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Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020

**Boys NEC-DAK12 Clash at Madison
6:30 p.m.: Groton Area vs. SF Christian**

It's Boys Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Northwestern
Wildcats**



**VS
Groton Area Tigers**

**5:15 p.m.: Monday, Jan. 27, 2020 at Mellette
C and JV Livestream sponsored by Grain Solutions
Varsity sponsored by Aberdeen Chrysler Center**

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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Glimpses by Brock Greenfield

Last week in Appropriations, we heard the budget requests for the State Treasurer, Dept of Human Services, Dept of Education, Board of Technical Education, and Department of Social Services. The Treasurer's office expressed an interest in bolstering their office with two more FTE so they can return more unclaimed property to its rightful owners. The office takes in roughly \$50-60 million of unclaimed property over the course of each fiscal year, and they only have 3.8 FTE dedicated to working to find the rightful owners and get the money or assets back to them. Other states with similar unclaimed property fund inflows average approximately 12 FTE. Any changes made relative to their staff would be funded directly out of the leftover unclaimed dollars, so this would not represent an additional burden on the general fund. Also, it would not place us in a situation that is unsustainable, as the fund has a certain amount of dollars that simply are unable to be traced back to specific individual holders.

DHS and DSS are responsible for the lion's share of the programs dedicated to caring for those people who cannot care for themselves. We are hopeful that we will ultimately be able to find the dollars to provide some degree of inflationary increases for these programs, as well as state aid to education and state employee salaries. Also, of particular interest to people in our area are the budgetary adjustments to the SDDC budget. Both in December and again last week, we asked questions of the Department to ensure that this will not hamper operations at SDDC. We have been assured that this only represents an emphasis on "right-sizing" the budget and that it doesn't represent a threat to ongoing operations. It is merely removing unutilized FTE from the budget and there is no cut to existing funds used for employee salaries. SDDC serves a very vulnerable clientele with a high level of specific needs. Our employees who work there are subject to extremely demanding conditions. I have said several times 'they are over-worked, underpaid, and often under-appreciated.' We need to make sure the facility continues to serve its residents well and that the employees know they are hugely important to those they serve and to the state of South Dakota! This will remain the case going forward.

We discussed a myriad of issues within the Education and Vo Tech budgets. Suffice it to say the overriding concern for most interested parties is whether there will be additional dollars for them once the session wraps in a couple months. As I have alluded to, that remains the goal. Beyond that, we delved deeper into departmental policies regarding assessments, course offerings/curriculum, enrollments, distance education, and dual credits. Presumably, there will be follow-up discussions and proposals to reshape some of these areas, but that will unfold over the next several weeks.

On the floor, we adopted the permanent legislative rules/procedures for this session. Most of the revisions to our policies revolve around the new emphasis on introducing the electronic system that will cut out almost all the paper from our process. I would invite you to go to sdlegislature.gov and navigate the site. It will be more interactive than ever and will allow people to follow along from anywhere in real-time as amendments are introduced and bills are acted on. You can also craft customized bill lists for anything that you would like to follow as it works its way through the process. If you do this, you will receive updates when the bills you have flagged are being heard in committee or on the floor. While there have been a few minor glitches as we have worked through the new system and process the first two weeks, they have been quickly ironed out. As we go forward, I'm optimistic that we will soon have a very smooth process that will be more user-friendly than ever. It is a good-government measure that will allow for more transparency than ever for those who choose to follow along. In the past, paper copies of amendments were distributed during meetings and were only available to those physically present. Soon, that will be ancient history, and you will have access to those things from your living room or your work desk or wherever you happen to be tuning in from.

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Three bills that have been much scrutinized so far are SB 50, SB 54, and HB 1057. SB 50 relates to allowing CRNA's (certified registered nurse anesthetists) to prescribe meds within their current realm without requiring them to collaborate with a doctor who may or may not be present in a particular facility. The bill does not allow them to prescribe all meds, and an amendment was hashed out between doctors and CRNA's to ensure the policy functions as was originally intended. This should be of great benefit to a number of medical systems across SD—most notably in, but not limited to, rural communities. SB 54 would prohibit local jurisdictions from banning certain plastic items that are currently legal under state law. Particularly, this speaks to the agenda to ban plastic straws. Similar bills have been brought forth and have prevailed in a number of other states, as they have determined that it is best to have a state policy on the matter, rather than allowing a patchwork of different ordinances that will cause confusion for retail businesses and wholesalers. HB 1057 speaks to requiring individuals to be of a certain age before those people can seek gender reassignment surgeries. As introduced, it would have affected all minors. After being amended in House committee, it speaks to those under 16 years of age. Given the reality that opting to have gender reassignment surgery renders a person permanently unable to reproduce, there is a strong feeling among many that it is important that we require a person to wait to make such decisions until they are mature enough to do so. I will address SB 54 and HB 1057 more as they make their way through the process.

I hope you all have a wonderful week! God bless each of you.

Lana's Annals-by Lana Greenfield

Greetings to all. Pierre has become an aura of change this year. In order to be more efficient, we have adopted a new paperless system. The program is set up to introduce a bill, recruit potential sponsors, have the draft sent for release, and then be put on the agenda for presentation. Many people have had questions as to how to accomplish all of these tasks so the flow of bills has been slow. I would suspect the momentum will increase in the upcoming week. We often fear change, especially with technology. I explained to the doubters that as a former teacher, I am mimeograph machine survivor and have had to learn several computer programs; therefore, there is hope that all will be able to conquer this new paperless world. They may even find it favorable to be able to see the bottom of their desks from time to time!!

Another change is the new security system at the Capitol's entrance. Each legislator and staff member has an ID card that is held in front of a scanner in order to get clearance. Visitors are ushered into a room to the right and go through a check point. It has not caused much of a problem thus far. Therefore, I am confident that one's accessibility into the building will be efficient.

I am chairman of the House Ed. committee again this year. We had Superintendent Nebelsick, Huron, come and present an overview of our state test scores. He had a very comprehensive chart of schools of similar size to Huron. After the comparison and contrast, it was interesting that his school, which is so culturally diverse, has test scores that are similar to the others. This indicated (to me) that perhaps the hype on our test scores being lower than they should be is not the fault of our education system but of the common core test itself. Some schools have suggested that they give their own comprehensive tests. That may not be acceptable to all, though, as we would not be comparing students with the same "measuring stick." However, to pay some testing company to send a uniform test to each school and have students not be able to show achievement because of its unattainable rigor does not make sense either. What we have heard is that we rank highly as a state on the ACT test so these two types of tests seem to be in conflict.

We also had Dr. Beran, administrator of the Board of Regents, give us information on the Regental institutions. It would seem that SDSMT wants a new library, DSU needs to add to its Cyber Lab, and USD is requesting a new health science building, big requests. I would like them to contact supportive donors first before we fund these projects. As I recall, NSU had enough money from their alumni to build their new science center. Another point of discussion is that enrollment at our universities is down. Two

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reasons could be as follows: more students are attending technical schools, which have many beneficial programs and can be completed in two years. The second reason is that more students are taking dual credit classes while in high school and some actually can enter college as a sophomore as a result. I would like to see our colleges review the number of credits needed to successfully complete a Bachelor degree. I apologize that I feel that my college ballroom dance and badminton classes did not seemingly make me a better English teacher.

Dr. Jones, Secretary of Education, testified in favor of having people with invalid (not revoked or suspended) teaching certificates be allowed to take renewal credits and pay a charge of approximately 100 dollars to re-enter the teaching field. He went on to explain that some reasons for letting a certificate lapse are as follows: quitting for an extensive time to raise a family, a long term illness of a family member, or early retiring. He mentioned that there were around 1200 people that fall in one of these categories. We passed this bill out of committee.

I also am a member of the local government committee. Most of the bills we have had were language updates. We did discuss a voter ID approval brought by the secretary of state. It was explained that some people do not have a driver's license or a social security card. They then have to go to the auditor to be issued a card with a verification number on it. This brought forth all types of questions about the voting process, the checking of the history of valid voters, why someone would possibly not have a social security number, etc. The Secretary of State's people said that while not probable that one would have no social security number, but it is possible. We passed the bill. We then talked about agreeing to a law that allows 300 words to describe a ballot measure. It was felt that anything longer becomes very confusing. Concise wording also would assure that a measure would be covered in one page. That bill passed as well.

I hope that some of you are afforded the opportunity to see the legislature in action. If you can get away for a day, come and attend morning committee meetings and then stay for the afternoon House and/or Senate session. Look on the LRC website to see what bills will be discussed in committees and on the floor on a day you wish to attend. Schools, if you have a government class making a visit, please e-mail me in advance so I can greet you at some point.

Until my next report, I wish you a safe and productive week. You can e-mail me at either of two places: lane.greenfield@gmail.com or lane.greenfield@sdlegislature.gov

Rep. Lana Greenfield

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

This past weekend saw the best players in the NFL come together to play in the annual Pro Bowl. The focus for the players participating is health and safety, so there isn't much in the way of competitiveness, but it can still be fun to watch – especially considering this is the second to last NFL game this season.

Before the players took to the field on Sunday, there was a skills competition on Thursday. The night consisted of five events: Precision Passing, Gridiron Gauntlet, Best Hands, Thread the Needle, and Epic Pro Bowl Dodgeball.

Kirk Cousins got the festivities started in Precision Passing, where two quarterbacks and one non-QB from each side (NFC & AFC) attempt to throw the ball through targets scattered throughout the field. Cousins accounted for 18 points, which was one shy of Russell Wilson's lead, and the NFC won handedly. The Gridiron Gauntlet was next, which had multiple players running an obstacle course. Dalvin Cook competed in this one, but the AFC got out to an early lead and ended up taking the point. In the Best Hands competition, QBs and WRs teamed up in a timed event featuring many different catches. Cousins was paired with former Viking Cordarrelle Patterson, but CP couldn't figure out what he needed to do, and the AFC won this event as well. In the Thread the Needle event, QBs were throwing towards a wall guarded by opposing defensive backs. Cousins performed in this event as well, which was a win for the NFC.

With the NFC and AFC tied at two points apiece, it all came down to Epic Pro Bowl Dodgeball. Both Cousins and Cook participated in this event, but the AFC was able to come away with the victory and the overall win.

On Sunday, the actual Pro Bowl game got underway. It was a fairly competitive game, all things considered, but the AFC got the 38-33 victory. There were eight Vikings in total: Kirk Cousins, Dalvin Cook, CJ Ham, Danielle Hunter, Everson Griffen, Eric Kendricks, Xavier Rhodes, and Harrison Smith.

Cousins led the NFC with 181 passing yards, completing 13/22 passes for two touchdowns, an interception and a fumble. Cook led the team with three carries for 17 yards (the NFC only ran the ball four times). CJ Ham didn't have a carry, but that's pretty typical for fullbacks in the Pro Bowl. On defense, Eric Kendricks had six tackles and a QB hit, Rhodes had four tackles, and Griffen had a tackle and a QB hit. Harrison Smith might've been the defensive MVP had the NFC won, as he had four tackles, a pass deflection and an interception which he lateraled to Fletcher Cox who rumbled in for a touchdown.

Looking ahead, the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs will meet on Sunday for Super Bowl LIV. The game will air on FOX this Sunday, February 2 at 5:30pm (CT).

The 49ers will look to dominate the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball. They have one of the best running games in the league, even though they don't have well known talent in the backfield. The 49ers also have a great defensive line, filled with players that are both strong and athletic. If San Francisco can slow the game down with their running game and stifling defense, they will get the win.

The Chiefs begin and end with quarterback Patrick Mahomes. The young QB is 27-8 in his career, and every loss was within one score. Mahomes has also led his team in rushing yards in both their playoff wins. This game will be a matchup of strength versus strength, as the Chiefs' offense goes against the 49ers' defense. It should be a good matchup, and should come down to the very end.

And if you don't like football, there will always be the commercials!

Taking Our Last Breath

It's a holy place when a patient is taking their last breath. For the most part, I've tried my best to give comfort at that time. There are many who have stated, "There are worse things than death." One study in 2016, asked end-stage patients about dying and found that more than 67 percent stated that "needing a breathing machine" was a condition worse than death.



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

Mr. B was an 84-year-old retired farmer who had been struggling with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). This condition is related to the loss of ability to exhale normally, which, in turn, is due to the destruction of tiny alveoli which are oxygen and carbon dioxide exchange units. This results in large unfunctional pockets of air which block the flow of air going out.

He had smoked and had extensive exposure to toxic farm dust throughout his life, and now he was on continuous oxygen therapy and couldn't do anything without running out of breath. He had been on pulmonary rehabilitation (exercises to stay in shape), a low carbohydrate diet, metered dose inhaler (MDI) bronchodilators and repeated antibiotics for a few years. This was the third time he was hospitalized in the last two months for "exacerbation of COPD."

He was suffering from a worsening of his lung disease with the added challenge of bacterial pneumonia. His oxygen levels were dropping, and survival was going to require a breathing machine (intubation). He had been intubated over several days during his previous hospitalization and this time, he did not want it.

His wife had died a year earlier, all siblings had passed away, but his only child, a son, lived nearby. I will never forget the conversation the three of us had that day. We talked about Mr. B's poor quality of life. His options were either to be intubated again or to go with comfort care using an opioid. Mr. B realized death was likely, as did the son. Mr. B said, "Let's try the comfort method." His anxiety and shortness of breath were reduced immediately after making that choice, and over the next two hours, as the pain medicine kicked in, Mr. B slipped away with his son at his side.

This is very serious business, and I usually encourage people who are aware of their situation to fight on, but Mr. B was very tired of fighting for breath. He was ready to let go. In his case, "needing a breathing machine" was a condition worse than death. After his last breath, he finally found relief.

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.prairiedoc.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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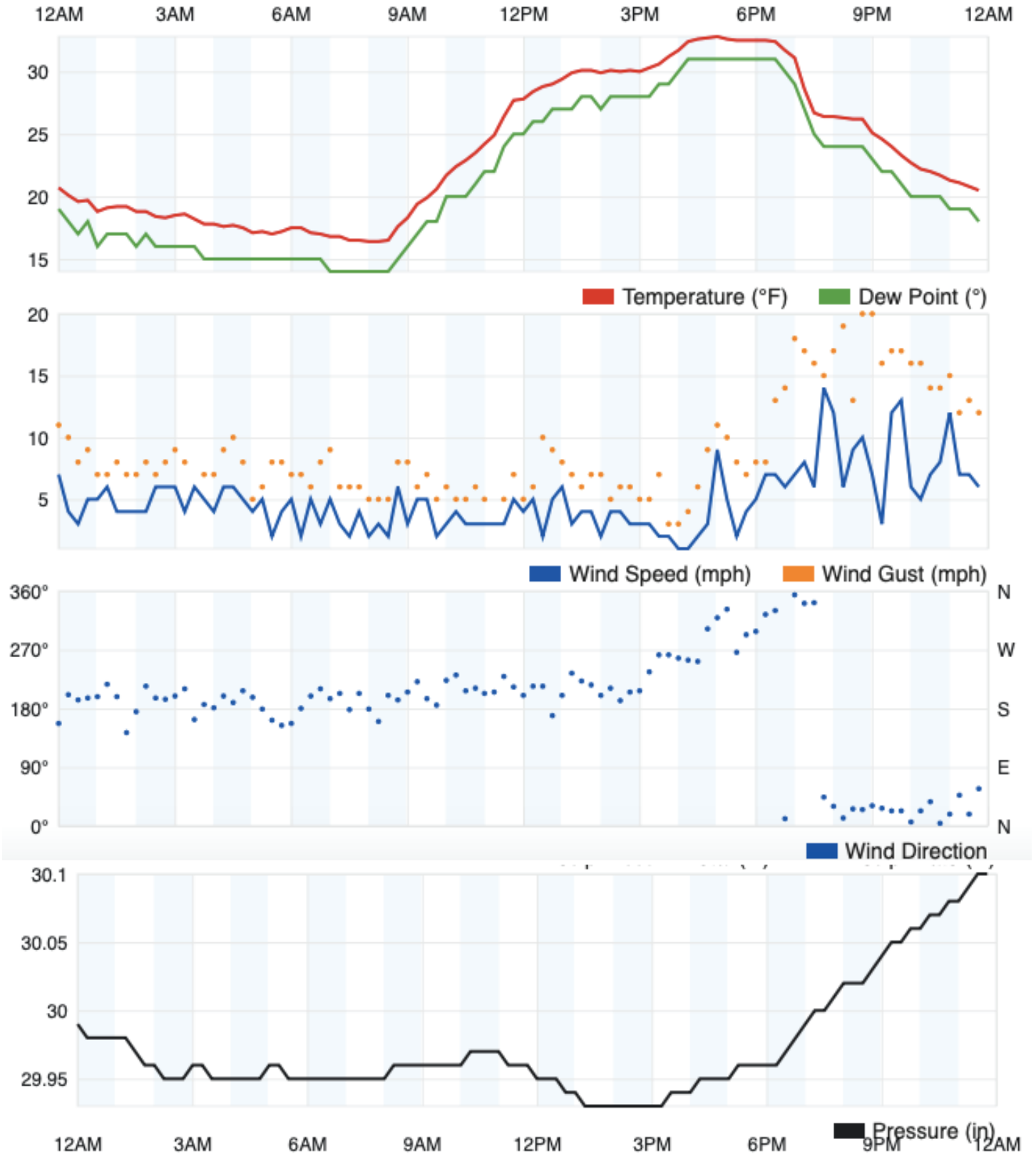
Marzahn is Silver Skates Queen

Nicole Marzahn, daughter of Wade and Renee Marzahn, Groton, was chosen as the 2020 Carnival of Silver Skates Queen. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Upcoming Events

Monday, January 27, 2020

Boys Basketball at Northwestern (combined junior high game at 4 p.m., C game at 5:15 p.m. followed by the junior varsity game and then the varsity game.

6:00pm: Junior High Wrestling Tournament 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.

Saturday, February 1, 2020

Boys Varsity Basketball Classic - DAK12 vs. NEC at Madison (Groton Area vs. SF Christian at 6:30 p.m.)

Lewis and Clark Debate at Yankton

10:00am: Groton Wrestling Tournament

Monday, February 3, 2020

6:00 p.m.: Combined 7th/8th grade boys basketball hosts Redfield

6:00 p.m.: Junior High Wrestling at Ipswich

6:30 p.m.: Girls' basketball at Northwestern - JV followed by varsity game

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

5 p.m.: Boys 7th and 8th grade games at GHS Gym vs. Langford

Doubleheader basketball game hosts Langford Area. Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5 p.m., Girls' Varsity at 6:15 p.m. followed by the Boys Varsity.

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

10:15 a.m.: MathCounts at Northern State University

Thursday, February 6, 2020

6:30 p.m.: Girls Basketball at Tiospa Zina (JV followed by varsity)

Friday, February 7, 2020

Boys' Basketball hosts Tiospa Zina. 7th grade game at 3 p.m., 8th grade game at 4 p.m., junior varsity game at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game

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Today



Slight Chance
Snow and
Patchy Fog
then Cloudy

High: 24 °F

Tonight



Cloudy then
Slight Chance
Snow

Low: 15 °F

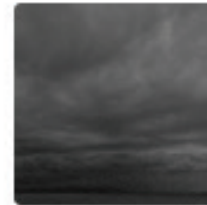
Tuesday



Slight Chance
Snow then
Cloudy

High: 24 °F

Tuesday
Night



Cloudy

Low: 21 °F

Wednesday



Mostly Cloudy


High: 30 °F




National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 1/27/2020 5:11 AM Central

Slow Warming through midweek

Today 21 to 32°

 Patchy AM Fog with a few
flurries coming to an end
early

Tuesday 23 to 39°

 Light snow developing in
the west through the
morning moving east
through the afternoon

Wednesday 25 to 42°

Dry conditions returning
with a continued overcast
sky

Relatively mild conditions for this time of year will continue but so will the clouds during the next few days. There could be a little patchy fog and flurries in spots early this morning, but overall anticipate dry conditions and overcast skies to prevail today. A weak system moving in late tonight and through the day on Tuesday will bring in a slight chance for snow showers to parts of the area. Little to no accumulations are expected. Dry conditions will return by the middle of the week with slightly warmer daytime temperatures.

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Today in Weather History

January 27, 1969: Snowfall of 7 to 10 inches combined with winds of 15 to 30 mph caused widespread low visibilities along with heavy drifting from the 27th to the 29th across Minnesota. Many roads were blocked or remained blocked. Many schools were closed with many accidents.

1922: On this date through the 29th, a significant snowstorm struck the East Coast from South Carolina to southeastern, Massachusetts. Washington, DC reported 28 inches of snow. The heavy snow on the Knickerbocker Theater's flat roof put a significant strain on the structure. On the evening of the 28th, during a showing of the silent comedy "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford," the building collapsed, killing 98 people and injuring 130 others.

