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Jimmy Carter's funeral brings together 5 current and former U.S. presidents to honor one of their own

By **WILL WEISSERT** and **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As they filed into the front pews at Washington National Cathedral, wearing dark suits and mostly solemn faces, five current and former presidents came together for Jimmy Carter's funeral. For a service that stretched more than an hour, the feuding, grievances and enmity that had marked their rival campaigns and divergent politics gave way to a reverential moment for one of their own.

Barack Obama and Donald Trump, the first two of the group to take their seats Thursday, shook hands and chatted at length. Trump, the former president who will retake the Oval Office in 11 days, leaned in and listened intently to his predecessor, notwithstanding the political chasm between them.

At times, the two flashed smiles.

Obama, who attended without his wife, Michelle, shared a second-row pew with former presidents



Front row, from left, President Joe Biden, first lady Jill Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and second gentleman Doug Emhoff and second row from left, former President Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former President George W. Bush, Laura Bush, former President Barack Obama, President-elect Donald Trump and Melania Trump, stand during the state funeral for former President Jimmy Carter at Washington National Cathedral in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025.

Associated Press

George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, along with their spouses. President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden arrived last and sat in the pew just in front of them. Members of the exclusive presidents' club were on their best behavior. Bond-

ed by the presidency, they rarely criticize one another or the White House's current occupant though Trump has flouted those rules frequently. He has both praised and criticized Carter in recent days, and he complained that flags

will still be at half-staff to honor the deceased president during his inauguration. In one seemingly chilly moment, Trump looked up when Vice President Kamala Harris whom he defeated in November's

hard-fought election entered the cathedral, but he didn't move to greet her as she and husband Doug Emhoff took seats directly in front of him and Melania Trump. Nor did Harris acknowledge him.

After the service, Emhoff made a point to turn around and shake hands with Trump.

Obama, with Trump on his left, also turned to his right to chat with Bush. Clinton, with wife Hillary, was the last of the ex-presidents to take a seat and got in some chatter with Bush as well.

The White House said the former presidents also met privately before taking their seats.

Funerals are among the few events that bring members of the presidents' club together. In a way, former President Gerald Ford was there, too: Ford's son Steven read a eulogy for Carter that Ford had written before he died in 2006.

Busy with personal pursuits, charitable endeavors and sometimes lucrative speaking gigs, the former leaders don't mingle often. □

Watchdog groups seeks investigation into RFK Jr. for voting from a 'sham' address

By **MICHAEL HILL**
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York election officials are being urged to investigate whether Robert F. Kennedy Jr. committed voter fraud by casting his November ballot from a discredited address, as the former independent presidential candidate seeks Senate confirmation for a top public health role in the Trump administration.

Accountable.US, a progressive watchdog group, this week asked the state Division of Election Law Enforcement to determine whether Kennedy committed any felony by using an address in New York City's well-to-do suburbs to vote by mail in the last election. A state judge last summer

knocked Kennedy off the presidential ballot in New York after finding the rented bedroom in Katonah he claimed as his residence was a "sham" address. The judge said evidence

showed the scion of the famed Democratic political dynasty actually resided in California, where he has a home with his wife, "Curb Your Enthusiasm" actor Cheryl Hines.



Robert F. Kennedy Jr., President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to be secretary of Health and Human Services, speaks at the Capitol in Washington, Jan. 9, 2025.

Associated Press

Kennedy unsuccessfully appealed the judge's ruling.

The complaint filed with the elections office said public records show Kennedy was registered to vote last November at the same address the judge invalidated and that he voted by mail. "As the defendant in this case, Mr. Kennedy was clearly aware of the verdicts holding that he was not a legal resident of this Katonah address. Despite this undisputable knowledge, Mr. Kennedy voted from the property anyway," according to the complaint dated Monday. Kennedy is now President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to lead the Department of Health and Human Services. He is expected

to face tough questioning for promoting anti-vaccine views.

An email seeking comment was sent Thursday to New York's election enforcement division.

