

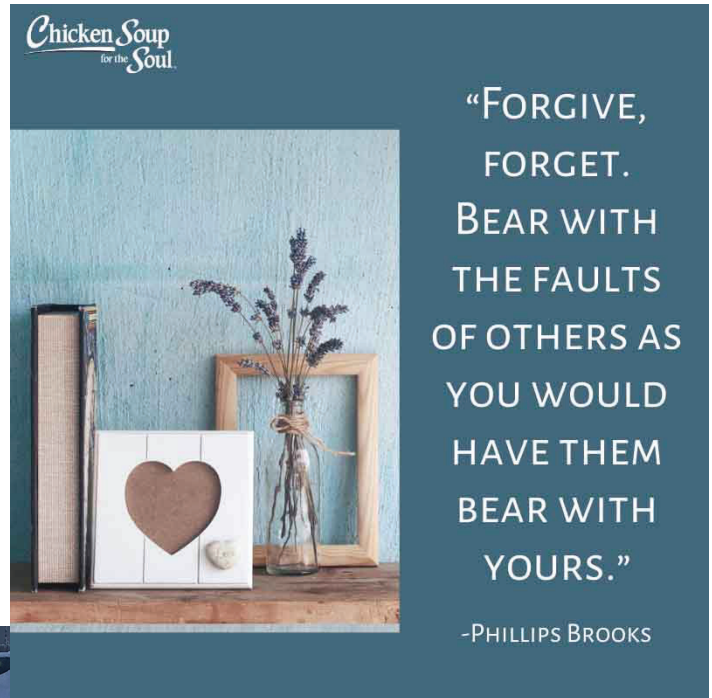
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“FORGIVE,
FORGET.
BEAR WITH
THE FAULTS
OF OTHERS AS
YOU WOULD
HAVE THEM
BEAR WITH
YOURS.”

-PHILLIPS BROOKS



Ryan Fair shoveled out the fire hydrant near his house on West Second Avenue. Is the fire hydrant near your house cleaned out? If not, it should be. It's your responsibility. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

When the season started, there were 32 teams with Super Bowl aspirations. Now there are two. The Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers will face off in Miami in two weeks, after defeating the Tennessee Titans and Green Bay Packers on Sunday. We now know who and where, but today we'll examine how these two teams reached the championship game.

The Kansas City Chiefs haven't reached the Super Bowl in 50 years, and head coach Andy Reid looks to win his first championship (he reached the Super Bowl in 2004 with the Philadelphia Eagles but lost to the New England Patriots). The Chiefs are led by 24-year old quarterback Patrick Mahomes, who won the MVP in 2018 after throwing for 50 touchdowns that season.

After their first-round bye, the Chiefs played the Houston Texans in the divisional round. The Chiefs fell behind quickly, and at one point in the second quarter the Texans were up 24-0. For any other team, the game would have been over, but Mahomes led the Chiefs on four straight touchdown drives to take a 28-24 lead into the half. The Chiefs ended up scoring 41-straight points en route to a 51-31 final score.

In the AFC Championship game, Kansas City had to contend with the Tennessee Titans and the NFL's leading rusher Derrick Henry. Once again, the Chiefs started off slow (down 10-0 midway through the first quarter), and once again, the Chiefs came roaring back and took a lead into halftime. Mahomes finished the game with four total touchdowns in the 35-24 win, and the Chiefs are headed to Miami.

The San Francisco 49ers were one of the best teams in the league from 2011-2013, reaching the Super Bowl once (a loss to the Baltimore Ravens) and the Conference Championship game the other two years. Unfortunately for the 49ers, the next five seasons were not kind, as the team averaged five wins per year. This year, led by the best rushing attack in the NFL and a top-5 defense, the 49ers went 13-3 and are looking for the franchise's sixth Lombardi Trophy.

The 49ers, like the Chiefs, had the benefit of a bye week entering the playoffs. San Francisco dominated the Vikings 27-10 in the divisional round, and a full recap is available in last week's newspaper.

After dispatching the Vikings, the 49ers turned their attention to the Green Bay Packers. San Francisco could do no wrong in the first half of the NFC Championship game, and went into halftime with a 27-0 lead. Aaron Rodgers finally got going in the second half, but by that time it was too late. The Packers cut the deficit to 14 points with just over eight minutes left in the game, but a 49ers field goal on the next possession followed by an interception by Rodgers sealed the game for San Francisco.

Next week I will have a full preview of the matchup between the Chiefs and the 49ers.

Looking ahead, the NFL Pro Bowl is this weekend. The Minnesota Vikings will have four players in the game: Dalvin Cook, C.J. Ham, Danielle Hunter and Harrison Smith. The Pro Bowl is never taken seriously, but it's still fun to watch the best football players in the world get together and have a good time. There is also a skills competition this Thursday, which I find more interesting than the game itself. The skills competition will air at 8pm on ESPN, and the Pro Bowl will be on ABC starting at 2pm on Sunday. Skoll!

Saved from a Peritonsillar Abscess

I came down with an unrelenting sore throat about 15-20 years ago. For years I have tried to be discreet in prescribing antibiotics in most of my patients, for fear of causing resistance in bacteria to the antibiotics. I did for me what I did for most of my patients, which was to avoid the antibiotics. However, after a week the sore throat was getting worse, it was starting to keep me from opening my mouth normally and I was running a fever. I called my friend, an ears, nose and throat doctor who practiced at our local clinic with me.



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

He squeezed me into his schedule and took a look at my throat. I noted his eyes got a little wide and then he got up and left the room, returning with a large syringe attached to a big bore needle. It was so quick I didn't have time to resist and he placed that huge needle into my throat, stabbed the left tonsil, and came back with a syringe full of brown liquid. He smiled and said, "You have a peritonsillar abscess."

I had pain localized to the left side of my throat which was made worse with swallowing and which was suspicious for peritonsillar abscess. Other symptoms that could indicate such a diagnosis include swollen tonsil or tonsils, uvular deviation away from the abscess, a mouth that doesn't open fully, purulence of one or both tonsils, drooling, swollen neck-lymph nodes and finally, a muffled voice.

Usually there are two organisms growing which makes this condition a double threat. If the infection is allowed to spread, the invasion of many layers of neck tissue can occur which leads to a progressive extension of the infection into deep tissue and possibly a dismal death. The infection can also spread to the other tonsil, which, when swollen and pushed up against the opposite swollen tonsil, can block air flow and cause death from suffocation.

My doctor immediately sent me down to an infusion room and started the daily intravenous dose of an antibiotic that would be repeated daily for a week. This was not the first time or the last that antibiotics saved my life. Following this experience, I looked much more carefully at every patient with a sore throat, and, although I was still careful about over-prescribing antibiotics, I prescribed antibiotics more often for swollen and ugly tonsils after that.

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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Glimpses—Week 1

by Brock Greenfield

We are off and running in the 2020 Legislative Session! Once again this year, I have been tabbed by my fellow Senators as the President Pro Tempore. As I have indicated in the past, there are a lot of responsibilities that go along with the job. It is the greatest honor of my life to work for the people of my district, and the icing on the cake has been gaining the trust and support of my colleagues to serve as the highest ranking legislator in the Senate. I continue to take very seriously my responsibilities in this, my fourth year as President Pro Tem. Again this year, I will be serving on State Affairs and Appropriations as my main committees. Also, I will be the Chair of Legislative Procedures and the Executive Board.

Appropriations has been hard-at-work since the Governor delivered her Budget Address in December. We were back the following week for three long days of hearings, which was followed up by subcommittee work. During this first week of session, we, likewise, were hard at it in the Approps room. We heard from numerous departments and bureaus and constitutional offices regarding their recommended budget requests as endorsed by the Governor. We will be working as hard as ever to put our collective legislative fingerprint on the budget, which most legislators would like to see amended by providing the statutorily-required increase for education and similar increases for those health care providers who care for South Dakotans who cannot care for themselves, as well as for state employees. We made significant strides last year for our community-based service providers. Failure to provide an increase this year would be to give back what progress was made in 2019. Also, when the sales tax increase was passed in 2016, I said it was forced-consolidation in disguise. For the second time in four years, we are beginning a session in which the proposal is that we do not meet our statutory requirement for the K-12 system, which will result in our schools not able to meet their statutory benchmarks for increasing teacher pay. The law proscribes that if they fail to meet said benchmarks, they will be sanctioned. If we are unable to come up with additional dollars to meet our obligations, we need to readdress the requirements foisted upon our schools. For now, though, most legislators remain committed to doing what we need to do in order to provide the inflationary adjustment as written into the 2016 legislation.

We heard the Governor's State of the State Address on Tuesday. As the Governor noted, we are turning a corner here in South Dakota. Some economic indicators are pointing to a more robust economy than originally projected. That would be good news for those concerned about the state's fiscal (budgetary) issues. Also, the Governor reiterated her commitment to promoting all-things-South Dakota as we try to promote our quality way of life to tourists and prospective new South Dakotans. Other first-week goings-on included the State of the Judiciary Address, as delivered by Chief Justice David Gilbertson who will be retiring in the next few months, and the State of the Tribes Address, as delivered by Lester Thompson of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. After the State of the Tribes Address, many of us in leadership joined other tribal leaders at Wakpa Sica in Fort Pierre, where we heard each of them share the challenges and opportunities their tribes are encountering. There is a spirit of cooperation both among the tribal leadership and the tribes and the state. We have a small number of issues that divide us, but a heck of a lot of issues that bind us together.

Numerous other groups came to Pierre throughout the week. We had the SD Retailer's, Pierre/Ft. Pierre Chambers of Commerce, SDSU, A.B.A.T.E., the Historical Society, the Rural Electric Associates, and a whole host of others who reached out to legislators at various events to make their pitches for how we can best serve them this year. I will be working on a number of pieces of legislation this year that I will keep you apprised of, but two issues that will prove to be highly visible and of tremendous importance involve 1) the Rural Electric/Municipal Electric territory/service legislation that was ever-present during the 2019 session, as well, and 2) efforts to provide townships and counties greater flexibility in addressing road, bridge, and infrastructure concerns. Also, look for legislation that will seek to put an end to the constant erosion of local economic development dollars in favor of a socialist system of redistribution of those dollars. This

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was one element of the 2016 education funding formula re-write, and—as predicted—it is leading to a slowing of local jurisdictions endorsing economic development opportunities, not to mention a redistribution of dollars from areas of the state who promote local development efforts to those areas where they're rejecting local development. One case in point finds the area just south of Sioux Falls in Lincoln County repeatedly rejecting projects they find objectionable but due to the 2016 legislation reaping the rewards of other jurisdictions' efforts dozens to hundreds of miles away. This should not be, and I am hopeful that we can rectify the situation.

Much more to come in the following weeks. For now, I wish you a blessed, prosperous, and healthy 2020!

January 17-18, 2020 Blizzard Summary

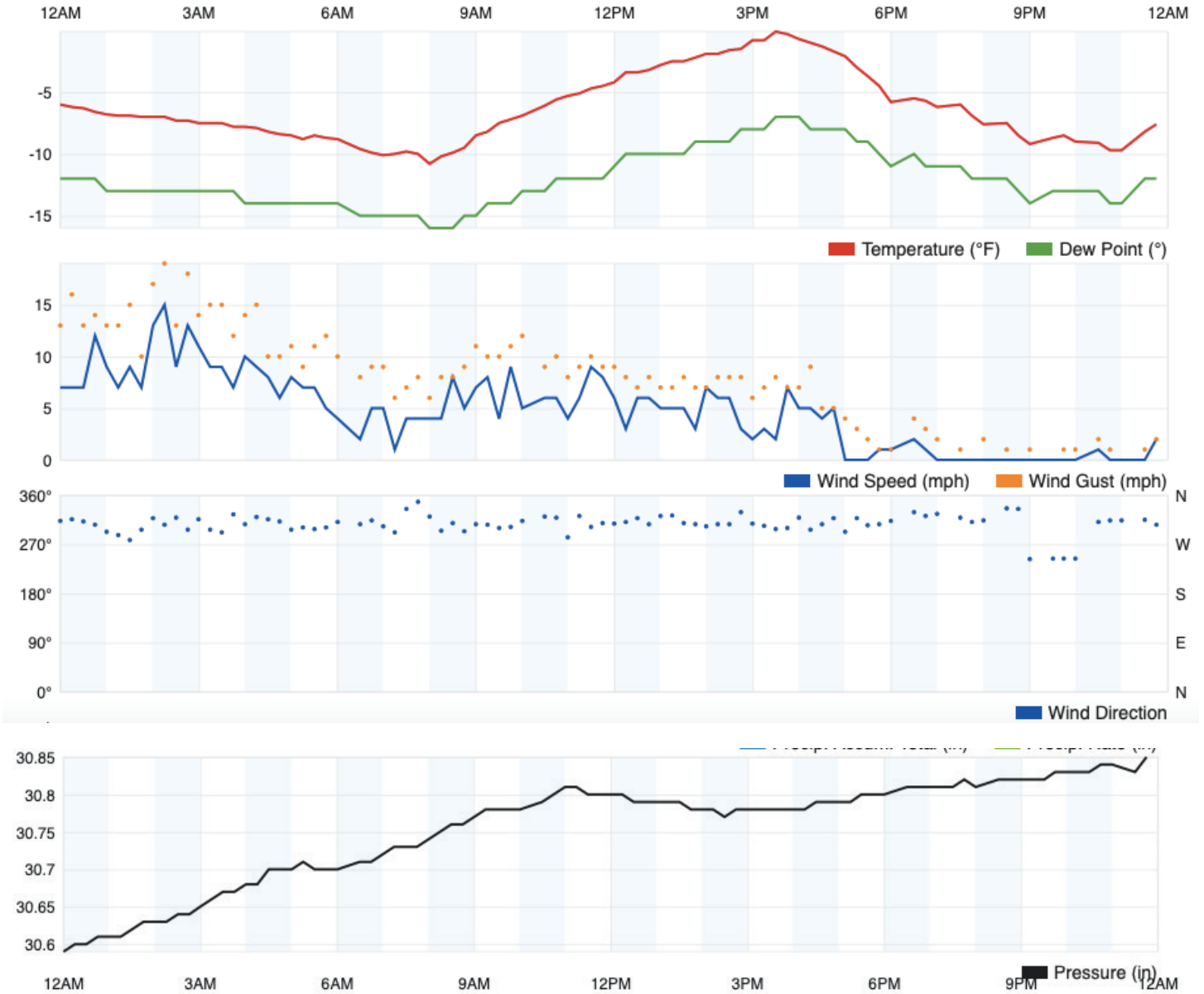
Overview

A strong low pressure system tracked from Wyoming across the state of South Dakota on Friday, January 17th and Saturday, January 18th. Ahead of the low, strong southerly winds combined with falling snow to produce widespread blowing snow and even blizzard conditions for some east of the Missouri River. Freezing drizzle and freezing rain were observed across the area at times as well on Friday. By Friday evening, a brief lull in the winds allowed for improvements to the visibility, but blizzard conditions swiftly returned on surging northwest winds from west to east across the state, beginning roughly at the Missouri River around 8 pm (no or too little blowable snow further west). Ground blizzard conditions then continued through much of the day Saturday across northeastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Very cold air moved in with the northwest winds as well. Impacts included road closures such as I-29 across all of eastern SD from 7pm on the 17th through 3pm 18th (portions of I-90 too) as well as other roads for even longer than that in some cases, power outages, and many vehicles in ditches.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Upcoming Events

Monday, January 20, 2020

Postponed to Feb. 4th, Double Header: Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Langford @ Groton Area High School

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

Basketball Double Header with Ipswich in Groton. (Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6 p.m., Boys Varsity to follow)

7 p.m.: City Council meeting at the Groton Community Center

Thursday, January 23, 2020

3:00pm: Junior High Boys Basketball Game at Aberdeen Roncalli

5:00pm: Wrestling Quad at Clark.

6:30pm: Boys Basketball at Roncalli

Friday, January 24, 2020

Speech Fiesta Debate at Watertown High School

Saturday, January 25, 2020

Speech Fiesta Debate at Watertown High School

Robotics at GHS Gymnasium

10:00am: Boys Junior High Jamboree at GHS (rescheduled from 1-18-20)

10:00am: Wrestling Tournament at Arlington

Sunday, January 26, 2020

Carnival of Silver Skates at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

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 27, 2020

Boys Basketball at Northwestern (combined junior high game at 4 p.m., Junior Varsity game at 6:30 p.m. followed by the varsity game)

6:00pm: Junior High Wrestling Tournmanet at Redfield

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

6:30pm: Girls' Basketball at Clark/Willow Lake (at Clark School)

Thursday, January 30, 2020

4:00pm: Northeast Conference Wrestling at Britton-Hecla School

Friday, January 31, 2020

Lewis and Clark Debate at Yankton High School

Boys Basketball hosts Clark/Willow Lake. (Combined Junior High Game at 5:15 p.m., followed by Junior Varsity game at 6:30 p.m. and then the varsity game.)



Johnson's 90th Birthday

Ella Johnson is celebrating her 90th birthday on Jan. 21st. Cards may be sent to her at 903 N 2nd St, Groton, SD 57445. Family requests no gifts.

82nd Annual

Carnival of Silver Skates

Sunday, January 26th—2:00 and 6:30

Groton Ice Rink—West Side of Groton

Dreams...both the kind you have when you're asleep AND when you're awake... This show will entertain through music, costumes and skating talent.

Join us for a *great show* performed by our *local youth* that will inspire you to *DREAM!*

Admission: 13 & older—\$3.00
6-12—\$2.00

Parking: Provided around the rink and on the ice or cozy up on the bleachers (ice parking begins at 10 am, then again at 4:30 pm)

**Check us out on Facebook at "Silver Skates"

WE HOPE TO
SEE YOU THERE!

Dreams
on Ice 2020

A stylized illustration of a pair of ice skates, one black and one white, positioned below the text.

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M.L.King Day



Cold

High: 1 °F

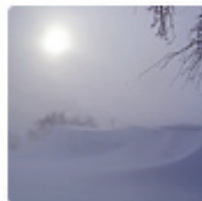
Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: -4 °F↑

Tuesday



Patchy Blowing Snow and Breezy

High: 29 °F

Tuesday Night



Patchy Blowing Snow and Breezy then Mostly Cloudy

Low: 22 °F

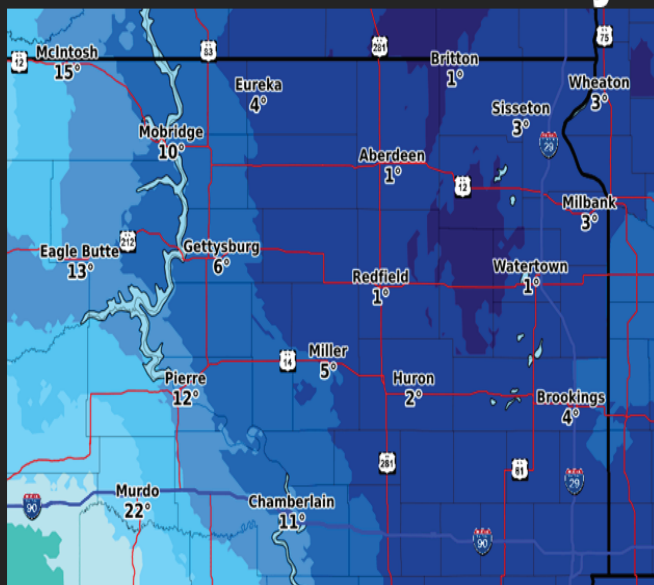
Wednesday



Partly Sunny

High: 30 °F

One More Bitter Cold Day



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

1/20/2020 3:31 AM

Becoming Breezy East of the Missouri River on Tuesday.

Patchy blowing snow Possible.

- ❖ Sunny but cold today.
- ❖ Warmer temps midweek, especially along and west of the Missouri River.
- ❖ Light Snow possible Wed. night through Thursday night.

