By Mari Yamaguchi
Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged Sunday to bolster his country’s role under its security pact with the U.S. in “outer space and cyberspace,” as the allies marked the 60th anniversary of a treaty that has been the basis for their postwar defense alliance.

Abe’s grandfather, Nobusuke Kishi, who was prime minister at the time, signed the treaty in Washington on Jan. 19, 1960, with President Dwight Eisenhower. The treaty allows for the stationing of tens of thousands of U.S. troops and the deployment of American warships in Japan. In exchange, the U.S. is obligated to protect Japan in case of enemy attack.

“We have elevated the relationship to one in which each of us, the U.S. and Japan, protects the other, thereby giving further force to the alliance,” Abe said in his opening remarks. “Going forward, it is incumbent upon us to make it even more robust, to make it a pillar for safeguarding peace and security in both outer space and cyberspace.”

The anniversary comes as Washington adds pressure on Japan to shoulder more of the financial cost and to play a greater defense role in the Asia-Pacific region to make up for a receding U.S. presence.

“As the security environment continues to evolve and new challenges arise, it is essential that our alliance further strengthens and deepens,” President Donald Trump said in a statement marking the anniversary. “I am confident that in the months and years to come, Japan and the United States will work together to maintain a safe and free Asia-Pacific region.”
West African leaders work to fight fake pills

BY DANIELLE PAQUETTE
The Washington Post

LOME, Togo — The pills tend to come surreptitiously from China, India and Nigeria. They’re packaged like cures for fever and rashes. They land on street corners — sometimes in plain view — and promise to ease suffering.

But fake drugs kill tens of thousands of people each year in a global counterfeit trade worth an estimated $200 billion, thwarting progress in the fight against malaria and other life-threatening diseases, experts say, while funding organized crime.

The scourge is particularly alarming in West Africa, where authorities say knockoffs are thought to comprise more than half of pharmaceutical sales in areas where many cannot afford prescription treatments.

“You are poor, and you are spending your money on something that is going to kill you,” Faure Gnassingbe, the president of Togo said. “Yet it is not treated as a crime.”

The Togolese leader hosted his counterparts from Senegal and Uganda on Saturday in the capital city, Lome, where the presidents proposed new laws to strengthen a collective crackdown on trafficking.

Representatives from Ghana, Congo, Niger and Gambia also signed a pact to ramp up intelligence sharing and security at the borders, among other efforts.

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.
Troops slated for Arctic drill diverted elsewhere

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — About 3,000 U.S. troops slated to take part in an upcoming cold weather exercise in Norway have been diverted to other missions, U.S. Marine Forces Europe-Africa said Friday.

About 7,500 U.S. troops are still expected to take part in the Norwegian-led Cold Response exercise scheduled for early March, MARFOREUR spokesman Maj. Adrian Rankine-Galloway said.

“Some military forces previously scheduled to participate in Cold Response 20 have been re-tasked to fulfill other operational requirements,” he said. The Marines did not specify which units were rerouted or where they were shifted. But in recent weeks the Pentagon has moved more personnel to the Middle East due to heightened tensions with Iran after the killing of Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

The conflict with Iran has already led the military to adjust some of its exercises, such as African Lion in Morocco, when thousands of Marines were sent to the Middle East.

While the number of troops is smaller than anticipated for Cold Response, it will still be the largest exercise coordinated by MARFOREUR.

“Forces from all of the U.S. military services — from units based in Europe as well as the continental United States — are expected to participate in this Norway-hosted exercise,” Rankine-Galloway said.

In Norway, troops will work on cold-weather combat skills in a rugged Arctic environment where they will practice defending NATO’s northern flank.

Cold Response is the first in a series of exercises in northern Europe that will test U.S. European Command’s ability to deploy large forces to the region. The drill comes ahead of Defender Europe-20, the largest U.S.-led exercise on the continent in 25 years.

Space Force mocked for camouflage uniforms

From wire reports

WASHINGTON — The newly created United States Space Force unveiled its planned uniform, which immediately raised eyebrows over its design: standard woodland camouflage.

The issue was quickly a trending subject among other tasks.

Another person posted a picture of a camouflage pattern next to a completely black box. “Study these carefully until you can see the difference,” he wrote in response to the Space Force.

“Space Force, a part of the U.S. Department of the Air Force that is dedicated to space warfare, was established in December. The Air Force Space Command was redesignated to form the military’s sixth branch.

The Space Command’s roughly 16,000 military and civilian employees were assigned to the Space Force. Gen. John “Jay” Raymond on Dec. 20 became the nation’s first chief of space operations.

The Space Force’s utility uniform mirrors those of other branches in more ways than just the camouflage pattern. The navy Space Force name tape, which identifies a service member’s branch, is the same color that the Air Force uses. The Air Force’s space operations badge, the Space Command patch and the American flag are also embroidered on the Space Force uniform.

The administrator of the Space Force’s Twitter account sent out a number of tweets offering clarification. In response to a comment from Takei, the Space Force again said that its members would work from Earth to maneuver U.S. space assets and track space debris, among other tasks.

FAA: Exercise could jam GPS for small planes

By Hayley Fowler
Miami Herald

MIAMI — Some pilots could be flying blind in airspace over the Southeast and Caribbean this month, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

A military training exercise attributed to “Carrier Strike Group 4” — part of the U.S. Navy — is expected to jam GPS signals and other navigation systems intermittently through Jan. 24, the FAA said in a flight advisory.

“GPS testing may result in unreliable or unavailable GPS signal,” the advisory states.

Navigation from as low as 50 feet above ground up to Flight Level 400 (around 40,000 feet) could be affected, according to an FAA map showing interference testing from a location off the Florida-Georgia coast.

The government is required to conduct GPS testing “on occasion,” according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which coordinates with the FAA, U.S. Coast Guard and Department of Defense to plan such events.

“Tests training and testing activities can involve a number of aircraft, ships and/or other military equipment and up to hundreds of personnel,” the DHS website states.

This isn’t the first interference test in the Southeast, according to the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. A similar interruption in February 2019 sparked concerns from the nonprofit over civil aviation safety.

Rune Duke, the nonprofit’s senior director of airspace, air traffic and aviation security, called the exercise last year “unacceptably widespread and potentially hazardous” at the time.
US ambassador faces criticism over mustache

By Kim Gamel
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. ambassador to South Korea has found himself on the defensive, but not about his country’s handling of relations with North Korea.

Rather, some South Koreans associate Ambassador Harry Harris’ mustache with Japanese colonial rule of the peninsula.

Harris, a retired Navy admiral who was clean-shaven when he led U.S. Pacific Command before arriving in Seoul as ambassador in July, said he grew the mustache to mark his new career as a diplomat after four decades in the military.

“My mustache for some reason has become a point of some fascination here in the media and social media,” he said Thursday during a press conference for foreign media at his residence in Seoul.

“I wanted to make a break from my military life and my new life. I couldn’t grow taller. I couldn’t grow another one,” he said, adding that he had a mustache as a junior officer and wanted to grow another one.

“Nothing more nefarious than that. I just wanted to have a change,” he said, showing he was prepared for the question by handing out black paper mustaches on a stick to those attending the roundtable.

Humor aside, the issue underscores the fierce animosity toward Japan over its 1910-45 occupation that lingers in South Korea more than seven decades after the Japanese were ousted following World War II.

That animosity spilled over into the security arena when South Korean President Moon Jae-in announced last year that he was terminating a U.S.-Japan military information-sharing agreement between his country and Japan due to historical and trade concerns raised about his hirsute appearance and his heritage has not affected his work.

The ambassador also has been a lightning rod for South Korean anger over U.S. pressure about the security of Military Information Sharing Agreement, demands for a sharp increase in U.S. troops on the divided peninsula and other issues that have prompted recent anti-American rallies, including one where demonstrators pretended to pluck facial hair from a photo.

“The Korea Times earlier this month noted ‘the Korean public does not perceive his new look as he intended.’

“The mustache rather has become associated with the latest U.S. image of being disrespectful and even coercive toward Korea,” the newspaper said, “especially after Washington’s demand last year that Seoul pay $5 billion toward the up-keep of the U.S. Forces Korea.”

U.S. ambassador to South Korea Harry Harris has received negative attention for his mustache.

“I have been criticized in the media here, especially in social media, because of my ethnic background. I’m a Japanese-American,” he said. “I understand the historical animosity that exists between both of the countries. But I’m not the Japanese ambassador to Korea. I’m the American ambassador to Korea. And to take that history and put it on me simply because of an accident of birth I think is a mistake.”

Harris, 63, stressed that the concerns raised about his hirsute appearance and his heritage have not affected his work.

“ ‘I have been criticized in the media here, especially in social media, because of my ethnic background. I’m a Japanese-American,’ he said. ‘I understand the historical animosity that exists between both of the countries. But I’m not the Japanese ambassador to Korea. I’m the American ambassador to Korea. And to take that history and put it on me simply because of an accident of birth I think is a mistake.’

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Harry Dunn was killed when he was hit by a car driven by a woman whose husband was an intelligence officer at RAF Croughton, a military base in central England used by U.S. forces. The woman is believed to have been driving on the wrong side of the road when the head-on collision occurred.

Northamptonshire Police Chief Nick Adderley said his department learned Saturday about a video that showed a car driving on the wrong side of the road near RAF Croughton having a near-miss with another vehicle.

Adderley said he also heard Friday about an October crash in the same area involving another wrong-way driver whose vehicle struck a police car. No one was injured in that collision.

“I want to be absolutely clear on the fact that these incidents just cannot keep happening,” the police chief said. “We know all too well in the case of young Harry just how devastating they can be.”

Police have not indicated if the cars in the other incidents had any connections to the Air Force base. Britain’s Press Association reported that the car involved in close call appeared to have a registration number indicating it was a U.S. government vehicle.

Dunn’s death last year has been a sensitive diplomatic issue for Britain and the United States. The intelligence officer’s wife, Anne Sacoolas, claimed diplomatic immunity and left Britain after the crash.

British officials have challenged her protected status and are seeking to have her extradited to face charges of causing death by dangerous driving.

Dunn’s parents Charlotte Charles and Tim Dunn, have traveled to Washington and met with President Donald Trump in an effort to force Sacoolas to return to Britain to face trial.

Lawmakers visit shipbuilder amid talks of cuts

Associated Press

BATH, Maine — The Democratic chairman and ranking Republican on a House Armed Services subcommittee toured Navy shipbuilder Bath Iron Works on Friday and offered assurances to shipbuilders amid reports of possible cuts.


The tour came several weeks after a memo was leaked that outlined an initial Navy proposal to cut shipbuilding.

One proposal would reduce the number of Arleigh Burke-class destroyers planned for construction from 12 to seven over the next five years. Those destroyers are produced at two shipyards, Maine’s Bath Iron Works, a General Dynamics subsidiary, and Ingalls Shipbuilding in Mississippi.

Courtney and Wittman made it clear that they are strongly opposed to such a cut of shipbuilding, Golden said afterward.

“The Navy requested and Congress approved a multiyear procurement. This new proposal in the memo would nullify a contract that’s already agreed to. That’s pretty much unheard of,” said Golden, who is also a member of the seapower subcommittee.

Congress will have the final say, and shipbuilders should be heartened that there is bipartisan support in Congress for increasing the size of the fleet, not reducing it, he said.

Reports that the Navy was considering shipbuilding cuts and accelerated retirements of ships came as a surprise to many last month.

The proposed cost-cutting comes as the Navy works to modernize its ballistic missile submarine fleet, replacing aging current Ohio-class subs with new Columbia-class nuclear subs. That program is putting pressure on the shipbuilding budget.

