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RALLY FOR RIGHTS

Thousands gather at Va. Capitol to protest restrictions on gun purchases

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INSIDE: Shootings in San Antonio, Kansas City and Honolulu on Sunday leave 6 dead, including 2 police officers, more than 15 injured Page 6

Demonstrators stand outside a security zone ahead of a pro-gun rally in Richmond, Va., on Monday.

JULIO CORTES/AP

Air Force warns Boeing's new CEO that it's not happy, either

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg

The Air Force's top military officer has sent Boeing Co.'s new CEO a blunt reminder that the ill-fated 737 Max passenger jet isn't the only troubled project he has to rescue. There's also the company's failure to provide a combat-ready refueling tanker, nine years after Boeing won a competition for the \$44 billion project.

'As one of your largest military customers, we also rely on a relationship of trust and confidence ...'

Gen. David Goldfein
Air Force chief of staff, in a letter to Boeing's new CEO, Dave Calhoun

"We require your attention and improved focus on the KC-46" tanker, Gen. David Goldfein, the Air Force chief of staff, warned in a letter four days before Dave Calhoun took over as chief executive officer of the company. "The Air Force continues to accept deliveries of a tanker incapable of performing its primary operational mission."

Calhoun has been entrusted with turning around a company that is reeling from a pair of crashes of the Max that killed 346 people

and spurred the grounding of its best-selling jet, sent its stock into a swoon and raised questions about its commitment to safety.

"As one of your largest military customers, we also rely on a relationship of trust and confidence in not only Boeing's products" but also the long-term sustainment effort needed for equipment that "our warfighters require," Goldfein said in the Jan. 9 letter made available to Bloomberg News.

SEE BOEING ON PAGE 4

MILITARY



U.S. Navy

A fisherman stranded in the Pacific Ocean signals to the crew of a Navy P-8A Poseidon about 600 nautical miles from Guam on Friday.

Navy crew finds stranded fisherman in the Pacific

Stars and Stripes

A fisherman stranded about 600 nautical miles from Guam is safe thanks to the crew of a Navy P-8A Poseidon operating out of Kadena Air Base on Okinawa.

Aviators from Patrol Squadron 45, which is based at Naval Air Station Jacksonville in Florida, were called upon to help on Friday by the U.S. Coast Guard in Guam, according to a statement from 7th Fleet. At that point, the mariner and his 16-foot skiff had been missing in the western Pacific for five days.

Later that day, the Poseidon crew spotted the vessel about 50 nautical miles from its last known location, the statement said. They dropped a search-and-rescue kit, which typically includes food, water, medical supplies and communication devices, and reported his whereabouts to the Coast Guard.

The rescue happened less than a week after a Navy helicopter flew an ailing man from a fishing boat to a Guam hospital on Jan. 11.

news@stripes.com

Army: No imminent threat to US troops in Germany

Report of planned terror attack led to heightened security at bases

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany—U.S. Army Europe investigators found no “imminent threat” to personnel after an intelligence report of a potential terror attack led to heightened security at U.S. bases in Germany over the weekend.

“We can confirm a potential threat was identified and investigated last night,” USAREUR spokeswoman Beth Clemons said Sunday. “German and U.S. officials were consulted and no imminent threat was found to exist.”

An internal memo was circulated within some Army units in Germany on Saturday that warned of a possible attack at the Army’s Tower Barracks in Grafenwoehr, or at Tower Barracks in Duelmen.

The document cited an unnamed “third party” report about a possible “imminent attack” against soldiers by a Jordanian

“We can confirm a potential threat was identified and investigated last night ... and no imminent threat was found to exist.”

Beth Clemons
U.S. Army Europe spokeswoman

extremist.

“The unknown Jordanian ... recently advocated killing U.S. soldiers in Germany,” the memo stated.

There was no indication in the memo that the threat had any connection to recent tensions with Iran, which has threatened U.S. forces amid tensions heightened by the killing earlier this month of Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

On Saturday night, security was noticeably tightened at the Army facilities in Grafenwoehr, one of the military’s largest hubs in Germany.

However, the credibility of the reported threat wasn’t clear.

The 66th Military Intelligence Brigade out of Stuttgart received a report about a possible threat Saturday, it said in a spot memo. It cautioned that spot reports are based on “ambiguous circumstances (and) not fully evaluated information.”

Still, USAREUR urged the military community to be on alert.

“We’d like to remind everyone to stay vigilant and be aware of their surroundings,” Clemons said.

Stars and Stripes reporters Immanuel Johnson and David Edge contributed to this report.
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Frostbite race first to take runners onto Yokota’s flight line

By THERON GODBOLD
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — For nearly four decades, the Yokota Striders running club has brought thousands of runners of all ages to the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo.

But this year’s open-base Frostbite event — half-marathon, 5K, 2K kids and 2K family road races held at Yokota on Sunday — was a bit different.

“This is the first year we get to run on and around the airfield,” Air Force Maj. Craig Gulledge, the Yokota Striders’ president, said before the event.

Because of roadwork and construction on the base’s northside, participants ran two loops of 5 miles each around the outskirts of the runway, which most frequently serves the 374th Airlift Wing’s fleet of C-130J Super Hercules aircraft.

“It is an exciting and new experience to offer the runners,” Gulledge said. “We can showcase and promote what Yokota and the U.S. Air Force has to offer.”

Many of the more than 11,000 runners who participated Sunday were all smiles during the event, which the wing says is ranked among Japan’s top road races. Some ran in costumes such as Joaquin Phoenix’s version of the Joker.

“This is a really nice opportunity to enter and see the sites on base,” said the wife of a runner who would only identify herself as Chica. “My husband likes to run but this is really good because he likes to see the airplanes and the base, also.”



Clockwise from above: Runners take off from the starting line of the 39th annual Yokota Striders Frostbite road race at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Sunday; a pair of pea pods participate in the race; runners pass C-130J Super Hercules aircraft from the 374th Airlift Wing.

Photos by Theron Godbold
Stars and Stripes



MILITARY/MIDEAST

Iraqi forces fire tear gas, rounds during protests

By QASSEM ABDUL-ZAHRA
AND SAMYA KULLAB
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi security forces fired tear gas and live rounds during clashes with anti-government protesters overnight and on Monday morning in Baghdad, killing three and wounding dozens of demonstrators, officials said.

The clashes prompted authorities to close key streets and thoroughfares leading to the Iraqi capital's center.

The violence is the latest since protests in Iraq reignited last week after a brief lull amid soaring tensions between Washington and Tehran following a U.S. drone strike that killed top Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad earlier this month.

Anti-government protests have similarly resumed in Lebanon after a brief hiatus, entering a new, violent phase as anger against a worsening economic

crisis and politicians' inaction mounts. Hundreds of people were injured over the weekend as security forces fired tear gas and rubber bullets in clashes in downtown Beirut.

In Baghdad, the tear gas and live rounds were fired near Sinak Bridge and also the nearby Tayaran Square, which have been the scene of violence in recent days, medical and security officials said.

A gunshot wound killed one protester, while a second died after being struck in the head by a tear gas canister, medical officials said. A third later succumbed to his injuries, the officials said.

A statement from the Baghdad Operations Command said fourteen officers were wounded by a group of rock-throwing "inciters of violence" while trying to secure the entrance to Tahrir Square, the epicenter of the protest movement.

Among the dead was Yousif Sattar, 21, a local journalist covering



HADI MUZBAN/AP

Anti-government protesters set fire and close streets while security forces use tear gas during ongoing protests in central Baghdad on Monday.

the protest movement, a medical official and an activist said.

"Despite these actions, our forces continued to exercise restraint and follow up on the security duties assigned to them," said the statement.

A security official said at least nine arrests have been made so far after the National Security Council authorized security forces to arrest demonstrators seen blocking main thoroughfares and roundabouts.

The U.N. envoy to Iraq, meanwhile, urged Iraqi political

elites to resume pushing for reforms and for protests to remain peaceful.

"Any steps taken so far to address the people's concerns will remain hollow if they are not completed," said Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert in a statement issued by the U.N. "Violent suppression of peaceful protesters is intolerable and must be avoided at all costs."

In the southern city of Nasiriyah, protesters blocked the highway linking the city to the southern oil-rich province of

Basra. At least six protesters were wounded when an unknown gunman fired at them from a speeding car, a medical official said.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity under regulations.

On Sunday, protesters in Baghdad and southern Iraq burned tires, blocking main streets. Clashes in Baghdad wounded at least 27 people. Iraqi activists gave the government a week's deadline to act on their demands for sweeping political reforms or said they would up the pressure with new demonstrations.

Boeing: Pentagon found 'over 500 deficiencies' during tanker combat tests

FROM FRONT PAGE

Calhoun is leading a once-proud company whose reputation for engineering prowess is now in tatters. On top of the grounding of its best-selling plane, Boeing has suffered delays to its 777X jetliner and an embarrassing mishap that caused its new space capsule to miss a rendezvous with the International Space Station.

The letter got Calhoun's attention: He met with Goldfein on Wednesday, according to a Boeing official familiar with the issue. The same day at the White House signing ceremony for the initial trade agreement with China, President Donald Trump singled out Calhoun, quipping that "he's got a very easy company to run. He just took over Boeing." The president added, "Let me tell you, it's not your fault, you just got there."

Larry Chambers, a spokesman for Chicago-based Boeing, declined to comment on the meeting with Goldfein or the letter.

"Boeing is fully committed to addressing the Air Force concerns with the KC-46 program and devoting resources required to make the KC-46 fully mission capable," he said.

Brig. Gen. Ed Thomas, a spokesman for Goldfein, said "at this point, the chief intends for any communications with our industry partners to be between himself and them."

In the letter, Goldfein expressed concern about the tanker's crucial "Remote Vision System" and "additional unmet requirements." The plane has multiple cameras used by an airman sitting at a console behind the cockpit to give a 59-foot-long extending boom to connect with a plane loaded fuel and then to monitor the procedure.

Shadows or the glare of the sun can hamper the cameras' view on occasion, possibly resulting in scraping the plane being refueled or difficulty in performing

the operation, according to the Air Force. Boeing officials have said they've deployed a software solution expected to overcome the main hurdle.

Despite agreement on a plan to repair the Remote Vision System, Goldfein said in the letter, "to date, progress has been unsatisfactory. More than a year has elapsed and Boeing has yet to provide" a design "that instills confidence in the way forward."

"None of the timelines" in the agreement "has been met," he said, "and Boeing's latest proposal slips delivery of the final fix to the warfighter by over two years," which he called unacceptable.

The Air Force has taken delivery of 30 tankers to start aircrew and logistics training even as Boeing continues to work on fixes. The service last year started to withhold a percentage of final payment per aircraft that's now at about \$800 million, according to Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefank.

"If we elect to continue accepting aircraft deliveries at the current rate" the service will possess 70 "partially mission-capable" tankers by next year, Goldfein wrote.

The tanker also has started combat testing conducted by Pentagon evaluators and so far "over 500 deficiencies have been tracked to date and we've only just begun" that evaluation, Goldfein wrote. A Boeing official said none of the deficiencies are of the most serious category.

Goldfein told Calhoun he expects lawmakers to question during fiscal 2021 budget hearings why the Air Force continues to take delivery of an aircraft "not meeting multiple key performance parameters and a host of other requirements."

Without a change in course, Goldfein wrote, "we will not be able to answer positively and we will have to acknowledge our serious concerns in two areas — trust and safety."

Death toll rises in major Yemeni rebel attack on military training camp

By AHMED AL-HAJI
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — The death toll from a missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels on a government military camp climbed to at least 111 troops, a military spokesman said Monday, making it one of the deadliest rebel assaults since the beginning of the country's bloody civil war.

Ballistic missiles smashed into a mosque in the training camp in the central province of Marib over the weekend, wounding at least 68 other troops, said Abdu Abdullah Magli, spokesman for the Yemeni Armed Forces.

The oil-rich province of Marib is about 70 miles east of the Houthi-controlled capital, Sanaa. The attack came amid a barrage of assaults by Saudi-backed gov-

ernment forces on rebel targets east of the capital.

Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry on Monday condemned the attack, saying that "such heinous, terrorist crimes deliberately undermine the path to a political solution" in the Yemeni conflict, according to the kingdom's official news agency.

In recent months, Saudi Arabia started backchannel negotiations

with the Houthis in the neighboring country of Oman, after the rebels claimed an attack on Saudi oil infrastructure that threatened global oil supplies.

