

Presidential Headlines

1. Charles Bartley 1967-1968

1967: Six-Day War

- **Date:** June 5
- **Location:** Middle East

Amid escalating tensions with its neighbors, Israel launches a pre-emptive strike that destroys most of Egypt's air force. Syria, Jordan, and Iraq also attack Israel. As the war continues, Israel takes the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, captures East Jerusalem and the West Bank from Jordan, and in heavy fighting seizes the Golan Heights from Syria. A ceasefire goes into effect on June 10.

1968: Dream denied

- **Date:** April 4
- **Location:** Memphis, Tennessee

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is fatally shot by James Earl Ray as the civil rights icon stands on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, a tragedy that sparks race riots nationwide. King's influence in words and actions touch and move not only the nation, but the world, and resonate to this day. Two months later, on June 4, Democratic presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy and brother of John F. Kennedy, is fatally shot by Sirhan Sirhan, an Arab Christian from Jerusalem, who believes Kennedy is "instrumental" in oppressing Palestinians.

2. Richard De Lambert 1987-1988

1987: Stock market tanks

- **Date:** Oct. 19
- **Location:** Worldwide

The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunges 508 points, or more than 22%, on Oct. 19, 1987, later referred to as Black Monday. The drop, in percentage terms, is worse than the crash in 1929. It is also worse than the market plunge after the 9-11 terrorist attacks and the 2008 financial crisis. Among the reasons cited for the drop are rising tensions in

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the Persian Gulf, concern over higher interest rates, and the belief that the bull market is ending. Computerized trading, relatively new at the time, accelerates trade orders, which speeds up the market drop. As a result of the collapse, exchanges put in place so-called circuit breakers intended to halt trading when stocks fall too fast. This measure is designed to provide investors a cooling off period and avoid a panic.

1988: End of fighting in Iran-Iraq war

- **Date:** July 20
- **Location:** Iraq-Iran border

From 1980 to 1988, neighboring Middle East countries Iran and Iraq are engaged in a protracted war. It begins when Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein launches an attack on Iran in 1980, sensing an opportunity in the wake of the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Iraqi forces initially make incursions into Iranian land, but they lose the area gained in 1982 after Iran is able to mobilize its military and repel the Iraqi forces. Hussein seeks a peace deal that year, but Iranian leader Ruhollah Khomeini refuses. From 1982 to 1988, the fighting is characterized by sporadic missile launches, attacks on each others' oil tankers, and the use of chemical weapons, mostly by the Iraqis. By 1988, Iran's economy is in dire straits, forcing Iran to agree to a UN-brokered ceasefire. The two countries signed an official peace treaty in 1990. Anywhere from 500,000 to 1 million troops were killed in the war and up to 100,000 Kurds.

3. Steve Olson 1994-1995

1994: Rwandan genocide

- **Date:** April-July
- **Location:** Rwanda

For decades, Rwanda has been embroiled in a conflict between the country's two major ethnic groups – the Hutu and the Tutsi. Over 100 days, an estimated 800,000 people are killed, mostly Tutsis, but some moderate Hutus as well. When Tutsi militant group eventually gains control of the country, some two million Rwandans flee to nearby African nations. In 2008, three former Rwandan officials are convicted by an international court of organizing the genocide.

1995: Domestic terror strikes Oklahoma

- **Date:** April 19
- **Location:** Oklahoma City

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In the deadliest domestic terrorist attack in U.S. history, anti-government radicals Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols bomb the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. They time the truck-bomb attack for a weekday morning in order to maximize casualties. For the murder of at least 168 people, including 19 children who were in a child-care center in the building, and the injury of hundreds of others, an unremorseful McVeigh is executed by lethal injection on June 11, 2001. Nichols is serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole.

4. Norm Owen 1996-1997

1996: The dawn of cloning

- **Date:** July 5
- **Location:** Midlothian, Scotland, U.K.