3 Day Forecast Highs

Tuesday Wednesday Thursday



25-40°

30-40°

25-35°

One more cold day is expected with highs ranging from zero to ten above. A milder airmass will begin moving into the area tonight, with the warmth remaining through midweek. Breezy southerly winds could cause patchy blowing snow east of the Missouri River on Tuesday.

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Today in Weather History

January 20, 1944: A late January warm up occurred on this date in weather history in 1944. Temperatures rose into the upper 50s to the mid-60s across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Overnight lows in the 20s and lower 30s were above the normal highs for the year. Record highs were set at Aberdeen, Kennebec, Sisseton, and Watertown. Watertown rose to 56 degrees, Sisseton rose to 58 degrees, Aberdeen rose to 60 degrees, and Kennebec rose to 65 degrees. Also, Mobridge rose to 57 degrees, and Pierre rose to 61 degrees.

1883: Yuma, Arizona sets their all-time record low of 22 degrees. This record is tied in 1911 and again in 1937.

1933: Phoenix, Arizona receives 1 inch of snow. This sets the record for the most ever recorded in Phoenix.

1937: The wettest Inaugural Day of record with 1.77 inches of rain in 24 hours. Temperatures were only in the 30s as Franklin D. Roosevelt was sworn in for his second term.

1937 - The wettest Inaugural Day of record with 1.77 inches of rain in 24 hours. Temperatures were only in the 30s as Franklin D. Roosevelt was sworn in for his second term. (David Ludlum)

1943 - Strange vertical antics took place in the Black Hills of South Dakota. While the temperature at Deadwood was a frigid 16 degrees below zero, the town of Lead, just a mile and a half away, but 600 feet higher in elevation, reported a balmy 52 degree reading. (David Ludlum)

1954 - The temperature at Rogers Pass, MT, plunged to 70 degrees below zero to establish a new record for the continental U.S. (David Ludlum)

1978 - A paralyzing "Nor'easter" produced a record 21 inches of snow at Boston, 15 to 20 inches in Rhode Island, and one to two feet of snow in Pennsylvania. Winds along the coast of Connecticut gusted to 70 mph. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Gale force winds lingered along the northern Atlantic coast in the wake of a holiday weekend storm. High winds along the eastern slopes of the Northern Rockies gusted to 67 mph at Livingston MT, and high winds in southern California gusted to 70 mph near San Bernardino. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A storm in the Upper Midwest produced heavy snow and gale force winds. Up to 27.5 inches of snow was reported along the Lake Superior shoreline of Michigan, with 22 inches at Marquette. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - The temperature in the Washington D.C. area warmed into the lower 50s for the Presidential Inauguration during the late morning hours, before gusty northwest winds ushered in colder air that afternoon. (National Weather Summary)

1990 - While heavy thunderstorm rains drenched the Central Gulf Coast States, with 4.23 inches reported at Centreville AL in 24 hours, unseasonably warm weather continued across Florida. Five cities in Florida reported record high temperatures for the date. Tampa FL equalled their record high for January of 85 degrees. (National Weather Summary)

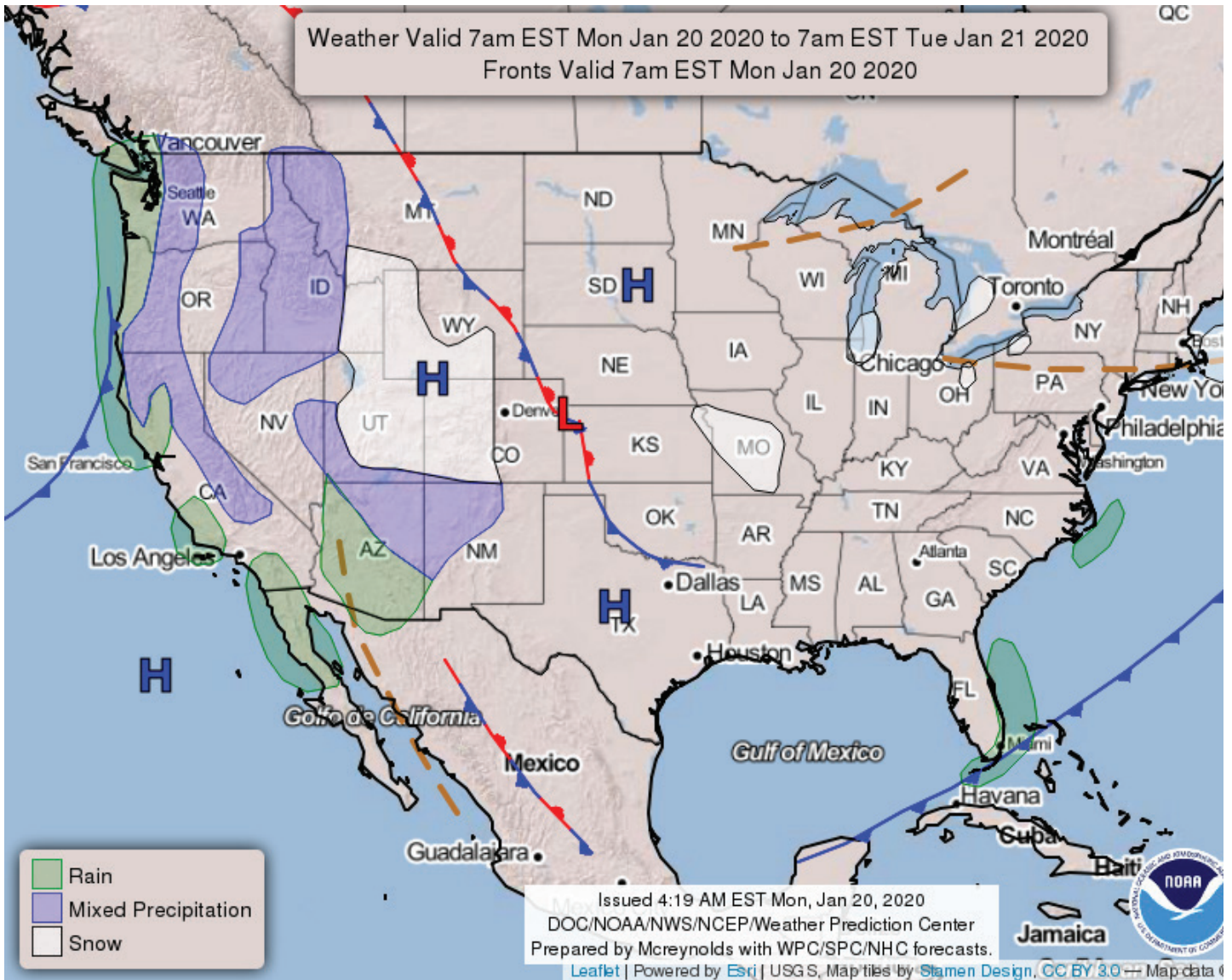
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 0 °F at 3:20 PM
Low Temp: -11 °F at 7:59 AM
Wind: 19 mph at 2:12 AM
Snow

Record High: 60° in 1944
Record Low: -29° in 1936
Average High: 22°F
Average Low: 1°F
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.31
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.35
Average Precip to date: 0.31
Precip Year to Date: 0.35
Sunset Tonight: 5:23 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:06 a.m.





TELL ME, WHAT DO YOU DO?

An employee was suddenly taken very ill at work and was rushed to the hospital. He was well-liked by everyone for his constant humor and happy disposition. The first one to visit him at the hospital was his boss.

Standing by the side of his bed and holding his hand, his boss encouraged him by saying, "John, please don't worry about a thing. Just get well. We'll all get together and do your work – as soon as we can figure out what you've been doing."

It seems as though every organization has an employee named "John." He's over here, over there, everywhere but where he is supposed to be, not doing what he has been hired to do. He's busy doing nothing while others take up the slack.

Paul said to "Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than people." We are obligated to work responsibly as if Jesus were our employer. Even when we find our work unsatisfying or unfulfilling at times, we must always remember that God put us where we are to do what He wants us to do and that His will and purpose for our lives is what matters most. He will reward us for what we do and how well we do it. We work to glorify Him.

Prayer: Lord, when our work becomes difficult and boring and tedious and we want to quit or perform poorly, reminds us that we do what we do to honor You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Ephesians 6:7-8 Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free.

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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

Duffy helps No. 25 South Dakota women top state rival 83-48

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Ciara Duffy scored 21 points, Hannah Sjerven added 16 and No. 25 South Dakota routed rival South Dakota State 83-48 on Sunday in a game postponed one day because of bad weather.

The Coyotes made quick work of the battle between the last two teams unbeaten in Summit League play, racing to a 26-6 lead after one quarter. South Dakota went 11 of 18 from the field and held the Jackrabbits to 3-of-12 shooting with five turnovers.

It was 42-24 at the half with South Dakota shooting 58% and SDSU shooting 39%.

South Dakota (17-2, 6-0), which has gone 34-2 in league play over the last three seasons, has been winning league games by a 34-point margin and is ninth in the country on offense at 81.6 points a game. Their winning streak in home conference games is now 20.

Megan Bultsma scored 12 points for the Jackrabbits (14-7, 6-1), who became the 14th team in Division I to reach 1,000 wins by beating Notre Dame earlier this season. Paiton Burckhard scored 11.

The rivalry is not just for state bragging rights, the two teams have won seven of the last eight regular-season titles and both advanced to the NCAA Tournament last season.

South Dakota finished at 53% and was 10 of 20 from 3-point range. SDSU shot 37% and was 3 of 17 behind the arc.

More AP women's basketball: <https://apnews.com/Womenscollegebasketball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Rapid City police say crime, arrests double since 2012

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Arrests for drugs, aggravated assaults, and vehicle thefts in Rapid City are the highest they've been since 2012, the city's police chief has said.

Chief Karl Jegeris said drug arrests in particular are at an all-time high and have more than doubled since 2012. The Rapid City Journal reported Sunday that police officers made 1,567 drug arrests in 2019, compared with 734 in 2012, according to police data.

Jegeris said the increase is due to the state's meth crisis and repeat offenders. He wants lawmakers to increase funding for meth treatment programs and create alternatives to prison. But he also wants repeat meth offenders to receive tougher punishments.

Regarding aggravated assaults, police data show officers handled 389 aggravated assault cases last year, the highest since 2012 and up from 379 in 2018.

There were 344 vehicle theft cases in 2019, the most since 2012, according to police data.

Jegeris expressed frustration that laws limit when judges can send minors to prison or out-of-home placements, saying restrictions are to blame for an increase in vehicle thefts.

He said there is "an alarming increase" in the number of children, some as young as 12, stealing cars. He said in some cases juveniles who have stolen multiple vehicles have not been punished with jail time or out-of-home placements.

Mark Vargo, the Pennington County state's attorney, has told the Rapid City Journal that under South Dakota law, minors who repeatedly commit non-violent crimes, like auto theft, can only be committed if a judge determines they are a physical risk to others.

This story has been corrected to show that the dateline should be South Dakota.

Hagedorn helps South Dakota upset South Dakota State 99-84

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VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Tyler Hagedorn scored 24 points on 9-of-12 shooting and all five South Dakota starters scored in double figures in a 99-84 victory over South Dakota State on Sunday.

Hagedorn hit all four of his 3-point tries for the Coyotes (12-8, 3-3 Summit League), who knocked the Jackrabbits (14-8, 5-2) out of first place. Triston Simpson scored 21 on 8-of-9 shooting, while Stanley Umude had 11 points and 10 rebounds for his fourth double-double of the season. Tyler Peterson hit 8 of 12 shots and finished with 18 points, while Cody Kelley scored 13.

South Dakota led 52-38 at halftime after shooting a blistering 69% from the floor. The Coyotes shot 64% for the game, 60% from distance (9 of 15) and made 14 of 18 free throws.

Sophomore Matt Dentlinger paced the Jackrabbits with 26 points on 13-of-18 shooting with seven assists. He missed his only free throw. Alex Arians added 16 points, while David Wingett scored 13.

South Dakota State shot 53% overall, 54% from 3-point range (13 of 24) and made 7 of 9 foul shots (78%).

For more AP college basketball coverage: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and http://twitter.com/AP_Top25

China's Xi says coronavirus outbreak must be taken seriously

By YANAN WANG and KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping said Monday that it's "extremely crucial" to take every possible measure to combat a new coronavirus that has infected 217 people in the country.

His remarks, cited by state broadcaster CCTV, came the same day that the country reported a sharp rise in the number of people infected by the novel form of viral pneumonia, including the first cases in the capital.

The outbreak comes as the country enters its busiest travel period, when millions board trains and planes for the Lunar New Year holidays.

"The recent outbreak of novel coronavirus pneumonia in Wuhan and other places must be taken seriously," Xi said, according to CCTV. "Party committees, governments and relevant departments at all levels should put people's lives and health first."

They should "ensure that the masses have a quiet, peaceful and joyous Spring Festival," he added.

Health authorities in the central city of Wuhan, where the viral pneumonia appears to have originated, said an additional 136 cases have been confirmed in the city, which now has a total of 198 infected patients. As of the weekend, a third patient had died.

Five individuals in Beijing and 14 in southern China's Guangdong province have also been diagnosed with the new coronavirus, state broadcaster CCTV reported Monday evening. A total of seven suspected cases have been found in other parts of the country, including in Sichuan and Yunnan provinces in the southwest and in Shanghai.

The outbreak has put other countries on alert as millions of Chinese travel for Lunar New Year. Authorities in Thailand and in Japan have already identified at least three cases, all involving recent travel from China.

South Korea reported its first case Monday, when a 35-year-old Chinese woman from Wuhan tested positive for the new coronavirus one day after arriving at Seoul's Incheon airport. The woman has been isolated at a state-run hospital in Incheon city, just west of Seoul, the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement.

At least a half-dozen countries in Asia and three U.S. airports have started screening incoming airline passengers from central China.

Videos posted online show people in protective suits checking one-by-one the temperatures of plane passengers arriving in Macao from Wuhan. A man surnamed Yang who works for the Macao Health Bureau confirmed over the phone that such checks are taking place in the southern Chinese region.

Many of the initial cases of the coronavirus were linked to a seafood market in Wuhan, which was closed as authorities investigated.

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Since hundreds of people who came into close contact with diagnosed patients have not gotten sick, the municipal health commission maintains that the virus is not easily transmitted between humans, though it has not ruled out limited human-to-human transmission.

China's National Health Commission said experts have judged the current outbreak to be "preventable and controllable."

"However, the source of the new type of coronavirus has not been found, we do not fully understand how the virus is transmitted, and changes in the virus still need to be closely monitored," the commission said in a statement Sunday.

Coronaviruses cause diseases ranging from the common cold to SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome. SARS first infected people in southern China in late 2002 and spread to more than two dozen countries, killing nearly 800. The Chinese government initially tried to conceal the severity of the SARS epidemic, but its cover-up was exposed by a high-ranking physician.

"In the early days of SARS, reports were delayed and covered up," said an editorial in the nationalistic Global Times. "That kind of thing must not happen again in China."

"We have made great strides in medicine, social affairs management and public opinion since 2003," the editorial said.

Xi instructed government departments Monday to promptly release information on the virus and deepen international cooperation.

China has notified and maintained close communication with the World Health Organization and other relevant countries and regions, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular news briefing.

Wuhan has also adopted measures to control the flow of people leaving the city, Geng said.

The virus causing the current outbreak is different from those previously identified, Chinese scientists said earlier this month. Initial symptoms of the novel coronavirus include fever, cough, tightness of the chest and shortness of breath.

On the Weibo social media platform, which is widely used in China, people posted prevention advice such as wearing masks and washing hands. State broadcaster CCTV recommended staying warm, increasing physical activity, eating lightly and avoiding crowded places. Some people said they had canceled their travel plans and were staying home for Lunar New Year.

Associated Press researcher Yu Bing in Beijing and writer Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

Virginia's capital braces for gun-rights rally

By ALAN SUDERMAN and SARAH RANKIN Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Gun-rights activists and other groups began to descend on Virginia's capital city Monday to protest Democrats' plans to pass gun-control legislation.

Gov. Ralph Northam declared a temporary state of emergency days ahead of the rally, banning all weapons including guns from the event on Capitol Square. The expected arrival of thousands of gun-rights activists — along with members of militia groups and white supremacists — raised fears the state could again see the type of violence that exploded in Charlottesville in 2017.

Virginia's solicitor general told a judge Thursday that law enforcement had identified "credible evidence" armed out-of-state groups planned to come to the state with the possible intention of participating in a "violent insurrection."

Toby Heytens also suggested during his arguments in a lawsuit by gun advocates that challenged the weapons ban that the crowd could number in the tens of thousands. The Supreme Court upheld the weapons ban.

The Virginia State Police, the Virginia Capitol Police and the Richmond Police are all coordinating the event and have plans for a huge police presence at Monday's rally with both uniformed and plainclothes

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officers. Police plan to limit access to Capitol Square to only one entrance and have warned rallygoers they may have to wait hours to get past security screening.

A light crowd milled near the security gate outside the Capitol early Monday before authorities started letting people in at the sole public entrance just before 7:30 a.m. Some waited to get inside the square, while others — including some with military-style rifles — had no plans to go in.

Authorities will be looking to avoid a repeat of the violence that erupted in 2017 in Charlottesville during one of the largest gatherings of white supremacists and other far-right groups in a decade. Attendees brawled with counterprotesters, and an avowed white supremacist drove his car into a crowd, killing a woman and injuring dozens more.

Law enforcement officials faced scathing criticism for what both the white supremacist groups and anti-racism protesters said was a passive response.

An RV festooned with Trump material and selling Trump merchandise parked in front of the line to the square, but was booted by a police officer shortly after it parked Monday: "You got two minutes before it's towed. Clock's ticking."

Monday's rally is being organized by an influential grassroots gun-rights group, the Virginia Citizens Defense League. The group holds a yearly rally at the Capitol, typically a low-key event with a few hundred gun enthusiasts listening to speeches from a handful of ambitious Republican lawmakers.

But this year, many more are expected to attend. Second Amendment groups have identified the state as a rallying point for the fight against what they see as a national erosion of gun rights.

Virginia Beach carpenter Andy Kincaid, 59, got up at 2 a.m. to come to Richmond, but said he thinks the number of attendees was probably overstated, as the cold weather and rumors of anti-fascist infiltrators may have kept some away.

The pushback against proposed new gun restrictions began immediately after Democrats won majorities in both the state Senate and House of Delegates in November. Much of the opposition has focused on a proposed assault weapons ban.

Virginia Democrats are also backing bills limiting handgun purchases to once a month, implementing universal background checks on gun purchases, allowing localities to ban guns in public buildings, parks and other areas, and a red flag bill that would allow authorities to temporarily take guns away from anyone deemed to be dangerous to themselves or others.

Kem Regik, a 20-year-old private security officer from northern Virginia brought a white flag with a picture of a rifle captioned "Come and take it."

"I don't like what the Legislature is doing and I'm here to let them know that," he said, while wearing a Trump ball cap. He believes the assault weapon ban proposed by Northam is the worst proposal, but also that all of the proposals on the table infringe on rights.

He said he wasn't going to enter the square, because he thought that was where protesters would most likely get arrested. He said he wasn't scared for his safety, pointing to a group of nearby militia-type men with guns: "This is the safest place to be."

Kincaid echoed Regik's lack of concern about safety, but said he too wasn't sure if he'd go into the square. Entering the square, he said, "may conform too much to their Nazism."

James Dean revival spurs debate on raising the digital dead

By **ANDREW DALTON** and **MATT KEMP** Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The men bringing James Dean back to life for a forthcoming film are aiming not just to give his digital likeness a role, but a whole new career.

Dean's planned appearance in the Vietnam War movie "Finding Jack," and the possibility of future parts, comes as digital de-aging and duplication of real actors has tipped from cinematic trick into common practice. And it's giving new life to old arguments about the immortality and dignity of the dead.

"Our intentions are to create the virtual being of James Dean. That's not only for one movie, but going to be used for many movies and also gaming and virtual reality," said Travis Cloyd, CEO of Worldwide XR,

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who is leading the design on the Dean project. "Our focus is on building the ultimate James Dean so he can live across any medium."

