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Senator calls readiness of B-1 bombers into question
By Seth Tupper
The Rapid City (S.D.) Journal
WASHINGTON — Just six of the nation's B-1 bombers are fully mission capable, according to U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds.

Rounds, a Republican representing South Dakota, made the statement July 30 during a Senate Armed Services Committee confirmation hearing for Gen. John Hyten, who is nominated for vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Much of the hearing focused on a sexual assault allegation against Hyten that he denies. The committee advanced his nomination to the full Senate.

When it was Rounds' turn to ask questions at the hearing, he focused on military readiness.

"Right now, of all our B-1 bombers, we have six of them that are fully mission capable — five split between Ellsworth Air Force Base and Dyess Air Force Base. One is a test aircraft," Rounds said.

Ellsworth is in Rapid City, and Dyess is in Texas. Both are home bases for B-1s. The bombers, which date to the 1980s, can reach speeds beyond 900 mph, carry a payload of 75,000 pounds and tote 24 cruise missiles.

Rounds went on to say that 15 B-1s are "in depot," and "the remaining 39 of 44 B-1s at Ellsworth and at Dyess are down for a variety of discrepancies and inspections."

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‘Trust is paramount’
SOCOM chief orders review of military’s special operations culture

By Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes
WASHINGTON — The top general in charge of U.S. commando forces has ordered a review of the culture and ethics within Special Operations Command after a series of high-profile incidents in recent years have tarnished the military’s most elite units.

Army Gen. Richard Clarke, the SOCOM commander, ordered the comprehensive review in a memorandum sent last week to his entire force. The review was to start immediately and conclude by the fall, he wrote.

"This is about making us better," Clarke wrote in the memo, which was first reported by NBC News. "The American people must trust those who protect them, including the special operations professionals in this command," he wrote.

"This trust is paramount and must never be compromised … Recent incidents have called our culture and ethics into question and threaten the trust placed in us."

Clarke wrote all units within the command would be visited by top leaders and encouraged special operators to be "open and candid" with them.

Clarke's review comes on the heels of an ethics and culture review ordered late last month by the Navy's top SEAL officer. Rear Adm. Collin Green, the chief of the Naval Special Warfare Command, launched the inquiry into the conduct of his organization following a string of recent incidents within the SEALs, including accusations of war crimes, charges of illicit drug use, drinking on duty in the Middle East, sexual

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Green Berets transport a simulated casualty during Medical Evacuation training in July at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Peter Segler/U.S. Army
Pentagon opens probe into cloud contract

By Tony Capaccio

The Pentagon's inspector general is "expeditiously" conducting an extensive review of the Defense Department's JEDI cloud-computing project, including potential conflicts of interest and misconduct in the competition that may generate as much as $10 billion in revenue.

"We are reviewing the DoD's handing of the JEDI cloud acquisition, including the development of requirements and the request for proposal process," spokeswoman Dwrena Allen said in a statement Tuesday, offering the first details of the previously announced review requested by lawmakers.

The watchdog office's inquiry began before President Donald Trump endorsed criticism by rivals that the pending contract award favors Amazon.com, the leading cloud services provider. New Defense Secretary Mark Esper has initiated his own review of the project.

"A multidisciplinary team of auditors, investigators and attorneys is investigating JEDI matters "referred to us by the Pentagon and Amazon," he told reporters Friday.

Trump stunned tech companies, including Amazon, with his decision last week to award the contract to Microsoft. Many companies bid on the project, which an alleged sexual assault on a female servicemember working with the team occurred.

Oracle has spearheaded the campaign against the contract, but a federal claims court judge last month rejected its petition to face court-martial later this year.

The letter came immediately following reports of a Navy SEAL team being suddenly sent home in July to San Diego from Iraq over accusations of drinking alcohol during an Independence Day celebration, during which an alleged sexual assault on a female servicemember working with the team occurred.

FROM FRONT PAGE

assault and the involvement of two SEALs in the murder of a Green Beret.