Dolly the Sheep enters the annals of bioengineering when scientists at Scotland's Roslin Institute become the first to not only successfully clone a mammal, but also the first to do so using an adult cell rather than an embryonic one. After 277 cell fusions that developed 29 embryos, the team manages to turn an udder cell into a virtually identical biological carbon copy of the sheep from which it came.

1997: Machine tops chess champ

- **Date:** May 11
- **Location:** New York City

Artificial intelligence and machine learning notch a significant victory in 1997, when IBM's Deep Blue machine defeats a world chess champion. The refrigerator-sized computer loses to grandmaster Garry Kasparov in the first match but proceeds to beat him twice and tie him three times in the next five games.

5. Jeane Levin 1998-1999

1998: The age of Google begins

- **Date:** Sept. 4
- **Location:** Menlo Park, California

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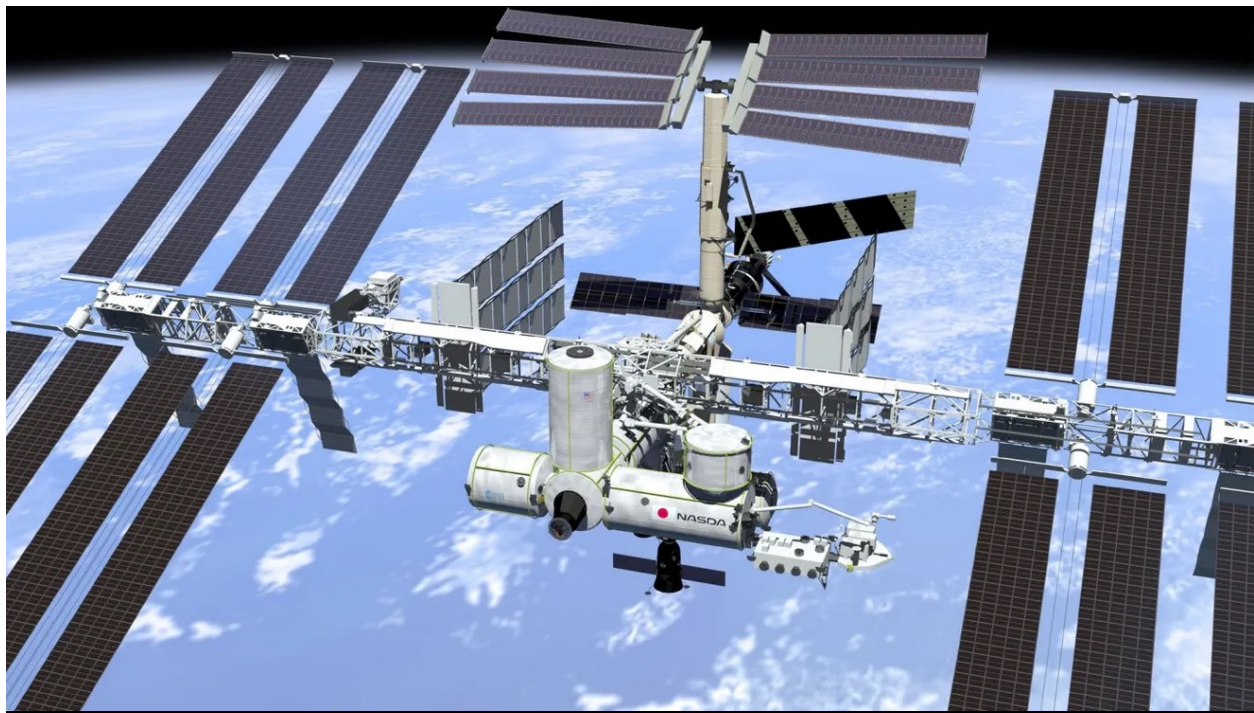
With seed money from Sun Microsystems co-founder Andy Bechtolsheim and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos among others, Stanford University Ph.D. students Larry Page and Sergey Brin launch the search engine Google. The digital advertising behemoth Google Inc., now Alphabet Inc., is an \$863 billion company with several subsidiaries, including YouTube, autonomous-car development company Waymo, and X, the company's research and development division.