Legally, they have every right to do it, via the full agreement of the Dean estate and his surviving relatives. "Our clients want to protect these valuable intellectual property rights and the memories that they have of their loved ones," said Mark Roesler, CEO of CMG Worldwide, the legal and licensing company that has long owned the title to Dean's likeness. "We have to trust them. ... They want to see that their loved one's image and memory continues to live on."

Dean is an obvious candidate for revival with his embodiment-of-Hollywood image and the brevity of his life and career — he died at 24 and made just three films: "East of Eden," "Rebel Without a Cause" and "Giant."

Roesler and Cloyd have not obtained the rights from Warner Bros. to use footage from those films, but they have a large trove of photos and Dean's dozens of TV roles.

"There are thousands of images that we do have to work with," Cloyd said. "What we typically do is we take all those images and videos and we run them through machine learning to create that asset."

That will be added to the work of a stand-in actor using motion-capture technology as commonly done now with CGI characters, along with the overdubbed voice of another actor.

The announcement of the role last year caused a quick backlash, with responses like that of "Captain America" star Chris Evans on Twitter: "Maybe we can get a computer to paint us a new Picasso. Or write a couple new John Lennon tunes. The complete lack of understanding here is shameful."

"I think there's definitely something cynical and what feels like a little bit distasteful about bringing especially long-dead actors back to life," said Terri White, editor-in-chief of film magazine "Empire." "The reaction to the likes of the James Dean news has actually shown that I think most people don't really want that."

For the people behind the Dean project, the negative reaction is as inevitable as they believe the eventual acceptance will be. Cloyd foresees a Hollywood where even living actors have a "digital twin" that helps in their work.

"This is disruptive technology," Cloyd said. "Some people hear it for the first time and they get shaken by it. But this is where the market is going."

The revival of the dead, often done clumsily, has been happening for much of Hollywood's existence.

Footage of Bela Lugosi, combined with a double holding a cape over his face, was used in 1959's "Plan 9 From Outer Space," released after the horror star's death. Bruce Lee's film "Game of Death," left unfinished before his 1973 death, was completed using doubles and voice overdubs and released five years later. "The Fast and the Furious" star Paul Walker died in 2013 before shooting was done on "Furious 7." His two younger brothers and others acted as stand-ins so his scenes could be finished.

Even Lennon, and many other dead historical figures, were digitally revived in 1994 in "Forrest Gump."

But the technology of recreation and resurrection has taken a major leap forward in quality and prestige, with the extensive de-aging and re-aging used in Martin Scorsese's "The Irishman"; a young Will Smith digitally returning to play opposite the current version in last summer's "Gemini Man"; and Carrie Fisher, whose younger self briefly returned digitally in 2016's "Star Wars: Rogue One" and appeared again after her death, in "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker."

These instances have elicited scattered skepticism — both of the quality of the technology and the propriety of the revivals — but audiences have largely accepted them.

Guy Williams, visual effects supervisor at filmmaker Peter Jackson's Weta Digital, said the possibilities do offer a moral dilemma.

"The question isn't so much if you use somebody's likeness to bring them back or to create a digital version of them, it's what you do with it and the respect that you show to it," Williams said. "So that, to me, is the more important question."

Pablo Helman, the visual effects supervisor behind the de-aging of Robert De Niro and others in "The Irishman," said he considers that moral dilemma in his work.

"The main question that you need to ask yourself is why do it?" Helman said. "You know, just because

you can do it doesn't mean you should, you know? That would be one thing that I'm always questioning: Is it in service of the story?"

Ethical considerations are likely to give way to market forces if viewers decide they find digital versions of dead actors plausible, and palatable.

"I think the moral question is going to be decided by the audiences and society, whether they want to see that," said Bill Westenhofer, visual effects supervisor on "Gemini Man."

Dean will be playing a supporting role in "Finding Jack," which is now in pre-production. The limited screen time is, at this point, as far as those recreating him want to go. But they hope the digital avatar can eventually carry a movie, possibly even playing James Dean himself at different ages.

"At some point there's going to be the James Dean biopic," Cloyd said. "I think the technology is not necessarily there today to take the risk."

Kemp reported from London.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton>.

Crimes? Impeachment prosecutors, defense lay out arguments

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's defense team and the prosecutors of his impeachment are laying out their arguments over whether his conduct toward Ukraine warrants his removal from office.

Trump's lawyers on Sunday previewed their impeachment defense with the questionable assertion that the charges against him are invalid, adopting a position rejected by Democrats as "nonsense."

The trial resumes on Tuesday with what could be a fight over the ground rules. By then, both sides will have submitted briefs and four Democratic presidential candidates will have been forced back to Washington from the early nominating states to join every other senator in silence, sans phones, on the Senate floor.

What they're likely to hear in this extraordinary setting is the House Democrats' impeachment articles that charge Trump with abuse of power and obstruction of Congress over his pressure on Ukraine for political help. From the White House, the senator-jurors are expected to hear that Trump committed no crime, the impeachment articles are invalid and he's the victim of Democrats who want to overturn his election.

"Criminal-like conduct is required," said Alan Dershowitz, a constitutional lawyer on Trump's defense team. Dershowitz said he will be making the same argument to the Senate and if it prevails, there will be "no need" to pursue the witness testimony or documents that Democrats are demanding.

But the "no crime, no impeachment" approach has been roundly dismissed by scholars and Democrats, who were fresh off a trial brief that called Trump's behavior the "worst nightmare" of the country's founders. In their view, the standard of "high crimes and misdemeanors" is vague and open-ended in the Constitution and meant to encompass abuses of power that aren't necessarily illegal.

The White House is pushing an "absurdist position," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the lead Democratic prosecutor of the impeachment case. "That's the argument I suppose you have to make if the facts are so dead set against you." Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., another impeachment prosecutor, called it "arrant nonsense" and said evidence of Trump's misconduct is overwhelming.

The back-and-forth came as all concerned agitated for the Senate to get on with the third impeachment trial in the nation's history. Behind the scenes, the seven House managers were shoring up which prosecutor will handle which parts of the case and doing a walk-through of the Senate.

No senators were more eager to get going than the four Democratic presidential candidates facing the prospect of being marooned in the Senate ahead of kickoff nominating votes in Iowa and New Hampshire.

"I'd rather be here," said Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders on New Hampshire Public Radio while campaigning Sunday in Concord.

During the trial, Sanders and other senators are required to sit for perhaps six grueling hours of proceedings daily — except Sundays, per Senate rules — in pursuit of the "impartial justice" they pledged to

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pursue. But there was scant evidence that anyone's mind was really open about whether Trump earned vindication or ouster.

Mystery, however, abounded over the trial's ground rules. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., shed no light on how the proceedings will follow — and differ from — the precedent of President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial in 1999.

"The president deserves a fair trial. The American people deserve a fair trial. So let's have that fair trial," said Democratic Rep. Jason Crow of Colorado, one of the seven impeachment prosecutors.

But what's fair is as vigorously disputed as the basic question of whether Trump's pressure on Ukraine to help him politically merits a Senate conviction and removal from office. The stakes are enormous, with historic influence on the fate of Trump's presidency, the 2020 presidential and congressional elections and the future of any presidential impeachments.

Whatever happens in the Senate, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has said, Trump will "be impeached forever." Members of Trump's team countered that if they win a vindication for Trump, it means "there will be an acquittal forever as well," Trump attorney Robert Ray said Sunday. "That is the task ahead."

For all of the suspense over the trial's structure and nature, some clues on what's to come sharpened on Sunday.

The president's lawyers bore down on the suggestion that House impeachment is invalid unless the accused violated U.S. law. Dershowitz's argument, backed up by Ray, refers to an 1868 speech by Benjamin Curtis, who after serving as a Supreme Court justice acted as the chief lawyer for Andrew Johnson at his Senate impeachment trial.

Johnson was ultimately acquitted by the Senate.

"The core of the impeachment parameters allege that crimes have been committed, treason, bribery, and things like that, in other words, other high crimes and misdemeanors," Ray said Sunday.

Republicans have long signaled the strategy, which has, in turn, been disputed by other scholars.

"Rubbish," said Frank Bowman, a University of Missouri law professor and author of his own book about the history of impeachment for the Trump era.

"It's comically bad. Dershowitz either knows better or should," said Bowman, who said he had been Dershowitz's student as a law professor at Harvard.

Even as he made the case for Trump's acquittal, Dershowitz on Sunday distanced himself from the rest of Trump's defense team and said he would merely speak about the Constitution at the trial. He refused to endorse the strategy pursued by other members of that team or defend Trump's conduct and said he didn't sign onto the White House left brief filed Saturday, which called impeachment a "brazen" attempt to overturn the 2016 election.

"I'm a liberal Democrat ... I'm here as a constitutional lawyer," Dershowitz said. "I'm here to lend my expertise on that issue and that issue alone."

Democrats, meanwhile, are pushing for witnesses and documents that weren't part of the House proceedings. A few Republicans said they want to know more before deciding. It's relevant because new information from Lev Parnas, an indicted associate of Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, is being incorporated in the House case. At the same time, Senate Democrats want to call John Bolton, the former national security adviser, among other potential eyewitnesses, after the White House blocked officials from appearing in the House.

With Republicans controlling the Senate 53-47, they can set the trial rules — or any four Republicans could join with Democrats to change course.

Crow spoke on CNN's "State of the Union" and Dershowitz was on CNN and ABC's "This Week." Ray was on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures." Schiff appeared on ABC and Nadler on CBS's "Face the Nation."

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker in Washington and Hunter Woodall in Manchester, N.H., contributed to this report.

Follow Laurie Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

#MeToo prosecutors deploy experts early to thwart defense

By MARYCLAIRE DALE Associated Press

When his trial opens in the coming days, Harvey Weinstein's defense team is expected to go on the offensive against the women who have accused him of rape and sexual assault, in part by questioning if they acted like victims afterward.

New York City prosecutors intend to counter with a strategy that's taken hold since the 2018 retrial of comedian Bill Cosby: calling a sex crimes expert as a witness to dispel assumptions about how rape and sexual assault victims behave after an attack.

In fact, Weinstein's prosecutors are using the very same expert, Dr. Barbara Ziv. She was the first prosecution witness at Cosby's retrial and is expected to testify early in Weinstein's trial this month.

Ziv, a forensic psychiatrist who has spent decades working with sex offenders and victims, is likely to be an important potential bulwark against Weinstein's defense that he had consensual relationships with the two women at the center of the case.

One of the women, who accuses Weinstein of raping her in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013, sent him warm emails in the months after the alleged assault.

"Miss you big guy," said one note.

"There is no one else I would enjoy catching up with that understands me quite like you," said another.

There was similar evidence at Cosby's trial that he had remained in contact with some of his victims. Ziv testified that victims frequently avoid or delay reporting assaults to police, often keep in contact with the perpetrator, remember more details over time and differ in their emotional responses.

Cosby's jury ultimately returned a guilty verdict in the first big celebrity trial of the #MeToo era.

Prosecutors are now rethinking how they try sexual assault cases, especially those involving intimate partners, mentors, work friends and other potentially fraught relationships.

Through experts like Ziv, they can immediately focus the jury's attention on victim behavior and frame the way jurors hear later testimony. That approach can help prosecutors bust myths and preemptively weaken defense strategies.

"I think that makes sense. It's basically a quick education for the jury, and it's true the jury starts to see things through that lens," said Laurie Levenson, a criminal law professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

In addition to the alleged rape, Weinstein, 67, is charged with sexually assaulting another woman, Mimi Haley, in 2006. If convicted, he could be sentenced to life in prison.

Opening statements are expected as soon as this week, following two weeks of jury selection.

Weinstein's lead lawyer, former Chicago prosecutor Donna Rotunno, said in a pretrial interview with Vanity Fair that while some women might have regretted having sex with the former producer, "regret sex is not rape."

She said the email correspondence between Weinstein and both women is evidence that, at the time, neither considered what happened to be a crime.

"I think a woman who is a victim of rape is going to look at that and say, 'That's not what rape victims do.' If you were really raped, this is not what you do," she said.

Defense attorney Kathleen Bliss took similar aim at Cosby's accusers in scorching closing arguments in April 2018.

She called trial accuser Andrea Constand "a con artist" and witness Janice Dickerson, one of five other accusers to testify for the prosecution, "a failed starlet" and "aged-out model" who had seemingly "slept with every man on the planet."

Given the cultural moment, some defense lawyers question that strategy. The goal, they say, should be to discredit accusers without eviscerating them. Eviscerating them could turn off a jury.

In Weinstein's case, the task is all the more daunting. News reports about his alleged predation of scores

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of women — from high-profile actresses to production assistants — launched the #MeToo movement in late 2017.

"Of course, a lawyer has to go in there and attack credibility and attack inconsistencies. It's just how you do it," said defense lawyer Brian McMonagle, who won a mistrial in the first Cosby trial when the jury deadlocked. "There's a way to do it without being despicable."

Traditionally, prosecutors call trial experts toward the end of their case to try to repair any damage done to their witnesses. But in sex assault cases, that may be tough to do once jurors form opinions.

"One of the big differences (at the Cosby retrial) was using the victim expert early in the trial. I think that served to help educate the jury on rape myths and victim behavior," said Kevin Steele, the suburban Philadelphia district attorney who oversaw both Cosby prosecutions.

The practice isn't limited to the courtroom.

Experts and victims are also working with police to help them understand victim behavior. They can have the same misconceptions as juries, said former prosecutor Kristen Feden, who gave closing arguments in Cosby's retrial and now represents sex assault victims in private practice. The police training, she said, "certainly changes the way they investigate."

Constand, who lives in Toronto, is doing training sessions with law enforcement groups there. She first went to police about Cosby in 2005, a year after the encounter — only to be rebuffed by Steele's predecessor, who declined to press charges in part because she'd stayed in contact with Cosby and didn't immediately tell law enforcement.

"I can't tell them how to prosecute these cases, but I can tell them about the internal experiences, and barriers to reporting," Constand said in a recent interview.

Cosby, 82, who like Weinstein had scores of accusers, is now serving three to 10 years in prison for drugging and molesting Constand. He'd been a friend and mentor to Constand at Temple University, where she worked for the women's basketball team and he, a beloved alumnus and campus icon, served on the Board of Trustees.

Rotunno, in Vanity Fair, said the #MeToo movement had gone too far.

"Women may rue the day that all of this started when no one asks them out on a date, and no one holds the door open for them, and no one tells them that they look nice," she said.

In Levenson's view, defense lawyers need to focus on the facts to win #MeToo cases.

"If you're going to attack the witnesses, you better have very good ammunition. You better not be going on stereotypes or assumptions," she said. "It has to be very specific information that undercuts their credibility. The general smear campaign, I don't think works anymore."

Britain's EU Journey: When Churchill urged European unity

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain officially leaves the European Union on Jan. 31 after a debilitating political period that has bitterly divided the nation since the 2016 Brexit referendum.

Difficult negotiations setting out the new relationship between Britain and its European neighbors will continue throughout 2020. This series of stories chronicles Britain's tortured relationship with Europe from the post-World War II years to the present.

Europe has been a source of contention in Britain seemingly forever. That may be why no consensus has really ever existed over the benefits of being a member of the European Union and why the country has been so divided in the run-up to Brexit day.

Though there may be no bigger lovers of the horrors of Scandi-noir or the beaches of Greece than the British, feelings for the EU have been far more lukewarm during the country's 47 years of membership. One of the ironies of Brexit is that Britain arguably now has some of the most passionate pro-EU supporters anywhere in the bloc.

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Many reasons have been cited for the complex relationship. Maybe, an imperial past has cast a cloud over Britain's membership. Maybe it's just to do with the fact there is a strip of water separating the country from what is often referred to as "the continent." Britain has always been wary of the shifting alliances that have played out in Europe since the Norman conquest of 1066.

Whatever the primary motivation behind the Brexit vote in 2016, Britain has always perceived itself as a land apart.

Ironically, it was Winston Churchill who called for a "kind of United States of Europe" in the grim aftermath of World War II.

In a speech in Zurich in 1946, a year after the end of the war and after he had been resoundingly ousted as British prime minister in a general election, Churchill outlined his vision for post-war Europe.

Peace and prosperity, he said, could only come if France and Germany put aside their centuries of mistrust and start operating as partners.

"The structure of the United States of Europe, if well and truly built, will be such as to make the material strength of a single state less important," he said. "Small nations will count as much as large ones and gain their honour by their contribution to the common cause."

Churchill didn't envision Britain being part of this grand endeavour. Its role, like that of the "mighty America" and even of Soviet Russia, would be to act as "friends and sponsors of the new Europe."

That perception about Britain's role provides one explanation to its ambiguous relationship with Europe in the decades since. It joined the club late, 16 years after the rules had been written, in fact. While a member, it often grumbled about many of the integration suggestions that came up. Words like "awkward" or "semi-detached" weren't uncommon descriptions of Britain's membership.

It all, perhaps inevitably, culminated in that vote in June 2016, albeit a narrow 52%-48% majority in favour of leaving the club.

Perhaps Brexit was inevitable, after all.

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit and British politics at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

Prince Harry: 'Powerful media' is why he's stepping away

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prince Harry has taken aim at the journalists who have dissected his life since the day he was born as he expressed regret for the way he has had to step down from royal duties.

In a personal speech that referenced his late mother, Princess Diana, who died in a car accident while being pursued by paparazzi, Harry said Sunday he had "no other option" but to step away as he and his wife, Meghan, seek a more peaceful life.

"When I lost my mum 23 years ago, you took me under your wing," Harry said at a dinner in London for Sentebale, his Africa-based charity supporting youngsters with HIV. "You looked out for me for so long, but the media is a powerful force. And my hope is one day our collective support for each other can be more powerful, because this is so much bigger than just us."

The comments were Harry's first public remarks since Saturday night, when his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, announced the terms under which the prince and his wife will walk away from most royal duties, give up public funding and try to become financially independent. The couple are expected to spend most of their time in Canada while maintaining a home in England near Windsor Palace.

The queen's statement said the agreement, reached after crisis talks, was a "constructive and supportive way forward."

But Harry's speech made it clear that the couple had not gotten their wish to be able to carry on with some royal duties while becoming independent.

"Our hope was to continue serving the queen, the Commonwealth and my military associations, but without public funding. Unfortunately, that wasn't possible," he said.

"For those reasons, it brings me great sadness that it has come to this," he added. "The decision that I

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have made for my wife and I to step back is not one I made lightly. It was so many months of talks after so many years of challenges. And I know I haven't always got it right, but as far as this goes, there really was no other option."

Harry, 35, has made no secret of his disdain for Britain's tabloid media in the past, with both he and Meghan filing lawsuits against press outlets last fall. At the time, Harry gave an interview drawing parallels between the treatment of his wife and the media frenzy that contributed to the death of his mother.

Harry praised his grandmother, the queen, and the rest of his family for supporting him and his wife in recent months. He called the decision to change both jobs and continents "a leap of faith" and said he hopes the move will allow him and his family to achieve a "more peaceful life."

Under terms of the deal announced Saturday, Harry and Meghan will stop using their "royal highness" titles this spring and will lose all access to public funds once they stop carrying out official functions.

Harry opened his speech by noting that many in the audience had watched him grow up and said he wanted them "to hear the truth from me, as much as I can share, not as a prince, or a duke, but as Harry."

He framed the decision to leave as his own, made on behalf of Meghan and their young son, Archie. He spoke of both during his remarks, telling the audience that eight-month-old Archie had seen snow for the first time a few days ago and "thought it was bloody brilliant."

He then turned to his relationship with the queen and other members of his family.

"I will always have the utmost respect for my grandmother — my commander in chief — and I'm incredibly grateful to her and the rest of my family for the support they have shown Meghan and I over the last few months," he said.

Meghan and Archie and the couple's dogs are already in Canada, and it was not clear how soon Harry would join them or where in Canada they would live. The couple spent the holiday season on Vancouver Island, and Meghan worked for seven years in Toronto filming the TV series "Suits."