Yemen's civil war erupted in 2014 when the Iran-backed Shiite Houthi rebels seized Sanaa, and much of the country's north, ousting the internationally recognized government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

The Saudi-led coalition launched its campaign in 2015 to drive out the Houthis and restore the government of Hadi, now exiled in Saudi Arabia.

The grinding war in the Arab world's poorest country has killed more than 10,000 people, displaced over 3 million and pushed the country to the brink of famine.

NATION

Gun rights rally draws thousands to Va.

By ALAN SUDERMAN
AND SARAH RANKIN
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Thousands of gun-rights activists rallied peacefully at the Virginia Capitol on Monday under a heavy police presence, protesting plans by the state's Democratic leadership to pass gun-control legislation.

The size of the rally and the expected participation of white supremacists and fringe militia groups raised fears that the state could see a repeat of the violence that exploded in 2017 in Charlottesville. But the rally concluded uneventfully around noon, and attendees spilled into the streets, chanting and waving signs.

A spokesman for the Capitol police said that as of 11 a.m. there had been no reports of arrests or injuries.

The Richmond protesters, who were mostly white and male, came out in the thousands despite the chilly temperature to send a message to legislators, they said.

"The government doesn't run us, we run the government," said Kem Regik, 20, a private security officer from northern Virginia who brought a white flag with a picture of a rifle captioned, "Come and take it."

Many of the protesters wore camouflage. Some waved flags with messages of support for President Donald Trump.

Trump, in turn, tweeted support for their goals.

"The Democrat Party in the Great Commonwealth of Virginia are working hard to take away your 2nd Amendment rights," it tweeted. "This is just the beginning. Don't let it happen, VOTE REPUBLICAN in 2020!"

The Virginia State Police, the Virginia Capitol Police and the Richmond Police had a strong presence, with officers deploying on rooftops, others patrolling in cars and on bicycles.



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Demonstrators march after a pro-gun rally Monday in Richmond, Va. Thousands of pro-gun supporters rallied to oppose gun control legislation like universal background checks that are being pushed by the newly elected Democratic legislature.

‘I love this. This is like the Super Bowl for the Second Amendment right here.’

PI HUDSON
truck driver

Authorities were looking to avoid a repeat of the violence that erupted in Charlottesville during one of the largest gatherings of white supremacists and other far-right

groups in a decade. Attendees brawled with counterprotesters, and an avowed white supremacist drove his car into a crowd, killing a woman and injuring dozens more. Law enforcement officials faced scathing criticism for what both the white supremacist groups and anti-racism protesters said was a passive response.

In contrast to Charlottesville, there was little sign of any counterprotesters challenging the gun-rights activists.

Police limited access to Capitol Square to only one entrance, and a long line formed to get into the rally zone. Thousands more

stood outside on nearby streets, where the governor's order didn't apply and they were free to carry weapons.

PI Hudson, 31, a truck driver from Richmond, wore an AR-15 and posed for pictures.

"I love this. This is like the Super Bowl for the Second Amendment right here," said Hudson, whose shirt said "Black guns matter."

Monday's rally was organized by an influential grassroots gun-rights group, the Virginia Citizens Defense League. The group holds a yearly rally at the Capitol, typically a low-key event with a few hundred gun enthusiasts listening to speeches from a handful of ambitious Republican lawmakers. But this year, many more attended. Second Amendment groups have identified the state as a rallying point for the fight against what they see as a national erosion of gun rights.

Erich Pratt, senior vice president of Gun Owners of America, among the speakers, said voters need to replace the Democrats in control of the government in Virginia.

"We need to throw the bums out. We need to clean house in the next election," he said.

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

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

Gun industry gathers for annual trade show amid slumping sales

By LISA MARIE PANE
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Gun companies are gathering for their annual conference and trade show this week in Las Vegas at a pivotal moment for the industry amid slumping sales, a public increasingly agitating for restrictions on access to firearms and escalating tensions over gun control efforts.

The event, held by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the gun industry's lobbying group, will take place in Las Vegas — about 3 miles away from the site of a deadly 2017 mass shooting. An estimated 60,000 people are expected to attend, navigating a vast expanse of aisles filled with not just firearms but all sorts of accessories and industry-related apparel.

Gun sales normally taper off during Republican administrations because gun owners are not as compelled to stockpile weapons out of fear that lawmakers will impose restrictions on firearms. But the past three years under President Donald Trump have been particularly volatile, fueled in part by the Las Vegas shooting and other high-profile mass killings that have driven efforts to either restrict access to guns or to ban certain firearms and products.

With Congress stymied by gridlock, the most notable action on guns has occurred at the state level in places such as Virginia, where Democrats took control of the statehouse in last year's elections. They are striving to pass a slate of gun control measures, prompting thousands of pro-Second Amendment ac-

tivists to attend a rally Monday at the Capitol.

Sagging gun sales have afflicted almost every corner of the industry, most notably iconic gun manufacturers such as Ruger, Remington and Colt.

Colt, one of the most storied firearms companies in the U.S., decided to suspend production of its AR-15 long guns. Sturm, Ruger and Co. Inc. saw sales slump about 20% last year and has reduced its workforce and production. Remington emerged from bankruptcy in 2018, but remains under scrutiny after being sued by families of victims of the Sandy Hook school shooting in which the perpetrator used an AR-15 made by the company.

It's not just gunmakers that have booths at the Las Vegas show. It's a wide array — from companies that make holsters, scopes, ammunition and safes to apparel and even coffee brewers. It caters to the spectrum of gun owners — from hunters to those in the military and law enforcement. Firearms on display at the event are imperable and none are actually sold at it.

Gary Ramey, the owner of a small handgun company based in Gainesville, Ga., said his company has seen drops in sales in the past year, and the Las Vegas gathering will be especially critical to see new products and meet suppliers.

"We've been busy just trying to keep our head above water in this tough market. It's been difficult," he said. He added later: "Our Second Amendment rights have never been under more scrutiny or attack than they are now."

Md. looks to tighten loopholes in gun laws

By ERIN COX
The Washington Post

As a contentious gun rights rally took place in Richmond, Virginia's neighbor to the north debated whether to further tighten gun laws that are already some of the strictest in the nation.

The measures proposed in Virginia — including background checks on most purchases and a one-gun-per-month limit — have been on the books in Maryland for years, in some cases for a generation. But with new leadership in Annapolis reflecting the legislature's leftward shift, Maryland's gun-control activists and some Democratic lawmakers see an era of even stricter regulation ahead.

Bills that face favorable prospects include a ban on untraceable "ghost guns" made with 3-D printers, an expansion of the state's 2013 ban on the sale of military-style assault rifles to include firearm features popularized since then and a requirement for all private sales of rifles and shotguns to be subject to background checks.

The leadership shifts and years of new-tightening on already tough laws have some Maryland gun rights activists feeling somewhat defeated — especially because procedural changes have diluted their ability to show up in force to oppose all the bills at once.

In the past, all gun legislation was heard on a single day when the session was well underway, enabling activists to plan protests and summon big crowds.

This year, the proposed gun-control bills have been scheduled for hearings on different days. And the most high-profile bill, requiring background checks for all rifle and shotgun sales, was scheduled for early in the session, leaving advocates with less time to organize.

"They're making it much more difficult for people to come down and testify," said Mark W. Pennak, president of Maryland Small Issue, one of the state's most prominent gun rights groups. "People have lives. They have jobs. They have to be able to plan."

NATION

2 officers killed, homes burned in Hawaii incident

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

The normally peaceful neighborhood where shots were fired

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

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

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

Neighbors described Hanel as mentally disturbed.

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

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



JAMM AQUINO, HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER/AP

Aina Haina resident Kai Ohashi, right, and Waikiki resident Lucy Taylor observe billowing smoke from a house fire after a shooting and domestic incident at a residence on Hibiscus Road near Diamond Head on Sunday, in Honolulu. Two responding Honolulu police officers were killed in the incident.

of misusing 911 services, Burge said Sunday.

Burge said he never knew

Hanel to be violent, but that "he's kind of a quirky guy and had problems." Hanel believed the government was watching him and tapping his phone, Burge said.

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

Hanel lived for free at the home in exchange for handyman work, Burge said. Cain was supportive of him in his disputes with the

neighbors, Burge said, but their relationship had soured lately because Hanel's dog had died and Cain

wouldn't let him get a new one.

Nearby resident Dolores Sandvold said she heard screaming and gunshots and saw Cain being

carried to an ambulance.

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

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

Police closed several streets nearby.

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

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

Suspected gunman killed after attack outside bar in Mo.

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — An armed security guard shot and killed a man suspected of fatally shooting a woman and injuring 15 more people outside a bar in Kansas City, Mo., police said Monday.

A motive for the attack shortly before midnight Sunday outside 9ine Ultra Lounge was not immediately clear.

Kansas City Police Capt. David Jackson told reporters that responding officers found "a chaotic scene." A man and a woman were killed and police believe the shooter is the deceased man, Jackson said. It was not clear if the gunman targeted anyone in particular, he said.

A spokesman said a gunman opened fire on a line of people waiting to enter the bar. A preliminary investigation indicates an armed security guard killed the shooter, Jackson said.

At least 15 went to hospitals with injuries related to the shooting, police said. It's unclear whether all the injured victims suffered gunshot wounds. At least three people are in critical condition, police



LUKE NOZICKA, THE KANSAS CITY (MO.) STAR/AP

Police crime scene investigators gather evidence at the scene of a shooting at a Kansas City, Mo., nightclub in the early hours of Monday.

said.

A Facebook post on 9ine Ultra Lounge's page advertised Sunday night's "Sold Out Sundays" event, which appeared to be a celebration of the Kansas City Chiefs. The Chiefs — featured on the event's artwork — beat the Tennessee Titans on Sunday to advance to the Super Bowl.

"It just put such a tragic end to such a wonderful day in Kansas City," Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker said at the scene, referencing the win. "It's just hard to stand here and talk about this kind of tragedy on really one of the best days Kansas City has had in a long time."

Man opens fire during concert in San Antonio

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Two people were killed and at least five were injured when someone opened fire during an argument at a concert in San Antonio, and police are hunting for the shooter who fled the scene.

Officers were called shortly after 8 p.m. Sunday to the Ventura, a music venue and bar located along the Museum Reach portion of the San Antonio River Walk, police said. It was not the only shooting at an entertainment venue Sunday night.

In Texas, an argument broke out inside the club and one person pulled out a gun and started shooting. San Antonio Police Chief William McManus said. One victim died at the scene, and another six were transported to a hospital, where one was pronounced dead

shortly after arrival.

The victims have not been identified. McManus said the victim who died at the club was a 21-year-old man. He said preliminary information indicates the people shot were all patrons, rather than staff.

McManus said he's confident that a suspect will be soon identified and apprehended. No further information was immediately available.

A since-deleted Facebook event indicated Sunday night's concert at the Ventura was "Living the DREAM," a showcase featuring multiple performers. Advertisements for the concert were also posted to websites advertising local events and listed performers' social media pages. An email to the apparent promoters wasn't immediately returned.

NATION

IG: Mission Act could extend wait times for health care

By STEVE BEYNON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Department of Veterans Affairs patients seeking private sector health care saw a nearly two-month delay for medical appointments in 2018, and the problem could worsen under the new Mission Act, the VA Office of Inspector General reported on Thursday.

The inspector general's report based its conclusions on the region of VA hospitals that includes 1.6 million veterans across Florida, south Georgia, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

VA officials in that region referred more than 206,500 requests in 2018 for community care at clinics outside the VA network, with veterans facing a 56-day wait on average before receiving care, according to the report.

The findings highlight that the wait times problem could balloon under the VA reforms of the Mission Act, which was approved into law in 2018.

The Mission Act, one of the most consequential veteran care

efforts in years, aims to expand the scope of private sector care that veterans can receive outside the VA network.

The measure was a response to the VA wait-time scandal in 2014, hoping to expedite veterans' access to treatment.

An investigation by the VA inspector general into the scandal found that 35 veterans died while waiting for care from VA facilities in Phoenix and found a pattern of officials in the department falsifying records.

The inspector general said that the number of patients seeking community care will increase from 684,000 to 3.7 million, now that the eligibility for veterans to seek private care has expanded under the Mission Act.

The VA inspector general found in its report that the problem in 2018 was driven by the lack of sufficient administrative staffing at VA medical centers.

In 2018, 39% of patients were sent for treatment outside a VA hospital because the government's facilities could not provide care in a timely manner, investigators reported.