1999: NATO's first independent strike

- **Date:** March 24.
- **Location:** Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

In order to get Yugoslav forces out of Kosovo during the Kosovo War, NATO forces initiate their first-ever military campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (now Montenegro and Serbia) without U.N. Security Council authorization as Russia and China oppose the attack. The NATO air strikes are aimed at stopping an onslaught against ethnic Albanians by the government of Slobodan Milošević. The NATO attacks last nearly three months, culminating in the withdrawal of Yugoslav forces from Kosovo.

6. Joe DeSilva 1999-2000



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2000: International Space Station opens

- **Date:** Nov. 2
- **Location:** Low earth orbit

Commanders Bill Shepherd from the United States and Yuri Gidzenko of Russia, along with Russian flight engineer Sergei Krikalev, become the first temporary residents of the International Space Station two years after the first component of the research center was put into low-Earth orbit about 250 miles above sea level. Since that first crew, there have been 229 other visitors to the ISS, some of them multiple times, led by 146 from the United States and 47 from Russia.

7. Will Haymaker. 2002-2003

2002: Homeland Security Act

- **Date:** Nov. 25
- **Location:** Washington D.C.

Following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the U.S. Congress and President George W. Bush enact the Homeland Security Act, the biggest government reorganization of national security efforts since the Department of Defense was created in 1947. The sweeping legislation creates the massive Department of Homeland Security, which is responsible for everything from protecting infrastructure from cyber attacks to managing the new U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency.

2003: US invades Iraq

- **Date:** March 19
- **Location:** Iraq

With the help of British and other allied forces, the United States begins its invasion of Iraq with a rapid bombing called Shock and Awe with the intention of destroying Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction; the weapons are never found. Coalition forces manage to quickly topple the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein but have to fight insurgent forces for years afterward.

8. Debi Zaft 2006-2007

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2006: Hussein executed

- **Date:** Dec. 30
- **Location:** Baghdad

Three years after U.S. soldiers pulled him from a hole in the ground where he had been hiding, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is hanged. Hussein had been convicted for crimes against humanity, specifically for ordering the massacre of 148 Shiites in 1982 following a failed assassination attempt against him.

2007: The iPhone

- **Date:** Jan. 9
- **Location:** San Francisco

Apple CEO Steve Jobs, who died in October 2011, reveals to the world one of the most popular branded consumer electronic devices in history, the iPhone. Since the first generation phone that Jobs introduced at the Consumer Electronics Show that year, there have been 24 versions of the mobile device, and more than 2.2 billion units have been sold globally through 2018, when Apple stopped reporting iPhone sales. Only Samsung's Galaxy smartphone comes close to that volume.

9. Kathleen Archer 2008-2009

2008: Dow plunges

- **Date:** Sept. 29
- **Location:** New York City

The Dow Jones Industrial Average records the largest-ever intraday drop in points, 777.68, after Congress rejects a massive \$700 billion bailout of U.S. banks. The bill would pass days later. The market reacts also to months of global market turmoil amid the 2008 global financial crisis spurred by the U.S. subprime mortgage market crash. The Dow falls by more than half during the 2007-2009 Great Recession, tumbling from 14,164 on Oct. 9, 2007 to 6,594 on March 5, 2009.

2009: America's first African-American president

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- **Date:** Jan. 20
- **Location:** Washington D.C.

After winning in a landslide against Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, amassing 365 electoral votes and 53% of the popular vote, Barack Obama is sworn in as the first African American president of the United States. Obama inherits the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, but with his party holding majorities in both houses of Congress at the time, the president is able to pass a stimulus package and his signature Affordable Care Act in March 2010.