Follow all royal coverage by The Associated Press at <https://www.apnews.com/PrinceHarry>

US envoy say it's his mustache; South Koreans say otherwise

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The U.S. ambassador to South Korea has some unusual explanations for the harsh criticism he's faced in his host country. His mustache, maybe? Or a Japanese ancestry that raises unpleasant reminders of Japan's former colonial domination of Korea?

Many South Koreans, however, have a more straight-forward explanation for Harry Harris' struggle to win hearts and minds in Seoul, and it's got more to do with an outspoken manner that they see as un-diplomatic and rude.

Since arriving in Seoul in July 2018, Harris, a retired navy general born to a Japanese mother and an American navy officer, has been the focus of keen attention because of his military and ethnic background. The 63-year-old former U.S. Pacific Command chief has sometimes drawn criticism from those who take issue with his manner when dealing with South Koreans.

His mustache has become the subject of ribbing online, with jokes made about how it resembles those of Japanese colonial masters, who brutally occupied the Korean Peninsula from 1910-45. But there is more serious concern that the discord could widen a growing rift in Seoul's relations with Washington at a time when diplomacy with rival North Korea seem in danger of imploding.

Harris recently said his appearance and ethnicity have been a source of his criticism in South Korea.

"My mustache, for some reason, has become a point of some fascination here," Harris told a group of foreign reporters in Seoul last week. "I have been criticized in the media here, especially in social media, because of my ethnic background, because I am a Japanese-American."

It's not the first time a U.S. ambassador in South Korea has been in the news for things other than diplomacy. In 2015, former Ambassador Mark Lippert was slashed in the face and arm by an anti-American activist.

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But unlike Lippert, Harris has repeatedly irked many South Koreans since President Donald Trump sent him here.

After meeting Harris in November, Lee Hye-hoon, then chairwoman of the South Korean parliament's intelligence committee, said that the ambassador repeated about 20 times Trump's calls for Seoul to drastically increase its financial contribution to U.S. troop deployment in the South.

In recent months, four students were arrested after they broke into Harris' Seoul residence during an anti-U.S. rally. A mock mustache was plucked from his picture at another demonstration.

Harris said his mustache has nothing to do with his Japanese background and that he started growing it only to mark the start of his career as a diplomat.

"To those people, I say that you are cherry-picking history," Harris said, adding that some Korean independence fighters also had a mustache.

Harris said he understands the historical animosity that exists between Japan and South Korea.

"But I'm not the Japanese-American ambassador to Korea," he said. "I'm the American ambassador to Korea."

Kevin Gray, a professor of International Relations at the University of Sussex in the U.K., tweeted Friday that "Koreans' reaction to Harris' mustache is vastly exaggerated."

He said what did rile South Koreans was Harris' "imperialistic manner" and efforts to "undermine" South Korean President Moon Jae-in and "dictate" South Korean government policy.

A Monday editorial from the Korea Times said that "the point is not his mustache."

"South Koreans would not have cared that much about his mustache if he was a 'normal' ambassador," the editorial said.

Most surveys show a majority of South Koreans support the U.S. military presence in South Korea as deterrence against potential North Korean aggression, but there is a small but determined anti-U.S. network.

South Korean media have often compared Harris with his popular predecessor Lippert. Images of Lippert bleeding after the 2015 knife attack shocked many South Koreans and triggered an outpouring of public sympathy. The attack during a breakfast forum left deep gashes on Lippert's face and arm and required five days of hospitalization.

While leaving a Seoul hospital, Lippert inspired many by saying in Korean: "The ground hardens after rain. Let's go together."

When asked by reporters about Moon saying he may push for individual tourism to North Korea because it won't violate U.S.-led international sanctions, Harris stressed the need for South Korea to consult with the United States.

Those comments added to criticism of Harris, with ruling party lawmaker Song Young-gil comparing him to a Japanese governor general.

Harris' troubles may also be linked to growing unease between South Korea and the United States.

The U.S. desire to enforce tough sanctions on North Korea doesn't fit with the dovish Moon's push to get sanction exemptions and restart joint rapprochement projects with North Korea. Trump's demands for a large increase in Seoul's payment for the U.S. military deployment prompted many South Koreans to question whether the United States is still a trustworthy ally.

"Rather than address the sources of these frustrations, some South Koreans have directed their ire at an American admiral-turned-diplomat of Japanese heritage," said Leif-Eric Easley, associate professor of international studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul. "Unfortunately, Seoul faces political and diplomatic decisions that are much tougher than opting for a clean shave."

Shooting kills 2 officers before Hawaii homes catch fire

By CALEB JONES, JENNIFER KELLEHER and MARCO GARCIA undefined

HONOLULU (AP) — A Hawaii man with a history of run-ins with police and neighbors was facing eviction when he stabbed his landlord and killed two officers before the house he and two women were believed to be in burned, authorities and neighbors said Sunday.

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Police responding to a call for help found a woman who had been stabbed in the leg and resident Jaroslav "Jerry" Hanel, in his 60s, opened fire, killing Officers Tiffany Enriquez, a seven-year veteran, and Kaulike Kalama, a nine-year veteran, Honolulu Police Chief Susan Ballard said. Police suspect he and two women were inside the house when it caught fire, and Ballard said it could take days for authorities to process evidence and recover any remains.

The fire spread to several other residences, destroying seven homes and leaving multiple others with fire or smoke damage, according to Honolulu fire officials.

The homeowner, Lois Cain, had recently sought to have Hanel evicted, court records showed. A neighbor told The Associated Press she saw Cain being loaded into an ambulance with knife wounds.

Cain's condition was not immediately confirmed, nor was the suspect's. Ballard said Hanel did not have any gun permits.

The normally peaceful neighborhood where shots were fired is at the far end of the Waikiki Beach between the Honolulu Zoo and the famed Diamond Head State Monument, a volcanic crater that looms above Honolulu and is popular with tourists and hikers. A regional park is also nearby.

Ian Felix, a Honolulu resident and combat veteran with medical training, told the AP he happened to be walking by when he saw a woman lying on the ground with a pool of blood coming from her leg. He applied pressure until the first police officer arrived and put a tourniquet on it, Felix said. Moments later two more officers arrived, and Felix said he then heard two gunshots.

He and the officer picked up the wounded woman and carried her into a neighbor's garage across the street, he said.

Neighbors described Hanel as mentally disturbed.

"Defendant does NOT have a Rental Agreement to occupy the premises and Defendant has no ownership interest in said premises," read a complaint for eviction that Cain filed last week in court. "Despite repeated demands, Defendant has failed and refused to vacate the premises."

Attorney Jonathan Burge has represented Hanel since 2015 in various disputes with neighbors, including temporary restraining orders that three obtained against him. Hanel, a native of the Czech Republic who used Czech interpreters in court, faced a hearing next week on a charge of misusing 911 services, Burge said Sunday.

Burge said he never knew Hanel to be violent, but that "he's kind of a quirky guy and had problems." Hanel believed the government was watching him and tapping his phone, Burge said.

"Maybe that's what set him off," he said of the eviction.

Hanel lived for free at the home in exchange for handyman work, Burge said. Cain was supportive of him in his disputes with the neighbors, Burge said, but their relationship had soured lately because Hanel's dog had died and Cain wouldn't let him get a new one.

Nearby resident Dolores Sandvold said she heard screaming and gunshots and saw Cain being carried to an ambulance.

Kailua resident John Farmer said the fire spread to his sister's nearby house, which burned down. He said the resident has been described as paranoid and threatening.

Officials across the state began releasing statements mourning the lost lives, with Gov. David Ige saying, "Our entire state mourns the loss of two Honolulu Police officers killed in the line of duty this morning."

Police closed several streets nearby and asked the public to avoid the area.

Honolulu City Councilmember Tommy Waters, who represents East Honolulu and is the chairman of the City Council Public Safety Committee, said he was heartbroken by the attack.

"I am disturbed by the initial reports that the gunman was a troubled individual who terrorized the Diamond Head neighborhood where this tragedy unfolded," Waters said.

Huawei exec's extradition hearing begins in Canada

By JIM MORRIS and ROB GILLIES Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — The first stage of an extradition hearing for a senior executive of

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Chinese telecom giant Huawei begins Monday in a Vancouver courtroom, a case that has infuriated Beijing, caused a diplomatic uproar and added to tensions between China and the United States.

Canada's arrest of chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou, the daughter of Huawei's legendary founder, in late 2018 at America's request shocked Beijing.

Huawei represents China's progress in becoming a technological power and has been a subject of U.S. security concerns for years. Beijing views Meng's case as an attempt to contain China's rise.

"This is one of the top priorities for the Chinese government. They've been very mad. They will be watching this very closely," said Wenran Jiang, a senior fellow at the Institute of Asian Research at the University of British Columbia.

China's foreign ministry complained Monday the United States and Canada were violating Meng's rights and called for her release.

"It is completely a serious political incident," said a ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang. He urged Canada to "correct mistakes with concrete actions, release Ms. Meng Wanzhou and let her return safely as soon as possible."

Washington accuses Huawei of using a Hong Kong shell company to sell equipment to Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. It says Meng, 47, committed fraud by misleading the HSBC bank about the company's business dealings in Iran.

Meng, who is free on bail and living in one of the two Vancouver mansions she owns, denies the allegations. Her defense team says comments by President Donald Trump suggest the case against her is politically motivated.

Meng was detained in December 2018 in Vancouver as she was changing flights — on the same day that Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping met for trade talks.

Prosecutors have stressed that Meng's case is separate from the wider China-U.S. trade dispute, but Trump undercut that message weeks after her arrest when he said he would consider intervening in the case if it would help forge a trade deal with Beijing.

China and the U.S. reached a "Phase 1" trade agreement last week, but most analysts say any meaningful resolution of the main U.S. allegation — that Beijing uses predatory tactics in its drive to supplant America's technological supremacy — could require years of contentious talks. Trump had raised the possibility of using Huawei's fate as a bargaining chip in the trade talks, but the deal announced Wednesday didn't mention the company.

Huawei is the biggest global supplier of network gear for cellphone and internet companies. Washington is pressuring other countries to limit use of its technology, warning they could be opening themselves up to surveillance and theft.

"I think this is the beginning of a technological war along ideological fronts," said Lynette Ong, an associate professor at the University of Toronto. "You are going to see the world divided into two parts. One side would use Chinese companies and the other side would not use Chinese companies because they are weary of the political implications of using Chinese platforms."

James Lewis at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies said the U.S. wanted to send a message with Meng's arrest. There is good evidence that Huawei willfully violated sanctions, he said.

"The message that you are no longer invulnerable has been sent to Chinese executives," Lewis said. "No one has held China accountable. They steal technology, they violate their WTO commitments and the old line is, 'Oh, they are a developing economy, who cares.' When you are the second-largest economy in the world you can't do that anymore."

The initial stage of Meng's extradition hearing will focus on whether Meng's alleged crimes are crimes both in the United States and Canada. Her lawyers filed a motion Friday arguing that Meng's case is really about U.S. sanctions against Iran, not a fraud case. Canada does not have similar sanctions on Iran.

The second phase, scheduled for June, will consider defense allegations that Canada Border Services, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the FBI violated her rights while collecting evidence before she was actually arrested.

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The extradition case could take years to resolve if there are appeals. Virtually all extradition requests from Canada to the U.S. are approved by Canadian judges.

In apparent retaliation for Meng's arrest, China detained former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig and Canadian entrepreneur Michael Spavor. The two men have been denied access to lawyers and family and are being held in prison cells where the lights are kept on 24-hours-a-day. "That's mafia-style pressure," Lewis said.

China has also placed restrictions on various Canadian exports to China, including canola oil seed and meat. Last January, China also handed a death sentence to a convicted Canadian drug smuggler in a sudden retrial.

"Canada is fulfilling the terms of its extradition treaty but is paying an enormous price," said Roland Paris, a former foreign policy adviser to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. "This is the kind of world we're living in now, where countries like Canada are at risk of getting squeezed in major power contests."

'Parasite' parties, Leo greets young fans inside SAG Awards

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Off-camera and during commercials, the stars at the Screen Actors Guild Awards got to rub shoulders, give congratulatory kisses, and meet for the first or the 50th time. Here are some of the more memorable moments from inside Sunday night's ceremony at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

PARTY TIME FOR 'PARASITE'

The "Parasite" table was one of the happier places in the Shrine ballroom — and that was before its cast won the night's biggest award. Song Kang Ho and the film's other stars got whoops, whistles and a standing ovation from much of the room of mostly American actors early in the show, when they took the stage to present their nominated film. That was followed by a full-blown ovation at the end, when theirs became the first foreign-language film to win the best ensemble SAG Award. In the two hours between, the gleeful cast and director Bong Joon Ho, savored their moment in the Hollywood spotlight, taking group selfies during every commercial break. They greeted a steady stream of fellow-actor fans, including Steve Buscemi. "I'm a little embarrassed," cast member Lee Sun Kyun said after the show through a translator. "We're feeling a little like the parasites of Hollywood now."

SOME SAG STARS LOOM LARGER THAN OTHERS

TV and movie screens tend to obscure actors' heights, but when they're all in a room together it's very clear who looms over whom. The winners of the show's first two awards for actresses, Phoebe Waller-Bridge and Laura Dern, both reportedly 5-foot-10, made it seem like the night was going to be dominated by the tallest nominees, but the trend ended there. The win of a much shorter Joaquin Phoenix — for "Joker" — over a reportedly 6-foot-3 Adam Driver for best actor in a film was more typical of the night. And the tallest actor and actress in the crowd, Stephen Merchant of "Jojo Rabbit," who stands about 6-foot-7, and Gwendoline Christie of "Game of Thrones," who stands about 6-foot-3, never got to take the stage with their casts, over whom they towered when they stood up during commercial breaks.

LITHGOW VISITS DRIVER'S SEAT

John Lithgow is even taller than Driver, and is nearly 40 years older, but it was Lithgow doing the looking up when the two met for the first time during a commercial break. Lithgow, nominated along with the rest of the cast of "Bombshell," smiled and gushed to Driver, nominated for best actor for "Marriage Story," expressing his admiration for Driver's run of recent performances. "Great to meet you Adam," Lithgow said with enthusiasm as the SAG Awards telecast returned from commercial and Lithgow rejoined Charlize Theron, Margot Robbie and his other cast mates at the neighboring table.

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SMALL STARS SCRAMBLE FOR SAG SELFIES

You could be excused for thinking it was Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work day for the professional actors of the SAG Awards. Actually, the wee ones running around the ballroom were acting pros, too, on a night where children abounded among the nominees. The kid actors from "Big Little Lies," including brothers Cameron and Nicholas Crovetti, were all over the ballroom during commercial breaks, taking photos with stars including their cast mates Nicole Kidman and Reese Witherspoon. Twelve-year-old Roman Griffin Davis sat proudly at his table like he utterly belonged alongside his fellow "Jojo Rabbit" cast members, who include Scarlett Johansson. Leonardo DiCaprio politely spoke to a steady stream of people excited to meet him during commercial breaks, but he positively beamed when his 10-year-old "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" co-star Julia Butters, in a shiny silver suit, brought three young friends to meet him. He greeted each of them with a huge grin just moments before he lost out on best actor to Phoenix.

DE NIRO AND STREEP MAKE SAG CROWD SWOON

If anyone inspired more awe in the ballroom than DiCaprio it was Robert De Niro, to whom DiCaprio presented the SAG Life Achievement Award during the ceremony. Many major stars came to pay tribute to De Niro as he sat at a table that included his "The Irishman" co-stars Al Pacino and Harvey Keitel. But when Meryl Streep — his co-star in "The Deer Hunter" more than 40 years ago — stopped by to exchange kisses and kudos, photographers descended in droves and phone cameras came out on all sides to capture the meetup of the pair that many regard as the greatest actor and actress of their generation.

TELLING TELEPROMPTERS

Virtually the entire ballroom can see the SAG Awards telecast's teleprompters if they look over their shoulder, and can see who's going off-script. When Ray Romano said while introducing the best ensemble nomination for "The Irishman" that he still couldn't believe he played a mob lawyer opposite De Niro and Keitel, Keitel roasted him by responding "I can't believe it either." Romano replied, "Hey, that's not up there," pointing at the teleprompter. Romano was right. It wasn't.

MR. ROGERS, JUDY GARLAND ARE NEIGHBORS

Actors usually sit with their cast mates at SAG Awards tables, but sometimes the seating chart yields more novel pairings, like the adjacent placement of Tom Hanks, nominated for "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," and Renée Zellweger, nominated for "Judy." The pairing made theirs a popular table for fans and cameras, and it proved prescient. They met up again onstage late in the show, when Hanks handed Zellweger the trophy for best actress in a film.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton>.

Martin Luther King holiday: Faith, politics mix this holiday

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The nation is marking the legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. with tributes Monday recalling his past struggles for racial equality, observing the federal holiday named for him against the backdrop of a presidential election year.

In an early tribute to King, Vice President Mike Pence spoke Sunday in Memphis, Tennessee, at a church service in which he recalled the challenges and accomplishments of the slain civil rights leader.

Before the service, Pence toured the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, where King was fatally shot on April 4, 1968, while standing on a balcony.

"I'm here to pay a debt of honor and respect to a man who from walking the dirt roads of the Deep South, to speaking to hundreds of thousands on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, touched the hearts of the American people and led the civil rights movement to triumph over Jim Crow," Pence said Sunday at the Holy City Church of God in Christ.

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Pence spoke about King's religion and how he "challenged the conscience of a nation to live up to our highest ideals by speaking to our common foundation of faith."

Acknowledging the nation's divisions, Pence said that if Americans rededicate themselves to the ideals that King advanced while striving to open opportunities for everyone, "we'll see our way through these divided times and we'll do our part in our time to form a more perfect union."

As a presidential election looms this fall, divisions rankle, according to recent opinion polls.

Among black Americans, more than 80% said last year that President Donald Trump's actions in office have made things worse for people like them, while only 4% said they thought Trump's actions have been good for African Americans in general. That's according to a poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The same poll found about two-thirds of Americans overall disapproves of how Trump handles race relations.

Trump is seeking to woo black voters, knowing he is unlikely to win them over en masse but hoping for more black support in critical swing states later this year. His campaign has stepped up outreach efforts, including to African Americans and Latinos, marking a departure from 2016 when Trump's volunteer "National Diversity Coalition" struggled to make an impact. The campaign already has spent more than \$1 million on black outreach, including radio, print and online advertising in dozens of markets, the campaign has said.

In King's hometown of Atlanta, Monday's commemorations could draw attention to the continuing leadership role of the clergy in African American thought and politics.

The Rev. Howard-John Wesley, senior pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, will be the keynote speaker at a service Monday at organized by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change.

It will be held in the sanctuary of Ebenezer Baptist Church, which King and his father both led.

Wesley has argued that Christ should be remembered as a political radical and that Christians should challenge injustices of the established political and social order. King's economic and antiwar activism can sometimes be bleached out of celebrations of the holiday, he has said. Wesley has been on sabbatical in recent months from the pulpit at his church, which has grown rapidly under his leadership.

U.S. Sen. Kelly Loeffler, a Georgia Republican appointed earlier this month by Gov. Brian Kemp, planned to attend the Ebenezer Baptist Church event.

Ebenezer Baptist is now pastored by the Rev. Raphael Warnock, one of several Democrats who could challenge Loeffler in a November special election.

Monday's planned gathering is one of a series of events honoring King's legacy, including a Saturday night gala in Atlanta hosted by the King Center and a series of service projects organized by community groups.

Associated Press writer Corey Williams in Detroit contributed to this report.

King Day in SC drawing Democratic presidential hopefuls

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — In the closing days before the first votes are cast in the Democratic presidential contest, the party's leading hopefuls are splitting their time between the critical early-voting states South Carolina and Iowa at events celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

While Iowa and New Hampshire Democrats vote first for their nominee, South Carolina's first-in-the-South primary is a crucial proving ground for a candidate's mettle with black voters. The state's showcase holiday celebration, Columbia's King Day at the Dome, is a notable and highly visible event for a Democratic politician. The festivities are marked by a march through the streets of downtown Columbia and a rally at the Statehouse.