The letter came immediately following reports of a Navy SEAL team being suddenly sent home in July to San Diego from Iraq over accusations of drinking alcohol during an Independence Day celebration, during which an alleged sexual assault on a female servicemember working with the team occurred.

That incident came just weeks after the acquittal of Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher on charges of war crimes, including murder in the 2017 killing of a wounded Islamic State captive. During the court-martial, fellow members of SEAL Team 7 testified that team members drank and partied during their free time in Iraq.

In the homicide case, one SEAL, Senior Chief Petty Officer Adam Matthews, a former member of the Naval Special Warfare Development Group, or SEAL Team 6, was convicted this year for his role in the 2017 strangling death of Green Beret Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar in Mali.

Another member of the SEALs, Senior Chief Petty Officer Tony DeDolphi, faces charges, including murder, in that case. Two elite Marine Raiders were also implicated in Melgar's death, which has been described as an accidental killing during a hazing event after the elite troops had been out drinking.

One of the Marines, Staff Sgt. Kevin Maxwell Jr., was convicted this year for his role in Melgar's death. The second, Gunnery Sgt. Mario Madera-Rodriguez, DeDolphi, still faces charges in the death, including murder.

Clarke wrote in his memo that special operators face the “most complex environments” of any military forces, but he stated that was not an excuse for misconduct.

“Are the nation's special operations forces and we remain intensely focused on accomplishing our,” he wrote. "We are the nation's special operations forces and we remain intensely focused on accomplishing our."
Marines await charges for alleged smuggling

By Caitlin M. Kenney
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A dozen Marines from 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment have been confined for weeks at Camp Pendleton in California awaiting charges for their alleged involvement in smuggling, the service said Monday.

Pending military charges for the 12 Marines vary for each person. However, most of them are related to human smuggling, Maj. Kendra Motz, a spokeswoman for 1st Marine Division, wrote Monday in an email.

Gunnery Sgt. Scott A. Koppenhafer was a father of two who last served with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, Motz said in the email.

The other two Marines from the 1st Battalion — Lance Cpl. Byron Darnell Law II and David Javier Salazar-Quintero — were arrested July 3 for smuggling three people from Mexico across the border into the United States. They face federal charges in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California for transportation of aliens for financial gain and aiding and abetting, according to court documents.

Law and Salazar-Quintero are being held by the military, according to Motz. Their next federal court hearing is scheduled for Oct. 25.

During the investigation of Law and Salazar-Quintero, the names of the Marines arrested July 25 were mentioned, Motz had said.

Additionally, one sailor was also arrested July 25, a spokesman for NCIS said at the time. The sailor has been released back to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, Motz said.

“Each case and alleged level of participation varies among the individual Marines and sailors. Those details are still under investigation and will not be released at this time,” she said.

Marine killed in Iraq was once the Corps’ top commando

By Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Marine killed in action Saturday in northern Iraq alongside Iraqi forces was a father of two who last year was named the Marine Raider’s top commander.

Gunny Sgt. Scott A. Koppenhafer was killed during operations against Islamic State in the expansive Ninevah province, where efforts are ongoing to clear the remnants of the terrorist group, Pentagon officials said Sunday.

Koppenhafer, 35, was the first combat death of an American servicemember in Iraq since October 2017, but defense officials said Monday that the Pentagon was probing the possibility that he was killed by friendly fire.

The Defense Department initially announced Koppenhafer was killed by “enemy small arms fire,” however two defense officials said the investigation was examining the possibility that he had been accidentally struck by Iraqi or American fire. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity. They requested not to be named in the reports of the possibility of a friendly fire incident.

Koppenhafer spent the last decade serving in the elite Marine Corps Special Operations Command after he completed the grueling Marine Raider training in 2009, according to the Corps. He was a veteran of three combat deployments as a Raider, serving as a commander in Iraq and Afghanistan. At the time of his death, Koppenhafer was assigned to the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

“Each case and alleged level of participation varies among the individual Marines and sailors. Those details are still under investigation and will not be released at this time,” a spokesman for NCIS said at the time.