10. Fred Levin 2009-2010

2010: Catastrophic oil spill

- **Date:** April 20
- **Location:** Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana

Eleven workers die and 17 are injured after an explosion and fire erupts on the Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling rig 40 miles from the Louisiana coast. The explosion causes the largest environmental disaster in U.S. history, spewing 3 million barrels of crude oil over the three months it takes to stop the leak. British oil company BP says costs from the clean-up, legal fees, and settlements reached \$65 billion.

11. Marnie Goldschlag 2011-2012

2011: Bin Laden killed

- **Date:** May 2
- **Location:** Abbottabad, Pakistan

In an intense 40-minute nighttime firefight, 25 U.S. Navy SEALs hunt down and kill al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, mastermind of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, in a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Within hours, bin Laden's body is identified using DNA and then buried at sea in the Arabian Sea.

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12. Bill Rousseau 2012-2013

2012: The 'God Particle' is (Probably) Discovered

- **Date:** July 4
- **Location:** Near Geneva

Nearly 600 feet below the France-Switzerland border at CERN's Large Hadron Collider Facility, an international team of scientists discovers a new particle widely believed to be the elusive Higgs boson, known as the "God Particle," which is thought to be a fundamental component of the universe. The Higgs boson has been an important element of particle physics theory for decades, but until 2012 there had been no physical evidence to support its existence.

2013: Snowden reveals secrets

- **Date:** June 6
- **Location:** Hong Kong

After surreptitiously leaving his job at U.S. National Security Agency contractor Booz Allen Hamilton, computer security consultant Edward Snowden meets secretly in Hong Kong with journalists Glenn Greenwald and Laura Poitras. Snowden reveals the first of a series of secrets about numerous U.S. and European government surveillance operations. Hailed as a courageous whistleblower and privacy champion by some and a traitor that compromised counterterrorism efforts by others, the American now resides in exile in Moscow.

13. Mark Burchill 2014-2015

2014: Russia invades Ukraine

- **Date:** March 16. (In PETS)
- **Location:** Crimea

Exploiting political unrest in Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin orchestrates the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula. The action incites peals of condemnation from world leaders and a raft of economic sanctions against Moscow. This strategically

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important and predominantly Russian-speaking region on the Black Sea has been coveted by the Russians as part of their strategic efforts to check NATO expansion along Russia's western border.

14. Doug Johnson 2015-2016

2015: NASA flies by Pluto

- **Date:** July 14
- **Location:** 3 billion miles from Earth

NASA spacecraft New Horizons becomes the first human-made object to fly past and observe the dwarf planet Pluto. New Horizons sends back stunning photographs of this enigmatic and distant member of the solar system, including images of a mountain range and massive icebergs floating in frozen nitrogen. New Horizons is now en route to the Kuiper Belt, a massive asteroid belt at the far reaches of the solar system.

Brexit

The U.S. election wasn't the first shocking vote of 2016. In June, the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union in a move nicknamed "Brexit." After months of bitter campaigning, the result sent Britain's prime minister packing and caused economic panic across the globe. The leaders of the "Leave" movement campaigned on the idea that, among other things, the U.K. could have tighter control of its borders without the E.U., while "Remain" supporters mostly argued that leaving would be an economic disaster for Britain. Now the country's new prime minister plans to move forward with Brexit negotiations, and the official break could happen as early as 2019.

Flint, Michigan water crisis

President Obama declared a state of emergency in response to the Flint water disaster on January 16, 2016. That was a little less than two years after the local government switched the city's water source to the Flint River, causing an unprecedented public health crisis which officials were slow to recognize. The resulting corrosion of the water pipes meant the residents of Flint, many of them poor and a majority black, were drinking lead-contaminated water day after day. When Obama approved FEMA aid, at least 100 children had already tested with high lead levels in Flint, and many more cases were feared. Lead poisoning can permanently and severely affect mental and physical development, according to the Mayo Clinic, and is especially harmful to children and pregnant women.

