

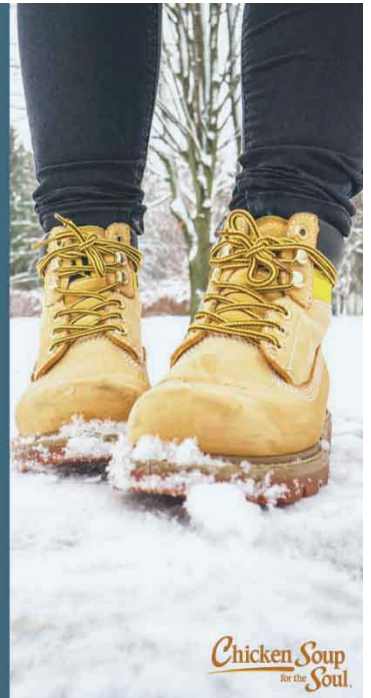
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"IF YOU CAN'T
DECIDE WHAT TO
DO, GET ON
THE ROAD.
YOU WON'T FIND
THE ANSWER.
IT WILL FIND YOU."

-ANDY DUNN



Chicken Soup
for the Soul

We're getting ready for a Hole-In-One Year, thanks to you!

397-GOLF
Groton, South Dakota

Olive Grove
Golf Course

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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**AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION
COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE ANNEX
25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD**

**TUESDAY
JANUARY 14, 2020**

8:45 a.m. – 8:50a.m. – Erica Coughlin (HR Director) County Handbook Changes (Call-back pay Over-time and exemptions, Holiday's, Weather Emergencies)

- Approve General Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2019
- Claims
- HR Report
- Lottery Permit
- Interest Quarter 4 2019
- EM SLA Quarterly Report
- Interstate Power System 2020 Generator Contract
- Legal Assignment
- Tax Deeds – authorize to advertise sale
- Abatements

Public Comment and any other matters to come before the Commission for discussion

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GT Robotics travel to Canton for Tournament

Groton's robotists traveled to Canton January 11 to compete against twenty-four of South Dakota's robotics teams.

Gear Heads (Ethan Clark, Jack Dinger, Axel Warrington) started the day on fire by winning their first four matches, then lost one and won their last qualifying match. At the end of qualifying matches they were in 5th place with a record of five wins and one loss. Then in the elimination rounds, kryptonite once again found its way into the gym and the team was eliminated in their first match. Gear Heads has struggled this year with good qualifying matches and then trouble in the elimination rounds. On this day, they lost their quarterfinals



Galaxy members Jace Kroll, River Pardick and Eureka alliance members. (Courtesy Photo)



Gear Heads members Axel Warrington, Ethan Clark and Jackson Dinger. (Courtesy Photo)

battled over the scoring of a cube in a tower and they both tipped over. The tipped robots blocked access to one of the scoring goals so their alliance partner G.A.T. Wrenches could not score.

G.A.T. Wrenches ended the qualifying matches with a record of two wins and four losses. They struggled

match to the alliance of G-Force/G.A.T. Wrenches.

G-Force (Travis Townsend, Tanner McGannon, Dan Feist, Garrett Schultz) started their day by losing their first two matches due to a cube intake that did not function correctly. The team was able to make repairs and won their last four qualifying matches, ending the qualifying rounds with a record of four wins and two losses and in ninth place. In the elimination rounds all 24 teams participated. The bottom eight alliances battled to see which four would be allowed to compete in the quarterfinals against the top four alliances. G-Force and their alliance G.A.T. Wrenches (Noah Tullis, Corbin Reich, Adrian Knutson) won their first match to make it to the quarterfinals and then won the quarter-finals match. They lost their semi-finals match when their robot and their opponent's robot

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with mechanical problems on and off during the day, largely because they did not prepare for the match with enough driving practice and modifications they had to make during the tournament.

Galaxy (River Pardick, Jace Kroll, Isaac Higgins) ended the qualifying rounds with a record of two wins and four losses. Galaxy and their alliance partner from Eureka won their match to qualify for the quarterfinals where they lost by two points to the alliance from Sioux Falls and Mitchell who later defeated the G-Force/ G.A.T. Wrenches alliance.

Geek Quad had a struggled all day, ending the qualifying rounds with only one win. They made a design change, and it did not work out for them. Now, it is back to the drawing board. The two young men are not giving up.

- Jim Lane, Gt Robotics

GT Robotics' next competition will be Jan. 25 in Groton.



G-Force and G.A.T. Wrenches members Garrett Schultz, Travis Townsend, Tannor McGannon and Noah Tullis and Corbin Reich. (Courtesy Photo)



Geek Squad members Nick Morris and Charlie Frost. (Courtesy Photo)

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Rankings of GT Robotics teams at the end of qualifying rounds for the tournaments

Tournament Location		Groton	Mitchell	Box Elder	Ramsey	Canton
Number of teams in		18	21	20	32	24
Tourney and date		Oct 19	Nov 9	Nov 16	Dec 14	Jan 11
9050A	G-Force	8	13	6	10	9
9050B	Gear Heads	2	9	2	30	5
9050C	G.A.T. Wrenches	4	12	13	6	19
9050D	Geek Squad	10	14	3	17	22
9050E	Galaxy	15	20	18	11	14

How far did GT Robotics team get in elimination rounds (playoffs)?

Tournament		Groton	Mitchell	Box Elder	Ramsey	Canton
9050A	G-Force	Semi-F	Semi-F	Semi-F	1 st round	Semi Finals
9050B	Gear Heads	Finals	Semi-F	<u>Qtr-F</u>		<u>Qtr-Finals</u>
9050C	G.A.T. Wrenches	<u>Qtr-F</u>	<u>Qtr-F</u>	<u>Qtr-F</u>	<u>Qtr-Finals</u>	Semi-Finals
9050D	Geek Squad	Semi-F	<u>Qtr-F</u>	Finals	1 st round	1 st round
9050E	Galaxy		<u>Qtr-F</u>	Finals	1 st round	<u>Qtr-Finals</u>

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The season is over for the Minnesota Vikings after a 27-10 loss to the San Francisco 49ers in the divisional round of the 2019 NFL playoffs. A week after defeating the red-hot Saints, the Vikings were thoroughly outmatched in every phase of the game. Fingers can be pointed in many different directions, but it all comes down to one thing: the 49ers were just a better team on Saturday.

The Vikings offense, outside of one play, was unable to get anything going. Kirk Cousins completed 21 of 29 passes for 172 yards, one touchdown and one interception. He was sacked six times on Saturday and was pressured on most of his other drop backs – a combination of the offensive line's poor pass protection, Cousins' poor pocket presence, and the 49ers having a great defensive line. Stefon Diggs led the team with 57 receiving yards and he scored the Vikings' lone touchdown, despite missing multiple practices in the week leading up to this game because of an illness. Adam Thielen was dealing with his own problems this past week after a "deep laceration" on his ankle needed stitches just a few days before the trip to San Francisco. He was able to play on Saturday but clearly wasn't at full speed, finishing with five catches for 50 yards.

Against the 49ers, Dalvin Cook had his worst game of the season. Cook only carried the ball nine times for 18 yards and was hit in the backfield nearly every time he had the ball. He was also targeted a team-high eight times in the passing game, but those passes were usually made in desperation, resulting in 1.3 yards per reception for the running back.

The Vikings' defense had a decent game, considering they were playing without the services of Mack Alexander, Mike Hughes, and Jayron Kearse. Unfortunately, this was a playoff game in which the offense was unable to get anything going, so the defensive performance wasn't nearly as good as it needed to be. The biggest issue was the lack of a pass rush against a San Francisco offensive line that is good but not great. The Vikings only amassed two sacks, four QB hits, one tackle for a loss, and four deflected passes. Despite head coach Mike Zimmer moving his defensive linemen around, Danielle Hunter is the only player who had success on Saturday. Hunter finished with half the team's sacks and QB hits, and the only tackle for a loss on the day.

The player of the game on offense was Stefon Diggs, who had the play of the day for Minnesota. In the first quarter, Cousins was able to connect with Diggs, who caught the ball and was able to keep his balance en route to a 41-yard touchdown.

The player of the game on defense was Eric Kendricks, who just might be the best coverage linebacker in the NFL. Kendricks had half of the team's deflected passes and was able to corral the team's only interception.

Looking ahead, the players will get a chance to heal their bodies and get ready for next season, while the coaching staff and front office will begin going through the roster to determine who stays and who will wear a different jersey next year. Someone who won't be back is offensive coordinator Kevin Stefanski, who was just hired to be the head coach of the Cleveland Browns. The AFC and NFC Championship games are set, with the Tennessee Titans traveling to Kansas City to take on the Chiefs, while the Green Bay Packers will be traveling to San Francisco to take on the 49ers. The winners of those games will face each other in Super Bowl LIV.

The Science Behind Understanding Epidemics

It was in London, England, 1854, when a severe diarrhea illness caused the deaths of 500 adults and children over a ten-day period and proved the value of scientific thinking. Physician-scientist John Snow mapped out the locations of those sick, and his work pointed to water from a hand pump well on Broad Street as a possible cause of the illness. He persuaded authorities to shut down the source by removing the pump handle from that well. Shortly thereafter, deaths from the illness abruptly slowed and scientists became convinced of the danger of this contaminated water.



By Richard P. Holm, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

Over the next years, scientists identified *Vibrio cholerae* bacteria as the cause of that illness in London. The original pump is still there on what is now Broadwick Street, commemorating what is thought to be the founding event in the history of epidemiology, the science of understanding epidemics, infections, and patterns of illnesses in populations.

The word cholera comes from the Greek word which means "yellow bile," from an ancient and misinformed idea that all illnesses are from an imbalance of yellow bile, phlegm, black bile or blood. We know today there are many causes for infectious diarrhea including viral, bacterial, and parasitic. In the mid-1800s with the aid of the newly discovered microscope, we came to realize how to categorize bacteria, and that cholera was likely responsible for many of the pandemics throughout history. Sadly, despite all our present accumulated knowledge, human diarrhea from cholera persists today in developing countries, mostly the result of polluted water.

Cholera can kill within hours if left untreated. It causes severe vomiting along with three to five gallons of "rice-water" diarrhea per day resulting in severe dehydration. Unfortunately, highly infectious fecal material can too easily get into the water supply spreading the infection, especially to the very young, old and immunocompromised. More challenging is that 75 percent of people infected with cholera may not have symptoms but can still carry and spread the infection for two weeks after exposure.

Boiling all water before drinking would prevent the spread of all water-borne illnesses. Rehydration and antibiotics are initial interventional therapy for cholera. However, too often, these preventions and treatments are not easily available in developing countries. The World Health Organization, an arm of the United Nations, estimates that, each year, three to five million cases of diarrhea and more than 130,000 deaths are still due to cholera.

The science of epidemiology began by discovering the water-source of a dangerous diarrhea illness and we learned how, by simply removing a pump handle, we could prevent illness.

Richard P. Holm, MD is founder of The Prairie Doc® and author of "Life's Final Season, A Guide for Aging and Dying with Grace" available on Amazon. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

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Upcoming Events

Monday, January 13, 2020

6 p.m.: Junior high basketball games at Warner. 7th grade at 6 p.m., 8th grade at 7 p.m.

6 p.m.: Junior high wrestling tournament in Groton

7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

5:15 p.m.: Combined 7th/8th grade boys basketball game vs. Aberdeen Christian at the Aberdeen Civic Arena

6:30 p.m.: Boys' basketball game vs Aberdeen Christian High School at the Aberdeen Civic Arena. Junior varsity at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.: MathCounts at Aberdeen Simmons Middle School

Thursday, January 16, 2020

6:30 p.m.: Girls' Basketball hosts Sisseton. JV game at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.

Friday, January 17, 2020

Silver Bowl Debate at Sioux Falls

No School - Faculty Inservice

5 p.m.: Boys' basketball at Sisseton. C game at 5 p.m. followed by JV and then Varsity

Saturday, January 18, 2020

Silver Bowl Debate in Sioux Falls

10:00am: Basketball: Boys 7th/8th Jamboree @ Groton Area High School

10:00am: Wrestling: Varsity Tournament at Potter County (Gettysburg)

Sunday, January 19, 2020

2:00pm- 6:00pm: Open Gym at GHS Arena

2:00-4:00 PM Grades JK-8 (Students must be accompanied by an adult) 4:00-6:00 PM Grades 6-12

Monday, January 20, 2020

6:30pm: Girls Basketball hosts Langford Area with JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

4 p.m.: Basketball Double Header with Ipswich here. Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6 p.m. followed by boys varsity game.

4:00pm: Wrestling: Boys 7th/8th Tournament vs. Aberdeen Central @ Aberdeen Civic Arena

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Today



Mostly Cloudy

High: 23 °F

Tonight



Decreasing
Clouds

Low: 4 °F

Tuesday



Cold

High: 9 °F

Tuesday
Night



Chance Snow

Low: -3 °F

Wednesday



Slight Chance
Snow then
Mostly Sunny

High: 3 °F

Today
Patchy Fog into the afternoon hours
Highs: 20s

Tonight
Patchy Blowing Snow - Sisseton Hills
Slight Chance of Light Snow - far ne SD & w MN
Lows: 0 to 12°
coolest over n central SD

Tuesday
Colder
Highs: 6 to 20°

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
www.weather.gov/abr
Created: 1/13/2020 4:33 AM

A partly to mostly cloudy sky will remain, with pockets of patchy fog improving through the day. Temperatures will be near seasonal averages for this time of year today. An area of low pressure working through the area tonight will bring a slight chance of light snow to far northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota late tonight, while most of the area stays dry. Colder air will work in behind this system for Tuesday.

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Today in Weather History

January 13, 1913: The temperature at Rapid City, South Dakota, rose sixty-four degrees in just fourteen hours.

