Navy fires 2 more leaders after fatal collisions

Admiral, captain from 7th Fleet dismissed ‘due to a loss of confidence in their ability to command’

By Tyler Hlavac
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy relieved two more commanders in the 7th Fleet on Monday amid fallout from two deadly collisions involving the destroyers USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain.

Task Force 70 commander Rear Adm. Charles Williams and Destroyer Squadron 15 commander Capt. Jeffrey Bennett were both relieved of command by 7th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer “due to a loss of confidence in their ability to command,” the Navy announced in a Monday statement.

As both the CTF 70 and Carrier Strike Group 5 commander, Williams had tactical control of the 7th Fleet’s cruisers and destroyers, as well as Carrier Air Wing 5 and the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan.

Williams assumed command of CTF 70 in July 2016 from Rear Adm. John Alexander, who has since been promoted to vice admiral and who took command of the U.S. 3rd Fleet on Friday.

As DESRON 15 commander, Bennett oversaw all destroyers assigned to the 7th Fleet. He assumed command of DESRON 15 last year in September.

Williams and Bennett were relieved following the removal of 7th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin last month, also due to loss of confidence. All three commanders were relieved following a string of accidents involving Navy ships in the Pacific.

In January, the USS Antietam ran aground and spilled roughly 1,100 gallons of hydraulic fluid into Tokyo Bay. In May, the USS Lake Champlain collided with a South Korean fishing boat while operating off the east coast of the divided peninsula. In June, a collision between the USS Fitzgerald and a Philippine-flagged merchant ship killed seven sailors.

SEE NAVY ON PAGE 2

Game-changing tech

The Navy’s most advanced submarines will soon be using Xbox controllers

BY TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

The Navy’s most advanced submarines will soon be using Xbox controllers.
Some lawmakers push for Space Corps

By Christian Davenport
The Washington Post

For generations, the U.S. military has fought its wars on land, in the air and on the seas, from the Ardennes forest to skies over Vietnam to the Persian Gulf. Now the Pentagon is increasingly focused on extending its prowess out to the cosmos, where many believe the wars of the future will be won and lost.

But even as military leaders have taken steps to prepare for conflict in space, some in Congress fear those measures haven’t gone far enough. Now, as the Senate debates the Defense Department’s spending plan, it is considering how best to hold and defend the ultimate high ground.

Earlier this year, the House took a radical step, proposing the creation of a Space Corps by 2019, a new military branch that would be dedicated to space and linked to the Navy’s space warfare.

China has demonstrated the ability to hit a satellite in low Earth orbit with a missile. It also has developed the capability to hit a target in a farther orbit, where the U.S. has many of its most crucial military and spy satellites.

“China demonstrated in 1999 that it could attack an American satellite, and other countries are rapidly developing capabilities to attack our own satellites,” said former Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James.

The Air Force, culturally, is structured around air dominance. And it should be. It’s the Air Force,” said Rogers, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee’s Strategic Forces subcommittee. “Problem is, space has become so critical to our ability to fight and win wars, it can no longer be a subordinate mission.

The size and scope of the Space Corps would be left up to leaders in the Pentagon. They’d decide how big it would be and what the bureaucracy would look like. They would have a “clean slate from which to start,” Rogers said.

Making any change in a bureaucracy as vast as the Pentagon is difficult, especially one that calls for the creation of what would become the first new military service branch since the Air Force was stood up independent from the Army following World War II.

The White House and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis have spoken out against it. In a letter to Congress, Mattis wrote, according to CNN, “I do not wish to add a separate service that would likely present a narrower and even parochial approach to space operations.”

The addition of a new service “would be the biggest change in the Defense Department since 1947,” said Todd Harrison, a defense analyst at CSIS. “You’re talking a new rank system, new uniforms, a whole new culture.”

The proposal is in the House’s version of the Pentagon’s spending plan, which was approved during the summer, it is not included in the Senate bill. And it has attracted some high-profile criticism from within the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill.

In an op-ed for the website Defense One, Gen. John Raymond of the Air Force Space Command, argued the steps the service is taking obviate the need for a new branch of the service.

“Our approach is to normalize, elevate and integrate space as a war-fighting domain,” he wrote. “It’s an approach that’s already paying dividends.”

Former Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James said the Air Force already has established a new National Space Defense Center, and it is giving more priority to space issues, including training what she called “space war fighters.”

Such disruptive change within the Pentagon would “create enormous upheaval,” she said. “Sometimes the juice is not worth the squish.”

While not embracing a full Space Corps, the Senate version of the Pentagon spending plan calls for a high-level Chief Information Warfare Officer who would be responsible for space as well as cybersecurity and electronic warfare. While there may not be support for the House’s proposal, the Senate also is pushing to augment the way the Pentagon fights in space.

“This space threat has developed with alarming speed,” Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, wrote in a report. “Over the next five years, space must be a priority for additional funding to ensure that the United States maintains its space superiority and has the capabilities and capacity to deter and defend our critical space assets.”

It’s not just missiles taking out satellites that officials are worried about. Adversaries are also developing technology to “dazzle” the sensors on satellites or to jam them.

That would leave troops on the ground without ways to communicate. It could disable guidance mechanisms on weapons or leave intelligence agencies unable to track terrorists on the ground.

“Russia and China want to take our eyes and ears out,” Rogers said at the CSIS event. “That’s what’s up there and that’s why we are spending an inordinate amount on space-based capabilities.”

And that’s why many think that even if the Space Corps proposal doesn’t pass this time around, its day eventually will come.

“In 30, 40, 50 years, most people agree that we’ll eventually need an independent space service,” Harrison said.
US bombers, stealth jets fly near Korean DMZ

By Kim Gamel and Yoo Kyong Chang
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — U.S. supersonic bombers and stealth jets flew near the border with North Korea on Monday, officials said, in a show of force after a senior American diplomat warned the communist state could face military action if it persisted with its nuclear weapons program.

In what has become a familiar pattern, two B-1B Lancers and four state-of-the-art F-35B stealth fighter jets were joined by South Korean fighters in conducting a bombing drill on the divided peninsula three days after the North test-fired a missile that flew over Japan.

The Guam-based Air Force bombers and Japan-based Marine fighter jets flew in a sequenced “bilateral show of force” in response to Friday’s missile test, according to a U.S. Pacific Command statement.

The U.S. and South Korean aircraft released live weapons at the Pilsung Range training area in South Korea, it said, adding that the U.S. and Japanese planes flew together over waters near Kyushu, Japan.

The Hawaii-based command said it “maintains the ability to respond to any threat in the Indo-Asia-Pacific theater at a moment’s notice.”

A South Korean defense official, who provided more details on condition of anonymity, said the U.S. aircraft flew near the tense military demarcation line that separates the countries in what he said was a rare maneuver.

The United States and its allies have shown increasing impatience with North Korea, which has consistently defied diplomatic pressure and punishing U.N. sanctions aimed at forcing it to curb its nuclear ambitions.

The issue is expected to top the agenda at this week’s U.N. General Assembly. President Donald Trump will address the 193-member body for the first time on Tuesday.

Friday’s missile test occurred four days after the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted tough new sanctions that included a cap on oil imports, a ban on textile exports and other measures.

However, they fell short of a full embargo proposed by Washington due to opposition from China and Russia, which have refused to sign on to any resolution that threatened to cripple the North Korean regime.

The communist state has so far overcome all efforts to stanch its progress towards a new goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile that could target the U.S. mainland. It has conducted 14 missiles this year and carried out its sixth and most powerful nuclear test on Sept. 3.

The missile launched Friday flew about 2,300 miles before crashing into the Pacific east of Cape Erimo, the longest distance

In tweet, Trump sticks North Korean leader with nickname: ‘Rocket Man’

By David Nakamura and Carol Morello
The Washington Post

NEW YORK — President Donald Trump is calling Kim Jong Un a name — “Rocket Man.”

The president stuck the moniker on the North Korean dictator in a Sunday morning tweet ahead of Trump’s scheduled arrival here Sunday evening for the U.N. General Assembly, the annual gathering of more than 120 world leaders.

“I spoke with President Moon of South Korea last night. Asked him how Rocket Man is doing. Long gas lines forming in North Korea. Too bad!”

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) September 17, 2017

Trump, who has spent two nights at his golf resort in Bedminster, N.J., also revealed that he spoke with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who will join Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for a trilateral dinner this week in New York to collaborate on addressing North Korea’s growing nuclear and ballistic missile threats. The White House said Trump and Moon discussed North Korea’s continued defiance of the international community and “committed to continuing to take steps to strengthen deterrence and defense capabilities and to maximize economic and diplomatic pressure.”

The president’s Twitter snark came two weeks after Kim’s regime undertook its biggest nuclear test to date, an explosion that analysts estimate at 250 kilotons, nearly 17 times the size of the atomic bomb that devastated Hiroshima in 1945. Radar satellite images show the test was powerful enough to sink a roughly 85-acre area on the peak of a mountain above the tunnels where the test is thought to have taken place.

On CBS’ “Face the Nation” Sunday morning, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said the U.S. strategy is to deny North Korea nuclear weapons and the ability to deliver them, but stressed that the contest is what he called the “four nos.”

“The four nos being that we do not seek regime change, we do not seek a regime collapse, we do not seek an accelerated reunification of the peninsula and we do not seek a reason to send our forces north of the demilitarized zones,” Tillerson said.

If diplomacy fails to coerce North Korea to the negotiating table, he said, “our military option will be the only one left. So all of this is backed up by a very strong and resolute military option. But be clear, we seek a peaceful solution to this.”

Tillerson said the message is designed to bring about cooperation from China as well as address the country’s fears that a regime collapse would flood their border with refugees. China facilitates about 90 percent of North Korea’s trade and provides its oil supplies.

Trump said Thursday that he’s working with China to continue to exert more pressure on Pyongyang, but he declined to elaborate.

“We have pretty much exhausted all the things we can do at the (U.N.) Security council at this point.”

Nikki Haley
U.S. ambassador to the U.N.

yet achieved by a North Korean ballistic missile. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley said the sanctions need time to work and warned that Trump could face opposition from China to continue to exert more pressure on Pyongyang as they had seen no such lines and traffic ap- pear to be normal.

North and South Korea remain technically at war after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty. The U.S. maintains about 28,500 servicemembers in the South.

“Trump is scheduled to address the Marine jets flew so close to the North Korean border.

Trump, who spent the weekend at his New Jersey golf club, gave the North Korean leader a nickname in a tweet about his latest phone call with South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

“I spoke with President Moon of South Korea last night. Asked him how Rocket Man is doing. Long gas lines forming in North Korea. Too bad!” he wrote.

It was unclear where the assertion about gas lines came from. The Associated Press reported in April that an acute shortage of gasoline had raised prices and prompted hoarding. But The Washington Post on Monday quoted an official in Pyongyang as saying they had seen no such lines and traffic appeared to be normal.

The Hawaii-based command said it “maintains the ability to respond to any threat in the Indo-Asia-Pacific theater at a moment’s notice.”

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US boosts Somalia airstrikes amid uncertainty over future

**BY JOHN VANDIVER**
Stars and Stripes

An intensifying U.S. airstrike campaign against Somalia is unlikely by itself to defeat a resilient band of al-Qaida-aligned militants, a fact that could tempt the U.S. to wage deeper into a country faced with the daunting task of degrading an African force that has offered protection for a decade.

The uptick in U.S. strikes against al-Shabab targets — 13 attacks since June — is part of a hurried effort to degrade the long-running insurgency and buy time for Somalia's fledgling military.

But there is some doubt about the likely success of the airstrike campaign and the surge in land operations.

“‘No clear indication yet, but when pressed previously there has been a temporary degradation in both the group’s command and control and morale of the rank-and-file members,’ Mack said. ‘However, this degradations has likely been temporary. The group has maintained the ability to resurface when pressure against them on the ground by allied/partner forces has lessened.’

When the African Union intervened in Somalia in 2007, al-Shabab was on the brink of over-taking Mogadishu and controlled large areas of territory where it enforced its rule with beheadings and mass killings.

The African Union eventually pushed the militants out of most former strongholds, but as its mission began to slow in 2016, al-Shabab made gains.

Recently, there also have been flickers of Islamic State presence in the country. J. Peter Pham, who is under consideration by the Trump administration to serve as assistant secretary of state for Africa, said airstrikes are unlikely to defeat al-Shabab, which “has shown itself to be a remarkably resilient group, adapting to the shifting strategic landscape of Somalia and neighboring countries.”

“Thus there is no reason to believe that it will not also survive in some fashion the recent setbacks it has suffered in terms of strikes and defections,” Pham said.

African Union and AFRICOM officials also acknowledged that Somalia’s military is unable to fight on its own against al-Shabab, which seeks to impose a strict form of Sharia law.