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So you’re stationed overseas and it’s an election year...

This handy flowchart on absentee voting lays it all out.

DO YOU WANT TO VOTE IN U.S. ELECTIONS?

Yes

Have you registered to vote absentee and requested your ballot?

Yes

Great! Have you received your ballot yet?

No

Send it in like your regular ballot.

If you haven’t received your state ballot in time to vote, use the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) as a backup ballot. Get it at FVAP.gov.

No

You’re on track. Have you filled out your ballot and sent it in?

No

If you know someone who wants to vote, share this with them!

Yes

If your regular ballot arrives, fill that out and send it in too. Don’t worry; only one ballot will be counted.

No

Great! Have you checked that your ballot arrived?

No

Send it in like your regular ballot.

Yes

Don’t miss your vote-by-date! Send in your ballot by October 13, if you're overseas or October 27, if you're stateside. If you don’t have access to Military Postal Service, send it by October 5.

After you send your ballot, you can check if it was received by your election office. Get started at FVAP.gov.

Wow, you’re one squared-away voter!
Officials discuss response to toxins near bases in Japan

By Caitlin Doornbos
Stars and Stripes

Top U.S. and Japan defense officials spoke about toxic chemicals detected near U.S. bases in Japan during a meeting at the Pentagon on Tuesday, according to the Japanese Ministry of Defense.

Acting U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono discussed how the U.S. and Japan can cooperate in responding to issues such as perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid and to comprehensively advance the discussions,” a defense ministry news release summarizing the meeting stated on Wednesday.

Tokyo officials detected the chemicals, commonly known as PFOS and PFOA, in two wells near Yokota Air Base during a survey from December 2018 to January 2019, according to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government’s Bureau of Social Welfare and Public Health.

The chemicals — found in cleaning products and in the type of firefighting foam used at airfields — were found near Yokota at levels about 19 times above the safe level set by a U.S. drinking water health advisory, the Asahi newspaper reported Jan. 6.

An official with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government last week said no evidence was found to directly link the pollutants with a source on the U.S. air base.

Some Okinawa officials blamed the base for the contamination, but U.S. Forces Japan spokesman Marine Capt. Michael Hopkins last year said the pollution could have come from multiple sources.

PFOS and PFOA have proved toxic in tests on animals, affecting their developmental and reproductive systems, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists classified PFOA as a “confirmed animal carcinogen with unknown relevance to humans,” according to the EPA.

During the meeting Tuesday, Esper and his Japanese counterpart agreed their respective governments should work together to create a task force for handling toxic chemicals, according to a Wednesday report by NHK World Japan.

“They reaffirmed that the understanding and cooperation of people living near bases are essential for U.S. forces in Japan to maintain readiness in the interest of the national and regional security environment,” NHK reported.

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Boost: Descendants mark 60th anniversary of Japan treaty

From left, Japan Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, deputy prime minister Taro Aso, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, President Dwight Eisenhower’s granddaughter, Mary Jean Eisenhower, and great-grandson, Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, acting U.S. Ambassador to Japan Joseph M. Young and commander of the U.S. Forces in Japan Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider break a barrel of sake to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Japan-U.S. security treaty Sunday in Tokyo.

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan officials said Sunday that the Taliban executed six members of the same family, including an infant girl, in a remote village in the country’s north.

The Taliban denied any involvement, saying the attack Saturday was triggered by a personal dispute.

However, local Afghan officials said the family was accused by the Taliban of working in prostitution.

The insurgents sentenced them to death for immoral acts, according to Jawed Bedar, a spokesman for Faryab province’s governor.

The infant girl’s mother and twin sister survived, but both of the child’s legs had to be amputated, the spokesman said.

He said Afghan security forces deployed to the village early Sunday and helped evacuate the two survivors to the hospital.

He said the Taliban attacked the government troops when they arrived. The ensuing gunbattle killed three Taliban members, who Bedar said were involved in the family’s killing.

Locals in the area also disputed the accounts of prostitution.

Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Yemen’s president condemned Sunday an attack by Houthi rebels on a government military camp and said fatalities had risen to at least 60 troops.

Ballistic missiles slammed into a mosque in the training camp in the central province of Marib late Saturday, wounding a hundred other soldiers. The oil-rich province of Marib lies about 70 miles east of the Houthi-controlled capital of Sanaa. The city is a staging point for Yemeni troops as the conflict drags on.

The missile strike was the bloodiest attack in Marib since the beginning of Yemen’s long-running civil war, marking a military escalation in a rare spot of relative stability.

President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi described Saturday’s assault on Muslim worshippers as an act of “blatant aggression” that underscored Houthi’s “lawlessness” and “unwillingness” to make peace with the internationally recognized government in Sanaa.

He denounced the Houthis as a “cheap Iranian tool in the region.”

The Yemeni government has accused the Houthis of ordering attacks on the military on heightened alert at nearby bases, directing troops to “take precautions” ahead of imminent battle.

There was no immediate comment from the Houthi faction.
**NATION**

**Trump team, House Dems exchange views**

**By Mary Clare Jalonick**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — No cellphones. No talking. No escape.

That’s the reality during the Senate’s impeachment trial of President Donald Trump, which will begin each day with a proclamation: “All persons are commanded to keep silence, on pain of imprisonment.” After that, 100 senators will sit at a table in the chamber, focused on the issue at hand.

The first time the proclamation was used, in the 1868 trial of President Andrew Johnson, lawmakers couldn’t have imagined life in the modern era. The pace of today’s politics would have been hard to foresee even in early 1999, at the start of the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton, when smartphones didn’t exist.

And so the senators will have a throwback experience in 2020, disconnected from the outside world, asked only to listen. The normally chummy senators won’t even be allowed to talk at length to people nearby or walk on certain areas of the Senate floor. Mostly they will sit, trapped in the chamber, focused on the issue at hand.

While senators might privately grumble about the restrictions — and will likely violate them at times — they agree that the rules are justified as they execute their most solemn duty: considering whether to remove the president of the United States from office.


The ban on cellphones on the Senate floor isn’t new, but enforcement has become more relaxed in recent years. Coons said that when he came to the Senate a decade ago, he would be(req) noticed if he even took his phone out of his pocket. Today, senators are often spotted texting or looking at their phones while waiting to speak or vote — and a ring tone has sounded more than once.

Republican Sen. Joni Ernst of Iowa joked that if the senators were really spies, senators would be “Googling stuff” and playing games on their phones. Or worse, live-tweeting the trial.

“As much as I hate it, not being connected to a device, I just think we need to pay attention,” Ernst said.

Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., said it’s a “healthy situation,” and he compared it to when his wife asks him to leave the phone at home when they go out to dinner.

“There will be some withdrawal symptoms,” Cardin said. “We might have to take some tranquilizers.”

The ban on cellphones and any other materials unrelated to the trial meant that other Senate business will have to wait. Decorum rules circulated to Senate offices say that “reading materials should be confined to only those readings which pertain to the matter before the Senate.”

Senators won’t be totally out of touch. If there’s something they really need to know, staff can pass them notes through the Senate cloakrooms.

**Courtroom procedures follow different rules than Senate’s impeachment**

**FROM FRONT PAGE**

Senators who make up the chamber will decide the case, invariably bringing their own partisan leanings toward one side or the other. They’re not required to check any political prejudices or biases at the door — nor will they. They’re also not impertinent observers, carrying the power on a majority vote to approve rules or even dismiss the charges.

**The Witnesses**

**Courtroom Trial:** The attorneys for both sides get to call the witnesses they think will bolster their side of the case. The lawyers themselves handle the direct questioning and cross-examination, though judges may also ask clarifying questions. Jurors are not invited to interrupt the proceedings with their own questions, nor do they get to decide whether witnesses are called.

**Senators’ Role:** Senators are the jury in the impeachment trial. Although they aren’t supposed to discuss the case outside the chamber, senators will have an opportunity to submit questions in writing. Under the rules, senators can even be called as witnesses in the trial. And it’s not even automatic that there will be witnesses: It requires 51 votes for witnesses to be called.

**The Prosecutors**

**Courtroom Trial:** Federal criminal cases are tried by prosecutors who work for the Justice Department, their names generally unfamiliar to the American public. In state and local proceedings, those prosecutors are often known as assistant district attorneys. They don’t align themselves with particular political parties or affiliations.

**Senate Trial:** The prosecutors here aren’t prosecutors in the traditional sense. They’re actually seven Democratic members of Congress, all selected by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the ranking minority leader. The seven are familiar faces from their days as House members, running the gamut from Speaker Pelosi to Adam Schiff of California and Jerrold Nadler of New York.

**The Verdict**

**Courtroom Trial:** To declare a defendant guilty or innocent in a criminal case, either on the state or federal level, a jury must be unanimous in its decision — no exceptions. If a jury can’t reach a verdict after a prolonged period of deliberations, then a judge can declare it a mistrial, deadlock it and dismiss it from duty.

**Senate Trial:** No such unanimity is required here. It would take a two-thirds majority of senators, 67 if all 100 are voting, to convict the president. Since Republicans make up the majority of the Senate, a conviction is seen as unlikely. If Senate were convicted on either of the two articles against him, he would automatically be removed from office.
New papers pull Biden, aide closer to Ukrainian plot

By Michael Biesecker
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New documents released by House Democrats on Friday suggest that Rep. Devin Nunes, the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, was more involved than was previously known in efforts by allies of President Donald Trump to dig up dirt on Ukraine before Vice President Mike Pence traveled there.

Democrats on the Intelligence Committee released a trove of text messages, photos and other documents on Friday night as part of the impeachment inquiry. The materials were provided to the House by Lev Parnas, a Flori-da businessman who worked with Trump’s personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, to try to pressure the Ukrainian government to launch an investigation into Biden.

Nunes initially denied knowing Parnas, but has since been forced to admit that the two had spoken. The messages show about 100 texts traded over months between Parnas and the California Republican’s staffer, Derek Harvey, a retired U.S. Army colonel. Harvey previously served in the White House on Trump’s National Security Council.

Friday’s document dump included dozens of texts exchanged between Parnas and Harvey last spring over the encrypted messaging service WhatsApp. They show Parnas providing documents and helping set up meetings for Harvey with Ukrainians who have made unproven claims that as vice president, Biden orchestrated the firing of a prosecutor who was investigating allegations involving Burisma, an energy company where Hunter Biden served as a board member from 2014 to 2019.

Phone records released by House Democrats in December corroborated text messages between Parnas and Nunes, who helped lead the Republican’s defense of Trump during the House impeachment inquiry.

Nunes initially said he couldn’t remember ever speaking with Parnas. But last week, after new documents were released showing additional contacts, Nunes said his memory had been jogged.

“I checked with my records and it was very clear — I remember that call, which was very odd, hard to verify, very non-straightforward things, and I said, ‘great,’ you know, ‘talk to my staff,’ and boom, boom, boom,” Nunes told Fox News on Wednesday. “That’s just normal operating procedure.”

The documents released Friday included hundreds of text messages between Parnas and Robert F. Hyde, a Republican candidate for Congress from Connecticut who claimed to be in contact with people in Kyiv who were conducting surveillance on former Vice President Joe Biden.

The messages included screen-shots of exchanges between Hyde and a Dutch man named Anthony De Caluwe. Hyde denied that he was actually tailing the ambassador.

Hyde said he was observed visiting Hyde’s home and business on Thursday, while police in Ukraine have opened an investigation into whether the U.S. ambassador was illegally surveilled.