Now, with the Mission Act passed, the workload to transfer VA patients to private hospitals could swell.

"While the VA is in the process of hiring well-trained staff to streamline the scheduling process, they will also need the right technology and data solutions to make community care appointments more seamless for veterans," Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, said in a statement. "The VA's implementation of the VA Mission Act is a top priority and an issue the committee will be examining closely in the coming months."

Investigators put the bulk of the blame on HealthNet, a contractor who handled some of the VA's referral process, but no longer does business with the department.

But after the VA stopped working with Health Net, department staff still struggled to keep up with the workload of referrals to community care, according to the IG's report.

Despite the VA beefing up its hiring every year, federal auditors found that five out of seven



Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan.

facilities in the region lack enough administrative staff as of October 2018. A VA spokesperson said the region has remedied some of the issues with lag time.

"This report focuses on events that occurred two years ago and highlights the fact that community care providers had issues getting claims processed through Health Net," said Mary Kay Rutan, a VA spokeswoman. "[The region] has now implemented an industry-standard referral and authorization management system that streamlines community care consults and referrals."

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Security probe targets Trump's Russia adviser

By DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press

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

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

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

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

Peek was a U.S. Army intelligence officer serving in Afghanistan where he advised now-retired Marine Corps Gen. John Allen on several matters, including intelligence and Pakistani aspects of the war.

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NATION

MLK Day: Faith, politics mix this holiday

By JEFF AMY
Associated Press

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

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

In South Carolina, Democratic presidential contenders marked the day with parishioners at Zion Baptist Church. Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Tulsi Gabbard and Amy Klobuchar all attended the service before they were expected to join Joe Biden, Pete Buttigieg and other contenders in a crowd of tens of thousands marching to the Statehouse.

In the closing days before the first votes are cast in the 2020 Democratic presidential contest, the party's leading hopefuls are



People gather at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on Monday during the 9th Annual Wealth Laying and Day of Reflection and Reconciliation, in Washington.

JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

splitting their time between the critical early-voting states of South Carolina and Iowa at events celebrating King.

While Iowa and New Hampshire Democrats vote first for their nominee, South Carolina's first-in-the-South primary is a crucial proving ground for a candidate's mettle with black voters. The state's showcase holiday celebration, Columbia's King Day

at the Dome, is a notable event for Democratic politicians.

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

"I'm here to pay a debt of honor and respect to a man who, from walking the dirt roads of the Deep South to speaking to hun-

dreds of thousands on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, touched the hearts of the American people and led the civil rights movement to triumph over Jim Crow," Pence said on Sunday at the Holy City Church of God in Christ.

As a presidential election looms this fall, divisions rankle, according to recent opinion polls. More than black Americans, more than 80% said last year that Pres-

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

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

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

The Rev. Howard-John Wesley, senior pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va., was to be the keynote speaker at a service on Monday organized by the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

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



Gregory Bull/AP

Mick Woods fishes for tomcod and smolt on the Bering Sea on Saturday in Toksook Bay, Alaska.

On the edge of America, census begins in a small Alaska town

Associated Press

TOKSOOK BAY, Alaska — There are no restaurants in Toksook Bay, Alaska. No motels or movie theater, either. There also aren't any factories. Or roads.

But the first Americans to be counted in the 2020 census live in this tiny community of 661 on the edge of the American expanse.

In this isolated outpost, the official attempt to count everyone living in the country will begin on Tuesday.

Once the spring thaw hits, the town empties as many residents scatter for traditional hunting and fishing grounds, and the frozen ground that makes it easier to get around in January turns to marsh that's difficult to traverse by March. The mail service is spotty and the internet connectivity unreliable, which makes door-to-door surveying important.

For those reasons, they have to start early here.

Some of the biggest challenges to the count are especially difficult in Toksook Bay, one of a handful of villages on Nelson Island, which is about 500 miles west of Anchorage and only accessible by boat or plane.

Some people speak only Alaska Native languages, such as Yup'ik.

Local groups are bringing together translators and language experts to translate the census wording and intent so that community leaders could trust, understand and relay the importance of the census.

The Census Bureau has hired four people to go door-to-door for when the official count begins this week. At least two of them will be fluent in English and Yup'ik.

Places like this run the risk of being undercounted also desper-

ately need the federal funds assigned based on population for health care, education and general infrastructure.

Yet mistrust of the federal government is high, especially in Alaska. Many have strong libertarian views, and even more in a rural community where everyone knows everyone, and someone asking for personal information is seen with suspicion.

The census is entirely confidential, said Gabriel Layman, chairman of the Alaska Census Working Group/pressured people, and the Census Bureau can't give information to anyone else. Violating that privacy could land a Census worker behind bars with a hefty fine.

Responses in the 2020 census could help residents get improvements to the water facility, airport, port and even roads.

Trump thanks farmers for backing him through recent China trade war

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

"He thanked farmers for staying "in the fight."

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

The Republican president

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

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

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

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

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

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

NATION

Trump lawyers call case 'flimsy' as trial nears

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's legal team asserted Monday that he did "absolutely nothing wrong," calling the impeachment case against him "flimsy" and a "dangerous perversion of the Constitution." The lawyers decried the impeachment process as rigged and insisted that abuse of power was not a crime.

The brief from Trump's lawyers, filed before arguments expected this week in the Senate impeachment trial, offered the most detailed glimpse of the lines of defense they intend to use against Democratic efforts to convict the president and oust him from office over his dealings with Ukraine.

It is meant as a counter to a filing two days ago from House Democrats that summarized weeks of testimony from more than a dozen witnesses in laying out the impeachment case.

The 110-page filing from the White House shifted the tone to-

ward a more legal response. It still hinged on Trump's assertion he did nothing wrong and did not commit a crime — even though impeachment does not depend on a material violation of law but rather on the more vague definition of "other high crimes and misdemeanors" as established in the Constitution.

"It is a constitutional travesty," the lawyers wrote.

In their own filing Monday, House prosecutors replied to Trump's not guilty plea by making fresh demands for a fair trial in the Senate, where the Republican majority aligned with Trump has not yet disclosed the rules.

"President Trump asserts that his impeachment is a partisan 'hoax.' He is wrong," the prosecutors wrote in their reply.

They wrote that the president can't have it both ways — rejecting the facts of the House case but also stonewalling congressional subpoenas for witnesses and testimony. "Senators must honor their own oaths by holding a fair trial with all relevant evidence,"

they wrote.

The White House document says the two articles of impeachment brought against the president — abuse of power and obstruction of Congress — don't amount to impeachment offenses. It asserts that the impeachment inquiry, centered on Trump's request that Ukraine's president open an investigation into Democratic rival Joe Biden, was never about finding the truth.

"Instead, House Democrats were determined from the outset to find some way — any way — to corrupt the extraordinary power of impeachment for use as a political tool to overturn the result of the 2016 election and to interfere in the 2020 election," Trump's legal team wrote. "All of that is a dangerous perversion of the Constitution that the Senate should swiftly and roundly condemn."

The impeachment case accuses Trump of abusing power by withholding military aid from Ukraine at the same time that the president was seeking an investigation into Biden, and of obstruct-



JON ELSENICK/AP

The impeachment trial of President Donald Trump will resume in the U.S. Senate on Tuesday. Trump's lawyers have said the case against him is "flimsy" and a "dangerous perversion of the Constitution."

ing Congress by instructing aides to not participate. But Trump's team contended Monday that even if Trump were to have abused his power in withholding the Ukraine military assistance, it would not be impeachable, because it did not violate a specific criminal statute.

Opening arguments are expected within days following a debate Tuesday over rules, including about whether witnesses are to be called in the trial.

Trump signaled his opposition to witnesses, tweeting Monday: "They didn't want John Bolton and others in the House. They were in too much of a rush. Now they want them all in the Senate. Not supposed to be that way!"

That's a reference to former national security adviser John Bolton, who was not subpoenaed by the House in its impeachment inquiry but has said he is willing to testify in the Senate if he is subpoenaed.

The White House brief argues that the articles of impeachment passed by the House are "structurally deficient" because they charge multiple acts, creating "a menu of options" as possible grounds for conviction.

The Trump team claims that the Constitution requires that senators agree "on the specific basis for conviction" and that there is no way to ensure that the senators agree on which acts are worthy of removal.

In Texas and other states, voters face a variety of barriers

By GEOFF MULVIHILL

Associated Press

Democrats believe they have a shot at making gains this year in Republican-dominated Texas, including winning control of one house of the Legislature for the first time in nearly two decades.

Persuading voters isn't their only challenge. Voting and registration rules crafted by Republicans in recent years also could prove to be a big obstacle.

In a state that's growing rapidly in population and diversity, officials have closed hundreds of polling places, taken steps toward removing thousands of registered voters from the rolls, imposed strict voter identification requirements and made it more expensive to put early voting sites on college campuses — all in the name of election integrity.

"The bottom line in Texas is Republicans are scared to death of demographic changes," said Anthony Gutierrez, executive director of Common Cause in Texas, "and are doing anything and everything they can think of to keep those changing demographics from affecting elections."

Nationally, Democrats say strict voter ID laws, purging of voter rolls, reduction in polling places, limits on early voting and other restrictive steps are Republican attempts to suppress their voters. Republicans counter that they are merely trying to maintain the integrity of elections and close off potential avenues for



LM OTERO/AP

Democratic Party voting drive volunteers move a table after the manager of the nearby coffee shop asked them to leave the front store's parking lot in Richardson, Texas, on Saturday.

voter fraud.

It's an argument playing out across the country, and one that is leading to lawsuits in numerous battleground states.

In North Carolina, litigation over a voter ID requirement passed by Republicans has created uncertainty over whether it will be in place for the November elections. In Georgia and Wisconsin, voter advocacy groups have sued over efforts to revoke the registrations of voters who have not participated in recent elections. And in Texas, Democrats are suing over a ban on mobile

polling places.

Attention to state efforts to expand or restrict voting access has been heightened since 2013 when the U.S. Supreme Court eliminated some key protections of the Voting Rights Act. Before that ruling, Texas was among nine states with a history of racial discrimination that needed clearance from the federal government before making significant changes to their voting laws.

All nine now have laws that ask voters to show IDs at polling places, laws that often have led to confusion on Election Day. The

the political graveyard.

Yet in recent elections, Texas has had among the lowest voter turnout rates in the country. In 2016, with a presidential race on the ballot, barely half of registered voters participated. There was a surge of voting — by non-presidential year standards — in 2018 when Democrat Beto O'Rourke came close to unseating GOP Sen. Ted Cruz.

Last year, a variety of civil rights and voter advocacy groups opposed efforts from the Republican-controlled state government that could have had a chilling effect on voting. A judge forced the acting secretary of state to drop an effort to call into question the citizenship of 95,000 voters in a state toward removing them from voter rolls. The list of possible non-citizen voters turned out to be full of errors.

The Legislature ultimately rejected a bill that would have made it a felony to put incorrect information on a voter registration form — even by accident. Opponents say it could have stopped voter registration campaigns in their tracks. But its sponsor, Republican state Sen. Brian Hughes, said bad information entered by voters on their registration forms is a problem that's known but not often prosecuted, largely because it's a lower-level offense.

"I understand folks try to characterize this as being something else," Hughes said. "But this is simply about making sure the rules are fair and that people follow the rules."

Texas law, for example, allows a handgun license to vote, but not a college ID.

If voting restrictions reduce turnout, they can make the difference in races decided by narrow margins.

Many of these fights are playing out in Texas, the nation's second-most populous state and one that has been a Republican stronghold for much of this century. New arrivals from other states, an expanding Hispanic population and urban centers with an increasing leftward tilt have given Democrats hope that they can rise from

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Burger chain offers fries, side of cricket salt

ID BOISE — Want some crickets with your fries?

Boise Fry Co. already offers customers a choice of several seasoning-salt mixtures to sprinkle on their french fries: Cajun spice, rosemary, jalapeno, salt and vinegar.

Now, add crickets to the list. The locally owned restaurant chain debuted four new salt blends that include pulverized crickets at its three locations in Boise and one each in Meridian and Nampa, the Idaho Statesman reported.

The response has been overwhelming, with reactions mostly positive, though some people are a little skittish, says Brad Walker, Boise Fry Co.'s CEO.

City to host exhibit of King Tut treasures

MA BOSTON — Treasures from the famed Egyptian ruler King Tut are coming to Boston.