January 13, 1916: Extreme cold affected central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota on January 13th, 1916. Record low temperatures were set at Kennebec, Timber Lake, Wheaton, and Watertown. Timber Lake recorded a low temperature of 37 degrees below zero, Wheaton fell to 38 degrees below zero, Kennebec recorded a low of 39 degrees below zero, with 40 degrees below zero recorded at Watertown on this day in 1916. Aberdeen and Mobridge recorded 38 degrees below zero and 36 degrees below zero, respectively.

January 13, 2009: After a clipper system dropped from 1 to 4 inches of snow on the 13th, Arctic air and blustery north winds pushed into the area. The coldest air and the lowest wind chills of the season spread across much of central and northeast South Dakota. Wind chills fell to 35 to 50 degrees below zero late in the evening of the 13th and remained through the 14th and into the mid-morning hours of the 15th. Across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota, wind chills were as low as 60 degrees below zero by the morning of the 15th. Many vehicles did not start because of the extreme cold, and several schools had delayed starts. The Arctic high-pressure area settled in on the morning of the 15th bringing the coldest temperatures to the region in many years. The combination of a fresh and deep snowpack, clear skies, and light winds allowed temperatures to fall to record levels at many locations on the 15th. Daytime highs remained well below zero across the area. This was one of the coldest days that most areas experienced since the early 1970s. The records were broken by 1 to as much as 7 degrees. Some of the record lows included, -30 degrees at Kennebec; -31 degrees at Sisseton; -32 degrees at Milbank; -33 degrees at Mobridge; -35 degrees at Andover and near Summit; -38 degrees at Eureka; -39 degrees 8 miles north of Columbia and Castlewood; -42 degrees at Aberdeen; and -47 degrees at Pollock. Some near-record low temperatures included, -24 degrees at Pierre; -29 degrees at Redfield and Victor; -32 degrees at Roscoe; and -34 degrees at Watertown. In Aberdeen, the low temperature of -42 degrees tied the third coldest temperature ever recorded.

1862: Known as the Great Flood of 1862, a series of storms from December 1861 to January 1862 produced the largest flood in the recorded history of Oregon, Nevada, and California. Estimated property damage in California alone was \$10 million in 1862 dollars. More than 200,000 head of cattle lost their lives. The State of California went bankrupt, and the economy evolved from ranching to farm based. The same areas are expected to be flooded again if another ARkStorm (USGS name) was to impact California, which is predicted to cause over \$750 billion (2011 USD), making it more disastrous than California's long-overdue major earthquake. California is currently overdue for a Megastorm, and such an event would have severe impacts on the entire U.S. economy.

1950: January 1950 was one of the worst winter months on record for Seattle, Washington, and surrounding areas. By the end of the month, Seattle measured 57.2 inches of snow, the most snowfall in any month since records began in 1894. Normal January snowfall is 1.4 inches. On this day, a crippling blizzard produced 40 to 50 mph winds and an astounding 20 inches.

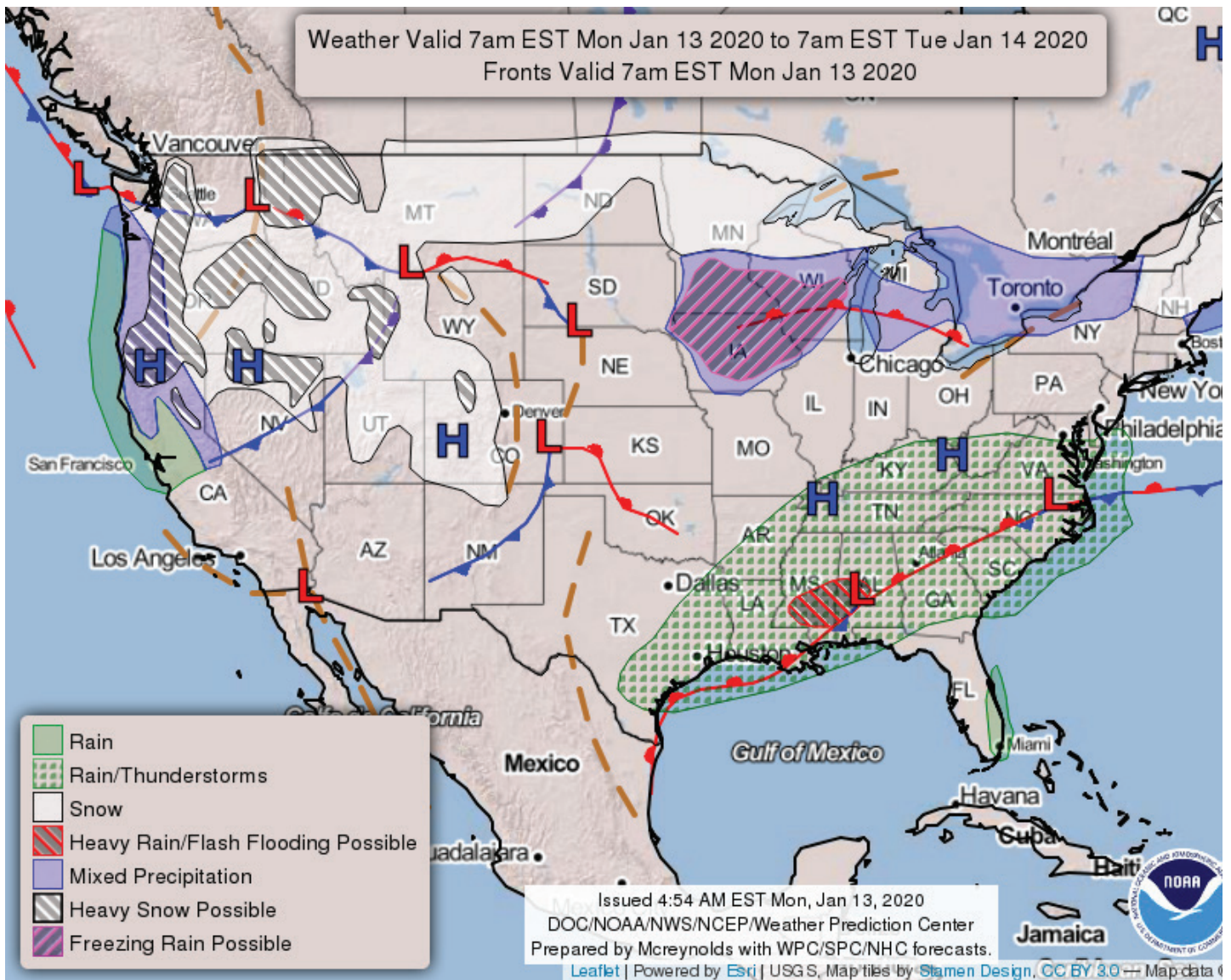
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 22 °F at 9:37 PM
Low Temp: 5 °F at 8:31 AM
Wind: 20 mph at 11:19 PM

Record High: 56° in 1987
Record Low: -40° in 2012
Average High: 22°F
Average Low: 1°F
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.21
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.21
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:14 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:11 a.m.



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KNOWING AND DOING

In 1927 many businesses had financial difficulties that forced them to close. One was an insurance company in Savannah, Georgia. There were more than 500 stockholders who lost hundreds of thousands of dollars. The owner, a man named Mercer, and his son, promised to repay each one of them.

Twenty-eight years later the final debt was paid. Even though the father had died, the son paid each debt in full.

The son had become a famous songwriter, and it was one of the songs he wrote that enabled him to pay the debts. The songwriter was Johnny Mercer and the song that paid the debt was, "Accentuate the Positive and Eliminate the Negative."

Choosing to do the right thing is often difficult, sometimes painful. There are times when it may mean the loss of money or some valued object. It may cost a friendship with someone who is destroying us and our walk with the Lord. It may mean giving up a job that would cause us to compromise our values. Honoring God always forces us to choose to do what He has asked us to do: obey His teachings. Knowing what is right is rarely the problem. Doing what is right, however, is. Remember: "I can do all things through Him who gives me His strength!"

Prayer: Lord, may we always honor You by accepting, believing, and living Your Word. Help us to take You at Your Word, and live as though we thoroughly believed it! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 1 Chronicles 29:17 I know, my God, that you examine our hearts and rejoice when you find integrity there. You know I have done all this with good motives, and I have watched your people offer their gifts willingly and joyously.

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2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Sharp (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 04/26/2020 Father/Daughter dance.
- 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/14/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

News from the Associated Press

Noem to AP: Address to focus on 'aggressive' economic growth

By **STEPHEN GROVES** undefined

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem will use her State of the State address to pitch prospective businesses on why they should move to South Dakota, the Republican governor told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview on Sunday.

After witnessing a tough year for the agriculture economy and South Dakota graduates leaving the state to find jobs, Noem said she will approach 2020 with an "aggressive model for our families." Noem said she will use Tuesday's address to tout the state's low taxes, fiscal conservatism, and "reliable" workforce in a bid to attract business to the state.

"South Dakota is open for business and 2020 will be a year of going after opportunities for our families," Noem told AP on Sunday.

The state's economic growth lagged behind the nation this year. Despite sizable financial and medical sectors, the local economy is highly dependent on agriculture. Storms and flooding led to South Dakota leading the nation in unplanted acres this year.

"While we have been focused on problems, my job is to cast a vision for where we're going," Noem said.

Noem will point to businesses that have relocated to the state during her address. She said she has been in discussions with several other businesses and hopes to announce their arrival later this year.

The year's legislative session opens on Tuesday with Noem's address, and she said she wants legislators to keep economic growth on their minds throughout the session.

Noem also wants them to look for ways to keep the next generation in the state.

A report from the U.S. Congress's Joint Economic Committee last year found that South Dakota college graduates are leaving the state at a higher rate than nearly everywhere else. Noem said she is looking for ways to grow the state's bio-technology, cyber security, and science industries so that engineering students from job offers from companies in state.

"I want every single child and family member to stay in the state if they want to," she said.

The year's legislative session kicks off with Noem's address on Tuesday.

South Dakota's KSFY, KDLT merge to become Dakota News Now

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two of Sioux Falls' largest network affiliates have joined forces to operate as one brand.

Gray Television, the owner of KSFY-TV, purchased news station KDLT, merging the two news networks, according to the Argus Leader. Dakota News Now is set to go live Monday.

"We have two terrific news teams," said Jim Berman, president and general manager for KSFY-TV. "The thinking was, 'Let's merge them together and create a super team.'"

Shortly after the Federal Communications Commission announced it would allow mergers between top-four stations on a case-by-case basis, regardless of whether they had been competitors for the same local audience, Gray executives were able to show federal officials the public benefits of the acquisition in bringing both Sioux Falls stations together.

"We looked for potential transactions where the benefits to the public would be overwhelming," Robert J. Folliard III, Gray's vice president of government relations, said in an emailed statement. "KDLT was the perfect choice. Like many local media outlets, KDLT was struggling from intense competition from Internet, cable and satellite giants."

The merger between KSFY and KDLT is believed to be the first to test the new regulations approved by the FCC.

"This is groundbreaking," Folliard said. "By bringing KDLT into the fold with KSFY, we could use the

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combined over-the-air broadcast facilities for both stations to bring free, over-the-air television service to approximately 80,000 people in South Dakota that previously could not receive either ABC or NBC programming with an antenna.”

Combining the broadcasting infrastructure of both stations will allow the news to reach more of South Dakota, giving it a stronger presence in other markets.

Dakota News Now broadcasts will use a new team of anchors and reporters selected from both stations. Berman said he tried to avoid significant job cuts, but staff reductions were inevitable as part of bringing both news teams into one studio.

Most of the positions affected were part-time. Berman declined to give the specific number of jobs cut.

The combined newscast will air two hours of news each morning and three hours of news each evening, alternating between both channels.

The three-hour block isn't necessarily designed to be watched in a single setting; viewers can tune in to the channel and time slot that works best for them.

Berman is focused on the audience. He says the goal is to have as much unique content as possible for the viewers.

For decades Iranians have risen up, only to be put down

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The demonstrations that erupted after Iran admitted to accidentally shooting down a passenger plane during a tense standoff with the United States last week are the latest of several waves of protest going back to the 1979 Islamic Revolution — all of which have been violently suppressed.

Iranians were shocked and appalled by the shootdown of the Ukrainian jetliner, which killed all 176 people on board, mostly Iranians. Many are also angry at the government's misleading statements in the wake of the tragedy, which it initially blamed on a technical problem.

Iranians are also suffering from an economic crisis exacerbated by severe sanctions imposed by President Donald Trump after he withdrew the U.S. from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Trump has encouraged the protests — even as he has long embraced other autocrats who smother dissent. His administration hopes that the demonstrations, along with crippling U.S. sanctions, will bring about fundamental change in a longtime adversary.

But large numbers of Iranians still support the clerically led government, as seen by the massive turnout for the funeral of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Iran's top general, who was killed in a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad. Even many critics of the government saw him as a war hero who had helped defeat the Islamic State group and resisted Western hegemony in the Middle East.

Iran's security forces have shown in the past that they will use deadly force against anyone threatening the Islamic Republic, most recently in November, when rights groups say hundreds of people were killed in demonstrations sparked by a hike in gasoline prices.

Here is a look at past protests in Iran, and how its theocracy prevailed.

THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION

The 1979 Islamic Revolution began with broad-based mass protests that eventually forced the Western-backed monarchy from power. But in the resulting chaos, hard-line followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini quickly moved to sideline left-wing and moderate opposition groups, forcing many Iranians into prison or exile and establishing a firm foundation for clerical rule. Iran also suppressed a rebellion from among its Kurdish minority in a yearslong military campaign. In 1988, at the close of the disastrous Iran-Iraq war, Iran is believed to have executed thousands of political prisoners, something authorities have yet to publicly acknowledge.

