



STATE

Legislators Take Aim At Racial Inequality With Proposed Bills

A group of African American legislators from Milwaukee is proposing a package of legislation they say will help make Wisconsin a more equitable state. Rep. David Crowley said the bills, which include several criminal justice reform measures, are a first step in addressing racial inequality in Wisconsin. "We need to start a discussion about how we reform these systems," said Crowley, who has also declared his candidacy for Milwaukee County Executive. Racial disparities in Wisconsin are large and persistent. A national school report card released in October showed the state has the worst racial achievement gap in the nation. The state's infant mortality rate for African Americans is the highest in the nation. Milwaukee is one of the nation's most segregated cities, scoring low in quality of life measures for black residents. And researchers who have looked at data on issues such as unemployment, income and education levels have found that the state is less equal and African Americans have a harder time than in most other states. One bill in the package would limit the number of days a prisoner can spend in solitary confinement if he or she has been diagnosed with a mental illness. Crowley said excessive use of solitary confinement can exacerbate mental health issues. Another bill would put limits on the use of restraints among juvenile prisoners. Another would make \$5 million in grant funding available to promote community policing in cities with high minority populations. "There are so many creative ways to use these dollars to rebuild trust between police departments and our communities," Crowley said. Crowley, who worked with Reps. David Bowen and LaKeshia Myers and Sen. Lena Taylor on the measures, said he and his colleagues don't expect all of these bills to make it to the floor of the Republican-controlled Legislature. He also acknowledged that some of the proposals are limited in scope in hopes of attracting bipartisan support. "We always have to remember where we are in the Legislature as Democrats," he said. "We are deep in the minority."

Taycheedah Correctional Welding Class Offers Path Forward

Inmates at the Taycheedah Correctional Institution for women in Fond du Lac are learning key job skills to help them get employed once out of prison, with some earning a certificate in welding. Launched last March, the welding program came about through a partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Moraine Park Technical College in Fond du Lac. It enrolls eight students at a time. Eight women have received certificates so far this year. The women participate in a 14-week boot camp program where they gain technical skills in different types of welding. They learn how to read blueprints and designs, as well as how to select the right types of welding process for each job. "They're really learning a lot of skills that can train them for entry level welding positions," said Rachel Fryda-Gehde, a social worker at Taycheedah. "That way, when they get out in the community, they can have the criteria met just to walk into a job and say, 'I've got a certificate. I know the skills. I know the machinery.'" In March, a mobile welding lab with eight welders was installed in the correctional institution, allowing eight women — out of the 926 inmates — to be in the class at a time. There's currently a waiting list for more inmates to get in, Fryda-Gehde said. "It's something different," she said. "I think that, for women, there's such opportunity for them to get into these kinds of fields. It's not something that they've always thought they could do." Fryda-Gehde said this is one way to help keep these women from re-offending. She frequently hears from inmates that once they get out of prison they get bored, and that sometimes can lead to spending time with bad influencers and making unlawful decisions. Additionally, she said upon release from prison, these women might not know where to begin building a new life. They don't know what skills they have, and they don't have any guidance, she said. "They kind of just get lost in the shuffle with things," she said. "They get stuck."

Wisconsin Egg Producers Set New Records As Demand For Cage-Free Continues

Wisconsin egg producers are facing major changes in 2020 as cage-free production grows. The latest data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows Wisconsin farms produced 193 million eggs in November. That's about 19 percent higher than in 2018 and the second month in a row that the state's