1967: Residents of Chicago, Illinois began to dig out from the storm of the 26th and 27th which produced 23 inches of snow in 29 hours, their worse snowstorm. The snow paralyzed the city and suburbs for days, and business losses were enormous.

1989: Bitter cold air gripped most of Alaska during January 1989. Tanana, near Fairbanks, saw a low temperature of 76 degrees below zero on this day. The high for the day was 60 degrees below zero. With an average temperature of 68 degrees below zero, Tanana saw an average temperature of nearly sixty degrees below normal.

1772 - The "Washington and Jefferson Snowstorm" occurred. George Washington reported three feet of snow at Mount Vernon, and Thomas Jefferson recorded about three feet at Monticello. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1966 - Oswego, NY, was in the midst of a five day lake effect storm which left the town buried under 102 inches of snow. (David Ludlum)

1967 - Residents of Chicago, IL, began to dig out from a storm which produced 23 inches of snow in 29 hours. The snow paralyzed the city and suburbs for days, and business losses were enormous. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A powerful storm moving into the western U.S. produced 13 inches of snow at Daggett Pass NV, and 16 inches in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. Winds gusted to 63 mph at Reno NV, and wind gusts in Oregon exceeded 80 mph. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - The nation got a breather from winter storms, however, cold arctic air settled into the southeastern U.S. Hollywood FL reported a record low reading of 39 degrees. (National Weather Summary)

1989 - The last half of January was bitterly cold over most of Alaska. Nearly thirty stations established all-time record low temperatures. On this date Tanana reported a low of -76 degrees. Daily highs of -66 degrees were reported at Chandalar Lake on the 22nd, and at Ambler on the 26th. (The Weather Channel)

1989 - Low pressure in north central Alaska continued to direct air across northern Siberia and the edges of the Arctic Circle into the state. The temperature at Fairbanks remained colder than 40 degrees below zero for the eighth day in a row. Lows of 68 below at Galena, 74 below at McGrath, and 76 below at Tanana, were new records for the date. Wind chill readings were colder than 100 degrees below zero. (National Weather Summary)

1990 - Another in a series of cold fronts brought high winds to the northwestern U.S., and more heavy snow to some of the higher elevations. The series of vigorous cold fronts crossing the area between the 23rd and the 27th of the month produced up to 60 inches of snow in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2005 - Month-to-date snowfall at Boston Logan International Airport totaled 43.1 inches, making January the snowiest month on record.

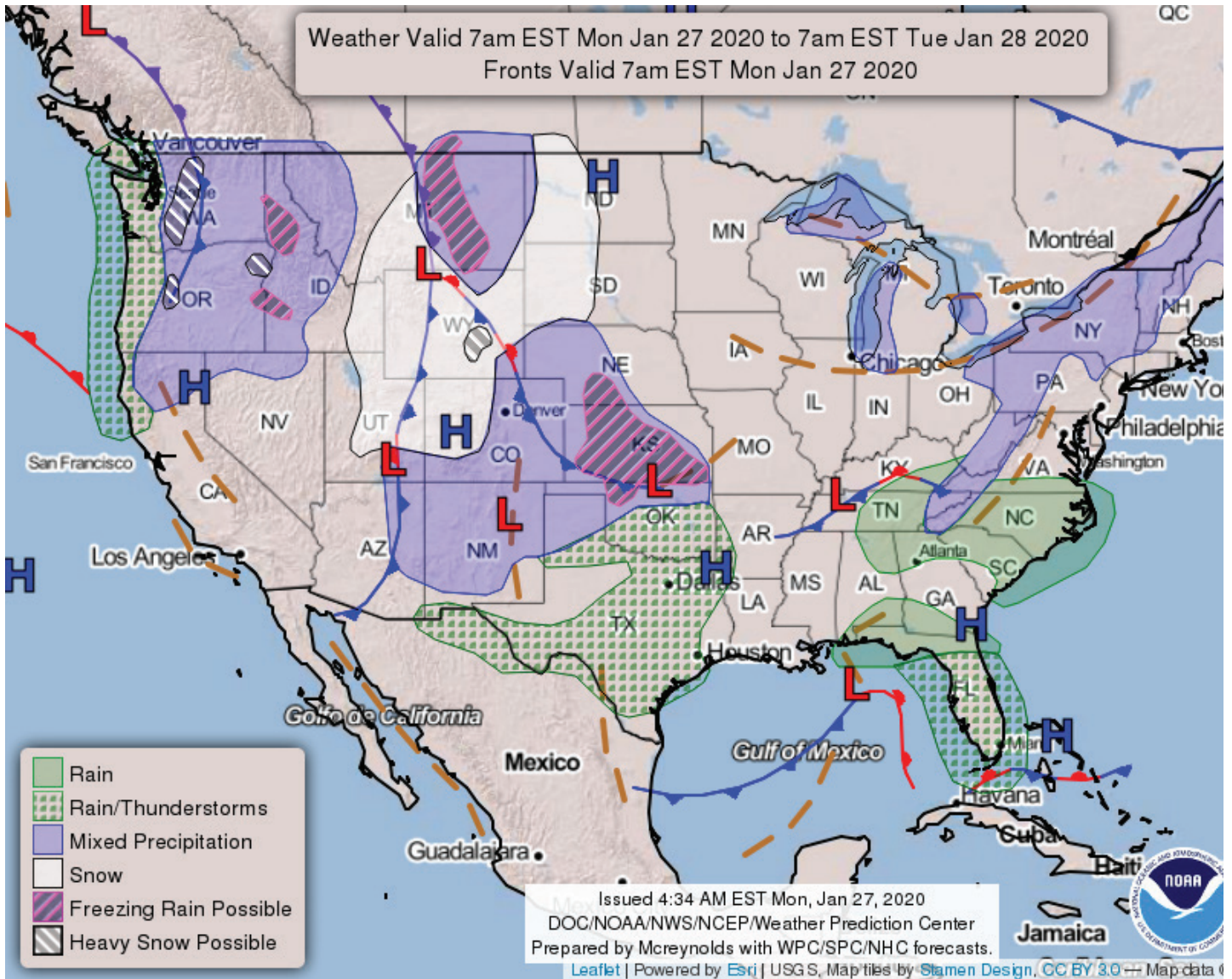
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 33 °F at 4:45 PM
Low Temp: 16 °F at 7:54 AM
Wind: 20 mph at 8:38 PM
Precip:

Record High: 53° in 1934
Record Low: -34° in 1915
Average High: 23°F
Average Low: 2°F
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.41
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.35
Average Precip to date: 0.41
Precip Year to Date: 0.35
Sunset Tonight: 5:33 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:00 a.m.



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WORTHY WORDS

It has been estimated that the average person speaks about 34,000 words a day. Multiply that by 365 and that amounts to about 12,000,000 words a year. That ought to make our jaws hurt!

When he wrote Psalm 19, David said that he wanted the words coming from his mouth and the thoughts stored in his heart to be pleasing to God. David was so concerned about his words that he wondered if there was any way for him to know what sins might already be lurking in his heart. Jesus spoke of the importance of our words and said that "out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks." These "words" about "words" need our attention.

What are we to do about the "words" that come from our mouths? David asked God to "Set a guard over my mouth and to keep a watch over my lips." What a great place to begin – to ask God to watch our lips and guard our mouths at all times so what we say will please God!

Realizing that God knows every thought we think and every word we speak should cause us to ask Him to make our hearts and minds pure. Then with His power within us and His presence around us and His Spirit to guide us, our words will certainly please Him and others.

Prayer: Father, may our minds and hearts be so full of Your Word that our words will reflect Your message of love and hope. May all that we say please You! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 19:12-14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

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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
- 06/19/2020 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 07/31-08/04/2020 State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
- 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)

Custer State Park bighorn population back from the brink

By MARK WATSON Black Hills Pioneer

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. (AP) — After the near decimation of the Custer State Park bighorn sheep herd, wildlife managers are now seeing the group as a success story.

In 2004 the herd was 200-plus animals strong when members of it contracted mycoplasma ovipneumoniae, a pneumonia-causing bacteria that killed 70-80% of the animals. Since that time, the adults in the herd obtained an immunity to the bacteria; however, the lambs suffered — most died from the disease within months, and on a good year, one would survive. Some wildlife managers even began discussions about destroying the remaining 20-25 animals and start over with disease-free sheep.

Then, three years ago, biologists discovered that only three of the bighorns shed the pathogens responsible for the die-off. Those were removed from the herd and the population rebound began. The first lambing year, eight of the nine born in the park survived. The next year, four of the seven were recruited into the population. The other three lambs were killed by mountain lions.

To date, no additional sheep have died from pneumonia in the park, said Chad Lehman, a biologist for the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks.

Thus began a study comparing the adult and lamb survival of the Custer State Park herd with the Rapid City herd that also contracted the bacteria several years after the Custer herd.

The Rapid City animals struggle to recruit lambs into the population. Farther south, in the park, survival have returned to historic numbers, upwards of 70% at times, compared to 20% or less when the herd was infected.

Over the past two years, wildlife managers have captured, tested, and fitted with radio collars, sheep in the Rapid City herd. Upon receipt of the test results, any animals that were positive for the bacteria, were recaptured and removed, Lehman said.

While officials thought they solved the pneumonia problem, they discovered a second strain of the bacteria in the Rapid City herd.

"There are different DNA forms of mycoplasma ovipneumoniae, so those strains can vary from herd to herd," Lehman told the Black Hills Pioneer. "If you have one strain in a group and another strain comes in, the herd isn't immune to it, and it can kill off sheep."

"What that means is that mycoplasma ovipneumoniae is still in the herd there," Lehman said.

So the department essentially has to start over with the testing. This is anticipated to be conducted in February.

"If there is one animal carrying (the bacteria), that's a problem because it's still being carried by the herd. In other words, all animals have to test negative before (the herd is) clean," Lehman said.

Despite the setback in the Rapid City herd, Lehman said the eradication of the disease in Custer State Park is a tremendous success story.

"It's a pretty remarkable accomplishment, because no one has been able to go into a wild setting and completely remove all the shedders. It's really difficult," Lehman said. "Most populations don't have the access to sheep that we have."

The Custer State Park herd is currently at least 63 animals strong.

Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae has been the bane of bighorn sheep herds throughout the West. Exactly how the local herds contracted the disease is unknown, Lehman said.

Wild sheep experts know that domestic sheep and goats can carry the deadly bacteria and have transmitted it to wild herds. Lehman said there is no evidence that this was the case locally. Conversely, there is no evidence that they did not come into contact with domestic animals.

State policy is to destroy any wild sheep that come into contact with domestic sheep or goats.

This was exactly what happened when the lone adult ram in the Deadwood herd ventured north from

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the release site to the St. Onge area.

In February 2015, 26 bighorns from Canada were released into the Grizzly Gulch Fire burn area. Initially the herd thrived with 13 lambs born that first year. That spring, the 2-year-old ram left the herd, a common trait among male bighorns, and came into contact with the domestic sheep. The ram turned back toward Deadwood and was shot by GF&P personnel before, they think, it came back into contact with the wild herd. But in 2016, sheep found dead from a variety of causes — from vehicle accidents to falling off cliffs surrounding Deadwood — were tested and results showed they too were positive for mycoplasma ovipneumoniae. There are now around 20 animals remaining.

Successes by removing shedders in other herds throughout the country are seeing promise.

In the Hells Canyon, Idaho, area, biologists have begun an aggressive capture and testing program, Lehman said. In the steep and rugged country, Idaho biologists have for the past six years captured as many sheep as possible.

"They are not getting everyone collared, but they are getting close to 70%-plus collared," Lehman said. "They are still testing and removing every year."

He said what his counterparts have discovered is that by such extensive testing and removal, populations are on the rise.

"They think they've captured all the shedders and have really good lamb recruitment," Lehman said. "This can be done in remote locations. It's just going to take a significant investment by the agency to do it."

Lehman said the GF&P has, "shown that you can successfully remove the shedders and then rehabilitate the population."

Sheep that test free of diseases could be introduced into the park and the Rapid City herds to augment the populations.

"It is a success story what the agency has done here," Lehman said. "We've brought back a population to where we can now have a season again. That's pretty remarkable."

At the Jan. 16-17 GF&P Commission meeting, commissioners proposed the issuance of a single bighorn sheep license for Custer State Park — the first one since the outbreak 16 years ago.

Lehman said that once the department has removed the pathogen-shedding sheep from the Rapid City herd, the Deadwood sheep would be tested, which should go quickly given the size of the population.

Statue commemorates MLK visit to Sioux Falls

By JONATHAN ELLIS Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — About 100 people braved ice and frigid temperatures on Jan. 20 to commemorate a moment when Sioux Falls was touched by greatness.

The city unveiled a statue of civil rights champion Martin Luther King Jr. on the holiday named in his honor. The statue, done by local sculptor Porter Williams, was placed in Van Eps Park, not far from where King spoke on a visit to Sioux Falls almost 60 years ago, the Argus Leader reported.

King came to Sioux Falls as a guest of the Sioux Falls Knife & Fork Club on Jan. 12, 1961, and started his visit with a reception at First Baptist Church. He gave a speech that night at the Sheraton Cataract Hotel in which he predicted segregationists in the South would eventually be defeated.

"The habits, if not the hearts, of people are being changed by federal action and the impact of world opinion," he said during the speech.

The Baptist minister from Atlanta was already a well-known civil rights leader who advocated non-violent protests when he arrived in Sioux Falls. He turned 32 just three days after visiting Sioux Falls.

His visit, said Laura Chandler, a professor of history and the director of the Center for Diversity & Community at the University of South Dakota, was part of a national tour. At the time, his approval rating was in the low 30s, with more than 50% of whites believing he was harming race relations. Even some blacks believed he was harming relations.

King sought to use non-violence to eradicate racism, militarism and poverty, Chandler said.

"He is one of the greatest Americans to ever live," she said.

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Williams, who grew up in Sioux Falls, said he didn't walk in King's footsteps as a young person, but as he grew older and wiser, he began to understand King's significance.

"Martin Luther King was a great man, and we should be honored, especially with him being in Sioux Falls," Williams said.

Mayor Paul TenHaken said he saw a miniature of the sculpture that Williams wanted to complete about a year ago. Williams told the mayor he wanted to make a bronzed, life-size version.

"I looked at it and said, 'Let's make it happen,'" TenHaken said.

The sculpture is modeled after a picture of King that appeared in the Jan. 12, 1961 Argus Leader. King was shaking the hand of the Rev. Ardie Hayes, the pastor of St. John's Baptist Church, next to a plane at Joe Foss Field while a smiling Arthur Myklebust looked on. Myklebust was the secretary-treasurer of the Sioux Falls Knife & Fork Club.

On that Monday honoring the civil rights leader, a woman who says she goes by the name Mrs. Dee, took the outstretched hand of the King statue, and with tears in her eyes, said, "Thank you for all you did for our people."

Arens, Duffy lead No. 24 South Dakota women to 76-56 victory

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Monica Arens and Ciara Duffy scored 18 points apiece and No. 24 South Dakota beat Oral Roberts 79-56 on Sunday.

The Coyotes (19-2, 8-0 Summit League) have won eight straight games, their last loss coming at now top-ranked South Carolina, 73-60, on Dec. 22.

All of Arens' five field goals were 3-pointers. She also had seven rebounds and three blocks. Duffy was 7 of 10 from the floor with five assists. Madison McKeever added 14 points and Hannah Sjerven 11 points and seven rebounds. The Coyotes shot 52%, including 10 of 22 from the arc for 45.4%.

Keni Jo Lippe scored 16 points with eight rebounds and Rylie Torrey had 12 points, making 4 of 6 3-point tries for the Golden Eagles (8-13, 3-5), who committed 18 turnovers.

South Dakota took the lead from the outset with an Arens' 3-pointer and led by seven at halftime. The Coyotes didn't shake loose of ORU until a 19-3 run that spanned the third and fourth quarters, with Duffy scoring seven points, for a 70-46 lead with 7:42 remaining.

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

4 Missouri River states unite to try to limit flooding

By GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri are joining forces for a study that will look for ways the states can limit flooding along the Missouri River and give them information about how wetter weather patterns could require changes in the way the U.S. government manages the basins reservoirs.

The states are pooling their money to pay for half of a \$400,000 study with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to measure how much water flows down the Missouri River.

The states hope to present a united front to federal officials to gain more influence over how the river is managed after devastating floods in 2011 and 2019.

"We've got to look at the data, but it's certainly possible that we're going to see more wet years," Republican Nebraska Gov. Ricketts said at a recent media briefing. "We need to collect the data first, and then we can address with the Corps what they ought to be doing."

Officials from the states plan to meet next month to decide how to proceed.

A lot of the data the Corps uses to manage the Missouri River is outdated and doesn't account for the two historic floods over the last decade, said Jeff Fassett, director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. The Corps did not respond to requests for an interview.

"We need to be factoring in new information as we look forward," Fassett said. "Nobody knows whether

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this is the new normal. What if 2023 looks like 2019? If this happens again, we need to be better prepared.”

The effort comes as higher global temperatures are causing glaciers to melt into the oceans and producing extreme weather conditions that are more intense and destructive than ever before. The states are bracing for more frequent and severe floods, even as some of their top officials, including Ricketts, question mainstream climate science.

Fassett said the states also want to identify “pinch points” on the river that could cause a water buildup during a flood.

He pointed to a crossing at Nebraska Highway 2, where the river spilled over its levees and covered Interstate 29 last year. Crews responded by raising and lengthening the bridge to let more water flow underneath.

States that work together tend to carry more sway with the federal government because don’t make conflicting requests, said Tim Hall, the hydrology resources coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Hall said the partnership is similar to a group of upper Mississippi River states that joined forces in 1981 to mitigate flooding.

“It’s a lot easier than one state trying to negotiate with the Corps,” Hall said. “It can be done, but it’s more challenging.”

The partnership also encourages states to share data and not work against one another, Hall said.

“In the big picture, we all want to accomplish the same thing,” Hall said.

The Missouri is the longest river in North America, running from western Montana through the Dakotas and touching Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas before cutting across Missouri and entering the Mississippi River at St. Louis.

The states it touches once had a coalition known as Missouri River Association of States and Tribes, but it eventually disbanded after Iowa and Nebraska withdrew amid a dispute with Montana over how to manage the river. Nebraska and Iowa wanted more more water released from upstream reservoirs earlier in the year to prevent summer flooding, but Montana was concerned about effects on wildlife and recreation during drought years.

The new, four-state coalition would focus on flood mitigation.

Follow Grant Schulte: <https://twitter.com/GrantSchulte>

Survivors return to Auschwitz 75 years after liberation

By VANESSA GERA Associated Press

OSWIECIM, Poland (AP) — Survivors of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp gathered Monday for commemorations marking the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the camp, using the testimony of survivors to warn about the signs of rising anti-Semitism and hatred in the world today.

In all, some 200 survivors of the camp are expected, many of them elderly Jews who have traveled far from homes in Israel, the United States, Australia, Peru, Russia, Slovenia and elsewhere. Many lost parents and grandparents in Auschwitz or other Nazi death camps, but today were being joined in their journey back by children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren.

Most of the 1.1 million people murdered by the Nazi German forces at the camp were Jewish, but among those imprisoned there were also Poles and Russians, and they will also be among those at a commemoration Monday led by Polish President Andrzej Duda and the head of the World Jewish Congress, Ronald Lauder.

Auschwitz was liberated by the Soviet army on Jan. 27, 1945.

World leaders gathered in Jerusalem last week to mark the anniversary in what many saw as a competing observance. Among them were Russian President Vladimir Putin, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, French President Emmanuel Macron and Britain’s Prince Charles.

Politics intruded on that event, with Duda boycotting it in protest after Putin claimed that Poland played

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a role in triggering World War II. Duda had wanted a chance to speak before or after Putin to defend his nation's record in face of those false accusations, but he was not giving a speaking slot in Jerusalem.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy is expected at the event at Auschwitz, which is located in southern Poland, a region under German occupation during the war.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan was guided through the camp by museum director Piotr Cywinski and viewed a plaque that now includes the name of his city after it recently pledged a contribution of 300,000 pounds for the site's preservation.

Organizers of the event in Poland, the Auschwitz-Birkenau state memorial museum and the World Jewish Congress, have sought to keep the spotlight on survivors.

"This is about survivors. It's not about politics," Lauder said Sunday as he went to the death camp with several survivors.

Lauder warned that leaders must do more to fight anti-Semitism, including by passing new laws to fight it.

On the eve of the commemorations, survivors, many leaning on their children and grandchildren for support, walked through the place where they had been brought in on cattle cars and suffered hunger, illness and near death. They said they were there to remember, to share their histories with others, and to make a gesture of defiance toward those who had sought their destruction.