The more than 150 artifacts from Tutankhamun's tomb will be on display from June 13 through January 2021 at The Saunders Castle at Park Plaza, a special events space in the city's Back Bay neighborhood.

They're part of "King Tut: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh," a traveling exhibit with stops in Paris, London and Los Angeles.

The objects will become part of the permanent collection of the Grand Egyptian Museum currently under construction in Egypt.

Coast Guard museum has raised \$56M

CT NEW LONDON — More than \$56 million has been raised to build a Coast Guard museum in Connecticut.

The Day newspaper reported that the National Coast Guard Museum Association has secured \$15 million in federal funds, \$21 million in private donations and \$20 million through state borrowing for the downtown New London waterfront project.

Construction has been pushed back toward the end of 2020, The Day reported.

The 100,000-square-foot, five-story, partially glass building is expected to take four years to build.

Police: Suspect hid in air vent, got stuck

NC SALISBURY — Authorities in North Carolina say they had to rescue a suspect after he tried to escape arrest by hiding in an air vent.

The man got stuck and had to be rescued by deputies before being taken to jail, according to the Rowan County Sheriff's Office, which conducted a roundup targeting people who allegedly weren't paying child support. Ten people with outstanding warrants were arrested, as were six more for interfering with deputies, the Charlotte Observer reported.



QUENTIN WINSTINE, THE JONESBORO (ARK.) SUN/AP

Arctic dip

Michelle Neira, left, a teacher at Fox Meadow Elementary School, and Jonesboro Police Detective Brian Arnold jump together during the annual Special Olympics Arkansas Area 7 Polar Plunge on Saturday at the Elks Lodge in Jonesboro, Ark. This year's event raised more than \$5,000 for Special Olympics Arkansas.

Athletes' mass baptism prompts complaint

AL REELTOWN — The baptism of high school football players on the 50-yard-line in their football stadium has drawn complaints from a group that pushes for separation of church and state.

After more than two dozen Reeltown High school players were baptized on the field in November, the Wisconsin-based Freedom from Religion Foundation demanded an investigation. Tallapoosa County Schools Superintendent Joe Windle told AL.com that he found no wrongdoing. The baptism was not conducted by the school, he said.

The baptisms occurred inside a tub filled with water. About 35 students asked to be baptized, Windle said. Of those, 26 were football players who requested the baptisms take place on the football field. The other students had their baptisms at their churches, Windle said.

Famous ice disk seems to be re-forming

ME WESTBROOK — What goes around comes around.

An ice disk appears to be forming in the same Maine river where an unusually large one formed last winter and quickly gained in-

THE CENSUS

7 The number of vintage subway cars being auctioned by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. To make room for hundreds of news cars coming in the years ahead and to comply with safety laws, the MBTA removes salvageable parts from inoperable trains, then puts the cars up for auction. Made by Boeing and Kinkisharyo in the early 1970s and '80s, the cars have sat idle for at least three years, according to the auction posting. Bidding for the lot of seven cars starts at \$500. The auction ends Jan. 28. The buyer must also pay to remove the cars and onsite scrapping is not allowed.

terrestrial fame.

The City of Westbrook tweeted an aerial view of the disk in the Presumpscot River with the message: "ICE BREAKING NEWS: Ice Disk 2020 is making a run for it... It's not a perfect circle yet, but it is rotating counter-clockwise again & the seagulls are along for the ride."

The ice formation comes just about a year after a disk measuring about 100 yards was spotted in the Presumpscot River.

Officer pleads guilty to using seized Porsche

PA PHILADELPHIA — A former Philadelphia police officer charged with taking a Porsche SUV from an impound lot and using it for his stepdaughter's prom pleaded guilty, prosecutors announced.

James Coolen Jr., 47, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. He was sentenced to a year of probation.

Coolen seized the Porsche Cayenne during a drug investigation in April and placed it in the Narcotics Bureau Headquarters' secure impound lot, according to prosecutors. They said surveillance footage showed Coolen entering the lot in his personal pickup and leaving in the Porsche.

Prosecutors cited evidence including GPS data from the Porsche to show Coolen had used it for his stepdaughter's prom.

Property managers to pay in harassment case

KS WICHITA — A Wichita property manager accused of inappropriately touching female tenants and repeatedly asking them for sex in exchange for rent will pay \$160,000 in damages and penalties under a settlement in a federal housing lawsuit. The Department of Justice announced.

The Federal Housing Act lawsuit alleged Thong Cao sexually harassed numerous tenants since

at least 2009 at rental properties he owned or operated in Wichita. His wife, Mai Cao, was also named in the lawsuit because she owned or co-owned some of the properties.

The consent order filed in U.S. District Court in Kansas requires the couple to pay \$155,000 in damages to 11 former tenants and a \$5,000 civil penalty.

Coyote killed after cop helping motorist bitten

OH COLUMBUS — Police in Ohio's capital city shot and killed a coyote after it bit an officer who had stopped to help a stranded motorist, the police department said.

The coyote appeared out of nowhere and first tried to attack a state road worker also helping the motorist, said police, who released body camera and dash cam video of the incident. When the officer tried to intervene, he was bitten by the animal, said Sgt. James Fuqua, a spokesman for the Columbus Division of Police.

The coyote ran away after the officer punched it, then returned after other officers arrived as backup. The original officer tried unsuccessfully to use pepper spray on the animal, and responding officers also tried unsuccessfully to use a stun gun on the coyote before shooting it, Fuqua said.

From wire reports

FACES

'Parasite' in SAG spotlight

Foreign-language film nabs top honors, shakes up awards season

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

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

The best ensemble win for "Parasite" came over the starry epic "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" and "The Irishman." It was only a slight surprise. "Parasite," up for six Oscars including best picture, has emerged as perhaps the stiffest competition for Sam Mendes' "1917," which won at the highly predictive Producers Guild Awards on Jan. 18.

But "Parasite" was the clear crowd favorite Sunday at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, where even the cast's appear-

ance introducing the film drew a standing ovation. Yet until the SAG Awards, the many honors for "Parasite" have seldom included awards for its actors, none of whom was nominated for an Oscar.

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

Because actors make up the largest percentage of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, their picks are closely watched as an Academy Awards harbinger. If "Parasite" can pull off the upset at the Feb. 9 Oscars, it would be the first foreign language film to do so.

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

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

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

Aniston later won an award for best female actor in a drama series for the Apple TV Plus show "The Morning Show."

All the Oscar acting favorites won, including Renee Zellweger ("Judy"), Joaquin Phoenix ("Joker") and Laura Dern ("Marriage Story").



JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP

From left: Kang-Ho Song, Park So-dam, Bong Joon-ho, Jang Hye-jin, Choi Woo-shik, and Lee Sun Gyun of "Parasite" pose Sunday with their Screen Actors Guild awards for best ensemble.

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

Phoenix Waller-Bridge continued her awards sweep for "Fleabag," a winner at the Emmys and the Golden Globes. Waller-Bridge added a SAG win for best female actor in a comedy series.

"The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" also continued its streak, winning

best comedy series ensemble for the second straight year, along with a win for Tony Shalhoub.

Robert De Niro was given the guild's lifetime achievement award.

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



Report: Hank Azaria to quit voicing Apu on 'The Simpsons'

Hank Azaria says he has no plans to continue voicing the character of Apu on "The Simpsons," according to an industry blog. But that isn't to say the Indian immigrant convenience store owner Azaria brought alive for 30 years won't live on.

Producers and Fox Broadcasting Co. wouldn't confirm to The Associated Press Azaria's exit or an end to Apu, a recurring character that has drawn criticism for reinforcing racial stereotypes.

The actor, who is white, indicated Jan. 17 to slashfilm.com that there was no resistance to phasing out his voice.

"We all made the decision together," Azaria said. "We all agreed on it. We all feel like it's the right thing and (feel) good about it."

Apu Nahasapeemapetilon runs the Kwik-E-Mart, a popular convenience store in the animated sitcom's Springfield.

Azaria speculated that among options going forward is transitioning Apu's voice to an Indian actor.

In 2017, comedian Hari Kondabolu put out a documentary, "The Problem with Apu," that examined the character's cultural impact. Asked in the film's aftermath if he had watched the documentary, Azaria said:

"Thank you for asking me. Yes, of course, I did it, and I'm glad if it can tell you how I feel about that. The idea that anybody, young or old, past or present, was bullied or teased or worse based on the character of Apu on 'The Simpsons,' the voice or any other tropes of the character is distressing," he said. "And especially in post-9/11 America, the idea that anybody was marginalized based on it or had a hard time was very upsetting to me personally and professionally."



Kardashian West pursues criminal justice reform on TV

Kim Kardashian West is a step closer to becoming a lawyer, having finished her first year of study as an apprentice.

She told The Associated Press on Jan. 18 that her next step is taking the "baby bar," so called because it's a one-day exam. If she passes, she plans to study for another three years and then take the California bar exam.

"I'm super-motivated, and I really want to see it through," she said in an interview after promoting a television documentary on criminal justice reform. "There's obviously times where I'm overwhelmed and stressed and feel like I have a lot on my plate. My kids know that I'm in school just like they are. It's 20 hours a week, so it is a lot of my time."

"Kim Kardashian West: The Justice Project" airs April 5 on Oxygen. The two-hour documentary shows her being visibly moved by prison inmates recounting their stories of landing behind bars. She talks to their families and friends, lobbies public officials and consults with their attorneys as well as her own.

It features four cases, including a sex trafficking victim and a woman who molested the family member who molested her. Each of them believe they received unfair sentences, two of them end up being released.

"Once you hear the circumstances that led them to make those decisions, your heart would completely open up," Kardashian West told the AP. "I hope that this is a step to opening up people's hearts and minds. And then hopefully they can help with changing some actual laws that really do have to be changed."



Paris Hilton reveals private side in upcoming documentary

Having thrown her life open for years, it's hard to believe there isn't much the public doesn't know about Paris Hilton.

But wait, there is. The 38-year-old socialite often described as famous for being famous reveals a private side of herself in "This Is Paris," a YouTube Originals documentary premiering in May.

"It's very emotional, this movie. It's very raw; it's very authentic," a somber and admittedly nervous Hilton told TV critics on Jan. 18. "It's basically my entire life."

In the documentary, she speaks publicly for the first time about incidents from her past and pivotal moments in her life.

Emmy-winning director Alexandra Dean ("Bombshell," "The Hedy Lamarr Story") initially turned down the project, having gotten her fill of seeing Hilton on countless magazine covers. Dean changed her mind after hearing a particular story described as "heartbreaking trauma" involving Hilton that is revealed in the film.

The documentary addresses the time a teen-aged Hilton spent at a residential treatment center for emotionally and behaviorally troubled youth in Utah.

Hilton still feels the effects of the dumb blonde persona she employed in "The Simple Life," the reality show that shot her and Nicole Richie to fame starting in 2003.

"I was in on the joke. People thought that's who I really was," Hilton said. "I've been judged on a character that I created at the beginning of my career, and now I feel like it's really time that people see who the real Paris is."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

'Bad Boys for Life' No. 1 at box office

Associated Press

"Bad Boys for Life," starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence, brought in \$59 million at the box office in the U.S. and Canada to score a No. 1 debut entering the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. The action-packed buddy comedy outdukked "Do Little," starring Robert Downey Jr., which opened at second with a mediocre \$22.5 million.

Sony Pictures predicted that "Bad Boys" will make around \$68 million over the four-day weekend.

"Dolittle" barely topped the World War I film "1917," which claimed the top spot the previous week. The Sam Mendes-directed war film took in \$22.1 million over the weekend.

"Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" topped \$1 billion globally after five weeks. The Disney film has earned more than \$492 million domestically.

Other news

■ An investigative document about Jeffrey Epstein and how the millionaire sex offender avoided scrutiny is coming to Lifetime. The four-hour film, "Surviving Jeffrey Epstein," will air this summer, the cable channel announced Jan. 18.

■ Steve Martin and Martin Short are taking their touring act to television with a new Hulu comedy. The untitled show about three strangers who share an obsession with true crime was announced Jan. 17.

■ Folk singer David Olney, 71, died Jan. 18 following a heart attack while performing in Florida, his publicist said. Olney had recorded more than 20 albums.

WORLD

China confirms human-to-human virus transmission

By YANAN WANG
AND KEN MORITSUGU
Associated Press

BEIJING — The head of a Chinese government expert team said Monday that human-to-human transmission has been confirmed in an outbreak of a new coronavirus, a development that raises the possibility that it could spread more quickly and widely.