producers have set a new record high. Nick Levendoski, president of the Wisconsin Poultry and Egg Industries Association, said continued demand for eggs produced in cage-free environments from big corporations like McDonald's has helped Wisconsin producers expand. "Large-scale egg producers in Wisconsin have had the ability to ramp up to meet those changing consumer demands," Levendoski said. "Those companies made some substantial investments in facilities, both in processing and production, to meet those customer requirements and it's definitely being noticed in the continuing record number of eggs." Levendoski said the growth will likely continue into 2020 as more of these facilities begin operation. But he doesn't expect companies to continue expanding their businesses. But some egg producers say the increased growth of cage-free production will have a more long-term impact on the industry. Scott Schneider owns Nature Link Farms in Jefferson and has produced cage-free eggs for the last 15 years. "It seems to me anyway that that will be sort of the standard in the future, whereby most egg production will be cage-free," Schneider said. "The big purchasers of eggs, the McDonald's, the mayonnaise companies, those types of uses for eggs and egg products, those will be the ones that will start leading the pack. And I think it will take a little bit longer for the retail consumer to really start making those decisions to purchase cage-free eggs when they go to the grocery store." Schneider said smaller farms like his will need to find new ways to differentiate their products, like using free-range production or transitioning to organic. He said he's currently looking into developing his own brand of eggs to sell directly to consumers.

America's Black Holocaust Museum Hopes To Reopen Its Doors This Year

America's Black Holocaust Museum (ABHM) in Milwaukee is a step closer to reopening its doors after being closed for over a decade, thanks to funding from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. The museum was founded by lynching survivor, James Cameron in 1988. It is a memorial that promotes racial repair and reconciliation while shining a light on the African American experience. The museum closed in 2008, two years after Cameron died. Ground was broken for the new physical site of America's Black Holocaust Museum in 2017, but they struggled to open the doors because of a lack of artifacts, exhibits, staff and educational programming. The Greater Milwaukee Foundation announced Friday during an event at the museum that through an anonymous donor, the foundation would be granting ABHM \$1 million in addition to a three-year \$120,000 grant. Ellen Gilligan, president and CEO of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, told WPR that Milwaukee needs a space where people can learn and acknowledge injustice and racism. She said America's Black Holocaust Museum offers that space. "The Greater Milwaukee Foundation is committed to advancing racial equity in the community," Gilligan said after the event. "We made a generation commitment in 2016, and we will continue to promote and invest in areas and projects that will promote racial equity." Robert Davis, the president and CEO of ABHM, said he hopes to have the museum's grand reopening this summer. He said with the Democratic National Convention coming to Milwaukee, it would be the perfect time to showcase the work that has been done over the past several years.

INTERNATIONAL

Iran Conflict Could Shift To Cyberspace, Experts Warn

Hackers linked to Iran are probing American companies for vulnerabilities, cybersecurity researchers and U.S. government officials say. The warnings suggest that the next phase of hostilities between the U.S. and Iran, following the Jan. 3 killing of a top Iranian general in an American drone strike, is likely to play out in cyberspace. The Iranian regime is accused of being behind some high-profile online operations against American targets in recent years. Between 2011 and 2013, hackers targeted big American banks including JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America and Capital One. They flooded the banks' computer networks with traffic, knocking them offline and costing millions of dollars in lost business. In 2018, a ransomware attack crippled the city of Atlanta, leaving police officers to write reports by hand and city workers punching in and out with time clocks. In both cases, Iranian nationals were ultimately indicted. In one of the most high-profile cases, hackers destroyed data on computers at the Sands casino in Las



Vegas after its billionaire owner, Sheldon Adelson, called for a nuclear strike on Iran. Iran's investment in its cyber army dates back to 2010, the year a powerful computer worm called Stuxnet infected an Iranian nuclear facility. The U.S. and Israel are believed to have been behind the attack, although neither country has ever acknowledged responsibility. Stuxnet destroyed critical equipment and set back Iran's nuclear ambitions. "As a result of the impact that Stuxnet had on the Iranian enrichment program, they formed, funded, trained and attached to their warfighting capabilities a very strong cybercapability," said Jordan Mauriello, senior vice president of managed security at cybersecurity firm CriticalStart. Stuxnet hurt Iran, but Mauriello and other experts say it also demonstrated to the country's leaders the power of digital weapons to level the playing field against the military superiority of the U.S. Iran has created teams of cyberwarriors inside the Revolutionary Guard Corps, its elite military wing. But Iran also relies on proxy groups and hackers aligned with its goals. In the weeks since a U.S. airstrike killed Iranian general Qassem Soleimani, nationalist "hacktivists" are suspected of defacing a U.S. government website with pro-Iran messages.