Somalia’s capital of Mogadishu wouldn’t fall immediately upon the AU’s departure, but it could be eventually at risk as al-Shabab chips at surrounding territory; said Vanda Felbab-Brown, an expert on Somalia with the Washington-based Brookings Institution think tank.

“Clearly, al-Shabab understands the reality that everyone else understands, as well — the writing is on the wall with the respect to the AU leaving,” Felbab-Brown said.

During the next two years, the U.S. and other Western partners are tasked with readying Somalia’s military to lead the fight, but so far the training effort lacks cohesion, analysts said.

The AU mission in Afghanistan, where the U.S. has spent billions of dollars to build up security forces, shows the limits of building partner capacity in nations with governments that wield little control over their territory.

“All the problems you have in Afghanistan are all bigger in Somalia,” Felbab-Brown said. “There are massive challenges to overcome.”

Government corruption in Somalia is widespread, and clan rivalries have long confused attempts to impose order on a country with no history of a functioning state — the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

Al-Shabab, which rivals Nig- eria-based Boko Haram as Africa’s deadliest terrorist group, poses a threat mainly to countries around the eastern Horn of Africa and Western interests there, but the group has threatened to widen its scope of operations. The size of the force is estimated to range from 2,000 to 10,000 fighters.

The West is concerned if al-Shabab asserts more control over the country, Somalia could become a magnet for al-Qaida and other jihadi, serving as a potential hub for groups under pressure in places such as Syria, Iraq and Libya.

For now, there is no clear U.S. policy on Somalia beyond the current airstrike campaign, a small training mission and more recent diplomatic outreach.

Pham said the U.S. should find ways to aid the nascent government’s terrorism fight.

“The role of the United States is not nation-building in Somalia. That is the responsibility of Somalia itself,” Pham said.

“Al-Shabab, which already has shown itself to be a remarkably resilient group, has likely been temporary. The United States to support — to the extent that they demonstrate an effective capacity — those national or regional entities in Somalia which stand opposed to our common extremist enemies and can thus contribute to local and regional security,” Pham said.

Pham said there are signs for hope with Somalia’s current government, which is an improvement over past regimes and “deserves a chance” to prove itself.

But “the current Somali government is not without its defects, and the international community needs to be very clear-eyed about them and factor in the limitations of what the government can realistically be expected to accomplish,” Pham said.

**New leader takes over 3rd Fleet as role in Pacific expands**

**BY TYLER HLAVAC**
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Vice Adm. John Alexander took command of the Navy’s 3rd Fleet last week, vowing to continue expanding its role in the Pacific.

Alexander took over from Vice Adm. Nora Tyson during a ceremony Friday aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt in San Diego, Calif. Tyson, the first woman to command an operational numbered fleet, was also the first female commander of a carrier strike group, retiring after 38 years, a Navy official said.

The 3rd Fleet, which includes five carrier strike groups, more than 60 submarines and more than 400 aircraft based in California, Washington and Hawaii, has expanded its presence in the Western Pacific in recent years under an initiative known as 3rd Fleet Forward.

With South Korean warships off the Korean Peninsula, and the fleet’s USS Nimitz strike group joined an annual Malabar exercise in July alongside ships from the Indian navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.

Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Scott Swift said in the Navy’s statement that Alexander would continue the changes at 3rd Fleet.

Cultural change is commander’s work, and it takes time,” he said.

Alexander said he looked forward to bringing the fleet back to its Pacific roots. It was formed in 1943 and played a key role in bat- tling Japanese naval forces in the Pacific during World War II, the Navy said.

Japanese surrender documents ending the war were signed aboard the USS Missouri, then the flagship of the fleet.

“Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Scott Swift’s vision of 3rd Fleet Forward as a second maneuver element in the Pacific is more relevant today than ever, and we must remember our roots,” Alexander said in the statement. “I am honored to carry on this operational vision forward.”

The 3rd Fleet’s Pacific expansion comes at a time when the 7th Fleet, the Navy’s forward-deployed force in the Pacific, has suffered a string of accidents and delays that have left it with four fewer warships.

The cruiser USS Antietam was damaged after ramming a merchant vessel in January; the destroyer USS Fitzgerald was damaged in a June 17 collision that killed seven sailors; and the USS John S. Mc- Cain was damaged in an Aug. 21 collision that killed 10 sailors.

The Navy announced in July that the destroyer USS Mason’s deployment to Japan had been pushed back to 2018.

hlavac.tyler@stripes.com
Advanced Navy subs to use Xbox controllers

BY BROCK VERGAKIS
The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot

ABOARD USS JOHN WARNER — The control room of the Navy’s most advanced submarine is filled with sophisticated computers, flat-screen monitors and sailors who grew up in a digital world.

At times, it can look a bit like a video game arcade, and not just because of the high-resolution graphics.

The Navy is beginning to use an Xbox 360 controller — like the ones you find at the mall — to operate the periscopes aboard Virginia-class submarines.

Unlike other types of submarines people are familiar with from Hollywood, Virginia-class submarines don’t have a traditional rotating tube periscope that only one person can look through at a time.

It’s been replaced with two phototronics masts that rotate 360 degrees. They feature high-resolution cameras whose images are displayed on large monitors that everyone in the control room can see. There’s no barrel to peer through anymore; everything is controlled with a helicopter-style stick. But that stick isn’t so popular.

“The Navy got together and they asked a bunch of J.O.s and junior guys, ‘What can we do to make your life better?’” said Lt. j.g. Kyle Leonard, the USS John Warner’s assistant weapons officer, referring to junior officers and sailors. “And one of the things that came out is the control for the scope. It’s kind of clunky in your hand; it’s real heavy.”

Lockheed Martin and Navy officials have been working to use commercial, off-the-shelf technology to reduce costs and take advantage of the technological skills sailors grow up with. The integration of the video game Xbox controller grew out of that effort.

Lockheed Martin refers to the classified research lab in Manassas, Va., where testing occurred as the submarine version of “Area 51,” the nickname for the Nevada base where some of the Air Force’s most advanced and secretive projects are tested.

The Xbox controller is no different than the ones a lot of crewmembers grew up playing with. Lockheed Martin says the sailors who tested the controller at its lab were intuitively able to figure out how it could work on their own within minutes, compared with hours of training required for the joystick.

“The Xbox controller also is significantly cheaper. The company says the photonic mast handgrip and imaging control panel that cost about $38,000 can now be replaced with an Xbox controller that typically costs less than $30.”

That joystick is by no means cheap, and it is only designed to fit on a Virginia-class submarine.

“The Navy got together and they asked a bunch of [junior officers] and junior guys, ‘What can we do to make your life better?’”

Lt. j.g. Kyle Leonard
assistant weapons officer with the USS John Warner

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer, right, tours the Virginia-class attack submarine USS John Warner, on which sailors use an Xbox 360 controller to operate the sub’s periscopes.

“House of Cards” actress, others to perform at Kaiserslautern workshop

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A guest performance by Adam Driver’s Arts in the Armed Forces in the Armored Forces theater troupe is the showcase act during the Army in Europe’s theater festival next month in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

The One Page Play Festival and Theater Skills Workshop runs Oct. 6-8 at KMC Onstage in Kaiserslautern. It includes writing and acting workshops open to the public.

The goal is to encourage participation in Army community theater and provide volunteers and staff with training opportunities, said Dane Winters, entertainment program manager in U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Europe.

The capstone of the Columbus Day weekend is a guest performance by the professional actor group formed in 2009 by Driver, a former Marine known for his roles in the “Star Wars” franchise and HBO’s “Girls” series.

Winters said Driver couldn’t attend because he’s filming for the next “Star Wars” movie in London. Driver was part of the last group that came to Germany in 2013, performing at Grafenwoehr and Landstuhl.

The cast coming to Kaiserslautern includes Rachel Brosnahan, who had a recurring role as former prostitute Rachel Posner on the first three seasons of “House of Cards,” and Gideon Glick, Darren Goldstein and Grantham Coleman.

The actors will perform a free stage reading of the adult drama “Lobby Hero” on Oct. 7 at KMC Onstage on Kleber Kaserne.

Other festival events include a monologue competition, an improvisational open mic night and workshops on playwriting and improving vocal technique.

A professional choreographer will lead a stage combat workshop in which participants will learn how to re-create violence on stage without hurting anyone, Winters said. The playwriting workshop gives participants the chance to write a one-act play. The plays will be presented and prizes awarded for the best scripts.

The workshops are taught by theater professionals from the U.S. and Germany, Winters said.

Driver’s troupe performs at U.S. military bases around the world.

A former infantryman, Driver has said he found similarities between the military and theater communities, such as the self-discipline and the group effort to accomplish a mission.

“It’s not about you; you have a role,” he said during a TED Talk last year. “I thought how great would it be to create a space that combined these two seemingly dissimilar communities” and brought entertainment more thought-provoking than “the typical mandatory fun events I remember being ‘voluntold’ to go to in the military,” such as meeting NFL cheerleaders, he said.

Moritz von Stuelnagel, who was nominated for a Tony Award for his work in “Hand to God,” will direct the production.

The play, written by Academy Award winner Kenneth Lonergan, is about a young security guard, his strict boss and an overbearing cop and his rookie female partner. It’s set in a Manhattan apartment building in the middle of the night.

“It’s a very intense, adult drama,” Winters said. “We’re saying it’s not suitable for under 18 years of age” due to mature themes and language.

Immediately following the show, the actors will answer questions from the audience.

The show is free, and seats are not reserved.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripeskeller

The Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center cast of “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels” performs during the Toppers awards in Kaiserslautern, Germany, in 2016.

Navy begins to use Xbox controllers

The Navy says the system has gone through extensive testing over the past two years and that the Xbox controller will be included as part of the integrated imaging system for Virginia-class subs beginning with the future USS Colorado, which is supposed to be commissioned by November.

The Xbox controller will be installed on other Virginia-class submarines, such as the Norfolk, Va.-based John Warner, through the normal modernization process, according to Brienne Lang, a spokeswoman for the Navy’s program executive office for submarines.

The John Warner had a demonstration model aboard last week as it transitioned from Naval Station Norfolk to Groton, Conn.

Eichenlaub said the Navy developed plans on stopping innovation with the Xbox controller. The goal is to develop technology that young people already are comfortable with, such as working with electronic touch screens on iPads and in virtual environments.

“Ideally, what they want to see in 10 years down the road, is basically a glass panel display with windows, and you can just pull a window of information, review that, push it off, bring in the next window,” he said. “They want to bring in sailors with what they have at home on their personal laptop, their personal desktop, what they grew up with in a classroom.”

svo.ben@stripes.com
Twitter: @benstarstripes
US, NATO still hashing out Afghanistan strategy

By Thomas Gibbons-Neff
The Washington Post

TIRANA, Albania — Even though President Donald Trump announced his strategy for the war in Afghanistan in August, the Pentagon and NATO are still trying to map their way forward in the nearly 16-year-old conflict, according to U.S. officials.

The delay is the byproduct of the U.S. commander’s vision for the war and the alliance’s ability to provide the troops required to make it a reality, according to a U.S. official who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing deliberations.

In recent weeks, the U.S. deployed additional forces into Afghanistan — a move that coincided with the announcement of Trump’s strategy — to help bolster Afghan forces during the final months of this year’s fighting season. The immediate surge was a short-term solution, requested by battlefield commanders, but the Pentagon is still assessing how U.S. troops will be deployed in the country in 2018, according to a U.S. official in Afghanistan.

Speaking to a small group of reporters, Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, the head of U.S. European Command and Supreme Allied Commander of Europe, said he expects to have a “full picture” on NATO commitments by October.

“There is still a lack of clarity which positions, which functions, to focus their contribution,” said Czech Gen. Petr Pavel, chairman of the NATO Military Committee. Speaking at a news conference here, Pavel added that the recently announced U.S. strategy provides a clearer picture of the way forward, but the alliance won’t make final troop decisions until another conference in October.

With the military mission in Afghanistan primarily focused on training the Afghan military, the U.S. wants its NATO allies to take up the bulk of that role, freeing up U.S. forces to push closer to the front. The U.S. military in Afghanistan has the infrastructure, including fire support and medical evacuation capabilities, to move its troops forward, not only to train and advise but also to assist — through airstrikes and artillery — their struggling Afghan counterparts, the official said.

The Pentagon’s recent reluctance to deploy additional military troop numbers likely is linked with the fact that NATO has yet to say if it will completely agree to Gen. John Nicholson’s requests. U.S. officials, however, repeatedly have said that enough troops will deploy to Afghanistan in the coming months to bring the total number of U.S. troops in the country to about 14,000. Aside from the additional troops, the increase likely will bring more air-support and artillery units to help push back the Taliban and protect U.S. forces on the ground.