For some, it is also the burial ground for their parents and grandparents, and they will be saying kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead.

"I have no graves to go to and I know my parents were murdered here and burned. So this is how I pay homage to them," said Yvonne Engelman, a 92-year-old who came from Australia, joined by three more generations now scattered around the globe.

She recalled being brought in from a ghetto in Czechoslovakia by cattle car, being stripped of her clothes, shaved and put in a gas chamber. By some miracle, the gas chamber that day did not work, and she went on to survive slave labor and a death march.

A 96-year-old survivor, Jeanette Spiegel, was 20 when she was brought to Auschwitz, where she spent nine months. Today she lives in New York City and is fearful of rising anti-Semitic violence in the United States.

"I think they pick on the Jews because we are such a small minority and it is easy to pick on us," she said, fighting back tears. "Young people should understand that nothing is for sure, that some terrible things can happen and they have to be very careful. And that, God forbid, what happened to the Jewish people then should never be repeated."

In Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron paid his respects at the city's Shoah Memorial and warned about rising hate crimes in France, which increased 27% last year.

"That anti-Semitism is coming back is not the Jewish people's problem: It's all our problem -- it's the nation's problem," Macron said.

Thomas Adamson in Paris contributed.

For more stories by The Associated Press on Auschwitz, go to <https://apnews.com/Auschwitz>

Lil Nas X, Alicia Keys added key moments at the Grammys

By KRISTIN M. HALL Associated Press

What was already a chaotic week leading up to the Grammys suddenly took a somber turn with the death of NBA star Kobe Bryant, who was beloved in Los Angeles and especially in the Staples Center, where the awards show took place Sunday. The telecast turned into a tribute to LA's lost heroes, including Bryant and late rapper Nipsey Hussle. Then 18-year-old Billie Eilish swept with five wins, capping off an incredible breakthrough year. Here are the top moments from the 2020 Grammy Awards:

A HARD GOODBYE:

"It's been a hell of a week," Grammys host Alicia Keys acknowledged early on in the awards show.

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There was a lot of speculation about the show after the Recording Academy ousted its CEO, less than two weeks before the show. In an onslaught of bad press, Deborah Dugan alleged sexual harassment and claimed the awards show was rigged. Artists like Sean Diddy Combs spoke out about black artists being snubbed by the Recording Academy.

But as Lizzo said after winning best pop solo performance, everything she was feeling this week was put in perspective after learning about Bryant's death in a helicopter crash in California, along with his teenage daughter and seven others.

"Your priorities really shift," Lizzo said.

The Grammys were lucky to have Keys as host who gave honest, heartfelt and uplifting messages throughout the night and sang a last-minute tribute to Bryant with Boyz II Men on "It's So Hard To Say Goodbye to Yesterday" under Bryant's jersey numbers illuminated in the arena.

Throughout the night, artists included Bryant's jersey or his playing number in their performances or mentioned his passing. When there was so much divisiveness heading into the awards show, the artistic community came together in loss.

HUSSLE'S POSTHUMOUS WINS

Los Angeles was really grieving Sunday night for its fallen heroes, gone too soon and too suddenly. Nipsey Hussle was at the Grammys last year as a nominee before the rapper and activist was killed just months later. This year, Hussle won two posthumous awards and his memory and music was honored in a tribute performance by his collaborators and friends.

Meek Mill started with a rap about his reminiscences about his friend. John Legend, behind the piano, sang "Higher" with DJ Khaled surrounded by a chorus of singers and dancers in white and gold. Gospel artist Kirk Franklin showed up to whip the gospel choir into a frenzy toward the end. The performance ended with two arena-sized photos of Hussle and Bryant, two titans of the community that meant so much to so many.

Later in the broadcast, Legend hoisted a trophy in Hussle's name, surrounded by Hussle's family on stage as he and DJ Khaled accepted for best rap/sung performance for "Higher."

"We've seen so much tragedy today and last year, but let's love each other and love our families," said Legend.

BILLIE SWEEPS

Going into the awards show, three first-time nominees, Lizzo, Billie Eilish and Lil Nas X, dominated the year in music, but 18-year-old Eilish swept with five wins including album, song and record of the year, as well as new artist of the year.

Her bass heavy, gothic pop album — "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" — was created in her bedroom with her brother, Finneas O'Connell. He walked away with six awards as her producer and co-writer. She wowed fans with her live performances, created a unique style of sporty baggy clothes with loud colors and sung with all the angst of an army of teenagers.

"This was my first Grammys and I never thought this would ever happen and I grew up watching them," said Eilish, after winning song of the year for "Bad Guy."

"This is to all the kids making music in their bedroom today: You're gonna get one of these," added O'Connell.

As each time her name got called to accept an award, she seemed more and more shocked by the recognition. Her last speech was likely one of the shortest in Grammy history: "Thank you, bye."

SEOUL TOWN ROAD

Just when you thought Lil Nas X had exhausted the never-ending jingle of "Old Town Road," with its remixes and endless renditions, the Grammys ratcheted it up another level with a spinning stage of guest vocalists, adding what felt like another three verses.

The set felt like a fever dream of the young Atlanta rapper whose song captivated everyone's attention and brought together the surreal worlds of international Korean pop group BTS, YouTube yodeler Mason Ramsey, electronic wizard Diplo and aging country star Billy Ray Cyrus. But the kicker of the performance was his namesake, rapper Nas, surprising everyone with one more collaboration.

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Now maybe this song, which won two Grammys, can finally be retired for a bit.

THE WATER WORKS

If fans weren't crying at the beginning of the show, they likely found a moment or two by the end of the show that struck at the heart.

Adding to the drama and sadness of the night, Demi Lovato broke down in tears on the Grammy stage singing a song she had written just days before her near fatal overdose in 2018.

Lovato, in a large white Christian Siriano gown, had to start the performance again after faltering slightly, but finished strongly with just a piano to accompany her. She had the crowd on their feet in a true comeback moment for the 27-year-old singer who has been honest and open about her struggles with addiction.

In another performance, Camila Cabello's father was the one shedding tears as she serenaded him with an ode to her papa, "First Man." Some others in the audience, including Gwen Stefani, shared in the emotion of the song.

Tyler, the Creator's mom also deserves a shout-out for being adorably weepy when he won for best rap album for "Igor."

FIRESTARTERS

Boy, did the Grammys need performances like Tyler, the Creator and Gary Clark Jr. to add some excitement and energy to an overly subdued show.

Tyler, the Creator brought in Boyz II Men and Charlie Wilson for a fiery performance of "Earquake" and then brought out his clones for "New Magic Wand" that had the cameras shaking before he dropped mysteriously off the back of the stage, which appeared to be on fire.

Clark, who won three Grammys in both the blues and rock categories, is a workhorse for Grammy performances, often being called in to collaborate on the stage, but this time he ripped through his song "This Land," a seething indictment of modern day racism.

Democrats demand Bolton testify at Trump's impeachment trial

By ERIC TUCKER, ZEKE MILLER and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The stakes over witness testimony at President Donald Trump's impeachment trial are rising now that a draft of a book from former national security adviser John Bolton appears to undercut a key defense argument.

Bolton writes in the forthcoming book that Trump told him that he wanted to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars in security aid from Ukraine until it helped him with politically charged investigations, including into Democratic rival Joe Biden. Trump's legal team has repeatedly insisted that the Republican president never tied the suspension of military assistance to the country to investigations that he wanted into Biden and his son.

The account immediately gave Democrats new fuel in their pursuit of sworn testimony from Bolton and other witnesses, a question expected to be taken up later this week by the Republican-led Senate. The trial resumes Monday afternoon with arguments from Trump's defense team.

Bolton's account was first reported by The New York Times and was confirmed to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the manuscript on the condition of anonymity to discuss the book, "The Room Where It Happened; A White House Memoir," ahead of its release March 17.

When the Times report went online Sunday night, the seven House Democratic managers immediately called on all senators to insist that Bolton be called as a witness and provide his notes and other relevant documents. Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Senate's top Democrat, issued the same call.

Trump denied the claims in a series of tweets early Monday. "I NEVER told John Bolton that the aid to Ukraine was tied to investigations into Democrats, including the Bidens," Trump said in a tweet. "In fact, he never complained about this at the time of his very public termination. If John Bolton said this, it was only to sell a book." Trump said people could look at transcripts of his call and statements by Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that there was no pressure for such investigations to get the aid.

He also falsely claimed Monday morning that the Democrat-controlled House "never even asked John

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Bolton to testify." In fact, Democrats did ask Bolton to testify, but he didn't show up for his deposition. They later declined to subpoena Bolton, as they had others, because he threatened to sue, which could lead to a prolonged court battle..

Bolton, who acrimoniously left the White House a day before Trump ultimately released the Ukraine aid on Sept. 11, has already told lawmakers that he is willing to testify, despite the president's order barring aides from cooperating in the probe.

"Americans know that a fair trial must include both the documents and witnesses blocked by the President — that starts with Mr. Bolton," the impeachment managers said in a statement.

First, though, Trump's legal team will begin laying out its case in depth, turning to several high-profile attorneys to argue against impeachment.

The lawyers revealed the broad outlines of their defense in a rare but truncated Saturday session, at which they accused House Democrats of using the impeachment case to try to undo the results of the last presidential election and drive Trump from office.

The legal team is expected to pick up on that theme and also dive into areas that received negligible attention during the Democrats' presentation, including the now-concluded investigation into ties between Russia and Trump's 2016 campaign.

Trump's lawyers aren't expected to take as much time for their arguments as the Democrats, whose impeachment managers spoke for about 24 hours over three days. But they also don't need to: Acquittal is likely in a Senate where Republicans hold a 53-47 majority, with a two-thirds vote needed for conviction. Still, they see an opportunity to counter the allegations, defend the powers of the presidency and prevent Trump from being weakened politically ahead of November's election.

Trump faces two articles of impeachment. One accuses him of abusing his power by asking Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden, his Democratic rival, while his administration withheld hundreds of millions of dollars from the country. The other alleges that Trump obstructed Congress by directing aides to not cooperate with the impeachment inquiry.

The legal team will portray Trump as having been harassed by investigations from federal agents — and Democrats — since he took office and will seize on the FBI's recent acknowledgment of surveillance errors during the Russia probe. The lawyers have already hinted that they will focus attention on Biden just as he campaigns for a first-place finish in next week's Iowa caucuses.

Monday's presentation is expected to include appearances by Alan Dershowitz, who will argue that impeachable offenses require criminal-like conduct, and Ken Starr, the independent counsel in the Whitewater investigation that led to the impeachment of President Bill Clinton. Former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi is also expected to make arguments.

Many legal scholars reject Dershowitz's arguments, saying the Founding Fathers meant for impeachable offenses to incorporate a broad range of conduct by presidents. Dershowitz told The Associated Press last week that he understood that some critics thought his argument was "bonkers" but encouraged them to listen nonetheless.

Democrats argued their side of the impeachment case for three days last week, warning that Trump will persist in abusing his power and endangering American democracy unless Congress intervenes to remove him before the 2020 election.

On Saturday, the president's attorneys said there was no evidence that Trump made the military aid contingent on the country announcing an investigation into Biden. They also accused Democrats of omitting information that was favorable to Trump's case.

Once Trump's team concludes, senators will have 16 hours to ask questions of both the House impeachment prosecutors and the president's legal team. Their questions must be in writing, and Chief Justice John Roberts, who has been presiding over the trial, will read them aloud.

Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., told reporters Saturday that Republicans expected to get together on Monday to start formulating a list of questions.

"We will meet as a conference and decide what questions we want to pose, what the order may be of those of those questions," he said.

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After the question-and-answer time has elapsed, the Senate will take up the question of whether to consider new witnesses and evidence — a question that could be more politically complicated with the account in Bolton's book.

Trump on Monday objected to the idea of calling Bolton, insisting it was up to House, "not up to the Senate!" to hear witnesses, even though the Senate has that right and is likely to consider the question of witnesses this week.

Four Republicans would have to break ranks to join Democrats to call any witnesses, which would extend the trial for an undetermined amount of time.

Democrats have been especially seeking testimony from Bolton and acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney.

An attempt to call either probably would lead to a showdown with the White House, which claims both men have "absolute immunity" from being called to testify before the Senate, even in an impeachment trial.

Eilish, who gives voice to troubled youth, tops the Grammys

By DAVID BAUDER AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Singer Billie Eilish, who gave voice to young people struggling with depression on a do-it-yourself album she made at home with her older brother, is atop the music world.

The 18-year-old made history at the Grammy Awards Sunday. Not only did she become the youngest person to win one of Grammy's top awards — record, song and album of the year, and best new artist — Eilish is the first artist to sweep all four since Christopher Cross in 1981.

Her triumph came on a night made somber by the death of former Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant. It also ended a tumultuous week for the Recording Academy that included its ousted CEO accusing the Grammys nominations process of being rigged, and Diddy calling out the organization for not giving enough respect to R&B and hip-hop.

Eilish's "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" also won best pop vocal album. Her brother Finneas O'Connell also won awards for engineering and producing the album.

"The music I listened to when I was growing up, maybe 7, 8, 9 or 10, 13, that was the most important music to me forever," Finneas said backstage after the ceremony. "Anytime a person that age comes up to either one of us and says (it is their favorite), I know how much that means to them. That's why it means so much to me. I hope they're celebrating. This is all because of them."

He said that they never thought that an album that addresses depression, suicidal thoughts and climate change would be up for a Grammy.

Eilish noted that they made the album in a bedroom of the Los Angeles-area home where they grew up in. "It's like anything is possible," she said.

In accepting her awards, Eilish noted that she had grown up listening to many of the artists at the ceremony in Los Angeles' Staples Center. She also said she thought Ariana Grande deserved album of the year, an onstage moment that recalled Adele saying the same thing about Beyoncé the same year Adele triumphed.

The success of a young, white girl came on a night the Recording Academy seemingly went out of its way to highlight diversity. Lizzo offered a powerhouse opening performance, and there were tributes to Prince and the late rapper Nipsey Hussle. Tyler, the Creator offered an incendiary version of "Earfquake" with Boyz II Men. Lil' Nas X sang his omnipresent "Old Town Road." Grande sang, as did H.E.R., host Alicia Keys and Gary Clark Jr. with the Roots.

Tyler, the Creator said later that the rap album Grammy was a backhanded compliment.

While he's grateful to be acknowledged, "it also sucks whenever we, I mean guys that look like me, do anything that's genre bending, they always put it in an urban rapper category," he said. "I don't like that urban word. It's just a politically correct way to say the N-word to me."

Earlier in the show, Keys sat at a piano to sing a rewrite of Lewis Capaldi's song, "Someone You Loved"

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that name-checked many of the nominated artists but also included a few pointed lines about respect.

"I'm gonna be honest with y'all," she said. "It's been a helluva week."

Keys also had the delicate task of addressing the shock of Bryant's death in a helicopter crash, while onstage at the same arena where the former Laker won championships.

She sang "It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday" with Boyz II Men. References to Bryant abounded — a Lakers jersey held up by Run-DMC during their performance of "Walk This Way" with Aerosmith, and adorning a couch on a set where Lil Nas X began "Old Town Road."

"We're all feeling crazy sadness right now," said Keys, who received praise online for how she handled it.

"Alicia, you've been lighting this awards show up," rapper Common said onstage. "Thank you."

Besides her big opening, Lizzo took home three Grammys, including best pop solo performance for "Truth Hurts" and two R&B awards. She also seemed noticeably affected by Bryant's death.

"We need to continue to reach out," she told her fellow artists. "This is the beginning of making music that moves people again."

Clark's pointed "This Land" also won for best rock song and rock performance, and he won a third for contemporary blues album.

Among the show's more touching moments was Tyler, the Creator bringing his tearful mother onstage with him to accept his Grammy. Singer Demi Lovato made a comeback appearance after her reported overdose, singing a song she said was written in the troubled days before that event. Camila Cabello sang "First Man," a song dedicated to her father, and received a bear hug from a sobbing dad when it was done.

DJ Khaled helped lead the emotional tribute to Hussle, the Los Angeles rapper who was gunned down in March, not long after attending his first Grammy ceremony as a nominee. On Sunday, Hussle won two posthumous Grammys.

Tyler, the Creator, Lizzo and, of course, Eilish were among the acts who won their first-ever Grammys. Other first-time winners included Tanya Tucker, J. Cole, Lil Nas X, Billy Ray Cyrus, Michelle Obama, Sara Bareilles, Rosalía and 21 Savage.

Gospel legend Kirk Franklin received his 14th and 15th career Grammys.

Associated Press writers Mesfin Fekadu and Jonathan Landrum Jr. contributed to this report.

Defense resumes in key impeachment week; Dems seek witnesses

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's impeachment trial enters a pivotal week as his defense team resumes its case and senators face a critical vote on whether to hear witnesses or proceed directly to a vote that is widely expected to end in his acquittal. The articles of impeachment charge Trump with abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Those decisions on witnesses may be complicated by reports that Trump said he wanted to maintain a freeze on military assistance to Ukraine until it aided political investigations into his Democratic rivals. That's from former national security adviser John Bolton in a draft of his forthcoming book. The report by The New York Times was later confirmed by The Associated Press. The revelation challenges the defense offered up by Trump and his attorneys in his impeachment trial.

The Capitol Hill maneuvering will be complemented by high-stakes efforts on both sides of the aisle to claim political advantage from the proceedings as the presidential nominating season kicks off in Iowa on Feb. 3.

What to watch as the Senate impeachment trial resumes Monday at 1 p.m. EST:

STAR TURN IN DEFENSE

After a two-hour opening argument Saturday, Trump's defense team will lay out its case in depth beginning Monday. White House counsel Pat Cipollone said Trump's lawyers don't expect to take the full 24 hours allotted to them, but there will be arguments from some familiar faces.

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Harvard law professor emeritus Alan Dershowitz, former independent counsel Ken Starr and former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi will speak on specific topics.

Dershowitz said Sunday he would argue that the charges against Trump are too minor to warrant the Republican president's removal from office under the Constitution. "Even if true, they did not allege impeachable offenses," Dershowitz told "Fox News Sunday."

The Trump team has also teased the notion that it would draw attention to Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who served on the board of a Ukraine gas company Burisma, while the elder Biden was vice president. An extended focus on Joe Biden, one of the leading Democratic presidential contenders, could mean blowback from even some of the GOP members of the Senate.

QUESTION TIME

Once Trump's team concludes, senators will have 16 hours to ask questions of both the House impeachment prosecutors and the president's legal team. Their questions must be in writing.

Chief Justice John Roberts will read the questions aloud. He is expected to alternate between both sides of the aisle. Many senators have been talking copious notes throughout the trial in preparation for the question-and-answer time.

Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., told reporters Saturday that Republicans expected to get together on Monday to start formulating a list of questions. "We will meet as a conference and decide what questions we want to pose, what the order may be of those of those questions," he said.

WILL THEY OR WON'T THEY

Under the Senate rules passed last week, senators will get another chance to vote whether to consider new witnesses and evidence after the Q&A time is elapsed. Four Republicans would have to break ranks to join Democrats in the GOP-controlled Senate to extend the trial for an undetermined amount of time.

If that happens, expect a bitter fight over which witnesses might be called and which documents might be subpoenaed. Democrats have called for testimony from Trump's former national security adviser, John Bolton, and his acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney. An attempt to call either probably would lead to a showdown with the White House, which claims both men have "absolute immunity" from being called to testify before the Senate, even in an impeachment trial. Still, Bolton has said he would appear if issued a subpoena by the Senate.

While Republicans have hoped for a speedy trial, Trump has called for the testimony of the Bidens and the intelligence community whistleblower whose summer complaint about Trump's July telephone call with Ukraine's leader instigated the impeachment inquiry.

But some Republicans, including Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., have expressed resistance to calling those witnesses.

If the vote fails, the Senate could move swiftly to its vote on whether to remove or acquit Trump, giving the president the result he's been looking for as soon as the end of the week.

Senate rules also call for four hours of deliberations before voting. Since senators are required to sit silently during the trial, expect a closed session where they can deliberate in private.

A NEW TAPE

Trump's lawyers argued Saturday that no one knows what Trump's motives were on holding up military assistance to Ukraine. A recording obtained by The Associated Press hours later suggests the president well understood that assistance was a point of leverage over Ukraine.

The recording is of 2018 meeting at the Trump Hotel in Washington that Trump had with donors, including two now-indicted associates of his personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani. The audio portion includes Trump inquiring about Ukraine, "How long would they last in a fight with Russia?" He later calls for the firing of the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch.

The recording contradicts the president's statements that he didn't know the Giuliani associations, Lev

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Parnas and Igor Fruman. They are key figures in the investigation who were indicted last year on campaign finance charges.

If new evidence and witnesses are allowed, the recording could take center stage in the Senate proceedings.