75 Years After Auschwitz Liberation, Survivors Urge World To Remember

Alina Dabrowska was 20 years old when she first heard about Auschwitz. She was an inmate at a prison in Nazi-occupied Poland — incarcerated for helping Allied forces — and one day in 1943, while walking the grounds, a new arrival warned her about it. "She said, 'You're all going to Auschwitz! Do you know what kind of camp that is?'" Dabrowska recalls. "She told us that if someone is out of strength, they were immediately killed. She told us many horrible things. None of us believed her." Of the estimated 1.3 million people sent to Auschwitz, some 1.1 million died at the camp, including 960,000 Jews. It was the largest extermination camp run by Nazi Germany in occupied Poland during World War II. The Soviet army liberated Auschwitz 75 years ago, on Jan. 27, 1945. Now 96, Dabrowska is among a handful of Auschwitz survivors still alive. For her, the importance of sharing her stories has only grown with time. She raised a family and had a fulfilling career with Poland's foreign ministry, but only in recent years decided to speak publicly about the memories of Auschwitz that still haunt her. She and other survivors fear the world will forget the Holocaust's horrors if their stories are not made public. When German soldiers first imprisoned Dabrowska, they executed her accomplices, including her brother. She spent a year in prison, and then the Nazis transferred her in June 1943 to Auschwitz. "When we got off the train, we were taken to a large hall, where we stripped down completely," she remembers. "Our hair was shaved and they tattooed numbers on our arms." She rolls up her sleeve to show hers: a small, faded black "44165" etched into her forearm. Dabrowska remembers the next morning, taking stock of the camp, beginning to realize what she'd heard about it was true. "I noticed an electric fence around the camp," she recalls. "Whenever we came back from working in the mornings, there was usually someone glued to it. If someone couldn't take it anymore, they jumped over the ditch and threw themselves onto the electric fence and their lives were over." A year later, she says, she had had enough of the cold, the hunger and the death surrounding her. She too found herself in front of the fence. She was about to jump when a guard yelled at her. She instinctively turned around and never tried it again. "I focused on doing whatever I could to survive," Dabrowska says. "I had hope, but sometimes an officer with a cane selected some of us to go to the gas chamber. What left the deepest impression on me was watching those marches to the chambers where so many were murdered."

Powerful Earthquake Strikes Caribbean, But No Reports Of Injuries Or Damage

A powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Jamaica, Cuba and the Cayman Islands on Tuesday, startling people as far away as Miami and prompting official tsunami alerts for a large area of the Caribbean that were later withdrawn. The quake, initially reported as 7.3 magnitude before being upgraded, was centered 86 miles northwest of Montego Bay, Jamaica, and 87 miles west-southwest of Niquero, Cuba, at a depth of just 6 miles, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It struck at 2:10 p.m. ET. There were no immediate reports of major damage or injuries, but social media was flooded with photos and video from people documenting the event. In the Cayman Islands, video showed damaged streets and sinkholes opened up by the violent shaking. A tsunami alert was issued for a wide



swath of the Caribbean. However, it was later canceled. Knolly Moses, an ad executive in Jamaica, told NPR that the quake was long and strong, with the walls of his office rippling.