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15. Jose Guillen 2016-2017

2016: Trump elected

- **Date:** Nov. 8
- **Location:** U.S.

Running on a populist agenda, Donald Trump is elected the 45th president of the United States and the fifth president in U.S. history (the second since the 2000) to win despite losing the popular vote. The real estate developer and television personality ran on a platform of putting “America First” in global trade and foreign policy negotiations and cracking down on undocumented immigrants.

16. Julia Parranto 2017-2018

2017: Hurricane triple whammy

- **Date:** August-September
- **Location:** Multiple

Within just four weeks, three massive hurricanes – Harvey, Irma, and Maria – strike Texas, Florida, and the Caribbean, killing 228 people, inflicting a combined \$265 billion in damages, and displacing millions of homeowners. Hurricane Maria inflicts immense damage to the U.S. commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which was already struggling due to economic insolvency.

17. Tony Roehrick 2018-2019

2018: Wildfires

- **Date:** November
- **Location:** Northern California

The deadliest wildfires in the state’s history engulf northern California in November. The catastrophe costs the lives of 88 people, and the fire consumes 18,500 homes and businesses. State and federal officials estimate that it would cost \$3 billion to clean up

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debris. Climate change activists say the conflagrations are evidence that global warming is no longer a distant concern and that it is occurring now.

18. Cathy Vicini 2019-2020

2019: Trump impeached

- **Date:** Dec. 18
- **Location:** Washington, D.C.

On Dec. 18, 2019, Donald Trump becomes just the third U.S. president to be impeached. A whistleblower reveals that in July Trump had asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate the business dealings of Hunter Biden, son of Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, as well as cybersecurity company CrowdStrike. These requests were made just after Zelensky said Ukraine wanted to buy weapons from the United States. After the call comes to light, Democratic leaders file two articles of impeachment – for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. They say Trump abused his power by using the office of the president to target a political opponent. The obstruction of Congress charge stems from accusations that Trump Administration officials tried to cover up the whistleblower’s report. Trump calls the investigation a “witch hunt” and denies any wrongdoing. The House passes both articles in a vote that goes almost entirely along party lines, moving the impeachment proceedings along to the Senate.

2019: Hong Kong Protests

- **Date:** Beginning in March
- **Location:** Hong Kong

Residents of the small economic powerhouse of Hong Kong, which was given special administrative region status as a condition to its handover to China from Great Britain, protested a proposed extradition bill in March. That led to other mass demonstrations in Hong Kong throughout the year over concerns China was trying to erode Hong Kong’s autonomy.

People power manifested itself in protests in other nations as well in 2019, with demonstrations leading to the ouster of presidents in Algeria and Sudan.

2020: COVID-19

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- **Date:** March
- **Location:** Worldwide

A novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, that causes the disease COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China, in late 2019. The virus spread to Europe and the United States in early 2020 and was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11. The outbreak reached virtually every nation on Earth, leading to countrywide lockdowns, massive layoffs, business closures, and school shutdowns. As of Aug. 26, the pandemic claimed more than 820,000 lives worldwide, including about 179,000 people in the U.S. COVID-19 has become the worst pandemic since the Spanish flu in 1918.

19. Jeff Kolin 2020-2021

January

Bushfires in Australia rage on



Residents look on as flames burn through bush on Jan. 4 in Lake Tabourie, Australia. A state of emergency had been declared across New South Wales. At that time, Getty Images said, 1,365 homes were lost, while 3.6 million hectares have been burnt this fire season. (Getty Images)

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Although these started in late 2019, Australia continued battling a devastating wildfire season in January. At least 33 people died, along with thousands of animals; families were displaced, and at least 27.2 million acres of bush, forest and parks across the country were burned, [according to the BBC](#). It was considered a state of emergency as fire officials worked to get the situation under control.