All the top-tier candidates — former Vice President Joe Biden, former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, California businessman Tom Steyer, and Sens. Amy Klobuchar, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren — plan to start Monday with prayer services around Columbia. Joining them in the capital are

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Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick.

King Day at the Dome began in 2000 as a reaction to a state lawmakers' decision that year to keep the Confederate battle flag flying from the Statehouse's copper-covered cupola, a place of prominence that drew opposition. Tens of thousands marched through Columbia's downtown from the prayer service to the Statehouse.

Lawmakers eventually agreed to a compromise that moved the flag to a flagpole, albeit one prominently situated in front of the building. The deal also recognized Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the state and created Confederate Memorial Day.

In 2015, following the racist massacre of nine Bible study participants at a historic black church in Charleston, lawmakers voted to remove the flag from the grounds.

In years past many Democratic presidential hopefuls have made their way to the north-facing facade of the Statehouse, including John Edwards, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. Last year, Sanders and Sen. Cory Booker, who has dropped out of the 2020 race, attended.

Many of the candidates in the wide field planned to travel to Des Moines, Iowa, on Monday for the Brown and Black Forum, recognized as one of the nation's oldest minority-focused presidential candidate events of its kind. Traditionally a debate, the event in recent years has been more of a one-on-one candidate forum.

Former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg, who is not competing in the early-voting states but has put some of his multimillion-dollar ad spending there — plans to join a King Day parade in Little Rock, Arkansas. Tech businessman Andrew Yang is in the midst of a 17-day bus tour of Iowa and plans to remain there.

Election 2020: The unexpected durability of Biden, Sanders

By **BILL BARROW** and **JULIE PACE** Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — When Sen. Kamala Harris' advisers assessed the Democratic primary field early in her campaign, they viewed Joe Biden as headed for an inevitable collapse and Bernie Sanders as unlikely to recapture the magic of his 2016 campaign.

A year later, Harris is out of the race, and Biden and Sanders are front-runners for the Democratic nomination. Both have overcome speed bumps in their campaigns, including a heart attack for Sanders, refined the rationales for their candidacy, and maintained the support of key Democratic constituencies — black voters for Biden and younger voters for Sanders.

The durability of two white men in their late 70s has surprised many Democrats and prompted questions about representation and electability in a party that will count on high turnout among women, minorities and young voters in November's general election faceoff against President Donald Trump. Biden, 77, and Sanders, 78, would each be the oldest president in American history on Inauguration Day.

"We like to pride ourselves on not being the party of old, white men," said Sue Dvorsky, the former chairwoman of the Iowa Democratic Party, who endorsed Harris in the campaign. "But there is something to the fact that these two, they're known quantities in a time when everything is so utterly unknown."

Biden and Sanders still face stiff competition in the early voting states that could block their paths to the nomination. They're locked in tight, four-way races in Iowa and New Hampshire with Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana. A win for any of the candidates in the first two contests would give their campaigns a crucial jolt.

Yet Biden and Sanders, two ideological foes, have increasingly been tangling in ways that suggest they expect to be the last two standing in the Democratic primary.

Sanders has questioned Biden's judgment in voting for the Iraq war in 2003, while the former vice president has cast the Vermont senator's government-run health care proposals as risky and astronomically expensive. On Saturday, Biden called for Sanders to disavow a misleading video a Sanders aide put out suggesting the former vice president endorsed Republicans' calls for cutting Social Security and Medicare.

Other campaigns are still grappling with how best to cut into Biden and Sanders' support. Buttigieg, another more moderate candidate, could benefit from a Biden dip in the early states, but he has made no measurable progress with voters. Warren and Sanders, two progressive favorites, have seemed destined

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for an inevitable clash, but both tried to back away from the first rift that emerged last week: a disagreement over whether Sanders told Warren in a private meeting that a woman can't beat Trump.

The prospect of a Biden-Sanders faceoff deep in the primary isn't what many Democrats would have predicted a year ago, as the party's primary filled out with a diverse cast of senators, governors and rising political stars.

At the time, Democratic strategists openly speculated that Biden, especially, in his third bid for president was bound to stumble due to his frequent verbal miscues and a resume from 40 years in politics that can appear out of line with a party shifting to the left. Admirers who worked alongside him in the Obama White House privately worried that a bruising campaign would erase the goodwill he built up over eight years as vice president, particularly after he grieved publicly over the 2015 death of his son, Beau.

Some rivals tried to pounce quickly, with Harris launching an aggressive and deeply personal debate stage attack on Biden's opposition in the 1970s to federally mandated school busing. The moment gave Harris a sudden boost and appeared to raise questions about Biden's viability. But it proved to be a sugar high for Harris, and Biden quickly rebounded.

Sanders has also faced questions about whether he could replicate the enthusiasm of his 2016 campaign, when he split the vote in the Iowa caucuses with Hillary Clinton and raised eye-popping sums of money from small donors that allowed him to challenge her to the end of the primary campaign. Without a head-to-head race against a flawed opponent like Clinton, and with Warren, another progressive star, in the race, some Democrats posited Sanders would struggle to replicate his past success.

But Lily Adams, who served as Harris' communications director, said of both Biden and Sanders: "Once the summer was over, it was clear both of them had durability."

Ed Rendell, the former Pennsylvania governor and a Biden supporter, said other campaigns focused too much on Biden's and Sanders' age, without realizing that their years in the public eye came with an upside.

"When people have seen a Joe Biden or a Bernie Sanders in action for 10, 20, 30 years, their opinions of them, if they liked them, become baked in," Rendell said.

Sanders has led the Democratic field in fundraising, pulling in \$34.5 million in the fourth quarter — all raised after an October heart attack that pulled him off the campaign trail for several days. Sanders has kept up a robust campaign schedule ever since, with even his rivals commenting on the senator's energy.

"Bypass surgery generally makes the patient healthier than he or she was before," Rendell said. "That's almost a plus for Bernie. ... Just look at him."

With so many once-promising rivals out of the race as the Iowa caucuses near, both campaigns are relishing, so far, proving doubters wrong.

"You know, a year ago our friend from Texas was going to be the president — Beto," said Sanders' top political adviser, Jeff Weaver, referring to former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke. "Kamala Harris was going to be president, and on and on and on."

Biden aide Symone Sanders blamed "the media and the pundit class" for underestimating her boss. Voters, she added, "consistently said they knew who Joe Biden was."

With the first primary votes yet to be cast, Democratic sentiment could still quickly turn against Biden and Sanders. The senator, who struggled in the 2016 campaign with minority voters, faces the same questions about his ability to appeal to black voters as the race heads to South Carolina and other Southern states. Biden must prove that he cannot just win, but also energize young Democrats who vote in lower numbers in general elections and could make the difference in a close race against Trump.

But already, Biden and Sanders have won grudging respect from some former doubters, who say the two septuagenarians have proven they've learned a thing or two from their previous White House bids.

"It is remarkably, remarkably hard to run for president. And these two guys have done it before," Dvorsky said. "If you've done it once, you're not starting from scratch. You're starting already on second base."

Fires set stage for irreversible forest losses in Australia

By **MATTHEW BROWN** and **CHRISTINA LARSON** Associated Press

Australia's forests are burning at a rate unmatched in modern times and scientists say the landscape is being permanently altered as a warming climate brings profound changes to the island continent.

Heat waves and drought have fueled bigger and more frequent fires in parts of Australia, so far this season torching some 40,000 square miles (104,000 square kilometers), an area about as big as Ohio.

With blazes still raging in the country's southeast, government officials are drawing up plans to reseed burned areas to speed up forest recovery that could otherwise take decades or even centuries.

But some scientists and forestry experts doubt that reseeded and other intervention efforts can match the scope of the destruction. The fires since September have killed 28 people and burned more than 2,600 houses.

Before the recent wildfires, ecologists divided up Australia's native vegetation into two categories: fire-adapted landscapes that burn periodically, and those that don't burn. In the recent fires, that distinction lost meaning — even rainforests and peat swamps caught fire, likely changing them forever.

Flames have blazed through jungles dried out by drought, such as Eungella National Park, where shrouds of mist have been replaced by smoke.

"Anybody would have said these forests don't burn, that there's not enough material and they are wet. Well they did," said forest restoration expert Sebastian Pfautsch, a research fellow at Western Sydney University.

"Climate change is happening now, and we are seeing the effects of it," he said.

High temperatures, drought and more frequent wildfires — all linked to climate change — may make it impossible for even fire-adapted forests to be fully restored, scientists say.

"The normal processes of recovery are going to be less effective, going to take longer," said Roger Kitching, an ecologist at Griffith University in Queensland. "Instead of an ecosystem taking a decade, it may take a century or more to recover, all assuming we don't get another fire season of this magnitude soon."

Young stands of mountain ash trees — which are not expected to burn because they have minimal foliage — have burned in the Australian Alps, the highest mountain range on the continent. Fire this year wiped out stands reseeded following fires in 2013.

Mountain ash, the world's tallest flowering trees, reach heights of almost 90 meters (300 feet) and live hundreds of years. They're an iconic presence in southeast Australia, comparable to the redwoods of Northern California, and are highly valued by the timber industry.

"I'm expecting major areas of (tree) loss this year, mainly because we will not have sufficient seed to sow them," said Owen Bassett of Forest Solutions, a private company that works with government agencies to reseed forests by helicopter following fires.

Bassett plans to send out teams to climb trees in parts of Victoria that did not burn to harvest seed pods. But he expects to get at most a ton of seeds this year, about one-tenth of what he said is needed.

Fire is a normal part of an ash forest life cycle, clearing out older stands to make way for new growth. But the extent and intensity of this year's fires left few surviving trees in many areas.

Already ash forests in parts of Victoria had been hit by wildfire every four to five years, allowing less marketable tree species to take over or meadows to form.

"If a young ash forest is burned and killed and we can't resow it, then it is lost," Bassett said.

The changing landscape has major implications for Australia's diverse wildlife. The fires in Eungella National Park, for example, threaten "frogs and reptiles that don't live anywhere else," said University of Queensland ecologist Diana Fisher.

Fires typically burn through the forest in a patchwork pattern, leaving unburned refuges from which plant and animal species can spread. However, megafires are consuming everything in their path and leaving little room for that kind of recovery, said Griffith University's Kitching.

In both Australia and western North America, climate experts say, fires will continue burning with increased frequency as warming temperatures and drier weather transform ecosystems.

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The catastrophic scale of blazes in so many places offers the “clearest signal yet” that climate change is driving fire activity, said Leroy Westerling, a fire science professor at the University of Alberta.

“It’s in Canada, California, Greece, Portugal, Australia,” Westerling said. “This portends what we can expect — a new reality. I prefer not to use the term ‘new normal’... This is more like a downward spiral.”

Forests can shift locations over time. However, that typically unfolds over thousands of years, not the decades over which the climate has been warming.

Most of the nearly 25,000 square miles (64,000 square kilometers) that have burned in Victoria and New South Wales has been forest, according to scientists in New South Wales and the Victorian government.

By comparison, an average of about 1,600 square miles (4,100 square kilometers) of forest burned annually in Australia dating to 2002, according to data compiled by NASA research scientist Niels Andela and University of Maryland research professor Louis Giglio.

Unlike grasslands, which see the vast majority of Australia’s huge annual wildfire damage, forests are unable to regenerate in a couple of years. “For forests, we’re talking about decades, particularly in more arid climates,” Andela said.

Most forested areas can be expected to eventually regenerate, said Owen Price, a senior research fellow at the University of Wollongong specializing in bushfire risk management. But he said repeated fires will make it more likely that some will become grasslands or open woodlands.

Price and others have started thinking up creative ways to combat the changes, such as installing sprinkler systems in rainforests to help protect them against drought and fire, or shutting down forested areas to all visitors during times of high fire danger to prevent accidental ignitions.

Officials may also need to radically rethink accepted forest management practices, said Pfautsch, the researcher from Western Sydney.

That could involve planting trees in areas where they might not be suitable now but would be in 50 years as climate change progresses.

“We cannot expect species will move 200 kilometers (125 miles) to reach a cooler climate,” said Pfautsch. “It’s not looking like there’s a reversal trend in any of this. It’s only accelerating.”

Brown reported from Billings, Montana, and Larson from Washington.

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Migrants marooned in Guatemala plan surge into Mexico

By SONIA PEREZ D. and MARIA VERZA Associated Press

TECUN UMAN, Guatemala (AP) — Denis Contreras, a Honduran making a second try at reaching the U.S., laid out the plan Sunday night to his fellow migrants marooned in this Guatemalan border town: First the men will go, then the families and the women traveling alone with children.

More than a thousand Central American migrants were preparing to again walk en masse early Monday across a bridge leading to Mexico in an attempt to convince authorities there to allow them safe passage through the country.

It’s a big ask. Over the weekend Mexican troops slammed the welcome gate shut on the Rodolfo Robles bridge as hundreds of migrants pressed forward in an effort to force their way through. Mexican soldiers in riot gear pushed back against the green metal bars of the fence. Nobody was injured.

Contreras, the pint-sized Honduran leading Monday’s charge, said he won’t give up. He was already denied political asylum and deported from San Diego, California. But if he returns to Honduras, he said, criminal gangs will kill him or his family.

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Around him, hundreds of migrants chanted: "Here we are, and we're not going anywhere, and if you throw us out, we'll return!"

Mexico has stepped up efforts in recent months to prevent migrants from reaching their desired final destination — the U.S. — under threat of trade and other sanctions from President Donald Trump.

As these most recent caravans approached, Mexico sent soldiers to patrol its southern border and monitored the area with drones. Migrants sometimes travel via caravan for greater safety and, they hope, success in reaching the U.S.

Prior caravans have persuaded Mexican authorities to let them cross the southern border, either for humanitarian reasons or via brute force.

The Mexican government declared its efforts over the weekend a success, saying late Sunday that the migrants' attempts to enter the country in a "disorderly fashion" were "fruitless."

Maureen Meyer, director for Mexico and migrant rights at the Washington Office on Latin America, described the Mexican weekend response as a shift from the way the country handled previous caravans arriving at its doorsteps.

"The Mexican government has made clear they are not offering any visa that could be used to travel north, and that anyone traveling without proper documentation will be detained, sending a strong signal to the Trump administration that the Mexican government is doing its part to ensure that the members of the caravan don't reach the U.S. border," Meyer said.

Mexican officials extended a different welcome mat, of sorts, over the weekend, promising the migrants work and a chance to stay in the country — though the details were slim and many migrants feared they would instead be deported.

The offer of employment, and not just legal status or asylum, represented a new twist in Mexico's efforts to find humane solutions to the mostly Central American migrants who are fleeing poverty and violence in their home countries.

More than 1,000 migrants opted to give Mexico a try, and were transported by van to immigration centers for further processing.

Claudia León, coordinator of the Jesuit Refugee Service in the town of Tapachula, described the roundups backed by vague promises of employment as "de facto detention" that could trample the rights of refugees.

It was unclear what sort of work Mexico had in mind for the migrants, considering that half the Mexican population is poor and millions are unemployed.

Late Sunday, the Mexican government issued a statement saying that "in the majority of the cases," the hundreds of migrants it had received in recent days would be returned to their countries of origin "should the situation merit it."

Associated Press writer Sonia Perez D. reported this story in Tecun Uman, Guatemala, and AP writer Maria Verza reported from Ciudad Hidalgo, Mexico. AP writer Amy Guthrie in Mexico City contributed to this report.

Mostert lifts 49ers to Super Bowl with 37-20 win vs Packers

By JOSH DUBOW AP Pro Football Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Coach Kyle Shanahan received the NFC championship trophy from his Super Bowl-winning father Mike and raised it to the sky.

The San Francisco 49ers have gone on a surprising journey from No. 2 pick in the draft to one of the last two teams standing. They have one of the most unlikely playoff heroes to thank for it.

Journeyman Raheem Mostert rushed for 220 yards and four touchdowns to make quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo mostly a spectator, Nick Bosa harassed Aaron Rodgers from the start and the 49ers beat the Green Bay Packers 37-20 for the NFC championship on Sunday.

"I did have a lot of doubters and naysayers," said Mostert, who has been cut seven times in his career. "Now I get to actually tell them, 'Look where I'm at now.'"

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"I never gave up on my dreams."

The Niners (15-3) also had their skeptics after winning just 10 games in the first two seasons under Shanahan and general manager John Lynch.

But they put pieces and systems in place during those rough two seasons and now have advanced to the franchise's first Super Bowl in seven years. The Niners will play the Kansas City Chiefs in two weeks in Miami when Shanahan tries to join his father as coaching champions.

"It was pretty special," Shanahan said of getting handed the trophy from his father at the postgame ceremony. "To get a trophy handed to you by anyone is really cool. ... It was pretty cool it happened there at the end."

After giving a second thorough beating of the season to Rodgers and the Packers (14-4), the 49ers are the third team to make it to the Super Bowl a year after winning four or fewer games.

Cincinnati did it in 1988 and the Rams 1999, with the Rams the only team to go from four wins to a championship in one year.

"It's still kind of surreal," linebacker Fred Warner said. "With the stuff this team has gone through, this organization, it's special. It's the pinnacle of football right here."

Bosa, the prize for last year's rough season as the No. 2 overall pick, helped set the tone when he ended Green Bay's second drive of the game with a 13-yard sack of Rodgers.

Mostert, a former special teams standout, did much of the rest in a remarkable redemption story for a former surfer who carried the ball only eight times in his first three seasons in the NFL while bouncing between teams.

But he has become a key part of the NFC's top team this year, leading the Niners with 772 yards rushing in the regular season and delivering a performance for the ages in the NFC title game.

He had the second-most yards rushing in a playoff game to Eric Dickerson's 248 for the Rams on Jan. 4, 1986, and was the first player to rush for at least four TDs and 200 yards in a playoff game.

He got started when he burst 36 yards on a third-and-8 trap play to open the scoring on San Francisco's second drive and kept ripping off long runs behind impressive blocking.

"He's so fast," tackle Joe Staley said. "He's incredibly fast. He's fearless going through the hole. He has trust in the linemen to block it up. He's a great running back."

He added TD runs of 9 and 18 yards in the second quarter and had 160 yards rushing at the half, becoming the only player in NFL history to rush for at least 150 yards and three TDs in the first half of a playoff game.

Mostert added a 22-yard TD run in the third quarter.

"The lanes that we saw and the way he was running we just wanted to keep feeding him," Shanahan said. "I know he was feeling it. That wasn't too hard to see."

Rodgers and the Packers were unable to match that performance as they got overwhelmed by San Francisco's dominant front for a second time this season.

Rodgers had a career-low 3.15 yards per attempt in a 37-8 loss here back in November and wasn't much better in the first half of the rematch.

He lost a snap from center to end Green Bay's only promising drive of the half, threw an interception to Emmanuel Moseley late in the half and didn't convert his first third down of the season — in 18 attempts — against the Niners until connecting on a 6-yard pass to Aaron Jones on the opening drive of the second quarter.

"We just weren't very consistent the first half," Rodgers said. "Made a couple of mistakes personally that hurt us and kind of let it get away from us."

Rodgers capped that drive with a 9-yard TD pass to Jones, but the game was too far out of hand by that point.

He led Green Bay to two more TDs and finished with 326 yards passing, but it wasn't nearly enough as the Packers lost the NFC title game for the third time since their last Super Bowl trip following the 2010 season.

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"Right now, they are the gold standard in the NFC," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said of the 49ers.

QUIET DAY

The Niners asked very little of Garoppolo, who threw only eight passes thanks to the big-play running game and lopsided score. He went 24 minutes of game time between his sixth and seventh passes and finished with six completions for 77 yards. It was tied for the second fewest passes thrown in a playoff game. Miami threw six and seven passes on the Super Bowl following the 1973 season.

PASSING FAVRE

Rodgers' two TD passes gave him 40 in his playoff career, breaking Brett Favre's franchise record of 39. Rodgers also has seven straight playoff games with at least two TD throws, one shy of Joe Flacco's record.