In a statement issued to The New York Times on Saturday, De Caluwe denied having any contacts in Ukraine and dismissed that his exchange with Hyde was just “ridiculous banter.”

Discovery of unused disaster supplies angered Puerto Rico

By Danica Coto
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — People in a southern Puerto Rico city discovered a warehouse filled with water, cots and other unused emergency supplies. Then they set off a social media uproar on Saturday when they broke in to retrieve goods as the area struggles to recover from a strong earthquake.

With anger spreading in the U.S. territory over video of the event in Ponce appeared on Facebook, Gov. Wanda Vazquez quickly fired the director of the island’s emergency management agency.

The governor said she had ordered an investigation after learning the emergency supplies had been piled in the warehouse since Hurricane Maria battered Puerto Rico in September 2017.

Vazquez said inaction by the fired official, Carlos Acevedo, was unacceptable.

“There are thousands of people who have made sacrifices to help those in the south, and it is unfor-givable that resources were kept in the warehouse,” the governor said.

Puerto Rico’s secretary of state, Elmer Romero, told reporters that Acevedo had not told him about the contents of the warehouse.

News of the warehouse spread after online blogger Lorenzo Delgado relayed live video on Facebook of people breaking into the building. The scene became chaotic at times, as people pushed their way in and began distrib-uting water, baby food and other goods to those affected by the earthquake.

Delgado later told reporters that he had received a tip about the warehouse, but gave no speci-fic on when.

The mayor of Ponce, Maria Melendez, said she had not known about the warehouse and its contents.

“This is outrageous,” she said. “Everyone knows what we may-ors went through after Hurri-cane Maria to try and get help to our cities and how we’ve worked these weeks to provide basic sup-pplies to people affected by earth-quakes. Those involved owe us an explanation.”

Ines Rivera, spokeswoman for the city of Ponce, told The Associated Press that the warehouse is owned by Puerto Rico’s Company of Commerce and Export. Offi-cials with the company could not be reached for comment.

The information upset many in Puerto Rico already angry over the government’s botched response to Hurricane Maria, with similar incidents of supplies going unused being uncovered months later.

Ponce is one of several cities in the island’s southern region hit by the recent 6.4-magnitude earth-quake that killed one person and caused more than an estimated $200 million in damage. More than 7,000 people remain in shiel-ters since the quake.

The governor said she has sent the Senate her nomination of Jose Reyes, who oversees the National Guard in Puerto Rico, to be the new commissioner for the State Bureau for Emergency Manage-ment and Disaster Management.

Chicago flights halted; plane slides off Kansas City taxiway

By Burt Constable
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Federal Aviation Administration halted all flights in and out of Chica-go’s O’Hare Airport for hours on Friday night due to a spreading winter storm, which forced the closure of schools, universi-ties and government offices as it moved across large sections of the Midwest.

The FAA lifted the stop at 9:45 p.m., but by then, hundreds of flights had already been can-celled at one of the nation’s busiest airports.

A Delta flight slid off its runway on Friday, a plane slid off an icy taxiway at Kansas City International Airport. The Delta Air Lines flight was taxiing to be de-iced before flying to Detroit when the nose gear slipped off the taxiway, said Delta spokes-woman Martha Witt. There were no reports of injuries aboard the Airbus A319, which was carrying 123 passengers and a crew of six.

Witt said the airline was trying to put passengers from Delta flight 1114 on other planes.

The airport was closed and numerous flights were canceled in the morning, but flights re-sumed at about noon. Most Fri-day flights from Nashville, Tenn., were canceled, likely disrupting travel plans for fans of the Tennessee Titans flying into Kansas City for Sunday’s AFC championship game with the Chiefs, KCTV reported.

At 9 p.m., the Chicago Depart-ment of Aviation was reporting nearly 690 flights had been can-celled at O’Hare, with 169 flights canceled at Midway, the city’s other international airport. A winter weather advisory was issued for the Chicago area through early Saturday, with 2 to 5 inches of snow expected.

“If there is travel you don’t need to make, consider postpon-ing it,” said meteorologist Ricky Castro.

Lambert International Airport in St. Louis reported that more than 130 flights had been can-celled as of noon on Friday, and American Airlines suspended all flights to Missouri’s Columbia Regional Airport until noon on Saturday.

The slippery conditions came after the National Weather Ser-vice issued winter weather ad-visories, saying that the storm will create hazardous travel con-ditions from the Plains into the Northeast through the weekend.

Snow is forecast over much of the Great Lakes, with a blizzard warning for parts of the Upper Midwest.

The winter weather advisory extended south into western Oklahoma and northern Arkan-sas, where freezing rain was ex-pected on Friday.

In South Dakota and Minne-sota, dozens of schools canceled classes on Friday ahead of snow-fall expected during the day.

In Kansas, Gov. Laura Kelly closed state offices in the Topeka area, urging people in a news release to “stay safe and warm, exercise caution and slow road crews to do their job.”

A storm that hit during the morning commute on Friday coated the roads of Salt Lake City with up to 5 inches of snow. Advance warning allowed a de-layed start for state government and some schools, which kept the number of crashes to a relatively low 75, police said.
Women’s March rallies draw thousands

By Lynn Berry
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Thousands gathered in cities across the country Saturday as part of the nationwide Women’s March rallies focused on issues such as climate change, pay equity, reproductive rights and immigration.

Hundreds showed up in New York City and thousands in Washington for the rallies, which aim to harness the political power of women, although crowds were noticeably smaller than in previous years. Marches were scheduled Saturday in more than 180 cities.

The first marches in 2017 drew hundreds of thousands of people to rallies in cities across the country on the day after President Donald Trump was inaugurated. That year’s D.C. march drew close to 1 million people.

In Manhattan on Saturday, thousands of people gathered as part of a “Rise and Roar” rally at separate events in Foley Square and Columbus Circle.

“This will be the change that is needed in this world! Today, we rise into our power!” activist Donna Hylton told a cheering crowd in Foley Square.

Snow began falling by the afternoon in Manhattan, apparently putting a damper on plans for the two groups to converge in large numbers near Times Square.

In downtown Los Angeles, thousands of men, women and children filled several blocks as they made their way from a plaza to a park adjacent to City Hall, where a rally featured speeches by Jennifer Siebel Newson, the wife of California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Mayor Eric Garcetti, Rep. Maxine Waters and others.

Jennifer Siebel Newson credited women for mobilizing against gun violence, creating the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment and discrimination, and taking back the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives.

“In 2020, I have no doubt that it will be women who will lead again, rise up and move this country forward on a path toward justice,” she said.

In Denver, organizers opted to skip the rally after the march and instead invited participants to meet with local organizations to learn more about issues such as reproductive rights, climate change, gun safety and voting. Several thousand came out for the protest in Washington, far fewer than last year when about 100,000 people held a rally east of the White House.

The protesters planned to march around the White House, Trump wasn’t there. He is spending the holiday weekend at his resort in Florida.

National Archives apologizes for blurred photos

By Darlene Superville
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Archives said the photo in question is not one of its archival records, but rather was licensed for use as a promotional graphic in the exhibit.

“Nonetheless, we were wrong to alter the image,” the agency said.

The current display has been removed and will be replaced as soon as possible with one that uses the original, unaltered image, the archives said.

The exhibit about the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, blurred some anti-Trump messages on protest signs in a photo of the 2017 Women’s March in Washington.

Signs that referred to women’s private parts, which also were widespread during the march, which was held shortly after Trump took office, also were altered.

The archives said it will immediately begin a “thorough review” of its policies and procedures for exhibits “so that this does not happen again.”

The American Civil Liberties Union called on the archives to issue a more detailed explanation.

“Apologizing is not enough,” Louise Melling, the organization’s deputy legal director, said in a statement. “The National Archives must explain to the public why it took the Orwellian step of trying to rewrite history and erasing women’s bodies from it, as well as who ordered it.”

Archives spokeswoman Miriam Kleiman told the Post for its report that the nonpartisan, nonpolitical federal agency blurred the anti-Trump references “so as not to engage in current political controversy.”

References to female anatomy in the signs were obscured in deference to student groups and young people who visit the archives, Kleiman told the newspaper.

Kleiman did not respond to an emailed request for comment Saturday from The Associated Press.

The public affairs office at the archives emailed the statement.

The archives issued the apology as thousands again gathered in Washington and in cities across the country Saturday for Women’s March rallies focused on issues such as climate change, pay equity and reproductive rights.

Peta Madry of New London, Conn., was celebrating her 70th birthday in D.C. by attending her fourth Women’s March with her sister, Cynthia Barnard, of San Rafael, Calif. Both women were wearing handmade pink hats that date from the first march.

With pained expressions, they spoke about Trump’s determinations to get his predecessor Barack Obama and his treatment of women.

“We love you, Greta Thunberg,” Madry said, referring to the teenage climate activist. “He’s the biggest bully in the world.”

Melissa McCullough of Georgetown, Ind., said when she recently turned 50 she promised herself that she would get more involved politically. “I’m here to protest Trump, as a woman,” she said.

Her daughter, 19-year-old University of Cincinnati student Elizabeth McCullough, chimed in to say that most women’s issues are human issues, and they talked about the need to protect immigrants.

“You have to push to protect everyone or no one’s safe,” Melissa McCullough said.

The protesters planned to march around the White House, but Trump wasn’t there. He is spending the holiday weekend at his resort in Florida.

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Federal judge told all separated migrant children accounted for

BY KRISTINA DAVIS
The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — U.S. officials assured a San Diego federal judge on Friday that they are highly confident that they have accounted for all of the children who were separated from their parents under the Trump administration’s short-lived “zero-tolerance” policy and precursor programs.

The total tally: 4,368.

U.S. District Court Judge Dana Sabraw has been at the forefront of that accounting effort since 2018, but he raised new concerns over whether it was complete after a November report by the U.S. Office of Inspector General. The report suggested that government computer systems had made it impossible to reach an accurate tally.

But officials said this week that the effort to count the separations under Sabraw’s court order relied on more varied sources of information and included manual examination of thousands of records.

The effort under Sabraw happened in two stages. The first focused on children in government custody as of June 26, 2018, which came to 2,812 (three additional children have been determined not to have been separated after being initially counted).

When it was later revealed that the Elm Research Institute had been separating families in certain border cities as early as July 2017 as part of a pilot program, an effort to tally those separations launched. It was a more challenging process, since the children involved were no longer in government custody. Each possible case file was examined by hand — twice — and verified through various agency databases.

That tally came to 1,568 children, according to court documents filed this week.

Cmdr. Jonathan White at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the second count, called the process “very painstaking” and told the judge Friday that he had high confidence that all separated children had been accounted for.

“Beyond quantifying the separations, we’re ordered by the government to help track down the separated parents and give them the option to reunite with their children. That effort has largely been completed as to the first group, but attorneys and non-profit workers are continuing to track down parents of the second group, many of them in Central America.

So far, in the course of more than 47,000 phone calls, the lawyers have been able to reach 364 parents or their attorneys. Additionally, on-the-ground efforts by the nonprofit Justice in Motion has contacted 113 parents outside of the U.S., said New York-based attorney Steven Herzog, who is heading the steering committee working on the task.

Lawyers have also launched a letter campaign and established toll-free hotlines in key countries to try to establish contact with more parents.

Earlier this week, Sabraw declined to expand the scope of the family separation litigation by intervening in the government’s discretion to decide when a child should be separated because a parent or legal guardian is unfit or a danger to the child. He said the government did not appear to be abusing its power in making these determinations but ordered authorities to use quick-result DNA tests when there are concerns of parenthood.