Iranian general Qasem Soleimani killed in a drone strike by the U.S.

This made for a shocking event Jan. 3, and many feared that U.S. President Donald Trump was leading the nation into a third world war. Luckily, tensions were de-escalated. [Read more about what happened.](#)

Duke and Duchess of Sussex step down as ‘senior’ royals



Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, react after their visit to Canada House in thanks for the warm Canadian hospitality and support they received during a January stay. (DANIEL LEAL-OLIVAS - WPA Pool/Getty Images)

No one saw it coming Jan. 8 when Prince Harry and Meghan Markle [announced they were stepping down](#) from some of their duties in the royal family. They said they would be financially independent and split their time between the U.K. and North America.

A Ukrainian flight crashes in Iran

This also happened Jan. 8. The 176 crew members and passengers on board [were killed](#). The initial Iranian military statement said the plane’s downing was due to “human

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error” after the aircraft had flown close to a “sensitive site” belonging to Iran’s Revolutionary Guards Corps, according to the BBC. The commercial airliner was mistaken for a “hostile plane,” the statement said.

World Health Organization announces novel coronavirus



A man wears a mask while walking in the street on Jan. 22 in Wuhan, Hubei province, China. A new infectious coronavirus known as "2019-nCoV" has been discovered in Wuhan. (2020 Getty Images)

On Jan. 9, the World Health Organization first announced news about the deadly coronavirus that had emerged in Wuhan, China.

On Jan. 21, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the United States’ first case. A Washington state resident **became the first person with a confirmed case of the novel coronavirus**, having returned from Wuhan on Jan. 15. In a matter of months, the virus proceeded to spread across the globe.

Trump’s impeachment trial begins

On Jan. 16, the **official impeachment trial** for President Trump got underway. It didn’t last long, as it started in the U.S. Senate and concluded with Trump’s acquittal on Feb. 5. Trump had been impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives on Dec. 18, 2019, charging him with abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.



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Kobe Bryant, daughter Gianna, seven others die in helicopter crash



Gianna Bryant and her father, former NBA player Kobe Bryant, are shown at the WNBA All-Star Game at the Mandalay Bay Events Center on July 27, 2019 in Las Vegas. (Getty Images)

The group was heading to a girls basketball tournament Jan. 26 when their chopper crashed in thick fog just northwest of Los Angeles.

Kobe was 41 and Gianna was 13. The deaths shook Los Angeles and the sporting world, with memorials spanning the city and tributes at the Super Bowl and other games. [Here's what we know](#), and what officials are still trying to determine.

U.K. officially withdraws from the European Union

On Jan. 31, after years in the making, Brexit became a reality.

February

Kansas City Chiefs squeak past the San Francisco 49ers to win Super Bowl

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Patrick Mahomes, of the Kansas City Chiefs, raises the Vince Lombardi Trophy after defeating the San Francisco 49ers 31-20 in Super Bowl LIV at Hard Rock Stadium on Feb. 2 in Miami. (Getty Images)

On Feb. 2, Chiefs quarterback Mahomes took home MVP honors in Super Bowl LIV after leading his team from a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit to its second-ever Lombardi Trophy -- and its first in 50 years.

Kansas City topped San Francisco by a score of 31-20.

The Iowa Caucus was kind of a meltdown

This situation started Feb. 4, although the country didn't get a winner right away. The Iowa Democratic Party certified the results at the end of the month, confirming Mayor Pete Buttigieg as the winner.

The caucus process was **plagued by reporting errors and issues with a new app**. In the end, Buttigieg was awarded 14 delegates, Sen. Bernie Sanders was awarded 12 delegates, Sen. Elizabeth Warren was awarded eight delegates, then-Sen. Joe Biden was awarded six delegates and Sen. Amy Klobuchar was awarded one delegate.