THE POLITICS

The trial is resuming with one week to go until the Iowa caucuses, and is again keeping four Democratic contenders — Sens. Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Michael Bennet and Amy Klobuchar — in Washington instead of campaigning at a critical point in the race.

While they are trapped in Washington, Trump will venture outside the capital as he seeks both to exert political retribution on Democrats who impeached him and reward a party-switching lawmaker who backed him in the House.

Trump will hold a rally Tuesday in New Jersey to repay the favor to Rep. Jeff Van Drew, who became a Republican last month after voting against the articles of impeachment as a Democrat. And Trump is set to appear in Iowa on Thursday, days before the caucuses.

Meanwhile, Trump is already looking ahead to his likely acquittal, whenever it may come, promising that Democrats will face consequences for trying to remove him from office. "Shifty Adam Schiff is a CORRUPT POLITICIAN, and probably a very sick man," Trump tweeted Sunday. "He has not paid the price, yet, for what he has done to our Country!"

Schiff, D-Calif., is chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and the lead impeachment manager. Asked on NBC's "Meet the Press" whether he viewed the tweet as a threat, Schiff replied, "I think it's intended to be."

NADLER ABSENT

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, one of the House managers for the Senate trial, will miss Monday's proceedings because of his wife's illness.

In a statement, the New York Democrat said he would be in New York that day to discuss with doctors his wife's ongoing treatment for pancreatic cancer. As chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Nadler has been a key member of the Democratic team investigating and prosecuting the case against the president.

Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaró, Eric Tucker, Laurie Kellman and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. REMEMBERING KOBE BRYANT NBA legend Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter and seven others died after their helicopter went down in Southern California.

2. A GLOBAL INSPIRATION Kobe Bryant inspired a generation of basketball players worldwide with both his sublime skills and his unquenchable competitive fire.

3. CHINA OUTBREAK CONTINUES TO GROW China extended its Lunar New Year holiday three more days to discourage people from traveling as it tries to contain the spread of a viral illness that has caused 80 deaths. The National Health Commission said 2,744 cases had been confirmed by midnight Sunday.

4. IMPEACHMENT CASE CONTINUES President Donald Trump's impeachment trial is entering a pivotal week. His defense team resumes its case on Monday and senators face a critical vote on whether to hear witnesses.

5. BOLTON'S BOOK SPURS DEMOCRATS Excerpts from former Trump national security adviser John Bolton's book have leaked out, including claims from Bolton that Trump wanted to maintain a freeze on military assistance to Ukraine until it launched political investigations into his Democratic rivals.

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6. **BILLIE EILISH DOMINATES GRAMMYS** At just 18, Billie Eilish made history at the Grammy Awards, becoming the youngest person to win one of the top Grammys — record, song and album of the year, and best new artist — and the first to sweep all four since 1981.

7. **ONE WEEK TO IOWA** The fight for the Democratic presidential nomination is raging across Iowa as the party's leading candidates and their allies are delivering closing arguments that focus on who's best positioned to defeat Trump.

8. **THE POWER STRUGGLE INSIDE IRAN** The shooting down of a Ukrainian passenger plane in Iran, killing 176 people, has revealed wider woes facing the Islamic Republic. It highlights the limits of the civilian arm of Iran's government against the absolute power held by the nation's Shiite theocracy and the paramilitary forces beneath it.

9. **WHO IS VISITING THE WHITE HOUSE** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in Washington on Sunday night, vowing to "make history" as he prepared to meet President Donald Trump for the unveiling of the administration's much-touted plan to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

10. **SURVIVORS RETURN TO AUSCHWITZ** The 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz is being commemorated at the site of the former Nazi German death camp.

China extends holiday to contain virus as death toll rises

By **JOE McDONALD** Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China on Monday expanded sweeping efforts to contain a viral disease by extending the Lunar New Year holiday to keep the public at home and avoid spreading infection as the death toll rose to 81.

Hong Kong announced it would bar entry to visitors from the province at the center of the outbreak following a warning the virus's ability to spread was growing. Travel agencies were ordered to cancel group tours nationwide, adding to the rising economic cost.

Increasingly drastic anti-disease efforts began with the Jan. 22 suspension of plane, train and bus links to Wuhan, a city of 11 million people in central China where the virus was first detected last month. That lockdown has expanded to a total of 17 cities with more than 50 million people in the most far-reaching disease-control measures ever imposed.

The end of the Lunar New Year holiday, China's busiest travel season, was pushed back to Sunday from Thursday to "reduce mass gatherings" and "block the spread of the epidemic," a Cabinet statement said.

The government of Shanghai, a metropolis of 25 million people and a global business center, extended the holiday by an additional week within the city to Feb. 9. It ordered sports stadiums and religious events closed.

Tens of millions of people had been due to crowd into planes, trains and buses to return to work after visiting their hometowns or tourist sites for the holiday. Schools will postpone reopening until further notice, the Cabinet said.

The death toll rose Monday when the southern island province of Hainan in the South China Sea reported its first fatality, an 80-year-old woman whose family arrived from Wuhan on Jan. 17.

Hubei province, where Wuhan is located, has accounted for 76 of the deaths reported so far. There have been one each in Shanghai and the provinces of Hebei in the north, Heilongjiang in the northeast and Henan in central China.

The spread of the illness is being watched around the globe, with a small number of cases have appeared in other countries.

South Korea confirmed its fourth case Monday. Cases also have been confirmed in Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, the U.S., Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Nepal, France, Canada and Australia.

The U.S. cases are in Washington state, Chicago, southern California and Arizona.

China also reported five cases in Hong Kong and two in Macao.

On Monday, China's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Keqiang, visited Wuhan to "guide epidemic prevention work," the Cabinet website said. Photos on the site showed Li, in a blue smock and green face mask, meeting

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hospital employees.

Later, the premier, wearing a face mask and a dark windbreaker, visited a supermarket. Shoppers, also wearing masks, cheered to him, "Happy New Year!"

"To get the epidemic under control in Wuhan and the good health of people in Wuhan will be good news for the whole country," Li told the crowd. "We wish the people of Wuhan a safe, healthy and long life. Let's go, Wuhan!"

Elsewhere, the Potala Palace in Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, closed indefinitely to tourists on Monday, the government announced. The former imperial palace in Beijing closed Friday until further notice and other major tourist sites also have shut down.

The U.S. Consulate in Wuhan, said it was arranging to evacuate its diplomats and some American citizens on Tuesday. The French government said it would fly its citizens in Wuhan to France and quarantine them there. Japan was preparing to fly its nationals out of Wuhan.

French automaker PSA Peugeot Citroen, which has a factory in Wuhan, said it was moving foreign employees and their families by bus to be quarantined in another city.

The disruption to industry and consumer spending threaten to depress Chinese economic growth that Beijing is struggling to shore up after it sank to a multi-decade low of 6.1% last year. That could spread shockwaves to Asian economies that rely on China as a source of tourists and export markets.

Chinese regulators called on banks and insurers in a statement Monday to support to people and companies affected by the outbreak.

The biggest impact will be on travel, hotels and restaurants but Chinese retail spending, factory output and investment also might suffer if the outbreak and quarantines last, forecasters say.

The outbreak is a "notable downside risk" to growth, though it "could potentially be a high impact but short-lived event," said Tommy Wu and Priyanka Kishore of Oxford Economics in a report.

They pointed to the example of the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak, when economic activity plunged but recovered relatively quickly. The impact should be "less severe" than SARS because of faster official reaction and "increased transparency," they said.

Abroad, economies including Hong Kong, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and Philippines with big tourism industries that rely on Chinese travelers "seem most at risk," said Wu and Kishore.

The National Health Commission said 2,744 cases were confirmed by midnight Sunday.

The youngest patient is a 9-month-old girl in Beijing.

China's health minister, Ma Xiaowei, said the country was entering a "crucial stage" as "it seems like the ability of the virus to spread is getting stronger."

President Xi Jinping has called the outbreak a grave situation and said the government was stepping restrictions on travel and public gatherings while rushing medical staff and supplies to Wuhan.

The epidemic has revived memories of the SARS outbreak that originated in China and killed nearly 800 people.

Then, Chinese authorities were criticized for reacting slowly and failing to disclose information. The government has responded more aggressively to the latest outbreak.

The National Health Commission said anyone traveling from Wuhan is required to register with community health stations and quarantine themselves at home for 14 days — the virus' maximum incubation period.

Authorities tightened controls on travelers who had earlier contact with Wuhan.

In the eastern city of Nanjing, 48 airline passengers arriving from Bangkok who were found to have left Wuhan during the outbreak were put into a 14-day quarantine, state TV reported on its website.

Hong Kong announced it would bar entry to travelers from Hubei, starting Monday. Hong Kong residents returning from the area will be allowed into the territory but were told to quarantine themselves at home.

Two of Hong Kong's most popular tourist attractions, Hong Kong Disneyland and Ocean Park, closed.

Also Sunday, Wuhan banned most vehicle use, including private cars, in downtown areas. The city will assign 6,000 taxis to neighborhoods to help people get around if they need to.

Wuhan is building two hospitals, one with 1,500 beds and another with 1,000, for the growing number of patients. The first is scheduled to be finished next week.

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The National Health Commission said it is sending extra medical teams to Wuhan. The Chinese military dispatched 450 medical staff, some with experience in past outbreaks including SARS and Ebola.

The virus is from the coronavirus family that includes the common cold but also more severe illnesses like SARS and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome. The new virus causes cold- and flu-like symptoms, including cough and fever, and in more severe cases, shortness of breath and pneumonia.

The virus is thought to have spread to people from wild animals sold at a market in Wuhan. On Sunday, authorities banned trade in wild animals and called on the public to refrain from eating meat from them.

Bryant's death draws tributes from Asian fans, politicians

BEIJING (AP) — Kobe Bryant was a hugely popular figure in Asia, no more so than in China where basketball rivals soccer as the most popular sport.

However, his death Sunday in a helicopter accident comes at an awkward time between the country and the league. National broadcaster CCTV pulled all NBA games off the air following a tweet in October from Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey expressing support for Hong Kong's pro-democracy protests.

The Chinese Basketball Association, led by former Rockets MVP Yao Ming, announced it would suspend all cooperation with the Texas-based team. Yao and the association have yet to comment on the crash Sunday in California that killed Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven other people.

However, Yi Jianlian, the other Chinese player to find major success in the NBA, took to China's Weibo micro-blogging site to praise Bryant for teaching him the value of persistence.

"Thank you! Kobe! Hope father and daughter continue to enjoy basketball in heaven! We will always remember you!" wrote Yi, who signed with six different NBA teams, including briefly the Lakers in 2016. "Rest in peace to the legend," he added in English.

Bryant's popularity among Chinese fans was rivaled only by Yao, LeBron James and Michael Jordan. His playing appearances, including the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics won by the U.S., were far exceeded by his promotional appearances in the country, both on behalf of his own brand and basketball generally. At a 2013 Lakers preseason game against Golden State in Beijing, the arena rang out with chants of "Kobe! Kobe!" despite the injured superstar not even having suited up for the game.

Commemorations begin rolling in online, many of the accompanied by photos of Bryant and his daughter Gianna with the letters R.I.P. Others showed the two dressed in uniform walking away into clouds under a basketball net.

"For our generation, our memories of the NBA begin with Jordan, and move through Kobe and Yao Ming. You were a part of our youth. Already missing the bright sun of Kobe. Go well," wrote commentator "ZhanHao" on the popular Twitter-like Weibo messaging service.

"Your willpower has inspired a generation. Thank you," wrote "Teacher Kai Ting." "I hope there is basketball in heaven. Kobe just went to another world to play basketball with his daughter," wrote "Cici's green paper."

At the Australian Open, Americans Coco Gauff and Caty McNally wore written tributes to Bryant on their shoes during their doubles match. The tournament tweeted its condolences to the grieving families, and Romania's Simona Halep said after winning her fourth round match that Bryant's death was a "huge loss for the world, for the sport." Australian tennis legend Rod Laver tweeted he was "terribly sad to wake up to this news."

In Taiwan, where the NBA also is an enormous draw, President Tsai Ing-wen tweeted that her "thoughts go out to the Bryant family & the families of all those who lost loved ones today."

"Kobe inspired a generation of young Taiwanese basketball players, & his legacy will live on through those who loved him," Tsai wrote.

Philippine presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo noted that Bryant had been a frequent visitor to the Philippines. "He was well-loved by his Filipino fans," Panelo said in a statement.

"On the hard court, he was a sight to behold with his dexterity and accuracy in sinking that ball in the ring. He was a master of his craft. The basketball world has lost one of its legendary greats," Panelo said.

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"The Palace extends its deepest condolences to the family, friends, colleagues, loved ones and fans around the globe who Kobe left behind. We share in their grief."

In Japan, Tetsunori Tanimoto, an official at the Kobe Beef Marketing & Distribution Promotion Association, in Kobe, central Japan, expressed his deep condolences for Kobe Bryant's death.

"He helped make Kobe Beef known throughout the world," he said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press Monday.

Kobe got his name, the legend goes, after his father ate Kobe beef during a visit to Japan and loved the taste.

Tanimoto, who watches NBA games on TV but has never met Bryant, said people know the story about how Bryant got his name.

"We have always felt a closeness to him," he said. "It is so sad. And we offer our deepest condolences."

Associated Press journalists Yuri Kageyama in Tokyo and Kiko Rosario in Bangkok contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that the name of the national broadcaster is CCTV, not CCTC.

Music stars pay tribute to Kobe Bryant at Grammys award show

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr. AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — From the red carpet to the main stage, sadness loomed over music's biggest night Sunday at the arena in downtown Los Angeles where Kobe Bryant played for 20 years for the city's NBA team.

Bryant's death in a helicopter crash earlier in the day was acknowledged in the opening minutes of the Grammys broadcast. Before her performance, Lizzo said, "This is for Kobe." She went on to perform "Truth Hurts" and "Cuz I Love You."

Host Alicia Keys said she was feeling "crazy sad" about Bryant. She was joined on stage with Boyz II Men, who collectively sang "It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday."

"The whole wide world lost a hero," the singer said in front of the audience. "We are standing her literally heartbroken in the house that Kobe Bryant built."

Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna, and seven others were killed in the crash on a steep hillside in dense morning fog in Southern California. He was 41 and had retired from the Lakers in 2016.

Some shed tears for Bryant on the red carpet. Others were almost speechless ahead of the 62nd annual awards show.

Music artists including Billy Ray Cyrus, Rick Ross and Kirk Franklin paid tribute to Bryant, the 18-time NBA All-Star and five-time champion. Debbie Allen, who is married to former Laker Norm Nixon, was seen crying.

DJ Khaled said the news about Bryant's death was "devastating." He took part in a tribute to the late Nipsey Hussle that also included John Legend, Meek Mill, Kirk Franklin, Roddy Ricch and YG. They performed "Letter to Nipsey" and "Higher."

At the end of the performance, each performer turned around and pointed toward a screen with a picture of Hussle and Bryant. The tribute prompted a standing ovation that lasted for more than a minute.

"Long live Nip. Long live Kobe Bryant. Long live Gianna. The marathon continues," Khaled said.

Tyler, the Creator said he went through different emotions.

"The news was heavy, especially being in LA and being near the Staples Center within a short period of time between him and Nipsey," he said backstage after winning best rap album. Hussle, who was known for being a huge Lakers fan, was shot and killed 10 months ago in Los Angeles.

"If you're from Los Angeles, depending on which sector you're in, that (expletive) is really heavy," the rapper continued. "We took an L tonight. Rest in peace to Kobe. We also took a win just being from Los Angeles. It's mixed emotions."

Cyrus had No. 24, Bryant's number, on his guitar, and Lil Nas X had a Bryant jersey draped over a chair

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at the beginning of their performance of "Old Town Road."

Run-DMC member Joseph "Run" Simmons held up a white Bryant Jersey during the group's performance of "Walk This Way" with Aerosmith.

Ross remembered a brief conversation he had with Bryant that involved him admiring the NBA star's craft. The rapper said the game would miss him.

"It's just a huge loss to the game," Ross said on the red carpet. "He was a great example on a lot of different stages."

Singer Charlie Wilson called Bryant a "beautiful soul" and "one of the greatest who played the game."

Hit-Boy, who won a Grammy with Hussle and Roddy Ricch for best rap performance for "Racks in the Middle," said he was not going to attend the awards when he learned about Bryant's death. But the producer said he decided to stick it out in deference to several relatives who were joining him.

"I was two seconds away from just canceling everything," Hit-Boy said.

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, who knew Bryant personally, said he felt horrible but also learned a lesson.

"I hope everyone. ... gives their loved ones a hug and a kiss," Kraft said. "Don't take anything for granted. We should pinch ourselves and make sure we remember those we care most about."

Outside Staples Center, fans wearing Bryant's No. 8 and No. 24 jerseys flocked to the arena to show their respect for the Laker legend. A few hundred people gathered at L.A. Live in front of a mega screen with a smiling Bryant that read, "In Loving Memory of KOBE BRYANT 1978-2020"

Smokey Robinson choked up on camera as he spoke of Bryant, whom he called a friend.

"As a dad myself, to think that his daughter was there with him and there was nothing he could do for her," he said. "My god."

AP Entertainment Writers Leanne Italie and Marcela Isaza contributed to this report.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Jonathan Landrum Jr. on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/MrLandrum31>

Bryant's helicopter flew in fog that grounded other choppers

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

CALABASAS, Calif. (AP) — The helicopter carrying Kobe Bryant and eight others that crashed into a rugged hillside outside Los Angeles was flying in foggy conditions considered dangerous enough that local police agencies grounded their choppers.

The helicopter plunged into a steep hillside at about 9:45 a.m. Sunday with an impact that scattered debris over an area the size of a football field and killed all aboard. The accident unleashed an outpouring of grief from admirers around the world who mourned the sudden loss of the all-time basketball great who spent his entire 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Thousands of fans, many wearing Bryant jerseys and chanting his name, gathered outside the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles, home of the Lakers and site of Sunday's Grammy Awards where Bryant was honored.

The 41-year-old Bryant, who perished with his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, was one of the game's most popular players and the face of the 16-time NBA champion Lakers.

The cause of the crash was unknown, but conditions at the time were such that the Los Angeles Police Department and the county sheriff's department grounded their helicopters.

The Los Angeles County medical examiner, Dr. Jonathan Lucas, said the rugged terrain complicated efforts to recover the remains. He estimated it would take at least a couple of days to complete that task before identifications can be made.

Bryant's helicopter left Santa Ana in Orange County, south of Los Angeles, shortly after 9 a.m. and circled for a time just east of Interstate 5, near Glendale. Air traffic controllers noted poor visibility around Burbank, just to the north, and Van Nuys, to the northwest.

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After holding up the helicopter for other aircraft, they cleared the Sikorsky S-76 to proceed north along Interstate 5 through Burbank before turning west to follow U.S. Route 101, the Ventura Highway.

Shortly after 9:40 a.m., the helicopter turned again, toward the southeast, and climbed to more than 2000 feet (609 meters). It then descended and crashed into the hillside at about 1400 feet (426 meters), according to data from Flightradar24.

When it struck the ground, the helicopter was flying at about 160 knots (184 mph) and descending at a rate of more than 4000 feet per minute, the data showed.

The chopper went down in Calabasas, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Bryant's Mamba Sports Academy in nearby Thousand Oaks was holding a basketball tournament on Sunday.

Federal transportation safety investigators were on their way to the scene. Among other things, they will look at the pilot's history, the chopper's maintenance records and the records of its owner and operator, said NTSB board member Jennifer Homendy at a news conference.

Kurt Deetz, a pilot who used to fly Bryant in the chopper, said the crash was more likely caused by bad weather than engine or mechanical issues.

"The likelihood of a catastrophic twin engine failure on that aircraft — it just doesn't happen," he told the Los Angeles Times.

Justin Green, an aviation attorney in New York who flew helicopters in the Marine Corps, said pilots can become disoriented in low visibility, losing track of which direction is up. Green said a pilot flying an S-76 would be instrument-rated, meaning that person could fly the helicopter without relying on visual cues from outside.

The National Transportation Safety Board typically issues a preliminary report within about 10 days that will give a rough summary of what investigators have learned. A ruling on the cause can take a year or more.

Colin Storm was in his living room in Calabasas when he heard what sounded to him like a low-flying airplane or helicopter.

"It was very foggy so we couldn't see anything," he said. "But then we heard some sputtering and then a boom."

The fog cleared a bit, and Storm could see smoke rising from the hillside in front of his home.

Firefighters hiked in with medical equipment and hoses, and medical personnel rappelled to the site from a helicopter, but found no survivors, Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl Osby said.

News of the charismatic superstar's death rocketed around the sports and entertainment worlds, with many taking to Twitter to register their shock, disbelief and anguish.