SpaceX capsule test completed

Associated Press
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — SpaceX completed the test big of its crew capsule before launching astronauts in the next few months, mimicking an emergency escape shortly after liftoff Sunday.

No one was aboard for the wild ride in the skies above Cape Canaveral, just two mannequins. A Falcon 9 rocket blasted off as normal, but just over a minute into its supersonic flight, the Dragon crew capsule catapulted off the top 12 miles above the Atlantic. Powerful thrusters on the capsule propelled it up and out of harm’s way, as the rocket engines deliberately shut down and the booster tumbled out of control and exploded in a giant fireball.

The capsule reached an altitude of about 27 miles before parachuting into the ocean just offshore to bring the nine-minute test flight to a close and pave the way for two NASA astronauts to climb aboard next time.

Everything appeared to go well despite the choppy seas and overcast skies. Within minutes, a recovery ship was alongside the capsule and preparing to pull it from the water.

"I’m super fired up," Elon Musk, the company’s founder and chief executive, said at a news conference.

Children are seen at the Homestead shelter for migrant children in 2018 in Homestead, Fla.
Grandpa forgot $43,170 hidden in his footstool

OWOSSO — The footstool didn’t feel right. That’s what happens when someone stashes $43,170 inside and apparently forgets about it.

Indeed, the money was discovered inside a footstool that was donated to a Michigan resale shop in Owosso Township.

Howard Kirby bought the piece and other furniture for $70 after Christmas. He was stunned Sunday when his daughter-in-law unzipped the cushion and shooked. After the shock wore off, he began the extraordinary step of returning the money to the former owners.

The footstool was part of a living room set donated to a Habitat For Humanity store by Kim Fauth-Newberry and her husband. The furniture had belonged to her grandfather, Phillip Fauth, who died in July.

Company takes pizza delivery to new heights

ANCHORAGE — An Alaska company has taken pizza to new heights by providing airplane deliveries around the state.

Papa Murphy’s in Anchorage flies hundreds of miles to deliver about 150 pizzas each week, according to owner Tyler Williams. He says it’s the state’s only pizza delivery by airplane.

Owner Tyler Williams said the shop offers assembled pizzas for its Anchorage customers to take home to bake. The rest of the uncooked pies are flash-frozen for air delivery to customers throughout Alaska.

“They get blown frozen,” Williams said. “Once the customer gets them it takes two to three days, depending on weather. They defrost them, it takes just a couple hours on the counter.”

Life finds a way

Children react to a Utahraptor dinosaur as they pedal by at Zoo Miami, on Friday, in Miami. The Dinosaurs LIVE exhibit features more than 20 life-sized animatronic dinosaurs along with other displays at the zoo until June 14.

Lawmakers question ‘deport’ license plate

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah lawmakers want to know how a license plate with the phrase “DEPORTM” got approved despite state rules against expressing contempt for any race, religion or political opinion on vanity plates.

While people have the right to freedom of speech, the messages that appear on license plates are different because they must be approved by the state, said Republican Sen. Daniel Thatcher.

“If someone put a bumper sticker on a car, I would shake my head and keep walking,” he said. “The state has approved this, so it’s a state-approved message and that’s wildly inappropriate.”

Lawmakers are expected to question the director of the Division of Motor Vehicles and his boss, the state tax commission director, at a hearing on Wednesday.

Teen charged over making false report

ALEXANDRIA — The U.S. Justice Department has charged a former Virginia college student with calling in fake emergencies to prompt law enforcement response, in coordination with a group the FBI labeled as sympathetic to neo-Nazi ideology.

Teenagers who committed the crimes have been identified as members of a white supremacist group, which included a former student at Randolph-Macon College.

The group’s actions included making false reports of armed intruders in a public school, a bank, and a hospital, as well as threatening another school.

The group’s leader, 19-year-old John William Kirby Kelley, was charged with conspiracy to make threats.

The group’s activities were part of a larger effort to disrupt the school’s ability to provide services, according to court documents.

K-9 moved after biting handler’s girlfriend

ANNAPOLIS — A K-9 who bit his handler’s girlfriend on two separate occasions will be reassigned at a sheriff’s office in Maryland.

Cpl. Young Hur said he no longer wants to work with the K-9 detail in Anne Arundel County. Sheriff Jim Frederick said the K-9 detail in Anne Arundel County.

An internal incident report obtained by the newspaper through the Maryland Public Information Act states that both bites happened while Hur and the K-9, Bodi, were off duty and Hur’s girlfriend was playing with the dog in his apartment.

Hur’s girlfriend was taken to a hospital after being bitten, the newspaper reported. The severity of her injuries from the second biting incident wasn’t given.

“She didn’t have any other incident with any bites like this, even with the previous agency,” Frederick said.

Police: Man may have been mauled by pit bull

ROCKCASTLE — Kentucky State Police on Friday charged a woman with murder in what authorities think was a fatal mauling of a man by a pit bull.

Police said they charged Melissa D. Wolfe, 38, of Mount Vernon, in the death of Donald W. Abner, 55, of Richmond.

Police said they encountered a very aggressive dog near the victim.

Trooper Scottie Pennington said the victim had dog bites on his face and head. The dog was fatally shot by a trooper. The dog belonged to a woman who was visiting the home.

An autopsy is being performed to confirm Abner’s cause of death. An autopsy will also be done on the dog to determine if it was infected with rabies.

From wire reports
Israel beefs up defense of Lebanon tunnels

JERUSALEM — Israel’s military said it began construction of an underground defense system on Sunday along its northern frontier with Lebanon to protect against cross-border tunnels.

The infrastructure project will identify underground acoustic and seismic activity indicating tunnel digging, accompanied by other defensive measures, said Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman.

Fire at Czech mental asylum kills 8 patients

PRAGUE — A fire swept through a Czech asylum for the mentally ill on Sunday, killing eight male patients, officials said.

Prokop Velenik, spokesman for the regional service, said the fire in the northwestern town of Vojbryt early Sunday before 5 a.m.

Those killed were all patients, most of them by smoke inhalation, according to the Czech Daily Jitka Gadaunas. In addition to the deaths, Volenik said 30 others were injured by the blaze and transported to nearby hospitals. One of them was in critical condition.

Philippines halts access to erupting island

TAGAYTAY, Philippines — Philippine officials said on Sunday that the government will no longer allow villagers to return to a crater-studied island where an erupting volcano lies, warning that living there would be “like having a gun pointed at you.”

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said that about 1,500 families who remained missing after leaving their homes, who remained missing after leaving their homes, who remained missing after leaving their homes.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Bay Roberts, Newfoundland, said search teams were looking for 26-year-old Joshua Wall, who remained missing after leaving his home in Roaches Line, a small community about 44 miles west of the capital, to walk to a friend’s home.

Minister of Natural Resources of Seamus O’Regan said the federal government was already working to deploy all available resources to the area. He said the federal government was still working out how the military would be able to help the city.

Harry, Meghan to give up ‘highness’ titles

LONDON — Prince Harry and wife Meghan will no longer use the titles “royal highness” or receive public funds for their work under a deal that lets the couple step aside as working royals, Buckingham Palace announced on Saturday.

With the couple’s unhappiness with life under media scrutiny, Harry and Meghan will cease to be working members of the royal family when the new arrangements take effect in the “spring of 2020.”

Harry and Meghan will no longer use the titles His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness but will retain them, leaving the possibility that the couple might change their minds and return sometime in the future.

Iran won’t send recorders to Ukraine

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — The Iranian official leading the investigation into the Ukrainian jetliner that was downed last week by the Revolutionary Guard appeared to backtrack Sunday on plans to send the flight recorders aboard for analysis, a day after saying they would be sent to Kyiv.

Hassan Rezaeifar was quoted by the state-run IRNA news agency as saying “the flight recorders from the Ukrainian Boeing are in Iranian hands and we have no plans to send them out.”

He said Iran is working to recover the data and cabin recordings, and that it may send the flight recorders — commonly known as black boxes — to Ukraine or France.

“But of yet, we have made no decision.”

The same official was quoted by the semi-official Tasnim news agency on Saturday as saying that the recorders would be sent to Ukraine, where French, American and Canadian experts would help analyze them. Iranian officials previously said the black boxes were damaged but are usable.

It was not immediately possible to reconcile the conflicting accounts. Iran may be hesitant to turn over the recorders for fear that more details from the crash — including the harrowing 20 seconds between when the first and second surface-to-air missiles hit the plane — will come to light.

On Sunday, the bodies of the 11 Ukrainians who died in the crash were brought to Kyiv’s Boryspil Airport aboard a Ukrainian air force plane. An honor guard solemnly carried the coffins into the airport terminal, where a farewell observance is to last until the evening.

Newfoundland asks for help after blizzard

Associated Press

ST. JOHN’S, Newfoundland — Newfoundland’s premier asked for Canadian military help on Saturday, as residents of the province’s capital struggled to tunnel out from homes buried by the heaviest snowfall ever recorded in St. John’s.

Premier Dwight Ball said he had asked for the federal government’s assistance, including mobilizing the armed forces, after the blizzard battered eastern Newfoundland.

Rob Carroll, a meteorologist with Environment Canada, said St. John’s had experienced a one-day snowfall of 30 inches, breaking the previous record of 27 inches on April 5, 1961.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Bay Roberts, Newfoundland, said search teams were looking for 26-year-old Joshua Wall, who remained missing after leaving his home in Roaches Line, a small community about 44 miles west of the capital, to walk to a friend’s home.

Minister of Natural Resources Seamus O’Regan said the federal government was already working to deploy all available resources to the area. He said the federal government was still working out how the military would be able to help the city.

A resident digs a path from his house in St. John’s, Newfoundland, on Saturday.

At the peak of the storm, which some people described as being like a blizzard in a hurricane, even snowplows were pulled off roads as visibility dropped to near zero. Plowing resumed in St. John’s overnight.

St. John’s Fire Chief Sherry Colford said that considering the amount of snow that fell and the intensity of the winds, damage in the city had been minimal.

Thousands-strong Hong Kong protest cut short by clashes

BY ALICE FUNG AND CAROL MANG

HONG KONG — Clashes broke out between protesters and police in Hong Kong on Sunday, cutting short a rally after thousands had gathered at a park to call for elections in the Chinese Communist Party.

Police fired tear gas near the former Victoria Park and Chater Garden, after some protesters attacked plainclothes officers — a return to the violence that has roiled the Chinese territory off and on for months.

Sporting their movement’s trademark black clothing and face masks, rally participants had earlier packed into Chater Garden, located near the city’s Legislative Council building. They held up signs that read “Free Hong Kong” and waved American and British flags.

We want real universal suffrage,” the protesters chanted. “Dismantle the police force, free Hong Kong!”

Hong Kong media outlets reported that police arrested the rally’s organizer, Yuenus Lau, shortly after he spoke to reporters.

Local broadcaster RTHK cited fellow organizers as saying that Lau was arrested for allegedly violating the police’s conditions for the rally.

Earlier in the day, Lau said he believes more large-scale protests are needed for global attention to return to Hong Kong, with the protest movement losing some of its momentum in recent weeks.

“I think Hong Kong has not been the focus of the world anymore,” he said.

He urged other countries to launch sanctions against Hong Kong’s government if it does not allow residents to directly elect Legislative Council members this year.

The bill — which would have allowed Hong Kong residents to be sent to mainland China to stand trial — has since been withdrawn, but protests have continued for more than seven months, centered around demands for voting rights and an independent inquiry into police conduct.