Koppenhafer was the recipient of at least three valor awards. He received two Bronze Stars, including one with combat “V” device for valor. He was also awarded two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals with combat “V” device for valor, according to his biography. His other awards included two Combat Action Ribbons and six Sea Service Deployment Ribbons.

He left behind a wife and two children, according to the Corps.

He was a 2001 graduate of Mancos High School in his hometown of the same name in southwestern Colorado. He was the son of a veterinarian and a stand-out high school wrestler who continued the sport in college.

Thad Koppenhafer, who described himself as the Marine’s cousin, wrote in a public post that the fallen servicemember was “a great man.” He added he was “very heart broken at this news!"

Koppenhafer enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2005 after graduating from Colorado State University with a degree in business marketing. He served as a machine gunner and then a scout sniper with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and deployed twice before entering Raider training, according to his Marine biography.

Last year, MARSOC named him its critical skills operator of the year, at least in part for his role leading a Raider team as the unit worked hand-in-hand with elite Iraqi troops battling ISIS during grueling combat in northern Iraq in 2017, according to an award citation. It stated Koppenhafer “masterfully orchestrated” operations that would lead to the defeat of ISIS in areas of northern Iraq.

Koppenhafer was a standout wrestler, a driven athlete.

“He is an awesome leader and a hard worker at practice,” then-Maj. Gen. Mark Milley, then-commander of the U.S. Central Command, said about Koppenhafer in 2016. “He is a great Marine and a great human being. We are very, very proud of our Marine."
**Soldiers vaccinated after signs of mumps in Italy**

**By Nancy Montgomery**
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — Army medical staff vaccinated about 200 soldiers against mumps after several paratroopers in Italy showed symptoms of the virus and one tested positive for it in Germany.

The response was done out of “an abundance of caution,” said Maj. Chris Bradley, a 173rd Airborne Brigade spokesman. “We wanted to make sure that nobody was spreading it.”

Bradley said that over the past month or so, about 10 brigade soldiers sought care at the Vicenza garrison health clinic after feeling sick and developing symptoms that could indicate mumps.

Their lab tests were negative or inconclusive, including one soldier diagnosed as a “probable” case. But false negative results are common and do not “rule out mumps as a diagnosis,” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website.

All the soldiers who showed symptoms at the Vicenza clinic were prevented from traveling to Germany for training with the brigade and were isolated for five days, as recommended by medical protocols to contain the virus. There is no treatment for mumps other than supportive care.

But one soldier felt fine and did not seek medical attention until after arriving in Grafenwoehr. He was diagnosed with mumps on Aug. 5, test results two days later confirmed he had the virus.

By Friday, all those who had been in close contact with soldiers with suspected or confirmed cases had been vaccinated or revaccinated, Bradley said.

The CDC says children should get two doses of the MMR vaccine, which immunizes against measles, mumps and rubella. Servicemembers who cannot provide proof of vaccination are given a single booster of MMR, according to the Defense Health Agency.

After the U.S. began giving the two-dose MMR vaccine in 1989, the number of cases of mumps declined from more than 186,000 to just a few hundred a year.

But several military studies have suggested that because the mumps component of the MMR vaccine is the least effective and tends to wane the fastest, immunity could fall below levels that protect communities, leading to outbreaks.

In recent years, mumps cases have been on the rise in the U.S., according to the CDC.

The agency reported 150 outbreaks involving more than 9,000 cases from 2016 through 2017. From January to July this year, nearly 1,800 cases of have been reported in the U.S., the CDC said.

Some of the recent outbreaks occurred in military units. The crew of USS Fort McHenry was essentially quarantined at sea with no port calls for four months earlier this year after 28 of the 703 people on board came down with mumps.

Before the vaccine was licensed in 1967, mumps was known to frequently affect armies during mobilization, according to the CDC. In World War I, hospitalization rates for mumps were exceeded only by the rates for influenza and gonorrhea.

Why outbreaks have been on the rise in recent years in highly vaccinated populations such as the military isn’t entirely clear. Researchers have suggested that the immune response provoked by the mumps vaccine may weaken significantly over time.