"Words can't describe the pain I am feeling. I loved Kobe — he was like a little brother to me," retired NBA great Michael Jordan said. "We used to talk often, and I will miss those conversations very much. He was a fierce competitor, one of the greats of the game and a creative force."

Bryant retired in 2016 as the third-leading scorer in NBA history, finishing two decades with the Lakers as a prolific shot-maker with a sublime all-around game and a relentless competitive ethic. He held that spot in the league scoring ranks until Saturday night, when the Lakers' LeBron James passed him for third place during a game in Philadelphia, Bryant's hometown.

He was the league MVP in 2008 and a two-time NBA scoring champion, and he earned 12 selections to the NBA's All-Defensive teams. He teamed with Shaquille O'Neal in a combustible partnership to lead the Lakers to consecutive NBA titles in 2000, 2001 and 2002.

His Lakers tenure was marred by scandal when in 2003, Bryant was accused of raping a 19-year-old employee at a Colorado resort. He said the two had consensual sex, and prosecutors later dropped the felony sexual assault charge at the request of the accuser. The woman later filed a civil suit against Bryant that was settled out of court.

Bryant went on to win two more titles in 2009 and 2010, and retired in 2016.

Among those killed in the crash were John Altobelli, 56, longtime head coach of Southern California's Orange Coast College baseball team; his wife, Keri; and daughter, Alyssa, who played on the same basketball team as Bryant's daughter, said Altobelli's brother, Tony, who is the sports information director at

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the school.

Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley tweeted that the dead also included Christina Mauser, a girls basketball coach at a nearby private elementary school. Her husband, Matt Mauser, founded the Tijuana Dogs, a popular Orange County band. In a Facebook post he said: "My kids and I are devastated. We lost our beautiful wife and mom today in a helicopter crash."

Associated Press writers Christopher Weber and John Antczak in Los Angeles, David Koenig in Dallas, Tim Reynolds in Miami and Michael Rubinkam in northeastern Pennsylvania contributed to this report.

Family affair: Billie Eilish, Finneas win big at Grammys

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The edgy, avant-pop album that siblings Billie Eilish and Finneas created in a small bedroom made a big splash at the 2020 Grammy Awards, winning 11 honors for the musical family.

"When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" — created in the musicians' Los Angeles home — helped Eilish win the top four honors, including album, song and record of the year, along with best new artist. The 18-year-old is the youngest artist to achieve the feat and the first to do so since Christopher Cross did in 1981.

Finneas — who co-wrote, produced and engineered the album, walked away as Sunday's top winner with six. Eilish won five honors.

"We didn't write a speech for this because we didn't make this album to win a Grammy. We didn't think it would win anything ever. We wrote an album about depression and suicidal thoughts and climate change and being the bad guy — whatever that means — and we stand up here confused and grateful," Finneas said onstage.

Together, they also won best pop vocal album, while Finneas' individual honors included producer of the year (non-classical) and best engineered album (non-classical).

"This is my first Grammys. I never thought this would happen in my whole life," Eilish said. "I genuinely wanna say I am so grateful and I only wanna say that I am so grateful."

"This is to all the kids who are making music in the bedroom today — you're going to get one of these," Finneas added.

The bedroom where they created magic was brought to life when they hit the stage and performed "When the Party's Over," which featured Finneas on keys and Eilish singing in a soft, pitch perfect tone.

Los Angeles, where the show was held, had a central theme at the show Sunday: hometown heroes Nipsey Hussle and Kobe Bryant, a global icon, were honored and celebrated at the show.

The Grammys kicked off with a performance in honor of Bryant, who died hours before the awards along with his daughter and seven others. And later in the show Hussle's collaborators and friends, including DJ Khaled, John Legend, Meek Mill, Kirk Franklin, Roddy Ricch and YG, gave an all-star tribute to the man who died last year.

Hussle also posthumously won his first pair of Grammys on Sunday.

Filmmaker Ava DuVernay introduced the performance, which featured band players, background dancers and Legend wearing traditional Ethiopian and Eritrean clothing in honor of Hussle's African roots. Mill performed a new song called "Letter to Nipsey" while others joined together for "Higher," which won best rap/sung performance.

"This is for Nipsey Hussle. This is for hip-hop," said DJ Khaled, who collaborated on the song with Legend and Hussle, whose family stood onstage.

"We all love him. We all miss him. It's terrible that we had to lose him so early," Legend said. "We've seen some tragedy today and last year ... let's hold each other tight."

The show — which took place at the Staples Center, Bryant's old stomping ground — began with a touching, emotional and a cappella performance of "It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday" by host Alicia Keys and Boyz II Men.

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"Los Angeles, America and the world-wide world lost a hero," Keys said, adding that the audience was "heartbroken in the house that Kobe Bryant built."

"Right now Kobe and his daughter Gianna ... are in our spirits, they're in our hearts, they're in prayers, they're in this building," she said. "Take a moment and hold them inside of you and share our strength and our support with their families."

Before the show officially honored Bryant, Lizzo performed the songs "Truth Hurts" and "Cuz I Love You," saying at the top of the show: "Tonight is for Kobe."

Lizzo won three honors, including best pop solo performance for "Truth Hurts" and two R&B awards.

"Hold on one second," she said, catching her breath. "Thank you to the academy. This is really (expletive) sick."

Lizzo was among the mix of newcomers and well-known acts who reached their goals of winning their first-ever Grammy Awards on Sunday, which also included Tanya Tucker, J. Cole, DJ Khaled, Eilish, Lil Nas X, Billy Ray Cyrus, Michelle Obama, Sara Bareilles, Rosalía, 21 Savage and Tyler, the Creator.

"To my mother, you did a great job raising this guy," Tyler, who won best rap album, said to his mom, who was onstage and crying by side.

More crying took place Sunday.

Demi Lovato, who has mostly taken a break from the public since focusing on her recovery after reportedly overdosing in July 2018, gave a stirring, vocally top-notch performance that earned her a standing ovation. She was so emotional that she had to restart the song as a teardrop ran down her cheek.

Camila Cabello's performance of "First Man" — a song dedicated to her father — also induced tears. Cabello walked off the stage to her dad's seat to finish singing the song in front of him, while he teared up. Audience members were emotional, too, including Gwen Stefani.

Ariana Grande had a lengthy performance — probably to make up for the drama that surrounded her axed performance last year. Run DMC joined forces with Aerosmith to rock the Grammys stage, while Usher, Sheila E. and FKA twigs paid tribute to Prince.

Lil Nas X brought the story of "Old Town Road" to life by performing alongside the artists who helped the song stay at No. 1 for 19 weeks through various remixes, including BTS, Mason Ramsey, Diplo and the track's main co-star, Billy Ray Cyrus.

Veteran rapper Nas then joined Lil Nas X for a new song, shouting out Bryant at the end: "Kobe, we love you."

A dark cloud loomed over ceremony since the Recording Academy announced it had put its recently hired CEO, Deborah Dugan, on administrative leave for misconduct. Dugan and her lawyers fired back at the academy, claiming that the awards show is rigged.

But no mention of Dugan was directly made during the three-plus-hour show.

Downing of jet in Iran reveals Islamic Republic's wider woes

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The Ukrainian jetliner stood ready for takeoff at Iran's main international airport bound for Kyiv, packed with passengers and so many bags on one of the cheapest routes to the West that the ground crew rushed to unload some luggage to make its weight for flight.

Nearly an hour late, Tehran air traffic controllers finally cleared Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 for takeoff, carrying a newlywed couple, Iranian students bound for universities in Canada and others seeking a better life abroad.

The plane would be shot down only minutes later by Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

Up until the moment soldiers fired missiles at the Boeing 737-800, Iran had faced decisive moments on how to respond to the world around it amid tensions with the U.S. Those decisions ultimately doomed the flight and all 176 people aboard, and also led to the public being "lied to" for days afterward, in the words of the country's foreign minister.

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What Iran decided then and later also reflects beyond the immediate tragedy, offering a glimpse inside of the country more than 40 years after its Islamic Revolution.

The downing of the jetliner highlights the limits of the civilian arm of Iran's government against the absolute power held by the nation's Shiite theocracy and the paramilitary forces beneath it. The anger that followed shows the choices Iranians make in the country's sanctions-crushed economy and the unabated rage still lurking on its streets.

How Iran responds as a whole will affect a coming year that appears poised for further tensions. Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers hangs on a single thread, one that permits international inspection of its atomic sites and is already threatened. President Donald Trump, facing an impeachment trial and an election campaign, promises to impose ever-harsher sanctions. Meanwhile, more economic protests in Iran remain a threat as well.

"The regime understands that Iranian society is a powder keg right now and that if it's not careful, it'll lose control of the situation really quickly," said Ariane Tabatabai, an Iran analyst at the U.S.-based RAND Corp. "So, it's using every tool at its disposal to avoid losing control."

THE FIGHT AND THE FLIGHT

Even before Trump entered the White House, he campaigned on a promise to tear up Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. That agreement saw Tehran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Reached under Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, the deal kept Iran's atomic program under constant surveillance by international inspectors and unable to produce enough material for a nuclear bomb if Tehran sought one.

Trump, however, unilaterally withdrew America from the arrangement in May 2018, saying it didn't go far enough in limiting Iran's program, its ballistic missile stockpile and its influence through proxies in the wider Middle East.

Iran waited a year before beginning to break limits of the accord, each move slightly narrowing the estimated year it would need to have enough fissionable material for a nuclear weapon. Tehran insists it doesn't seek an atomic bomb, although the U.N. nuclear watchdog says evidence shows the Islamic Republic once had an organized weapons program that it ultimately abandoned in 2003.

Through the summer, tensions steadily rose with mysterious oil tanker attacks that the U.S. blamed on Iranian mines, as well as drone and missile assaults on oil infrastructure in Saudi Arabia. Iran denied involvement in those assaults, although it did acknowledge shooting down a U.S. military surveillance drone and seizing tankers.

Then came the December death of a U.S. contractor in Iraq, following by an American airstrike on Iranian-backed forces allegedly behind the attack. Iranian-backed militias violently protested and attacked the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

The crisis reached a fever pitch Jan. 3 as a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad killed the prominent Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who oversaw Iran's proxies in the region. Trump later threatened to bomb 52 sites in Iran, including those "important to the Iranian culture" if Tehran retaliated.

Iran vowed revenge, and early on Jan. 8 it launched ballistic missiles at two bases in Iraq housing American troops, causing injuries but no fatalities among soldiers there. Iranian officials informally warned journalists and others that any American retaliation would bring missile strikes on Dubai and Haifa in Israel.

Yet commercial planes kept flying through Iranian airspace. Before the Ukrainian jetliner, nine other flights left Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport. The airplane was delayed nearly an hour to remove luggage from the overweight flight, investigators say.

Some have questioned how the flight could even be allowed to take off, as the Guard insists it suggested commercial aircraft be grounded amid the tensions.

But Iran isn't alone, as the shutdown of Malaysia Airlines Flight No. 17 over eastern Ukraine in 2014 shows. Pakistan remains the sole recent country to close its airspace over the risk of war as it did in 2019 amid tensions with India.

"Countries cannot be relied upon to close risky airspace, nor issue damaging guidance on their own territories," wrote Mark Zee, the founder of the air-safety organization OPSGROUP. "Governments have

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more pressing motivations: Trade, tourism, commerce. This will not change.”

Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 took off at 6:12 a.m. Its flaming wreckage would fall from the sky only six minutes later.

'RECIPE FOR DISASTER'

Just northwest of the airport, a Revolutionary Guard base among Tehran's arid foothills hid so-called "coffin launchers" — ballistic missiles tilting skyward. Defending that base was at least one Tor-M1 anti-aircraft system, a Russian-made tracked vehicle whose spinning radar detected the flight. Its turret turned toward the flight, a secondary radar now tracking to get its position.

An operator inside would be able to see the flight as a blip on its radar screen, showing its speed and altitude. Commercial airliners broadcast their location by transponder, but it remains unclear what information those in the Tor had, said Jeremy Binnie, the Middle East editor of Jane's Defence Weekly. It's also unclear if jamming or some sort of communications breakdown affected the troops' thinking.

What is clear, however, is that the Guard, known for its aggression in confronting U.S. Navy vessels in the Persian Gulf, controlled that area's air defense. Iranian forces already stood at a high-alert level, fearful of American retaliation for the ballistic missile strike on the Iraqi bases housing U.S. troops hours earlier.

And that Tor unit, with an effective range of 12 kilometers (7.5 miles), fired one missile at its maximum distance toward the aircraft, according to a later briefing by the Guard. Surveillance video later obtained by The Associated Press showed that the missile streaked across the darkened sky and exploded.

The missile went off like a massive shotgun shell, pelting the airliner with a cloud of shrapnel. A piece of the fuselage and the cockpit later recovered showed its windows smashed and the metal scorched.

Ten seconds after the first explosion, the Tor crew fired another missile. It struck near the plane, which turned into a ball of flames before crashing in the rural town of Shahedshahr.

"You can see how guys at that level of autonomy, high tensions and not clearing these civilian aircraft out of the airspace is a recipe for disaster," Binnie said. "They just can't go on like that."

DAYS OF DENIALS

The Guard, answerable only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, knew their missiles downed the flight when news broke of the crash. It remains unclear when they told Khamenei.

The 80-year-old cleric has final say on all state matters, faces no real check on his power and hasn't commented publicly on what he knew when.

But air-crash investigators, Iranian diplomats and others strongly denied that a missile shot down Flight 752, even as images from the crash site showed shrapnel damage to the plane and one image appeared to show the remains of a Tor-fired missile.

The head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization, Ali Abedzadeh, also mocked comments by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and U.S. officials saying they believed a missile brought down the plane.

"Scientifically speaking, their statements are not valid at all," Abedzadeh said.

The next day, Iran's regular armed forces announced that the Guard "unintentionally" downed the aircraft as "a result of human error." Iranian officials apologized, with at least two of the Guard's top commanders publicly saying they wish they had died. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif went as far as to say the Iranian public "were lied to" for days.

But comments by Zarif and President Hassan Rouhani suggest Iran's elected leaders initially knew nothing about the Guard shooting down the aircraft.

"It's highly likely that most, if not all of the Rouhani government, were not aware of the same facts that were available to senior members" within the Guard, said Ellie Geranmayeh, a senior fellow focusing on Iran at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

This split in power between Iran's civilian government and the theocracy has been on display since 1988, when then-Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi resigned. In a letter to then-President Khamenei, Mousavi criticized foreign policy and "extraterritorial operations" that took place "without the knowledge and orders of the government."

"There is talk everywhere about the foreign policy of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, without the government knowing about these policies that are mentioned everywhere in the country and

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the world," Mousavi wrote. "After an airplane is hijacked, we get news about it. When a gun is fired in the streets of Lebanon, and the word gets around everywhere, we become aware of the situation. After explosives are found on our pilgrims in Jiddah, I learn about this affair."

Mousavi added: "Unfortunately, despite all the harm and damage that these actions have caused the country, still operations similar to these can take place in the name of the government at any second and any hour."

This time, however, the operation saw Iranians killed inside the country itself by those supposed to be protecting them.

WHAT COMES NEXT

Iran put down street protests by students and others over the downing of the flight. But those demonstrations pale in comparison to recent unrest faced by Iran, particularly protests over government-set gasoline prices spiking in November. That unrest saw at least 300 people killed, according to Amnesty International.

While an earlier round of nationwide economic protests struck at the end of 2017, things only have gotten worse with the sanctions re-imposed on the country by Trump withdrawing from the nuclear deal, particularly those blocking Iran from selling crude oil abroad. Without that crucial source of government funding, Iran's government struggles to make ends meet.

So far, Trump's administration has vowed to continue its maximum pressure campaign on Tehran. Trump himself has used the killing of Soleimani, whom he described as a "terrorist monster," as part of his stump speeches at campaign rallies.

"With Iran losing as much as \$4 billion in revenue every month due to U.S. energy sanctions, it will not be easy for Tehran to hold out for the possibility of a new U.S. president being elected in November 2020," wrote Niamh McBurney, an analyst at Verisk Maplecroft.

Meanwhile, Britain, France and Germany instituted the so-called "dispute mechanism" of Iran's unraveling nuclear deal, opening the possibility of international and U.N. sanctions returning.

"My sense is that basically the Islamic Republic currently is a pressure cooker," Geranmayeh said. "We will have periodic and probably escalatory ... protests in the country. A lot of what happens depends on how the security apparatus responds to these protests."

However, any major threat to the government could see the Guard employ the same bloody tactics it used in Syria's long war.

"If there is a similar threat to their own power inside Iran as Bashar Assad faced, my sense is that they will use an infinitely more amount of force to push back to secure their own power," Geranmayeh said.

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP.

Organization becomes critical in final week before Iowa vote

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

ANKENY, Iowa (AP) — At nearly nine p.m. on Saturday, Samy Amkieh was about to head back to his office after braving 20 degree temperatures to knock on doors for three hours in East Des Moines. But the 20-year-old field organizer knocked on one more door and was rewarded by convincing the resident to be a team leader for Bernie Sanders at a nearby caucus location.

"When you think you can't go any more — that house is too far away, it looks really icy down the street — just remember that every single person you've talked to, the odds are they haven't been pulled in by us or by anyone," he told a crowd of nearly 100 Sanders volunteers Sunday, aiming to rally them to head out into the cold yet again to knock doors for the Vermont senator.

One week before the Iowa caucuses, Amkieh is one of hundreds of campaign staffers and volunteers fanning out across the state doing the behind-the-scenes work that can lead a candidate to victory. A White House hopeful's ground game is always important, but perhaps never more so than this year when Sanders and three other leading contenders are feverishly working to break free from a clustered top tier in Iowa.

Adding to the urgency is the Senate's impeachment trial of President Donald Trump, which will remove

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several candidates from the trail this week, forcing them to rely more than ever on a passionate group of staffers and volunteers to carry them through to the Feb. 3 caucuses.

Paul Tewes, who was Barack Obama's 2008 Iowa state director, said at this point in the campaign, the organization is "everything."

"There's an old saying in campaigns: People come to the campaigns because of the candidate they stay because of the organization," he said.

For Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, a sophisticated organization could counter signals from some polls that her late-summer strength in Iowa has waned. She reportedly has 150 staffers on the ground and has been organizing since last spring, with staffers hosting weekly coffee shop get-togethers and movie nights across Iowa to get voters engaged with her campaign. An endorsement this weekend from the state's largest newspaper, The Des Moines Register, could also provide a boost.

Others have spent much of the past month training their most committed volunteers on how to win over skeptics in the room on caucus night.

Pete Buttigieg's campaign says over 5,000 of its supporters from all of Iowa's 99 counties have attended one of their caucus trainings. During one such event in Ottumwa, Travis Brock, Buttigieg's national caucus director and a veteran operative in Iowa and Nevada, walked the volunteers through everything from math to how to approach undecided participants.

To come in too hard, he said, "they are going to tense up, they are going to draw away from you and they are going to fall more deeply into whatever position they held and be harder to convince," he said.

"The first thing to say is, 'I hear you,'" Brock told his students, several of whom are first-time caucus participants. "Because when we begin an interaction with someone, we want to indicate that we actually understand what they're saying."

In addition to traditional door-knocking and phone-banking, the Sanders campaign is signing up supporters outside pharmacies and other stores, at trailer parks and nursing homes. Misty Rebik, Sanders' Iowa state director, said that one of the campaign's organizers was recently kicked out of six nursing homes in a week, "but she came back with lots of 'commit to caucus' cards!"

That effort, and looking for voters in unorthodox areas, is part of their strategy to try to drive up turnout in the caucuses by getting new caucus-goers involved.

"We've just been as aggressively focused on as much face-to-face contact as we can have," she said. "Especially when you're trying to meet low-propensity voters and newer voters, they've gotta have that human connection to get more committed."

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who's hoping to harness a late surge in interest in her campaign, recently held organizing events in every one of Iowa's 99 caucuses in a single day, and has sent surrogates to visit "satellite" caucus sites, the locations set up at nursing homes and other locations meant to make the caucuses more accessible.

Some campaigns are doing more unorthodox events. A volunteer for businessman Andrew Yang held a Chinese New Year's party for supporters of the businessman in the small northern Iowa town of Northwood on Saturday night. Jane Podgorniak, the Democratic chair in the county, said she believes his volunteers are even helping him win over Republicans.

"They're smart and everybody loves 'em," she said. "I even have a friend who's a strong Trump supporter tell me the other day she wants to caucus for Andrew Yang because she liked his volunteers so much."

But it's not just door-knocking that makes the difference for campaigns in the final days — it's what they do with the troves of data volunteers collect while knocking doors.

Most campaigns use a mobile or web app that allows volunteers to enter data from the voters they encounter while canvassing or working the phones — details like who that voter supports, whether they can be persuaded and if they have a ride to their caucus, among other things.