In response to Sunday’s rally, Hong Kong’s government released a statement that warned against any foreign involvement.

Beijing has repeatedly accused foreign countries like the U.S. of inciting riots in Hong Kong in a bid to sabotage China’s development.

The statement outlined the “universal suffrage of ‘one person, one vote’ as an ultimate aim” enshrined in the city’s de facto constitution, known as the Basic Law. This step must be implemented in line with “gradual and orderly progress,” the statement said.

Hong Kong police gave approval for Sunday’s rally, but not for a march that organizers had also planned. The march didn’t happen, and the protest was curtailed by clashes after police ordered an end to the rally hours before the pre-approved finishing time.

From the Associated Press
Fires alter landscape in Australia forever

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

“The normal processes of recovery are going to be less effective, going to take longer,” said Roger Kitching, an ecologist at Griffith University in Queensland.

“Instead of an ecosystem taking a decade, it may take a century or more to recover, all assuming we don’t get another fire season of this magnitude soon.”

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

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

Scores of people pick free tulips Saturday on Dam Square in front of the Royal Palace in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Saturday was National Tulip Day, which marks the opening of the 2020 season.

Tulip lovers chase the blues with blooms

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM — Winter blues 0, joyful color 1.

Tulip growers in the Netherlands beat back winter — if only for a day — with a riotous explosion of color Saturday as they turned an Amsterdam square into a multicolored feast for cold-dulled senses to mark National Tulip Day.

Several thousand people converged on Dam Square in front of the Royal Palace to enjoy and pick the 200,000 free tulips, making gorgeous bunches for themselves from the rainbow of vibrant colors on offer.

National Tulip Day marks the opening of the tulip season for the Netherlands’ flower industry. Flowers are a flourishing business in the Netherlands, the world’s biggest tulip producer.

For further information please contact

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 Surprise! An album from Eminem

Rapper drops ‘Music to Be Murdered By,’ calls for gun law changes

Associated Press

Rapper Eminem once again dropped a surprise album, releasing “Music to Be Murdered By” on Jan. 17 — along with a video that calls for changes to gun laws.

The follow-up to 2018’s “Kamikaze” — also released without warning — was announced on Twitter just after midnight.

The album’s many collaborators include Ed Sheeran, Skylar Grey, Anderson .Paak and Juice WRLD, who died in December.

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Carey, Neptunes next to join Songwriters Hall

From wire services

It’s one sweet day for Mariah Carey: the pop diva, who has co-written 19 No. 1 hit songs, will be inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Joining Carey for the 2020 class are the Neptunes (the duo of Pharrell Williams and Chad Hugo), former Eurythmics members Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart, the Isley Brothers, Rick Nowels, William “Mickey” Stevenson and producer Phil Spector.

Carey, whose hits include “We Belong Together” and “Hero,” released her first album in 1990. With 19 No. 1 hits on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, she is only behind the Beatles, who have had 20 songs top the chart.

Her holiday staple, the 25-year-old “All I Want for Christmas Is You,” reached the No. 1 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 in December and January — making Carey the only artist to have No. 1 hits in the 1990s, 2000s, 2010s and 2020s.

President and Chief Executive Officer of the Songwriters Hall of Fame, Nick Dugan, took the helm of the organization in 2019. Dugan was previously the helm of the NFL. Dugan announced the announcement Jan. 16. The final season will consist of 13 episodes, to be released next year — bringing its episode total to 63, roughly on par with its predecessor, “Breaking Bad.”

Grammy-nominated pop singer Demi Lovato will perform the halftime show.

The AMC series “Better Call Saul” has been renewed for a sixth and final season.

Executive producer and showrunner Peter Gould made the announcement Jan. 16. The final season will consist of 13 episodes, to be released next year — bringing its episode total to 63, roughly on par with its predecessor, “Breaking Bad.”

Grammy-nominated pop singer Demi Lovato will perform the halftime show at Super Bowl LVII.

Other news

• Days before the 62nd Grammy Awards, Recording Academy President and Chief Executive Deborah Dugan has been put on leave after an allegation of misconduct, the organization confirmed Jan. 16. Dugan took over on Aug. 1 as the first female president of the Recording Academy, which oversees the Grammy Awards. This year’s show takes place Jan. 26.

• Chip and Joanna Gaines’ new Magnolia cable network will debut on Oct. 4, with a dozen shows currently in production. The couple will appear in multiple shows on the Magnolia network. Among them are a cooking show with Joanna and another featuring the couple. The programming is focused on family-friendly fare that touches on home, garden, food, wellness and design. The network will be the new home for episodes of “Fixer Upper.”

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## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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**ACROSS**
- 1 Luau souvenir
- 4 PC key
- 7 Powerful wind
- 11 On
- 13 — Aviv
- 14 Black, in verse
- 15 Bryn
- 16 Carie lead-in
- 17 On deck
- 18 Braid of hair
- 20 Grats
- 22 By way of
- 24 Rub the wrong way
- 28 Neighbor of Kenya
- 32 Innocents
- 33 Slightly
- 36 — Linda, Calif.
- 37 Fishing rods
- 39 Message from a distant lover
- 41 eBay user
- 43 Impose
- 44 Victor’s cry
- 46 Prestigious prize
- 50 Balkan native
- 53 Sailor
- 55 Prego rival
- 56 Bern’s river
- 57 Perfume
- 58 Panache
- 59 Boot camp VIPs
- 60 Your
- 61 Anlered grazer

**DOWN**
- 1 Genie’s home abbr.
- 2 List-ending
- 3 Corn Belt state
- 4 LAX info
- 5 Narcissist’s love
- 6 Red Cross founder Barton
- 7 Small-town emporium
- 8 Honest politician
- 9 Bagel topper
- 10 Tolkien creature
- 12 Play by Noel
- 18 Coward
- 19 Up to
- 21 Recede
- 22 25 “If I Were —” (Beyoncé song)
- 23 Succor
- 24 26 Showroom sample
- 25 26 Lego
- 27 Jacob’s brother
- 28 Chumps
- 29 Bassoon’s kin
- 30 Pepper
- 31 Branch
- 32 Shill bark
- 33 Hitch
day light?
- 34 Thaurus
- 35 Compiler
- 36 Ark builder
- 37 Hay bundle
- 38 Alike (Fr.)
- 39 Galoot
- 40 Airline to
- 41 Sweden
- 42 43 Ears
- 44 45 Aisle
- 45 46 47 48 Aisle
- 47 48 49 Aisle
- 49 50 51 52 53 54 Purchase

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

- BEENE
- CARPS
- SEQUEL
- YAMAHA
- TAURUS
- CANCER
- TITAN
- KID
- NETS
- EDCO
- BELE
- TREAT
- SPARTAN
- GOS
- SAC
- OCTA
- VES
- HORS
- KAOS
- VIS
- PEAL
- ABA
- LINUS
- SUV
- PISCES
- GEMINI
- INTONE
- ALIST
- SYNO
- HANTS

**CRYPTOQUIP**

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**Saturday’s Cryptoquip:** HUGE-SIZED TRUCKS WHICH ARE ABLE TO FIT UP TO A DOZEN AND A HALF HUMPBACKS: EIGHTEEN-WHALERS.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: M equals R
Trump economy a worry for Democrats

OPINION

BY JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

You almost feel sorry for them, the six Democratic presidential candidates having their last debate before the Iowa caucuses. The subject of President Donald Trump’s razzle-dazzle, historically stunning economy came up. What were they to do? Concede it’s accomplishments? Demonstrate ignorance? Mouth falsehoods? Or respectively indulge in fine-tuned analysis granting the obvious while pointing to shortcomings and possible improvements?

Joe Biden quickly skipped the analysis. Less like a thoughtful statesman than like King Kong thumping his chest, he roared that working and middle-class people, “If they’re living paycheck to paycheck, they’re being killed.” He said he had “support across the board” on this emphatic stance and could hardly wait to debate Trump. Differences with Trump, he said, are obvious and profound, however.

A CNN poll shows a 19-year-high 76% of the American people believe the economy is either very good or at least somewhat good.

After all, as varied online magazine articles point out, millions of jobs have been created under Trump and unemployment is the lowest in a half century, just 3.5%, which is essentially no unemployment, if you will, or can’t, or may not, or don’t, or do, or... You get the point.

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Ernie Gates
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The values King preached need rediscovering

BY COLBERT I. KING
The Washington Post

It was a 25-year-old Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday is celebrate Monday, who stood in the pulpit of a Southern Baptist Church on Feb. 28, 1954, the Montgomery bus boycott, which would launch the future leader of the American civil rights movement to national prominence, was nearly two years away.

King roused the Second Baptist Congregation of Pelham, Alabama, with words that did not once mention race. Discrimination, segregation, protest demonstrations — all the things he would point out while preaching, were “being done as a way of life,” King said. “A preacher went deeper, if such a thing was possible during an era of racial turmoil.”

King got the congregation thinking about something more significant as a subject relevant today as it was in 1954.

King talked about lost values and the need for rediscouning them.

Something seemed fundamentally wrong in society, he preached. And it wasn’t because society didn’t know enough. Scientific progress was amazing. King said in 18th-century America, it took three days for a letter to go from Philadelphia to the City of Washington; in 1954, a person could go from Detroit to China in less time.

It’s even more astonishing today. Breakfast can be had in Washington, D.C., and enjoyed in London and a nightcap swallowed in New York City — all in the same day.

“Today I have observed that we don’t know enough, but that “we aren’t good enough.” Scientific genius, he said, has brought us to the point where the greater danger facing the country in ’54, King noted, was “not the atomic bomb that was created by physical science” that could be dropped on the heads of thousands of people, but “that atomic bomb which lies in the hearts and souls of men, capable of exploding into the vilest of hate and into the most damaging selfishness.”

That thought calls to mind the more than three dozen countries in the world with unmanned, missile-armed drones capable of being launched from afar under remote control and striking and killing with precision. Think about what lies within hearts and souls of leaders in countries such as North Korea, China, Iran, Russia, Turkey and yes, the United States.

King called attention to shaky moral foundations and the “relativistic ethic” that was being applied to right and wrong.

He pointed out the foolish idea that “everybody is doing it, it must be right” — an ethic that means “people can’t stand up for their convictions, because the majority of people might not be doing it.” He said it’s “a sort of numerical interpretation of what’s right.

For all these reasons, King got me thinking about the Senate Republicans who know that some things are right and some things are wrong, but adjust their attitudes relative to the behavior of President Donald Trump.

Trump helped make such good things happen through individual tax cuts boosting consumer confidence, and also a corporate tax cut. It invites investments to our country, making us no competitive with low-taxed European corporations, brings back money to our shores and unleashes corporate interest in the domestic economy as means as increasing wages. The stated aim of the candidates was mostly to raise taxes on corporations. Nancy Pelosi’s wealth that will slowly down the boom while failing to finance ruinously expensive new programs that will increase a massive, threatening debt that is just maybe Trump’s greatest failing.

Lumping all six of these candidates together as if they are one would be absurd, of course, and Amy Klobuchar, for instance, separates herself from the others with a seeming attachment to commonsense analysis. But most have opposed every good move Trump has made, such as lessening illegal immigration and thereby offering that which to cultivate here or deregulating to the point of capitalism almost being capitalism again. A sparking economy with jobs confering dignity, good life and hope like the Mideast and other societal ends, far more important for the overall public good than ever-bigger government, is trumping our initiative, trying to control more than it can ever understand and diminishing our liberty.