In addition to advising the Afghan military, U.S. forces also conduct counterterrorism operations against groups such as Islamic State and al-Qaeda. Ten U.S. troops have been killed by hostile fire in Afghanistan in 2017, the majority of whom were fighting ISIS militants in the country’s east.

On Friday, a Romanian soldier was killed in a suicide bombing in Kandahar.

The Washington Post

OSLO, Norway — The Pentagon is taking additional steps to ensure that U.S. and Russian battlefield commanders are able to directly communicate with one another after an airstrike on U.S.-proxied forces near Deir al-Zour, Syria, that wounded several fighters Saturday, the U.S. highest-ranking military official said.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a small group of reporters Sunday that deconfliction between the U.S. and Russia “didn’t work” when Syrian and Russian aircraft bombed U.S.-backed Syrian fighters battling Islamic State east of the Euphrates River.

Russia has denied participating in the strike despite a U.S. statement Saturday that specifically indicated that Russian aircraft took part in the bombing.

During a Saturday night phone call with his Russian counterpart, Gen. Valery Gerasimov, chief of the general staff of Russia’s armed forces, Dunford proposed that the countries’ battlefield commanders in charge of forces in Syria could use the deconfliction line established in 2015 to “address the fact that the enemy moves freely back and forth across the Euphrates River,” he said.

In the past, the deconfliction line primarily was staffed by a Russian and an American colonel responsible for alerting each other about their countries’ air operations. With the commander of the U.S.-led coalition, Lt. Gen. Paul Funk, and Col. Gen. Sergei Surovikin in communication, the two countries are likely to have a better understanding of where their forces are arrayed.

“It couldn’t be more complex and crowded in that area,” Dunford said. “Deconfliction is more difficult in that area than it was a few months ago.”

Traditionally, the two countries have used the deconfliction line to avoid accidents. Dunford said with Russian and Syrian government forces focused on attacking targets to the west while U.S.-backed forces and aircraft attacked to the east. In recent weeks, however, multiple offensive operations — launched by the U.S. and Russia — have nearly converged.

DOD moves to tighten contact with Russian forces in Syria

By Thomas Gibbons-Neff
The Washington Post

A Russian soldier looks out as a military helicopter flies over Palmyra, Syria, on Friday. Government troops and their allies intensified an offensive Friday against Islamic State militants in central Syria, trying to consolidate their control of the area.

Russian eyes in sky over Syria

A Russian helicopter flies over Palmyra, Syria.

Iraqi PM: Half of ISIS kin held near Mosul are Turks

By Susannah George and Qassim Abdul-Zahra
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Turkish nationals make up half of the hundreds of families being held in a camp near Mosul for suspected links to Islamic State, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press on Saturday.

The Iraqi leader also confirmed that the German teenage girl found in Mosul last month is still being held in a Baghdad prison and could face the death penalty.

At the camp near Mosul, Iraqi forces are holding 1,333 women and children who surrendered to Kurdish forces. The families handed themselves over after an Iraqi offensive drove the extremist group from the northern town of Tal Afar, near Mosul, at the end of August.

Many of those detained at the camp are not guilty of any crime, al-Abadi said, and his governo says “in full coordination” with their home countries to “find a way to hand them over.”

So far, al-Abadi said, Iraq has repatriated fewer than 100 people.

“But we are working very hard to accelerate this,” he said. “It is not in our interest to keep families and children inside our country when their countries are prepared to take them.”

Linda W., 16, ran away last summer from her hometown of Pulsnitz in eastern Germany after communicating with extremists from ISIS online. She was found in the basement of a home in Mosul’s Old City by Iraqi forces, and was arrested and brought to Baghdad.

Iraqi intelligence officials told the AP the girl allegedly worked with the ISIS group’s police force.

Al-Abadi said Iraq’s judiciary will decide if the teen will face the death penalty.

“You know, teenagers, under certain laws, they are accountable for their actions, especially if the act is a criminal activity when it amounts to killing innocent people,” al-Abadi said.

By Thomas Gibbons-Neff
Zinke recommends changes be made to 10 national monuments

**By Juliet Eilperin**

WASHINGTON — Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday recommended President Donald Trump modify 10 national monuments created by his predecessors, including shrinking at least four western sites, according to a copy of the report obtained by The Washington Post.

The memorandum, which the White House has refused to release since Zinke submitted it last month, does not specify exact reductions for the four protected areas Zinke would have Trump narrow — Utah’s Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante; Nevada’s Gold Butte and Oregon’s Cascade-Siskiyou — or the two marine national monuments — the Pacific "For Distribution.”

The secretary’s set of recommendations also would change the way all 10 monuments are managed. It emphasizes the need to adjust the proclamations to address concerns of local officials or affected industries, saying the administration should permit activities like grazing, logging, coal mining and commercial fishing.

If enacted, the changes could test the legal boundaries of what powers a president holds under the Antiquities Act. Although Congress can alter national monuments easily through legislation, presidents have refused their boundaries only on rare occasions.

The memorandum shows Zinke concluded after a nearly four-month review that both Republican and Democratic presidents went too far in recent decades in limiting commercial activities in protected areas.

The secretary urges Zinke would use his authority under the Antiquities Act to change each of the 10 sites’ proclamations to permit activities that are now restricted. Those include “active timber management” in Maine’s Katahdin Woods and Waters; a broader set of activities in New Mexico’s Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Rio Grande del Norte; and commercial fishing in the two Pacific Ocean marine monuments as well as in one off the New England coast, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts.

In most of his recommendations, Zinke suggests Trump amend the existing proclamations “to protect objects and prioritize public access, infrastructure upgrades, repair and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.”

The White House is reviewing the recommendations and has not reached a final decision on them. At several points, the memo bears the marker “Draft Deliberative — Not For Distribution.”

The majority of the monuments listed were established by either President Bill Clinton or President Barack Obama, but the two Pacific Ocean sites were created by President George W. Bush and later expanded by Obama.

Trump could request congressional authority “to enable tribal co-management of designated cultural resources” in three ancestral sites: Bears Ears, Rio Grande del Norte and One-World Heritage Areas in the United Nations’ headquarters.

Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., said Trump’s critics were accurate at the time but that it is now a “new day” at the U.N. An organization that “talked a lot but didn’t have a lot of action” has given way to a “United Nations that’s action-oriented,” she said, noting the Security Council votes on North Korea this month.

Gutierrez has proposed a massive package of changes, and Haley said the U.N. is “totally moving toward reform.”

Trump also planned to hold separate talks Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and French President Emmanuel Macron. U.S. national security adviser H.R. McMaster said the conversations would be wide-ranging but that “Iran’s destabilizing behavior” would be a major focus of Trump’s discussions with both leaders.

Breakthroughs on a Middle East peace agreement are not expected. Jared Kushner, Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser on the issue, recently returned from a trip to the Middle East.

The United States is the largest contributor to the U.N. budget, reflecting its position as the world’s largest economy. It pays 25 percent of the U.N.’s regular operating budget and over 28 percent of the separate peacekeeping budget — a level of spending that Trump has complained is unfair.

Feinstein noncommittal on 2018 run

WASHINGTON — California Democrat Dianne Feinstein isn’t publicly committing to seeking a fifth Senate term in 2018.

The 84-year-old, who is currently the oldest senator, was cagey about her political future during a television interview Sunday.

Asked whether she was “up for another six years,” Feinstein replied, “Well, we will see, won’t we.”

Campaign finance records show she’s raised more than $1 million this year and has more than $3.5 million in her campaign account.

When it was noted on CNN’s “State of the Union” that the former San Francisco mayor was facing re-election next year, she said: “And I’m well aware of that. Thank you very much.”

Feinstein — who had a pacemaker implanted in January — joined the Senate in 1992 after winning a special election.
How advisers schooled Trump on globalism

BY MATTHEW LEE AND JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — On a sweltering Washington summer day, President Donald Trump’s motorcade pulled up to the Pentagon for a meeting largely billed as a briefing on the Afghanistan conflict and the fight against Islamic State.

There, in the windowless meeting room known as “The Tank,” Trump was to be briefed on the state of America’s longest-running war as he and his top aides plotted ways ahead. But, according to current and former U.S. officials familiar with the meeting, it was, in reality, about much more.

Trump’s national security team had become alarmed by the president’s frequent questioning about the value of a robust American presence around the world. When briefed on the diplomatic, military and intelligence assets, the new president would often cast doubt on the need for all the resources.

Tillerson decided they should use charts, maps and diagrams, those briefers spent the next roughly 90 minutes explaining to Trump the critical importance of forward worldwide deployments of U.S. military, intelligence and diplomatic assets, according to two current officials and one former official familiar with the meeting. While the war in Afghanistan and against ISIS in Syria and Iraq were major topics, the stationing of U.S. personnel in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America were also covered, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Why ‘so many people?’

The officials said the purpose was to answer one of Trump’s most persistent questions of his national security aides: Why does the U.S. government need “so many people” abroad? As such, it was a comprehensive look at military bases, embassies and consulates, CIA stations and other intelligence posts, presented by experts sitting around a large conference table and in chairs lining the walls.

To be successful, Mattis and Tillerson decided they should use talking points and commentary with which they believed Trump would be most familiar: the role that the military, intelligence officers and diplomats play in making the world safe for American businesses, like The Trump Organization, to operate and expand abroad. Troops provide stability, diplomats push rule of law and anti-corruption measures and the intelligence community provides context and analysis that drive the first two, the briefers explained, according to the officials.

The implications of American retrenchment in an age of increasing international competition were also discussed, the officials said. One chart presented included two maps depicting the exponential growth of China’s presence in Africa over the past two decades and its impact on U.S. national security and private foreign investment, according to the officials.

White House aides have readied a crash course for Trump as he prepares for the General Assembly, in part necessitated because the president has delayed some of his preparations, choosing instead to focus on the federal government’s response to a pair of massive hurricanes and, to a lesser extent in recent days, his dealings with Democrats on immigration issues, according to the officials and advisers.
NATION

Millions of Californians on hook for water plan

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Water districts and households across California could be compelled to help pay for Gov. Jerry Brown’s plans to build two giant tunnels to ferry water to cities and farms mainly in central and Southern California under newly disclosed plans to shore up funding for the struggling $16 billion project.

The tougher state funding demands pivot from longstanding state and federal assurances that only local water districts that actually seek to take part in the megaproject would have to pay for the twin tunnels, the most ambitious re-engineering of California’s complex north-to-south water system in more than a half-century.

The Associated Press obtained new documents from the state’s largest agricultural water agency and confirmed the expanded funding demands through phone and email interviews with state and local water officials.

With no major water district yet signing on voluntarily to help foot the bill under their existing contracts.

While rumors of that arrangement have swirled privately, “this is the first acknowledgement that we’ve heard” from the state that those water agencies would be on the hook, said Paul Gossett, director of Northern California’s Butte County water district.

His agency would get no water from the tunnels and has been seeking written state and federal guarantees that its customers would not have to pay for them.

He’s gotten no such assurances.

“Any of these funding mechanisms has been in a black box,” one of it’s been described to us, the contractors, or the public,” Gossett said.

Brown’s administration intends to exclude from the newly revealed funding obligation a half-dozen Northern California water districts, like Gosselin’s, that would get no water from the tunnels, although just how that hasn’t been worked out, said Lisa Lien-Mager, spokeswoman for the state Natural Resources Agency.

The two tunnels — each 35 miles long and the width of a three-lane highway — would tap into Northern California’s Sacramento River to provide more reliable supplies for points south.

Brown has said the tunnels would modernize the existing water delivery system built under his father, then-Gov. Pat Brown.

Lawyer: Police overreacted by killing Ga. Tech student

BY JIM SALTER
and SUMMER BALLENTINE
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Following another night of unrest and more than 80 arrests, a racially mixed crowd of demonstrators locked arms and marched quietly through downtown St. Louis on Monday morning to protest the acquittal of a white former police officer in the killing of a black suspect.

The latest action follows three days of peaceful protests and three nights of violence in the city that has been rocked since Friday, when a judge announced he found Jason Stockley not guilty in the 2011 death of Anthony Lamar Smith.

Hundreds of riot police mobilized downtown late Sunday, arrested more than 80 people and seized weapons amid reports of property damage and vandalism. The arrests came after demonstrators ignored orders to disperse, police said.

“I’m proud to tell you the city of St. Louis is safe and the police owned tonight,” Interim Police Chief Lawrence O’Toole said at a news conference early Monday.

Earlier Sunday, more than 1,000 people had gathered at police headquarters, then marched without trouble through downtown St. Louis, the posh Central West End and the trendy Delmar Loop area of nearby University City. Protesters also marched through two shopping malls in a wealthy area of St. Louis County.