A call was made to Trump's transition team and a text was sent to RFK Jr.'s former campaign spokesperson also seeking comment.

Kennedy testified in the initial case that he moved to California a decade ago was so he could be with his wife, and that he always planned to return to New York. He said he rented a room in a friend's home in Katonah, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) north of Midtown Manhattan, though had only slept in that room once due to his constant campaign travel. □

U.S. orange juice and steel will be on Canada's list for retaliation if Trump imposes tariffs

By **ROB GILLIES**
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canada is looking at putting retaliatory tariffs on American orange juice, toilets and some steel products if U.S. President-elect Donald Trump follows through with his threat to impose 25% tariffs on all Canadian products, a senior official familiar with the matter said Thursday.

The official said the wide-ranging list hasn't been completed yet. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

Trump said this week he will use economic coercion to pressure Canada to become the nation's 51st state. And he continues to erroneously cast the U.S. trade deficit with Canada a natural resource-rich nation that provides the U.S. with commodities like oil as a subsidy.

When Trump imposed higher tariffs during his first term in office, other countries responded with retaliatory tariffs of their own.



In this Oct. 12, 2007 file photo, a for sale sign sits among an acreage of orange trees in Bartow, Fla.
Associated Press

Canada, for instance, announced billions of new duties in 2018 against the U.S. in a tit-for-tat response to new taxes on Canadian steel and aluminum.

Yogurt imports from Wisconsin and whiskey from Kentucky, the home states of top Republicans Paul Ryan and Mitch McConnell respectively, were hit with 10% duties in 2018.

A lot of citrus production happens in Florida, now Trump's home state.

Trump said this week the U.S. doesn't need anything from Canada, including automobiles, lumber and dairy products. Supply chains for the auto industry are deeply connected, with parts manufactured in Ontario being used in cars that are assembled in De-

troit and then sold back to Canada.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford has noted that in the auto sector alone parts can go back and forth across the Canada-U.S. border several times.

Ford, the leader of Canada's most populous province, said Trump has been misinformed about the U.S. not needing Canadian

products. Almost a quarter of the oil the U.S. consumes every day is from Canada, with Alberta exporting 4.3 million barrels a day to the U.S. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the U.S. consumes about 20 million barrels a day, while domestically producing about 13.2 million barrels a day.

Ford warned that Canada will retaliate if Trump imposes tariffs.

He said a wide range of U.S. products shipped to Canada will be targeted, but he declined to specify which ones.

Top Canadian government officials say Trump's comments that Canada should become the 51st state are no longer a joke and are meant to undermine America's closest ally.

"The joke is over," Dominic LeBlanc, the country's finance minister and point person for U.S.-Canada relations, said Wednesday. "It's a way for him, I think, to sow confusion, to agitate people, to create chaos knowing this will never happen." □

Guyana to seek help from U.N.'s top court as Venezuela vies for control of disputed territory

By **BERT WILKINSON**
Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Guyana said Thursday that it will seek help from the United Nations' top court to deter plans by neighboring Venezuela to elect a governor to rule its western Essequibo region, an area rich in resources long claimed by Venezuela as its own.

Guyana's foreign ministry said in a statement that Venezuela's plan violates a December 2022 agreement between the two countries to not trigger conflict or escalate tensions over the mineral- and oil-rich region comprising two-thirds of Guyana's land mass.

"The people of Guyana's Essequibo region are Guy-

anese nationals who live in Guyana's sovereign territory," the ministry said. "It would be a flagrant violation of the most fundamental principles of international law, enshrined in the U.N. Charter, for Venezuela to attempt to conduct an election in Guyanese territory involving the participation of Guyanese nationals."

The ministry said it would ask the International Court of Justice in The Netherlands for provisional measures to stop Venezuela in its tracks if it goes ahead with plans to elect a governor of Essequibo. It said plans by Venezuela to administratively incorporate Essequibo into Venezuela "not only jeopardize the judicial process but also undermine the au-

thority of the court as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations."