NATIONAL

Federal deficit to top \$1 trillion under Trump

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projected that economic output will grow 2.2 percent this year, “driving continued job creation and a historically low unemployment rate.” But some factors expected to grow that output “would taper off in later years,” slowing to an average annual rate of 1.7 percent. For example, the budget agency projects that the growth of consumer spending will level off as the boost from the 2017 tax overhaul diminishes. Federal revenue will increase, but so will spending: In a growing economy, revenues are on track to increase from 16.4 percent of GDP this year to 18 percent of GDP in a decade. CBO said growth partly reflects a scheduled increase in individual income taxes at the end of 2025. At the same time, federal spending is also projected to rise, driven by increased spending for mandatory programs like Social Security and Medicare, in addition to interest on the national debt. An aging population and ballooning health care costs will continue to drive federal spending well beyond 2030, CBO notes. Debt growing toward record level: The national debt topped \$22 trillion just two years into Trump’s tenure, and federal debt held by the public is projected to rise to \$31.4 trillion at the end of 2030, CBO said. That amounts to 98 percent of GDP. Absent significant policy changes, debt held by the public could climb as high as 180 percent of GDP in 2050, “well above the highest level ever recorded in the United States,” the budget office noted. Deficit reaches \$1 trillion milestone: Measured as a percentage of economic output, the deficit is projected to widen from 4.6 percent of GDP this year to 5.4 percent in 2030. CBO’s annual report follows recent Treasury Department data that found the year-end deficit exceeded \$1 trillion in 2019, marking the first calendar year during which the budget gap has blown past the trillion-dollar mark since 2012. The worsening deficit comes despite the president’s 2016 campaign pledge to balance the budget and curb federal spending. Instead, the budget gap expanded after the administration and Congress embraced the Republican tax revamp in 2017 and a two-year budget deal last summer. Top officials at the White House budget office have failed in their attempts to substantially cut spending. And although Trump is expected to propose funding reductions in the release of his fiscal 2021 budget on Feb. 10, the president is expected to back spending bills later this year that increase federal funding by a total of \$5 billion for the military and non-defense programs, in honoring the bipartisan deal his administration struck with congressional leaders last year.



Trump Created The Space Force. Here's What It Will Actually Do

When President Trump signed a \$738 billion defense spending bill on Friday, he officially created the Space Force. It's the sixth branch of the U.S. Armed Services, and the first new military service since the Air Force was created in 1947. "Space is the world's newest war-fighting domain," President Trump said during the signing ceremony. "Amid grave threats to our national security, American superiority in space is absolutely vital. And we're leading, but we're not leading by enough. But very shortly we'll be leading by a lot." The idea was widely mocked when it was first floated, providing fodder for late night hosts, newspaper cartoonists and comedy writers. Senior military officials have previously raised concerns about what it will cost, and former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis warned against rushing into creating the force without clearly defined goals. "This is not a farce. This is nationally critical," Gen. John Raymond, who will lead the Space Force, told reporters on Friday. "We are elevating space commensurate with its importance to our national security and the security of our allies and partners." When President Trump signed a \$738 billion defense spending bill on Friday, he officially created the Space Force. It's the sixth branch of the U.S. Armed Services, and the first new military service since the Air Force was created in 1947. "Space is the world's newest war-fighting domain," President Trump said during the signing ceremony. "Amid grave threats to our national security, American superiority in space is absolutely vital. And we're leading, but we're not leading by enough. But very shortly we'll be leading by a lot." Senior military officials have previously raised concerns about what it will cost, and former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis warned against rushing into creating the force without clearly defined goals.