Team leader Zhong Nanshan, a respiratory expert, said two people in Guangdong province in southern China caught the virus from family members, state media said. Some medical workers have also tested positive for the virus, the English-language China Daily newspaper reported.

The late-night announcement capped a day in which authorities announced a sharp uptick in the number of confirmed cases to more than 200, and China's leader called on the government to take every possible step to combat the

outbreak.

"The recent outbreak of novel coronavirus pneumonia in Wuhan and other places must be taken seriously," President Xi Jinping said in his first public statement on the crisis. "Party committees, governments and relevant departments at all levels should put people's lives and health first."

The spread of the viral pneumonia comes as the country enters its busiest travel period, when millions board trains and planes for the Lunar New Year holidays. The outbreak is believed to have started late last month when people picked it up at a fresh food market in Wuhan, a city in central China.

Wuhan health authorities said Monday an additional 136 cases have been confirmed in the city, raising the total to 198. Three have died.

Authorities elsewhere also announced cases in other Chinese cities for the first time.



Travelers wear face masks as they walk outside of the Beijing Railway Station in Beijing, on Monday.

MARK SCHIEFFELBEIN/AP

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

Zhong said the two people in Guangdong had not been to Wuhan but fell ill after family members had returned from the city, the China Daily said.

The outbreak has put other countries on alert as millions of Chinese travel for Lunar New Year. Authorities in Thailand and in Japan have already identified

at least three cases, all involving recent travel from China.

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

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

Cult 'anointed by God' kills 7 in Panama Jungle

EL TERRON, Panama — Bible rests on a wooden altar next to percussion instruments in the room where a religious sect allegedly forced a pregnant woman and five of her children to walk through fire.

The makeshift sanctuary belonged to a cult whose indigenous members professed to be "anointed by God" to sacrifice non-believers, even if the heretics were members of their own families, people in El Terron say.

Seven villagers were slain by the cult Jan. 13, while 14 more were rescued the next day by police who found them bound and beaten in the temple, authorities have said.

Nine villagers have been arrested and charged with murder.

Heating pipe bursts, kills 5 in Russian hotel

MOSCOW — A heating pipe burst Monday in a small Russian hotel, flooding rooms with boiling water that killed five people and left six others injured in the city of Perm, emergency officials said.

The nine-room hotel was located in the basement of a residential building in the city located near Russia's Ural Mountains. All of the victims — who included a child — were staying at the hotel, authorities said. Three of the injured were hospitalized with burns.

Russian police have opened a probe into the tragedy.

Commuters relieved with easing of Paris strike

PARIS — Paris commuters who were careworn after six weeks of misery-inducing transport strikes found their smiles again Monday as some subway workers ended their walkouts against a contested overhaul of France's pension system.

A weekend announcement by the subway wing of the UNSA union of a return to work after 46 consecutive days of strikes produced a marked improvement in services as the French capital embarked on a new week Monday.

For the first time since Dec. 5, services were completely or almost back to normal on 11 of Paris' 16 subway lines, said the RATP company that runs the metro system.

Heavy snow, rain, wind leave 2 dead in Spain

MADRID — Heavy snow, rain and gale-force winds lashed many parts of Spain on Monday, killing at least two people and prompting five provinces to go on top emergency alert.

The storm forced the closure of Alicante Airport and some 30 roads in the eastern region.

A man died Sunday in the northern province of Leon when he was run over by a car as he tried to put snow chains on his own vehicle, a homeless woman was found dead Monday after sleeping outside during the storm in the eastern town of Gandia.

From The Associated Press

Migrants ford river to Mexico after bridge rejection

Associated Press

TECUN UMAN, Guatemala — Hundreds of Central American migrants began crossing the Suchiate River into southern Mexico on Monday in a new test of President Donald Trump's Central America strategy to keep them away from the U.S. border.

The migrants moved off the border bridge and toward the river after Mexican officials told them they would not be granted passage through the country.

With a letter copied to the "migrants located on the border bridge," Mexican officials rejected migrants' demands to cross freely through Mexico. But the letter relayed by an official of Mexico's immigration agency restated the Mexican government's position that the migrants would be allowed to enter in orderly



Migrants stand in line for breakfast at a temporary shelter in Tecun Uman, Guatemala in the border with Mexico, on Sunday.

MOISES CASTILLO/AP

fashion.

Edwin Chavez, 19, from Tegucigalpa, said, "By river, that's the way it will be."

"There's no fear," Chavez said. Amid shouts and even some

fireworks, they were being wading across the shallow river.

Earlier, a migrant who refused to give his name stood near the shuttered gates on the bridge over the Suchiate River and read

an open letter from the group to President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

"We have come peacefully to try to start a dialogue with the government, in order to reach an agreement in which all the members of the caravan will be allowed permission to freely pass through Mexican territory," he read.

Trump has forced asylum seekers to remain in Mexico, or apply in Central American countries, effectively removing one of the escape valves for previous caravans.

Monday's standoff was a contrast to Saturday, when Mexican troops scuffled with some migrants and slammed the gate shut as hundreds of others pressed forward in an effort to start new lives in the United States.

More than a week of smog chokes residents in Bangkok

By BUSABA SIVASOMBOON
Associated Press

BANGKOK — Unhealthy levels of smog have choked Bangkok for more than a week, as the Thai capital's residents fume over the ineffectiveness of government measures to combat the problem.

As thick haze blanketed the city Monday, pollution levels soared to 95 micrograms per cubic meter of PM 2.5 particle at noon in some areas, according to the government's Pollution Control Department, which described that level as very unhealthy. The maximum level considered safe by the government is 50.

PM 2.5 particles are small enough to penetrate deeply into the lungs, which can cause short-term bronchial problems as well as serious long-term health issues.

Bangkok's smog crisis results from still air and an excessive amount of ultrafine dust from vehicle emissions and other activities, Pollution Control Department Director-General Pralong Damrongthai explained in a Monday press release. He said smog is being trapped close to the ground by a blanket of warm air in what meteorologists call an inversion.

Bangkok residents have grown frustrated with the lack of progress in improving the sit-

uation. A survey by the National Institute for Development Administration released Sunday showed 81% of the 1,256 local residents questioned agreed the government is ineffective in solving the problem. Only 2.7% of respondents approved of the government's efforts.

The Pollution Control Department issued a 52-page national action plan in October for combating dust pollution problems, but it is unclear how many, if any, of the measures it suggested were implemented. The plan mostly included guidelines for government agencies, but also discussed possible precautions and ways to measure pollutants.

WORLD

Davos chief welcomes views of Trump, Greta Thunberg

Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland — The head of the World Economic Forum says it's "reassuring" that President Donald Trump and climate activist Greta Thunberg will both return to its annual meeting in Davos this year, noting that concerns about the environment will be a key topic.

WEF founder Klaus Schwab sees vast changes in business, society and culture over the 50 years since he created the yearly gathering in the Swiss Alps, which was initially a forum for business leaders but is now a key stop for policymakers and activists as well.

Following another year of extreme heat, out-of-control wildfires and melting ice sheets, environmental issues are considered to be the top five long-term risks confronting the global economy, WEF said last week, citing a survey of more than 750 decision-makers.

It said that catastrophic trends

like global warming, climate change and the extinction of animal species would top the agenda at the meeting that begins on Tuesday.

The forum is shifting its focus of recent years from how technology is transforming lives to the environment and responsible business practices that promote jobs, fight climate change and work for social good along with profit-making.

The focus on environment could make for an uncomfortable subject for Trump, whose administration has called for expanded use of carbon-spewing coal, stripped away environmental protections and played down concerns among scientists about man-made climate change.

Schwab says Trump is welcome because of his role on the world stage while Thunberg will keep

the focus on the environment. Both will speak Tuesday.

"I think both voices are necessary," Schwab said Sunday in an interview with The Associated Press. "The environment will play a particularly important role during this meeting."

He said that many companies are increasingly seeing the benefits of "ESG" — environmental, social and governance — concerns in their business models.

"Companies recognize ... doing good ... it's a precondition for some long-term survival," Schwab said.

The forum chief said nearly all European Union leaders will be on hand this year, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel. He said that the EU has a chance to lay out its vision for the future and turn the corner after three years of haggling over Britain's departure from the bloc, which comes at the end of this month.



VINCENT THIAN/AP

Officials in Malaysia inspect a container of plastic waste Monday. Malaysia is returning unwanted rubbish sent by other countries.

Malaysia says it won't be world's waste bin

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

Stripes

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation
944

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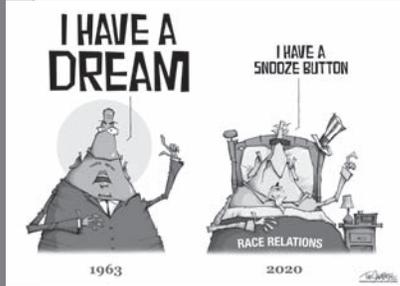
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Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



TIM CAMPBELL/Washington Post News Service



Leaving the Royal Nest

LISA BENSON/Washington Post Writers Group



WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Content Agency

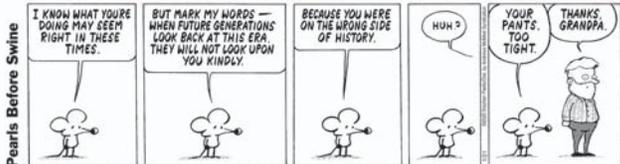
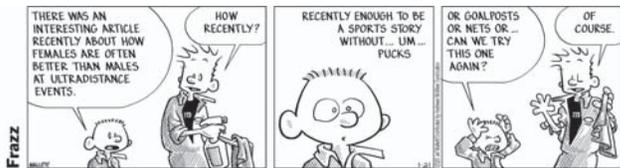


WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Content Agency

Lisa Benson 1-18 Dkt by Wash Post Writers Group



LISA BENSON/Washington Post Writers Group



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12						13				14		
15					16					17		
18					19				20			
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38	39	40					41			42	43	44
45							46			47		
48							49			50		
51							52			53		

ACROSS

- 1 Hayseed
- 5 Docs' org.
- 8 Chanteuse Edith
- 13 Standard
- 14 Shrek, for one
- 15 Worker's compensation
- 17 Cookware
- 18 Gore and Pacino
- 19 Hosp. parts
- 20 —ski
- 21 Layer
- 22 Weep
- 23 Lost color
- 26 Food lover
- 30 On the Baltic, say briefly
- 31 "Today" rival,
- 32 Pundit's piece
- 33 "Walden" writer
- 35 A lot
- 36 Trail the pack
- 37 "Nasty!"
- 38 Uncertainty
- 41 "CSI" find
- 42 Chairman of China
- 45 Pakistan's language
- 46 Rover's adorable stunt
- 48 Fair-hiring org.
- 49 Hearty quaff

DOWN

- 50 Classic theaters
- 51 Honky —
- 52 N.J. neighbor
- 53 Shipshape
- 22 Tax prep pro
- 23 Bit of butter
- 24 Fireplace residue
- 25 Zodiac cat
- 26 Big bird of Australia
- 27 "— Lazy River"
- 28 Flushed
- 29 Mag. staff
- 30 Joke
- 34 "Mangia!"
- 35 Ella's style
- 37 Chip giant
- 38 Song for two
- 39 Sandwich cookie
- 40 Jocular Johnson
- 41 Japanese noodle
- 42 Takeout order?
- 43 Calf-length
- 44 Scored 100 on
- 45 Fine
- 46 Writer's block?
- 47 Hogwash

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	E	T	E	S	C	G	A	L	E	
A	T	O	P	T	E	L	E	B	O	N
M	A	W	R	A	L	A	N	E	X	T
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			V	I	A	A	B	R	A	D
S	O	M	A	L	I	A	B	A	B	E
A	B	I	T	D	R	Y	L	O	M	A
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		I	W	O	N	O	N	O	B	E
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1-21

CRYPTOQUIP

T X P Y H U M H S I X O Y J O Z
 U D Q K N D P F Q Y M S E S O Y A O Y J
 H K Q Y I D H K I, O D P K A Q Y O I

T Q N M F E P H Z O J Y P P Y P T I Q S.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FAMED ENGLISH ROCK SINGER WHO WAS NAMED AFTER A MAJOR BRITISH SCHOOL IN BERKSHIRE: ETON JOHN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals P

NBA/NHL

NBA roundup

Pacers, Sabonis rally past Nuggets

Associated Press

DENVER — Despite playing from behind for most of their game against the Denver Nuggets, Domantas Sabonis never left the Indiana Pacers were out of it.