Venezuela has always considered Essequibo as its own because the region was within its boundaries during the Spanish colonial period. It has long dismissed the border drawn by international arbitrators in 1899, when Guyana was still a British colony.

After years of fruitless mediation, Guyana went to the world court in 2018, asking judges to rule that the 1899 border decision is valid and binding. Venezuela argues that a 1966 agreement to resolve the dispute effectively nullified the original arbitration.

A ruling is not expected this year because Venezuela was given until late Au-

gust to reply to arguments made by Guyana.

Venezuela's interest in the Essequibo region peaked after massive quantities of

oil and gas were discovered off Guyana's coast in 2015, with oil production currently at 650,000 barrels a day. □



Chairman of the Special Commission for the Defense of Guyana Essequibo Hermann Escarra, stands next to Venezuela's new map that includes the Essequibo territory, a swath of land that is administered and controlled by Guyana but claimed by Venezuela, during an unveiling ceremony in Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 8, 2023.

Associated Press

Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill



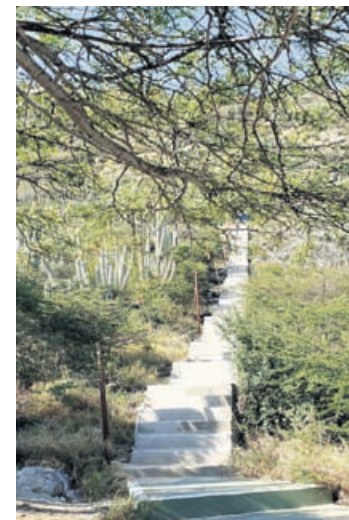
(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or may-be want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.



located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Ja-

manota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.



The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.



The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)	Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)	Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
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The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors
Mr. Bradford & Mrs. Kathleen Slater from Hertford, North Carolina, United States.

Ms. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, pre-

sented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's weather
- Aruba is below the hurricane belt
- Aruba's people are so friendly
- Aruba's restaurants quality of food
- Aruba is a safe island

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The Torch Parade is back! The first parade of the Carnival season

(Oranjestad)—Carnaval season is back on this year and Aruba is celebrating its 71th edition of Carnaval with a bang! Officially having begun on November 11th, this Carnaval season starts off with the spectacular Torch Parade (Fakkel); a night-time parade filled with lights, music and fun!



Historically, Fakkel consisted of a parade with people carrying actual flamed torches around. However, in the modern version of the parade, groups and parade walkers opt for a safer and sustainable method; electric torches!

That's right, during Fakkel you mainly see parade walkers sporting an electric torch, completed with a group "uniform". These uniforms are mostly personally-designed T-shirts sporting the names and themes of the year's Carnaval groups participating in the Carnaval season. T-shirts are mostly decorated with glitter, sequence, cut-outs or even more light. You may also spot everyone carrying a light-up cup in their hand...filled with water, of course!

This year's Fakkel Parade takes place tonight in the down-town area of Oranjestad. When you actually get to see the parade pass by de-



pends where on the side of the road you are sitting. But don't worry, chat up with some of the locals while you're waiting for the show! ☐

The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company.



Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and



carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant.

Sources: Etnia Nativa & goldmineranch.com.

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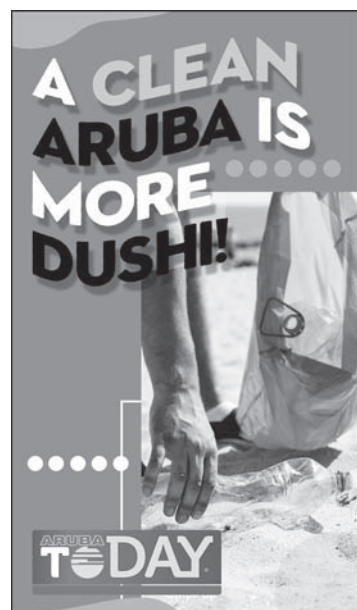
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Doping clouds tennis talk at the Australian Open with Sinner and Swiatek facing scrutiny



Jannik Sinner of Italy poses with ball kids and the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup after defeating Daniil Medvedev of Russia in the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships at Melbourne Park, in Melbourne, Australia, Jan. 28, 2024.