Election Security Boss: Threats To 2020 Are Now Broader, More Diverse

Threats to U.S. elections this year could be broader and more diverse than before, warns the spy world's boss for election security — and she also acknowledged the limits of her ability to tackle them. Shelby Pierson, the intelligence community's election threats executive, told NPR in an exclusive interview that more nations may attempt more types of interference in the United States given the extensive lessons that have since been drawn about the Russian attack on the 2016 presidential election. "This isn't a Russia-only problem," she told Noel King on *Morning Edition*. "We're still also concerned about China, Iran, non-state actors, 'hacktivists.' And frankly ... even Americans might be looking to undermine confidence in the elections." But the U.S. intelligence community isn't standing still, Pierson said. It too has been working since 2016 to learn what lessons it can from that year and also adapt in real time as others do to the way officials at every level plan for this year's presidential race. "I do think it is broader and more diverse simply because we might have more actors than we had in 2016 and we might be looking at different inroads — not just necessarily capitalizing on social media, but also interfering in networks or the vote count," she said. "So you really have a broader waterfront than you might have had in 2016." Pierson said that the intelligence community is expanding its technical capabilities and trying to develop more human sources to alert it to interference efforts, but there are two major factors that complicate both what it can achieve and the efficacy of foreign interference. First is the tension over what spies should reveal about what they know, how much and when. Second, the reality that each person forms her or his own perceptions about democracy, whether an election is "rigged" or whether a fact is reliable. Critics faulted the administration of President Obama for keeping quiet through much of 2016 about what it was uncovering about the campaign of active measures that Russia waged that year, including via cyberattacks and with online agitation. Pierson said the intelligence community today is conscious about that lesson and appreciates the possibility that it may need to work quicker to decide how and when to reveal information about potential threats. But these decisions aren't simple. Intelligence officials need to preserve sources and methods and don't want to needlessly sow more mistrust in democracy, she said. "Some of my colleagues have said, 'maybe we shouldn't necessarily spook the herd and share all this information ... Maybe people go, 'You know what, this is all rigged. That's so much disinformation. I'm not going to vote.' That would be worst case scenario. And frankly, doing the work of our adversaries for them." At the same time, the intelligence community says it wants to do more to work with officials at every level. The FBI, for example, recently expanded its policy for making notifications when it detects a cyberattack. Pierson also told NPR that it may sometimes be valid to expose a foreign interference



operation in the interest of educating voters and, she hopes, prompting Americans not to become cynical but just the opposite — to lean forward and engage. "I've really taken some some very important suggestions to heart that transparency enables resilience and, potentially, sunlight is the best disinfectant," she said. Continued Pierson: "The more that we talk about the threat, potentially more we empower voters to understand this as merely a reality of today's landscape. And that despite all of those challenges, we're managing them or countering them. And people should vote."

COMMERCIALS

Together, we build schools out of abandoned buildings. Together, we bring food to hungry children in need. Together, we see solutions instead of problems. We are the one point two million members of Rotary, a collection of community leaders in your neighborhood and around the globe brought together to do one thing: make more good happen. Connect with us at rotary.org (or club url) Together, we are Rotary. And we are people of action.

Are there times when you feel like you live in a dull, grey box? Well, break out of the crypt with a fresh coat of paint and interior decorating services from Shelly's Interiors! Within hours, your home will be transformed to your reflect your tastes. Don't know what your taste is? No problem. Shelly's Interiors has a wide array of styles in their portfolio to choose from, including Modern Chic, Urban Elegance, and Rural Escape. To get a preview, log-on www.shellysinteriors.com From there, pick out the style you like best and pick up your phone! Shelly's Interiors, turning houses into homes since 1990.