By nightfall, most had gone home. The 100 or so people who remained grew increasingly agitated as they marched back toward downtown. Along the way, they knocked over planters, broke windows at a few shops and hotels and scattered plastic chairs at an outdoor venue.

According to police, the demonstrators then sprayed bottles with an unknown substance onto officers.

One officer suffered a leg injury and was taken to a hospital. His condition wasn’t known.

Soon afterward, buses brought in additional officers in riot gear, and police scoured downtown deep into the night, making arrests and seizing at least five weapons, according to O’Toole. Later, officers in riot gear gathered alongside a city boulevard chanting, “Whose street? Our street!” — a common refrain used by the protesters — after clearing the street of demonstrators and onlookers.

“Were in control. This is our city and we’re going to protect it,” O’Toole said.

Mayor Lyda Krewson said at the same Monday news conference that “the days have been calm and the nights have been destructive” and that “destruction cannot be tolerated.”

Early on Monday, more than 150 protesters marched arm-in-arm, some carrying signs, to City Hall. Police turned traffic away as the marchers blocked a busy St. Louis street during the rush-hour crush.

The recent St. Louis protests follow a pattern seen since the August 2014 killing of Michael Brown in nearby Ferguson. The majority of demonstrators, though angry, are law-abiding. But as the night wears on, a subsection emerges, a different crowd more willing to confront police, sometimes to the point of clashes.

Protest organizer Anthony Bell said he understands why some act out. While change can come through peaceful protests, such as those led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., oppression over years has caused some to turn violent.

“I do not say the (violent) demonstrators are wrong, but I believe peaceful demonstrations are the best,” Bell said.

State Rep. Bruce Franks, a Democrat who has participated in the peaceful protests, said those behind the violence “are not protestors.”

The late-night unrest since the verdict was issued has led to destruction across the St. Louis area. It was after nightfall Friday that people shattered a window at the home of Mayor Lynda Krewson, smashed about two dozen windows and threw trash cans and rocks at police in University City on Saturday and knocked out windows downtown on Sunday.

Police make multiple arrests Sunday in St. Louis after violence erupted during a protest over a not-guilty verdict Friday in the trial of a former St. Louis police officer for the 2011 killing of a black man.

Protests resume after 80 arrests in St. Louis unrest
Mars research crew emerges from isolation

By Caleb Jones
Associated Press

HONOLULU — Six NASA-backed research subjects who have been cooped up in a Mars-like habitat on a remote Hawaii volcano since January emerged from isolation Sunday. They devoured fresh-picked tropical fruits and fluffy egg strata after eating mostly freeze-dried food while in isolation and some vegetables they grew during their mission.

The crew of four men and two women are part of a study designed to better understand the psychological impacts a long-term space mission would have on astronauts.

“It’s really gratifying to know that the knowledge gained here from our mission and the other missions that HI-SEAS has done will contribute to the future exploration of Mars and the future exploration of Space in general,” science officer Samuel Payler said Sunday.

The data they produced will help NASA select individuals and groups with the right mix of traits to best cope with the stress, isolation and danger of a two- to three-year trip to Mars. The U.S. space agency hopes to send humans to the red planet by the 2030s.

The crew was quarantined for eight months on a vast plain below the summit of the Big Island’s Mauna Loa, the world’s largest active volcano. After finishing their stint, they feasted on pineapple, mango and papaya.

While isolated, the crewmembers wore space suits and traveled in teams whenever they left their small dome living structure. They ate mostly freeze-dried or canned food on their simulated voyage to Mars.

During the eight months in isolation, mission biology specialist Joshua Ehrlich grew fresh vegetables. “Carrots, peppers, pak choi. Chinese cabbage, mustard greens, radishes, tomatoes, potatoes, tons of parsley and oregano. I mean it was phenomenal, just that delicious fresh taste from home really was good,” Ehrlich said.

All of their communications with the outside world were subjected to a 20-minute delay — the time it takes for signals to get from Mars to Earth. The crew was tasked with conducting geological surveys, mapping studies and maintaining their self-sufficient habitat as if they were actually living on Mars.

The team’s information technology specialist, Laura Lark, thinks a manned voyage to Mars is a reasonable goal for NASA. The project is the fifth in a series of six NASA-funded studies at the University of Hawaii facility called the Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation, or HI-SEAS. NASA has dedicated about $2.5 million for research at the facility.

“Of course there are many factors to be considered, that’s part of what HI-SEAS is for,” Lark said in a video message recorded within the dome. “But I think that overcoming those challenges is just a matter of effort. We are absolutely capable of it.”

The crew played games designed to measure their compatibility and stress levels and maintained logs about how they were feeling. To gauge their moods they also wore specially designed sensors that measured voice levels and proximity to other people in the 1,200-square-foot living space.

At conference, Manning says she’s not a traitor

Associated Press

NANTUCKET, Mass. — Chelsea Manning said Sunday she is not an “American traitor” as her critics have claimed, and that she did what she thought was right.

Manning, 29, made the remarks at a conference on Nantucket that was one of her first public appearances since being released from a military prison in May. The Associated Press was the only media outlet in attendance.

“I believe I did the best I could in my circumstances to make an ethical decision,” she told the crowd when asked by the moderator if she was a traitor.

The transgender woman was known as Bradley Manning when she was convicted in 2013 of leaking a trove of classified documents. She was released after serving seven years of a 35-year sentence, which was commuted by President Barack Obama in his final days in office.

Manning spoke at the annual conference for The Nantucket Project in Massachusetts, a venture founded to bring together creative thinkers to uncover ideas. Organizers say about 600 people attended.

The Nantucket Project co-founder Tom Scott said his group invited Manning for “clarity of understanding.”

“My brother and father are Marines. They would respectfully challenge some of her decisions,” he said. “Barack Obama commuted her sentence. My instinct is that he’s a good and true man. How do those two things mix? Seeing her in person offers, perhaps, the best way to decipher that.”

Scott said some people were upset that Manning was invited, but he didn’t consider retracting the invitation. Harvard University reversed its decision to name Manning a visiting fellow Friday, a day after CIA Director Mike Pompeo scrapped a planned appearance over the title for

 Refugees reflect at Trump’s 1st home

Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Donald Trump’s childhood home in New York had some new occupants over the weekend — refugees who shared their stories as a way to draw attention to the refugee crisis as the United Nations General Assembly convenes this week with Trump in attendance.

The three-story Tudor-style home in Queens that Trump’s father, Fred, built in 1940 is now a rental available on Airbnb that anyone can stay in for $725 a night. It was auctioned off to an unidentified bidder in March for $2.14 million, its second time going up for auction.

The international anti-poverty organization Oxfam rented it Saturday and invited up to 100 people to meet with refugees from Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Iran.

The Republican president’s administration issued travel bans on people from six Muslim-majority countries and all refugees. After various court challenges, the Supreme Court last week allowed the restrictive policy on refugees to remain temporarily. The justices will hear arguments on the bans Oct. 10.

“We wanted to send a strong message to Trump and world leaders that they must do more to welcome refugees,” said Shannon Scribner, acting director for the humanitarian department of Oxfam America.

Trump lived in the house on a tree-lined street of single-family dwellings until he was about 4, when his family moved to another home his father had built nearby.

In an upstairs bedroom, Eiman Ali, 22, looked around at the dark wood floors and a copy of the book “Trump: The Art of the Deal” on a nearby table and wondered about the house’s political connections.

“Knowing Donald Trump was here at the age of four makes me think about where I was at the age of four,” said Ali, her smiling face framed by a dark gray hijab. “We’re all kids who are raised to be productive citizens, who have all these dreams and hopes.”

Ali was 3 when she arrived in the U.S. from Yemen, where her parents had fled when war broke out in their native Somaliland. Ali said she remembered Trump as an entertaining character on “The Celebrity Apprentice.” She has changed her opinion.

“To have someone so outspoken against my community become the president of the United States was very eye-opening and hurtful because I have invested a lot in this country,” she said.

Down the hall, Ghassan al-Chahada, 41, a Syrian refugee who arrived in the U.S. with his wife and three children in 2012, sat in a room with a sign on the wall that said it likely was Trump’s childhood bedroom. He looked out the window and thought about what he would say to the president.

“I would advise him to remember, to think about how he felt when he slept in this bedroom,” al-Chahada said. “If he can stay in tune with who he was as a child, the compassion children have and the mercy, I would say he’s a great person.”
Recovery czar faces limits to ‘future-proofing’ Texas

By Paul J. Weber
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — The man tasked with overseeing Texas’ Hurricane Harvey rebuilding efforts sees his job as “future-proofing” the next disaster, but he isn’t empowered on his own to reshape flood-prone Houston or the state’s vulnerable coastline, which has been walloped by three major hurricanes since 2006.

Texas A&M Chancellor John Sharp will face the same political and bureaucratic challenges that have long stalled meaningful improvements in storm protections, and some doubt that even Harvey’s record flooding and huge price tag will bring about lasting change.

“It doesn’t give me very much confidence at all,” Houston resident Steve Sacks said of the prospects that the state will get the recovery right. Sacks’ home has flooded four times since 2012, and even before Harvey’s floodwaters near the rooftops in his Meyerland neighborhood, he was frustrated by delays and what he believes is the mismanagement of a government project to elevate homes in the city.

“It’s all spur of the moment and not thought out. It’s just, ‘Let’s go ahead and react now to make it look good,’” said the 46-year-old Sacks.

Sharp, who was appointed by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, follows a line of first responders with picking up the pieces following major storms in recent years, including Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012. He has won early bipartisan praise as a practical choice to precede over the efforts to recover from Harvey, which killed more than 70 people and damaged or destroyed more than 200,000 homes.

Sharp is the rare Democrat with sustained relevance in Republican-controlled Texas. He is a former lawmaker and state comptroller who was U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry’s college roommate at Texas A&M, which Sharp has led since 2011 and will continue to lead while overseeing the rebuilding effort. Abbott joked that he’s now getting calls, texts and emails from Sharp “up to and sometimes well after midnight.”

Sharp hasn’t laid out a long-term rebuilding plan yet, and most of his public comments so far have been aimed at reassuring hard-hit communities that he isn’t going to fail. The 46-year-old, who has long stalled meaningful improvements in storm protections, and some doubt that even Harvey’s record flooding and huge price tag will bring about lasting change.

“Given the brisk pace of construction and population growth, the government will get caught in-between,” he said.

Abbott spokesman John Wittman said Sharp will be involved in developing a rebuilding plan to “minimize the impact” of future natural disasters and will advocate for funding.

But Sharp is constrained in how far he can go in reimagining a more resilient Texas coast. His mandate also doesn’t mention zoning changes, said Sam Brody, an environmental lawyer with Sharp’s commission, which has been walloped by three major hurricanes since 2006.

“Yet Harvey’s destruction renew fears about managing Fla.’s population boom

By Josh Boak
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Florida’s economy has long thrived on one import above all: People.

Until Irma struck this month, the state was adding nearly 1,000 residents a day, 333,471 in the past year, akin to absorbing a city the size of St. Louis or Pittsburgh.

Every job seeker, retiree or new resident attracted by tourists, helped fuel Florida’s population boom, along with billions spent on real estate.

A house rests on the beach after collapsing off a cliff after Hurricane Irma in Vilo Beach, Fla., on Friday. The wind, rain and flooding inflicted an estimated $50 billion in damage.
Hurricane Maria heads toward already battered Caribbean

Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — A strengthening Hurricane Maria swirled toward the eastern Caribbean early Monday, with forecasters warning it probably would be a major storm by the time it passed through the already battered Leeward Islands later in the day.

Maria grew into a hurricane Sunday, and forecasters said it was expected to become much stronger during the next 48 hours, following a path that would take it near many of the islands wrecked by Hurricane Irma and on to Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Hurricane warnings were posted for Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat and Martinique. A tropical storm warning was issued for Antigua and Barbuda, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Lucia. Other islands were warned to stay alert for changes in the storm. Hurricane watches were up in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, the island shared by French St. Martin and Dutch St. Maarten, St. Barts and Anguilla.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Maria had maximum sustained winds of 90 mph late Sunday. It was centered about 170 miles east-southeast of Dominica and was heading west-northwest at 13 mph.

The hurricane center said hurricane conditions are expected to begin to affect parts of the Leeward Islands by Monday night, with storm surge raising water levels by 4 to 6 feet near the storm's center. The storm was predicted to bring 6 to 12 inches of rain across the islands, with more in isolated areas.

Maria could make a direct hit on Puerto Rico, which was spared the full brunt of Irma, although much of the island had its power knocked out.

Gov. Ricardo Rossello said officials had prepared about 450 shelters with a capacity for nearly 68,000 people — or even 125,000 in an emergency. He said schools were canceled for Monday and government employees would work only a half-day.