A person vaccinated twice against mumps is about nine times less likely to get the illness than an unvaccinated person exposed to the virus, the CDC said. If infected, vaccinated people are also likely to have a less severe illness than an unvaccinated person.

Mumps is usually a mild disease of about two weeks’ duration, causing fatigue, fever and painful, swollen salivary glands resulting in puffy cheeks and jaws. But it can also cause swelling of the testes, ovaries and pancreas, and, in rare cases, complications such as hearing loss.

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**IG report: Afghans lack airdrop, airstrike training**

**By Phillip Walter Wellman**
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan forces trained by U.S. and coalition advisers aren’t capable of coordinating airdrops and may not receive adequate training to prevent them from killing civilians and friendly forces during airstrikes, a Defense Department report said.

Afghan forces were supposed to be able to coordinate daytime airdrops with three army corps simultaneously by January 2020. But NATO advisers decided not to train Afghanistan’s air force, was also criticized in Command-Air, tasked with building Afghan air force coordination to Afghan tactical air strikes, a Defense Department report said.

Training Afghan forces to coordinate airdrops to friendly forces during airstrikes, a Defense Department report said.

In its response included in the report, the alliance said it would teach the Afghans on coordinating airdrops, although airdrop training was in the curriculum, the report said.

A U.S. Army trainer instructs an Afghan on how to use an ISR system during a live-fire mission in Kabul.

Afghans’ airdrop capabilities.

A Facebook profile for Domonic Bulgara reportedly had a blood alcohol content of 0.03% when tested after his arrest.

Lance Cpl. Domico Bulgara, 20, was arrested in an Araha Beach parking lot in Chatan at 4:18 a.m. Thursday after striking the officer in the left cheek with his right fist, an Okinawa Police spokesman said. He said the patrol officer stopped to break up an argument involving Bulgara and an unspecified number of people. Officials in Japan often do not identify themselves for the record as a condition of their employment.

The officer was not injured in the altercation, the spokesman said. Bulgara is charged with obstructing police in the performance of official duties. His case has been referred to the Naha District Public Prosecutors Office.

Bulgara reportedly had a blood alcohol content of 0.09%, three times Japan’s legal limit for driving of 0.03% when tested after his arrest, The Okinawa Times newspaper reported.

Police could not say where or to what unit Bulgara is assigned.

A Facebook profile for Domico Bulgara, a Marine, states he lives in Iwakuni, home of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni on the main Japanese island of Honshu. The Facebook profile says Bulgara is from Visalia, Calif.

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**Marine arrested after punching patrol officer on Okinawa**

**By Matthew M. Burke and Aya Ichihashi**
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japanese police arrested a Marine over the weekend on Okinawa for allegedly punching a police officer who was breaking up a fight.

Lance Cpl. Domico Bulgara, 20, was arrested in an Araha Beach parking lot in Chatan at 4:18 a.m. Thursday after striking the officer in the left cheek with his right fist, an Okinawa Police spokesman said. He said the patrol officer stopped to break up an argument involving Bulgara and an unspecified number of people. Officials in Japan often do not identify themselves for the record as a condition of their employment.

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A Facebook profile for Domico Bulgara, a Marine, states he lives in Iwakuni, home of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni on the main Japanese island of Honshu. The Facebook profile says Bulgara is from Visalia, Calif.
Marine panel: Let officer who sent warning serve

BY CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT
The Washington Post

A Marine who used his personal email account to send a classified warning to his colleagues about a corrupt Afghan police chief should be allowed to continue serving, a board of military officers has determined in the high-profile case.

Maj. Jason Brezler sent the warning in July 2012, about two weeks before a large boy working for the chief opened fire on unarmed Marines in a fatal attack on a military base in southern Afghanistan.

Brezler, a Marine reserve officer and member of the New York City Fire Department, reported his action to his commanders after the attack, and they sent him to an administrative board of inquiry to determine whether he should be discharged.