Sabonis had 22 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists for his first career triple-double, Doug McDermott scored 18 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and the Pacers rallied late to beat the Nuggets 115-107 on Sunday night.

"I just felt like we were always right there, down 5-6 points all game," Sabonis said. "I felt like this was the game we needed to get to start the road trip right and just believed in my teammates that we could make that next step. And in the fourth quarter, everybody stepped up and made big-time plays."

In one sequence with just under three minutes remaining, Sabonis helped protect the Pacers' late lead by fighting through traffic in the low post to grab three offensive rebounds before finishing with a tip-in.

Malcom Brogdon and T.J. Warren added 22 points each for the Pacers, who snapped a 10-game skid at Pepsi Center.

Spurs 107, Heat 102: Patty Mills provided a late spark, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 21 points and host San Antonio held off Miami.

The win came as the Spurs became the first NBA team to hold Indigenous People Night — a meaningful cause to Mills, an Australian of aboriginal descent.

"It's an important night and it's really important to Patty," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "For the indigenous people here in Texas it's important to all of us, but it's sort of double for him because of his history and his background."

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	28	14	.667	—
Boston	27	14	.659	1/2
Philadelphia	28	16	.639	1/2
Brooklyn	18	23	.439	9 1/2
Washington	11	32	.256	17 1/2

Southeast Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	20	23	.465	9 1/2
Orlando	20	23	.465	9 1/2
Charlotte	15	28	.344	15
Atlanta	13	28	.317	15 1/2
Washington	10	30	.250	19 1/2

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	38	6	.864	—
Indiana	29	15	.659	9 1/2
Detroit	16	27	.372	21 1/2
Chicago	13	28	.317	22
Cleveland	2	34	.279	25 1/2

Western Conference

Southeast Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	26	15	.634	—
Houston	25	15	.625	1/2
Memphis	20	22	.476	7 1/2
San Antonio	18	23	.439	8 1/2
New Orleans	16	27	.372	11 1/2

Northwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	29	13	.690	—
Utah	29	13	.690	—
Oklahoma City	24	19	.558	5 1/2
Portland	18	26	.409	12
Denver	15	27	.357	14

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	34	8	.810	—
L.A. Clippers	30	13	.698	4 1/2
Phoenix	27	16	.625	7 1/2
Sacramento	15	27	.357	14
Golden State	10	34	.227	25

Sunday's games

Game	Final Score
San Antonio 107, Miami 102	107-102
Indiana 115, Denver 107	115-107

Monday's games

Game	Final Score
Detroit at Washington	107-102
Toronto at Atlanta	115-107
Philadelphia at Brooklyn	115-107
Chicago at Milwaukee	115-107
New Orleans at Memphis	115-107
New York at Cleveland	115-107
Oklahoma City at Houston	115-107
Orlando at Charlotte	115-107
San Antonio at Miami	115-107
Indiana at Phoenix	115-107
L.A. Lakers at Boston	115-107
Golden State at Utah	115-107

Tuesday's games

Game	Final Score
Oklahoma City at Orlando	115-107
Philadelphia at Toronto	115-107
Memphis at Boston	115-107
L.A. Clippers at Atlanta	115-107
L.A. Lakers at New York	115-107
Denver at Houston	115-107
Washington at Miami	115-107
Indiana at Phoenix	115-107
Minnesota at Chicago	115-107
San Antonio at New Orleans	115-107
Utah at Golden State	115-107



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Indiana Pacers forward Domantas Sabonis argues for a foul in his team's 115-107 defeat of the Indiana Pacers on Sunday. Sabonis had 22 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists in his first triple-double.



DAVID BANKS/AP

Chicago Blackhawks right wing Patrick Kane, center, celebrates his 1,000th point Sunday on an assist in a 5-2 defeat of the Winnipeg Jets in Chicago.

NHL roundup

Kane reaches 1,000th point as Blackhawks roll over Jets

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Patrick Kane's 1,000th career point created one big party for the Chicago Blackhawks.

Kane reached 1,000 when he picked up an assist on Brandon Saad's third-period goal, and the Blackhawks beat the Winnipeg Jets 5-2 on Sunday night for their season-high fifth straight win.

Kane became the 90th player in NHL history to reach the milestone with 5:46 left in the game. The All-Star winger passed from behind the net to Ryan Carpenter in the right circle. Carpenter then fed a wide-open Saad at the left side of the net for an easy tap-in before goalie Connor Hellebuyck could slide across the crease.

The 31-year-old Kane got an extended ovation from the crowd of 21,487 and was mobbed by his teammates after extending his point streak to 10 games.

Captain Jonathan Toews, who has 799 points himself, celebrated with the referees before the game to make sure it was all right for the team to take the ice to congratulate Kane after he hit 1,000.

"That was special," Kane said. "What a moment. Obviously, everyone coming on the ice and sharing that moment with me. You see some faces in that pile that have been a big part of a lot of those points."

"The team's rolling right now, too. There's a lot of good things happening. We're playing well. Nice to have it come in a win."

In the midst of the celebration, Saad made sure to pick up the puck for Kane.

"Kinda felt bad for him," Kane said. "All the guys on the ice came to me and he was in the corner even though he was the one that scored."

Hurricanes 2, Islanders 1 (SO): Justin Williams returned to

the lineup for the first time since last year's Eastern Conference final and scored in the shootout to lift host Carolina over New York.

James Reimer stopped six shots in the tiebreaker for the Hurricanes, the last against Anders Lee to lock up the win. Andrei Svechnikov and Teuvo Teravainen also scored in the shootout for Carolina. Svechnikov had a goal in the first period.

The Hurricanes ended a three-game skid thanks to Williams, the 38-year-old who took an extended break after last season. He scored in the eighth round of the shootout.

Lee scored in regulation, and Mathew Barzal and Anthony Beauvillier connected in the shootout for the Islanders, who lost their third straight.

Blue Jackets 2, Rangers 1 (SO): Oliver Bjorkstrand scored his second goal of the game with 26:5 seconds left to lift Columbus over host New York for its fifth straight win.

Blue Jackets rookie Mattias Kivleniemi made his first NHL start and stopped 31 shots. Columbus is 15-2-4 since Dec. 9. The surging Blue Jackets are also 8-1-3 in their last 12 road games.

Rangers defenseman Brady Skjei opened the scoring at 18:28 of the first period.

Penguins 4, Bruins 3: Jack Johnson and Bryan Rust scored third-period goals as host Pittsburgh rallied to defeat Boston.

The Penguins trailed 3-0 in the first period before scoring four unanswered goals. Dominik Simon and Teddy Bluger also scored, and Matt Murray rebounded from a shaky start to make 34 saves.

David Pastrnak scored his 37th goal, Patrice Bergeron scored his 21st and Anders Bjork his eighth for the Bruins.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	50	28	10	12	68	166	133
Tampa Bay	48	29	15	4	62	152	117
Florida	47	26	16	5	57	174	156
Columbus	49	27	17	4	57	176	165
Buffalo	49	22	20	7	51	145	152
Montreal	48	22	18	7	51	151	157
Ottawa	48	17	23	8	42	150	153
Detroit	48	17	24	7	28	104	189

Metropolitan Division

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	49	33	11	5	71	177	144
Pittsburgh	49	31	13	5	67	168	123
N.Y. Islanders	48	28	15	5	61	139	130
Columbus	48	29	15	4	60	134	127
Carolina	49	28	18	3	59	155	131
Philadelphia	49	26	17	6	58	155	150
N.Y. Rangers	47	23	18	4	50	156	155
New Jersey	48	17	24	7	41	126	173

Western Conference

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	48	29	13	6	68	155	124
Colorado	48	27	15	6	60	173	140
Dallas	48	27	17	4	58	125	120
Winnipeg	49	25	20	4	54	148	152
Chicago	50	22	20	6	54	152	157
Nashville	47	22	18	7	50	156	154
Minnesota	48	22	20	6	50	148	159

Pacific Division

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	49	27	18	4	58	162	149
Edmonton	48	26	18	5	57	155	147
Calgary	50	26	19	5	57	133	147
Vegas	49	25	18	6	56	147	147
Arizona	51	28	20	3	57	146	138
San Jose	50	21	25	4	46	130	167
Anaheim	48	19	24	5	43	122	150
Los Angeles	50	18	27	5	41	125	158
Nashville 2, Dallas 1	2-1						

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's games

Game	Final Score
Washington 6, N.Y. Islanders 4	6-4
Colorado 5, St. Louis 3	5-3
Edmonton 7, Arizona 3	7-3
Ottawa 5, Calgary 2	5-2
Columbus 4, New Jersey 0	4-0
Florida 4, Detroit 1	4-1
Montreal 5, Vegas 4	5-4
Philadelphia 4, Los Angeles 1	4-1
Chicago 6, Toronto 2	6-2
Nashville 2, Dallas 1	2-1
Vancouver 4, San Jose 1	4-1

Sunday's games

Game	Final Score
Pittsburgh 4, Boston 3	4-3
Carolina 2, N.Y. Islanders 1	2-1
Chicago 5, Winnipeg 2	5-2
Columbus 2, N.Y. Rangers 1	2-1

Monday's games

Game	Final Score
Detroit at Colorado	115-107
Florida at Minnesota	115-107

Tuesday's games

Game	Final Score
Vegas at Boston	115-107
Winnipeg at Carolina	115-107
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers	115-107
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia	115-107
Florida at Chicago	115-107

Wednesday's games

Game	Final Score
Winnipeg at Columbus	115-107
Detroit at Minnesota	115-107

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Different sam same result for Coco, Venus

Gauff, 15, ousts Williams, 39, in first round, just like at Wimbledon

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Everyone had the same question when the Australian Open draw was revealed: What were the odds that Coco Gauff and Venus Williams would face each other again in the first round at a Grand Slam tournament?

"I was a bit shocked," Gauff said. "I'm sure everyone was a bit shocked."

Gauff, 15, played Williams, 39, to begin her first appearance in the main draw at Melbourne Park, just like they matched up to start things off at Wimbledon about six months ago. And, just like at the All England Club, the youngest woman in the field got the better of the oldest woman in the field, with Gauff beating Williams 7-6 (5), 6-3 on Monday.

"I definitely was more confident this time. I think I was used to playing on big courts, so the crowd — I guess the size of the crowd didn't startle me as much as last time," Gauff said. "Definitely a bit more positive coming into this match."

It was the most anticipated contest of Day 1 at the first major tennis tournament of the decade, and it did not disappoint. The first set, in particular, was intriguing, with Gauff repeatedly pulling ahead, only to have Williams — who already had won four of her seven Grand Slam singles trophies by the time her foe was born — re-usher.

It wasn't until her fourth set point that Gauff finally pulled it out. She quickly grabbed a 3-0 lead in the second and never let that edge go.

Gauff already has demonstrated all sorts of terrific qualities on a tennis court, from her big, gutsy serves to an ability to track down opponents' shots. Now you can add steady-mindedness to the list.

The match was held in Margaret Court Arena, one of three stadiums with a retractable roof, and that was a good thing. The air quality was fine, but a heavy storm that arrived in the afternoon suspended nine matches on outside courts in progress and postponed more than 20 others entirely, creating a jam-packed schedule for Tuesday. The start will be a half-hour earlier than usual, and three courts have seven-match programs.

Among the players who got a chance to play — and win — were Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, 2019 semifinalist Stefanos Tsitsipas, defending women's champion Naomi Osaka, 23-time major champion Serena Williams, No. 1 Ash Barty and 2018 Australian Open winner Caroline Wozniacki, who is retiring after this tournament.