Officials in the Dominican Republic urged people to leave areas prone to flooding and said fishermen should remain in port.

Farther north, long-lived Hurricane Jose continued to head northwest of the U.S. East Coast, causing dangerous surf and rip currents. It wasn't expected to make landfall, but tropical storm watches were posted along the coast from Delaware to Massachusetts.

Jose was centered about 290 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., and was moving north at 9 mph. It had maximum sustained winds of 90 mph.

In the Pacific, Tropical Storm Norma's threat to Mexico's Los Cabos resort area at the southern end of the Baja California peninsula seemed to ease as forecasters said the storm's center was likely to remain offshore.

Norma had winds of about 50 mph and it was centered about 140 miles southwest of Cabo San Lucas. That area was hit two weeks ago by Tropical Storm Lidia, which flooded streets and homes and killed at least four people.

France says acid attack on 4 students from US likely not related to terrorism

By Philippe Sotto

PARIS — Four American college students were attacked with acid Sunday at a train station in France, but French authorities so far do not think extremist views motivated the 41-year-old woman who was arrested as the suspected assailant, the local prosecutor's office and the students' school said.

Boston College, a private Jesuit university in Massachusetts, said in a statement Sunday that the four female students were treated at a hospital for burns after they were sprayed with acid in the city of Marseille.

The statement said the four all were juniors studying abroad, three of them at the college's Paris program.

"It appears that the students are fine, considering the circumstances, though they may require additional treatment for burns," said Nick Gozik, who directs Boston College's Office of International Programs. "We have been in contact with the students and their parents and remain in touch with French officials and the U.S. Embassy regarding the incident."

Police in France described the suspect as "disturbed" and said the attack was not thought at this point to be terrorism-related, according to the university's statement.

The Paris prosecutor's office said earlier Sunday that its counterterrorism division had concluded for the time being not to assume jurisdiction for investigating the attack. The prosecutor's office in the capital, which has responsibility for all terrorism-related cases in France, did not explain the reasoning behind the decision.

A spokeswoman for the Marseille prosecutor's office told The Associated Press in a telephone call that the suspect did not make any extremist threats or declarations during the late morning attack at the city's Saint-Charles train station. She said there were no obvious indications that the woman's actions were terrorism-related.

The student spoke on condition of anonymity, per the custom of the French judicial system. She said all four of the victims were in their 20s and were treated at a hospital, two of them for shock. The suspect was taken into police custody.

Boston College identified the students as Courtney Siverling, Charlotte Kaufman, Michelle Krug and Kelsey Kosten.

UK police hold 2 ex-foster children over subway bomb

By Jill Lawless and Gregory Katz

Associated Press

LONDON — The two suspects held in London after a subway bomb was found there were being questioned at a London police station about Friday's attack.

Thirty people were injured when an improvised explosive device partly exploded aboard a crowded underground train at Parsons Green station during the morning rush hour. None of the injuries was life-threatening, and experts said it appears the main charge of the bomb didn't detonate.

After the rush-hour bombing, British officials raised the country's terrorism threat level to the highest level, "critical," meaning an attack may be imminent. They lowered it Sunday to "severe," the police said, as the investigation was making rapid progress.

Police searched three addresses, including the house in suburban Sunbury, outside London, of Penelope and Ronald Jones. The couple have been honored by Queen Elizabeth II for fostering more than 200 children, including many from Middle Eastern conflicts.

Ian Harvey, who heads local Spelthorne Borough Council, said he believed the 18-year-old was an Iraqi orphan who moved to the U.K. when he was 15 after his parents died and had lived in the Sunbury house. He said the 21-year-old also was a former foster child of the Joneses.

Stephen Griffiths, who lives across the street, said police had visited the house several times, most recently two or three weeks ago.

"The police were there multiple times over the span of about a month — a few times a week," he said.

"You always think foster kids are going to have a bit of trouble, but you don't think terrorism," he said.

Footage obtained by broadcaster ITV shows a man near the Sunbury address Friday morning carrying a bag from Lidl supermarket. Images posted on social media following the attack appeared to show wires protruding from a flaming bucket contained in a Lidl bag on the floor of the train carriage.

Commuters returned to Parsons Green station Monday for the first morning rush hour since the bombing. Police asked the traveling public to be vigilant and said there would be more armed police on the transit network for the time being.

Most of the injured in Friday's explosion aboard a District Line train suffered flash burns while some were injured in the panic to leave.

Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attack, but British officials say there is no proof yet that it was involved.
Kenyan dump scavengers make living recycling hair extensions

By Adelle Kalakouti and Khaled Kasseh
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — In one of Africa's largest dumps, some residents are making a living by collecting and recycling hair from mountains of rubbish.

Nairobi's Dandora Municipal Dumpsite stretches as far as the eye can see. It was declared full in 2001 but has remained active, with 850 to 1,500 tons of waste arriving every day. Kenya last month implemented a ban on arriving every day. Kenya last month implemented a ban on

By Jim Gomez
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine military chief said Monday that three leaders of Islamic State-linked militants who besieged a southern city have been killed in months of fighting but two others, including one of Asia's most wanted terrorism suspects, were leading a final stand.

Military chief of staff Gen. Edgaro Ano said Saturday after a five-hour battle. Soganub smiled and waved at the Dandora municipal dumpsite in Nairobi, Kenya.

In a back alley in Korogocho, Mary Wanjiku, 29, washed the hair she recently bought. She uses detergent to wash and rinse it, sometimes applying oil and perfume.

"After we get the hair from the dumpsite we usually sort them out and pick the good ones," Wanjiku said. She has been a hairdresser in Korogocho for nearly 10 years. She is happy to be working there and said using hair from the dump makes a lot of business sense.

Wanjiku said she doesn't go out of her way to tell customers where the hair comes from. But she said many know and are happy that the hair has been sufficiently cleaned and is more affordable than hair in town, where a good weave can cost up to $485. A weave in Korogocho can go for around $86.

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4 Marawi siege leaders killed, 2 still fighting

By Jim Gomez
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine military chief said Monday that three leaders of Islamic State-linked militants who besieged a southern city have been killed in months of fighting but two others, including one of Asia's most wanted terrorism suspects, were leading a final stand.

Military chief of staff Gen. Edgaro Ano said Saturday after a five-hour battle. Soganub smiled and waved at the Dandora municipal dumpsite in Nairobi, Kenya.

In a back alley in Korogocho, Mary Wanjiku, 29, washed the hair she recently bought. She uses detergent to wash and rinse it, sometimes applying oil and perfume.

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Cut-up cash discovered in Geneva toilets

By Susannah George
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's top court on Monday temporarily suspended the northern Kurdish region's referendum on independence that's due next week, a decision that put further pressure on the Iraqi Kurds to call off the vote.

The Supreme Court in Baghdad released a statement, saying it "issued a national order to suspend the referendum procedures until the resolution of the cases regarding the constitutionality of said decision."

It was not immediately clear if the local government in the semi-autonomous Kurdish region would abide by the court's ruling. The vote was due on Sept. 25 in the three provinces that make up the region, as well as disputed territories claimed by both the Kurdish region and Baghdad.

The central government in Baghdad, regional leaders and the United States have all called on the Iraqi Kurdish region to hold off on the vote, fearing it could contribute to instability as Iraqi forces continue to battle Islamic State.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi told The Associated Press in an interview Saturday that Iraq is prepared to intervene militarily if the Kurdish region's referendum results in violence.

The leaders of the Iraqi Kurdish region have said they hope the referendum will push Baghdad to come to the negotiating table and create a path for independence.

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OPINION

Trump throws his party a curveball

By Dan K. Thomason
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON

Republican voters who held their noses and voted for Donald Trump out of loyalty to the party may be having second thoughts now that he has begun forsaking the Grand Old Party and cutting deals with Democrats for the sake of the experiment.

For Trump, Trump is either following the hard line of GOP conservatives who would shut down the government over the issue, or he’s out-gaming the former party and running in 2020 as an independent.

While it is a bit extreme for such early predictions, there is little doubt the old Republican mantra of not fragmenting with the enemy has been shredded around the edges.

But that’s what happens when far too many put their political party above common sense. Loyalists of the Republican establishment (if there is such a thing now), who obviously wanted the party’s stamp back on the White House door, couldn’t wait to put someone in the Oval Office totally unqualified and unfit for the position — a huckster who wrote a book titled “The Art of the Deal.” What were they expecting? They haven’t been the only ones burned.

All those who bought into the campaign snake oil about immigration walls and better health care and the silliness of climate control are now scratching their heads too.

As a comedian once said, who trusts a financial adviser who pronounces his name “Made-of”? Now that the administrators of the majority Republican Party have been unable to shove through the hallowed halls of Congress even a smidgen of Trump’s over-the-top agenda in the time he promised during the campaign, he is looking elsewhere for solace. Why not “Chuck and Nancy,” as he calls the minority leaders? Deals are art, after all, especially in politics.

But what’s left is disdain all around. House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, already smarting from Trump’s disparagements over their inability to overturn “Obamacare,” have taken his supper parlay with the opposition as a real kick in the keister. One buds just how badly they had to keep their jobs. Perhaps they should consult former Speaker John Boehner, whose frustrations with the tea party caused him to quit Congress altogether. He was last seen walking through the halls of the Capitol whistling “Free at Last.”

Trump’s rash base, meanwhile, is at least partially mystified, if not totally let down, over his befriending Schumer and Ryan.

And perhaps the person hurting most of all is Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who earlier in the administration refused to step down, even when Trump almost begged him to. The Alabamian is staunchly anti-illegal immigration, wanting to line up the so-called “Dreamers” and cram them onto planes back to wherever they came from. One can only imagine how he’s feeling now.

None of this would seem to bode well for the GOP in next year’s midterm elections. But stay closely tuned. This is an administration that is in no rush to please. They may be the only ones burned.

Randall D. Ellison teaches white-collar criminal law at George Washington University Law School.
Looking at the news
A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

Walt Handelsman/Tribune Content Agency

Lisa Benson/Washington Post Writers Group

Jack Ohman/Tribune Content Agency

Joe Morin/MorinToons Syndicate

Walt Handelsman/Tribune Content Agency
THE CENSUS

The amount a Thompson submachine gun owned by a sheriff’s office in northeastern Ohio sold for at auction. The Tuscarawas County Sheriff’s Office bought the Thompson Model 1921 submachine gun in 1934. An anonymous buyer purchased the gun, which has an appraised value of $37,000. Sheriff Ovis Campbell said auction proceeds will be used to buy equipment for his deputies.

Nonprofit marks launch of State Parks beer

TN NASHVILLE — A nonprofit group is celebrating the release of State Parks Blonde Ale, a new beer from Tennessee Brew Works.

Proceeds from the sale of the new beer will go to Tennessee State Parks Conservancy to help preserve and protect the state’s natural areas and cultural assets. State Park Blonde Ale is an American blonde session ale.

The Tennessee State Parks Conservancy raises money for educational programs, health initiatives and special park projects.

Tax collector indicted over theft of funds

MA TYNGSBOROUGH — A tax collector in a Massachusetts town has been indicted on charges that she stole hundreds of thousands of dollars from the town.

Nancy Dutton, 56, is charged with five counts of larceny and one count of money laundering. Prosecutors allege she stole tax money and falsified records to cover it up.

Dutton was hired as an assistant tax collector in Tyngsborough in 2002 and was made deputy tax collector in 2016. Prosecutors say the alleged theft started in 2004. Dutton was placed on unpaid leave June 1, shortly after police began investigating.

City delays enforcing ban on bikini baristas

WA SEATTLE — The city of Everett, Wash., has agreed not to enforce its ban on bikini baristas while it’s challenged in court.

Seven bikini baristas and the owner of a chain of the coffee stands called “Hillbilly Hotties” sued the city in federal court last week, saying two recently passed ordinances banning bare skin violate their right to free expression.

The city said there’s been “a proliferation of crimes of a sexual nature” at the stands. It wants the baristas and employees of other quick-serve establishments to wear a minimum of a tank top and skirt or shorts.

K-9 tracks man charged with stealing generator

EDGEWATER — Authorities say a K-9 officer tracked down a suspect who stole a neighbor’s generator.

William Packard said he heard his generator shut off suddenly Friday and spotted a man in the backyard running off with the $1,200 device. He told Edgewater police he tried to catch him.

According to a police report, a K-9 officer tracked the suspect to a neighbor’s house. They found Jeremy Swartz, 31, inside and a neighbor’s generator partially hidden in a bedroom closet. The report said a resident in the house pointed at Swartz and said, “He did it.”

Swartz was charged with armed burglary of an occupied dwelling, possession and use of burglary tools and grand theft between $300 and $500.