INJURIES

Packers: S Adrian Amos left after injuring his pectoral muscle in the first half. ... CB Jaire Alexander left in the second half with a thumb injury.

49ers: RB Tevin Coleman left in the first half with a shoulder injury.

UP NEXT

49ers: The team's seventh appearance in the Super Bowl against the Chiefs on Feb. 2.

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

'Parasite' wins at SAG Awards, so do Pitt and Aniston

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

"Parasite" has officially infected Hollywood's award season. Bong Joon Ho's Korean class satire became the first foreign language film to take top honors from the Screen Actors Guild on Sunday, setting itself up as a legitimate best picture contender to the front-runner "1917" at next month's Academy Awards.

The best ensemble win for "Parasite" came over the starry epics "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" and "The Irishman." It was a surprise but only to a degree. "Parasite," up for six Oscars including best picture, has emerged as perhaps the stiffest competition for Sam Mendes' "1917," which won at the highly predictive Producers Guild Awards on Saturday.

But "Parasite" was the clear crowd favorite Sunday at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, where even the cast's appearance introducing the film drew a standing ovation. Yet until the SAG Awards, the many honors for "Parasite" have seldom included awards for its actors, none of whom were nominated for an Oscar.

"Although the title is 'Parasite,' I think the story is about coexistence and how we can all live together," said Song Kang Ho, one of the film's stars, through a translator.

Because actors make up the largest percentage of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, their picks are closely watched as an Academy Awards harbinger.

But the last two years, the SAG ensemble winner has not gone on to win best picture: "Black Panther" last year and "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" in 2018. And this year's front-runner, "1917," more acclaimed for its technical acumen, wasn't nominated by the screen actors.

If "Parasite" can pull off the upset at the Feb. 9 Oscars, it would be the first foreign language film to do so.

Before the win for "Parasite," the SAG Awards were most notable as a reunion for Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston. They each took home awards and celebrated the other's win.

Pitt is headed toward his first acting Academy Award for his supporting performance in "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," and he added to his front-runner status with a win from the actors' guild. Along the way, his speeches have been full of one-liners and he didn't disappoint Sunday. Pitt, who said he was nursing a flu, looked down at his award and said, "I've got to add this to my Tinder profile."

He added: "Let's be honest, it was a difficult part. A guy who gets high, takes his shirt off and doesn't get on with his wife. It was a big stretch." The audience laughed and clapped, including — as the cameras captured — Aniston, his ex-wife.

Aniston later won an award of her own for best female actor in a drama series for the Apple TV Plus

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show "The Morning Show." "What!" she said upon reaching the stage. Aniston finished her speech with a shout-out to her "Murder Mystery" co-star Adam Sandler, whose performance in "Uncut Gems" has gone mostly unrewarded this season despite considerable acclaim.

"Your performance is extraordinary and your magic is real. I love you, buddy," said Aniston.

Backstage, Pitt watched Aniston's acceptance speech. After she got off stage, they warmly congratulated each other on their first individual SAG Awards.

Along with Pitt, all the Oscar favorites kept their momentum, including wins for Renee Zellweger ("Judy"), Joaquin Phoenix ("Joker") and Laura Dern ("Marriage Story").

As expected, Phoenix took best performance by a leading male actor. After individually praising each fellow nominee, Phoenix concluded with a nod to his Joker predecessor. "I'm standing here on the shoulders of my favorite actor, Heath Ledger," said Phoenix.

Dern also further established herself as the best supporting actress favorite with a win from the actors guild. On her way to the stage, she hugged her father, Bruce Dern, part of the "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" ensemble.

Phoebe Waller-Bridge continued her awards sweep for "Fleabag," a winner at the Emmys and the Golden Globes. Waller-Bridge added a SAG win for best female actor in a comedy series and took a moment to reflect on the show's parade of accolades.

"This whole thing really has been a dream, and if I wake up tomorrow and discover it was just that, then thank you," said Waller-Bridge. "It's been the most beautiful dream."

"The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" also continued its streak, winning best comedy series ensemble for the second straight year, along with a win for Tony Shalhoub. But accepting the ensemble award, the show's shocked Alex Borstein said she had voted for "Fleabag."

"Honestly this makes no sense," said Borstein. "Fleabag' is brilliant."

Robert De Niro was given the guild's lifetime achievement award, an honor presented by Leonardo DiCaprio who, like De Niro, is a frequent leading man for Martin Scorsese. (The two co-star in Scorsese's upcoming "Killers of the Flower Moon.") A raucous standing ovation greeted the 76-year-old actor.

De Niro, a fiery critic of Donald Trump, referenced the president in his remarks.

"There's right and there's wrong. And there's common sense and there's abuse of power. As a citizen, I have as much right as anybody — an actor, an athlete, anybody else — to voice my opinion," said De Niro. "And if I have a bigger voice because of my situation, I'm going to use it whenever I see a blatant abuse of power."

"Game of Thrones" closed out its eight-season run with wins for Peter Dinklage for best male actor in a drama series and for best stunt ensemble work. "The Crown" took best ensemble in a drama series. And both "Fosse/Verdon" stars — Michelle Williams and Sam Rockwell — won for their performances in the miniseries.

Malaysia sends back trash, says won't be world's waste bin

PENANG, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia has sent back 150 containers of plastic waste to 13 mainly rich countries since the third quarter last year, with the environment minister warning on Monday that those who want to make the country a rubbish bin of the world can "dream on."

Shipments of unwanted rubbish have been rerouted to Southeast Asia since China banned the import of plastic waste in 2018, but Malaysia and other developing countries are fighting back.

Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin said another 110 containers are expected to be sent back by the middle of this year.

Yeo said the successful repatriation of a total 3,737 metric tonnes (4,120 U.S. tons) of waste followed strict enforcement at key Malaysian ports to block smuggling of waste and shuttering more than 200 illegal plastic recycling factories.

Of the 150 containers, 43 were returned to France, 42 to the United Kingdom, 17 to the United States, 11 to Canada, 10 to Spain and the rest to Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Portugal, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Lithuania, her ministry said.

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She said the Malaysian government didn't pay a single cent, with the costs of sending back the waste fully borne by the shipping liners and companies responsible for importing and exporting the waste.

Yeo said talks were ongoing with U.S. authorities to take back another 60 containers this year. Canada also has 15 more containers, Japan 14, the U.K. 9 and Belgium 8 from 110 more containers that are still being held at Malaysian ports, she said.

"If people want to see us as the rubbish dump of the world, you dream on," Yeo told reporters during inspection at a port in northern Penang state.

Yeo said the government will launch an action plan on illegal plastic importation next month that will help the different agencies coordinate enforcement and speed up the process of returning the waste.

"Our position is very firm. We just want to send back (the waste) and we just want to give a message that Malaysia is not the dumping site of the world," she added.

After cashing in on QB gambles, Niners, Chiefs in Super Bowl

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

A little more than two years ago, a pair of teams gambled on quarterbacks who had all kinds of potential but were far from a sure thing.

Both teams guessed right.

The Kansas City Chiefs will meet the San Francisco 49ers in the Super Bowl on Feb. 2 in Miami. Oddsmakers opened the line at pick 'em in a title game featuring one franchise, the Niners, trying to win a record-tying sixth Lombardi Trophy against another, the Chiefs, making their first appearance in the big game in 50 years.

Their quarterbacks: Patrick Mahomes (KC) and Jimmy Garoppolo (SF).

Mahomes, whose gaudy college stats (his 5,052 passing yards led the country in 2016) were a byproduct of playing at pass-happy Texas Tech, was generally viewed as no better than the second-best quarterback in a 2017 draft that wasn't considered strong on quarterbacks to begin with.

Chiefs coach Andy Reid disagreed. He gave up a first-round pick in the following year's draft to move up to select Mahomes in 2017. Now, in his third season, Mahomes is a Super Bowl quarterback. He has 11 postseason touchdown passes, not a single interception, and has even led the Chiefs in rushing the last two weeks. With its 35-24 win over Tennessee on Sunday in the AFC title game, Kansas City became the first team in NFL history to go from trailing by double digits to winning by double digits in consecutive playoff games.

"Everybody liked this guy," Reid said, in 2017, about the reaction from the Kansas City front office and scouting department after they'd spent time with Mahomes in advance of the draft. "Everybody fell in love with the kid and how he went about his business and how he played. That's not something that happens every year."

Garoppolo, a second-round pick by the Patriots in 2014, was considered the quarterback-in-waiting in New England, despite a limited resume as Tom Brady's backup. But with the Patriots not ready to part ways with their franchise cornerstone, and with Garoppolo's contract running out, the quarterback became expendable. San Francisco acquired him in the middle of the 2017 season for a second-round pick.

Garoppolo won his first five starts in San Francisco and, before the season was out, he had a five-year contract extension that, at the time, included the highest average yearly salary in NFL history.

"When you find the right guy at that position, it's really good for your franchise," Niners GM John Lynch said, not long after the trade.

Though Garoppolo's 102 passer rating this season was only 3.3 points less than Mahomes', San Francisco doesn't depend on its franchise QB the way Kansas City does.

Exhibit A: Garoppolo threw only eight passes and totaled only 77 yards in San Francisco's 37-20 win over Green Bay in the NFC title game Sunday. He is helped by a bruising running game recently anchored by Raheem Mostert (220 yards and four TDs on Sunday). And the Niners have found a game-wrecking defensive end in rookie Nick Bosa. The second pick in the 2019 draft had a sack Sunday to go with the nine

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he recorded over the regular season to fuel a defense that gave up the fewest passing yards this season.

It all helped the 49ers return to the Super Bowl for the first time since Colin Kaepernick took them in 2013. The departure of coach Jim Harbaugh and Kaepernick's kneeling saga ushered in a period of instability. It included a carousel of four head coaches in four years that finally settled when Kyle Shanahan — the son of two-time Super Bowl winning coach Mike Shanahan — got the job in 2017 and soon was joined by Garoppolo.

But when it comes to Super Bowl droughts — outside of the Jets and a handful of teams who have never been, nobody has waited longer to get to the title game than the Chiefs.

The team that lost to Green Bay in the very first Super Bowl, returned three years after that, in 1970, to win its first NFL championship. The Chiefs had their ups and downs in the decades since. The stat that stuck out the most was their 3-8 home playoff record since that victory over the Vikings in 1970 that marked the last game before the NFL and its old rival, the AFL, officially merged and began playing as a single league the next season.

Now, in a season filled with celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the NFL, the Chiefs are back, coached by Reid, whose 14 postseason wins compiled over 20 seasons do not include a 'W' in the biggest game of all.

Could the quarterback he took a chance on — a nimble-footed, strong-armed, next-generation talent — be the one to finally put him over the top?

Garoppolo, to say nothing of San Francisco's running game and its top-ranked pass defense, will have plenty to say about that two weeks from now.

Mahomes' feet, arm lift Chiefs to Super Bowl over Titans

By **BARRY WILNER AP Pro Football Writer**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — With his best imitation of a tightrope walker, Patrick Mahomes high-wired the Kansas City Chiefs into their first Super Bowl since 1970.

Oh sure, Mahomes did his usual superb job passing, but it was his 27-yard tap dance down the left sideline late in the first half that gave the Chiefs their first lead. From there, they outran the run-oriented Tennessee Titans and star back Derrick Henry for a 35-24 victory Sunday in the AFC championship.

At last, for the third time overall, the Chiefs (14-4) are Super Bowl bound.

In two weeks in Miami, they will play San Francisco, which rolled to a 37-20 win over Green Bay in the NFC title game.

"I mean, it's amazing. It really is," said Mahomes, who had 294 yards passing and three touchdowns. "To be here, to be a part of Chiefs Kingdom and to be able to do it here at Arrowhead, these people deserve it. And we're not done yet."

Adding to the joy of the achievement, coach Andy Reid and owner Clark Hunt accepted the Lamar Hunt Trophy — named after his father — emblematic of the AFC title. It was handed over to them by Chiefs Hall of Famer Bobby Bell, with Mahomes and safety Tyrann Mathieu jumping for joy on the makeshift stage.

Next up: chasing the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

"Very excited and very emotional to win the trophy that has my dad's name on it," Hunt said. "Yeah, 50 years were too long, but we're going to another Super Bowl.

"Chiefs Kingdom, we are going to the Super Bowl."

The Chiefs lost in 1967 in the first AFL-NFL Championship Game — nope, it wasn't called the Super Bowl yet — to the Lombardi Packers 35-10. Three years later, one year after the New York Jets shocked Baltimore to lay claim to the AFL being equal to the long-established NFL, Kansas City was back. This time, it was known as the Super Bowl — indeed, Lamar Hunt is credited with coming up with the name — and his Chiefs hammered Minnesota 23-7 with the typical Wild West offensive flair and a staunch defense. Those are characteristics that helped carry KC this season.

Reid isn't as animated as Hall of Famer Hank Stram, who famously urged the Chiefs team to "keep matriculating the ball down the field, boys." Caught up in the moment Sunday, Reid said, "It's awesome,"

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before asking the crowd to chant "How about those Chiefs?"

Moments later, standout tight end Travis Kelce proclaimed, "You gotta fight for your right to party."

There will be plenty of partying on South Beach for Chiefs Kingdom heading into the championship matchup.

"Fired up to go to Miami, got to get on a diet so I can fit into my clothes," Reid said. "Very proud."

As they had done in their past three "elimination" games, the sixth-seeded Titans (11-8) got started quickly. The difference at Arrowhead as opposed to Houston, New England and Baltimore was that the Chiefs had Mahomes, Tyreek Hill, Sammy Watkins and Damien Williams on offense, and a vastly upgraded defense from when they lost in last year's AFC title game. Henry was held to 7 yards rushing in the second half.

"They were doubling all these guys," Mahomes said of his spectacular TD run on which he barely stayed in bounds. "I just ran it and got some good blocking at the end and found a way to get in the end zone."

A week after they overcame a 24-0 deficit against Houston, the Chiefs had to rally again.

Down 10-0 and 17-7, Kansas City didn't flinch, building a 35-17 lead while controlling the clock with a strong ground game. Naturally, Mahomes complemented that with sharp passing, spreading the ball on short and deep throws. The dagger came with a 60-yard completion to Watkins for the Chiefs' 28th straight point midway in the final period.

Mahomes thrust both arms in the air as the crowd sang Whitney Houston's "I Wanna Dance With Somebody."

That somebody will be the 49ers in two weeks.

After taking a 3-0 lead on Greg Joseph's first field goal — with Tennessee's penchant for scoring in the red zone, he hadn't been called upon in his previous four games with the team — the Titans got a huge break. Bashaud Breeland appeared to make a diving interception, but replay review showed the ball hitting the ground.

Helped by consecutive offside penalties and a fourth-down pass to Adam Humphries for his first career playoff reception, the Titans converted on, what else, Henry's 4-yard run.

Then the Chiefs got rolling, scoring on three successive series. Hill took it in on a shovel pass, later beat top Titans cornerback Logan Ryan for a 20-yard reception, and Mahomes finished the half with his brilliant jaunt down the left sideline with half the Tennessee defense seemingly expecting him to step out of bounds.

That gave the Chiefs a 21-17 lead. It went to 28-17 on Williams' 3-yard run to cap a seven-minute drive. Then Watkins toasted Logan for the clinching long pass.

Henry was held to 69 yards on 19 carries after rushing for 588 yards in the past three games as an unstoppable force.

"I feel like our backs were against the wall the whole season," Henry said. "But we kept on fighting and kept on believing in each other. I think it speaks volumes about the team we have. We just came up short."

The Chiefs easily outrushed the Titans on Sunday. Mahomes led the way with 53 of those yards and also was 23 for 35 for 294 yards passing.

REID'S RETURN

Reid goes back to the Super Bowl for the first time since the 2004 season, when his Eagles lost to New England. That gap is second longest to Dick Vermeil's hiatus.

"So much effort that went into this," said Reid, who joined the Chiefs in 2013 after 14 years in Philadelphia. "It takes an army, it is not one guy at all. I appreciate the effort by everybody."

TRICKERY

Last week, Henry threw a jump pass for a touchdown against Baltimore. On Sunday, Dennis Kelly emulated his coach, Mike Vrabel. He sneaked free for Ryan Tannehill's lob, falling back awkwardly but holding on for Tennessee's second TD. The backup tackle is the only offensive lineman since 2000 with two TDs receiving in a season. He also had one against Jacksonville.

Vrabel caught 12 touchdown passes as a linebacker, including one in the Super Bowl when his Patriots beat Reid's Eagles.

FOURTH DOWNS

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Displaying the gambling nature of both coaches, fourth-down conversions were key on early scoring drives. Humphries, who missed the last six games with an ankle problem, caught a 3-yarder on fourth-and-2 at the KC 29. Two plays later, Henry scored.

On the Chiefs' ensuing possession, they went for it on fourth-and-2 from the Titans 28. Travis Kelce's 4-yard reception continued a march to Hill's first TD.

UP NEXT

Titans: Figuring out if they ran out of gas or were beaten by a more talented team as they head into the offseason.

Chiefs: The Tomahawk Chop will be heard at Hard Rock Stadium in the Super Bowl.

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

Trump thanks farmers for backing him through China trade war

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — President Donald Trump thanked farmers Sunday for supporting him through a trade war with China as he promoted a new North American trade agreement and a separate one with China that he said will massively benefit farmers.

"We did it," Trump said, recalling his campaign promises to improve America's trading relationships with other countries.

At one point during his address to the American Farm Bureau Federation's convention, Trump said he has strong support among farmers following his signing last week of a preliminary trade deal with China.

When Trump spoke to the American Farm Bureau Federation's last year, he urged farmers to continue supporting him even as they suffered financially in the fallout from his trade war with China and a partial shutdown of the federal government.

His follow-up speech Sunday at this year's convention in Austin, Texas, gave him a chance to make the case to farmers that he kept promises he made as a candidate to improve trade with China and separately with Canada and Mexico.

He thanked farmers for staying "in the fight."

"You were always with me," Trump said. "You never even thought of giving up and we got it done."

The Republican president wants another term in office and is seeking to shore up support among his base, including farmers.

Trump announced he is taking steps to protect the water rights of farmers and ranchers by directing the Army Corps of Engineers to immediately withdraw a new water supply rule and allow states to manage water resources based on their own needs and what the agricultural community wants.

"Water is the lifeblood of agriculture and we will always protect your water supply," Trump said.

Trump signed a preliminary trade deal with China at the White House last Wednesday that commits Beijing to boosting its imports of U.S. manufacturing, energy and farm goods by \$200 billion this year and next. That includes larger purchases of soybeans and other farm goods expected to reach \$40 billion a year, the U.S. has said, though critics wonder if China can meet the targets.

In Austin, Trump described the trade agreement with China as "groundbreaking" and said, "We're going to sell the greatest product you've ever seen."

Also last week, the Senate voted overwhelmingly in favor of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a successor to the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement. The administration designed the new agreement to return some factory production to the United States, mostly automobiles.

Trump said in Austin that U.S. farmers will also benefit under USMCA, which he said will "massively boost exports" for farmers, ranchers, growers from "North to South" and "from sea to shining sea."

NAFTA had triggered a surge in trade among the three countries, but Trump and other critics blamed it for U.S. job losses brought about when American factories moved production south of the border to take advantage of low-wage labor in Mexico.

The House passed the U.S.-Mexico-Canada deal in December. Trump said he would sign it after he returns from a trip to Europe this week.

In his remarks to farmers, Trump claimed his administration is doing things no other administration has ever done.

"And what do I get out of it? I get impeached," he said. "That's what I get. By these radical-left lunatics, I get impeached. But that's OK. The farmers are sticking with Trump."

The president's trial in the Senate gets underway in earnest on Tuesday.

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Trump defenders push 'no crime' as Democrats seek removal

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's lawyers on Sunday previewed their impeachment defense with the questionable assertion that the charges against him are invalid, adopting a position rejected by Democrats as "nonsense" as both sides sharpened their arguments for trial.