Associated Press

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer
MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — It is a topic that shadowed tennis in 2024 and is still a talking point as the 2025 Grand Slam season opens at the Australian Open on Sunday (Saturday EST): doping and the cases involving Jannik Sinner which is still not resolved and Iga Swiatek. Both spent much of last year at No. 1, and Sinner still will hold that spot in the ATP rankings when he steps on court at Melbourne Park to begin the defense of his championship, one of two major trophies he won last year. Swiatek, a five-time Slam champ and the woman leading the WTA rankings

most of the past three seasons, is No. 2 behind Aryna Sabalenka, who will be chasing her third consecutive title in Australia. "Obviously, there are going to be some negative comments," Swiatek said. "You're not going to avoid that." Most players prefer to remain silent when asked about the cases. But there are those who have been happy to weigh in, including 24-time major champion Novak Djokovic, raising questions about whether Sinner and Swiatek were treated the same as other players facing similar circumstances and why their situations were kept under wraps for months. "I sit and wonder, 'Why such a big difference in treatment

and judgment?'" was two-time major champion Simona Halep's reaction to Swiatek's punishment. "I can't find, and I don't think there can be, a logical answer." Halep initially was banned for four years after testing positive for the banned drug Roxadustat at the 2022 U.S. Open, then had that penalty reduced to nine months on appeal although she already had been off the tour longer than that. She was supposed to compete at Melbourne Park for the first time in three years but withdrew from qualifying because of knee and shoulder pain. No one has been louder about the subject lately than Nick Kyrgios, the 2022 Wimbledon runner-up who missed nearly all of the past two seasons because of injuries. He has been commenting regularly, in real life and online, even taking a jab (that he said was in jest) at Cruz Hewitt after the 16-year-old son of Australian Davis Cup captain Lleyton posted a photo with Sinner from a practice session. "It's been handled horrifically in our sport. Two world No. 1s, both getting done for doping, is disgusting for our sport," Kyrgios said at the Brisbane International, the first event of his comeback. "It's a horrible look." □

Baltimore WR Zay Flowers won't play against Pittsburgh this week after injuring his knee

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP) — Baltimore Ravens receiver Zay Flowers will miss this weekend's playoff game against Pittsburgh after injuring his knee in the regular-season finale. "Zay Flowers is not going to be able to make it to the game this week, so he'll get started again next week," coach John Harbaugh said Thursday. "We'll move forward with the guys we have, and we're excited about the guys we have, which is everybody else." Flowers was hurt during a 35-10 victory over Cleveland last weekend that clinched the AFC North title for Baltimore. The second-year receiver made the Pro Bowl, catching 74 passes for 1,059 yards and four touchdowns. Harbaugh said earlier this week that Flowers' injury was not expected to be season-ending, but now the Ravens need to advance for him to return.



Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Zay Flowers grabs his leg after being injured during the first half of an NFL football game against the Cleveland Browns Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

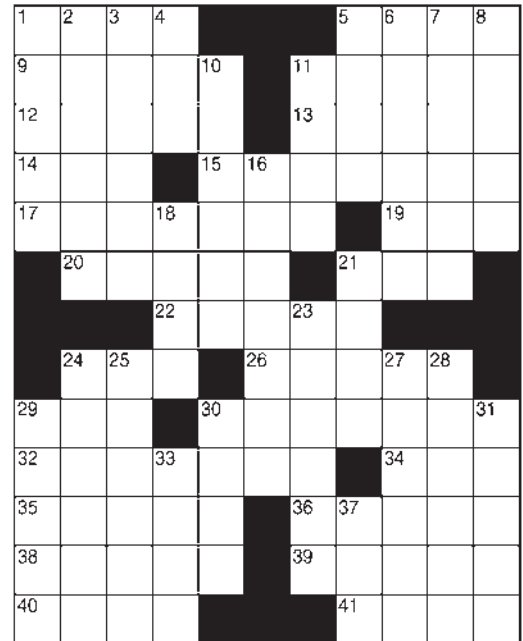
Baltimore drafted Flowers in the first round in 2023, and he quickly became an elusive, shifty receiving threat for Lamar Jackson. □