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A STUDENT UPRISING

The closure of a reformist newspaper in 1999 ignited a week of student protests. On July 9, security forces and hard-line vigilantes stormed a student dormitory at Tehran University. At least three people were killed and 1,200 were arrested in the unrest, which spread to other cities. The protests unfolded amid a power struggle between President Mohammad Khatami, a popular reformist, and hard-liners who dominate the Revolutionary Guard and the security apparatus. The hard-liners eventually prevailed, and the resulting crackdown set back reform efforts for a decade.

THE GREEN MOVEMENT

The largest and most sustained protests since the Islamic Revolution erupted in the summer of 2009, after the reformist opposition disputed the re-election of hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Millions of Iranians took part in months of protests in several major cities. Green Movement leaders did not call for the overthrow of the system, but for the reversal of the allegedly rigged election, greater social freedoms and the reining in of the security forces.

Authorities nevertheless responded with a massive crackdown. The Revolutionary Guard and its volunteer force, the Basij militia, opened fire on protesters and launched a wave of arrests. Opposition leaders were placed under house arrest and silenced in the largely state-run media.

President Barack Obama came under criticism for not offering a full-throated endorsement of the protests. But it's unclear if that would have made a difference, and it might have fed into hard-liners' allegations that the protests were part of a Western plot.

ECONOMIC PROTESTS

Since withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers, Trump has imposed "maximum" sanctions on Iran that he says are aimed at countering its nuclear program and its support for armed groups across the region. The sanctions, including those targeting the vital oil industry, have eviscerated Iran's economy, wiping away many people's life savings and fueling high unemployment.

In the 18 months since the U.S. began restoring sanctions, Iran has seen waves of sporadic, leaderless protests initially focused on economic grievances and perceived corruption among the clerical elite and the Revolutionary Guard. Each time, the protests rapidly escalated into chants against Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and calls for the end of clerical rule.

The protests have often turned violent and security forces have responded with deadly force. In the most recent and deadly wave of protests, in November, authorities shut down the internet for several days, making it difficult to discern the scale of the protests and the resulting crackdown.

Amnesty International estimates that more than 300 people were killed.

Follow Joseph Krauss on Twitter at www.twitter.com/josephkrauss .

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. IRAN CRACKS DOWN ON PROTESTERS Videos verified by The Associated Press show police and security forces firing live ammunition and tear gas to disperse demonstrators protesting against the Islamic Republic's initial denial that it shot down a Ukrainian jetliner.

2. PRESIDENT'S SUGGESTION FOR HIS LOOMING IMPEACHMENT TRIAL Donald Trump says the Senate should simply dismiss the impeachment case against him, a reversal from suggesting his own ideas for trial witnesses.

3. PHILIPPINE VOLCANO ERUPTS GUSHING RED-HOT LAVA More than 13,000 villagers have moved to evacuation centers in the hard-hit provinces of Batangas and Cavite, but officials expect the number to swell.

4. WHO THE US IS SENDING HOME AFTER FATAL SHOOTING More than a dozen Saudi military students

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could be removed from a military training program after an investigation into a deadly shooting by a Saudi aviation student at a Florida navy base last month

5. NO CLEAR FRONT-RUNNER AS IOWA CAUCUSES NEAR A poll released Friday by The Des Moines Register and CNN found the four leading Democrat contenders, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Joe Bid and Pete Buttigieg share similar levels of support.

6. TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FOCUSES ON TEHRAN DISSENT Top officials have joined the president in trying to draw attention to protests in Iran rather than answering questions about uncertainty over the intelligence behind the killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

7. 'RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES' TO BE DISCUSSED AT ROYAL FAMILY SUMMIT Britain's Queen Elizabeth II seeks to contain the fallout from Prince Harry and his wife Meghan's decision to walk away from their royal roles.

8. DEMOCRATS STRUGGLE WITH HOW MUCH CHANGE IS TOO MUCH It is a question that has plagued candidates and voters alike over the last year in the Democratic Party's quest to identify the person best positioned to defeat Trump in November

9. WILL YOUR FAVORITE ACTORS GET AN OSCAR NOD Nominations for the 92nd Academy Awards will be announced Monday morning with the hostless show to air in February.

10. GREEN BAY IS ONE STEP CLOSER TO SUPER BOWL AFTER DIVISIONAL WIN OVER SEATTLE The Packers have reached the NFC championship game by beating the Seattle Seahawks 28-23.

William, Harry issue statement amid UK royal family rift

By FRANK AUGSTEIN and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

SANDRINGHAM, England (AP) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is set to hold face-to-face talks Monday with Prince Harry for the first time since he and his wife, Meghan, unveiled their controversial plan to walk away from royal roles — holding a dramatic family summit meant to chart a future course for the couple.

The meeting reflects the queen's desire to contain the fallout from Harry and Meghan's decision to "step back" as senior royals, work to become financially independent and split their time between Britain and North America. The couple, also known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, made the announcement Wednesday without telling the queen or other senior royals first.

Before the extraordinary session, Princes William and Harry took the equally unusual step of issuing a statement challenging the accuracy of a newspaper report that there was a severe strain on the relationship between the two brothers.

"For brothers who care so deeply about the issues surrounding mental health, the use of inflammatory language in this way is offensive and potentially harmful," the statement said.

The meeting at the monarch's private Sandringham estate in eastern England will also include Harry's father Prince Charles and his brother Prince William. It comes after days of intense news coverage, in which supporters of the royal family's feuding factions used the British media to paint conflicting pictures of who was to blame for the rift.

William is expected to travel to Sandringham from London and Harry from his home in Windsor, west of the British capital. Charles has flown back from the Gulf nation of Oman, where he attended a condolence ceremony Sunday following the death of Sultan Qaboos bin Said.

Meghan, who is in Canada with the couple's baby son Archie, is likely to join the meeting by phone.

Buckingham Palace said "a range of possibilities" would be discussed, but the queen was determined to resolve the situation within "days, not weeks." The goal was to agree on next steps at Monday's gathering, which follows days of talks among royal courtiers and officials from the U.K. and Canada. Buckingham Palace stressed, however, that "any decision will take time to be implemented."

One of the more fraught questions that needs to be worked out is precisely what it means for a royal to be financially independent and what activities can be undertaken to make money. Other royals who have ventured into the world of commerce have found it complicated.

Prince Andrew, for example, has faced heated questions about his relationship with the late convicted

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sex offender and financier Jeffrey Epstein. Andrew, the queen's second son, has relinquished royal duties and patronages after being accused by a woman who says she was an Epstein trafficking victim who slept with the prince.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex also face questions on paying for taxpayer-funded security. Home Secretary Priti Patel refused to comment, but said safety was a priority.

"I'm not going to provide any detailed information on the security arrangements for either them or any members of the royal family or for any protected individuals — that's thoroughly inappropriate for me to do so," she told the BBC. "At this moment in time, right now, the royal family themselves need some time and space for them to work through the current issues that they're dealing with."

The meeting will come amid days of discussions about the future of the monarchy following the surprise announcement. Senior royals were said to be hurt, Harry and Meghan's friends have told Britain's media that the couple were being pushed aside because of the desire of the Windsors to concentrate on the core of the royal family and focus on those in the line of succession — Prince Charles, William and William's son George.

Tom Bradby, a TV journalist who is close to Harry and Meghan, warned in the Sunday Times that the royal family badly needed a peace deal to prevent "a protracted war" that could damage the monarchy.

With much at stake, the talks could be a step toward a changed monarchy.

"This is a seismic moment in royal history and British society," Kate Williams, a historian at the University of Reading, wrote in the Observer. "It tells historians of the future much about our society, its self-perceptions, prejudices and fears. And most of all, it should mark our realization — as we didn't learn after (Princess) Diana — that those who marry into the royal family are not our dolls to attack and throw around as we please."

Follow full AP coverage at <https://www.apnews.com/PrinceHarry>

US troops clear rubble from Iraq base days after Iran strike

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA Associated Press

AIN AL-ASAD BASE, Iraq (AP) — U.S. troops were clearing rubble and debris on Monday from a military base housing American soldiers in western Iraq, days after it was struck by Iranian ballistic missiles.

The Ain al-Asad air base in Iraq's western Anbar province is a sprawling complex about 180 kilometers (110 miles) west of Baghdad and houses about 1,500 members of the U.S. military and the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State militant group.

It was struck by a barrage of Iranian missiles on Wednesday, in retaliation for the U.S. drone strike that killed a top Iranian commander, Gen. Qassem Soleimani, whose killing raised fears of a wider war in the Middle East.

An Associated Press crew touring the Ain al-Asad base Monday saw large craters in the ground and damaged military trailers as well as forklifts lifting rubble and loading it onto trucks from a large area the size of a football stadium.

The U.S. said no American soldiers were killed or wounded in the Iranian attack.

Ain al-Asad air base was first used by American forces after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled dictator Saddam Hussein, and later saw American troops stationed there amid the fight against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

Trump visited the sprawling Ain al-Asad air base in December 2018, making his first presidential visit to troops in the region. Vice President Mike Pence also has visited the base.

Ahead of impeachment trial, Trump suggests not having it

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says the Senate should simply dismiss the impeachment

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case against him, an extraordinary suggestion as the House prepares to transmit the charges to the chamber for the historic trial.

The Republican president is giving mixed messages ahead of the House's landmark vote that will launch the Senate proceedings in a matter of days, only the third presidential impeachment trial in American history. Trump faces charges that he abused power by pushing Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden and then obstructed Congress.

First Trump was suggesting his own ideas for trial witnesses, then he said almost the opposite Sunday by tweeting that the trial shouldn't happen at all.

"Many believe that by the Senate giving credence to a trial" over charges he calls a hoax, Trump tweeted, "rather than an outright dismissal, it gives the partisan Democrat Witch Hunt credibility that it otherwise does not have. I agree!"

The idea of dismissing the charges against Trump is as unusual as it is unlikely. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell signed on to an outlier proposal circulating last week among conservative senators, but he does not have enough support in the Republican-held chamber to actually do it. It would require a rare rules change similar to the approach McConnell used for Supreme Court confirmations.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi warned Sunday that senators will "pay a price" if they block new witness testimony with a trial that Americans perceive as a "cover-up" for Trump's actions.

"It's about a fair trial," Pelosi told ABC's "This Week." "The senators who are thinking now about voting for witnesses or not, they will have to be accountable."

She said, "Now the ball is in their court to either do that or pay a price."

Voters are divided over impeachment largely along the nation's deeply partisan lines and the trial is becoming a high-stakes undertaking at the start of a presidential election year.

A House vote to transmit the articles to the Senate will bring to a close a standoff between Pelosi and McConnell over the rules for the trial. The House voted to impeach Trump last month.

Yet ending one showdown merely starts another across the Capitol as the parties try to set the terms of debate over high crimes and misdemeanors.

Democrats want new testimony, particularly from former White House national security adviser John Bolton, who has indicated he will defy Trump's orders and appear if subpoenaed.

Trump doesn't want his brash former aide to testify. Republican allies led by McConnell, R-Ky., are ready to deliver swift acquittal without new testimony.

Trump first said Sunday it's Pelosi and House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff who should both testify, which would be unlikely.

The president said he shouldn't have to carry the "stigma" of impeachment because he's done nothing wrong. Pelosi said the House vote last month means Trump will be "impeached forever" and "for life."

McConnell is reluctant to enter a divisive Senate debate over witnesses that could split his party and prolong a trial that is already expected to consume weeks of floor time.

He is seeking a speedy acquittal and has proposed a process similar to the presidential impeachment trial of Bill Clinton in 1999, which would start the proceedings and then vote later on hearing new testimony.

One leading Republican, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, has already predicted that the trial would end "in a matter of days." Graham and Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo. are leading the effort to dismiss the charges against Trump.

Trump delayed nearly \$400 million in aid as Ukraine battled Russia on its border while he pushed the country's new president to investigate political rival Joe Biden. Trump pays close attention to a conspiracy theory pushed by his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani about Biden and his son Hunter Biden, who served on the board of a gas company in Ukraine while his father was vice president. No evidence of wrongdoing by the Bidens has emerged.

Some GOP senators want to turn the impeachment trial away from the Democrats' case and toward the theories being pursued by Giuliani. GOP Sen. Rick Scott of Florida said Sunday he wants to hear from the Bidens "and find out — get to the bottom of that."

At least one Republican up for reelection, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, said last week she was in talks

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with GOP colleagues on a process that would allow them to hear more testimony as Democrats want.

The Democratic-run House has not yet set the timing for this week's vote to transmit the impeachment articles to the Senate. Pelosi will meet behind closed doors with House Democrats to decide next steps on Tuesday morning ahead of the party's presidential primary debate that evening, the last before the Iowa caucuses Feb. 3.

Once the Republican-led Senate receives the charges, the trial is expected to begin swiftly.

While some Democrats have grumbled about the delay, Pelosi and other party leaders defended the strategy, saying it produced new potential evidence and turned public attention on the upcoming trial.

"One of the things that holding on to the articles has succeeded doing is fleshing out McConnell and the president's desire to make this a cover up," Schiff, D-Calif., said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Bolton's remarks, which were recalled by witnesses in the House investigation, could cut different ways in testimony. He was said to have compared the Ukraine actions to a "drug deal" he wanted no part of and warned that Giuliani was a "hand grenade" about to go off.

House Democrats, who did not issue a subpoena for Bolton last year, did not rule out doing so now. Pelosi also left open the door to filing more articles of impeachment against Trump.

"Let's be optimistic about the future ... a future that will not have Donald Trump in the White House, one way or another. Ten months from now we will have an election, if we don't have him removed sooner," she said.