Wall washed of masticated muck

Worker Leo Delgado sends up a cloud of steam as he pressure washes a year’s worth of gum off of the landmark “gum wall” in Post Alley at the Pike Place Market in Seattle on Friday. The wall was first cleaned in 2015 after 20 years of collecting gum stuck there by locals and tourists. The washing is now an annual event done near the end of the summer.

Firefighters save dogs trained to take cover

WA OLYMPIA — Firefighters in Washington state were able to save the lives of two dogs that are trained to seek cover in the bathtub if they sense danger.

The West Thurston Regional Fire Authority went to a house fire on Wednesday and found the dogs unconscious in a bathtub.

Authorities said one dog began to seize and the other was making efforts to breathe as they were given oxygen masks and taken to an animal clinic, where vets treated the dogs for smoke inhalation.

The dogs’, owners, who were not home at the time of the fire, said their pets are self-trained to go into the bathtub, shut the door and get into the tub if they sense danger.

Surfer taken to hospital after likely shark bite

FL DAYTONA BEACH — A 28-year-old surfer was taken to the hospital after apparently being bitten by a shark.

Volusia County Beach Safety officials said the unidentified Melbourne man was bitten Saturday while surfing near the jetty in Ponce Inlet. The Orlando Sentinel reported the man suffered several cuts on his foot from what appeared to be a shark bite.

The surfer’s condition wasn’t immediately known.

3 squirrels are caught following 6 attacks

LA NEW ORLEANS — Following reports of up to six attacks on humans, three squirrels have been apprehended in New Orleans.

WWL-TV reported that New Orleans Mosquito, Termite and Rodent Control put out traps near St. Pius X Catholic Church on Wednesday after multiple people reported being attacked by aggressive squirrels in the Lake Vista area, with one assault caught on camera.

The victims include one man who is undergoing rabies shots after being bitten and two parishioners who were attacked in the church parking lot.

Claudia Riegel, with the Mosquito, Termite and Rodent Control Board, said the squirrels’ aggression likely resulted from people feeding the animals.

From wire reports
Emmys make political statement

‘Handmaid’s Tale,’ ‘Veep,’ ‘SNL’ take series awards

By Lynn Elber
Associated Press

The dystopian vision of “The Handmaid’s Tale,” the deeply cynical Washington comedy “Veep” and the ever-topical “Saturday Night Live” won top series honors Sunday in an Emmy Awards ceremony that took almost nonstop aim at President Donald Trump in its speeches and awards.

“Go home, get to work. We have a lot of things to fight for,” producer Bruce Miller said in accepting the best drama series trophy for “A Handmaid’s Tale,” which also won best drama writing and directing awards and a best ensemble trophy.

Sterling K. Brown, whose role in “This Is Us” earned him the top drama series actor trophy, paid tribute to the last African-American man to win in the category, Andre Braugher in 1998 for his role as a police detective in “Homicide: Life on the Street.”

“A year ago, I was talking to you people about ‘Mother’ — and now look at the show that has become a viable alternative to ‘The Handmaid’s Tale,’ ” he said.

Dreyfus was honored for the sixth time for her role as Maura Povich on “The Good Fight.”

Expletives, while Ann Dowd won supporting actress honors for her role as Michelle Dukakis in the five-hour miniseries “The Leftovers,” which ended its run Sunday.

“I want to thank Trump for making black people No. 1 on the most oppressed list. He’s the reason I’m on a winning streak,” Glover said.

But Aronofsky’s film is a more art-house proposition, made for about $30 million.

“‘It’ remains easily the top draw in North American theaters, according to box office trackers. Eighteen months after its North American release, the Stephen King adaptation “It” continued to dominate the worldwide box office with $432 million in grosses. That includes $136 million domestically and $296 million internationally. The film is expected to pass $500 million in total grosses by the end of this weekend.

Lois-Dreyfus is now tied with Claire Danes as the most-winning Emmy performer ever. She called “Veep” an “adventure of utter joy.”

But the film — an intense, allegorical tale about a woman (Lawrence) whose rural Victorian house is overrun by unwanted house guests — got a seldom-seen F Cinemascope rating from audiences.


One of the summer’s weaker performing sequels also found a little redemption. Two months after its North American release, “War for the Planet of the Apes” opened in China with $62.5 million. That sends the film to a global haul of $432 million.

Lady Gaga postpones European leg of world tour

Lady Gaga has postponed her world tour’s European leg until next year because of ongoing health problems. The tour’s promoter said Monday.

Former White House press secretary Sean Spicer pose backstage.

Above: Elisabeth Moss poses with her awards for outstanding leading actress in a drama series and outstanding drama series for “The Handmaid’s Tale” at Sunday’s Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

Above right: Donald Glover accepts the award for outstanding lead actor in a comedy series for “Atlanta.”

Lord Art Goggs pressing secretary Barack Obama.

Right: Show host Stephen Colbert, left, and former White House press secretary Sean Spicer pose backstage.

Emmy winners

Drama Series: “The Handmaid’s Tale”

Directing, Drama: Reed Morano, “The Handmaid’s Tale”

Actor, Drama Series: Sterling K. Brown, “This Is Us”

Actress, Drama Series: Elisabeth Moss, “The Handmaid’s Tale”

Supporting Actor, Drama Series: John Lithgow, “The Crown”

Supporting Actress, Drama Series: Ann Dowd, “The Handmaid’s Tale”

Comedy Series: “Veep”

Directing, Comedy: Donald Glover, “Atlanta”

Actress, Comedy Series: Julia Louis-Dreyfus, “Veep”


Supporting Actress, Comedy Series: Kate McKinnon, “Saturday Night Live”

Variety Talk Series: “Last Week Tonight with John Oliver”

Reality Competition Series: “Nailed It”

Writing, Drama: Bruce Miller, “The Handmaid’s Tale”

Limited Series: “Big Little Lies”

Directing, Limited Series or Movie: Sterling K. Brown, “The Leftovers”

Director, Limited Series or Movie: Nicole Kidman, “Big Little Lies”

Supporting Actor, Limited Series or Movie: Alexander Skarsgard, “Big Little Lies”

Supporting Actress, Limited Series or Movie: Laura Dern, “Big Little Lies”

Writing, Limited Series, Movie or Special: Charlie Brooker, “Black Mirror: San Junipero”

Directing, Variety: Don King, “The 2016 ESPYS”

Writing, Comedy: Aziz Ansari, Lena Waithe, “Master of None”

Reality–Competition Program: “The Voice”

Television Movie: “Black Mirror”

From The Associated Press

‘It’ scares up $60 million in second week; ‘mother’ stumbles

The Associated Press

The Stephen King adaptation “It” continued its successful run in its second week and leaving a pallet $75 million for Darren Aronofsky’s box-office stunning psychological thriller “mother!”

But the film — an intense, allegorical tale about a woman (Lawrence) whose rural Victorian house is overrun by unwanted house guests — got a seldom-seen F Cinemascope rating from audiences.


One of the summer’s weaker performing sequels also found a little redemption. Two months after its North American release, “War for the Planet of the Apes” opened in China with $62.5 million. That sends the film to a global haul of $432 million.

Lady Gaga postpones European leg of world tour

Lady Gaga has postponed her world tour’s European leg until next year because of ongoing health problems, the tour’s promoter said Monday.

The six-week part of the Joanne World Tour was set to kick off in Barcelona on Sept. 21 and end on Oct. 28 in Germany. Lady Gaga was also due to perform in Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Britain, Denmark and Sweden.

“Lady Gaga is suffering from severe physical pain that has impacted her ability to perform,” tour promoter Live Nation said. “She remains under the care of expert medical professionals who recommended the postponement.”

Kevin Hart apologizes to family for ‘mistakes’

Kevin Hart has publicly apologized to his pregnant wife and his kids for what he described as a “bad error in judgment.”

The comedian and box office star, looking morose, posted a video to Instagram on Sept. 16 in which he said he wasn’t perfect and recently made poor decisions. He said he was “too excused” but added that someone was trying to seek financial gain over his mistakes, and he’d rather confess than let that happen.

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Hart married wife Eniko last year. She is expecting their first child soon. He has two children from a previous marriage.

Earlier this summer, a video emerged of Hart looking coy with a brunette in the back of a car, but he laughed off any suggestions of infidelity in an Instagram post.

Other news

A publicist for Scottish actress Kelly Macdonald says she and her husband, musician Douglas Payne, have separated. Macdonald, known for films including “Training Day,” “Godsford Park” and “No Country For Old Men,” as well as TV’s “Boardwalk Empire.” Payne is the bassist for the Scottish band Travis.

Johnny Depp’s Kentucky horse farm has failed to sell at auction after bidding was too low and the farm’s Lexington property was listed for $2.9 million, but the top bid Sept. 15 was $1.4 million. The auctioneers ended the auction without a sale.

Harry Dean Stanton, the shambling, craggy-face character actor with the deadpan voice who became a cult favorite through his memorable turns in “Paris, Texas,” “Repo Man” and many other films and TV shows, died Sept. 15 at age 91.
By Charles Fleming
Los Angeles Times

In the Colorado ZR2, Chevrolet has fielded a purpose-built pickup that boasts a number of exclusives. It’s the only midsize truck available with a diesel engine, the only one to come standard with true “off-road” suspension and the only one with locking front and rear differentials.

So, who cares? Chevrolet engineers made a splash at last year’s Los Angeles Auto Show by bringing a number of pre-production ZR2s to a gritty industrial space they’d rented.

For the duration of the show, Chevy hosted wannabe terrain-tacklers eager to show off their off-road skills on a bumpy, rocky course fabricated at the former factory site.

But even then the questions that formed in my mind were: Who is this truck for? And, how many of those people are there? Who is going to buy the ZR2s? I haven’t seen any among the sport utility vehicles crowding the streets. I haven’t seen any among the sport utility vehicles crowding the streets. I haven’t seen any among the sport utility vehicles crowding the streets. I haven’t seen any among the sport utility vehicles crowding the streets. I haven’t seen any among the sport utility vehicles crowding the streets. I haven’t seen any among the sport utility vehicles crowding the streets. I haven’t seen any among the sport utility vehicles crowding the streets. I haven’t seen any among the sport utility vehicles crowding the streets. I haven’t seen any among the sport utility vehicles crowding the streets. I haven’t seen any among the sport utility vehicles crowding the streets. I haven’t seen any among the sport utility vehicles crowding the streets. 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VEHICLE SHIPING SERVICES

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For Further Information Please Contact

**Germany**
Phone: +49-(0)131-2923730
E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de
WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de

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Key Equifax executives leave after data breach

By Ken Sweet
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Equifax announced late Friday that its chief information officer and chief security officer would leave the company immediately, following the enormous breach of 143 million Americans’ personal information.

The credit data company — under intense pressure since it disclosed last week that hackers accessed the Social Security numbers, birthdates and other information — also released a detailed, if still muddled, timeline of how it discovered and handled the breach.

Equifax said that Susan Mauldin, who had been its top security officer, and David Webb, the chief technology officer, are retiring. Mauldin, a college music major, had come under media scrutiny for her qualifications in security. Equifax did not say in its statement what retirement packages the executives would receive.

Mauldin is being replaced by Russ Ayers, an information technology executive inside Equifax. Webb is being replaced by Mark Mauldin, who most recently was in charge of Equifax’s international technology operations.

Equifax also provided its most detailed timeline of the breach yet, although it raised as many questions as it answered.

The tale began on July 29, when the company’s security team detected suspicious network traffic associated with the software that ran its U.S. online dispute portal. After blocking traffic, the company saw additional “suspicious activity” and took the portal’s software offline.

At that point, Equifax’s retelling grows cloudy. The company said an internal review then “discovered” a flaw in an open-source software package called Apache Struts used in the dispute portal, which it then fixed with a software patch. It subsequently brought the portal back online.

But that vulnerability had been known publicly since early March, and a fix was available shortly thereafter — facts that Equifax acknowledged in its Friday statement. The company did not say why the software used in the online dispute portal hadn’t been patched earlier, although it claimed that its security organization was “aware” of the software flaw in March, and that it “took efforts” to locate and fix “any vulnerable systems in the company’s IT infrastructure.”

It apparently missed at least one vulnerable system. The closest Equifax gets to explaining that: “While Equifax fully understands the intense focus on patching efforts, the company’s review of the facts is still ongoing,” according to its statement.

After patching the dispute-portal’s software, Equifax hired Mandiant, a computer security firm, to do a forensic review. That effort determined that hackers had access to Equifax systems from May 13 through July 30.

Equifax has been castigated for how it has handled the breach, which it did not disclose publicly for weeks after discovering it.