Barty got off to a rough start, dropping her opening set, before

Scoreboard

Australian Open

Monday
At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
Prize: AUD1,000,000
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
(seedings in parentheses)
Men's Singles

First Round
Sam Querrey, United States, def. Borja Pantic (25), Croatia, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
Matteo Berrettini (8), Italy, def. Andrew Harris, Australia, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3
Ricardo Beranes, Lithuania, def. Roberto Carballes Baena, Spain, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2
Guido Pella (22), Argentina, def. John-Patrick Smith, Australia, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4
Yoshihito Nishioka, Japan, def. Laslo Djere, Serbia, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (1)
Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, def. Denys Shapovalov (13), Canada, 6-3, 6-7 (7), 6-1, 7-5 (3)
Daniel Evans (30), Britain, def. Mackenzie McDonald, United States, 3-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2
Gregoire Barrere, France, def. Mohamed Safwat, Egypt, 6-7 (8), 7-5 (1), 6-4, 7-6 (5)
Roger Federer (3), Switzerland, def. Steve Johnson, United States, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2

Grigor Dimitrov (18), Bulgaria, def. Juan Ignacio Lindero, Argentina, 4-6, 6-2, 6-0, 6-4
Stefanos Tsitsipas (6), Greece, def. Salvatore Caruso, Italy, 6-3
Alexander Zverev (4), Germany, def. Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany, def. Novak Djokovic (2), Serbia, def. Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 2-6, 6-1

Women's Singles
First Round
Paula Badosa, Spain, def. Johanna Larsson, Sweden, 6-1, 6-0
Svetlana Kuznetsov, Russia, def. Viktoria Kuznetsov, Slovakia, 6-1, 6-2
Elina Svitolina (10), Ukraine, def. Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, 6-3, 6-2
Petra Kvitová (14), Croatia, def. Christina McHale, United States, 6-3, 6-0
Martina Trevisan, Italy, 6-2, 6-4
Naomi Osaka (3), Japan, def. Marie Bouzkova, Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-4
Ekaterina Alexandrova (25), Russia, def. Tímea Babos, Hungary, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2

Zhu Lin, China, def. Viktorija Golubic, Switzerland, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (5)
Serena Williams (8), United States, def. Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 6-0, 6-3
Sorana Cirstea, Romania, def. Barbora Strýcová, Czech Republic, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2
Tamarina Zidansek, Slovenia, def. Han Na-lae, South Korea, 6-3, 6-3
Ann Li, United States, def. Lizette Cabrera, Australia, 7-6 (8), 7-6 (10)
Caroline Wozniacki, Denmark, def. Kristina Mladenovic, France, 6-3, 6-3
Barbora Krejčíková, Czech Republic, def. Katerina Siniakova, Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-2

Coco Gauff, United States, def. Venus Williams, United States, 7-6 (5), 6-3
Ashleigh Barty (1), Australia, def. Lesia Tsurenko, Ukraine, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1
Zhang Shuai, China, def. Sloane Stephens (24), United States, 2-6, 7-5, 6-2

asserting herself and coming back for a 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 victory over Lesia Tsurenko.

Serena, who is 38, did what her older sister couldn't: defeat a teen.

Other than a brief second-set blip, Serena had very little trouble getting past 18-year-old Anastasia Potapova of Russia 6-0, 6-3 to begin her latest bid for a 24th Grand Slam singles championship.

Serena took the last three games of the match, then declared with a laugh: "I started out well today. Ended well."

Her most recent major trophy came in Australia in 2017, that also had been her last time of any sort until this month, when she



PHOTOS BY DITA ALANGKARA/AP

Cori "Coco" Gauff of the United States makes a forehand return during her first-round 7-6 (5), 6-3 singles win over compatriot Venus Williams at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia.

won a hard-court tuneup in Auckland, New Zealand.

Gauff beamed Monday while discussing a dance routine she did with Serena that went viral on social media.

There were laughs about her love of TikTok and her self-deprecating discussion of a propensity for procrastination when it comes to schoolwork.

She is, after all, still just a 15-year-old.

One with lofty goals, though. "I mean, my mission is to win as many Grand Slams as possible.

But for today, my mission was to win," said Gauff, whose good friend and doubles partner, 18-year-old American qualifier Cat McNally, upset 2011 U.S. Open champion Sam Stosur of Australia 6-1, 6-4 in that match.

Another past champion at Flushing Meadows, Sloane Stephens, bowed out, too, beaten by Zhang Shuai 2-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Earlier, Gauff and Venus Williams combined for far more un-

forced errors, 71, than winners, 42.

One key was that Williams ended up with 41 of those misuses, 11 more than Gauff.

Another was that Williams, long one of the most feared servers on tour, was outdone in that category by her opponent on this day. Not only did Gauff face only two break points, saving one, but she often came up with the goods at the most crucial moments, pounding an ace at 115 mph, say, or hitting a risky second serve at a high velocity to the perfect spot to draw a no-good return.

All the while, Gauff was not shy about celebrating the biggest of points with a loud "Come on!" and a series of fist pumps.

Otherwise, she had her game face on, betraying little emotion, including when she walked out onto the court with earbuds in place after getting a pre-match peck on the cheek from her father, Corey, who also serves as Gauff's coach.

Gauff is ranked 67th, and Wil-

liams, a former No. 1, is 55th. Williams was playing in a Grand Slam tournament's main draw for the 85th time, a record for the professional era, but this also was her first match of 2020, because of a hip injury that sidelined her at the start of January.

This is Gauff's third major, but she sure is precocious. "She clearly wants it and works very hard and is extremely mature for her age," Williams said. "The sky's the limit for her."

Ranked 313th, Gauff became the youngest qualifier in Wimbledon history, then made it all the way to the fourth round, generating a ton of buzz, before losing to eventual champion Simona Halep. She backed that up with a run to the third round at the U.S. Open, then won her first WTA singles title later in the year.

The forehand that might have been the biggest question mark with her game after her breakthrough, seemed improved, yes, but still was a weakness Williams could test.

Djokovic did something he hadn't in 14 years: He dropped a set in a first-round match at the Australian Open.

"I actually like tough first rounds — in Grand Slams, particularly," the defending champion at Melbourne Park said after getting past 37th-ranked Jan-Lennard Struff 7-6 (5), 6-2, 6-2, 6-1. "Because it gets me going. From the beginning, I have to be alert. I have to be on a high level. And I think I was."

Djokovic last coded a set in an Australian Open opener all the way back in 2006, during a loss to Paul Goldstein. Since then, the 16-time Grand Slam champ had produced 13 consecutive straight-set wins in the hard-court tournament's first round; add in the initial pair of sets against Struff, and the streak was at 41.



The United States' Venus Williams, right, congratulates Coco Gauff on winning their first-round singles match Monday.

NFL PLAYOFFS

Rodgers falls short of Super Bowl again

Packers haven't advanced past conference title game since winning it all in 2010

By JANIE McCAULEY
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — These playoff defeats when he is oh so close sting a bit more for Aaron Rodgers now, at this later stage in his career.

"It's a little raw right now. It definitely hurts I'd say a little more than early in your career just because you realize just how difficult it is to get to this spot," Green Bay's veteran quarterback said after another season fell short of the Super Bowl. "... Then you realize I don't have the same number of years ahead of me as I do behind me, so it's slightly more disappointing."

A sack and fumble one series, a muffed snap he couldn't handle the next, then an interception that sunk Green Bay for good.

By halftime.

Rodgers' latest failure in the NFC championship game kept him out of the Super Bowl once again, the Packers' season ending just short with another forgettable playoff loss to the San Francisco 49ers, 37-20 on Sunday.

Rodgers hasn't advanced past the conference title game since his lone Super Bowl trip — and triumph — after the 2010 season. His disappointment showed on the sideline, where Rodgers stood stone-faced, fuming on his hips.

Sure, Rodgers completed his first eight passes but the Packers (14-4) never found an offensive rhythm and had no answers for Jimmy Garoppolo or dynamic running back Raheem Mostert on the other side of the ball.

Rodgers made another futile return to the Bay Area where he starred for the University of California at Berkeley, with far less chatter these days about the 49ers passing on him in favor of Alex Smith as the No. 1 overall pick in the 2005 NFL draft. The 36-year-old Rodgers, born in the Northern California town of Chico, finally led a scoring drive to begin the second half when he connected with Aaron Jones on a 9-yard touchdown pass. Jones ran for a 1-yard score early in the fourth.



BEN MARGOT/AP

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers was 31-for-39 for 326 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions with a 97.2 passer rating while dropping his third straight conference title game in a six-year stretch on Sunday in Santa Clara, Calif.

"It was too big a hole to climb out of," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said.

Rodgers wound up 31-for-39 for 326 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions with a 97.2 passer rating while dropping his third straight conference title game over a six-year stretch. He also lost in the NFC championship after the 2014 and '16 seasons. His highlight Sunday came with a 65-yard completion to Davante Adams with his team trailing 34-13 that set up Jace Sternberger's 8-yard TD reception.

That gave Rodgers 40 career playoff touchdown passes, breaking Brett Favre's franchise record of 39. Rodgers' night ended with an interception by Richard

Sherman at the 5.

The rambunctious and raucous Cheesheads couldn't even help his cause in a surprisingly red-clad sellout crowd given Green Bay fans typically travel well. Last week in Wisconsin, they watched him play one of his best games of the season to beat the Seahawks.

Rodgers appreciates this season because the Packers proved those people wrong for never thought they would win their NFC North division let alone get this far.

And something else he loved about these close-knit, player-led Packers: "This one will always be special because it became fun again."

In the postseason, Rodgers has a rough history on San Francisco's home field.

Most notably: He was the reigning NFL MVP when Colin Kaepernick thoroughly outshined him in the NFC divisional round in January 2013. Postseason first-timer Kaepernick ran for a quarterback playoff record 181 yards and two touchdowns in leading the Niners back to the conference championship with a 45-31 victory over Green Bay.

Rodgers remains optimistic about the Packers getting back to a Super Bowl. He believes in Green Bay's leadership, from the top down.

"The window's open," he said, "and I think we're going to be on the right side of



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

The Titans' Derrick Henry runs against the Chiefs during the AFC Championship on Sunday in Kansas City, Mo. Henry finished with 19 carries for 69 yards and a touchdown in Tennessee's 35-24 loss.

Chiefs stymie Titans' game plan

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Tennessee Titans hoped to follow the same game plan against the Kansas City Chiefs that had carried them to playoff wins in Baltimore and New England, giving the ball to running back Derrick Henry as much as possible.

It was a bad sign that their bruising star never got a carry in the fourth quarter.

The Chiefs minimized the impact Henry had on the AFC championship game Sunday, holding him to a mere 7 yards after halftime, when Patrick Mahomes and Co. were capping off 28 consecutive points. The result was 35-24 victory that sent Kansas City to its first Super Bowl in 50 years and the Titans home after an incredible postseason ride.

"I feel like our backs were against the wall the whole season," said Henry, who finished with 19 carries for 69 yards and a touchdown. "We kept on fighting and kept on believing in each other. I think it speaks volumes about the team we have. We just came up short."

Henry carried three times on an opening drive that net Tennessee a field goal, then he capped their next drive by taking a direct snap and waltzing over the left side into the end zone. Henry added 29 yards rushing on their third drive, a churning 75-yard march that consumed more than 9 minutes and kept Kansas City's potent offense off the field.

By the time big offensive lineman Dennis Kelly grabbed a touchdown pass, the Titans had taken a 17-7 lead and the raucous environment of Arrowhead Sta-

dium — which was so energized a week ago, when Kansas City scored 41 straight points to rally past the Houston Texans — was about as quiet as a church on a Sunday afternoon.

That's when the Chiefs caught fire.

And it's when everything went downhill for Tennessee.

"He's a heck of a player. He's strong," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said of Henry. "I'm proud of our guys. They were on a mission to take care of that. For them to be able to do that, my hat goes off to them — he's a heck of a player, tough strong, fast, you can't let him get a crack there because he's either going to run you over or run past you."

Now, the Chiefs are preparing for a two-week Super Bowl party 50 years in the making.

NFL PLAYOFFS

Super: Mahomes, Garoppolo weren't sure-thing franchise QBs

FROM BACK PAGE

third season, Mahomes is a Super Bowl quarterback. He has 11 postseason touchdown passes, not a single interception, and has even led the Chiefs in rushing the last two weeks. With its 35-24 win over Tennessee on Sunday in the AFC title game, Kansas City became the first team in NFL history to go from trailing by double digits to winning by double digits in consecutive playoff games.

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

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

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

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

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

Exhibit A: Garoppolo threw only eight passes and totaled only 77 yards in San Francisco's 37-20 win over Green Bay in the NFC title game Sunday. He is helped by a bruising running game re-

cently anchored by Raheem Mostert (220 yards and four TDs on Sunday). And the Niners have found a game-wrecking defensive end in rookie Nick Bosa. The second pick in the 2019 draft had a sack Sunday to go with the nine he recorded over the regular season to fuel a defense that gave up the fewest passing yards this season.