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.
Saturday's scores

Alaska Anchorage 3, Ala. Huntsville 2
W. Michigan 6, Colorado College 2
North Dakota 3, Miami 3, OT (tie)
Yale 4, RPI 1

SCOREBOARD/college FootBall

Beric by transfer from Saint-Etienne
Raven Greene from IR.
Travis Lakins for assignment.

Brendan Steele 70q-66n-67s---203 -13
Tim Wilkinson 71q-65n-66s---202 -14
Waived F Fanendo Adi
Activated S
Reassigned

Major League Soccer
Senior Bowl
par 72

East vs. West
North vs. South
National 30, American 20


The trio shined for the East in a 36-17 win over the West on Saturday, joining two first-quarter touchdown drivers and LeMay rushing for a yard of TDs, including Perry. Took a direct snap from center and sprinted 52 yards for the TD on a tricky carry.

“I really can’t say anything,” said Morgan. “I just wanted to come in, work as hard as I could, and anything that was possible and go out and compete. It was quite an experience.”

Morgan and Perry, a quarterback-in-chief who’s eyeing a pro career as a receiver, felt good about what they accomplished playing in the nation’s longest running college football all-star game.

“Morgan’s 9-yard TD run with just under two minutes remaining sealed offensive MVP honors for the East, who posted a 36-17 win over the West.”

Southwest

Alabama State 23, Arizona St. 14
Central Arkansas 32, Arkansas Tech. 13
Colorado 24, Old Dominion 20
Georgia St. 29, Texas Tech 21
Louisiana Tech 17, Southern 7

Auburn (15-2) lost to Florida 69-47.

17. Arizona (16-3) did not play.

21-12-4 vs. Rider...

College basketball

Harvard 67, Dartmouth 62
Franklin & Marshall 74, Muhlenberg 72
Drexel 84, William & Mary 57
Delaware 79, Elon 78
Clark U. 92, Babson 89, OT
Bowie St. 96, Shaw 67
Army 81, Loyola (Md.) 80

23. Texas Tech (12-5) beat Iowa State 74-68.
15. Auburn (15-2) lost to Florida 69-47.

The American Express
Santiago Gruppo, $375,000 69-70-67—206 -10
Scott Parel, $38,250 69-70-68—207 -9
Marco Dawson, $50,750 67-69-70—206 -10
Paul Broadhurst, $72,250 70-66-69—205 -11
Fred Couples, $170,000 67-68-67—202 -14

Romain Langasque, France 70-71-67—208
Scott Parel, $38,250 69-70-68—207 -9
Marco Dawson, $50,750 67-69-70—206 -10
Paul Broadhurst, $72,250 70-66-69—205 -11
Fred Couples, $170,000 67-68-67—202 -14

Scott Parel, $38,250 69-70-68—207 -9
Marco Dawson, $50,750 67-69-70—206 -10
Paul Broadhurst, $72,250 70-66-69—205 -11
Fred Couples, $170,000 67-68-67—202 -14

Bobby Jaso, Florida 75-63-71—209
Zander Lombard, South Africa 73-70-70—213
Victor Perez, France 69-70-71—210
Austin Cook, Georgia 69-71-70—210

Golf

The American Express

Santa Fe, NM

La Quinta, Calif. 2nd Stage: 3rd Round
s-Stadium Course (8,645 yards); Par 72
q-La Quinta, Calif. 3rd Stage: 3rd Round
n-Nicklaus Tournament Course (7,359 yards); Par 72

Round 3

Total 215

1132 1132 1132 1132 1132 1132 1132 1132

Baggerfield, meanwhile, continued to state his case as a potential challenger. He was drafted by going 9 of 14 for 116 yards, including a 9-yard TD throw to Louisiana’s Ju-Marcus Bradley to finish the East’s 17-7 win over the West.

Versatile UFC running back Adrian Killins Jr. had only one reception for 58 yards but added 19 carries with seven catches for 91 yards, including a 37-yard reception on the winning drive.

Stevens had an 18-yard completion to Rhode Island’s Aaron Parker to set up LeMay’s scoring drive.

Illinois State’s Kirk Luther was voted defensive MVP.
Some players satisfied all OK

Federer, Nadal confident officials will make right call despite smoke from wildfires

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — in messages on video, precautions Australian Open spectators to “be aware we are expecting a reduction in air quality.”

Sunday, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal seemed satisfied that all will be fine at the year’s first Grand Slam tournament despite recent days of smoke arriving from wildfires burning 100 or so miles away.

The haze hanging over Melbourne Park lately lightened as Monday’s start of main-draw action approached, but even if things worsen, the owners of a combined 39 major championships were among the players saying they’re confident tennis officials will make sure conditions are safe before allowing competitors to turn.

Federer and Nadal both said they marched themselves down to the tournament referee’s office to understand what was going on when local news reports were saying people should stay indoors, yet qualifying rounds were taking place outdoors at Melbourne Park.

On Tuesday, one player collapsed in a coughing fit; another sought medical attention for breathing problems.

“I said, I think it’s all confused. Is it super unsafe or is it totally safe to play?” Federer said. “I told them, Look, I just think communication is key for all of us, for everybody. We just need to do more.”

Because I feel like I hadn’t gotten enough information.

Two weeks ago, as fires in eastern Australia aged and the winds howled, the world wanted bad health for the competitors,” Nadal said. “So that answer convinced me. I am here to play.”

Others were not quite so ready to adopt that mindset — or agree with Federer’s stance on the issue, which he summed up as, “I don’t worry.”

Particularly outspoken was Denis Shapovalov, a 20-year-old from Canada who said he didn’t understand the air quality policy issued by the tournament.

“You get an email from the tournament saying that it’s PLAYABLE, and you guys have to go and put your life in jeopardy, put your health in jeopardy.

You see the effects on players, he’s right now, the last couple of days,” the 13th-seeded Shapovalov said. “But also you know it’s going to last longer in our lives and how it could affect us if we’re breathing this air in for two weeks.”

He said he wouldn’t play a match if he felt the conditions weren’t safe.

“Obviously, it’s a Grand Slam, a big opportunity, but I’m 20 years old,” Shapovalov said. “I don’t want to risk my life, risk my health, being out there playing in this condition, when I can play for the next 10-15 years.”

Stefanos Tsitsipas, a 21-year-old from Greece who upset Federer a year ago in Australia en route to his first Grand Slam semifinal, said he had trouble breathing after an indoor practice session and was coughing in Melbourne.

“I’m feeling OK now, but I was a bit concerned,” the sixth-seeded Tsitsipas said. “I was coughing a lot.”

Like Nadal and Federer, three-time major semifinalist Grigor Dimitrov took the view that tournament and tour officials have “been doing a big job”.

Two players, who have asthma, two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova and 2019 U.S. Open semifinalist Matteo Berrettini, said they were worried about how their health would fare in Melbourne.

Both have been OK so far.

“It’s the same for everybody. It will be really difficult to breathe, for sure,” Kvitova said. “I do have my medicines here.”

Defending champ Djokovic eyes fifth post-30 Slam title

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — The secret to Novak Djokovic’s post-30 success? Not his best-in-tennis return. Or his limb-twisting, body-bending court coverage. Or even his baseline consistency or clutch gene.

No, ask Djokovic to explain how he keeps playing so well at this age, and the Australian Open’s defending champion points to a quality he says shares with rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

“I think we’ve all been able to adapt as well, as Rafa as well, that age is just a number. It’s not just a cliche, but it’s really something that I feel like the three of us have in common. It’s really the way we approach career and our everyday life,” Djokovic said during a news conference before the year’s first Grand Slam tournament, which begins Monday.

“I think we found a way, a formula, to balance private (and) professional life, so we are able to kind of excel in tennis and still be able to compete at the highest level after many years, still be motivated, still be mentally fresh and, of course, physically prepared and fit to compete in best-five-sets with young players that are coming up.”

Djokovic, 32, already owns four major titles since he turned 30, the same number as Federer. Only one man has won more often at that stage of his career in the professional era: Nadal, 33, has five such championships.

They also, of course, occupy the top three spots in the world rankings.

Djokovic has quickly risen to 16, including a record seven at Melbourne Park, by grabbing four of the past six overall.

“For me, it seems like my career was going in sequences of several years. I think every sequence had different circumstances in life, in different situations, that have made me the person and the player I am today. I just had to adapt to these newly occurring circumstances and evolve, kind of grow stronger, and also find purpose and motivation in each of these phases,” Djokovic said, speaking in paragraphs, as he often does.

“I mean, I’m a completely different person, have a completely different life today than I had five years ago. I’m a father of two children. Obviously things are not the way they were 5 or 10 years ago. I know that,” he said. “But that doesn’t necessarily mean it’s better or it’s worse. It’s just different.”

Another factor that at first seemed like a burden but Djokovic now calls an inspiration and motivator is the push he’s gotten to improve by needing to compete in an era with Federer and Nadal.

Djokovic is seeded second in Australia — one spot behind Nadal, one spot ahead of Federer — and is scheduled for the last match in Rod Laver Arena on Day 1, playing 37th-ranked Jan-Lennard Struff at night.

Federer, Serena Williams and 2019 champion Naomi Osaka play in that stadium during the day, while top-ranked Ash Barty — who will try to become the first Australian woman in 40 years to win the country’s major — precedes Djokovic at night.

The most anticipated contest of the opening day is slated for Margaret Court Arena: seven-time major champion Venus Williams, 39, against Coco Gauff, 15, in a rematch of their first-round matchup at Wimbledon last year won by the teenager.

The tennis world is waiting for a young man to take a step forward and win a major championship; there hasn’t been a first-time major winner since 2014.

“Well, they’re coming closer and closer. It’s obvious,” Djokovic said, mentioning 23-year-old Daniil Medvedev (runner-up to Nadal at the U.S. Open last year), 26-year-old Dominic Thiem (twice the runner-up to Nadal at the French Open) and 21-year-old Stefanos Tsitsipas (a semifinalist at the Australian Open a year ago).

“They’re very, very close. They’re literally one set away,” Djokovic added. “On a given day, in the very near future, I think that can happen. It’s going to happen. It’s inevitable. What are they missing? I don’t think they are missing too much, to be honest.”
England’s Lee Westwood receives the trophy from Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of State for Tolerance, after Westwood, 46, won the Abu Dhabi Championship on Sunday.

**Golf roundup**

**Westwood’s Abu Dhabi win is 25th on European tour**

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Lee Westwood secured his 25th European Tour win with victory at the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship on Sunday.

Westwood, who had a one-shot overnight lead, has now won in four different decades starting in the 1990s. The Englishman’s 5-under par final-round 67 gave him a two-shot margin over a chasing pack of France’s Victor Perez (63) and England’s Tommy Fleetwood (63) and Matthew Fitzpatrick (67) who all finished on 271.

Bernd Wiesberger and second-round leader Francesco Laporta, tied with Scheffler for second, each with a 67 to force a playoff, but the former pulled out, saying it was “the toughest course I have ever played.”

Inbee Park, a 19-time winner on the LPGA Tour, hadn’t made a bogey since November’s season-ending CME Group Tour Championship.

“Tired but happy,” Park said.

**Wrestlers make weight, then wait at Kaiserslautern meet**

BY GREGORY BROOME

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Every season has peaks and valleys.

The DODCA Europe wrestling season is definitely in a valley.

The teams involved in Saturday’s meet at Kaiserslautern High School were beset by injuries, illnesses and a bracket structure that left a number of wrestlers sidelined hours into the proceedings. All that was compounded by the usual post-holiday January doldrums arriving at a point in the schedule where the excitement of a new season has long worn off and the heightened stakes of the February sectionals and European tournament remain several weeks in the future.

