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Taylor Wilson:

Good morning, I'm Taylor Wilson, and this is 5 Things you need to know, Monday the 22nd of March, 2021. Today, DC statehood plus a March madness update and more.

Taylor Wilson:

Here are some of the top headlines. Congressman Tom Reed from New York said Sunday, he will not run for reelection amid sexual misconduct allegations. A woman accused him of inappropriate touching. There were protests around the country over the weekend to stop Asian hate. The events came after a gunman killed eight people last week in Atlanta, including six Asian women. And United airlines flight from Newark, New Jersey to Miami had to divert in Charleston, South Carolina, after a man on board bit another passenger. An initial report said he bit someone's ear off.

Taylor Wilson:

Washington, DC statehood, the issue has often existed at the fringes of lawmakers priorities and some have been steeply opposed, but last summer, the Democratic-led House passed HR 51, a bill that would make Washington DC the 51st state. It was reintroduced in January, and on Monday the house committee on oversight and reform will hold a hearing on the Bill's future. It currently has 220 co-sponsors in the house and 40 in the Senate, and nearly 20 former democratic presidential candidates and leaders have endorsed passing DC statehood, including president Joe Biden and vice president Kamala Harris. The bill previously couldn't advance further amid a Republican controlled Senate, but the Democrats flipping the chamber might mean it now has a chance. Advocates point out that there are some 700,000 people in the district who have no senators to call when they need a voice on issues. Republicans have called statehood a chance for Democrats to accumulate more power. Last year's comments from democratic house majority leader, Steny Hoyer, and Republican Senator, Tom Cotton.

Steny Hoyer:

The constitutional framers, the Federalist papers, nobody thought that States would be admitted on the basis of their politics, rather they would be admitted on the basic premise of their citizenship as Americans. And to consider other nongermane items in casting your vote is un-American. Partial citizenship is not an option.

Tom Cotton:

Washington is a city with all the characteristics of a city, not a state. Washington doesn't have the size or diversity of interests of even the smallest of the 50 States.

Taylor Wilson:

For more on all the happenings on Capitol Hill, head to [USAtoday.com/politics](https://www.usatoday.com/politics).

Taylor Wilson:

Denmark will continue suspending AstraZeneca Coronavirus vaccinations. One person has died and another was critically ill with blood clots and cerebral hemorrhage after receiving the vaccine. Several European countries suspended the vaccine last week amid a small number of blood clot reports. What the European Medicines Agency has since said, the vaccine was safe and effective. Germany, France, Italy, and Spain plan to resume using the vaccine. Meanwhile, in the US where there are already three vaccines in use, AstraZeneca's may soon become the fourth. Results from the US trial are out and the vaccine was 79% effective against stopping symptomatic COVID-19, and 100% effective at preventing people from falling seriously ill. There were also no safety issues related to blood clots. The US study had 30,000 volunteers. AstraZeneca will now submit findings to the FDA, and like for previous vaccines, an advisory committee will publicly debate the evidence before the agency decides whether to authorize.

Taylor Wilson:

Miami Beach has issued a state of emergency for its entertainment district amid an influx of spring breakers in the city. Restaurants, bars and other businesses in the area must close by 8:00 PM on Monday. Officials say the decision is necessary to help both spring breakers and residents alike. Mayor, Dan Gelber, previously told USA Today that people are coming to Florida with an anything goes mentality since most restrictions have been lifted. The state of emergency is set to end on Tuesday.

Taylor Wilson:

Well, it's often a cliché, but this year's NCAA men's basketball tournament is actually filled with madness. The tournament has already seen a first round with a 13 seed over a four, twice, one 14 over a three and even a 15 over a two. And on Sunday, 15 seeded Oral Roberts took down Florida to reach the sweet 16, and continue their Cinderella run. We've also now lost a one seed from the tournament when eight seed Loyola, Chicago defeated Illinois in the second round on Sunday. Second round action continues Monday, things tip off with seven seed Oregon taking on two seed Iowa. Oregon advance to the second round after their first round game with Virginia Commonwealth was called off due to a positive COVID-19 results for VCU.

Taylor Wilson:

Elsewhere, on the women's side upsets were nowhere to be found on the first day of the first round on Sunday. In 16 games, the higher seed won every one. Notably all four one seeds, Stanford, Yukon, South Carolina and NC State are moving on. First round action continues Monday with three games tipping off at noon Eastern. You can stay up on all the latest with USA Today Sports

Taylor Wilson:

Last week, both president Joe Biden and vice president Kamala Harris went on the road to tout the administration's new COVID-19 stimulus plan, and Harris will continue those duties on Monday when she travels to Jacksonville. It's her first trip there since the campaign trail last year. Democrats in Florida have already been aggressively talking up the plan and the Democratic National Committee last week unveil billboards in Miami and Tampa to remind

voters that the state's two US senators opposed the bill. Those senators, Republicans, Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, have doubled down on their opposition.

Taylor Wilson:

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