Video: Iran police shoot at those protesting plane shutdown

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iranian security forces fired both live ammunition and tear gas to disperse demonstrators protesting against the Islamic Republic's initial denial that it shot down a Ukrainian jetliner, online videos purported to show Monday.

Videos sent to the New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran and later verified by The Associated Press show a crowd of demonstrators near Azadi, or Freedom, Square fleeing as a tear gas canister landed among them. People cough and sputter while trying to escape the fumes, with one woman calling out in Farsi: "They fired tear gas at people! Azadi Square. Death to the dictator!"

Another video shows a woman being carried away in the aftermath as a blood trail can be seen on the ground. Those around her cry out that she has been shot by live ammunition in the leg.

"Oh my God, she's bleeding nonstop!" one person shouts. Another shouts: "Bandage it!"

Photos and video after the incident show pools of blood on the sidewalk.

Tehran's police chief, Gen. Hossein Rahimi, later denied his officers opened fire though the semiofficial Fars news agency said police "shot tear gas in some areas."

"Police treated people who had gathered with patience and tolerance," Iranian media quoted Rahimi as saying. "Police did not shoot in the gatherings since broad-mindedness and restraint has been agenda of the police forces of the capital."

However, uniformed police officers were just one arm of Iran's security forces who were out in force for the demonstrations.

Riot police in black uniforms and helmets gathered earlier Sunday in Vali-e Asr Square, at Tehran University and other landmarks. Revolutionary Guard members patrolled the city on motorbikes, and plainclothes security men were also out in force. People looked down as they walked briskly past police, apparently trying not to draw attention to themselves.

The Guard previously has been accused of opening fire on demonstrators during protests over government-set gasoline prices rising in November, violence that reportedly saw over 300 people killed.

Other videos from Fars showed demonstrators chanting: "We are children of war. Fight with us, we will fight back."

Ebrahim Raisi, the head of Iran's judiciary, warned protesters and alleged, without providing evidence, that "the agents of America and agents of foreign countries" wanted to use anger over the plane shoot-

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down to “compromise” Iran’s security.

Anti-riot police officers and other security forces could be seen on the streets of Tehran on Monday as well.

The crash of the Ukraine International Airline early on Wednesday killed all 176 people on board, mostly Iranians and Iranian-Canadians. After pointing to a technical failure and insisting for three days that the Iranian armed forces were not to blame, authorities on Saturday admitted accidentally shooting it down in the face of mounting evidence and accusations by Western leaders.

Iran downed the flight as it braced for possible American retaliation after firing ballistic missiles at two bases in Iraq housing U.S. forces earlier on Wednesday. The missile attack, which caused no casualties, was a response to the killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Iran’s top general, in a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad. But no retaliation came.

Iranians have expressed anger over the downing of the plane and the misleading explanations from senior officials in the wake of the tragedy. They are also mourning the dead, which included many young people who were studying abroad.

At earlier protests Saturday, students in Tehran shouted: “They are lying that our enemy is America! Our enemy is right here!” Another Fars video showed demonstrators on Sunday night tearing down a poster of Soleimani in Tehran.

Ali Rabiei, a government spokesman, insisted Iran’s civilian officials only learned Friday that the Guard shot down the plane.

“The point is that we did not lie,” Rabiei said. He went onto blame the U.S. for “spreading the shadow of war over Iran.”

Javad Kashi, a professor of politics at Tehran Allameh University, wrote online that people should be allowed to express their anger in public protests. “Buckled under the pressure of humiliation and being ignored, people poured into the streets with so much anger,” he wrote. “Let them cry as much as they want.”

There’s also been a cultural outpouring of grief and anger from Iran’s creative community.

Some Iranian artists, including famed director Masoud Kimiai, withdrew from an upcoming international film festival. Two state TV hosts resigned in protest over the false reporting about the cause of the plane crash.

Taraneh Alidoosti, one of Iran’s most-famous actresses, posted a picture of a black square on Instagram with the caption: “We are not citizens. We are hostages. Millions of hostages.”

Saeed Maroof, the captain of Iran’s national volleyball team, also wrote on Instagram: “I wish I could be hopeful that this was the last scene of the show of deceit and lack of wisdom of these incompetents but I still know it is not.”

He said that despite the qualification of Iran’s national team for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics after years of efforts, “there is no energy left in our sad and desperate souls to celebrate.”

Meanwhile, another video making the rounds showed the national symbol of Iran, four crescents and a sword in the shape of a water lily flying through what appeared to be a 1980s-style video game like “Galaga.” Music chimes when it touches oil as it fires on symbols representing people, knowledge and ultimately an airplane.

“To be continued,” the caption at the end of the clip reads.

Lava gushes from volcano near Manila; tens of thousands flee

By JOEAL CALUPITAN and JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

TAGAYTAY, Philippines (AP) — Red-hot lava gushed out of a volcano near the Philippine capital on Monday, as tens of thousands of people fled the area through heavy ash and frightening tremors. Experts warned that the eruption could get worse and plans were being made to evacuate hundreds of thousands more.

Clouds of ash blew more than 100 kilometers (62 miles) north of the Taal volcano on Sunday, reaching Manila, the bustling capital, and forcing the shutdown of the country’s main airport, with more than 500

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flights canceled. The airport was partially reopened Monday after the ashfall eased.

There have been no reports of casualties or major damage so far. A truck, however, skidded out of control and fell on its side on an ash-blanketed road, killing the driver and injuring three companions in southern Laguna province in an accident police said may be linked to the slippery road conditions.

The government's disaster-response agency and other officials reported more than 30,000 villagers have fled their homes in the hard-hit province of Batangas and nearby Cavite province, but officials expect the number to swell with hundreds of thousands more moving out of harm's way.

Some residents could not move out of ash-blanketed villages immediately due to a lack of transport and poor visibility. Others refused to leave their homes and farms.

"We have a problem — our people are panicking due to the volcano because they want to save their livelihood, their pigs and herds of cows," Mayor Wilson Maralit of Balete town told DZMM radio. "We're trying to stop them from returning and warning that the volcano can explode again anytime and hit them."

Maralit, whose town lies along the shoreline of Taal Lake surrounding the erupting volcano, appealed for troops and more policemen to stop distraught residents from sneaking back to their high-risk villages.

After a cleanup and ash-laden winds shifted away from Manila, officials partially reopened the main airport and allowed stranded planes to take off Monday. Airport manager Ed Monreal told a news conference that incoming flights can be accommodated once parking bays are freed up, but warned that the airport may be closed again if the danger returns.

President Rodrigo Duterte's aircraft was able to land in Manila on Monday from his southern Davao city hometown, his spokesman said, adding he saw the extent of the volcanic devastation from the plane.

Taal had been restive for months until it suddenly rumbled back to life Sunday, blasting steam, ash and pebbles up to 10 to 15 kilometers (6 to 9 miles) into the sky, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

The ash and steam column reached a height of only 2 kilometers (about a mile) Monday, with lava fountains spurting less than half of that height before falling into lake waters surrounding the main crater. Lava also spurting from another vent north of the main crater, Renato Solidum, who heads the institute, told reporters.

Frequent tremors and inflation of the 1,020-foot (311-meter) volcano, one of the world's smallest, however, indicate a major and much more dangerous eruption could still happen, he said.

The government volcano-monitoring agency raised the danger level around Taal three notches on Sunday, to level 4, indicating "a hazardous eruption within hours to days was possible." Level 5, the highest, means such an eruption is underway and could affect a larger area with high-risk zones that would need to be cleared of people, Solidum said.

It's difficult to say when Taal's restiveness will ease, Solidum said, adding that the volcano's last disastrous explosion occurred in 1965, when more than 200 people were killed.

Large numbers of displaced villagers worried about the homes, farms and cattle they left behind and the uncertain future they face. Irene de Claro, a mother of four, worried about her father, who stayed in their village in Agoncillo town in Batangas while the rest of the family fled in panic.

"My father is missing. We don't know too what happened to our house because the ash was up to our knees, it was very dark and the ground was constantly shaking when we left," de Castro told The Associated Press in a school in Lemery town in Batangas. "Most likely there's nothing for us to return to. We're back to zero."

She later paused as the ground shook again.

A small island where the volcano lies has long been declared a "permanent danger zone," although fishing villages have existed there for years. Those residents have all been evacuated safely, volcanology officials said, adding that there should be a "total evacuation" too of lakeshore communities "at high risk to pyroclastic density currents and volcanic tsunami within a 14-kilometer (8.7-mile) radius from Taal,"

Government work and classes in schools in a wide swath of towns and cities were suspended Monday, including in Manila, to avoid health risks posed by the ashfall. At least four Batangas towns reported power

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outages.

Taal is regarded as the second-most restive of about two dozen active volcanoes in the Philippines, which lies along the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," a seismically active region that is prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. A long-dormant volcano, Mount Pinatubo, erupted north of Manila in 1991 in one of the biggest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century, killing hundreds of people.

About 20 typhoons and other major storms each year also batter the Philippines, which lies between the Pacific and the South China Sea, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

Gomez reported from Manila. Associated Press journalists Kiko Rosario in Manila and Aaron Favila in Tagaytay contributed to this report.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump says Pelosi, Dems defended Iran general

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's relentless attacks on the impeachment investigation and Democrats' stance on Iran strained the truth on various fronts, from claiming that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi defended Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani to asserting that even Ukraine's president said Trump did nothing wrong in withholding military aid.

In weekend tweets and interviews, Trump repeatedly left out important context or simply made stuff up.

To a core question — did the U.S. killing of an Iranian general avoid an imminent attack on U.S. interests? — there is no definitive answer more than a week after missiles flew. Trump and his officials said the U.S. attack achieved that result but have yet to prove it.

Trump over the past week offered distortion across the breadth of public policy. He declared clean-air achievements when the air has become dirtier.

He complained that he didn't get the Nobel Peace Prize for peace in Ethiopia, when he had little or nothing to do with Ethiopia's peace deal with neighboring Eritrea.

And in the midst of dangerous brinkmanship with Iran, Trump falsely accused President Barack Obama of opening the U.S. treasury to Tehran and handing over a fortune.

A look at the claims and reality:

IRAN

TRUMP: "Where have the Radical Left, Do Nothing Democrats gone when they have spent the last 3 days defending the life of Qassem Soleimani." — tweet Saturday.

TRUMP: "You know what bothers me? When I see a Nancy Pelosi trying to defend this monster from Iran ... When Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats want to defend him, I think that's a very bad thing for this country." — remarks Thursday at event on environmental regulations.

THE FACTS: That's a misrepresentation.

Pelosi and other Democrats have questioned the strategy behind Trump's order to kill Iran's general, which was made without prior approval from Congress, pointing to potential consequences of heightened tensions that could endanger U.S. troops and lead to war with Iran. The Democrats haven't defended Soleimani or spoken positively about him.

Following the military strike, Pelosi, for instance, called it a "dangerous escalation of violence" that put U.S. troops and diplomats at risk "by engaging in provocative and disproportionate actions." She also criticized Trump's "lack of strategy." But Pelosi also made it clear at her news conference last Thursday that Democrats had "no illusions about Iran, no illusions about Soleimani."

"He was a terrible person, did bad things," she said.

Similarly, there is no evidence the Democratic presidential candidates defended Soleimani.

Former Vice President Joe Biden said that "no Americans will mourn Qassem Soleimani's passing." Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., who questioned the timing of the military strike, called Soleimani a "a murderer, responsible for the deaths of thousands, including hundreds of Americans." Pete Buttigieg, a former mayor of South Bend, Ind., said if the U.S. has no plan, "taking out a bad guy is not necessarily a good idea."

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Last week, Rep. Doug Collins, R-Ga., was forced to apologize after he made a similar assertion as Trump, claiming that Democrats were "in love with terrorists."

"I left parts of my body in Iraq fighting terrorists," Democratic Sen. Tammy Duckworth, a former Army pilot who lost both her legs while serving in Iraq, told CNN after hearing Collins' initial remarks. "I don't need to justify myself to anyone."

TRUMP: "Iran's hostility substantially increased after the foolish Iran nuclear deal was signed in 2013. And they were given \$150 billion, not to mention \$1.8 billion in cash." — address Wednesday.

TRUMP: "Iran now is not wealthy like it was when President Obama handed him \$150 billion.." — remarks Thursday.

TRUMP: "They gave around \$150 billion including \$1.7 billion in the hard cold cash, can you imagine? No, no, can you imagine? \$1.7 billion, \$1.8 billion in cash." — Toledo rally.

THE FACTS: There was no \$150 billion payout from the U.S. treasury or other countries. The U.S. made a separate payment of roughly \$1.8 billion to cover a decades-old IOU.

When Iran signed the multinational deal to restrain its nuclear development in return for being freed from sanctions, it regained access to its own assets, which had been frozen abroad. Iran was allowed to get its money back. The deal actually was signed in 2015, after a 2013 preliminary agreement. Trump has taken the U.S. out of it.

As for the \$1.8 billion: In the 1970s, Iran paid the U.S. \$400 million for military equipment that was never delivered because the Iranian government was overthrown and diplomatic relations ruptured. After the nuclear deal, the U.S. and Iran announced they had settled the matter, with the U.S. agreeing to pay the \$400 million principal along with about \$1.3 billion in interest.

The \$400 million was paid in cash and flown to Tehran on a cargo plane, which gave rise to Trump's previous dramatic accounts of money stuffed in barrels or boxes and delivered in the dead of night. The arrangement provided for the interest to be paid later, not crammed into containers.

TRUMP: "The foolish Iran nuclear deal financed Iranian aggression while allowing a quick path to nuclear breakout. That is what it did. And by the way it expires so soon. They can have nuclear weapons." — Toledo, Ohio, rally Thursday.