That all gets fed into a central database that campaigns use in the final weeks to help target supporters. Matt Paul, who was Hillary Clinton's Iowa state director in 2016, said that, combined with the typical daily tracking polls the campaigns do in the final weeks before the caucuses, inform their strategy.

"You're looking at that data every night making decisions that impact the operation the next day you're

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making decisions on digital buys, specific message targeting, where to send surrogates based on the data you're getting. So it's critically important, especially in a race this close," he said.

Caucus-goers can also use apps and send texts during the caucuses themselves, Paul noted, so campaigns can use that technology to help their precinct captains figure out the complicated math to get their candidate to viability or gain additional delegates. And the data collected in the weeks leading up to the caucuses can help campaigns make sure they're getting each and every committed caucusgoer to their precinct location, by organizing shuttles to the caucuses and following up with supporters who they haven't seen check in.

But there are signs that other campaigns may be struggling to organize. Though the Biden campaign says it has one of the biggest staff footprints in the state with 28 offices and more than 145 paid staffers in Iowa, some local party officials said his operation was lacking.

Winneshiek County Chair Nathan Thompson compared Biden's organization to that of the party's losing 2018 gubernatorial candidate, who was criticized for ignoring rural parts of the state.

"Nothing I've seen from his campaign indicates to me that he's going to run any more of an effective campaign than (losing 2018 gubernatorial candidate) Fred Hubbell or Hillary Clinton did," he said.

But Tewes argued that on caucus night, in many cases, it's about quality over quantity.

"The most important thing is going to be inside that room," he said. "Do you have a trained precinct captain or leader, and a team who's going to put up signs, who's going to welcome people? Do you have a calculator, do you know all the rules, do you know how the math works?"

He pointed out that the caucuses are essentially "nearly 1,700 different campaigns going on over a three-hour period, and that's where organizing is going to be essential."

If a campaign is not organized in 80 to 90 percent of those precincts "that's problematic," he said.

AP FACT CHECK: Fact and fiction in Trump's impeachment trial

By HOPE YEN, CALVIN WOODWARD and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Laying out their impeachment defense, President Donald Trump's lawyers perpetuated a baseless claim that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 election as they argued that Trump had good reason to withhold military aid to the country.

It was one of several statements surrounding Week 1 of the impeachment trial where truth came up short.

Democrats on the prosecution team, facing a tall task of persuading a Republican-led Senate to remove the president from office, occasionally stretched beyond the facts as they presented their case that he abused power and obstructed Congress. But in large measure they hewed closely to testimony from government officials and the record.

During opening arguments, Trump's lawyers accused the Democrats of giving senators selective facts in the case. Indeed they did — but Trump's lawyers did the same, as each side argued whether Trump was guilty of the impeachment charges.

A look at some of the claims heading into Week 2 of the trial:

ELECTION INTERFERENCE

TRUMP LAWYER JAY SEKULOW: Rep. Jerry Nadler, a member of the prosecution, said "President Trump thought, 'Ukraine, not Russia,' interfered in our last presidential election. And this is basically what we call a straw-man argument. Let me be clear. The House managers over a 23-hour period kept pushing this false dichotomy that it was either Russia or Ukraine, but not both." -- impeachment trial Saturday.

THE FACTS: No evidence exists that it's both — just Russia.

Trump has repeatedly shrugged off not only testimony of current and former aides at the House impeachment hearings, but advice going back months from officials who told him such assertions are invalid. As recently as December, FBI Director Christopher Wray rejected the idea of Ukraine's involvement.

"We have no information that indicates that Ukraine interfered with the 2016 presidential election," Wray told ABC News, adding: "Well, look, there's all kinds of people saying all kinds of things out there. I think it's important for the American people to be thoughtful consumers of information and to think about the

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sources of it.”

None of the witnesses who testified at the House hearings — including those the Republicans wanted to hear from — gave credence to Trump’s theory that Ukraine attacked the U.S. election and tried to make Russia look like the villain.

Even before his July phone call pressing Ukraine’s president to investigate the theory, Trump’s own staff repeatedly told him it was “completely debunked,” Trump’s first homeland security adviser, Tom Bossert, said in September.

“Fictions,” a former senior director on the National Security Council for Russia and Europe, Fiona Hill, testified in November.

SEKULOW, on special counsel Robert Mueller: The Mueller report found “the investigation did not establish that the (Trump) campaign coordinated or conspired with the Russian government in its election-related interference activities.” — impeachment trial Saturday.

NADLER: Trump “worked with the Russians to try to rig the 2016 election.” — speaking as a House impeachment manager on CBS’ “Face the Nation” on Jan. 19.

THE FACTS: Sekulow omits some key findings from the Mueller report, while Nadler stretches the finding too far.

Mueller’s two-year investigation and other scrutiny did reveal a multitude of meetings with Russians. Among them: Donald Trump Jr.’s meeting with a Russian lawyer who had promised dirt on Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential nominee in 2016.

And at one point, in a July 27, 2016, speech, then-candidate Trump called on Russian hackers to find emails from Clinton. “Russia, if you’re listening,” Trump said, “I hope you’re able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing.” Hours later, the Main Intelligence Directorate in Moscow appeared to heed the call — targeting Clinton’s personal office and hitting more than 70 other Clinton campaign accounts, according to a grand jury indictment in 2018.

Still, the special counsel looked into a potential criminal conspiracy between Russia and the Trump campaign and said the investigation did not collect sufficient evidence to form criminal charges. So Sekulow is correct that Mueller “did not establish” conspiracy.

However, Mueller also noted some Trump campaign officials had declined to testify under the Fifth Amendment or had provided false or incomplete testimony, making it difficult to get a complete picture of what happened during the 2016 campaign. The special counsel wrote that he “cannot rule out the possibility” that unavailable information could have cast a different light on the investigation’s findings.

The point is key as Democrats argue that Trump should be removed from office because he has a history of trying to cheat in elections and will do so again. But whether his behavior is illegal or an abuse of power is left unanswered by the Mueller report.

OBSTRUCTION

NADLER: “Is there a consequence for a president who defies our subpoenas absolutely; who says to all branches of the administration, do not obey a single congressional subpoena — categorically, without knowing the subject of the subpoena—‘just never answer a congressional subpoena,’ who denies Congress the right to any information necessary to challenge his power?” — impeachment trial Friday.

THE FACTS: To be clear, that accusation applies to the impeachment proceedings, not to everything involving the Trump administration. The president has not issued a blanket order that administration officials defy all subpoenas from Congress, though he’s seen to it that plenty have been defied on a variety of matters.

In early October, the White House counsel, Pat Cipollone, sent a letter to House leaders branding the impeachment process invalid and saying the administration won’t participate. The letter signaled that Trump would seek to block administration witnesses from testifying if summoned. But a number of administration officials testified anyway, among them Trump’s ambassador to the European Union.

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The White House has also pointed to Justice Department legal opinions that say close and senior advisers to the president cannot be compelled to testify before Congress about their interactions with the president, and that congressional committees cannot issue subpoenas in an impeachment inquiry if the full Congress has not authorized such an investigation.

Trump's resistance to subpoenas in the Ukraine-impeachment inquiry gave rise to the impeachment article accusing him of obstructing Congress.

SEKULOW, on the findings of the Mueller report: "There was no obstruction, in fact." — impeachment trial Tuesday.

THE FACTS: The report did not exonerate Trump on the question of whether he obstructed justice. Instead, it factually laid out instances in which Trump might have obstructed justice, leaving it open for Congress to take up the matter or for prosecutors to do so once Trump leaves office.

"If we had had confidence that the president clearly did not commit a crime, we would have said so," Mueller said after the report was released.

QUID PRO QUO

TRUMP LAWYER MIKE PURPURA: "Not a single witness testified that the president himself said that there was any connection between any investigations and security assistance, a presidential meeting, or anything else." — impeachment trial Saturday.

THE FACTS: It's true that no witnesses testified that they heard Trump admitting a quid pro quo, or exchange of favors. Still Purpura is incorrect in suggesting the impeachment inquiry is based purely on secondhand and thirdhand information.

As one of the officials most deeply involved in trying to get Ukraine to do Trump's bidding, Gordon Sondland, the ambassador to the European Union, "said he came to understand that there was a quid pro quo" and "everyone was in the loop." Specifically, Sondland said it was understood that Ukraine's new president would only get a meeting with Trump in the Oval Office if he publicly pledged to investigate Joe Biden and the Democrats.

"Was there a 'quid pro quo?'" Sondland asked in his statement to the House Intelligence Committee. "As I testified previously, with regard to the requested White House call and White House meeting, the answer is yes."

Testimony from Tim Morrison, a former National Security Council staffer, and text messages of discussions between William B. Taylor, then the acting ambassador to Ukraine, and Sondland and Kurt Volker, another envoy, also lay out the contours of a quid pro quo for a White House meeting.

Moreover, on the more serious matter of withholding military aid to Ukraine unless the country investigated Democrats, Sondland testified that a this-for-that explanation was the only one that made sense to him.

Meanwhile, the White House has sought to prevent those closer to Trump from testifying, including former national security adviser John Bolton and acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, who initially confirmed that Trump froze nearly \$400 million in military aid to press the country into investigating Democrats. Mulvaney later denied making those comments but they are on the record.

More broadly, the rough transcript of the July 25 phone call between Trump and Ukraine's leader does not clear Trump. It is largely in sync with the whistleblower's complaint and the words of a succession of career civil servants and Trump political appointees brought before Congress.

MILITARY AID

PURPURA: "President Zelinskiy and high-ranking Ukrainian officials did not even know the security assistance was paused until the end of August, over a month after the July 25 call." — impeachment trial Saturday.

THE FACTS: That's misleading. Ukrainians knew or at least suspected that hundreds of millions of dollars in military aid were frozen when the call took place, according to testimony heard by House investigators.

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Laura Cooper, the deputy assistant secretary of defense, told the House Intelligence Committee that her staff received an email on July 25 from a Ukrainian embassy contact asking "what was going on with Ukraine's security assistance." That's the same day Trump spoke by phone with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and pressed for an investigation of Democrats.

Cooper said she "cannot say for certain" that Ukraine was aware the aid was being withheld, but said, "It's the recollection of my staff that they likely knew."

Republicans have argued there couldn't be a quid pro quo — investigations into Democrats in exchange for military aid — if Ukrainians weren't aware of a hold on the aid at the time. Even so, Zelenskiy knew months before the call that much-needed U.S. military support might depend on whether he was willing to help Trump by investigating Democrats.

PURPURA: "The security assistance flowed on Sept. 11 and a presidential meeting took place on Sept. 25 without Ukrainian government announcing any investigations." — impeachment trial Saturday.

THE FACTS: He's omitting key context. The military aid was released on Sept. 11 after Trump's pressure campaign on Ukraine for a political "favor" had been exposed. A whistleblower's complaint alleging Trump abused his office had surfaced before that.

The Democrats opened a congressional investigation of the episode only a few days before Trump released the military assistance that Congress had approved early in the year.

It's true Trump and Zelenskiy met Sept. 25. The meeting was in New York on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly. It did not carry the prestige of the White House meeting that Zelenskiy wanted and Trump tentatively offered in the July phone call. In that call, Zelenskiy thanked Trump for inviting him not only to the U.S. but "specifically Washington" and Trump said: "Give us a date and we'll work that out."

DUE PROCESS

TRUMP lawyer PAT CIPOLLONE: "Why would you lock everybody out of it from the president's side? ... It's evidence they themselves don't believe in the facts of their case." — impeachment trial Saturday.

THE FACTS: Trump wasn't locked out. He rejected an invitation from the House Judiciary Committee to participate in the hearings that ultimately produced the articles of impeachment.

On Nov. 29, the committee's chairman, Nadler, D-N.Y., sent a letter to Trump "to determine if your counsel will seek to exercise the special privileges set forth in the Judiciary Committee's Impeachment Procedures ... and participate in the upcoming impeachment proceedings. In particular, please provide the Committee with notice of whether your counsel intends to participate, specifying which of the privileges your counsel seeks to exercise. ..."

On Dec. 6, Cipollone signaled Trump would not participate, telling Nadler in a letter that "House Democrats have wasted enough of America's time with this charade." Trump and his team did not take part.

The first round of hearings, by the House Intelligence Committee, was not opened to participation by Trump's team. Those hearings resembled the investigative phase of criminal cases, when the subject of the investigation is ordinarily not brought in. Trump complained about not being invited, then said no when the next panel invited him.

DEMOCRATS' EVIDENCE

CIPOLLONE: "The fact that they ... hid evidence from you is further evidence that they don't really believe in the facts of their case." — impeachment trial Saturday.

THE FACTS: This is an iffy definition of hiding something. Cipollone spoke about the July 25 phone call between Trump and Ukraine's president, which is at the heart of the impeachment case, and cited certain passages that Democrats did not play up or mention in their prosecution argument.

The rough transcript of that conversation is a matter of public record, having been released by the White House, and is far from hidden.

The passages in question were when Trump complained about Germany and other European countries

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doing nothing to help Ukraine, putting the burden on the United States. For the record, his complaint, which he has voiced many times since, is inaccurate.

European Union institutions have given far more development assistance to Ukraine than the U.S. has provided, and individual countries in Europe as well as Japan and Canada have contributed significantly, too. The U.S. is the primary supplier of military aid.

In the July 25 phone call, after Zelenskiy said his country wanted more anti-tank missiles from the U.S. to help defend itself against Russia, Trump then and repeatedly pressed him to investigate Biden, Trump's potential 2020 election rival, and Democrats.

Trump held up the military aid to Ukraine until Congress got wind of the freeze.

PURPURA: "The record that we have to go on today is based entirely on House Democratic facts pre-cleared in a basement bunker." — impeachment trial Saturday.

THE FACTS: That's not true. The case also is based on text messages, emails and other documents provided to the House Intelligence Committee, which had public hearings. Many witnesses testified and Republicans on the committee attended and questioned them, just as Democrats, did.

As for the dark reference to a "basement bunker," that's a secure facility at the Capitol where, at times, dozens of members of the House, from both parties, attended depositions and meetings.

When Republicans controlled the House before the last elections, the Intelligence Committee held its entire Russia investigation in that "bunker."

'INSURANCE POLICIES'

SEKULOW: "I remember in the Mueller report there were discussions about insurance policies. Insurance policy that didn't work out so well, so then we moved to other investigations." -- impeachment trial Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Sekulow is attempting to give weight to a 2016 text message between two FBI employees that Trump continually misrepresents. Trump depicts the two as referring to a plot — or insurance policy — to oust him from office if he won the election. It's apparent from the text that it wasn't that.

Agent Peter Strzok and lawyer Lisa Page, both now gone from the bureau, said the text he sent to her was about how aggressively the FBI should investigate Trump and his campaign when expectations at the time were that he would lose anyway.

Strzok texted about something Page had said to the FBI's deputy chief, to the effect that "there's no way he gets elected." But Strzok argued that the FBI should not assume Clinton would win: "I'm afraid we can't take that risk." He likened the Trump investigation to "an insurance policy in the unlikely event you die before you're 40." He was not discussing a post-election cabal to drive Trump from office.

Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

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

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Elizabeth Warren seeks spark in final sprint to Iowa

By **STEVE PEOPLES, SARA BURNETT and WILL WEISSERT** Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Elizabeth Warren is fighting to regain momentum in the turbulent fight for the Democratic presidential nomination amid lingering questions about her authenticity and electability.

Warren was considered a leader in the crowded race through the fall, yet just seven days before Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses, allies, adversaries and new polling suggest that progressive rival Bernie Sanders has a slight advantage — at least in the battle for the party's left wing. That's just as establishment-minded Democrats begin to rally behind former Vice President Joe Biden, who has tried to stoke fears

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about his more liberal rivals' ability to defeat Trump this fall.

Warren's uncertain status raises questions about whether any female candidate will emerge from Iowa's Feb. 3 caucuses with the political strength to go deep into the primary season, a challenge that will almost certainly require early victories to generate the energy and campaign cash needed to continue.

As would-be supporters acknowledged concern over the weekend, Warren ignored the shifting political currents and vowed to continue fighting for the kind of transformational change she's championed for months, even while pressing her final case in Iowa before being forced back to Washington for President Donald Trump's impeachment trial.

"Since I first got in this race a year ago, I have not focused on polls. And that's exactly how I'm going to continue to run this race," she told reporters when pressed about whether she needs to change her strategy.

She added: "I'm running a campaign from the heart. That's what it's all about to me. This is who I am."

The people paid to focus on politics on Warren's team insist they're not worried, and with one week before voting begins, there are no plans to shake up her strategy. The campaign noted that she has already attracted more than 3 million individual donations and assembled a paid campaign operation in 31 states.

The 70-year-old Massachusetts senator got a much-needed boost over the weekend by winning the endorsement of Iowa's largest newspaper. And while she has won a series of coveted newspaper endorsements, Warren has yet to earn the backing of a single member of Congress from Iowa or New Hampshire, the states that host the first two voting contests.

The shutout particularly stings given Warren's proximity to New Hampshire, whose two female senators have so far declined to support their neighbor, who has increasingly evoked her gender as a strength on the campaign trail.

New Hampshire Sen. Maggie Hassan is unlikely to support Warren and is instead considering whether to endorse longtime political ally Biden, if anyone, according to Democrats familiar with her thinking who were not authorized to share internal discussions. New Hampshire's other senator, Jeanne Shaheen, is facing re-election this fall and is not expected to endorse anyone.

Meanwhile, Biden was campaigning alongside his newest high-profile female supporter, Iowa Rep. Cindy Axne, as he worked his way across Iowa over the weekend. Biden has won the public backing of both of Iowa's Democratic congresswomen.

Warren's allies believe she will benefit from her sprawling organization of paid staff and volunteers on the ground in Iowa and other early voting states in addition to an aggressive paid advertising campaign. She's also expected to earn a wave of new endorsements from local progressive leaders on Monday as her allies work to spark a final-week surge.

The Warren-aligned Progressive Change Campaign Committee, the Working Families Party, and Black Womxn are set to announce more than 3,000 new endorsements for Warren including elected officials, economists, organization leaders, small business owners, and activists, according to said PCCC co-founder Adam Green. That's in addition to the endorsement of more than 40 Iowa Democratic officials and activists, the campaign announced on Sunday.

But sensing weakness, Warren's rivals are actively working to peel off her supporters.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, one of the two other women in the race, sees Warren as one of her best targets as she fights to bump off one of the top four candidates. As Warren allies cheered her Des Moines Register endorsement, Klobuchar's team touted her endorsement from another one of the state's largest newspapers, the Quad City Times.

Iowa Democrat Deidre DeJear, who served as Kamala Harris' state chair before the California senator left the race, acknowledged Warren's uncertain status.

"I think there has been some stagnation," DeJear said of Warren's support. "I don't think that she's struggling by any stretch of the imagination, but I believe as it relates to people's temperature, poll numbers, folks have either made another decision or we're not necessarily seeing her support represented in the polls."

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The rivalry between the Democratic Party's most liberal contenders, Warren and Sanders, looms largest as voters finalize their decisions. And in the fight for the left, a series of state and national polls over the weekend suggest Sanders is better-positioned than Warren on the eve of the first voting contest.

A New York Times/Siena College poll released Saturday showed Sanders with a slight — but not commanding — edge in Iowa, though polls also show that all four top candidates remain in the hunt there. In New Hampshire, several recent polls put Sanders out front, with Warren and the other top candidates lagging behind. And two polls released Sunday suggest that Warren is running well behind Biden and Sanders nationally.

Undecided Iowa voter Tyler Niska says he's narrowed his choices to Sanders or Warren, yet he fears that Warren would face the same political headwinds that plagued the party's last female nominee, Hillary Clinton, four years ago.

"Warren would probably do a better job, but Bernie has a much better chance of actually winning," Niska, a 36-year-old Des Moines resident, said as he waited in line outside a weekend Sanders rally in Ames.

"I'll probably go with Bernie," he said.

Warren volunteer Amber Beitzel, of Bettendorf, said she's aware of recent polls showing Sanders with an advantage, and said it's something to watch. But she's seen Warren's operation up close and feels it's well positioned.

"There's a concern, obviously," said Beitzel, 38, who works in nuclear medicine technology. "But I feel like working in her grassroots campaign, I see her organizers, I see the volunteers come. ... They're coming back with lots and lots of people who are interested in what she's saying. And it's very exciting."

AP polling director Emily Swanson in Washington and AP writer Hunter Woodall in Manchester, New Hampshire contributed.

In appreciation: Kobe Bryant, a life defined by hard work

By **TIM REYNOLDS** AP Basketball Writer

It was April 14, 2016. It was the first full day of Kobe Bryant's new chapter as a retired NBA player. All he had done the night before was score a mind-boggling 60 points in his farewell game, not getting out of Staples Center until around midnight.