Trump is acquitted

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President Donald Trump holds a copy of The Washington Post as he speaks in the East Room of the White House, one day after the U.S. Senate acquitted on two articles of impeachment. After five months of congressional hearings and investigations about Trump's dealings with Ukraine, the U.S. Senate formally acquitted him of charges. (Getty Images)

As mentioned, Trump was acquitted, after five months of hearings and investigations about his dealings with Ukraine.

The Boy Scouts of America file for Title 11 bankruptcy

On Feb. 18, the news was confirmed. The Boy Scouts had been exploring this possibility since at least December 2018, according to [NPR](#), when the group hired a law firm for a possible filing. The Boy Scouts face about 300 lawsuits from men who say they were sexually abused as Scouts. The organization has said it **will use the Chapter 11 process** to create a trust to provide compensation to victims.

Harvey Weinstein found guilty

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Movie producer Harvey Weinstein, at right, enters New York City Criminal Court on Feb. 24 in New York City. (2020 Getty Images)

The former movie producer was found guilty of third-degree rape and first-degree criminal sexual acts.

It was the allegations against Weinstein that sparked the #MeToo movement in 2017.

A mass shooting at Miller Brewery

On Feb. 26, an electrician for the Molson Coors Beverage Company shot five co-workers to death, along with himself, at the former Miller brewery in Milwaukee. He was later identified as Anthony Ferrill, 51. The incident marked one of the worst shootings in Wisconsin history, [this newspaper](#) said.

It was a leap year

So we got some extra time in February, as well.

March

In March, many stay-at-home orders went into place, businesses shut their doors to in-person customers and diners, schools started shutting down or moving to online spaces and self-quarantine was recommended -- all to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Things were handled differently in each state, but for many, this is when the world truly began to feel surreal. Face coverings weren't mandated right away, but a lot of us went out and bought or made masks to keep ourselves safe while performing essential (and unavoidable) tasks like grocery shopping.

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Pandemic triggers global recession

In early to mid-March, the coronavirus pandemic led to some scary times on the stock market front as numerous countries went into lockdown. The Dow Jones industrial average saw some of its worst days in March 9, 12 and 16. [Here's a graphic](#) that illustrates what we mean. [Read more](#) from Forbes.

Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson diagnosed with COVID-19

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Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson attend the 92nd Annual Academy Awards at Hollywood and Highland on Feb. 9. (2020 Jeff Kravitz)

On March 11, this powerhouse couple became the first major celebrities to announce they were sick.

NBA suspends season

On March 11, the NBA officially suspended the season due to COVID-19, becoming the first league to halt play. Other sports eventually followed suit. Utah Jazz guard Rudy Gobert was among the first athletes to test positive for coronavirus -- and had **acted carelessly** in the days leading up to his diagnosis. He touched the digital recorders of reporters who had placed them in front of Gobert after an interview, and reportedly made light of the issue inside the locker room.

NCAA cancels men's and women's basketball tournaments

On March 12, the NCAA canceled its men's and women's basketball tournaments because of the spread of coronavirus. The remaining winter and spring championships were called off, as well. March Madness had never been canceled before.

Olympics are postponed

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A man wearing a face mask walks past a Tokyo 2020 Olympics countdown clock that had to be adjusted for the new start date of July 23, 2021. (2020 Getty Images)

On March 24, it became official: The Olympics would be postponed. They were supposed to start in Tokyo on July 24, but they're now set for July 23, 2021.

Fun fact: If the situation still doesn't feel comfortable by the time the new 2021 date rolls around, the Games wouldn't be postponed once again -- they'd be canceled altogether.

April

Sanders drops out of the presidential race

On April 8, [this news](#) was made official. The other Democratic candidates had already pulled the plug on their campaigns, leaving Biden to be the presumptive nominee.