TRUMP: "It's close to expiring. In other words, if I didn't terminate it, it expires in a very short period of time." — remarks at White House on Thursday.

THE FACTS: The 2015 agreement is not about to expire. It imposes limits on Iran's nuclear development for 15 years.

TRUMP: "The missiles fired last night at us and our allies were paid for with the funds made available by the last administration." — address Wednesday.

THE FACTS: That accusation comes without corroboration. The administration has offered no information supporting the contention that in regaining access to \$150 billion of its assets that had been frozen abroad, Iran steered a chunk of that money to the missiles that hit the U.S. bases in Iraq.

"I doubt anyone has the insight into Iran's budgetary mechanisms to say that this money was used for this purpose," said Gerald Feierstein, a career U.S. diplomat who retired in 2016 as the principal deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs.

"It's a funds-are-fungible kind of argument," he said. "I mean, if they have money, can you say that dollar went directly to buy a missile, as opposed to freeing up another dollar that went to buy a missile?"

Joseph Votel, who retired from the U.S. Army in March as the top military commander for the Middle East, said he was not aware of any specific intelligence on this question. "I don't have anything that would particularly support that," he said. "I'm not saying it did or it didn't, but I don't have details to demonstrate it one way or the other."

As President Barack Obama's secretary of state, John Kerry said it was possible Iran would use some of

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the money being returned to it for malign activities. Whether it did in this case has not been established.

Iran has many sources of revenue, despite the severe pinch of sanctions. Oil sales to China and other countries dominate its exports. It also sells chemicals, plastics, fruits and more abroad.

IMPEACHMENT

TRUMP, on the House Intelligence Committee chairman: "He's a corrupt politician, Adam Schiff. He's corrupt. ... He gave a sentence that he made up. He made it up, and it was not — it was not what was said in the conversation. That's why I released the transcript, got approval from Ukraine." — remarks Thursday.

TRUMP, referring to Pelosi: "Ask Crazy Nancy why she allowed Adam 'Shifty' Schiff to totally make up my conversation with the Ukrainian President & read his false words to Congress and the world, as though I said it? He got caught!" — tweet Sunday.

THE FACTS: Trump is making up the timeline and exaggerating the episode.

Schiff, D-Calif., delivered what he called a parody of Trump's remarks in the president's July 25 phone call with Ukraine's leader.

Schiff did so after the White House released a rough transcript of the call, not before, as Trump states. So people who read the official account knew Schiff was riffing from it, not quoting from it.

Though Trump took umbrage at having words put in his mouth by Schiff, the president routinely invents dialogue. It's a staple of his rhetoric when he mocks political rivals. He did it Thursday night at a rally, making up a conversation he pretended he had — with Schiff.

TRUMP: "The President of Ukraine said I did absolutely nothing wrong, he said I had no pressure whatsoever. He didn't even know what we were talking about." -- interview Friday with Fox News.

THE FACTS: That's not an accurate representation.

While Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy initially said there was no discussion of a quid pro quo, he told Time last month that Trump should not have blocked military aid to Ukraine. Zelenskyy also criticized Trump for casting the country as corrupt, saying it sends a concerning message to international allies.

On that call discussing military aid, Trump asked Zelenskyy to investigate Trump's political rivals in the U.S.

"Look I never talked to the president from the position of a quid pro quo," Zelenskyy said. "But you have to understand. We're at war. If you're our strategic partner, then you can't go blocking anything for us. I think that's just about fairness."

It's true that in early October, Zelenskyy had told reporters "there was no pressure or blackmail from the U.S." But he did not state Trump had done "nothing" wrong.

In any event, Zelenskyy knew months before the call that much-needed U.S. military support might depend on whether he was willing to help Trump by investigating Democrats.

TRUMP, explaining why he initially held up military aid to Ukraine: "Why is it that the United States pays? And it affects Europe far more than it affects the United States. So why isn't it that France, Germany, and all of those countries in Europe that are so strongly affected, why aren't they paying?" — remarks Tuesday with Greece's prime minister.

THE FACTS: He's incorrect that European countries weren't putting up aid for Ukraine.

European Union institutions have provided far more development assistance than the \$204 million from Washington. Specific EU members, Japan and Canada also contribute significantly.

Since 2014, the EU and European financial institutions have mobilized more than \$16 billion to help Ukraine's economy, counter corruption, build institutions and strengthen its sovereignty against further incursions by Russia after its annexation of Crimea.

The U.S. is a heavy source of military assistance. But NATO also contributes a variety of military-assistance programs and trust funds for Ukraine. In most such cases, the programs are modest and NATO countries other than the U.S. take the lead.

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PEACE PRIZE

TRUMP: "I'm going to tell you about the Nobel Peace Prize, I will tell you about that. I made a deal, I saved the country and I just heard that the head of that country is now getting the Nobel Peace Prize for saving the country. I said, what, did I have something to do with it? Yeah but, you know, that is the way it is." — Toledo rally.

THE FACTS: Trump did not save Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed won the prize in October after he fully accepted a peace deal ending a 20-year border war with neighboring Eritrea that saw some 80,000 people killed. Trump had no known involvement in the peace deal.

The prize also recognized Abiy, Africa's youngest leader, for sweeping changes in Ethiopian society as he released tens of thousands of prisoners, welcomed home once-banned opposition groups, expanded freedom of expression and acknowledged his country's past abuses.

Trump did agree to a request from Egypt's president to mediate a dispute among Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan over a proposed dam on the Nile River. That mediation continues.

Trump is known to express pique when he is not recognized in the manner he thinks is deserved. He mocked teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg when Time magazine named her person of the year last month.

JOBS

TRUMP: "America lost 60,000 factories under the previous administration, 60,000. You wouldn't believe that's possible but I know it's true. ... No, it's true. No, it's true. ... It's 60,000 closed, gone. They are all coming back. They are all coming back." — Toledo rally.

THE FACTS: It's not true.

The U.S. has indeed lost roughly 60,000 factories but that's since 2001, the start of President George W. Bush's administration. It didn't happen "under the previous administration." And they're not "all coming back."

Construction spending on factories has declined since a recent peak in 2015 during Obama's presidency. Factories cut 12,000 jobs in December, according to the jobs report Friday. Growth in manufacturing jobs decelerated sharply in 2019, to 46,000, down from 264,000 added jobs in 2018.

VETERANS

TRUMP on the Veterans Administration: "For 44 years they try to get accountability. ... I said, you know ... I have an idea, such a great idea. You are going to go out private, you're going to pick up a doctor, you are going to get yourself fixed up, we're going to pay the bill, right? And you know what happened? And I said how — how brilliant is that? They say sir, we've been working on that for 48 years but we've never been able to get it approved. So I was very, very disillusioned but you know what I'm good at, getting things approved and we got it approved." — to cheers at Toledo rally.

THE FACTS: He did not think up the idea and get it approved. Obama got it approved. Obama signed into law the Choice program that lets veterans go to a private doctor at public expense under some circumstances. Trump routinely ignores that and says presidents have tried to get it done for 44 years. He only expanded the program.

As for accountability, Trump claims that his law means bad VA employees are swiftly fired. But a report released in October by the VA inspector general found "significant deficiencies" in the accountability office established by the law, such as poor leadership, shoddy training of investigators and a failure to push out underperforming senior leaders.

Also at the rally, Trump claimed that "44 years" of failure preceded his success in getting the "right to try" initiative into law. That initiative, aimed at giving terminally ill patients more access to unapproved drugs, only goes back five or so years.

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CANCER

TRUMP: "U.S. Cancer Death Rate Lowest In Recorded History! A lot of good news coming out of this Administration." — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: The news came from the American Cancer Society, not the administration, and it does not reflect Trump's record.

The group said the death rate from cancer has declined nearly 30% since 1991 and took its sharpest one-year drop in 2017. But the data did not reflect cancer-research spending under the Trump administration.

Trump proposed cutting spending at the National Institutes of Health but Congress ignored the effort and raised spending in a bill the president signed. That is not reflected in the cancer society report.

ENVIRONMENT

TRUMP: "We have some of the cleanest air and cleanest water on earth, and for our country the air is right now cleaner than it's been in 40 years." — remarks Thursday.

THE FACTS: No, air quality has worsened under the Trump administration. And it's a stretch to say the U.S. is among the countries with the cleanest air. Dozens of nations have less smoggy air. Trump made the remarks as he proposed the latest enforcement rollbacks for the bedrock environmental acts credited with beginning the clean-up of U.S. air and water a half-century ago.

As to water quality, one measure, Yale University's global Environmental Performance Index, finds the U.S. tied with nine other countries as having the cleanest drinking water.

But after decades of improvement, progress in air quality has stalled.

There were 15% more days with unhealthy air in America in 2017 and 2018 than there were on average from 2013 through 2016, the four years when the U.S. had its fewest number of those days since at least 1980, according to an AP analysis of EPA data.

A recent study by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University found that deadly air particle pollution increased 5.5% in the United States between 2016 and 2018 after declining by 24.2% from 2009 to 2016.

"The increase was associated with 9,700 premature deaths in 2018," the study by Karen Clay and Nicholas Muller said. "At conventional valuations, these deaths represent damages of \$89 billion."

The Obama administration set records for the fewest air-polluted days.

Trump's proposal would greatly cut back on the National Environmental Policy Act's requirement that federal agencies consider whether a big construction project would hurt the environment before they approve the project. Other Trump proposals would roll back restrictions on major sources of air and water pollution, including coal-fired power plants and autos."

ISLAMIC STATE GROUP

TRUMP: "Three months ago, after destroying 100% of ISIS and its territorial caliphate ..." — address Wednesday on Iran's missile strike on two Iraqi bases.

THE FACTS: His claim of a 100% defeat is misleading as the Islamic State group still poses a threat.

IS was defeated in Iraq in 2017, then lost the last of its land holdings in Syria in March, marking the end of the extremists' self-declared caliphate. Still, extremist sleeper cells have continued to launch attacks in Iraq and Syria and are believed to be responsible for targeted killings against local officials and members of the Syrian Democratic Forces.

U.N. experts have warned that IS leaders are seeking a resurgence. This past week, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said the fight against the group was continuing in Syria.

ENERGY

TRUMP: "We are independent, and we do not need Middle East oil." — address Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Trump's declaration of energy independence is premature. The U.S. still needs plenty of oil from the Mideast.

The volume of U.S. oil imports from the Persian Gulf alone — 23 million barrels in October — would not be easy to make up elsewhere, at least not without major changes in U.S. demand or production.

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Technological advances like fracking and horizontal drilling have allowed the U.S. to greatly increase production, but demand remains brisk and the country still imports millions of barrels of oil from Saudi Arabia, Canada, Iraq and other countries. Moreover, much of what the U.S. produces is hard for domestic refiners to convert to practical use. So the U.S. exports that production and imports oil that is more suitable for American refineries to handle.

On energy more broadly, the U.S. is indeed close to parity on how much energy it produces and how much it consumes. In some months, it produces more than it consumes. But it has not achieved self-sufficiency. In the first nine months of last year, it imported about as much energy as it exported.

MILITARY

TRUMP: "The American military has been completely rebuilt under my administration, at a cost of \$2.5 trillion." — address Wednesday.

THE FACTS: That's an exaggeration.

It's true that his administration has accelerated a sharp buildup in defense spending, including a respite from what the U.S. military considered to be crippling spending limits under budget sequestration.

But a number of new Pentagon weapons programs, such as the F-35 fighter jet, were started years before the Trump administration. And it will take years for freshly ordered tanks, planes and other weapons to be built, delivered and put to use.

The Air Force's Minuteman 3 missiles, a key part of the U.S. nuclear force, for instance, have been operating since the early 1970s and the modernization was begun under the Obama administration. They are due to be replaced with a new version, but not until later this decade.

Associated Press writers Christopher Rugaber, Ellen Knickmeyer, Matthew Lee, Michael Biesecker, Lolita C. Baldor, Matthew Daly and Robert Burns contributed to this report.

EDITOR'S NOTE — A look at the veracity of claims by political figures.

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2020 Democratic race is wide open in Iowa as caucuses near

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Presidential candidates have swarmed Iowa's rolling landscape for more than a year, making their pitch to potential supporters on campuses, county fairgrounds and in high school gymnasiums. But three weeks before the caucuses usher in the Democratic contest, the battle for the state is wide open.

A cluster of candidates, including Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, along with former Vice President Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, enter the final stretch with a plausible chance of winning Iowa's caucuses. A poll released Friday by The Des Moines Register and CNN found them all with similar levels of support.

For two decades, Iowa has had a solid record of backing the ultimate Democratic nominee. A clear victory in its caucuses next month could set the tone for the races that follow in New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

But an inconclusive result or one in which several candidates are bunched together near the top could preview a long, brutal fight ahead. Some Democrats fear the question of a nominee might not be resolved until the party convenes in Milwaukee this summer to formally declare its candidate to take on President Donald Trump.

The unusually fluid dynamic raises the stakes for the leading candidates heading into Tuesday's debate, which will be the final televised gathering for the White House hopefuls before the caucuses. Their clos-

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ing arguments in Iowa could be complicated by Trump's impeachment trial, which would require senators in the race to return to Washington. And the fallout from Trump's surprise decision to launch a strike last week to kill a top Iranian general could steal attention that would otherwise center on the presidential race.

It's against that backdrop that candidates must win over people like Barb Cameron, a 76-year-old who attended a recent Warren event in the river town of Burlington.

"I'm undecided," she said. "I want to vote for a woman. But, more than that, I want to vote for someone with real leadership capability."

"I like Pete, though I don't know enough," Cameron added. "And I don't think Biden can beat Trump."

If other voters agree, Biden's candidacy could face steep headwinds in Iowa. The former vice president began as the early favorite, in large part because of a sense that he is best positioned to defeat Trump. If that falters, the central rationale for his campaign risks being undermined.