His staff at Kobe, Inc. were certain they would beat their boss to the office that morning.

They were wrong. He beat everyone there by two hours. "We have a lot of work to do," Bryant told them. Even in retirement, Bryant found no substitute for hard work.

Kobe Bean Bryant was many things: one of the greatest players in basketball history, a five-time NBA champion, Olympic gold medalist, a fluent speaker of multiple languages, a resident of the world, an Oscar winner, the self-described Black Mamba that started as a nickname and became his brand, someone so good he had two numbers retired by the Los Angeles Lakers.

And he never stopped. Basketball was his obsession for 20 years in the NBA. Storytelling was the obsession for the rest of his life.

Tears, as would be expected once the news broke of Bryant's death in a helicopter crash in Southern California on Sunday, flowed freely in the NBA world. LeBron James was inconsolable when he got the news, a day after passing Bryant for No. 3 on the all-time scoring list. Doc Rivers struggled when he tried to put feelings into words. Even from the normally beyond-stoic Kawhi Leonard had his eyes well up when he was talking about Bryant.

But the pain was obvious elsewhere: Oregon women's basketball star Sabrina Ionescu didn't hide her anguish when she said she was dedicating the rest of her season to Bryant's memory, soccer's Neymar held up a "24" with his fingers after scoring a goal for Paris Saint-Germain, and marqueees at the Super Bowl in Miami were lit up in the Lakers' colors of purple and gold as a tribute.

The elite ones, the ones like James and Leonard and Ionescu and Neymar, were all like Bryant. Driven. Obsessed with their craft. Those are the sort of people Bryant enjoyed most. He didn't have much pa-

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tience for anything else.

Teammates were never immune from his criticism; not even Shaquille O'Neal, a fellow all-time NBA great, could avoid clashes with Bryant. O'Neal was half-a-foot taller and probably an easy 100 pounds heavier than Bryant. Didn't matter. Bryant wanted to fight one day in practice, so they fought.

His toughness was legendary; Bryant blew out his Achilles on a play in 2013 where he'd been fouled and made the two free throws knowing that his season would be over a few seconds later. It was against Golden State; the Lakers trailed at the time, and Bryant — who hyperextended a knee in that same game and played through it because the game was so important in the playoff race — swished both shots. "We were down two. Had to tie the game first," Bryant said years later, when asked why he stayed in the game.

His commitment was legendary; there was a game in 2011 in Miami where the Lakers lost by six, and Bryant was so displeased with how he played that he went back onto the court for 90 minutes of uninterrupted shooting that went on until after midnight. His teammates were on Miami Beach for dinner. Bryant was working instead. "It's my job," Bryant said.

His swagger was legendary; during the FIBA Americas tournament in 2007, Bryant was less-than-impressed with how Brazil thought it had a chance to beat Team USA. So, he tasked himself with guarding Leandro Barbosa, who until that point had been the leading scorer in the tournament. With Bryant blanketing him — making it difficult for him to even dribble at times — Barbosa made one shot all night. The Americans won by 37. "Looking at a great white shark is one thing," Bryant told teammates, "but jumping into the pool with one is another thing."

He played in Los Angeles, but he was a star everywhere. Everywhere. At the Basketball World Cup in China this past summer, Bryant was on the court for a game during the medal round. He said a few words in Mandarin and the fans in Beijing screamed in more delight than they had for the guy who had taken the floor just before Bryant, a fellow by name of Yao Ming.

He was as driven in his storytelling life as he was in his playing days. Kobe, Inc. wasn't just a cool name. It was his world. He wanted to inspire kids through books that combined the worlds of sports and fantasy. He was toying with the idea of taking his stories to Broadway. He won an Oscar for "Dear Basketball," a short animated film in 2018 that had been converted from a poem that he penned when he decided it was time to retire from playing the game. He had a podcast for kids and families, not with him blathering on about whatever he wanted to talk about but with characters talking about how to be a good teammate. He had a franchise of shows called Detail, where he broke down the nuances of basketball and had other huge names from other sports do the same thing.

He wasn't kidding around when talking to his staff on April 14, 2016. Kobe Bryant still had a lot of work to do.

He was just getting started. And now he's gone.

The tributes will continue, though eventually fade away. The legacy will be forever.

Tim Reynolds is a national basketball writer for The Associated Press. Write to him at [treynolds\(at\)ap.org](mailto:treynolds(at)ap.org)

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/NBA> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Rio residents try to bring green to a concrete jungle

By DAVID BILLER Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Alê Roque wanders the untamed orchard in Rio de Janeiro, pushing aside leaves to point out what she helped plant last year. "This is cacao, developing well ... Look at this lime tree, it's full ... Lots and lots of tomato ... That one's acai ...," she says. It seems there's always more. "Ginger... Avocado... Pineapple... Sweet potato."

She crouches toward a plump yam, and stops to make a mental note to pick it with the children she's teaching to garden here and in several other spots in the community. In addition to providing free produce to residents, there's another benefit: it's markedly cooler in this blessed shade — a rarity in this part of

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the city, far from the sea breeze of Copacabana and Ipanema.

The scarce scrap of vacant land is just outside downtown on the slope of Providencia, Rio's first favela, where working-class homes cram up against one another at slipshod angles and bullet holes attest to the presence of drug traffickers.

It's one of dozens of places where people are starting projects to create a greener version of a tree-starved urban landscape that contrasts with the verdant rainforest looming over the city. The activist group Catalytic Communities has mapped sustainable projects across the city, and is trying to foster a support network.

"There seems to be now, all of a sudden, in the last six months even, a growth in interest," said Theresa Williamson, the group's executive director.

Roque argues that if kids spend their waking days exposed only to alleys, bullets, empty drug capsules and trash, they'll struggle to contribute good to the world. They need places to play and pick flowers.

"How are you going to teach kids about Mother Nature if they don't have contact with it?" says Roque, 49. "This could be happening in places all over the world, in other favelas, other little areas."

Rio is famed for magnificent views of its coastal rainforest's wild topography. Look outside the postcard, though, and there's a picture of urban dystopia after decades of slapdash sprawl and government neglect. It's said even the Christ the Redeemer statue, perched atop a jungle peak near the coast, has his back turned to most of the metropolis.

Whole neighborhoods have severed connections with the forest and, during Rio's summer, residents feel the lack of greenery in their flesh.

The sun beats with discrimination, sparing leafy neighborhoods that tend to be affluent while punishing expanses of aluminum and asbestos roofs. Rio's dense neighborhoods have among the least vegetation in Brazil; 80 of them have less than 1% tree cover, most in the industrial North Zone. Without shade or evapotranspiration, so-called "heat islands" make summer even more brutal.

This month, the city's top temperatures breached 100 degrees Fahrenheit (40 degrees Celsius), but people focus instead on "apparent temperature," a measure that includes wind and humidity -- "sensação" -- that spiked as high as 131 degrees (54.8 degrees C) on Jan. 11, just shy of the record.

In Rio's North Zone, the Arara Park favela is so packed that a string of one-room shops were built over an open sewage canal. They're brick kilns under the baking sun. Inside one, a beauty salon, Ingrid Rocha, 20, slouches beneath a whirring ceiling fan with another on the floor. Her air conditioning unit does nothing to cut the heat, so clients only show up after 4 p.m. That means Rocha, who's pregnant, needs to work more than 12-hour days to hit her targets.

Deeper inside the favela, Luis Cassiano is sitting in a garden atop his home's roof. As more and more houses cropped up over the last three decades, he felt the temperature rise to a point that became unbearable. The sun would set behind the far-off rainforest, but his home's interior wouldn't cool until after midnight.

Online research for a solution led him to install a green roof -- with bromeliads, succulents and a small, flowering quaresmeira tree -- and he wants to do the same for neighbors. There's an aesthetic bonus, too; the favela needs to mix some calming green into the scenery, he says, to offset the angry red of the homes' bricks and the melancholic grey of their roofs.

So far he's had few takers, but "if God wills, people will understand that it's necessary and urgent and it will be a job that will be really useful," he said, sitting in his rooftop garden just after midday. "I think people will, one day, really wind up joining. We'll need it. Just look at the heat of all those roofs together!"

The nascent greening from such projects is a break with Rio's recent past, according to Washington Fajardo, a visiting housing policy researcher at Harvard University. A Paris-inspired policy to plant shade trees fell by the wayside as modernism became Brazil's reigning aesthetic. Lately, public works have resorted to palm trees that are resilient, but do little to reduce temperatures.

"To get a tree to grow in an urban environment requires irrigation, because pollution makes it much harder for a sapling to reach adulthood," Fajardo, the prior mayor's special advisor on urban issues, said by

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phone from Cambridge, Massachusetts. "We knew how to do that better at the start of the 20th century than we do today, strangely."

Rio's public policy for green spaces trails far behind other cities including Seoul, Lisbon, Durban and Medellin, and even Brazilian state capitals like Recife and Belo Horizonte, according to Cecilia Herzog, president of Inverde, an organization that researches green infrastructure and urban ecology. So people are taking matters into their own hands, she added.

The city has begun paying attention. Rio this month started planting native tree species to create 25 "fresh islands" in the city's West Zone.

Meantime, it's only getting hotter in Brazil, as in the rest of the world. Its southeast region -- where Rio is located -- has recorded three of its steamiest five years on record since 2014.

The heat can be felt at a plaza in the Providencia favela, where, though it's still morning and there's hilltop wind, Alê Roque uses a towel to dab sweat from her forehead, upper lip and chin. The passion fruit and acelora trees she planted are starting to gain stature. Those and other saplings now receive water from a rudimentary irrigation system.

Later that day, it'll grow even hotter as she teaches preteens to compost, which will entail lugging more than 10 loads of old soil up two flights of stairs to a home's back patio.

Why does Roque endure the labor and the heat?

"I want to make the world green!" she says and laughs, then collects herself. "It's because someone has to do it, truthfully that's it. Someone has to do it." ___ Associated Press video journalist Lucas Dumphreys contributed to this report.

AP source: Bolton says Trump tied Ukraine funds to probe

By ZEKE MILLER and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said he wanted to maintain a freeze on military assistance to Ukraine until it aided political investigations into his Democratic rivals, former national security adviser John Bolton recounts in a draft of his forthcoming book.

The revelation challenges the defense offered up by Trump and his attorneys in his Senate impeachment trial and raises the stakes as the chamber decides this week whether to seek sworn testimony from Bolton and other witnesses.

Bolton's account was first reported by The New York Times and confirmed to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the manuscript on the condition of anonymity to discuss the book, "The Room Where It Happened; A White House Memoir," ahead of its release March 17.

Bolton, who acrimoniously left the White House a day before Trump ultimately released the Ukraine aid on Sept. 11, has already told lawmakers that he is willing to testify, despite the president's order barring aides from cooperating in the probe.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment Sunday night. Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, who has played a prominent role in the Ukraine affair, replied to a request for comment with a text: "I used to like and respect John and tell people they were wrong about how irresponsible he was. I was wrong."

Democrats need at least four Republicans to vote with them to seek witness testimony. Those prospects looked unlikely in recent days and it's unclear if the new revelations about Bolton's book will sway any GOP senators.

Democrats quickly sought to ramp up the pressure on their Republican counterparts. The House managers called the book's revelation "explosive" in a joint statement and said, "Senators should insist that Mr. Bolton be called as a witness, and provide his notes and other relevant documents." They added: "During our impeachment inquiry, the President blocked our request for Mr. Bolton's testimony. Now we see why."

"John Bolton has the evidence," tweeted Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer. "It's up to four Senate Republicans to ensure that John Bolton, Mick Mulvaney, and the others with direct knowledge of President Trump's actions testify in the Senate trial."

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Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell had no immediate comment, according to his office.

The book's publisher, Simon & Schuster, declined to comment.

Sarah Tinsley, an adviser to Bolton, said: "The ambassador's manuscript was transmitted to the White House in hard copy several weeks ago for pre-publication review by the NSC. The ambassador has not passed the draft manuscript to anyone else. Period."

The pre-publication review is standard for the work of former officials with security clearances.

Bolton attorney Charles J. Cooper sharply criticized the White House for allowing excerpts from the book to be made public, saying in a statement that the pre-publication review process had been "corrupted and that information has been disclosed by persons other than those properly involved in reviewing the manuscript."

Democrats accuse Trump of abuse of power in withholding the military assistance to Ukraine to push that country to mount investigations into Democrats, including former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who served on the board of a Ukraine gas company, Burisma, while his father was in office.

On Saturday, the president's attorneys said during their opening day of defense arguments that there was no evidence that Trump made the military aid contingent on the country announcing an investigation into Biden.

The Times also reported that Bolton says he told Attorney General William Barr that he was mentioned by Trump on his July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. A Justice Department official on Sunday disputed Bolton's account that he had told Barr about the president's call with Zelenskyy but did say that Bolton had called Barr to raise concerns about Giuliani's shadow diplomacy efforts.

Trump on Wednesday told reporters in Davos, Switzerland, that he didn't want Bolton to testify before the Senate.

"The problem with John is it's a national security problem," Trump said. "He knows some of my thoughts. He knows what I think about leaders. What happens if he reveals what I think about a certain leader and it's not very positive and then I have to deal on behalf of the country?"

He added: "It's going to be very hard. It's going to make the job very hard."

Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

Who can topple Trump? Dems' electability fight rages in Iowa

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The urgent fight for the Democratic presidential nomination raged across Iowa on Sunday as the party's leading candidates scrambled to deliver closing arguments centered on the defining question of the 2020 primary: Who can beat President Donald Trump?

Former Vice President Joe Biden demonstrated the breadth of his appeal by appearing at separate events with Catholics, union members and African Americans. He told black voters with a smile that "I've gone to more black churches than you have, probably, because I'm older."

At the same time, the fight for the heart of the progressive movement pitted Elizabeth Warren against Bernie Sanders with dueling rallies hundreds of miles apart as they raced to reach voters before being forced back to Washington when Trump's impeachment trial resumed Monday. With Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses just eight days away, it was unclear when the senators would be able to return to the state.

"We gotta win," Warren told several hundred people in Davenport, on the eastern edge of the state. "And also, can we just address it right here? Women win. The world changed when Donald Trump got elected."

At a subsequent rally in Cedar Rapids, a voter asked why people should caucus for Warren instead of Sanders. She replied: "I know how to fight and I know how to win."

Sanders made an equally aggressive case almost 300 miles to the west in Sioux City, having spent much of the weekend highlighting his ability to energize what he has often called "a multi-generational, multi-racial, working-class coalition."

"When I look at the size of this crowd I am absolutely convinced that, a week from Monday, we make

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history. We win the Iowa caucus," Sanders declared in what was his fifth campaign appearance of the day.

The candidates were running out of time to change the direction of the high-stakes nomination fight ahead of Iowa's Feb. 3 caucuses, the first of four primary contests in February in which momentum is critical. Establishment-minded Democrats were increasingly concerned about Sanders' strength, fearing that the 78-year-old self-described democratic socialist might be too radical to beat Trump this fall should he win the nomination.

Stoking those fears, Trump's campaign teased a general election attack against Sanders. The Vermont senator had spent much of the day before campaigning alongside New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and the president's team sent out an email with the title "Socialist invasion."

"Why is radical socialist Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez spending so much time campaigning for Bernie? Because he's the godfather of her extreme agenda and socialist vision for America," the email said.

Seizing on concerns about Sanders, Democratic rival Sen. Amy Klobuchar told reporters after a campaign appearance in Ames that she was more electable and would be a better candidate at the top of the ticket than the Vermont senator.

"My argument is that I will make our tent bigger, our coalition wider, and my coattails (are) longer," Klobuchar said. "I actually have the receipts. I do not come from a state that's as blue as Vermont."

The youngest candidate in the race, 38-year-old Pete Buttigieg, also played up warnings about Sanders — at least in his fundraising emails. For a second consecutive day, Buttigieg's campaign sent a message to supporters warning that the Vermont senator might become the nominee.

Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, insisted that "it is time for something new" as he courted more than 1,000 people at an elementary school in West Des Moines.

"We cannot run the risk of trying to defeat this president with the same Washington political warfare mentality that brought us to this point," he said, declining to single out any of his rivals. "It is time for something different. It is time to turn the page."

As a deep sense of uncertainty loomed over the Iowa contest, Trump's impeachment trial remained a major complication.

Four candidates will be compelled by the Constitution to sit as jurors in Trump's Senate impeachment trial. The proceedings make it virtually impossible for the senators — Sanders, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Michael Bennet of Colorado — to appear in Iowa during the week, although there is some sense that the trial could be over by week's end.

As Iowa drew the most focus, billionaire candidate Tom Steyer reminded union workers in Nevada, which hosts the third contest on the primary calendar, that he hasn't forgotten about them.

"I'm know that I'm the only person who showed up here," Steyer told reporters at a union conference in Las Vegas. "I try to show up and show that I care."

Back in Iowa, Warren tried to maintain some momentum after picking up a coveted endorsement from The Des Moines Register. The newspaper called her "the best leader for these times" and said she "is not the radical some perceive her to be" even if "some of her ideas for 'big, structural change' go too far."

Warren leaned into her gender as she courted several hundred voters at an elementary school gymnasium in Davenport.

"We took back the House and we took back statehouses around the nation because of women candidates and the women who get out there and do the hard work," she said.

Biden scored the endorsement of the Sioux City Journal, which called him "the candidate best positioned to give Americans a competitive head-to-head matchup with President Trump" and said he would be best at attracting support from "independents and disgruntled Republicans."

The former vice president's itinerary reflected his ability to assemble just that kind of coalition. A devout Catholic, Biden attended Mass in Des Moines in the morning, spoke at a union hall and then faced a gathering of the NAACP and other minority advocacy groups.

"I was raised in the black church politically. Not a joke," Biden told a man who asked about his engagement with the faith-based minority community.

"That's where my political identity comes from," he said of the black community.

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Associated Press writers Thomas Beaumont and Bill Barrow in Des Moines, Iowa, Sara Burnett in Davenport, Iowa, Will Weissert in Perry, Iowa and Michelle Price in Las Vegas contributed to this report.

Trump peace plan could boost embattled Israeli leader

By ARON HELLER undefined

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in Washington Sunday night vowing to “make history” at a planned meeting with President Donald Trump for the unveiling of the U.S. administration’s much-anticipated plan to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But the high-profile meeting in Washington looks set to serve mostly as a sideshow to the two allied leaders’ serious legal problems. The Palestinians have not been consulted on the much-trumpeted deal and have pre-emptively rejected the U.S. proposal.

The Trump-Netanyahu meeting on Tuesday comes as Trump’s impeachment trial continues in the U.S. Senate and the Israeli Parliament holds a hearing to discuss Netanyahu’s request for immunity from criminal corruption charges. For both men, their White House summit will be a welcome diversion.

Vice President Mike Pence announced the surprise invitation for Netanyahu and his top challenger, Israeli politician Benny Gantz, on Thursday in Jerusalem, after addressing an international Holocaust forum.

Netanyahu said he suggested inviting Gantz in a show of unity ahead of a momentous occasion. But late Saturday, Gantz, fearing Netanyahu would use the meeting as an electoral ploy to upstage him, said he would travel to Washington on his own and meet Trump separately. Gantz, a former commander of the Israeli military, will then rush back to Israel for the immunity proceedings in Parliament.

Before taking off Sunday, Netanyahu made no mention of his legal woes. Instead, he said the friendly Trump administration was providing Israel a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that must be seized.

“We are in the midst of very dramatic political events, but the peak is still ahead,” he said. “I am going to Washington with a great sense of purpose, great responsibility and great chance, and I am hopeful we can make history.”

The plan is expected to be very favorable to Israel, and appears to have little chance of success. The Palestinians, claiming the White House is unfairly biased toward Israel, have already said they won’t accept the plan.

On Sunday, the Palestinian Authority’s Foreign Ministry called for a “clear international declaration” rejecting the plan.

“No single Palestinian would accept this plan, and the Palestinian leadership will defeat it as they have done with similar plans,” said Nabil Abu Rdeneh, spokesman for President Mahmoud Abbas.

The U.S.-sponsored Mideast deal nonetheless could give a lift to Netanyahu, who is running in his third race for re-election in less than a year.

After two inconclusive elections last year, Netanyahu and Gantz are engaged in a tight race ahead of the March 2 vote that once again is seen as a referendum on the long-time Israeli leader.

Gantz has focused his campaign on Netanyahu’s legal problems, saying he is unfit for office. Netanyahu has sought to portray himself as a global statesman uniquely qualified to lead Israel through difficult times. He’s tried to use his close friendship with Trump as a strategic asset.

Two meetings with the president — on Monday and Tuesday — play into Netanyahu’s narrative. It is unclear whether this will benefit him at the ballot box. Trump delivered political favors to Netanyahu during the previous two races as well, only to see his friend fall short of victory.

