing rainwater before flows into city drains.

By Frances Stead Sellers • [Read more »](#)

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## With baseball paused, the Nationals and José Andrés's World

## Central Kitchen hustle to feed the needy

The nonprofit group has partnered with the team to turn Nationals Park into a food production facility.

By Tim Carman and Scott Allen • [Read more »](#)

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## Meals on Wheels volunteers are staying home because of covid-19, so college kids are stepping up

Millions of elderly Americans depend on Meals on Wheels to eat, but three-quarters of the volunteers who deliver the food are over 55 years old themselves — and they're staying home. So college students are stepping in.

By Karen Weese • [Read more »](#)

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coronavirus Updates: U.S. government hamstrung  
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# Coronavirus Updates

Important developments in the coronavirus pandemic.

Presented by [Slack](#)



By [Avi Selk](#)  
✉ [Email](#)

*The Post's coronavirus coverage linked in this newsletter is **free to access** from this email.*

## The latest

**The brain trust behind the federal government's [war on the coronavirus](#) is “a bureaucratic nesting doll” of oft-competing task forces that have produced no clear plan to end the crisis, **The Washington Post reports.** There is the official task force led by Vice President Pence; the “shadow task force” led by presidential son-in-law Jared Kushner; the new “Opening Our Country Council”; and a splinter group of medical professionals. And then there is President Trump, who often overrides and undermines whatever decisions these groups manage to make. [Read our story on the problems with this system, based on interviews with 22 White House insiders.](#)**



Meanwhile, states have been fending for themselves making **extraordinary, unorthodox and expensive efforts to secure medical supplies** in a cutthroat global market. “You’ve got 50 states and the federal government all chasing the same companies. It’s crazy,” Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine (R) said in an interview. [Read about what states are doing here.](#)

**Congress has been largely comatose during this chaos.** Most lawmakers left Washington last month, leaving the House and Senate chambers nearly empty, upending the crucial budget process and causing dozens of scheduled hearings to be canceled. [More on that in this story.](#)

The need for better coordination becomes more apparent by the day. We report that **many U.S. hospitals “are struggling to maintain supplies of antibiotics, antivirals and sedatives required for patients on ventilators and other drugs** produced in countries where the coronavirus has shuttered or curbed manufacturing.”

**New data shows that about 1 in 10 middle-aged coronavirus patients who are hospitalized in the U.S. die.** The report also provides insight into hospitalization and mortality rates for all age groups, supporting the notion that while most covid-19 cases are mild, no age group is entirely safe. [You can find the details here.](#)

“For many, this is an Easter of solitude lived amid the sorrow and hardship that the pandemic is causing,” [Pope Francis told a nearly empty St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome today](#), as Christians across the world celebrate the holiday from home confinement ([explore photos here](#)). **A few American pastors promised to hold Easter services despite quarantines.** Last night, the Kansas Supreme Court [struck down a Republican-led effort to allow in-person services across the state to go on.](#)

## More important reads

- **British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has left the hospital. ‘It’s hard to find words to express my debt,’ he said.**
- **WHO envoy says virus is still ‘advancing’ and may ‘stalk the human race for quite a long time’**
- **Joe Biden outlines his plan to reopen the country**
- **Why European unemployment isn’t spiking as it is in the U.S.**

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## Staying productive while working from home



Working remotely in Slack? Try these simple Slack [habits and tricks](#) that make remote teamwork work.

[Stay connected and productive](#) with Slack, the channel-based messaging platform.

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## Our extremely cosmopolitan list of stuff to binge

The Post has foreign correspondents in [22 bureaus](#) across the globe covering the coronavirus outbreak. They put together a guide of movies, TV shows, and fiction and nonfiction books they recommend during this pandemic, based on the regions where they're located (with many guilty

pleasures thrown in). **It's one of the most interesting and unique lists we've seen.**

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## Live updates

**Track deaths and confirmed cases in the United States** at the county level.

**Follow the spread** of the outbreak worldwide with our updating map.

Post reporters across the world are **publishing live dispatches 24 hours a day.**

Read the latest about the **cases and impact in the D.C. area.**

How you can **help people in need** | The Washington Post **Helping Hand covid-19 relief campaign**

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## Your questions, answered

***“I have heard that pollution has greatly decreased recently as a result of reduced air and vehicular traffic. Is this so? Is the impact large enough to convince those who do not ‘believe’ in global warming to see the wisdom in reducing emissions?” — Christine in California***

We can't predict how people will respond to the evidence, but **yes, the global economic shutdown appears to be significantly reducing all the muck in the atmosphere.**

The notoriously smoggy Los Angeles region has seen marked drops in nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate pollution since residents were ordered to stay at home — “the longest stretch of ‘good’ air quality in March seen since at least 1995,” The Post writes.

Similar improvements have been mapped in the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, Ohio Valley and Southwest — and across the world as far away as China. And carbon dioxide emissions that drive global warming have temporarily relented, somewhat, after many flights were grounded.

It's still unclear what this data means for the long-term health of the planet, but if there is any silver lining to the global crisis, it's been the chance for scientists to study a drastic reduction in pollution in real time.

[Read our story for more details and check out maps comparing March 2019 to March 2020.](#)

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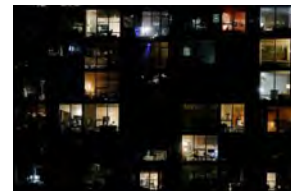
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*Find more stories, analysis and op-eds about the outbreak on our [coronavirus page](#), including:*

- The latest in Pulitzer Prize-winner Eli Saslow's series “Voices from the Pandemic”
- The president has vanished; his wife, the vice president, says the coronavirus isn't a problem: Nicaragua declines to confront a pandemic
- The storm inside: How the coronavirus killed Keith Redding

### **Coronavirus confinement: Carding your kid, sneaking a drive, arguing about the dishes**

By Arelis Hernández, Lori Rozsa, Robert Klemko and Marc Fisher • [Read more »](#)



**I'm a nurse in a psychiatric ward. Here's how covid-19 slowly invaded our unit.**

Perspective • By Charlotte Coates • [Read more »](#)

**Their churches are closed on Easter. Here's 9 pastors on what they would have said.**

Opinion • By Washington Post Staff • [Read more »](#)



## **LIVE from ... quarantine ... it's Saturday Night!**

The government may be stumbling to adjust to the pandemic, but “Saturday Night Live” managed to put on a show (kinda) hosted by Tom Hanks last night in a “straight-from-their-homes-to-ours format that paradoxically felt both alien and as comfortable as worn-in jeans,” [our Style reporter writes](#).



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