Biden faces a far more favorable climate in later contests, especially South Carolina, where support from black voters has given him a substantial lead over his rivals.

And the focus on global affairs after the Iranian conflict could lift Biden, who built a resume over decades in Washington as a leading voice on foreign policy. JoAnn Hardy, chair of the Cerro Gordo County Democrats in northern Iowa, said a shift in voter focus would be an advantage.

But even that prediction came with a caveat.

"I think there's a lot of support, but for most people it's not enthusiastic support," Hardy said. "It's like, we've gotta do what we've gotta do to beat Trump."

While Biden is positioning himself as a steady hand in the face of international instability, the Iranian episode also leaves an opening for Sanders to draw a sharp contrast with Biden over the Iraq War, which Sanders opposed. The Vermont senator is drawing sharper contrasts with Biden as he tries to appeal to some of the white, working-class voters, particularly in rural areas, that Sanders' advisers believe may be open to his message of taking on the rich and powerful.

Without naming him, Sanders kept pressure on Biden Sunday, reminding a forum in Davenport that he opposed the 2002 authorization for military force in Iraq.

"In 2002, I helped lead the effort against the war in Iraq, which turned out to be the worst foreign policy blunder in the modern history of America," Sanders said. "The war in Iraq was based on a series of lies."

Sanders' campaign volunteers have reportedly been instructed to tell voters that are leaning toward Warren that her supporters are "highly educated, more affluent people" and that she's failing to expand her support. Those tactics brought a rare broadside against the senator from Warren, who said Sunday that she was "disappointed" in Sanders and suggested he's too divisive to defeat Trump.

Still, Sanders' position in Iowa is improving and he's attracting large crowds. His campaign says he spoke to nearly 6,000 people across 16 events in the state earlier this month.

But some Sanders supporters say they want to see the senator's team more active on the ground in Iowa. Suzanne Costello, a farmer from Kellogg, Iowa, is a longtime Sanders supporter and volunteer, knocking on doors in Poweshiek County, a county the senator won in 2016.

"I think they mis-gauged the trajectory of the race," she said. "I don't think they came out in force enough in our area soon enough, so now I feel like we're kind of playing catch-up" in organizing.

Costello said she had complained to the Sanders campaign for months about the lack of resources in her area, and now she feels they're finally sending more staff and resources to help knock on doors.

Indeed, Sanders' campaign says they have one of the biggest teams in Iowa, with more than 250 staffers on the ground and 23 offices across the state. That significant staff footprint coupled with the consistently large crowds has Sanders' advisers privately predicting victory in Iowa.

Warren's campaign is still seen as one of the most seasoned and best-organized in the state, as she's had organizers holding intimate local events with potential caucusgoers across Iowa for nearly a year. Her aides will only disclose that they have more than 100 paid staff and more than 20 offices in Iowa, but most operatives on the ground believe her team is nearly twice that, as Warren staffers are constantly seen at local party events and out knocking on doors. On a cold Sunday morning, with snow blanketing

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the ground, she turned out around 300 people to an elementary school gymnasium in Marshalltown.

There, she was introduced by former Housing Secretary Julian Castro, who endorsed her last week after exiting the presidential race. He made an electability pitch, arguing that Warren "can unify Democrats to beat Donald Trump."

Buttigieg has also assembled a robust statewide organization that puts him in a strong position for someone who was virtually unknown nationally a year ago. He consistently draws larger crowds than his rivals who have been in politics for decades.

Since September, the 37-year-old Buttigieg — touting a message of generational change, civility and Midwestern pragmatism — has been drawing a significant share of first-time caucusgoers into his ranks, including about a third of the 50 caucus leaders who turned out in Ottumwa for caucus training Thursday evening.

Despite the hopeful tone and intellectual depth, Buttigieg has struggled with some in his own generation looking for more overhaul in Washington than the moderate from Indiana espouses.

"I really like his temperament and his style," said Parthi Kandavel, a Des Moines middle school teacher who recently traveled to Burlington with his wife, Anu, to see Buttigieg. "My concern is his commitment to addressing income inequality."

And though Iowa's population is 90 percent white, Buttigieg's struggle to attract support from minority voters has crept into his Iowa campaign. During a rally Sunday in Des Moines, Black Lives Matter supporters interrupted Buttigieg, shouting and chanting, before being escorted out by police.

In another warning sign for Buttigieg, he dropped 9 percentage points from November in the Register/CNN Iowa poll.

Still, the final weeks of the caucus campaign are often marked by unpredictability: Candidate support is known to shift even in the final days before the caucuses, and the polling leader three weeks out is by no means assured a win.

That leaves room for an unexpected candidate to break ahead. Sen. Cory Booker is continuing to campaign feverishly in Iowa, and while his campaign leadership is seen as one of the strongest on the ground, he remains far behind his opponents in polling and staffing numbers.

It's Sen. Amy Klobuchar who has Iowa political operatives taking notice. In recent weeks, she's attracted growing crowds and a fundraising surge that helped her invest in her operation in Iowa. She now has more than 100 staffers on the ground, and 19 field offices across the state — fewer than most of the top-tier candidates, but a healthy infusion at a key time.

But it remains to be seen whether Klobuchar's late investment can compete with the seasoned staffers of campaigns like Warren's and even Booker's, which have been organizing supporters for months in Iowa.

"Now, their challenge is how you take these people that are now seriously kicking Klobuchar's tires and turn them into precinct captains and have them help recruit other people for you," said veteran Iowa Democratic Party operative Jeff Link, who is unaffiliated with any campaign. "I think she can."

Change that can win? Democrats grapple with core question

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

DOVER, N.H. (AP) — The Democrats standing in a cold New Hampshire parking lot are desperate for change after years of Donald Trump's turbulent presidency.

But like Democratic voters across the country, they're grappling with a core question as they size up their party's leading candidates just three weeks before primary voting begins: How much change is too much in 2020?

It is a question that has plagued candidates and voters alike over the last year in the Democratic Party's quest to identify the person best positioned to defeat Trump in November. And on the eve of the party's first primary, voters are torn over a slate of high-profile candidates — ranging from a self-avowed socialist to a billionaire Wall Street baron — who represent the broad spectrum of change, ideologically and symbolically, that is today's deeply divided Democratic Party.

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Just ask the two dozen voters who waited outside a recent over-packed Dover, New Hampshire, campaign appearance for Elizabeth Warren, the progressive Massachusetts senator and the only woman in the top tier, whose campaign mantra is "big, bold change."

"I want to see massive change. I worry about my daughter's future — she's 6," said 38-year-old Democrat Margaret Langsenkamp, who hasn't settled on a candidate but is leaning toward Warren or Cory Booker. "But I'm also practical about what the American people can stomach. We have to beat Trump."

Langsenkamp conceded that Warren, her preferred candidate, might struggle in a general election to defend her "socialist leanings."

With four candidates knotted at the top of primary polls, it could take several more months for the Democratic Party to sort out its high-stakes dilemma. Party officials have so far downplayed concerns about a protracted primary battle — never mind the oft-whispered prospect of a so-called contested convention — but they are encouraging the candidates to keep it positive as they debate the kind of change the party should fight for.

"The voters are thirsting, desperately, for aspirational messages," said New Hampshire Democratic Party Chairman Ray Buckley. "They want to hear about something positive. They want to hear about a moving-forward sort of change. They want to be told that there's a better tomorrow. If you look back over the last 100 years, that's been the winning message of every Democratic presidential candidate."

Buckley downplayed the differences between the candidates on defining issues like health care, the economy and education, suggesting they all favor a similar path forward, even if some would change the system faster than others.

"It's, 'Are we going to get there tomorrow or are we going to get there next week?'" he said.

But symbolically at least, each of the top four candidates represents a distinct path forward.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, a 77-year-old lifelong politician, offers primary voters a safe and familiar option while emphasizing a pragmatic approach to governing. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, 78, is embracing his status as a democratic socialist and the only top-tier candidate who would fight to replace the private health insurance market with a government-backed universal system immediately after taking office. Warren, 70, is careful to describe herself as a capitalist, but she also has a record fighting corporations and agrees with Sanders' call to transform the nation's political and economic systems. And Pete Buttigieg, a 37-year-old Midwestern former mayor who is openly gay and served in the military, represents dramatic change on paper but is more aligned with Biden on policy.

With Iowa's caucuses just 21 days away, and New Hampshire's eight days later, the sense of urgency was palpable as rival campaigns sought to distinguish themselves while courting primary voters across several states over the weekend.

Biden, campaigning in Nevada, dispatched another popular moderate to New Hampshire to remind primary voters that the path to the White House runs through Midwestern states where many worry his party is veering too far left.

Rep. Conor Lamb, whose 2017 special-election victory in a deep-red western Pennsylvania district was the first sign of a post-Trump blue wave, told 30 or so voters in a local activist's living room that Biden represents the most important kind of change in Washington: "He's putting his chips on things that can actually get done."

In an interview, Lamb raised doubts about whether swing voters in his district would embrace the kind of change that Warren and Sanders are fighting for.

"It's hard to say" whether Warren or Sanders could beat Trump in a general election, he said. "I can just say they're going to have a lot of hills to climb in western Pennsylvania."

Aware of the criticism from the party's left wing that Biden's approach is too cautious, his campaign notes that his policy agenda is more ambitious in some cases than that of Hillary Clinton in 2016. And Biden's support for a government-backed "public option" in health care, while more modest than Sanders' preferred "Medicare for All," would arguably represent the most dramatic legislative achievement since President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society.

"We can bring back this country in a way that is a new level of progress that we've never seen before,"

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Biden declared at a weekend appearance in Las Vegas.

Buttigieg has cast himself as a different kind of change agent.

The boyish-looking Democrat represents the generational change that has long powered shifts in Democratic leadership, starting with John F. Kennedy 60 years ago. He is also the first top-tier contender for a major party nomination who is gay, a distinction that quickly made him a celebrity in major fundraising circles.

He typically mentions his age and sexuality only indirectly in a core message more broadly focused on the urgency a young outsider brings to the nation's most pressing policy problems. He regularly asks his audiences, "Are you ready to change the channel?" — a question that might be aimed at Trump, but could be just as easily referring to Biden, Warren or Sanders.

"I'm running to be the president who can help America, pick up the pieces and move on to what comes next," Buttigieg said over the weekend at a union hall just off the Las Vegas Strip.

Polls help illustrate Democratic voters' struggle to decide the kind of change they want in 2020.

A Quinnipiac University poll found last fall that half of Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters favor a candidate who represents major change — in style and policy, while about 4 in 10 preferred a nominee who would pursue modest changes considered easier to pass into law.

It was much the same in a September poll by Fox News in which half of Democratic and likely Democratic voters said they preferred a candidate who would fundamentally change the political system, while just about as many said they wanted a return to the political system before Trump's presidency.

Warren, like Sanders, has staked her candidacy on the notion that a return to the system that preceded Trump is not good enough.

"Our country is in a crisis — a crisis — and Washington insiders and media pundits and even people in our party don't want to admit it," she said in Dover as the overflow crowd listened from the parking lot. "They think that wanting some vague campaign that kind of nibbles around the edges of what is broken is a winning strategy. They are wrong. If the best Democrats can offer is business as usual after Donald Trump, Democrats will lose."

Associated Press writers Michelle Price in Las Vegas and Thomas Beaumont in Des Moines, Iowa, contributed to this report.

Packers hold off Seahawks 28-23 to reach NFC title game

By DAVE CAMPBELL AP Pro Football Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers have relied more on character and resilience than offense or defense this season, lagging well behind past editions in aesthetics.

This divisional round win over Seattle, though, was a vintage Rodgers performance. He helped the Packers pull within a game of the Super Bowl with an array of clutch completions at the most critical of moments.

Rodgers connected with Davante Adams eight times for 160 yards and two touchdowns, Green Bay's spruced-up defense fended off a spirited Seahawks rally, and the Packers held on for a 28-23 victory Sunday night to reach the NFC championship game for the third time in six years.

"It's one of those feelings that starts to creep up in warmups, when you really feel like you're locked in," Rodgers said, "and I was glad it translated to the field."

Aaron Jones rushed for 62 yards and two first-half scores for the Packers (14-3), who will travel next weekend to take on top-seeded San Francisco. Rodgers, who went 16 for 27 for 243 yards in his 17th career postseason start, Rodgers has 38 touchdown passes in the playoffs. That's good for fifth in league history.

"He's definitely hungry for another Super Bowl. He deserves it, so we're doing everything in our power to put him in that position," said Adams, who set Green Bay's postseason record for receiving yards.

Russell Wilson carried the Seahawks (12-6) on yet another comeback, this time from a 21-3 halftime deficit, but the Packers forced a punt shortly before the two-minute warning on the second sack of the game by Preston Smith. That was Green Bay's fifth of the game.

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"Five minutes left, we're getting the ball back, the thing's going to be over. We're going to win it," Wilson said. "I think everybody in the stadium, and I think everybody watching felt like that, too."

The Seahawks never got the ball again.

Rodgers sealed the win with two third-down throws: a 32-yard strike to Adams on third-and-8 with 2:19 left and then for 9 yards to Jimmy Graham on third-and-9 right after the two-minute warning to take down a Seahawks team that was 8-1 on the road this season entering the game.

"I'm just going to enjoy a nice glass of scotch tonight," Rodgers said, "and get on to the film of San Fran and get ready for a tough opponent."

Rodgers exacted some payback for five years ago, when the Packers blew a 16-0 halftime lead in the NFC championship game at Seattle and were beaten 28-22 in overtime. The Seahawks lost their next game to New England when Wilson was infamously intercepted late at the goal line and haven't been back to the conference title game since then.