"Criminal-like conduct is required," said Alan Dershowitz, a constitutional lawyer on Trump's defense team. Dershowitz said he will be making the same argument to the Senate and if it prevails, there will be "no need" to pursue the witness testimony or documents that Democrats are demanding.

The argument is part of a multi-pronged strategy the president's team is developing ahead of its impeachment trial brief, which is due Monday. Trump asserts that his Ukraine pressure was "perfect" and that he is the victim of a witch hunt.

But the "no crime, no impeachment" approach has been roundly dismissed by scholars and Democrats, who were fresh off a trial brief that called Trump's behavior the "worst nightmare" of the country's founders. In their view, the standard of "high crimes and misdemeanors" is vague and open-ended in the Constitution and meant to encompass abuses of power that aren't necessarily illegal.

The White House is pushing an "absurdist position," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the lead Democratic prosecutor of the impeachment case. "That's the argument I suppose you have to make if the facts are so dead set against you." Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., another impeachment prosecutor, called it "arrant nonsense" and said evidence of Trump's misconduct is overwhelming.

The back-and-forth came as all concerned agitated for the Senate to get on with the third impeachment trial in the nation's history. Behind the scenes Sunday, the seven House managers were meeting on strategy with staff and shoring up which prosecutor will handle which parts of the case. They were expected to do a walk-through of the Senate chamber on Monday around lunchtime, according to multiple Democrats working on impeachment who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss plans.

The White House, meanwhile, was working on its response to the House's brief outlining the charges.

No senators were more eager to get going than the four Democratic presidential candidates facing the prospect of being marooned in the Senate ahead of kickoff nominating votes in Iowa and New Hampshire.

"I'd rather be here," said Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders on New Hampshire Public Radio while campaigning Sunday in Concord.

During the trial, Sanders and other senators are required to sit mutely for perhaps six grueling hours of proceedings daily — except Sundays, per Senate rules — in pursuit of the "impartial justice" they pledged to pursue. But there was scant evidence that anyone's mind was really open about whether Trump's pressure on Ukraine to help him politically amounted to impeachable conduct or removal from office.

Mystery, however, abounded over the trial's ground rules. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., shed no light on how the proceedings will follow — and differ from — the precedent of President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial in 1999.

"The president deserves a fair trial. The American people deserve a fair trial. So let's have that fair trial," said Democratic Rep. Jason Crow of Colorado, one of the seven impeachment prosecutors.

But what's fair is as vigorously disputed as the basic question of whether Trump's pressure on Ukraine

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to help him politically merits a Senate conviction and removal from office. The stakes are enormous, with historic influence on the fate of Trump's presidency, the 2020 presidential and congressional elections and the future of any presidential impeachments.

Whatever happens in the Senate, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has said, Trump will "be impeached forever." Members of Trump's team countered that if they win a vindication for Trump, it means "there will be an acquittal forever as well," Trump attorney Robert Ray said Sunday. "That is the task ahead."

For all of the suspense over the trial's structure and nature, some clues on what's to come sharpened on Sunday.

The president's lawyers bore down on the suggestion that House impeachment is invalid unless the accused violated U.S. law. Dershowitz's argument, backed up by Ray, refers to an 1868 speech by Benjamin Curtis, who after serving as a Supreme Court justice acted as the chief lawyer for Andrew Johnson at his Senate impeachment trial.

"There can be no crime, there can be no misdemeanor, without a law, written or unwritten, express or implied," Curtis told the Senate. "There must be some law; otherwise there is no crime. My interpretation of it is that the language 'high crimes and misdemeanors' means 'offenses against the laws of the United States.'"

Johnson was ultimately acquitted by the Senate.

"The core of the impeachment parameters allege that crimes have been committed, treason, bribery, and things like that, in other words, other high crimes and misdemeanors," Ray said Sunday.

Republicans have long signaled the strategy, which has, in turn, been disputed by other scholars.

"Rubbish," said Frank Bowman, a University of Missouri law professor and author of his own book about the history of impeachment for the Trump era.

"It's comically bad. Dershowitz either knows better or should," said Bowman, who said he had been Dershowitz's student as a law professor at Harvard. "It's a common argument, and it's always wrong."

Even as he made the case for Trump's acquittal, Dershowitz on Sunday distanced himself from the rest of Trump's defense team and said he would merely speak about the Constitution at the trial. He refused to endorse the strategy pursued by other members of that team or defend Trump's conduct and said he didn't sign onto the White House left brief filed Saturday, which called impeachment a "brazen" attempt to overturn the 2016 election.

"I'm a liberal Democrat ... I'm here as a constitutional lawyer," Dershowitz said. "I'm here to lend my expertise on that issue and that issue alone."

Democrats, meanwhile, are pushing for witnesses and documents that weren't part of the House proceedings. A few Republicans said they want to know more before deciding. It's relevant because new information from Lev Parnas, an indicted associate of Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, is being incorporated in the House case. At the same time, Senate Democrats want to call John Bolton, the former national security adviser, among other potential eyewitnesses, after the White House blocked officials from appearing in the House.

With Republicans controlling the Senate 53-47, they can set the trial rules — or any four Republicans could join with Democrats to change course.

As for being forced back to the Senate in the heat of the nomination fight, Sanders pointed out in New Hampshire that he is "not the only senator who's going to be stuck in the impeachment." Also off the campaign trail will be Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Michael Bennet of Colorado.

"I can't tell you how long I'm going to be in Washington. Is it a week? Is it two weeks? Is it three weeks?" Sanders said on NPR. "So it creates a difficult political situation."

The House on Dec. 18 voted mostly along party lines to impeach, or indict, Trump. The president rejects both charges as the products of a "witch hunt" and a "hoax," and has cast himself as a victim of Democrats who opposed him from the beginning of his administration.

Crow spoke on CNN's "State of the Union" and Dershowitz was on CNN and ABC's "This Week." Ray

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was on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures." Schiff appeared on ABC and Nadler appeared on CBS's "Face the Nation."

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker in Washington and Hunter Woodall in Manchester, N.H., contributed to this report.

Follow Laurie Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

AP sources: Security probe targets Trump's Russia adviser

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A White House adviser on Europe and Russia issues has been placed on administrative leave pending a security-related investigation, two people with knowledge of his exit said Sunday.

Andrew Peek was escorted off the White House compound on Friday, according to one of those familiar with his departure.

In response to questions, the National Security Council, the foreign policy unit at the White House, said in a statement that "we do not discuss personnel matters."

Peek, former deputy assistant secretary of state for Iraq and Iran, has been in the position since November. His two predecessors in that position — Tim Morrison and Fiona Hill — both testified in the House impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump.

Before joining the State Department, Peek was a fellow at the Clements Center for National Security at the University of Texas. He graduated from Princeton University in 2003, received a master's degree from the Harvard Kennedy School in 2005 and earned a doctorate in international relations from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Peek was a U.S. Army intelligence officer serving in Afghanistan where he advised now-retired Marine Corps Gen. John Allen on several matters, including intelligence and Pakistani aspects of the war. Before Afghanistan, he was an adviser to Sens. Gordon Smith of Oregon and Mike Johanns of Nebraska.

Schiff accuses NSA, CIA of withholding documents on Ukraine

By HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the House Intelligence Committee is accusing U.S. intelligence agencies of withholding documents from Congress on Ukraine that could be significant to President Donald Trump's impeachment trial.

"They appear to be succumbing to pressure from the administration," Rep. Adam Schiff said Sunday on ABC's "This Week." Schiff was selected by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., as the lead impeachment manager for Trump's Senate trial.

Schiff, D-Calif., contended that the National Security Agency "in particular is withholding what are potentially relevant documents to our oversight responsibilities on Ukraine, but also withholding documents potentially relevant that the senators might want to see during the trial. That is deeply concerning." He also said "there are signs that the CIA may be on the same tragic course."

The intelligence community said it is working to respond to the committee's requests.

"The intelligence community is committed to providing Congress with information and intelligence it needs to carry out its critical oversight role," Amanda Schoch, assistant national intelligence director for strategic communications, said in a statement Sunday. "The intelligence community is working in good faith with the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to respond to requests on a broad range of topics and will continue to do so."

Trump's impeachment trial resumes Tuesday.

Democrats have previously criticized the State Department for withholding relevant documents to the impeachment inquiry. In the weeks since Trump was impeached, Democrats have sought to focus on new

evidence about Trump's effort to pressure Ukraine to investigate his political rivals and are pushing the Senate to consider new documents and testimony, such as from former national security adviser John Bolton.

During the ABC interview, Schiff was asked about a Politico report that said intelligence officials were pushing the House and Senate Intelligence committees to drop the public portion of an annual briefing on world security threats following last year's session in which Trump lashed out over the assessments on North Korea, Iran and the Islamic State.

The request was reportedly being made in a bid to avoid a repeat in which intelligence officials might publicly disagree with Trump on the security risks.

"Perhaps Intelligence should go back to school!" Trump tweeted after that Jan. 29 hearing, before abruptly reversing course and saying he and the intelligence community "are all on the same page."

On Sunday, Schiff described the news reports as "all too accurate."

"The intelligence community is reluctant to have an open hearing, something that we had done every year prior to the Trump administration, because they're worried about angering the president," he said.

Associated Press writer Deb Riechmann contributed to this report.

2 more Puerto Rico officials fired after warehouse break-in

By DANICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Gov. Wanda Vázquez fired the heads of Puerto Rico's housing and family departments Sunday in the latest fallout over the discovery of a warehouse filled with emergency supplies dating from Hurricane Maria.

The removal of Housing Secretary Fernando Gil and Department of Family Secretary Glorimar Andújar came a day after the governor fired the director of Puerto Rico's emergency management agency. Vázquez fired him hours after a Facebook video showed angry people breaking into the warehouse in an area where thousands have been in shelters since a recent earthquake.

"There have been actions by government officials that have been completely unacceptable," the governor said Sunday.

Vázquez said she decided on the additional firings after meeting with leaders of her administration Sunday morning and officials were unable to provide information she requested about other collection and distribution centers.

"They weren't able to personally tell me specifically where these centers were located, what they contained and whether an inventory was completed," she said.

Vázquez did not elaborate on why Gil and Andújar were singled out, saying only that she had lost confidence in them.

Anger erupted in Puerto Rico on Saturday after an online blogger posted a live video of the warehouse in the southern coastal city of Ponce filled with water bottles, cots, baby food and other basic supplies that had apparently been sitting there since Hurricane Maria battered the U.S. territory in September 2017.

The blogger, Lorenzo Delgado, said he had received a tip about the warehouse but did not specify when. A group of people broke into the warehouse and began distributing supplies to those affected by the recent 6.4 magnitude quake that killed one person and caused damage across Puerto Rico's southern region. More than 7,000 people remain in shelters as strong aftershocks continue.

Ponce Mayor María Meléndez said she was outraged, noting that she and other mayors were trying to find basic supplies since the quake.

"I spent several days requesting cots and water," she said. "They sent me to Cabo Rojo for the cots and to San Juan for the water. If I had known that those supplies were there, I would have demanded that they be taken out immediately."

When asked how it was possible that she did not know about the existence of the warehouse, Vázquez replied, "That's what the head of agencies are for ... to inform the governor."

Vázquez said she worried that the warehouse discovery and the fallout would affect the credibility of the

territorial government in Washington, which has temporarily retained some federal funds for Maria relief amid concerns of corruption and mismanagement.

Sanders distances himself from group backing his WH run

By BRIAN SLODYSKO and HUNTER WOODALL Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Bernie Sanders said Sunday that outside political groups that can raise and spend unlimited sums backing candidates for public office should be abolished — including those supporting his own bid for the White House.

But the Vermont senator stopped short of directly calling on Our Revolution, a political nonprofit he founded, to cease its efforts on behalf of his Democratic presidential primary campaign.

"I would think that we should end super PACs right now. So I would tell my opponents who have a super PAC, why don't you end it? And certainly that's applicable to the groups that are supporting me," Sanders said.

The remarks, made during a candidate forum with New Hampshire Public Radio, are the first substantive response from Sanders after The Associated Press reported earlier this month that Our Revolution's advocacy for his White House bid appeared to skirt campaign finance law.

For years, Sanders has railed against the torrent of money allowed to flood the political system in the wake of the Supreme Court's landmark 2010 Citizens United decision. But he has saved special ire for super PACs, which is shorthand for super political action committee.

Our Revolution is not a super PAC. But the tax-exempt political nonprofit he founded in 2016 functions much like one — but without having to reveal who its donors are. Like super PACs, these nonprofits were similarly empowered to raise and spend unlimited sums after the Citizens United decision.

The only catch is that such groups must take steps keep their activities separate from the candidates they support.

Our Revolution, however, appears to be violating campaign finance law because the group was founded by Sanders, legal experts say.

The campaign finance act says that groups "directly or indirectly established" by federal officeholders or candidates can't "solicit, receive, direct, transfer, or spend funds" for federal electoral activity that exceeds the "limitations, prohibitions, and reporting requirements" of the law. Those limits are currently set at \$2,800 for candidates and \$5,000 for political action committees.

It's far from clear if the Federal Election Commission will take action. The agency tasked with enforcing campaign finance laws, does not currently have enough members to legally meet following a recent resignation.

Our Revolution, meanwhile, has taken in nearly \$1 million from donors who gave more than those limits and whose identities it hasn't fully disclosed, according to tax filings for 2016, 2017 and 2018. Much of it came from those who contributed six-figure sums.

The group has denied any wrongdoing.

A debate over big money in politics has riven the Democratic primary with Sanders and fellow progressive, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, leading the attack on rivals including former Vice President Joe Biden and former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, who have relied on big-dollar donors. Sanders has also attacked Biden for accepting support from a super PAC founded by his allies. During the 2016 campaign, he also criticized his rival Hillary Clinton for relying on their support.

But he was far more circumspect about Our Revolution on Sunday, chalking it up to a "broken" campaign finance system that he would try to overhaul if elected president.

"You've got groups all over the country that legally can do what they want. And I would be very happy to say and to urge an end to all that if other candidates do the same," Sanders said. "So I am not in favor of these things ... But that's the world that we live in."

He also suggested there's not much he can do to curb Our Revolution's election activity, which includes turning out his supporters to the polls.

"The function of Our Revolution was to generate grassroots political activity, to get people involved in the political process and I think they've done a very good job at it," Sanders said. Legally — and in fact, I have nothing to do with them — they operate absolutely independently of our campaign."

Slodysko reported from Washington.

Violence escalates in Beirut as protesters clash with police

By SARAH EL DEEB and ANDREA ROSA Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Security forces fired tear gas, water cannons and rubber bullets in clashes Sunday with hundreds of anti-government protesters outside Lebanon's Parliament, as violence continued to escalate in a week of rioting.

At least 114 people were injured in the protests, according to the Red Cross and the Lebanese Civil Defense teams, with 47 taken to hospitals for treatment. Most of the wounds were from rubber bullets, some in the face and upper body, an Associated Press reporter said. Among the injured from rubber bullets were at least two journalists, including one from the local TV station Al-Jadeed news who was struck in the hand.

Demonstrators threw rocks and other projectiles and even shot a stream of fire from ignited aerosol cans. Security forces responded with tear gas and water cannons before turning to rubber bullets to try to disperse the crowds. A few protesters tried to climb metal barriers separating them from the riot police. Hundreds more, some chanting "Revolution," gathered farther down the blocked street that leads to the Parliament in central Beirut.

Army troops were deployed to the area briefly, and the violence stopped as protesters cheered the troops. But the army pulled out minutes later, and the clashes resumed with security forces barricaded behind the barriers.

By late Sunday night, security forces and army troops were deployed in large formations to the blocked streets. Amid a downpour of rain and the advance of security forces, protesters retreated and the situation calmed in central Beirut. Army patrols briefly roamed the streets to prevent protesters from returning to outside the Parliament.

During the rioting, protesters smashed the windows of two stores affiliated with an outgoing minister from the government they had accused of corruption. In one of the stores, a telecommunication company, the protesters smashed the windows and trashed the contents of the store as security alarms blared.

Security forces reinforced the metal barriers surrounding the Parliament building earlier in the day, after the worst night of violence since the unrest erupted several months ago.

There were nine hours of street battles with security forces Saturday as some protesters tried to scale the barriers. Those clashes left at least 377 people injured, the Red Cross and the Lebanese Civil Defense said. More than 120 were treated in hospitals, including a protester with an eye injury, as well as members of the security forces. Lebanon's Internal Security Forces said 142 of its members were injured, including seven officers, some with serious concussions.

Lawyers defending protesters said 43 were arrested Saturday, including two minors. They said 11 were released the same day, and the other 32 were released Sunday, pending investigation. Most of the detainees were beaten while in custody, the lawyers added.

The military made a show of force Sunday, with large numbers deployed in downtown Beirut and in southern Lebanon, patrolling ahead of the rallies. Riot police were in the front line guarding the Parliament.

The clashes took place amid a rapidly worsening financial crisis and an ongoing impasse over the formation of a new government. Prime Minister Saad Hariri and the rest of the government resigned in late October. Prime Minister-designate Hassan Diab had been expected to announce a new 18-member Cabinet on Sunday after meeting with President Michel Aoun, but there was no announcement after a 90-minute meeting, signaling another delay among the fractious political leaders.

The protests, which began in October, took a violent turn last week as popular frustration began to

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rise. Demonstrators say the political elite has ignored their calls for forming an independent government to tackle the deepening crisis.

"We don't accept the government the way they are forming it. They are using the old method to form the government ... so it's not acceptable," said protester Jil Samaha. "We want a different way of forming a government."

Demonstrators have been rallying against those who have held power since the end of the 1975-90 civil war. They blame politicians for widespread corruption and mismanagement in a country that has accumulated one of the largest debt ratios in the world.

Panic and anger have gripped the public as the Lebanese pound, pegged to the dollar for more than two decades, plummeted in value. It lost more than 60% of its value in recent weeks on the black market. The economy has seen no growth and flows of foreign currency dried up in the already heavily indebted country that relies on imports for most basic goods.

Protesters targeted commercial banks, which have imposed informal capital controls, limiting the withdrawal of dollars and foreign transfers.

Interior Minister Raya El Hassan on Saturday condemned the attacks on security forces and public and private property as "totally unacceptable."

However, Human Rights Watch described the response by the security forces as "brutal," and called for an urgent end to a "culture of impunity" for police abuse.

"There was no justification for the brutal use of force unleashed by Lebanon's riot police against largely peaceful demonstrators in downtown Beirut," said Michael Page, deputy Middle East director at HRW.

Security forces and the military had prepared for more violence by blocking access to some buildings in central Beirut with razor wire, and closing access to areas that included a popular tourist site. Workers also welded fencing together across roads leading to Parliament.

On Beirut's rain-dampened streets early in the day, shopkeepers, banks and other businesses swept up broken glass and boarded up windows. Workers at one bank took down a large sign to remove any identification to avoid angering protesters, who smashed the windows and the facade of Lebanon's Banking Association headquarters with metal bars on Saturday night. The demonstrators widely blame financial institutions, alongside government corruption, for the crippling economic crisis.

Soot and ashes still littered the ground where security forces burned the tents of the protesters who staged a sit-in.

Associated Press writers David Rising and Dalal Mawad in Beirut contributed.

Illegal crossings plunge as US extends policy across border

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

YUMA, Ariz. (AP) — Adolfo Cardenas smiles faintly at the memory of traveling with his 14-year-old son from Honduras to the U.S.-Mexico border in only nine days, riding buses and paying a smuggler \$6,000 to ensure passage through highway checkpoints.

Father and son walked about 10 minutes in Arizona's stifling June heat before surrendering to border agents. Instead of being released with paperwork to appear in immigration court in Dallas, where Cardenas hopes to live with a cousin, they were bused more than an hour to wait in the Mexican border city of Mexicali.

"It was a surprise. I never imagined this would happen," Cardenas, 39, said while waiting at a Mexicali migrant shelter for his fifth court appearance in San Diego, on Jan. 24.