Consumers calling the number of Equifax set up initially complained of jammed phone lines and uninformative representatives, and initial responses from the website gave inconsistent responses. The company says it has addressed many of those problems. Equifax also said Friday it would continue to allow people to place credit freezes on their reports without a fee through Nov. 21. Originally the company offered fee-free credit freezes for 30 days after the attack. Equifax is also facing several inquiries and class-action lawsuits, including Congressional investigations, queries by the Federal Trade Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, as well as several state attorneys general. The company’s CEO, Richard Smith, is scheduled to testify in front of Congress in early October.

Three Equifax executives — not the ones who are departing — sold shares worth a combined $1.8 million just a few days after the company discovered the breach, according to documents filed with securities regulators.

Equifax shares have lost a third of their value since it announced the breach.

Study: 4,500 deaths annually from Europe diesel emissions

Associated Press

BERLIN — Researchers say there have been more than 4,500 premature deaths annually in Europe because diesel cars emitted higher levels of pollution than claimed.

The study comes two years after Volkswagen was caught cheating on emissions tests in the U.S. The tiny particles emitted are hazardous to human health and contribute to 425,000 estimated annual premature deaths from air pollution in the European Union, Norway and Switzerland.

Scientists calculated the share of deaths from excess diesel emissions as part of the overall total, saying Monday they account for 4,560 deaths a year.

The risk is greatest in areas with high concentrations of diesel cars, such as northern Italy, according to researchers at the Austria-based International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, the Norwegian Meteorological Institute and Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden.

EXCHANGE RATES

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WEATHER OUTLOOK

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.
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Golf

**Tales of the 400 Turtles**

**NASCAR Monster Energy Series**

**At Chicago Speedway**

**Lap length: 1.50 miles (Starts at 2:00 p.m.)**

1. (3) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 267 laps, 188.222 mph, 1.022 seconds 
2. (8) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
3. (4) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 267, 0.749 
4. (28) Danica Patrick, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
5. (4) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
6. (17) Chris Buescher, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
7. (31) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
8. (7) Joey Logano, Ford, 267, 0.749 
9. (1) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
10. (22) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 267, 0.749 
11. (3) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 267, 0.749 
12. (16) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 267, 0.749 
13. (6) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 267, 0.749 
14. (28) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
15. (19) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
16. (14) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
17. (34) Cole Whitt, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
18. (23) Kasey Kahne, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
19. (23) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 267, 0.749 
20. (7) Landon Cassill, Ford, 267, 0.749 
21. (29) Kazey Kahne, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
22. (29) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 267, 0.749 
23. (31) Regan Smith, Chevy, 267, 0.749 
24. (31) Regan Smith, Chevy, 267, 0.749 
25. (6) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
26. (25) Ryan Truex, Toyota, 267, 0.749 
27. (3) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 267, 0.749 
28. (20) Landon Cassill, Ford, 267, 0.749 
29. (24) Ross Chastain, Chevy, 267, 0.749 
30. (27) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 267, 0.749 
31. (27) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 267, 0.749 
32. (26) Chris Buescher, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
33. (27) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 267, 0.749 
34. (31) Cole Whitt, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
35. (23) Kasey Kahne, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
36. (23) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 267, 0.749 
37. (20) Landon Cassill, Ford, 267, 0.749 
38. (29) Kazey Kahne, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749 
39. (29) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 267, 0.749 
40. (31) Regan Smith, Chevy, 267, 0.749

**Top 10 Finishers**

1. (1) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 267 laps, 188.222 mph, 1.022 seconds
2. (8) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749
3. (4) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 267, 0.749
4. (28) Danica Patrick, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749
5. (4) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749
6. (17) Chris Buescher, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749
7. (31) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749
8. (7) Joey Logano, Ford, 267, 0.749
9. (1) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 267, 0.749
10. (22) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 267, 0.749

**Points Leaders**

1. (1) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 2,124 points
2. (2) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 2,112 points
3. (6) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 2,105 points
4. (7) Joey Logano, Ford, 2,088 points
5. (8) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 2,087 points
6. (17) Chris Buescher, Chevrolet, 2,075 points
7. (31) Regan Smith, Chevy, 2,067 points
8. (23) Kasey Kahne, Chevrolet, 2,067 points
9. (23) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 2,067 points
10. (20) Landon Cassill, Ford, 2,067 points
Truex opens playoffs with Chicagoland win

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

JOLIET, Ill. — Martin Truex Jr. stretched his arms to his side and waited for a shower of green slime, the colored goop traditionally poured over the heads of game-show contestants and A-list celebrities.

Add NASCAR race winner to the list.

“It’s a lot funner to watch people get slimed than it is to get slimed,” a smiling and sticky Truex said. “But it’s definitely worth it to get that after the race.”

Truex might have left the rest of the field green with envy that he was again the driver celebrating in Victory Lane.

Truex backed up his regular-season dominance with a victory Sunday at Chicagoland Speedway that solidified himself as the driver to beat to over the final nine races as he chases his first Cup championship.

He raced to his fifth victory of the season and earned an automatic berth in the second round of the playoffs, piling on more dominance with a victory Sunday in Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet, Ill.

Truex again seemed right at home on the 1.5-mile track. Truex had wins this season on 1.5-mile tracks at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Kansas Speedway and Kentucky Speedway.

Truex had a win snatched from him last week at Richmond where he made a late caution and he ended up crashing. He and his team looked downright miserable accepting the regular season title trophy.

“A few weeks ago, he was like, I want to go to Chicago and lap the field twice,” crew chief Cole Pearn said. “I think he was pretty motivated this whole weekend.”

Truex’s long-time girlfriend, Sherry Pollex, was by his side in Victory Lane, even as she battles a recurrence of ovarian cancer.

“I’m a lot better driver these days because of her and what she’s been through,” he said. “We’ve learned a lot about life together. We continue to face every challenge head on and not scared.”

Truex entered the playoffs at the No. 1 seed with four wins, 18 stage wins and he totaled a whopping 53 bonus points that he can keep through the first three playoff rounds.

Truex leads the standings by 27 points over Larson.

Here are other items of note from Chicagoland Sunday.

**Busch’s run:** Kyle Busch led 85 laps from the pole and won the first stage as he positioned the No. 18 Toyota as the car to beat.

Busch was forced to pit because of a loose tire, then his Joe Gibbs Racing crew was penalized for going over the wall too soon, which would drop him back to 30th.

He ended the second stage a lap down and finished 15th.

Busch, the 2015 Cup champion, had won his last 12th stage win of the season.

Busch’s pit crew was swapped for teammate Daniel Suarez’s crew for the start of the playoffs.

“Just poor execution all around,” crew chief Adam Stevens said. “Made a lot of mistakes on pit road and when you make back-to-back mistakes, it’s tough to recover from it.”

**Playoff drivers:** Brad Keselowski was sixth, Jimmie Johnson was eighth, Matt Kenseth ninth, Jamie McMurray 10th, Ryan Blaney 11th, Austin Dillon 16th, Kurt Busch 19th, Kasey Kahne 21st, Ryan Newman 23rd and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. 25th.

Vettel loses ground in title race

By JEROME PUGMIRE
Associated Press

SINGAPORE — In the space of three races, Sebastian Vettel has dropped twice as far behind Lewis Hamilton as he was ahead of him.

After winning the Hungarian Grand Prix in late July, Vettel led by 14 points, with both drivers on four wins heading into the summer break.

But after crashing out on the first lap in Sunday’s Singapore GP, the Ferrari driver trails Hamilton by 28.

“That was very disappointing and it was definitely not the result we were expecting,” Ferrari team principal Maurizio Arrivabene said. “But it doesn’t mean

that the battle is all over, just that it has become more difficult.”

Yet it might seem to Mercedes that, for all of his experience, Vettel is throwing away the Formula One title.

“Clearly we would not feel comfortable in Ferrari’s shoes,” Mercedes head of motorsport Toto Wolff said. “But this is not just a unique time in history, in all our lives, that this has come together,” team owner Barney Visser said.

Truex was in cruise control over the final 55 laps and built a nearly 7-second lead over Chase Elliott to win at Chicagoland for the second straight season. Truex’s car flunked inspection following the win at last weekend and the No. 78 Toyota ran into more issues Sunday — the car needed four tries through pre-race inspection before it was cleared and Truex later overcame an early pit-road penalty.

By the end, there was no doubt the path to the NASCAR championship goes through the 37-year-old Truex.

Elliott was second, followed by playoff drivers Kevin Harvick, Denny Hamlin and Kyle Larson.

“Just poor execution all around,” crew chief Adam Stevens said. “Made a lot of mistakes on pit road and when you make back-to-back mistakes, it’s tough to recover from it.”

**Newgarden claims Indy championship**

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. — Josef Newgarden rashed through the doors on to the championship stage with an American flag draped around his shoulders. He felt silly, he said, like a boxer at a title fight.

Fitting for IndyCar’s newest champion.

Newgarden won his first IndyCar championship by closing out the best year of his career as the top driver at Team Penske.

He turned in a nearly flawless performance Sunday in the second stage of the playoffs at Sonoma Raceway to prevent his three Penske teammates — as well as four-time champion Scott Dixon — from taking the title.

Penske driver Simon Pagenaud used pit strategy to win the caution-free race, but Newgarden finished second to take the title by 13 points.

Newgarden is only the second American in 11 years to win the IndyCar title, joining 2012 champion Ryan Hunter-Reay.

The Tennessee driver held off Dixon, as well as teammates Pagenaud, Will Power and Helio Castroneves to take the championship. Of the five drivers mathematically eligible to win the title in the finale, four came from Penske.

Pagenaud won the race in a last gasp effort to defend the IndyCar title he won last year for Penske.

Although his strategy was different from his teammates, it put Pagenaud out front after his final chance to win starting from pole position on a hard-braking track much more suited to Ferrari than Mercedes.

A few seconds later, he was out of the race.

Vettel made a hasty error of judgment trying to cut off Max Verstappen heading into the first turn and ultimately caused a crash that also took out Ferrari teammate Kimi Räikkönen — who had made a blistering start — Verstappen and Fernando Alonso.

Vettel apologized to his Ferrari teammate afterward.

With both Ferraris out, Mercedes had a clear path as Hamilton won his 60th career race and teammate Valtteri Bottas took third.

Johan Newgarden celebrates after being presented the Astor Cup for winning the IndyCar season championship Sunday in Sonoma, Calif.

Newgarden, Pagenaud, Dixon, Castroneves and Power. Chevrolet drivers have won every championship but one since the engine-supplier returned to IndyCar in 2012.
Astros clinch 1st division since ’01

Verlander fans 10 in home debut

BY KRISTIE RIEKEN

HOUSTON — When the Houston Astros traded for Justin Verlander less than three weeks ago, they envisioned days like this.

Verlander struck out 10 batters over seven innings in his first home start for Houston, Derek Fisher and Marwin Gonzalez homered in a big fifth inning and the Astros clinched the American League West with a 7-1 win over the Seattle Mariners.

“The story is almost too good to be true,” manager A.J. Hinch said. “We trade for him for this exact reason to come up in big moments. He was locked in from the very beginning. Nobody better to have on the mound and nobody better to celebrate with.”

The Astros acquired the ace from Detroit on Aug. 31, just minutes before the deadline for players to be eligible for postseason play. He had made two starts on the road before his Minute Maid Park debut.

“I don’t think you could ask for a better introduction for me to the city of Houston than this,” Verlander said. “First home start would have been great. First home start and a win would have been great. First home start and to win in a division-clinching game — you can’t make that up.”

George Springer and Carlos Correa also homered for the Astros, who won their first division title since 2001 and seventh overall. The Astros became the first team in Major League Baseball history to win titles in three divisions after previously winning the NL West and NL Central.

Houston has reached the postseason three times as a wild-card team since last winning its division in 2001. The Astros will return to the playoffs for the second time in three seasons after ending a 10-year postseason drought in 2015.

For the few still on the team who endured the really lean years, winning this first division title in 16 years was even more special.

“It means a lot because I was here when we lost 100 games three years in a row,” Jose Altuve said.

“Yes I’m part of some winning teams and that means a lot to me.”

Washington tops Dodgers, avoids sweep

WASHINGTON — The Nationals qualified for the playoffs in three of the previous five years, yet injuries have limited Stephen Strasburg to just one postseason start in that span. Left largely without the All-Star right-hander, Washington lost the opening series each time.

If Strasburg keeps up his current level, postseason failures may become a thing of the past.

Strasburg ended his club-record scoreless streak at 35 innings, but two home runs from Ryan Zimmerman helped the NL Cy Young Award contender win his fourth consecutive start as Washington beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 7-1 on Sunday night.

Tigers 12, White Sox 0: At Detroit, left-hander Matthew Boyd closed out a one-hitter for the first shutout of his professional career.