The deadliest mass shooting in Canadian history

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Children sign a Canadian flag at an impromptu memorial April 20 in Enfield, Nova Scotia, Canada. (Getty Images)

On April 18, a man **killed 22** people in Nova Scotia. Authorities said Gabriel Wortman wore a police uniform and made his car look like a Royal Canadian Mounted Police cruiser, allowing him to travel easily within a 30-mile area, where the rampage began. A police officer was among those killed.

Kim Jong-Un 'alive and well'

On April 27 -- after a lot of confusion, conspiracies and rumors -- South Korea told the media that Kim Jong-Un was **"alive and well,"** even though there was mass speculation that the dictator had died.

UFOs?

On April 29, the Pentagon released videos of possible UFOs. It was unclear what exactly the objects flying the sky were (obviously), but **it sure was creepy.**

May

In May, we learned the **death toll from COVID-19** had surpassed 100,000. The U.S. was, and remains, the place hit hardest when it comes to deaths -- as our numbers are higher than any other nation in the world.

'Murder hornets' introduced

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Jenni Cena, pest biologist and trapping supervisor from the Washington State Department of Agriculture, sets a trap designed to catch Asian Giant Hornets, also known as murder hornets. (2020 Getty Images)

On May 4, it was reported that giant insects called “murder hornets” were spotted in the U.S., specifically, Washington state. If stung multiple times, **a person can die from the murder hornet.**

Ahmaud Arbery video shocks the nation

On May 6, video footage showing the death of Ahmaud Arbery was released. The video was from February -- and it showed Arbery, who is black, being gunned down and killed by two white men while he was jogging, unarmed, in a Georgia neighborhood.

Celebrities and politicians weighed in, including Trump, who called the footage “very, very disturbing,” and Biden, who said Arbery had essentially been **“lynched before our very eyes.”**

George Floyd killed

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LED candles are placed beneath a portrait of George Floyd during a birthday celebration for him at a memorial site known as "George Floyd Square" on Oct. 14 in Minneapolis. (Getty Images)

On May 25, **Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis officer** who had his knee on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes as the unarmed man told police he couldn't breathe. Floyd's death caused an uproar, with protests popping up worldwide. Floyd was 46 years old. The disturbing circumstances of his killing were caught on camera, as well.

First human spaceflight by SpaceX

On May 30, the first human spaceflight by SpaceX **marked the return of astronaut launches from the United States** (for the first time in nine years). SpaceX also became the first private company to launch astronauts.

June

The Black Lives Matter movement ramps up

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Terrence Floyd, the brother of George Floyd, speaks at a candlelight vigil in celebration of George Floyd's 47th birthday on Oct. 14 in New York City. (Getty Images)

Following the deaths of Arbery, Floyd and **Breonna Taylor** -- who was shot and killed by Louisville police officers in March during a botched raid (more on Taylor's circumstances soon) -- Black Lives Matter gains more and more visibility nationwide, with events happening across the country protesting social injustice.

Another police-involved shooting death grabs headlines

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A family member carries the Celebration of Life program during Rayshard Brooks' funeral in Ebenezer Baptist Church on June 23 in Atlanta. (Getty Images/Pool)

On June 12, Rayshard Brooks, a Black man, was **shot by police** in the parking lot of a Wendy's restaurant in Atlanta. He was 27 years old. Protests followed and continued -- in Atlanta and throughout the country, involving the ongoing racial unrest.

High court blocks Trump from ending DACA

On June 18, the Supreme Court stopped the Trump administration's attempt to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, an Obama-era program that protects hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought to the U.S. as children from deportation, according to **CNN**.

Officer fired in Breonna Taylor case

On June 23, a police officer involved in Taylor's shooting in Louisville, Kentucky, **was terminated** more than three months after Taylor's death. Detective Brett Hankison was one of three officers placed on paid administrative leave, but **the only one who lost his job** or faced charges. He's accused of wanton endangerment. The other two officers who fired their weapons at Taylor's apartment, Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly and Detective Myles Cosgrove, will not face criminal charges, according to reports.