“This is definitely just the grind,” Stuttgart’s Jack Engelke said.

A number of accomplished wrestlers missed the meet entirely and even some of those healthy and available on Saturday saw limited action. High-seeded wrestlers in some underpopulated brackets were awarded byes to the semifinal round, which sounds beneficial until factoring in the hours of inactivity that wrestlers experienced.

DODCA Europe athletic director Kathlene Clemmons, who was present at Saturday’s meet, is aware of the concerns and expects to discuss the issue in detail with coaches early next week.

One possible solution involves simply switching six-wrestler brackets to a round-robin format, offering participants five matches rather than the two bouts wrestlers were reduced to on Saturday.

“I would definitely like some more work,” Engelke said. “After a week of hard practice, working to make weight, and then wait all day just for two matches, it’s a little disappointing.”

Idle grapplers did their best to be of service to the team, using their downtime to carefully watch teammates’ matches and offer their insight.

“Sometimes you see things they can’t see on the mat,” Ramstein senior Caleb Hill said. “So you try to help them.”

Hill and the Royals have shared the mat with a lot of different teams this year, a schedule Hill said helps sharpen one’s focus in these midterm seasons without immediate postseason implications. Ramstein intruded on a southern meet in Vicenza on Jan. 11 and will host a number of northern DODCA Europe programs next weekend to complement its usual set of opponents in Germany.

“We’re kind of lucky this year, we’re seeing new kids every meet. We’re not wrestling the same kids over and over. That’s something that doesn’t happen often in Europe,” Hill said. “You’re preparing because you don’t know who you’re wrestling yet.”

Defending Division I dynasty Stuttgart again claimed victory in this subdued edition of its ongoing rivalry with Ramstein. The Panthers finished with 197 points to Ramstein’s 190. Wiesbaden took third at 148 points, while host Kaiserslautern came in fourth with 103 points. Small programs Spangdahlem, Finland and Baumholder rounded out the seven-school meet.
Associated Press

OTTAWA — Marcus Hogberg made 46 saves for his second NHL shutout as the Senators snapped a nine-game losing streak with a 5-2 defeat of the Calgary Flames.

The Senators were outshot 42-21, but Hogberg’s performance kept the Flames at bay. It was the 25-year-old goalie’s second NHL win in 13 career starts.

Brady Tkachuk had a goal and assist and was on the winning side for the first time in four games against older brother Matthew. Chris Tierney, Conor Brown, Colin White and Vladislav Namestnikov had Ottawa’s other goals.

Mark Janislo and Noah Hanifin scored late for Calgary, whose six-game winning streak ended.

Wild 7, Stars 0: Alex Stalock posted his second shutout of the season, and Jason Zucker had a goal and two assists in host Minnesota’s rout of Dallas.

Stalock, playing his second straight game in place of Devan Dubnyk, made 27 saves for the Wild, who have won back-to-back games to start a season-high, seven-game homestand. Mats Zuccarello and Ryan Hartman each had a goal and assist. Jared Spurgeon, Carson Soucy, Ryan Donato and Zach Parise also scored for the Wild.

Anton Khudobin started in goal for the Stars, but was pulled early in the second period after allowing four goals on 17 shots. Ben Bishop entered and made 12 saves as Dallas fell to its third straight game in place of Devan Dubnyk.

The Stars were outshot 21-9 in the second period and outscored 4-0.

Avalanche 5, Blues 3: Nazem Kadri scored late in the third period on an empty net to lift host Colorado past St. Louis.

The Avalanche, who have won three of four, had three players on the scoresheet, including Sam Jardine and Gabriel Landeskog.

Kadri’s goal came on the power play, and the Avalanche were 2-for-6 on the power play.

The Blues, who have lost six of eight, were 0-for-7 on the power play.

Ovechkin moves past Lemieux with hat trick

Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Alex Ovechkin has made a career out of scoring big goals in big moments. His latest milestone was no different.

Ovechkin had a hat trick for the second consecutive game to tie Steve Yzerman for ninth on the career goals list Saturday, and the Washington Capitals rallied with five goals in the third period for a 6-4 victory over the New York Islanders.

“Tie with him, with you guys, it’s something special. It’s history,” Ovechkin said. “It’s nice to get the win.”

Nelson made it 1-1 with his team-leading 19th goal of the season at 13:11 of the first. The Islanders took the puck away on the boards, which allowed Anthony Beauvillier to feed Nelson in the high slot. Beauvillier’s assist on the play extended his point streak to three games.

Cizikas gave the Islanders a 2-1 lead at 15:49 of the first and Eberle padded it at 9:31 with his second goal of the game.

The Islanders took the lead on the power play, with the first power-play goal Wash-
NBA

Suns, Booker overcome Smart’s bombs

Associated Press

BOSTON — Devin Booker sure loves playing in TD Garden. His near triple-double effort was just barely enough for the Phoenix Suns to overcome Boston guard Marcus Smart’s performance.

Booker had 33 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists and the Suns withstood a franchise-record 11 three-pointers by Smart and beat the Celtics 123-119 on Saturday.

“You know, Book is — Book’s Book,” Phoenix coach Monty Williams said. “It’s something I don’t take for granted to have a guy that can get buckets like that.”

Deandre Ayton had 26 points and 15 rebounds and Mikal Bridges added a career-best 26 points for the Nets, who outscored the Pelicans 31-20 in the first half, Boston coach Brad Stevens said. “He’s a tough guy and he got a lot of good looks and took advantage of them.”

Jayson Tatum scored 26 points and Gordon Hayward added 22 for Boston, which has lost three straight and six of eight.

Three years ago, Booker scored 70 points in a loss to the Celtics in TD Garden. He finished an assist shy of his first career triple-double.

The Celtics were missing two of their top three leading scorers — Kemba Walker (team-best 22.1 per game), out with left knee soreness, and Jaylen Brown (20.0), sidelined for the second straight game with a sprained right thumb.

But Smart kept them in it.

“Right now, it means nothing,” Smart said. “I’d trade all that in for a win, especially the way the team has been playing.”

Boston cut its deficit to 90-85 early in the fourth, but Dario Saric and Bridges answered with consecutive three-pointers. The Celtics had it down to 114-111 on Daniel Theis’ breakaway dunk with about a minute left, but Bridges hit a jumper in the lane with 37 seconds to play.

Booker’s two free throws sealed it with 4.8 seconds left.

Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker (1) finished an assist shy of his first career triple-double in a 123-119 win Saturday at Boston.

NBA roundup

Associated Press

HOUSTON — LeBron James had 31 points and 12 assists and the Los Angeles Lakers rode a big third quarter to a 125-115 win over the Houston Rockets.

The Lakers bounced back after a loss to Orlando on Wednesday night that snapped their nine-game winning streak. The loss was the third straight for the Rockets, tying a season high, and they have dropped four of five.

Kyle Kuzma scored 23 points, and Danny Green and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope each had 20 for Los Angeles.

Russell Westbrook scored 35 points for his fourth straight 30-point game and James Harden had 34 for Houston, which also lost both of its home games in early November.

Bucks 117, Nets 97: Giannis Antetokounmpo had 29 points and 12 rebounds, Khris Middleton scored 20 points, and Milwaukee beat Brooklyn for its sixth straight win.

The Bucks ran the NBA’s best record to 38-6 with another romp. They came in beating opponents by 12.4 points per game, which would be a league record if it holds up all season, and their lead was never below that after Middleton hit consecutive threes in the final minute of the second quarter when the Nets were within nine.

Kyrie Irving had 17 points, six rebounds and six assists for Brooklyn. Rookie reserve Nic Claxton added 14 points and six boards.

Clippers 133, Pelicans 130: Kawhi Leonard scored 39 points and Los Angeles rallied to win at New Orleans.

Louis Williams scored 14 of his 32 points during a dominating fourth quarter for the Clippers, who outscored the Pelicans 31-20 in the final 12 minutes.

Montrezl Harrell scored 24 points for Los Angeles, which trailed by 10 in the final seconds of the third quarter.

Lonzo Ball had 18 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for New Orleans, which was seeking its 11th victory in 15 games despite the recent absence of guard Jrue Holiday, who has missed seven games with an elbow injury.

Warriors 109, Magic 95: D’Angelo Russell scored 26 points and dished out a season-high 12 assists, and short-handed Golden State

snapped its longest losing streak in nearly 18 years at 10 games by beating Orlando.

Jordan Poole scored 26 points and dished out a season-best 11 assists for the Warriors, who ended their five-game skid at home.

Markelle Fultz scored 23 points to lead the Magic, who came in with two close victories in three games on their West Coast swing.

Pistons 136, Hawks 103: Derrick Rose had 27 points and nine assists, Svi Mykhailiuk added 25 points in a reserve role, and Detroit won at Atlanta.

The Pistons had a season high in points and shot 59.3% from the field, two nights after shooting one percentage point better, a season high, in a win at Boston.

Markieff Morris finished with 22 points off the bench, and Andre Drummond had 16 points, 17 rebounds and five steals as Detroit won consecutive games for the first time since Dec. 9.

76ers 90, Knicks 87: Tobias Harris hit a go-ahead three-pointer late in the fourth quarter, Ben Simmons had 21 points and Philadelphia won its third straight game.

Josh Richardson added 18 points and reserve Furkan Korkmaz scored 17 for the 76ers, who snipped a six-game road losing streak. Their last win away from home was Dec. 23 at Detroit. Philadelphia is 28-16 overall, but just 8-4 on the road.

Raptors 122, Timberwolves 112: Fred VanVleet returned from a hamstring injury to score 29 points and lead Toronto to a win at Minnesota.

Kyle Lowry added 28 points and seven assists, while Norman Powell scored 20 points off the bench for the Raptors, who have won three straight.

The Timberwolves’ Andrew Wiggins had his first career triple-double with 18 points, a career-high 11 assists and 10 rebounds.

Bulls 118, Cavaliers 116: Zach LaVine scored 25 of his 42 points in the fourth quarter and host Chicago rallied from 15 points down in the final period for a victory over Cleveland.

The Bulls, who trailed by as many as 19 points, held the Cavaliers to 14 points in the fourth period and forced 10 turnovers.

Lauri Markkanen scored 17 points Chicago, which has won two of three.

Jazz 123, Kings 101: Rudy Gobert had a season-high 28 points and 15 rebounds and host Utah raced to a 16-point lead in the first quarter and routed Sacramento for its 16th win in 18 games. Bojan Bogdanovic had six three-pointers on his way to 30 points. Donovan Mitchell contributed 22 for the Jazz.

Thunder 119, Trail Blazers 106: Chris Paul matched a season high with 30 points, and Oklahoma City beat short-handed Portland."
No. 11 Louisville grinds out win over No. 3 Duke

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Freshman David Johnson had a season-high 19 points and No. 11 Louisville hung on down the stretch to beat No. 3 Duke 79-73 on Saturday night in a key matchup in the Atlantic Coast Conference’s regular-season title chase.

Malik Williams added two free throws with 16 seconds left and followed immediately with a transition dunk off a turnover, a sequence that all but sealed a grind-it-out win for the Cardinals in the Blue Devils’ famously hostile home arena.

By the end, Louisville (15-3, 6-1 ACC) had claimed the only regular-season meeting between the teams and put itself in a tie with No. 9 Florida State atop the league standings. More impressively, the Cardinals won despite leading scorer Jordan Nwora finishing with just six points on 3-for-12 shooting.

Louisville shot 49% for the game, leading by as many as 15 in the first half and 10 at halftime.