Illegal crossings plummeted across the border after the Trump administration made more asylum-seekers wait in Mexico for hearings in U.S. court. The drop has been most striking on the western Arizona border, a pancake-flat desert with a vast canal system from the Colorado River that turns bone-dry soil into fields of melons and wheat and orchards of dates and lemons.

Arrests in the Border Patrol's Yuma sector nearly hit 14,000 in May, when the policy to make asylum-

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seekers wait in Mexico took effect there. By October, they fell 94%, to less than 800, and have stayed there since, making Yuma the second-slowest of the agency's nine sectors on the Mexican border, just ahead of the perennially quiet Big Bend sector in Texas.

Illegal crossings in western Arizona have swung sharply before, and there are several reasons for the recent drop. But Anthony Porvaznik, chief of the Border Patrol's Yuma sector, said the so-called Migration Protection Protocols have been a huge deterrent, based on agents' interviews with people arrested.

"Their whole goal was to be released into the United States, and once that was taken off the shelf for them, and they couldn't be released into the United States anymore, then that really diminished the amount of traffic that came through here," Porvaznik said.

In the neighboring Tucson sector, arrests rose each month from August to December, bucking a border-wide trend and making it the second-busiest corridor after Texas' Rio Grande Valley. Porvaznik attributes Tucson's spike to the absence of the policy there until three months ago.

In late November, the administration began busing asylum-seekers five hours from Tucson to El Paso, Texas, for court and delivering them to Mexican authorities there to wait. This month, officials scrapped the buses by returning migrants to Mexico near Tucson and requiring them to travel on their own to El Paso.

More than 55,000 asylum-seekers were returned to Mexico to wait for hearings through November, 10 months after the policy was introduced in San Diego.

The immigrants were from more than three dozen countries, and nearly 2 out of 3 were Guatemalan or Honduran, according to Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. Mexicans are exempt.

Critics say the policy is unfair and exposes asylum-seekers to extreme violence in Mexican border cities, where attorneys are difficult to find.

The American Civil Liberties Union and other groups asked to put the policy on hold during a legal challenge. The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments Oct. 1 and has not indicated when it will decide.

On Tuesday, critics scored a partial victory in a separate lawsuit when a federal judge in San Diego said asylum-seekers who are being returned to Mexico from California must have access to hired attorneys before and during key interviews to determine if they can stay in the U.S. while their cases proceed.

Immigration judges hear cases in San Diego and El Paso, while other asylum-seekers report to tent camps in the Texas cities of Laredo and Brownsville, where they are connected to judges by video.

In Yuma, asylum-seekers are held in short-term cells until space opens up to be returned to Mexicali through a neighboring California sector. Those interviewed by The Associated Press waited up to a week in Yuma, though Border Patrol policy says people generally shouldn't be held more than 72 hours.

Volunteers visit Mexicali shelters to offer bus tickets or a two-hour ride to Tijuana, along with hotel rooms for the night before court appearances in San Diego.

Cardenas, who worked construction in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa, said he feels unsafe in Mexico and that it was impossible to escape gangs in Honduras. "They are in every corner," he said.

Enma Florian of Guatemala, who crossed the border illegally with her 16- and 13-year-old sons near Yuma in August, doesn't know if she would stay in Mexico or return to Guatemala if denied asylum in the U.S. The grant rate for Guatemalan asylum-seekers was 14% for the 12-month period that ended Sept. 30, compared with 18% for Salvadorans, 13% for Hondurans and 11% for Mexicans.

"The dream was to reach the United States," she said, holding out hope that she will settle with relatives in Maryland.

While illegal crossings have nosedived in Yuma, asylum-seekers still sign up on a waiting list to enter the U.S. at an official crossing in San Luis, Arizona. U.S. Customs and Border Protection calls the Mexican shelter that manages the list to say how many asylum claims it will process each day. The shelter estimates the wait at three to four months.

Angel Rodriguez, one of 143 Cubans on the shelter's waiting list of 1,484 people, has had bright moments in Mexico, including a beautiful Christmas meal. But the 51-year-old rarely goes outside and he dreads the possibility of being forced to wait for hearings in Mexico after his number is called to make an

initial asylum claim in the US.

"That's sending me to hell again," said Rodriguez, who hopes to settle with friends in Dallas or Miami. "If I'm going to seek asylum, I'm going to look to a country that is the safest and respects human rights. That country is the United States of America."

Startups see a market in renting couches by the month

By JOSEPH PISANI AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Zachariah Mohammed's living room is filled with stuff he doesn't own.

He pays \$200 a month for the sofa, side table, bar cart, dining table and four chairs in his living room. It's worth it, the 27-year-old New Yorker says. If he needs to move, which he's done twice in the last 12 months, he won't need to lug a sofa across the city or worry if it will fit in a new place. The furniture-rental startup, Feather, will swap out items for something else.

"We don't want to be stuck with a giant couch," says Mohammed, a social media manager at a software company, who lives with his partner and their dog, Remy.

Feather, Fernish and other companies aim to rent furniture to millennials who don't want to commit to big purchases or move heavy furniture and are willing to pay for the convenience. It's part of a wave of rental culture that includes Rent the Runway, focused on women's designer clothing, and even Netflix and Spotify, which let you stream from a huge catalog rather than buy individual TV show episodes, movies or songs.

"They're moving a lot. They're changing jobs a lot," says Thomas Robertson, a marketing professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, describing the types of people who would use the services. "Why would you want to be saddled with furniture?"

The furniture-rental companies target high-income city dwellers who want a \$1,100 orange love seat (\$46 a month) or \$980 leather bench (\$41 a month) — but only temporarily. The furniture itself is a step up from Ikea.

"I'm 32 years old and have lived in 25 different places, five different countries, 12 different cities," says Chan Park, who co-founded online furniture rental company Oliver Space last year. He constantly bought and discarded cheap furniture. Then he moved to a furnished rental apartment in Singapore.

"It was probably the first time my adult life that I felt like I was truly at home," Park says.

These startups are in just a handful of coastal cities, with few users, but seek to grow. They offer furniture from Crate & Barrel, West Elm and smaller brands.

Others are renting out home goods, too. Rent the Runway recently added West Elm pillows and quilts. Ikea is testing a rental service in several countries outside the U.S., including Switzerland and Belgium.

Renting may make sense for a generation that sees "life as transient," says Hana Ben-Shabat, the founder of Gen Z Planet, a research and advisory firm that focuses on the generation born between the late 1990s and 2016.

Young people today get married and buy homes later than they used to, and young people move more than older people do. Still, millennials are moving less than previous generations did at their age, and Americans overall are moving less.

Moving her furniture from New York to Los Angeles would have cost Clarissa Wright \$3,000. Instead, she gave away most of what she owned, traveled in Europe for two months and then rented a couch, bed, mattress, bar stools and other furniture in her new place, for \$255 a month. Feather delivered and assembled everything in one day.

Wright, a 28-year-old marketing consulting for fashion and beauty brands, says she can switch out the furniture, add more stuff, move to a new apartment or city. But right now, she doesn't know what the future holds.

"I don't think too far ahead," she says.

That comes at a price. Critics have called the furniture-rental business exploitative in the past. Stores like Rent-A-Center target low-income shoppers who can't afford to buy a fridge or couch outright and charge

higher prices overall than competitors.

Some of the new batch of furniture renters charge for membership, and there are fees for late payments or for furniture that is badly damaged. Customers can keep furniture if their monthly payments add up to full price. Prices are the same at West Elm and Crate & Barrel, but you could buy more cheaply directly from the store if there's a sale.

"If people think this is the best way to buy a couch, they are wrong," says Margot Saunders, the senior counsel at the National Consumer Law Center. "They should recognize that they are paying for the convenience of renting."

Clones help famous elm tree named Herbie live on, for now

By DAVID SHARP undefined

YARMOUTH, Maine (AP) — A massive elm tree nicknamed Herbie is long gone, but it is going to live on, thanks to cloned trees that are being made available to the public.

At 110 feet and more than 200 years, Herbie was the tallest and oldest elm in New England and survived 14 bouts of Dutch elm disease because of the devotion of his centenarian caretaker, Frank Knight, the late tree warden of Yarmouth, Maine.

The duo became famous after Knight spent half of his life caring for the tree, which he referred to as "an old friend." Knight realized he couldn't save the town's elms as they succumbed by the hundreds to Dutch elm disease. So he focused his efforts on one of them: Herbie.

Over five decades, Knight oversaw selective pruning of Herbie's diseased limbs, and applications of insecticides and fungicides. The pair became well known, both in Yarmouth and beyond, thanks to international news coverage.

The tree was cut down Jan. 19, 2010, as the 101-year-old Knight looked on. Knight died two years later.

But before Herbie was chopped down, the Elm Research Institute in New Hampshire worked with Knight to collect some cuttings from Herbie to preserve the tree's legacy with clones.

The hope is that Herbie's descendants will have some resistance to Dutch elm disease. But that remains to be seen.

"Like many cancer patients, he was a survivor. We wanted to make every effort to reproduce Herbie hoping his clones would prove equally resistant to Dutch elm disease," said John Hansel, the 95-year-old founder of the Elm Research Institut based in Keene, New Hampshire.

The yearslong effort has created 1,500 mini Herbies. The goal is to create many more — hundreds of thousands more, he said.

"Herbie is our hope for the future," Hansel said.

Hansel also devoted himself to preserving elm trees after they were wiped out by Dutch elm disease.

Elm trees once lined streets in towns from coast to coast. But all that changed with startling speed because of the Dutch elm fungus, spread by bark beetles, beginning in Ohio in the 1930s. Once afflicted, elms faced a swift and an all-but-certain death.

Working with the University of Wisconsin, Hansel helped to create and distribute about 300,000 "Liberty" elms that were based on trees from the Midwest. Those trees were named for Boston's "Liberty Tree," a giant elm.

Hansel shifted his effort to Herbie in hopes of creating a new standard bearer that's better suited to the Northeast.

It's been a painstaking process.

Researchers began clipping leaves from Herbie years before his demise. Researchers planted about 5,000 of clippings in pots before finally getting a single tree that took root.

From that, there are now 1,500 trees. That represents a critical mass to begin creating them in even larger numbers.

"I love the idea," said Jan Ames Santerre, urban forestry program coordinator for the Maine Forest Service. "People are interested in big trees in general, but Herbie captivated people's attention. It was a

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beautiful tree, and the idea that someone could re-create that in their yard or in their community is a very appealing thing to do," she said.

The National Arboretum also took an interest in Herbie and took some clippings, as well. Some of those seedlings were planted in Maine, but they didn't survive, Santerre said.

William Livingston, a professor at the University of Maine, said there's a great legacy behind the Herbie name. But it's also exciting to have trees that could have some resistance to Dutch elm disease, he said.

"There's a chance that those trees have some resistance and will be in a position to survive," he said.

The nonprofit Elm Research Institute is selling the trees.

The new Herbies are available now at \$19.95 for a 1-foot tall tree, or 6-foot trees will be available for \$114 for those who are willing to wait three years, said Yvonne Spalthoff, from the Elm Research Institute. The trees come with a 10-year warranty.

US marks King holiday amid fears of deep racial divisions

By COREY WILLIAMS Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — To commemorate the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Nicholas Thomas and more than 100 other volunteers will board up vacant houses, install school safety signs and make other improvements to a Detroit neighborhood. Their mission is to celebrate King's legacy by being good neighbors and helping lift up a primarily black school in one of the poorer areas of the city.

As Thomas fans out across the neighborhood with hammer and nails, King's legacy of peace and racial and social justice will be foremost in his mind. But at the same time, he's struggling to come to grips with the deep racial divisions roiling the nation under President Donald Trump.

"Dr. King wanted unity. We have Trump separating immigrants ... the wall," said the 19-year-old Thomas who is black.

As the nation marks the holiday honoring King, the mood surrounding it is overshadowed by deteriorating race relations in an election season that has seen one candidate of color after another quit the 2020 presidential race.

Two black candidates — U.S. Sens. Kamala Harris and Cory Booker — and the lone candidate of Hispanic ancestry, former Housing Secretary Julian Castro, have dropped out of the Democratic race for the White House.

"That scares me a lot," said Deja Hood, 21, of Chicago, a senior at Eastern Michigan University. "Who is going to really back our voicing? You can't understand a minority if you've never been in a minority situation. Even though you can advocate for us all day, you could never understand the issues we go through on a daily basis."

Booker, Harris and Castro struggled with raising money and with polling. Asian American entrepreneur Andrew Yang, Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, a Samoan American, and black former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick remain in the race but are not considered top contenders for the Democratic nomination.

The front-runners in the field are all white men and women.

"It's disappointing, but really not surprising. You look at it and think, 'damn, now what?'" said Xavier Cheatum, 22, an African American senior at Eastern Michigan who along with Hood is participating in King events on the school's Ypsilanti campus, west of Detroit.

People have the right to be — and should be — concerned about the state of race relations and the way people of color, in particular, are being treated, said Jill Savitt, president of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta.

"What we're seeing right now, it's very public and people are showing their hatred openly, but it doesn't mean it wasn't there," Savitt said. "There is a coming realization in our country. We have to come to a reckoning about our past and the truth about our history from slavery to the lynching era to Jim Crow. Only with real honesty about our situation can we come to some reconciliation and move on to fulfill King's hope and dream of a real, peaceful multicultural democracy."

It doesn't help when elected leaders don't — or are slow to — stand against hate and intolerance, she

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added.

Trump referred last year to a predominantly African American congressional district that includes Baltimore as a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess." During a 2018 immigration conversation in the Oval Office, he disparaged Haiti and some African countries with coarse language.

And following a 2017 clash between white nationalist demonstrators and counterprotesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, Trump said there were "very fine people on both sides" and that there was "blame on both sides." One anti-racism activist was killed.

In 2018, there were more than 7,000 single-bias incidents reported by law enforcement, according to FBI hate crime statistics. More than 53% of the offenders were white, while 24% were black. Nearly 60% of the incidents involved race, ethnicity and ancestry.

"Racism has long been a way for people to maintain their power," Savitt said. "Manipulating people's fears and anxieties is the way you do that. The Trump administration has certainly fanned the flames."

Trump is trying to court black voters, knowing that he isn't likely to win them over en masse but could chip into Democratic advantages if he wins more black support in critical swing states. His campaign has stepped up outreach efforts, including to African Americans and Latinos, marking a departure from 2016 when Trump's volunteer "National Diversity Coalition" struggled to make an impact.

The campaign already has spent more than \$1 million on black outreach, including radio, print and online advertising in dozens of markets since the coalition's launch, the campaign has said.

Only 6% of African American voters went for Trump in the 2016 election, according to a Pew Research Center analysis. Trump's message to black voters in that campaign was: "What have you got to lose?" Supporters now say they have a record to point to, including the low black unemployment rate and investments in historically black colleges and universities.

A Washington Post-Ipsos poll of African Americans in early January found that 90% disapprove of Trump's job performance and 83% say Trump is racist.

Laying it all in Trump's lap is unfair, said Carol Swain, an advisory board member to the national Black Voices for Trump.

"With Trump, he has pushed the American nationalist identity that I think tamps down the kind of conflicts we would have," said Swain, who is black and has taught political science at Vanderbilt and Princeton universities. "He has pushed patriotism over race and that benefits our country."

Faith Morris, chief marketing and external affairs officer for the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee, doesn't see it that way.

"It's definitely a white America. A black America. A Hispanic America," Morris said. "And there's a very broken line that connects the different Americas. In 2020, we still feel the oppressive issues that Dr. King fought against. He focused on the same things we're focusing on now."

Jacob Sklarsky recently read a book about King and the civil rights movement to students in his second-grade Chicago Public Schools class.

"To look at the faces of young black kids who are sometimes hearing about this history for the first time, they are distressed by it," said Sklarsky, who is white and a member of KAM Isaiah Israel, a Jewish congregation in Chicago.

"They were very relieved at the end because, in a way, it was all worth it," Sklarsky said. "It gives us some hope, but it's also very sad that we're not anywhere near what King dreamed of."

Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Jan. 20, the 20th day of 2020. There are 346 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 20, 2001, George Walker Bush became America's 43rd president after one of the most turbulent elections in U.S. history.

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On this date:

In 1649, King Charles I of England went on trial, accused of high treason (he was found guilty and executed by month's end).

In 1801, Secretary of State John Marshall was nominated by President John Adams to be chief justice of the United States (he was sworn in on Feb. 4, 1801).

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first chief executive to be inaugurated on Jan. 20 instead of March 4.

In 1942, Nazi officials held the notorious Wannsee conference, during which they arrived at their "final solution" that called for exterminating Europe's Jews.

In 1964, Capitol Records released the album "Meet the Beatles!"

In 1981, Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

In 1986, the United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1994, Shannon Faulkner became the first woman to attend classes at The Citadel in South Carolina. (Faulkner joined the cadet corps in Aug. 1995 under court order but soon dropped out, citing isolation and stress from the legal battle.)

In 2003, Secretary of State Colin Powell, faced with stiff resistance and calls to go slow, bluntly told the Security Council that the U.N. "must not shrink" from its responsibility to disarm Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

In 2007, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., launched her first campaign for the White House, saying in a videotaped message on her website: "I'm in, and I'm in to win."

In 2009, Barack Obama was sworn in as the nation's 44th, as well as first African-American, president. Russian natural gas began flowing into Ukraine after a nearly two-week cutoff that had left large parts of Europe cold and dark.

In 2017, Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th president of the United States, pledging emphatically to empower America's "forgotten men and women." Protesters registered their rage against the new president in a chaotic confrontation with police just blocks from the inaugural parade.

Ten years ago: National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair conceded missteps in the government's handling of the Christmas Day 2009 airline bombing attempt in testimony before the Senate Homeland Security Committee.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, undaunted by the new Republican majority in Congress, issued a sweeping challenge in his State of the Union address to do more for the poor and middle class and to end the nasty partisan political fight that had characterized his six years in office. The Islamic State group threatened to kill two Japanese hostages unless its ransom demands were met. (Kenji Goto and Haruna Yukawa were both slain by their captors.)

One year ago: The Los Angeles Rams advanced to the Super Bowl against the New England Patriots after a 26-23 overtime victory over the New Orleans Saints in the NFC championship game; the outcome might not have been possible without what the NFL acknowledged was a mistake by officials who failed to call a penalty when a Rams player leveled a Saints receiver with a helmet-to-helmet hit in the final minutes of regulation. The Patriots beat the Kansas City Chiefs 37-31 for the AFC championship. The year's only total lunar eclipse was visible throughout North and South America; it took place during the year's first supermoon, when a full moon appears a little bigger and brighter thanks to its slightly closer position.

Today's Birthdays: Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin is 90. Olympic gold medal figure skater Carol Heiss is 80. Singer Eric Stewart is 75. Movie director David Lynch is 74. Country-rock musician George Grantham (Poco) is 73. Israeli activist Natan Sharansky is 72. Actor Daniel Benzali is 70. Rock musician Paul Stanley (KISS) is 68. Rock musician Ian Hill (Judas Priest) is 68. Comedian Bill Maher (MAR) is 64. Actor Lorenzo Lamas is 62. Actor James Denton is 57. Rock musician Greg K. (The Offspring) is 55. Country singer John Michael Montgomery is 55. Sophie, Countess of Wessex, is 55. Actor Rainn Wilson is 54. Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway is 53. Actress Stacey Dash is 53. TV personality Melissa Rivers is 52. Singer Xavier is 52. Actor Reno Wilson is 51. Singer Edwin McCain is 50. Actor Skeet Ulrich is 50. Rap musician ?uestlove

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(questlove) (The Roots) is 49. Former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley is 48. Rock musician Rob Bourdon (Linkin Park) is 41. Singer-songwriter Bonnie McKee is 36. Country singer Brantley Gilbert is 35. Rock singer Kevin Parker (Tame Impala) is 34. Actor Evan Peters is 33.

Thought for Today: "Whatever people in general do not understand, they are always prepared to dislike; the incomprehensible is always the obnoxious." — Letitia Landon, English poet (1802-1838).

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