Rays 3, Red Sox 2: David Price returned from a nearly two-month layoff by pitching two hitless innings for the Boston Red Sox in a loss to host Tampa Bay.

Padres 4, Rockies 3: Colorado closer Greg Holland dropped the ball trying to tag Matt Szczur at home on Austin Hedges’ squeeze bunt in the ninth inning, allowing visiting San Diego to finish its rally and beat the Rockies.

Orioles 6, Yankees 4: At New York, Baltimore hit back to back for the first shutout of his professional career.

Twins 13, Blue Jays 7: Eddie Rosario homered twice, Joe Mauer hit his first grand slam at home and host Minnesota overcame a 5-0 deficit with seven runs in the second inning and six in the fifth.

Indians 3, Royals 2: A day after host Cleveland clinched the AL Central, Corey Kluber (17-4) allowed three singles in seven innings.

Cubs 4, Cardinals 3: Jason Heyward hit a tiebreaking RBI single off Matt Bowman with two outs in the seventh as host Chicago overcame a 3-0 deficit to win its sixth straight game.

Brewers 10, Marlins 3: Travis Shaw, Jesus Aguilar and Manny Pina each had two hits in an eight-run fourth inning. The Brewers won two of three in a series moved from Florida following Hurricane Irma.

Reds 5, Pirates 2: Eugenio Suarez and Scooter Gennett hit two-run homers in the sixth off Gerrit Cole (11-11) as Cincinnati completed its second three-game sweep of visiting Pittsburgh this season.

Athletics 6, Phillies 3: At Philadelphia, Joel Hanrahan hit a go-ahead grand slam off Edubray Ramos after the first two batters in the sixth reached off Henderson Alvarez (0-4).

Mets 5, Braves 1: At Atlanta, Robert Gsellman (7-7) allowed an unearned run and three hits in seven innings, while pinch-hitter Asdrubal Cabrera had a two-run, pinch-hit homer.

Giants 7, Diamondbacks 2: Pablo Sandoval homered and drove in three runs as San Francisco snapped visiting Arizona’s nine-game road winning streak.

Roundup

Washington tops Dodgers, avoids sweep

Associated Press
### American Conference

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### NFL SCOREBOARD

- **Oakland at Washington**
  - Time of Possession: 28:58 vs. 31:02
  - Fumbles-Lost: 2-2 vs. 1-0
  - Punts: 3-39.7 vs. 3-55.3
  - Comp-Att-Int: 17-25-0 vs. 23-28-0
  - Kickoff Returns: 2-47 vs. 3-70
  - Punt Returns: 2-11 vs. 1-13

- **166.**
  - Touchdowns: 1 vs. 3
  - Rushes-yards: 19-159 vs. 37-131
  - Total Net Yards: 248 vs. 312

- **13.**
  - Touchdowns: 0 vs. 0
  - Rushes-yards: 1-7 vs. 1-13
  - Total Net Yards: 9 vs. 12

### Statistics

- **Oakland**: Rushing: De Marco 22-112, Cooper 1-14, Lois 1-12, Henderson 1-9, Irvin 2-8
  - Receiving: Amari 6-120, Walford 1-7, Patterson 1-12
  - Passing: Carr 19-23-0-230, Henne 0-3-0
  - Field Goals: Carr 29-0, Bryant 36-0

- **Washington**: Rushing: Jones 21-110, Henry 1-0
  - Receiving: Niles 4-90, Jordan 3-89, Davis 3-72, Devalve 2-62
  - Passing: Kirk 25-34-0-280, Allen 22-35-1-252
  - Field Goals: Parkey 39-0, Tucker 42-0

### Results

- **Oakland 17, Washington 16**
  - Time of Possession: 30:49 vs. 29:11
  - Fumbles-Lost: 3-1 vs. 0-0
  - Punt Returns: 1-10 vs. 1-8
  - Rushes-yards: 17-107 vs. 19-112
  - Total Net Yards: 176 vs. 255

### Indivisual Statistics

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### Significantly New or Notable

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### Scoreboard

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS</th>
<th>Broncos</th>
<th>Cowboys</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rushing: Buffalo</td>
<td>66-196</td>
<td>42-128</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passing: Buffalo</td>
<td>22-35-1-277</td>
<td>26-39-1-241</td>
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<td>Kicking: Bailey</td>
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<td>PUNT RETURNS 20</td>
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<td>INTERCEPTIONS 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PASSING STATISTICS</td>
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**Rush: Nothing certain in NFL**

Now, nobody is comparing the Jags to the Cowboys. But in Week 1, they were as overpowering as America’s Team. This week, much like Dallas, they disappeared.

Jacksonville went from 10 sacks at Houston to one at home against Tennessee. The Jags went from rushing for 155 yards to gaining 99. And they went from a plus-4 in turnover margin to having three giveaways.

“We had a lot of mistakes,” wide receiver Marquise Lee said. “Even when we found ways to move the ball forward, we still found ways to bring ourselves back. You can’t win the game doing things like that.”

You can win it when you are on the other end, which the Titans were in north Florida. A week after they were dominated at home by Oakland, a budding AFC power, Tennessee stuck with it after a slow start, then spurted away. They won’t be singing those sad country tunes on Broadway in Music City this week.

The blues being sung in Washington will be silenced for a while after the Redskins survived in Los Angeles. And just as the Rams were being celebrated for their annihilation of Indianapolis a week ago, there now will be plenty of “when do the Dodgers play next” comments in Southern California.

Don’t laugh. The wild swings in support and désespoir remain common among NFL fans and observers. And it’s simply the nature of the sport that drawing conclusions after one win or loss is a wasteful exercise.
NFC OUTLOOK

19 17

New England quarterback Tom Brady completed 30 of 35 passes (76.9 percent) for 447 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions for a 139.5 passer rating in the Patriots’ 36-20 win at New Orleans. Brady has 52 career games with at least three touchdowns and no interceptions, passing Peyton Manning for the most such performances in NFL history.

Kansas City rookie running back Kareem Hunt rushed for two touchdowns in the Chiefs’ 27-20 win over Philadelphia. Hunt, who scored three touchdowns (two receiving, one rushing) in his NFL debut last week, is the first player in NFL history to have at least three rushing touchdowns and two receiving touchdowns in his first two career games.

Los Angeles Chargers tight end Antonio Gates had a touchdown catch in the team’s loss against Miami. Gates has 112 career touchdown catches and passed Tony Gonzalez (111) for the most receiving touchdowns by a tight end in NFL history. Gates’ 112 touchdown receptions are the sixth-most in NFL history.

Browns tackle Joe Thomas set his consecutive snap streak to 10,062, every snap of the game and extended his consecutive snap streak to 10,000 consecutive snaps. He reached 10,000 consecutive snaps in his 162nd consecutive game in Cardinals history on the same field he called home when he won the Super Bowl with the Bucs this season before the Saints.

Indianapolis running back Frank Gore had a rushing touchdown in the Colts’ overtime loss to Arizona. He has 75 career touchdown runs, Gore, who also has 16 career receiving touchdowns, is the sixth player in NFL history with at least 75 career touchdowns and 15 receiving touchdowns in his career.

CARSON, Calif. — Cody Parkey hit his fourth field goal from 54 yards with 1:05 to play as the Miami Dolphins rallied in the fourth quarter to spoil the Chargers’ home opener.

The Chargers’ South Korean place kicker, who had missed a 44-yard field goal attempt with 5 seconds left after Philip Rivers maneuvered the offense into scoring position in the final minute before a crowd of 25,381 in their first home game since relocating to the Los Angeles area after 56 seasons in San Diego.

Indianapolis — Carson Palmer’s late rally got the Cardinals into overtime, but he fumbled in overtime.

Arizona (1-1) never led until overtime, but the Cardinals’ Larry Fitzgerald (11) tries to make a catch while being defended by the Colts’ Rashaan Evans.

Tampa, Fla. — James Winston threw for 204 yards and one touchdown, helping the Buccaneers come back from an 11-point halftime deficit and schedule by week forced by Hurricane Irma.

The result was probably more indicative of what to expect from the AFC South rivals than what each showed in their openers.

Henry finished with a career-high 92 yards on the ground for the Titans (3-1), including 87 in the final two quarters. Starting running back DeMarco Murray spent much of the second half standing on the sideline.

Los Angeles — Kirk Cousins threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Ryan Grant with 1:49 to play to give the Redskins the victory against their former assistant coach, Rams and rookie head coach Sean McVay.

Cousins capped the winning 70-yard drive by finding Grant in the back left front of the end zone.

The Rams (1-1) had the tie game at 20 on Greg Zuerlein’s 40-yard field goal with 7:16 to play. It was set up on a trick play, when punter Johnny Hekker completed a 26-yard pass to John Reynolds to the Washington 17. But two penalties stalled the drive and the Rams had to settle for the field goal.

Kansas City, Mo. — Chiefs rookie Kareem Hunt reached the end zone twice, and Travis Kelce took a shovel pass 15 yards for the go-ahead touchdown.

Kelce’s touchdown catch with 6:25 left and Hunt’s second TD scamper appeared to have put the game out of reach.

But Carson Wentz hit Nelson Agholor for an answering score with 14 seconds left, and Trey Burton jumped on the onside kick a few seconds later to give the Eagles one last throw to the end zone.

Pittsburgh — Ben Roethlisberger threw a pair of first-half touchdown passes, Le’Veon Bell ran for 87 yards.

Roethlisberger hit Martavis Bryant for a 27-yard score on the first quarter and flipped a shovel pass to JuJu Smith-Schuster that the rookie turned into a 4-yard score. Roethlisberger finished 23-33 for 243 yards.

Minnesota (1-1) played without quarterback Sam Bradford, who sat out with a left knee injury.

Baltimore — The first Thanksgiving meeting between two teams with .500 records since 2011.

The Cardinals’ Larry Fitzgerald (11) tries to catch a pass while being defended by the Colts’ Rashean Melvin during the first half Sunday in Indianapolis. The pass was incomplete.

A1 MAST/AF

Stromberg’s defense allowed only three points for the second straight week, and Graham Gano converted three field goals.

The Panthers (2-0) held Tyrod Taylor and LeSean McCoy in check all day, limiting the Bills (1-1) to 76 yards and 10 first downs. McCoy had 9 yards on 12 carries and Taylor had 125 yards passing.

The Patriots had three sacks, two by Julius Peppers in his first home game since re-signing with them.

Browns tackle Joe Thomas
Lots of empty seats for 2 games in LA

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

So by the looks of things, maybe — just maybe — the NFL overestimated the appetite for pro football in the Los Angeles area.

All of those empty seats in the Coliseum during the TV broadcast of the Rams’ ’27-20 loss to the visiting Washington Redskins on Sunday? Not a great look.

Nor was the Chargers’ inability to sell out their first regular-season game in L.A. since moving from San Diego to their temporary stadium, which holds only 27,000, making it by far the smallest facility in the league. They drew only 25,361 for what turned out to be a 19-17 loss to the Miami Dolphins.

Even if you add that number to the official attendance figure of 56,612 tickets distributed for the Rams’ game, you get a total of less than 82,000.

For fun, let’s offer this apples-to-oranges comparison: The Southern California vs. Texas college game on Saturday night attracted nearly 85,000 to the Coliseum.

To be clear, that is not an entirely fair comparison, given USC’s rich local history and support and how new (and bad) the Rams and Chargers are at the moment. Still, any St. Louis or San Diego football fans who already were disenfranchised by their NFL teams’ departures might be interested to see whether the Rams and Chargers wind up being popular in their new digs.

In case you missed it, here are the other top topics after the NFL season’s second Sunday.

Teachers defeat students: Raise a toast to the mentors, who were interested to see whether the NFL teams’ departures might be interested to see whether the Rams and Chargers wind up being popular in their new digs.

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By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Whether you had already anointed or condemned, Week 2 of the NFL season should have put the brakes on such actions.

Exhibit No. 2: Dallas.
Exhibit No. 3: Jacksonville.
Exhibit No. 4: Tennessee.
And don’t forget the Redskins and Rams. Or the Bills and Vikings.

OK, we’ll give Minnesota a break because starting quarterback Sam Bradford’s knee was too sore for him to suit up at Pittsburgh. A better judgment of the Vikes can be made when Bradford is behind center rather than Case Keenum.

The NFL schedule might be short compared to other pro sports, placing an extra emphasis on each result. But to push the panic button or start planning playoff trips after opening week is foolhardy.

This weekend displayed that for many teams.

Let’s begin with the Patriots and Cowboys, who headed

SEE RUSH ON PAGE 29


PHOTOS BY STEPHEN B. MORTEN, ABOVE, AND BILL FEIG, BELOW RIGHT/AP

Rush to judgment

Week 2 shows folly in drawing early conclusions

Truex picks up win in NASCAR playoff opener