Freshman Cassius Stanley had season highs of 24 points and 11 rebounds for Duke (15-3, 5-2), who shot just 37% for the game and made only six of 25 three-pointers.

The struggles included freshman big man Vernon Carey Jr. finishing with just 12 points after sitting a long stretch of the second half with four fouls.

No. 1 Gonzaga 89, BYU 69: Killian Tillie had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and the host Zags earned their 14th straight win against the Cougars without leading scorer Filip Petrusev, who went down hard early in the second half and was helped off the floor with what appeared to be a leg injury.

T.J. Haws scored 17 points and Jake Toolson had 16 for BYU (14-6, 3-2).

No. 2 Baylor 75, Oklahoma State 68: Freddie Gillespie and Jared Butler each scored 17 points, and the visiting Bears earned their 14th straight victory.

No. 4 Auburn 79, No. 22 Loyola-Maryland 81-80 on a three-pointer with nine seconds left. Andrews' jumper with a three-pointer with nine seconds left. Andrews' jumper with nine seconds left.

No. 7 San Diego State 68, Nevada 55: Yanni Wetzell had 17 points and a career-high 16 rebounds for the host Aztecs, who came out hot in the second half to remain the nation’s only undefeated team.

No. 8 Oregon 64, Washington State 50: Payton Pritchard hit his sixth three-pointer of the game with 3.4 seconds left in overtime, lifting the Ducks to the road win.

No. 9 Florida State 83, Miami 79 (OT): The visiting Seminoles forced 24 turnovers, including three in a row in overtime, lifting the Seminoles to the road win.

No. 17 Maryland 57, Purdue 50: Jalen Smith had 18 points and 10 rebounds, and the Terrapins remained unbeaten at home.

No. 18 Seton Hall 82, St. John’s 79: Myles Powell scored 23 of his 29 points in the second half, and the visiting Pirates extended their winning streak to eight games.

Late threes help Army, Navy pull off victories

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Reserve Tucker Blackwell hit two three-pointers in the final 1:19 and then picked up an assist on Josh Caldwell’s three-pointer with a second left as Army stunned Loyola-Maryland 81-80 on Saturday.

The Black Knights (7-10, 2-4) trailed 74-62 after Jaylin Antoine’s 3-pointer with 4:50 left to play, but Blackwell hit from beyond the arc to ignite an 8-0 run by Army pulled within 74-70 with 1:59 remaining. Ronny Jones sank a three to stretch the Greyhounds’ lead back to seven. Blackwell hit from distance, Tommy Funk had a layup and Blackwell answered Andrews’ jumper with a three-pointer to pull Army within 79-78 with 20 seconds to go.

Funk fouled Loyola’s Isaiah Hart, who missed both free throws, but Andrews grabbed the rebound and was fouled by Funk with 13 seconds left. Andrews made one of two free throws for an 79-79 deadlock, setting the stage for Caldwell’s game-winning shot.

Funk finished with 18 points and 11 assists for his second double-double of the season for Army. Matt Wilson added 18 points and seven rebounds, while Blackwell scored 16 on 5-for-7 shooting. Lonnie Grayson scored 11.

Navy 68, Lafayette 66: Cam Davis scored 23 points including a three-pointer with nine seconds left that lifted the host Midshipmen over the Leopards.

Lafayette’s Tyrone Perry was fouled with 2.8 seconds remaining but missed the first free throw. He missed the second intentionally and got the rebound but wasn’t close on a desperate final shot as he went out of bounds.

Daniel Deaver added 11 points and eight rebounds and John Carpenter had 10 points for Navy (10-7, 4-2 Patriot League). Greg Summers grabbed eight rebounds.

Nico Carvacho scored 10 points with 13 rebounds for his second double-double of the week. David Roddy had 13 points for Colorado State (3-7, 4-3 Mountain West Conference), which won its fourth straight game and sixth in its last seven. Kendle Moore added 13 points. Isaiah Stevens had 11 points.

Lavelle Scottie had 16 points for Air Force (9-10, 3-4) as did Sid Tomes. A.J. Walker had 11 points.

The Rams matched up against Fresno State at home on Wednesday. The Falcons play Utah State on the road on Tuesday.
Astros, Red Sox look ahead in aftermath of sign-stealing scandal

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AND JIMMY Golen
Associated Press

Players from two teams at the center of baseball's sign-stealing scandal faced their fans on Saturday for the first time since the Houston Astros and Boston Red Sox ousted their managers amid the fallout from the investigation into Houston's elaborate scheme.

The Astros and Red Sox held their annual fan fests on Saturday, and instead of discussing preparations for the season, players from both teams were left to answer questions about the cheating that resulted in both teams' managers being fired.

“It’s a tough situation and as a team we have to stay together and go through this as a team like we’ve been doing, always,” Houston star second baseman Jose Altuve said. “We’ve taken it at spring training and try not to let things in the past distract us for next year.”

Houston manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were suspended for a year by MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred Monday after he found illicit use of electronics to steal signs during the Astros' 2017 World Series championship and again in the 2018 season.

Team owner Jim Crane then fired both Hinch and Luhnow. Manager Alex Cora left the Red Sox on Tuesday after Manfred’s report identified him as the ringleader of the sign-stealing scheme when he was the bench coach for the Astros in 2017.

Many Red Sox players talked Saturday about how much they liked and valued Cora and hated seeing him fired.

“I’m heartbroken about it,” Boston designated hitter J.D. Martinez said. “We're going to be in the World Series again this year. It's a difficult situation, but we've got to move on. It’s going to be fine.”

The commissioner made his report, made his decision and the Astros made their decision and I have no further comment on it,” Bregman said in some variation again.

After being pressed on if he plans to discuss the sign-stealing scandal in Boston, Hinch said: “We’ve given an answer that didn’t seem as rehearsed.

“I understand his side of it, being in that division, going against those guys. It’s an uncomfortable position for him, but I understand why he did what he did,” Martinez told reporters in Boston, Mass. “He obviously felt like he needed to and I understand it.”

In Houston, as the Astros try to put the scandal behind them and focus on the future, Altuve, who has often been described as the heart and soul of the team, is confident it won't derail the Astros from another successful season.

“I’m excited for the investigation to get over with, so they can see there’s nothing going on here,” he said.

While the Astros were meeting with fans in Houston, Toronto Blue Jays outfielder Randal Grichuk called for MLB to take away their World Series championship, now that it’s been proven that they cheated.

“I mean, I would like to see that obviously. I bet the Dodgers would like to see that,” Grichuk said. “I’ve got a few friends on the Dodgers that are very disappointed that possibly two years in a row they lost due to a team going against the rules.

Many Boston players are trying not to focus on the investigation or what could be coming for the team, but instead simply trying to prepare like it’s any other season.

“MLB’s going to do what they have to do to look into it,” pitcher Nathan Eovaldi said. “I just trying to focus on baseball. I feel like it’s going to pass, and everything’s going to be fine.”

While Altuve didn’t have a problem answering numerous questions about the scandal, Houston third baseman Alex Bregman refused repeated attempts by reporters to get him to address what happened and kept repeating variations of the same phrase.

“The commissioner made his report, made his decision and the Astros made their decision and I have no further comment on it.”

Back: McGregor makes quick work of Cerrone

“I feel really good, and I came out of here unscathed,” McGregor said. “I’m in shape. We’ve got work to do to get back to where I was.”

After injuring Cerrone (36-14) with his first punch, McGregor (22-4) dropped him with a sublime kick to the jaw. McGregor pounced and forced referee Herb Dean to save Cerrone, delivering a sidelong knock out of 19,940 at T-Mobile Arena.

McGregor’s hand hadn’t been raised in victory since November 2016, when he stopped lightweight Eddie Alvarez to become the first fighter in UFC history to hold two championship belts simultaneously.

With his fame and fortune multiplying, McGregor fought only his boxing match with Floyd Mayweather in 2017, and he lost a one-sided UFC bout to lightweight champion Khabib Nurmagomedov in late 2018.

“I wasn’t committed,” McGregor said afterward.

“I just felt like I disagreed the people that believed in me and supported me. That’s what led me to re-center myself and get back to where I was at.”

After a year spent out of competition and in repeated troubles with the law, McGregor got back into training and vowed to return to elite form. This dramatic victory over Cerrone indicated he’s well on his way, and McGregor has vowed to fight multiple times in 2020.

Welterweight champion Kamaru Usman and veteran brawler Jorge Masvidal watched UFC 246 from cageside. Either man could be McGregor’s next opponent, but UFC President Dana White is pushing for a rematch with Nurmagomedov, who first fights Tony Ferguson in April.

“Any one of those mouthy fools can get it,” McGregor yelled into the microphone. “Every single one of them can get it. It does not matter. I’m back and I’m ready.”

Although many observers have scoffed, the 31-year-old McGregor believes he can reclaim the fearsome form he showed during his meteoric rise to unprecedented MMA success. He won 15 consecutive fights during a five-year run from low-profile shows in Dublin to the world’s biggest MMA events, stopping five straight elite UFC opponents with punches on the way up.

After his latest victory earlier this year, McGregor peeled away briefly to celebrate, but quickly returned to comfort the disoriented Cerrone. When Cerrone’s grandmother, Jerry, entered the cage after the fight to hug her grandson, McGregor also hugged Jerry and got a kiss on the cheek.

Even after his prolonged absence — or maybe because of it — McGregor’s return was a huge seller on pay-per-view, according to White. The UFC said it made more than $11 million in ticket sales at T-Mobile Arena for the fourth-biggest gate total in the promotion’s history.

“This guy is such a huge superstar,” White said.

“I put him up there with (Mike) Tyson, (Sugar Ray) Leonard, all of them. He’s got the biggest pay-per-view in history, and how many of the top 10 does he have? ”

An eager Vegas crowd showed up in person, with celebrities including Matthew McConaughey, Jeremy Renner and Dave Bautista, along with NFL stars Tom Brady, Christian McCaffrey, Baker Mayfield, Myles Garrett and Jon Gruden.

Former lightweight champion Holly Holm beat Raquel Pennington by unanimous decision in the penultimate bout of UFC 246. The 38-year-old Holm (13-5) had lost five of her seven fights since she memorably knocked out Ronda Rousey in November 2015.

On the undercard, 37-year-old flyweight Roxanne Modafferi pulled off one of the biggest upsets in recent UFC history with a one-sided decision victory over previously unbeaten 21-year-old Maycee Barber, the UFC’s top 125-pound prospect.

Barber (8-1) injured her left knee during the bout, but Modafferi (24-16) was already dominating with the superior jiu-jitsu she has been practicing for Barber’s entire life. Modafferi was the biggest betting underdog on the UFC 246 card, facing 10-1 odds at some sports books.

Aleksei Oleinik, a 42-year-old heavyweight who made his pro debut in 1996, also beat Maurice Greene by submission in the second round.
LAS VEGAS

Conor McGregor's opening punch bloodied Donald Cerrone's nose. He then floored Cerrone only 20 seconds into the bout with a perfectly placed kick to the head, and he mercilessly finished on the ground. When he paraded around the ring with an Irish flag on his shoulders to celebrate, the mixed martial arts world knew McGregor is back with a big bang.

The Irish former two-division champion came out of a three-year stretch of relative inactivity and outside-the-cage troubles with a welterweight performance in UFC 246 on Saturday night that echoed his greatest fights during his unparalleled rise.

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"I feel really good, and I came out of here unscathed. I'm in shape. We've got work to do to get back to where I was."

Conor McGregor
former two-division champion, after Saturday's KO win over Donald "Cowboy" Cerrone