Rodgers is running out of time faster than Wilson, though, nine years after his only championship. Though many of Green Bay's performances haven't been pretty, with so many hold-on-at-the-end wins, Rodgers and Matt LaFleur have sure meshed well in the coach's rookie season.

"Let's be honest, I don't know that even our fans felt supremely confident in us," Rodgers said.

The Seahawks had just a plus-seven scoring margin during the regular season, making quite the habit of second-half rallies. Wilson did some of the finest work of his eight-year career in 2019, helping the Seahawks stay on track despite a steady stream of injuries, including the late setbacks in the backfield that prompted the emergency call for Marshawn Lynch.

Racking up 64 yards rushing on seven scrambles and completing 21 of 31 passes for 277 yards, Wilson directed touchdown drives of 69, 84, 79 right out of the gate after halftime. Lynch finished two of them with scores, and Wilson threw on the run to Tyler Lockett, who had 136 yards on nine receptions, for the other one.

"Every time I looked up, he was making somebody miss in the pocket, creating and extending plays," LaFleur said. "That's what he's done his whole career."

Lynch's second touchdown with 9:33 left cut the lead to 28-23, but Jaire Alexander blew up the 2-point conversion attempt with a sack on an unblocked blitz. The Packers gave the ball back to the Seahawks with a second consecutive punt, this time with 4:54 left at the Seattle 22, but Wilson ran out of tricks in his seemingly bottomless bag of them.

"He tested our cardio and heart and endurance today," Smith said.

Lynch, who has 12 rushing touchdowns in 13 career postseason games to tie for fourth in NFL history, had only 26 yards on 12 carries.

"We made it exciting," Wilson said. "We just wish we would have left here with a win."

STRONG START

The Seahawks brought their pass rush to life with seven sacks while grinding out a 17-9 win at Philadelphia last week in the wild card round, with Jadeveon Clowney making his presence felt including a hit that knocked Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz out of the game with a concussion. The Packers mostly kept Rodgers much better protected, though, and a Seahawks defense that forced 32 turnovers in the first 14 games played a fourth straight time without a takeaway.

The Packers had three touchdown drives of 75 yards apiece over the first three quarters, plus a 60-yard march preceded by a missed 50-yard field goal try from Jason Myers.

Rodgers hasn't had much help beyond Adams and Jones this season, but he and LaFleur did a masterful job of getting them the ball with some Graham mixed in. On the opening possession, Adams and Geronimo Allison ran angled routes toward each other before faking the pick and zagging away. Seahawks cornerback Tre Flowers was caught in the confusion, allowing Adams to break free for the 20-yard score.

OH, NO, LAMBEAU

Seahawks fans have plenty of bad memories of their favorite team's performances in Green Bay, with the losing streak at Lambeau Field now at nine straight games. The last such win for Seattle was on Nov.

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1, 1999.

There was the hot mike that picked up Matt Hasselbeck's ill-fated boast during the overtime coin toss that the Seahawks would win, preceding his pick-six in the 2003 playoffs. There was the blowout in the snow in the 2007 playoffs, which turned out to be Brett Favre's final win for the Packers. There were also the regular season losses with Wilson in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

INJURY REPORT

Seahawks: LG Mike Iupati was out with a neck injury, and Jamarco Jones left in the second quarter with a concussion. That forced rookie Phil Haynes into action. ... Clowney, who has fought through a core muscle injury this season, was holding his midsection in the second quarter and briefly absent for the first TD run by Jones.

Packers: RT Bryan Bulaga, one of six players the team reported this week as being limited by illness, was active for but did not play. Jared Veldheer replaced him.

UP NEXT

Seahawks: head into the offseason, needing replenish their depth on the offensive line and on defense while Wilson remains in his prime.

Packers: advance to their third NFC championship game in six years. They lost 37-8 on Nov. 24 to the 49ers, who beat Minnesota 27-10 on Saturday in their divisional round game. All four of Green Bay's appearances in the NFC title game with Rodgers at the helm have been on the road. They won at Chicago after the 2010 season to reach his only Super Bowl.

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More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

US points to dissent in Iran in wake of deadly drone strike

By **ROBERT BURNS** AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Mark Esper and other administration officials joined President Donald Trump in trying to draw attention to dissent in Iran instead of lingering questions about the scale of the threat used to justify a drone strike on Iran's top military leader.

Esper added to the uncertainty over the intelligence behind last week's killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani when he said Sunday that he had seen no hard evidence that four American embassies had been under possible threat. Trump said last Friday that Soleimani had been planning such an attack.

In appearances on Sunday news shows, both Esper and national security adviser Robert O'Brien said they agreed that Iran might have hit more than just the U.S. Embassy in the Iraqi capital. "It is certainly consistent with the intelligence to assume that they would have hit embassies in at least four countries," O'Brien said.

But Esper, when asked whether there was a specific piece of evidence, replied: "I didn't see one with regard to four embassies." And in response to a question about whether Trump was "embellishing" the threat, Esper said, "I don't believe so."

In a tweet both defiant and dismissive, Trump turned his attention again to supporting Iranian protesters and warning the Iranian government not to attack them or to pursue nuclear weapons. He tweeted: "National Security Adviser suggested today that sanctions & protests have Iran 'choked off', will force them to negotiate. Actually, I couldn't care less if they negotiate. Will be totally up to them but, no nuclear weapons and 'don't kill your protesters.'"

O'Brien had suggested the United States sees this moment as an opportunity to further intensify pressure on Iran's leaders, with whom the U.S. has been at odds for four decades. Iran's leaders already are under enormous strain from economic sanctions that have virtually strangled Iran's main source of income — oil exports. Esper said street protests in Tehran show the Iranian people are hungry for a more accountable government after leaders denied, then admitted shooting down a Ukrainian passenger plane.

"You can see the Iranian people are standing up and asserting their rights, their aspirations for a better government — a different regime," Esper said.

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Trump's order to strike at Soleimani came as he was already under pressure ahead of an impeachment trial in the Senate. Many in Congress complained that the administration did not consult them in advance and did not adequately brief members afterward.

After the U.S. killed Soleimani in Baghdad, it appeared the backlash in Iran and elsewhere had helped Tehran by shifting the focus away from its internal problems. The strike also seemed to divert attention away from domestic unrest in Iraq over government corruption, and it intensified efforts by Iraqi politicians to expel American and other foreign forces.

But the shutdown of the Ukrainian plane on the night of the Soleimani strike, killing all 176 people aboard, opened a new avenue of pressure for the Trump administration.

"I think the regime is having a very bad week," O'Brien said.

"This was a regime that's reeling from maximum pressure, they're reeling from their incompetence in this situation and the people of Iran are just fed up with it," he said, adding that regime change is not U.S. policy.

"The people of Iran are going to hopefully have the ability at some point to elect their own government and to be governed by the leaders they choose," O'Brien said.

In Tehran, Iran's security forces deployed in large numbers on Sunday. Demonstrators defied the heavy police presence to protest their country's days of denials that it shot down the Ukrainian plane. Videos posted online showed protesters shouting anti-government slogans and moving through subway stations and sidewalks.

Iranians have expressed anger over the downing of the Ukrainian flight and the misleading explanations from senior officials in the immediate aftermath. Later the government took the blame for the shutdown, saying it was caused by human error.

Reviewing the dramatic sequence of events that preceded the downing of the Ukrainian jetliner Wednesday, Esper justified the U.S. killing of Soleimani as an act of self defense, and he said the U.S. foresees no more Iranian military attacks in retaliation for that. Even so, the leader of the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which is closely aligned with Iran, said Sunday that Iran's missile attacks on two bases in Iraq housing U.S. forces last week were only the start of the retaliation.

Hassan Nasrallah described Iran's military response, which caused no casualties, as a "slap" at the U.S. He called it the "first step down a long path" that will ensure U.S. troops withdraw from the region.

Democratic Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he was concerned that "Iran has lots of ways that they can take action against us, both overt and covert, and I don't think they're done trying to seek revenge."

Esper spoke hopefully of getting the NATO alliance more involved in Iraq to help train Iraqi security forces. He said this could allow him to reduce the number of American troops in Iraq, currently numbering more than 5,200, but he did not say any reduction was in the works yet.

Esper appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation" and CNN's "State of the Union." O'Brien appeared on ABC's "This Week," "Fox News Sunday" and NBC's "Meet the Press." Coon was on Fox.

Chiefs rally from 24-0 hole to beat Texans 51-31 in playoffs

By DAVE SKRETTA AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Patrick Mahomes stalked up and down the sideline like a field marshal rallying his troops, the brilliant young quarterback imploring the Kansas City Chiefs to stay together even as the Houston Texans were on the verge of taking them apart.

The Chiefs already faced a 24-0 hole, bigger than any deficit they had overcome in franchise history.

"The biggest thing I was preaching," Mahomes said later, "was, 'Let's go do something special. Everybody is counting us out. Let's go out there and play by play put it out there.' And play by play, we did what we were supposed to do."

Beginning with the first of his five touchdown passes, Mahomes and the Chiefs slowly chipped away at Houston's seemingly insurmountable lead. They continued to pick up momentum, outscoring the Texans

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28-0 during the second quarter alone, and eventually reeled off 41 consecutive points before cruising the rest of the way to a 51-31 victory Sunday that propelled Kansas City back to the AFC championship game for the second consecutive season.

In doing so, the Chiefs (13-4) became the first team in NFL history to win a playoff game by at least 20 points after trailing by at least 20. They matched the fourth-biggest comeback in playoff history while winning a postseason game in back-to-back seasons for the first time. Travis Kelce and Damien Williams scored three touchdowns apiece, joining the 49ers' Jerry Rice and Ricky Waters in Super Bowl 29 as the only teammates to score that many times in a postseason game.

Meanwhile, Mahomes led by example as much as by voice. He finished with 321 yards passing, becoming the first player in postseason history with at least 300 yards passing and five touchdowns while running for at least 50 more yards.

"You saw him going up and down the bench, he was talking to everybody, — 'Just settle down,'" Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "As a head coach, you can't ask for more than that. When he's the leader of your team and he's going, 'Hey, we're going to be fine. Let's not wait for the fourth quarter. Let's go!' And he did that."

Now, after losing to the Patriots in overtime in last year's conference title game, the Chiefs are back on the brink of their first Super Bowl appearance in 50 years. They will host Tennessee next Sunday in a rematch from earlier this season after the Titans upset Lamar Jackson and the top-seeded Baltimore Ravens on Saturday night.

"We've already played them and we know they're a tough team," Mahomes said. "They're a team that battles all the way until the end. They're a team that's really hot, playing really good football right now, so we know it's going to take our best effort. And, whatever way, we've got to find a way to win."

Deshaun Watson, meanwhile, threw for 388 yards and two touchdowns while running for another, but not even his heroics could bail out the Texans (11-7) after their calamitous second quarter and dismal third. The result: The reborn Houston franchise is 0-4 in the divisional round and has never won a road playoff game.

"I definitely thought we were going to have to score more than 24," said Texans coach Bill O'Brien, who made a series of debatable calls during the collapse. "I think that they're, obviously, a very explosive team and it just didn't work out."

The Chiefs certainly gave Houston a chance to end their frustrating playoff streak in the first quarter.

On defense, Kansas City blew coverage on Kenny Stills on the opening possession, allowing him to walk into the end zone from 54 yards. On offense, they wasted timeouts, dropped a series of easy passes and managed just 46 yards. And on special teams, the Chiefs had a punt blocked for a score and fumbled a return that set up another touchdown.

Indeed, the Texans kept humming right along after finishing on a 22-3 run to beat Buffalo last week, while the mountain of miscues made by the Chiefs made them only the fourth home playoff team to trail 21-0 after the first quarter.

Things turned around on a series of plays — and a call by O'Brien in particular — that will be debated for a while.

After the Texans stretched the lead to 24-0 early in the second quarter, the Chiefs began to nip into their deficit with a quick touchdown drive. And the comeback really gained momentum when O'Brien called for a fake punt at the Houston 31-yard line and the Chiefs stuffed it, giving them a short field and setting up another easy touchdown.

"We had that play ready for a variety of different teams and situations," said the Texans' Justin Reid, who took the snap and was stopped short of the first down. "Credit to them, they made the play."

As the Chiefs continued to take off, the Texans continued to stumble.

On the ensuing kickoff, Houston return man DeAndre Carter had the ball pop loose and into the arms of Darwin Thompson, whose recovery set up a second Mahomes-to-Kelce touchdown in a matter of seconds. And their third came after the Chiefs forced a punt — a successful one, for a change — and they drove

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90 yards to take a stunning 28-24 halftime lead.

"I mean, it was an amazing thing. Everything was working," Mahomes said. "The play calls were open, everybody was getting open against man-coverage which we've been preaching all season long, and guys were making plays."

The comeback became a clobbering by the time the third quarter ended.

The Chiefs breezed downfield to start the second half, and Williams finished the drive with his first TD run. Their overhauled defense under coordinator Steve Spagnuolo sacked Watson on fourth down to get the ball right back, and Mahomes and Co. required just six more plays to position Williams for another TD run and a 41-24 lead.

The 41 consecutive points, spanning most of the second and third quarters, were the most since the Jets had the same against the Colts in the 2002 wild-card round.

Even when the Texans finally cracked the scoreboard, when Watson scrambled to his left and dived over the pylon, the Chiefs rendered the touchdown moot. In four plays they went 72 yards to set up the fifth TD pass by Mahomes, the strike to little-used tight end Blake Bell giving coach Andy Reid's team a postseason-record seven straight TD drives.

It also gave a festive crowd that turned out early in freezing weather and a slight drizzle a chance to celebrate early.