But Trump’s “Deal of the Century” could give Netanyahu more than anything he has received before. Israeli media reports have said it will offer unprecedented gifts to the hard-line Netanyahu.

“For better or for worse, the announcement of the deal — both its timing and its political ramifications — is a huge achievement for Netanyahu,” wrote Nahum Barnea, a leading Israeli columnist. “Time will tell whether it is his lifeline or his swan song.”

Netanyahu was charged in November with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three cases

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involving accepting gifts from billionaire friends and trading political and regulatory favors for positive news coverage. Gantz's centrist Blue and White party refuses to sit with him in government because of the charges, but has been careful not to scare off his voters by veering too far left.

Gantz's decision to travel to Washington separately reflected his need to remain on good terms with Trump while keeping his distance from Netanyahu.

In two election rounds neither has been able to secure a required parliamentary majority without the other's support. Each is seeking a knock-out punch in the upcoming third round.

Netanyahu has been reeling and is expected to lose his request for immunity, setting up a potential criminal trial down the road. The sudden invite to the White House, with an appealing peace proposal to market to the public, delivered him a much-needed boost. Leading Israeli opposition figures have accused Trump of intervening in their domestic politics.

Netanyahu has been flirting with plans to annex the Jordan Valley as well as Jewish settlements across the West Bank. Such a move would be popular with his nationalist Israeli base but could also essentially extinguish any hope of creating a viable Palestinian state, while risking a new explosion of Palestinian unrest. According to Israeli reports, the Trump plan is expected to deliver much of what Netanyahu wants without asking much in return.

The Palestinians seek the West Bank, which was captured by Israel in 1967, as the heartland of a future independent state and east Jerusalem as their capital. Most of the international community supports their position, but Trump has reversed decades of U.S. foreign policy by siding more blatantly with Israel. The centerpiece of his strategy was recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving the U.S. Embassy there in 2018.

Trump's Israel policies have proven popular among the president's evangelical and pro-Israel supporters. They could also give him a boost from his base as the U.S. Senate weighs whether to remove him from office after he was impeached last month, and as he gears up for a reelection battle this year.

"Immediately after news of the (peace) plan was reported, it became plainly evident based on the reactions that this wasn't a Trump plan, but a Bibi-Trump plot," wrote Israeli columnist Ben-Dror Yemini, using Netanyahu's nickname.

Follow Aron Heller at www.twitter.com/aronhellerap

Arizona, California cases push US tally of new virus to 5

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The U.S. has five confirmed cases of the new virus from China, all among people who traveled to the city at the center of the outbreak, health officials said Sunday.

Two new cases were reported Sunday — one in Los Angeles County in California and the other in Maricopa County, Arizona. The latter case was someone with ties to Arizona State University who did not live in school housing and had a history of travel to Wuhan, China, state health officials said.

Officials with the Arizona Department of Health Services said the Maricopa County patient wasn't severely ill and was in isolation at home to keep the illness from spreading. The department said it would not release potentially identifying information on the person, including the gender and age, and declined to say whether the person was a student or faculty member.

The LA patient alerted authorities that he wasn't feeling well upon arriving at Los Angeles International Airport. The patient was taken by ambulance to a hospital, health officials said at a Sunday news conference.

"Everything worked as it should," said Dr. Sharon Balter with the LA County Department of Public Health. "The patient presented for care, the patient was immediately transported to a hospital, the patient has remained in the hospital."

Officials did not provide details about the patient, except to say that the individual was a traveler from Wuhan, China.

The three previously reported cases were a patient in Orange County, California; a man in his 30s in Washington state; and a woman in her 60s from Chicago.

The virus can cause fever, coughing, wheezing and pneumonia. It is a member of the coronavirus family that's a close cousin to the deadly SARS and MERS viruses that have caused outbreaks in the past.

Dozens of people have died from the virus in China, which has issued massive travel bans in hard-hit sections of that country to try to stem spread of the virus. The U.S. consulate in Wuhan announced Sunday that it would evacuate its personnel and some private citizens aboard a charter flight.

The U.S. patients generally have been reported to be in good condition and were hospitalized in isolation for monitoring.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expects many more Americans to be diagnosed with the newly discovered virus, which is believed to have an incubation period of about two weeks, as worldwide the number of confirmed cases nears 2,000. The CDC is screening passengers on direct and connecting flights from Wuhan at five major airports in Atlanta, Chicago, New York City, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

CDC officials noted Sunday that more than two dozen people who had been suspected of having the illness ended up testing negative.

Guidance from the CDC advises that people who have had casual contact with the patient are at "minimal risk" for developing infection.

Iraqi protesters defy top cleric and return to the streets

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — One protester was killed by security forces after hundreds of anti-government protesters flooded the streets of Iraq's capital and southern provinces on Sunday, defying a powerful Iraqi religious leader who recently withdrew his support from the popular movement.

Separately, five Katyusha rockets crashed into a riverbank near the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone without causing any injuries or serious damages, a statement from U.S. Joint Operations Command said. One rocket landed inside the embassy walls, an Iraqi security official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

It is the third such attack this month and the perpetrators were not immediately known.

Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi condemned the rocket attack that targeted the U.S. Embassy. In a statement, he asserted Iraq's commitment to "protecting all diplomatic missions."

Security forces fired tear gas and live rounds to disperse the crowds from the capital's Khilani Square, medical and security officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. One protester was killed and six wounded after security forces fired live rounds in nearby Wathba Square later in the evening.

At least 28 demonstrators were reported wounded by Iraqi security forces in the first hours of Sunday's street rallies.

The mass protests started in October over widespread government corruption and a lack of public services and jobs. They quickly grew into calls for sweeping changes to Iraq's political system that was imposed after the 2003 U.S. invasion. Iraqi security forces have responded harshly. At least 500 protesters have been killed since the unrest began.

Iraq also has been roiled by U.S.-Iran tensions that threatened a regional war after an American drone strike this month killed top Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani near Baghdad.

The U.S. attack pushed the Shiite cleric and political leader, Muqtada al-Sadr, to turn his influence toward demanding an American troop withdrawal and holding an anti-U.S. rally.

Analysts said al-Sadr, who often mobilizes his followers on the street to buttress his political influence, was using the anti-U.S. protest he staged as leverage in political negotiations among Iraq's elites to select the next premier.

Al-Sadr has long been an unpredictable maverick in Iraqi politics, and is the only Shiite leader who has challenged both Iran and the U.S.

He also dropped his support for the anti-government movement on Friday, a move that analysts said was meant to buttress his political reputation during a time of national turmoil.

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But by Sunday morning, it had the opposite effect as protesters pushed back.

Hundreds of protesters, mostly students, marched Sunday through key squares in the capital and southern Iraq to show their continued support for the anti-government movement, despite al-Sadr's reversal of position.

"The demonstrations have become stronger now because of what happened," said Zaidoun, 26, a protest organizer in Baghdad.

Many demonstrators chanted slogans against the populist preacher. The movement opposes Iraq's sectarian system and both U.S. and Iranian influence in Iraqi affairs.

Some protesters were worried, however, that the departure of al-Sadr's supporters and his militia members from Baghdad's Tahrir Square, the hub of the protest movement, could spark a renewed security crackdown. Al-Sadr's followers had been giving protesters protective cover.

On Saturday, hours after al-Sadr's supporters left protest sites in Baghdad and some southern cities, including Basra, security forces swooped in to clear areas of demonstrators and torch their sit-in tents. At least four protesters were killed in the crackdown, officials told The Associated Press.

The Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights said 12 protesters had been killed in the last 48 hours, with nine of those in Baghdad, and a startling 230 wounded.

By Saturday evening however, and into Sunday, crowds of protesters were returning to Tahrir Square, following calls by anti-government activists.

"In the beginning, when he (al-Sadr) called his followers to leave we were shocked," said Noor, a protest organizer who gave only her first name for security reasons. "But by the evening on Saturday, we breathed a sigh of relief."

The future for the popular movement, she was quick to add, was still uncertain. "No one knows what will happen tomorrow. There will be more attacks — we expect that."

With al-Sadr out of the picture, protesters said the only top leader on their side was Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most revered Shiite cleric. Many said they were hoping his weekly Friday sermon would boost morale ahead of a major planned protest for Jan. 31.

In a statement posted online, al-Sadr called on the protesters to return their movement to its "initial course," in what many anti-government activists interpreted as a veiled threat.

The statement added that al-Sadr could boost his support for the "heroic" security forces if protesters didn't heed his calls.

Al-Sadr had called on his followers to stage a rival protest targeting the U.S. Embassy on Sunday, before rescinding the order shortly after.

In a statement from his office, al-Sadr asked Iraqis "who reject the American occupation" to gather at key assembly points later that evening. A spokesperson from his office later said the decision had been reversed.

Associated Press writer Murtada Faraj contributed from Baghdad and Qassim Abdul-Zahra in Najaf, Iraq.

In divided America, some voters tuning out impeachment trial

By **MICHAEL RUBINKAM** and **JONATHAN J. COOPER** Associated Press

HAMBURG, Pa. (AP) — For all the gravity of a presidential impeachment trial, Americans don't seem to be giving it much weight.

As House impeachment managers make their case to remove President Donald Trump from office, voters in several states said in interviews with The Associated Press that they're only casually following the Senate trial, or avoiding it altogether — too busy to pay close attention, bored of the legal arguments, convinced the outcome is preordained or just plain tired of the whole partisan saga.

Web traffic and TV ratings tell a similar story, with public interest seeming to flag after the House voted last month to impeach a president for only the third time in U.S. history.

"I've been watching some really odd stuff just to avoid it," said Kim Ashford, 50, a court-appointed ad-

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vocate for foster children from Gilbert, Arizona. "In my circle, everybody's tired of hearing about it. There's nobody budging. Let's just agree to disagree."

Monica DeMarco, who voted for Trump in 2016 but doesn't plan to do so again, said she hasn't watched a single second of the trial, though she's read a little about it in The New York Times.

"I want to watch something that takes me some place happy," said DeMarco, 50, who lives near Hamburg, Pennsylvania, and works for a cargo hauler.

"What's going to happen is going to happen and like the marching ants we are, we'll go on," DeMarco said. "Life's going to go on tomorrow, the sun's going to come up and we're going to take care of what's important in our lives."

Many Americans are tuning out because they made up their minds about Trump's impeachment months ago, said Eric Kasper, director of the Center for Constitutional Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. In addition, he said, there's little doubt about the eventual outcome — acquittal by the GOP-controlled Senate — depriving the trial of drama.

"If the story was still unwritten, so to speak, then people would still tune in even if they had personally strong feelings about how they would want it to end," Kasper said. "It's the fact that both of those things are the case — a lot of people have made up their minds, and it looks pretty clear what the outcome of this trial is going to be."

Americans are sharply divided along party lines in their views on impeachment, and most say their positions are firm. Three-quarters say it's not very likely or not at all likely that the trial will introduce new information that would change their minds, according to a poll this month from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

"I don't think there's any possibility of removal, said Montel Herman, 82, of Osage, Iowa, who described himself as a moderate Democrat. "I question whether this is worth it."

Online and on TV, interest has waned since the House launched impeachment hearings into Trump's dealings with Ukraine.

The six major networks drew about 11.8 million viewers on the first day of the Senate trial, when lawmakers debated the rules and argued over documents and witnesses.

Combined viewership plummeted to fewer than 9 million people on the trial's second day, when House Democrats began making their argument to remove Trump from office, according to Nielsen.

By comparison, an estimated 13.8 million people watched the first day of the House impeachment hearings last fall.

"I think it matters. I think we should probably watch it," said Lynn Jackson, 56, a library assistant from San Tan Valley, Arizona. But, she added, "I work all day, and then I get home and I'm cooking, cleaning."

U.S. news sites have also experienced waning impeachment interest.

Around the time of the House impeachment vote last month, stories about impeachment averaged about 20 million page views each day. Last week, impeachment stories drew about 15 million page views daily, according to digital advertising and web tracking company Taboola. Google searches on impeachment have also declined since the House vote.

Interest was a little higher among some of the Democrats lining up to see their party's presidential candidates in the early-voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire this weekend. But even those watching closely said they have little doubt the trial will end in acquittal.

"I'm a bit intrigued by it, but it's a foregone conclusion. I had a kid sick kid last week, but that's the only reason I watched for a while. And I fell asleep twice," said Jeremiah Condon, a 38-year-old building contractor from Fort Dodge, Iowa, who attended a campaign event for Democratic candidate Pete Buttigieg.

"It's stunning how serious it is, and how little it seems to matter," he said.

Up to this point, the Senate trial has featured evidence and arguments that have already been aired publicly, and it's unclear whether senators will vote to hear from new witnesses that might heighten public interest.

"I'm not going to sit there and watch it word for word," said Paul Faust, 69, an independent from Ham-

burg who voted for Trump and remains a supporter. "Every day it seems like they're repeating the same thing over and over."

Frank Sprague, chairman of the Claremont School Board in New Hampshire, said he's finding impeachment interesting, but doubts most share his view.

"I think that there's some fatigue around this," Sprague said after an event for Democratic candidate Joe Biden. "The battle lines are drawn, the camps are where they are and some people are in intractable positions, left-right."

Even though Dave Enslow knows how the trial will end, he said it's still important to follow what's happening.

"It's a moment in history," said Enslow, 41, who traveled to Iowa from his home in Seattle to see some of the Democratic candidates in person. "This is a big deal. ... In the political world I'm not sure it's going to go anywhere, but it's important."

Cooper reported from Queen Creek, Arizona. Associated Press writers Hunter Woodall in Claremont, New Hampshire; Josh Cornfield and David Bauder in New York; Sara Burnett in Muscatine, Iowa; Thomas Beaumont in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and Steve Peoples in Osage, Iowa, contributed to this report.

Survivor in Slovenia turns 100 on Holocaust Remembrance Day

By ALI ZERDIN Associated Press

RAKEK, Slovenia (AP) — For Marija Frlan it's as symbolic as it can get: A survivor of a Nazi concentration camp during World War II, the Slovenian woman turns 100 years old on Monday, the international Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Frlan, who was held at the Nazi's Ravensbrueck camp in northern Germany for over a year in 1944-45, will join other survivors and officials in Poland on Monday for ceremonies marking the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp.

Ahead of the ceremonies, Frlan told The Associated Press that one could talk at length about what it was like in the Ravensbrueck camp, but that only those who were there really know how horrific it was.

"The ones who didn't survive this, they can't understand, no," the energetic woman said at her home in the small village of Rakek in southwestern Slovenia. "It was terrible."

Frlan said prisoners at the Nazi camp for women were given just enough food to survive and had to work throughout the day. Obligatory inspections were held outside every morning, lasting for at least one hour.

"One time, the inspection was going on for four hours," she recalled. "It was a rainy day. It is impossible to explain if you weren't there."

Women at the camp encouraged each other not to give up, telling one another "Girls, hold on!" and "No moaning!" she recalled.

The Ravensbrueck concentration camp was the second in size only to the women's camp in Auschwitz, according to the U.S. Holocaust Museum. Toward the end of the war, some 50,000 prisoners, mostly women, were held at the camp.

Frlan was shipped to Ravensbrueck in March 1944 from a prison in her native Slovenia. After having to clean the the offices of the secret Gestapo police for nine months, Frlan was jailed for helping the resistance movement in Slovenia in a bombing.

"The Gestapo knew that I was responsible for the bombs," she said. "So they took me to prison."

It was then that she saw her husband for the last time. He was captured too and executed soon after.

"We even couldn't say hello," she said. "That was it."

Frlan was sent to Ravensbrueck on train via Munich with a group of other prisoners. The only meal she had in five days was a bowl of soup and three loaves of bread.

The inmates at Ravensbrueck came from some 30 countries, with the biggest number from Poland. Soviet troops liberated the camp in April 1945.

With the Red Army troops approaching, the Germans forced the prisoners to walk out of the camp toward

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the front lines, Frlan said. The march continued until early May.

"Suddenly, there were no Germans anymore and a Russian soldier appeared on a horse," she remembered. "He said: The war is over!"

The prisoners from Slovenia and other nations in the former Yugoslavia then decided to walk back home together, Frlan said. Once she was back in Slovenia, the despair hit again.

"I had lost my husband, I had no flat," she said. "Nothing."

Still, Frlan managed to get back on her feet. She married again and had a family, giving birth to six children. She worked as a cleaner and factory worker after the war and even climbed Slovenia's highest Alpine peak of Triglav at the age of 70.

Her family — Frlan has survived her second husband and three of her children — is planning a big birthday party in the village once she returns from Poland. Still generally healthy and able to walk on her own, Frlan always keeps a magnifying glass close by because of poor eyesight.

So what is her recipe for longevity?

"I always worked hard," she said.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Jan. 27, the 27th day of 2020. There are 339 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 27, 1981, President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, greeted the 52 former American hostages released by Iran at the White House.

On this date:

In 1756, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria.

In 1832, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, who wrote "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" under the pen name Lewis Carroll, was born in Cheshire, England.

In 1880, Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric incandescent lamp.

In 1943, some 50 bombers struck Wilhelmshaven in the first all-American air raid against Germany during World War II.

In 1945, during World War II, Soviet troops liberated the Nazi concentration camps Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland.

In 1967, astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White and Roger B. Chaffee died in a flash fire during a test aboard their Apollo spacecraft.

In 1972, "Queen of Gospel" Mahalia Jackson, 60, died in Evergreen Park, Ill.

In 1973, the Vietnam peace accords were signed in Paris.

In 1984, singer Michael Jackson suffered serious burns to his scalp when pyrotechnics set his hair on fire during the filming of a Pepsi-Cola TV commercial at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

In 1998, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, on NBC's "Today" show, charged the sexual misconduct allegations against her husband, President Bill Clinton, were the work of a "vast right-wing conspiracy."

In 2001, Jennifer Capriati upset three-time winner Martina Hingis 6-4, 6-3 to win the Australian Open title and her first Grand Slam tournament championship.

In 2003, the Bush administration dismissed Iraq's response to U.N. disarmament demands as inadequate. Meanwhile, chief U.N. inspector Hans Blix charged that Iraq had never genuinely accepted U.N. resolutions demanding its disarmament and warned that "cooperation on substance" was necessary for a peaceful solution.

Ten years ago: Acknowledging that "change has not come fast enough," President Barack Obama vowed in his State of the Union address to get jobless millions back to work while fighting for ambitious overhauls of health care, energy and education. Apple CEO Steve Jobs unveiled the iPad tablet computer during a presentation in San Francisco. J.D. Salinger, the reclusive author of "The Catcher in the Rye," died in

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Cornish, New Hampshire, at age 91. Actress Zelda Rubinstein died in Los Angeles at age 76.

Five years ago: European leaders gathered in Poland to mark the 70th anniversary of the Soviet liberation of the Auschwitz death camp; amid tensions between Russia and the West over Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin stayed away, sending his chief of staff instead. A National Weather Service forecaster apologized for predicting that the area from New York to Philadelphia would see a foot or two of snow. Instead, the storm moved farther east and piled more than 2 feet of snow on parts of New England.

One year ago: "Black Panther" took the top prize at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, topping the leading Oscar nominees "Roma" and "The Favourite." Novak Djokovic (NOH'-vak JOH'-kuh-vich) overwhelmed Rafael Nadal 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 to win a record seventh Australian Open championship and a third consecutive Grand Slam title.

Today's Birthdays: Actor James Cromwell is 80. Rock musician Nick Mason (Pink Floyd) is 76. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nedra Talley (The Ronettes) is 74. Ballet star Mikhail Baryshnikov is 72. Latin singer-songwriter Djavan is 71. Chief U.S. Justice John Roberts is 65. Country singer Cheryl White is 65. Country singer-musician Richard Young (The Kentucky Headhunters) is 65. Actress Mimi Rogers is 64. Rock musician Janick Gers (Iron Maiden) is 63. Actress Susanna Thompson is 62. Political and sports commentator Keith Olbermann is 61. Rock singer Margo Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 59. Rock musician Gillian Gilbert is 59. Actress Tamlyn Tomita is 57. Actress Bridget Fonda is 56. Actor Alan Cumming is 55. Country singer Tracy Lawrence is 52. Rock singer Mike Patton is 52. Rapper Tricky is 52. Rock musician Michael Kulas (James) is 51. Actor-comedian Patton Oswalt is 51. Actor Josh Randall is 48. Country singer Kevin Denney is 42. Tennis player Marat Safin is 40. Neo-soul musician Andrew Lee (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 34. Rock musician Matt Sanchez (American Authors) is 34. Actor Braeden Lemasters is 24.

Thought for Today: "The most beautiful thing in the world is, of course, the world itself." — Wallace Stevens, American poet and author (1879-1955).

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