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Tibia's place
 - 5 River floater
 - 9 Stately home
 - 11 Circus worker
 - 12 Texas mission
 - 13 Atlanta school
 - 14 Force member
 - 15 Paging gizmos
 - 17 Things to hang on to
 - 19 Stake
 - 20 Put away
 - 21 Was inactive
 - 22 Map division
 - 24 Auction buy
 - 26 Painter Rivera
 - 29 Sermon topic
 - 30 "Golly!"
 - 32 Small tree frogs
 - 34 West of films
 - 35 Nostalgic song



- DOWN
- 1 Open-handed hit
 - 2 Luminous rings
 - 3 Sulking
 - 4 — de plume
 - 5 Highway exit
 - 6 One-celled organism
 - 7 Weasel's kin
 - 8 Secret meeting
 - 10 Inventor Fulton
 - 11 Casual tops
 - 16 Device for a book lover
 - 18 Fence part
 - 21 Ooze
 - 23 Occupies
 - 24 Keep out of sight
 - 25 Nervous
 - 27 Zodiac twins
 - 28 Made speeches
 - 29 Puffball bit
 - 30 Taunt
 - 31 Garden starters
 - 33 Diner desserts
 - 37 Zero



1-10

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-10 CRYPTOQUOTE

SBQ GIAGDNQ DL GADGWYWTHW
PN SD EWVQ DTQ NQS DL
GQDGUQ LDAYQS SBWS DSBQA
NQSN DL GQDGUQ WAQ BIEWT.

— WUHDIN BIOUQK
Cryptoquote: BE WILLING TO BE A
BEGINNER EVERY SINGLE MORNING. — MEISTER
ECKHART



THE CASINO AT
THE RITZ-CARLTON
ARUBA

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WITH A HIGH 5**

JANUARY 1 - 21, 2025

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Earning period starting January 1, 2025.

\$5,500 IN PRIZES

JANUARY 17	JANUARY 18	JANUARY 19	JANUARY 20	JANUARY 21
\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba encourages Responsible Gaming.

NBA postpones game between Lakers and Hornets due to wildfires in Los Angeles area

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The NBA postponed the Los Angeles Lakers' home game against the Charlotte Hornets on Thursday with several massive wildfires burning across the greater Los Angeles area.

It is the second straight day a game slated to be played in downtown Los Angeles has been postponed. The NHL's Los Angeles Kings were scheduled to host the Calgary Flames on Wednesday night.

The date for the rescheduled games will be announced at a later time. The Kings said tickets for their postponed game against Calgary will be good for the rescheduled date.

Three major fires were burning in areas of the vast Los Angeles metroplex following two days of extraordinary winds. A major threat broke out Wednesday eve-



A beach front property is damaged by the Palisades Fire Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025 in Malibu, Calif.
Associated Press

ning in the Hollywood Hills, close to the heart of the entertainment industry, but had been contained by Thursday morning.

Roughly 180,000 people

are under evacuation orders, and the fires have consumed about 45 square miles (117 square kilometers) roughly the size of San Francisco. The Palisades

Fire is already the most destructive in Los Angeles' history.

NFL Playoffs

The Los Angeles Rams sent out a statement to season-

ticket holders and fans Thursday morning reiterating that Monday night's NFC wild-card round post-season game against the Minnesota Vikings remains set to be played as scheduled Monday night at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood.

The NFL said Wednesday evening if the game had to be moved, it would take place at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, the home of the Arizona Cardinals.

In 2003, the league moved a Monday night regular-season game between the Miami Dolphins and San Diego Chargers to Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Arizona, due to wildfires.

The Rams and the Los Angeles Chargers both train in areas not threatened by fires, but both teams are monitoring the air quality and its potential impact on their workouts. □