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

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

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

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

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

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



CHARLIE NEIBERGER/AP

Kansas City Chiefs' safety Tyran Mathieu, right, and quarterback Patrick Mahomes, left, hold up the Lamar Hunt Trophy after beating the Tennessee Titans 35-24 on Sunday in Kansas City, Mo.



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Clark Hunt, son of late AFL founder and long-time Kansas City Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt, lifts the trophy named for his father alongside Chiefs head coach Andy Reid, center, in celebration of the franchise's first AFC Championship in 50 years on Sunday in Kansas City, Mo.

Hunt family finally lifts trophy

AFC Championship prize is named for late AFL founder, Chiefs owner

BY BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — As the Hunt family stood on a makeshift stage Sunday, more than 73,000 fans deliciously cheering, the trophy for winning the AFC championship was presented.

The Lamar Hunt Trophy. A co-founder of the AFL and long-time owner of the franchise until his death in 2006, Lamar Hunt is a Pro Football Hall of Famer who was among the most respected men in pro football. In 1970, his Kansas City Chiefs won the Super Bowl, three years after losing in their first try.

Finally, after a half-century, they are headed back. Yep, the Lamar Hunt Trophy belongs to his family.

"It's a tremendous day for our family, and I should mention how happy I am for my mother (Norma)," current Chiefs owner Clark Hunt says. "To hold and kiss this trophy really means a lot, and I think that's true for my whole family."

"My mom always felt it on the stage, my dad added felt like the team belonged to the fans — and what we're most excited about today is winning this trophy for the fans."

Those fans have seen five decades of falling short, including the excruciating overtime loss to New England in last year's AFC title game. They had to watch an

“To hold and kiss this trophy really means a lot, and I think that's true for my whole family.”

Clark Hunt

Kansas City Chiefs owner

opposing team lift that trophy in the first such presentation in Kansas City.

"Going to a Super Bowl is a treat any year," Hunt added, "but the closer you get to making it as a team, the experience is not nearly as good. Last year yeah, we were glad to be there but we were also very disappointed we weren't playing in (the Super Bowl). We got that checked off at the end of the day."

"We still have a big goal to accomplish. At the beginning of the season I talked to our players about our goal. Making the playoffs was goal No. 1, bringing this trophy to Kansas City was goal No. 2. But we have another big goal out there."

That would be taking home the Vince Lombardi Trophy, named after the man who coached Green Bay to the first Super Bowl victory in what then was called the AFL-NFL Championship Game. The Packers' opponent in 1967: Kansas City.

Andy Reid, hired as coach in 2013 after 14 seasons in Philadelphia, has made winning a tradition again in KC. Except for in the playoffs.

Until Sunday.

"There's something special about this trophy with the Hunt family," Reid said. "The Hunt family is incredible and Clark running this football team has done an unbelievable job with (GM) Brett Veach and all these guys that are out here. I wish I could get them all up here."

"We love every minute of this, we appreciate every minute of this, but it's not done. It's not done."

Safety Tyrann Mathieu is in his first season as a Chief. He recognizes the history with this original AFL franchise, then the Dallas Texans, who moved to Kansas City in 1963.

"It's been 50 years since we brought this trophy back to Kansas City," he said. "It's not about me, it's not about Tyrann, it's about the people of Kansas City. Everything that they sacrificed, everything they endured for the last 50 years."

"And it's ultimately about Lamar Hunt. We wouldn't be here without him. We wish he was here right now. I think Clark is doing a great job and this is what it's about: Lamar Hunt."

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

Mostert carries San Francisco into Super Bowl

Journeyman back runs for 4 TDs, 220 yards in defeat of Green Bay

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Coach Kyle Shanahan received the NFC championship trophy from his Super Bowl-winning father Mike and raised it to the sky. The San Francisco 49ers have gone on a surprising journey from No. 2 pick in the draft to one of the last two teams standing. They have one of the most unlikely playoff heroes to thank for it.

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

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

"I never gave up on my dreams." The Niners (15-3) also had their skeptics after winning just 10 games in the first two seasons under Shanahan and general manager John Lynch.

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

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

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

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

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

Bosa, the prize for last year's rough season as the No. 2 overall

49ers 37, Packers 20

Green Bay	0	0	7	13-20
San Francisco	7	20	7	3-37

First Quarter
SF—Mostert 36 run (Gould kick), 5:55.

Second Quarter
SF—FG Gould 24, 14:25.
SF—Mostert 9 run (Gould kick), 9:12.
SF—FG Gould 27, 1:57.
SF—Mostert 18 run (Gould kick), :45.

Third Quarter
GB—Jones 9 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 8:44.
SF—Mostert 22 run (Gould kick), 4:49.

Fourth Quarter
GB—Jones 1 run (pass failed), 14:35.
SF—Sternberger 8 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 9:12.
SF—FG Gould 42, 3:31.
A—7:21.

	QB	SF
First downs	21	19
Total Net Yards	358	354
Rushes-yards	16-62	42-285
Passing	69	296
Punt Returns	0-0	1-26
Kickoff Returns	2-28	2-28
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-12
Comp-Att-Int	31-39-2	6-8-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-20	1-8
Punts	4-43.0	2-38.5
Fumbles-Lost	3-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-46	2-10
Time of Possession	31:12	28:47

RUSHING—Green Bay, Jones 12-56, J. Williams 5-16, Rodgers 1-0, San Francisco 29-220, Samuel 2-43, Coleman 6-21, Breida 1-6, Garoppolo 4-(minus) 11.

PASSING—Green Bay, Rodgers 31-39-2, San Francisco, Garoppolo 6-8-0-77.

RECEIVING—Green Bay, O. Adams 9-138, Jones 5-27, Graham 4-59, Lazard 3-36, Lewis 2-14, Samuel 2-15, Allison 2-8, J. Williams 2-1, Kumerow 1-23, Ervin 1-7, San Francisco, Sternberger 2-46, Mostert 2-6, Kittle 1-19, Bourne 1-6.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

pick, helped set the tone when he ended Green Bay's second drive of the game with a 13-yard run of Rodgers.

Mostert, a former special teams standout, did much of the rest in a remarkable redemption story. He carried the ball eight times in his first three seasons in the NFL, while bouncing between teams. But he has become a key part of the NFC's top team this year, leading the Niners with 772 yards rushing in the regular season and delivering a performance for the ages in the NFL title game.

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

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

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

He added TD runs of 9 and 18 yards in the second quarter and had 160 yards rushing at the half,



TONY AVELAR/AF

San Francisco running back Raheem Mostert barrels into Green Bay Packers cornerback Tramon Williams, left, at the goal line for one of his four touchdown scores in the 49ers' 37-20 win Sunday.



BEN MAROQT/AP

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers completed 31 of 39 passes for 326 yards and two touchdowns but had two key early turnovers.

becoming the only player in NFL history to rush for at least 150 yards and three TDs in the first half of a playoff game.

Mostert added a 22-yard TD run in the third quarter. "The lanes that we saw and the way he was running we just wanted to keep feeding him," Shanahan said. "I know he was feeling it. That wasn't too hard to see."

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

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

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

"We just weren't very consistent the first half," Rodgers said.

"Made a couple of mistakes personally that hurt us and kind of let it get away from us."

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

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

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

Quiet day

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

Passing Favre

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

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

Chiefs rolling to Miami with Mahomes

Kansas City QB uses feet, arm to lead team to defeat of Titans

By BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

Adding to the joy of the achievement, coach Andy Reid and owner

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

Next up: chasing the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

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

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

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



PHOTOS BY ED ZURGA/AP

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes dives into the end zone for a touchdown at the end of a 27-yard run against Titans defensive tackle DaQuan Jones. Mahomes threw three touchdown passes and ran for

carry KC this season.

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

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

There will be plenty of party-



Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce celebrates after the Chiefs' win at the AFC Championship on Sunday in Kansas City, Mo.

Chiefs 35, Titans 24

Tennessee	10	7	0	7-24
Kansas City	7	14	0	14-35

First Quarter
Ten—FG Joseph 30, 11:29.
Ten—Henry 4 run (Joseph kick), 5:52.
KC—Hill 8 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 4:46.

Second Quarter
Ten—Kelly 1 pass from Tannehill (Joseph kick), 6:39.
KC—Hill 20 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 4:03.
KC—Mahomes 27 run (Butker kick).

Fourth Quarter
KC—D.Williams 3 run (Butker kick), 14:50.
KC—Watkins 60 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 7:53.
Ten—Firkser 22 pass from Tannehill (Joseph kick), 4:18.
A—73.656.

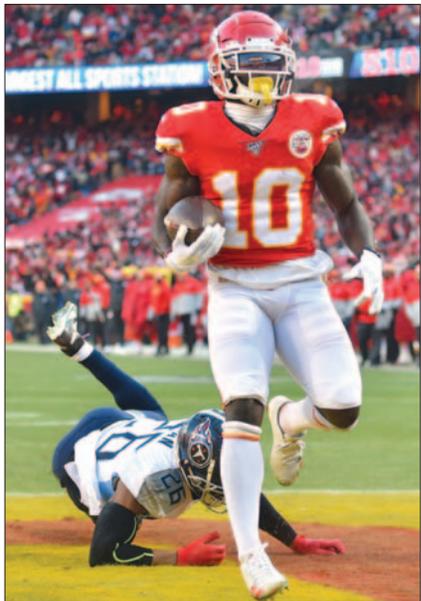
	Ten	KC
First downs	20	27
Total Net Yards	295	404
Rushes-yards	23-85	27-112
Passing	210	292
Punt Returns	1-9	2-7
Kickoff Returns	4-61	5-105
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	22-32-0	23-35-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-27	2-2
Fumbles-Lost	3-46-3	3-40-7
Penalties-Yards	8-88	9-61
Time of Possession	30:10	29:50

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Tennessee: Henry 19-69, Tannehill 3-11, Mariota 1-5. **Kansas City**: Mahomes 9-51, D.Williams 17-65, Hill 1-7, Thompson 1-7.

PASSING—Tennessee: Tannehill 21-31-0-209, Kerr 1-1-28. **Kansas City**: Mahomes 23-35-0-294.

RECEIVING—Tennessee: C.Davis 5-65, Humphries 4-25, A.Brown 3-51, J.Smith 3-38, Henry 2-0-minus 81, Hooker 1-28, Firkser 1-22, Pruitt 1-9, Lewis 1-6, Kelly 1-1. **Kansas City**: Watkins 7-114, Hill 5-67, D.Williams 5-44, Kelce 3-26, Robinson 2-31, Hardman 1-8.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.



Chiefs wide receiver Tyreek Hill runs in a 20-yard touchdown catch in front of Titans cornerback Logan Ryan.

ing on South Beach for Chiefs Kingdom heading into the championship matchup.

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

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

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

A week after they overcame a

24-0 deficit against Houston, the Chiefs had to rally again.

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

Reid's return

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

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

SPORTS



Milestone moment
Kane tallies 1,000th career point as Blackhawks roll » **NHL, Page 18**

NFL PLAYOFFS

Super bets

49ers, Chiefs cashing in after gambling on QBs in 2017



By **EDDIE PELL**
Associated Press

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

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

in the big game in 50 years. Their quarterbacks: Patrick Mahomes and Jimmy Garoppolo.

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

Chiefs coach Andy Reid disagreed. He gave up a first-round pick in the following year's draft to move up to select Mahomes in 2017. Now, in his

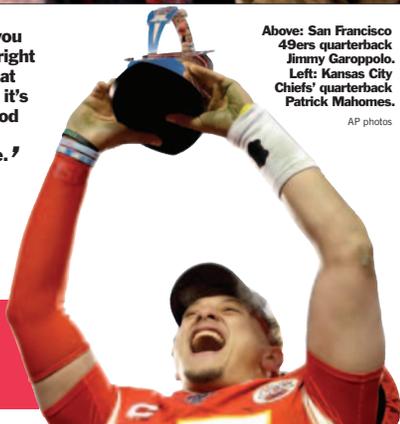
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‘When you find the right guy at that position, it’s really good for your franchise.’

John Lynch
San Francisco 49ers GM, after trading for Jimmy Garoppolo in 2017.

Above: San Francisco 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo. Left: Kansas City Chiefs’ quarterback Patrick Mahomes.

AP photos



Conference championship coverage inside:

- Chiefs’ versatile Mahomes too much for Titans to handle, Page 23
- 49ers’ RB Mostert runs for 4 TDs in victory over Packers, Page 22

15-year-old Gauff tops Venus Williams » Aussie Open, Page 19