SPORTS

Wisconsin Badgers blow second-half lead as Iowa Hawkeyes finish strong

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Things were looking up for the University of Wisconsin men's basketball team late last week. Not only were the Badgers in good shape in the NCAA tournament picture, they hit the road with a chance to pull within a half-game of first place in the Big Ten. Two losses — and the potential departure of its most dynamic player — have left a dark cloud hovering over the program. The latest defeat came Monday night at Carver-Hawkeye Arena, where UW wasted a 12-point lead in the second half and dropped a 68-62 decision to No. 18 Iowa. The gut-wrenching setback came on the heels of news earlier in the day that **sophomore wing Kobe King didn't make the trip due** to what was referred to as a "personal matter." It's possible King has played his last game for the Badgers (12-9, 5-5 Big Ten). According to a source, the former La Crosse Central standout and Wisconsin Mr. Basketball is unhappy and contemplating a transfer. When asked to shed light on the King situation after the game, UW coach Greg Gard didn't have much to add. "There's really no timeline on anything," Gard said. Not only were the Badgers down a player against Iowa, they had to battle major foul trouble while dealing with Hawkeyes junior center Luka Garza. Arguably the frontrunner for Big Ten Player of the Year honors, Garza produced 21 points and 18 rebounds and drew 12 of the season-high 28 fouls whistled on UW. Gard lamented the fact that the Badgers weren't physical enough in a **70-51 loss at Purdue on Friday**. Three days later, they had seven players finish with at least three fouls. "It's part of what Iowa does to you," Gard said. "We knew it was going to be physical. You try to play physical without fouling." Redshirt freshman guard CJ Fredrick added 17 points for Iowa (15-5, 6-3), which trailed by 57-45 after a 3-pointer by UW junior guard D'Mitrik Trice with 7:14 remaining but erased that deficit with a 21-2 run. Hawkeyes 68, Badgers 62.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

BADGER – SOUTH

Milton 63, Fort Atkinson 53

CAPITOL – NORTH

Watertown Luther Prep 60, Columbus 50

2020 SUBDISTRICT - RADIO NEWS REPORTING – ROUND 1



CLASSIC EIGHT

Waukesha North 47, Waukesha South 45
Kettle Moraine 61, Mukwonago 40

EAST CENTRAL

Kettle Moraine Lutheran 66, Winneconne 49
Waupun 57, Kewaskum 32

GREATER METRO

Brookfield Central 79, Germantown 72
Sussex Hamilton 69, Wauwatosa East 37
Wauwatosa West 67, West Allis Hale 43



Wisconsin school boards won't support ban on Native mascots after a lopsided vote

Wisconsin schools boards voted overwhelmingly against supporting a ban on Native American mascots at a meeting of school board delegates. Although all 11 federally recognized Wisconsin tribes and 18 school boards across the state offered support for the resolution ahead of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards' annual convention, the advocacy group won't lobby the Legislature for change after a resolution to do so failed 218-101. The WASB doesn't have the ability on its own to enforce such a ban. The effort began in August, when Wausau's school board authored the resolution to end schools' use of Native American mascots, symbols, images, logos and nicknames, because they "undermine the ability of Native American Tribal Nations to portray respectful and accurate images of their history, culture, government, sovereignty, customs and traditions," according to the proposal. "I figured (the delegates) would go to the data, and leave their personal opinions out of it," said Tricia Zunker, president of the Wausau School board, a member of Wisconsin's Ho-Chunk Nation and Democratic candidate for Congress in the 7th Congressional District. "This is a very surprising vote." As early as 2005, the American Psychology Association began advocating for halting the use of such mascots, issuing a statement that the stereotypes create a hostile learning environment for Native students. The push to ban such imagery generated heated public discussion across the state, and the Menomonee Falls school board voted in November to drop its "Indians" mascot at the end of this school year. Still, around 30 of the state's 421 public school districts use race-based mascots. Zunker said she's hopeful that while the resolution failed, individual school districts will still start the conversation locally about retiring the mascots.

WEATHER

- **Today:** Rain before 1pm, then showers after 1pm. High near 39. Southeast wind around 30 mph, with gusts as high as 45 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New precipitation amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.
- **Tonight:** Rain showers before 7pm, then rain and snow showers between 7pm and 10pm, then snow showers after 10pm. Low around 33. Southeast wind 20 to 30 mph decreasing to 10 to 20 mph after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.
- **Wednesday:** Snow showers before 1pm, then rain and snow showers. Areas of blowing snow between 1pm and 4pm. High near 36. East wind 10 to 20 mph increasing to 25 to 35 mph. Winds could gust as high as 60 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.
- **Wednesday Night:** Rain and snow showers, becoming all snow after 7pm. Low around 30. Southeast wind 20 to 25 mph becoming south 10 to 15 mph after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 90%.
- **Thursday:** Snow showers likely. Cloudy, with a high near 35. East wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.