"We've got full confidence not only in the players but the game plan going into it. Just got to deal with what's going on in the game — what's real and what's not — and what was real was we were hurting ourselves early," Kelce said. "With that, you just rally the troops, lean on the leaders of this team and make plays. That's what we did."

INJURIES

Houston played without S Jahleel Addae (hamstring) and TE Jordan Akins (hamstring). They also lost RT Chris Clark to a knee injury early in the game, and backup Roderick Johnson struggled against the Chiefs pass rush the rest of the game.

Kansas City sat defensive tackle Chris Jones, who strained his calf muscle late in the week and couldn't make it through pregame warm-ups. WR Tyreek Hill left briefly after a hard hit but eventually returned to the game.

UP NEXT

The Texans will spend the offseason wondering how they let a 24-0 lead slip away, and the Chiefs will begin preparing for the Titans in the AFC title game. Kansas City lost 35-32 at Tennessee in Week 10, when Derrick Henry ran for 188 yards and two touchdowns against them. It was the Chiefs' most recent loss.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Trump, Pelosi square off ahead of impeachment trial

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and Speaker Nancy Pelosi squared off Sunday ahead of his impeachment trial, as she said senators will "pay a price" for blocking new witnesses and he quickly retorted that she and House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff should both testify.

The House plans to vote this week to transmit the articles of impeachment to the Senate for the historic trial on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress over Trump's actions toward Ukraine. It will be only the third presidential impeachment trial in American history and could start this week.

Trump and Pelosi, the two most powerful party leaders in the nation, communicated as often happens in this presidency — with the president responding on Twitter to a television interview.

"It's about a fair trial," Pelosi told ABC's "This Week." "We've done our job. We have defended the Constitution of the United States. We would hope the Senate would do that as well."

She warned, "Now the ball is in their court to either do that or pay a price."

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Trump tweeted right before and after Pelosi's appearance, in both instances using derisive nicknames. He said both she and Schiff should appear in the Senate for testimony. "He must be a Witness, and so should she!" Trump tweeted.

Yet hours later Trump suggested almost the opposite, saying senators should do away with a trial completely.

Trump said "many believe" by holding a Senate trial "it gives the partisan Democrat Witch Hunt credibility that it otherwise does not have. I agree!"

The president rebutted Pelosi's suggestion that no matter what the Senate does, he will always be impeached. Pelosi said the House vote last month means Trump will be "impeached forever" and "for life."

"Why should I have the stigma of Impeachment attached to my name when I did NOTHING wrong?" Trump tweeted, calling the House action a "totally partisan Hoax."

Voters are divided over impeachment much the way they are split along partisan lines and as the Senate prepares for the landmark trial both parties are trying to set the terms of the debate over high crimes and misdemeanors.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is seeking a speedy trial to acquit the president and is reluctant to seek more witnesses. The GOP leader has proposed a process similar to the last presidential impeachment trial of Bill Clinton in 1999 that would start the proceedings and then vote later on hearing new testimony.

One leading Republican, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, has already predicted that the trial would end "in a matter of days."

In a Fox News Channel interview Saturday, Graham dismissed Pelosi's tactics, saying the delay would have no effect on calling new witnesses or the expected outcome — acquittal by the GOP-controlled Senate.

"The Senate should not reward this behavior by the House," said Graham, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "The Senate should end this trial as quickly as possible. That's what I intend to do. He will be acquitted. I hope and pray every Republican will reject what Nancy Pelosi did, and we'll pick up a few Democrats."

Trump was charged with abuse of power for pressuring the president of Ukraine to investigate Democrats, specifically Trump political rival Joe Biden. Trump was also charged with obstruction of Congress for trying to block the House investigation.

Trump was delaying nearly \$400 million in aid as Ukraine battles Russia on its border while he pushed the country's new president to investigate. Trump follows a conspiracy theory pushed by his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani about Biden and his son, Hunter Biden, who served on the board of a gas company there while his father was vice president. Neither is accused formally of any wrongdoing.

Some Republicans want to turn the impeachment trial away from the Democrats' case against Trump and toward Giuliani's theory about Biden.

GOP Sen. Rick Scott of Florida said Sunday he wants to hear from the Bidens "and find out — get to the bottom of that."

McConnell is reluctant to pursue any more witnesses at all, wary of dragging out the Senate trial. He and joined some Republicans in backing a proposal for votes to dismiss the charges against Trump.

But at least one Republican up for reelection, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, said last week she was in talks with GOP colleagues on a process that would allow them to hear more testimony as Democrats want.

The Democratic-run House is set to vote this week to send over the articles of impeachment after Pelosi ended a more than three-week delay.

Once the Republican-led Senate receives the charges, the trial is expected to begin swiftly.

The date is not yet certain and Pelosi will meet behind closed doors with House Democrats to decide next steps on Tuesday morning ahead of the party's presidential primary debate that evening, the last before the Iowa caucus Feb. 3.

While some Democrats have grumbled about the delay, Pelosi and other party leaders defended the strategy, saying it produced new potential evidence and turned public attention on the upcoming trial.

"One of the things that holding on to the articles has succeeded doing is fleshing out McConnell and the

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president's desire to make this a cover up," Schiff said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

"If McConnell succeeds in making this trial a trial without witnesses.... That's not a fair trial. That's a sham," he said.

Pelosi said senators need to consider new witnesses, including former national security adviser John Bolton, who has said he would be willing to testify if he receives a subpoena.

Trump is blocking White House officials from appearing and reiterated last week he does not want his former top security adviser to testify before the Senate.

Bolton is a brash figure and his outspoken comments could cut different ways in testimony. House Democrats, who did not issue a subpoena for Bolton last year, did not rule out doing so now.

"It's certainly something that we are considering," Schiff said.

Pelosi also left open the door to filing more articles of impeachment against Trump.

"It's Sunday morning — let's be optimistic about the future... a future that will not have Donald Trump in the White House, one way or another, 10 months from now we will have an election, if we don't have him removed sooner," she said.

Right before Pelosi was set to appear for the Sunday interview, Trump tweeted against Pelosi, calling her a derisive nickname, "Crazy Nancy."

Asked about Trump's tweet, Pelosi said, "Every knock from him is a boost."

Canadian officials accidentally push nuke alert to millions

By **ROB GILLIES** Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — People throughout the Canadian province of Ontario awoke Sunday to a cellphone alert warning them of an "incident" at a nuclear plant just east of Toronto — only to later be told the message was a mistake.

The message, which was transmitted throughout the nation's most populous province, was accompanied by a shrill emergency broadcast noise. It said an unspecified event had occurred at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station. There was no abnormal release of radioactivity, it added, and people did not need to take protective action.

More than an hour later, utility officials sent another message saying the alert "was sent in error" and that there was "no danger to the public or environment."

"No further action is required," said the message, which was also sent to television screens.

The alert went out during a routine training exercise being conducted by the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre, Ontario Solicitor General Sylvia Jones said in a statement that apologized for the mistake.

She said the government had started a full investigation and would "take the appropriate steps to ensure this doesn't happen again."

Jim Vlahos, a 44-year-old Toronto man, awoke to the alert and quickly made a hotel reservation more than 60 miles away in Niagara Falls. He said he figured he would go as far west as possible and then cross the border.

"Having watched 'Chernobyl' didn't help," he said, referring to the HBO show about the 1986 nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union. "The lack of communication following the alert didn't help either," he said.

"I have no problem leaving my phone on for these types of alerts," Vlahos said. "But I would expect some more info from the government so I wouldn't have to overreact the way I did."

Many people slept through the first alert and saw it was a false alarm by the time they woke up.

Jonathan Davies, also 44, was taken aback when he spotted the alert while driving. But he waited until after he picked up his Tim Hortons coffee to check the news.

"I can't cope with much until I have my coffee, at least a few sips," he said. "I got scared and went online but found no information." He later saw the the follow-up alert that indicated it was a false alarm.

Scott Pelton, a 48 year-old Toronto resident, wondered if was a cyber attack.

"Could be sign of a hack or could just be an innocent mistake? But is a mistake like that possible?" Pelton said.

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Pickering Mayor Dave Ryan said he was "very troubled" by the message. He said on Twitter that he spoke to provincial officials and demanded an investigation.

Toronto Mayor John Tory joined him, tweeting that there were "far too many unanswered questions" about the warning that was sent across the province of 14 million people.

Terry Flynn, who teaches crisis communications at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, said the error runs the risk of eroding public trust.

"When we have continuous problems in these systems, then we have a lack of trust and people begin to ignore them. So that's the biggest fallout from this scenario," he said.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's inspector general recommended changes to the emergency alert system in the United States after Hawaii officials in 2018 mistakenly warned the public about a nonexistent incoming ballistic missile. An employee at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency sent the missile alert to cellphones and broadcasters, triggering panic until the agency sent another message 38 minutes later notifying people it was a false alarm.

Pickering, which opened in 1971, was scheduled to be decommissioned this year, but the provincial government committed to keeping it open until 2024. Decommissioning is now set to start in 2028.

The plant generates 14% of Ontario's electricity and is responsible for 4,500 jobs across the region, according to Ontario Power Generation.

The station has experienced several earlier incidents. In 2011, a pump seal failure caused the spill of more than 19,200 gallons (73,000 liters) of demineralized water into Lake Ontario, though with no significant risks to public health, according to local authorities.

In 1994, the plant automatically shut down after a faulty valve caused 132 tons of heavy water to spill. It was the first time a Canadian nuclear reactor had to use its emergency core cooling system to prevent fuel overheating.

Ontario Power "has a sophisticated and robust notification process in place that we would immediately follow in the unlikely event of an incident at the station," Chief Nuclear Officer Sean Granville said. "I want to assure the public that there was no incident at the station, and the plant is operating as designed."

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Jan. 13, the 13th day of 2020. There are 353 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 13, 2012, the Italian luxury liner Costa Concordia ran aground off the Tuscan island of Giglio and flipped onto its side; 32 people were killed.

On this date:

In 1794, President George Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the Union. (The number of stripes was later reduced to the original 13.)

In 1864, American songwriter Stephen Foster died in poverty in a New York hospital at age 37.

In 1941, a new law went into effect granting Puerto Ricans U.S. birthright citizenship. Novelist and poet James Joyce died in Zurich, Switzerland, less than a month before his 59th birthday.

In 1962, comedian Ernie Kovacs died in a car crash in west Los Angeles 10 days before his 43rd birthday.

In 1964, Roman Catholic Bishop Karol Wojtyla (voy-TEE'-wah) (the future Pope John Paul II) was appointed Archbishop of Krakow, Poland, by Pope Paul VI.

In 1978, former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey died in Waverly, Minnesota, at age 66.

In 1982, an Air Florida 737 crashed into Washington, D.C.'s 14th Street Bridge and fell into the Potomac River while trying to take off during a snowstorm, killing a total of 78 people, including four motorists on the bridge; four passengers and a flight attendant survived.

In 1992, Japan apologized for forcing tens of thousands of Korean women to serve as sex slaves for its

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soldiers during World War II, citing newly uncovered documents that showed the Japanese army had had a role in abducting the so-called "comfort women."

In 2000, Microsoft chairman Bill Gates stepped aside as chief executive and promoted company president Steve Ballmer to the position.

In 2003, Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman jumped into the 2004 race for president.

In 2005, Major League Baseball adopted a tougher steroid-testing program that would suspend first-time offenders for 10 days and randomly test players year-round.

In 2018, a false alarm that warned of a ballistic missile headed for Hawaii sent the islands into a panic, with people abandoning cars on a highway and preparing to flee their homes; officials apologized and said the alert was sent when someone hit the wrong button during a shift change.

Ten years ago: Haitians piled bodies along the devastated streets of their capital a day after a powerful earthquake, while in Washington, President Barack Obama pledged an all-out rescue and relief effort. During the first hearing of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, top Wall Street bankers apologized for risky behavior that led to the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, but still declared it seemed appropriate at the time. Rhythm-and-blues singer Teddy Pendergrass died in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, at age 59.

Five years ago: Pope Francis brought calls for reconciliation as well as justice as he arrived in Sri Lanka at the start of a weeklong Asian tour. In an emotional act of defiance, Charlie Hebdo resurrected its irreverent and often provocative newspaper, featuring on the cover a caricature of a weeping Prophet Muhammad holding a sign reading "I am Charlie" with the words "All is forgiven" above him.

One year ago: The number of no-shows among airport security screeners surged, two days after screeners failed to receive a paycheck for the first time since the partial government shutdown began. "Roma" was the top winner at the Critics' Choice Awards, winning honors for best picture, foreign language film and a pair of individual awards for director Alfonso Cuarón.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Frances Sternhagen is 90. TV personality Nick Clooney is 86. Comedian Charlie Brill is 82. Actor Billy Gray is 82. Actor Richard Moll is 77. Rock musician Trevor Rabin is 66. Rhythm-and-blues musician Fred White is 65. Rock musician James Lomenzo (Megadeth) is 61. Actor Kevin Anderson is 60. Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus is 59. Rock singer Graham "Suggs" McPherson (Madness) is 59. Country singer Trace Adkins is 58. Actress Penelope Ann Miller is 56. Actor Patrick Dempsey is 54. Actress Suzanne Cryer is 53. Actress Traci Bingham is 52. Actor Keith Coogan is 50. TV producer-writer Shonda Rhimes is 50. Actress Nicole Eggert is 48. Actor Ross McCall is 44. Actor Michael Pena is 44. Actor Orlando Bloom is 43. Meteorologist Ginger Zee (TV: "Good Morning America") is 39. Actress Ruth Wilson is 38. Actor Julian Morris is 37. Actor Beau Mirchoff is 31. Actor Liam Hemsworth is 30. NHL center Connor McDavid is 23.

Thought for Today: "Never underestimate your power to change yourself; never overestimate your power to change others." — H. Jackson Brown Jr., American writer.

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