The new determination by a panel of three Marine colonels last week marks the second time that a board of inquiry has reviewed the case. A board of officers found in December 2013 that the Marine Corps should end Brezler’s career, prompting him to sue the service and allege that he was being punished for comments he made to members of Congress, Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., about the incident.

District Judge Jose A. Bianco ruled on Brezler’s behalf in December 2016, finding that the Navy Department had prevented Brezler from firing his lawyer, ignoring his claims of retaliation.

The Marine Corps brought him to another board of inquiry last week, but the results were different this time.

A worksheet detailing the board’s findings obtained by The Washington Post shows that the three colonels substantiated a failure on Brezler’s part “to properly discharge the duties expected of an officer of his grade” and obey a regulation that requires officers to “classify information to remain on ‘official premises.’”

The panel unanimously declined to substantiate other allegations, including a dereliction of duty, paving the way for Brezler to potentially continue serving.

“I am grateful beyond words for the opportunity to once again serve as a United States Marine,” Brezler said in a statement provided through his civilian attorney, Michael Bowe. “I love the Marine Corps, am committed to its Marines and mission, and am looking forward to continuing to serve.

“The findings of a board of inquiry can be rejected by the Navy Department, but they are typical of any accepted. Marine on Monday that they were looking into the results.


It also has drawn attention to the use of teen boys as “sex slaves” by some senior Afghan leaders.

Brezler was deployed to Afghanistan from 2009 to 2010 as Marines successfully liberated the Afghan government to remove an Afghan police chief, Sarwar Jan, who had betrayed his premises’ Now Zad district because of his suspected ties to the Taliban and the Marine Corps documents. He resurfaced as the police chief in another district. Garmir, prompting Marines to offer inquiry. Marine officials said they urged an investigation in which Brezler was convicted as a juvenile in July 2014 and sentenced to 7½ years in confinement, the maximum under Afghan law for a minor, Marine officials said.

A Navy Department legal analyst of the case said that a new board of inquiry for Brezler would increase attention on the case “in the aftermath of significant media attention to the allegations regarding the practice of keeping personal sex slaves in Afghanistan.”

Brezler was convicted of committing an insurrection attack was accused of using the shooter in such a manner.

The Marine Corps ordered Brezler to appear before another board of inquiry last week in Louisiana at the headquarters of Marine Corps Forces Reserve. Among those testifying were Kelly and retired Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, who served as Brezler’s commanding general in Afghanistan, Bowe said.

It’s not clear how the decision could affect Brezler’s benefits or rank in the Marine Corps. He potentially could petition for corrections to his service record.

FROM FRONT PAGE

B-1 bombers will eventually be phased out by B-21s, which are under development by the U.S. Air Force and Northrop Grumman.

Readiness: Nominee for key Joint Chiefs post ‘saw issues in the B-1’ due to constant use

Round’s numbers indicated a total fleet of 60 B-1s. His office later clarified for the Journal that there are 62 B-1s in the fleet, including the six that are fully mission-capable among the 45 that are split between Ellsworth and Dyess, and 24 at Dyess, plus the 15 in depot at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma and two test B-1s at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

During the hearing, Rounds asked Hyten what should be done about the readiness of B-1s, along with other military equipment and weapons.

Hyten said funding is the key. “We saw issues in the B-1, because we were just beating the heck out of them, deploying them and deploying them, and so we had to pull back a little bit and get after fixing those issues, and the Defense Department can do that if they have sufficient funding,” Hyten said.

A measure of stability was achieved a few days after the Trump signed a bipartisan budget deal that will increase defense spending by 3% to $738 billion next year.

According to Boeing, B-1s have flown more than 12,000 sorties since 2001 over Syria, Libya, Afghanistan and Iraq. The entire B-1 fleet was temporarily grounded in June 2018 and again in March of this year because of election-related problems.

B-1s will eventually be phased out by B-21 bombers, which are under development by the Air Force and Northrop Grumman and are planned to be sent first to Ellsworth, beginning sometime in the 2020s.

Blue Origin challenges DOD’s plan on satellite launches

BY DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

Blue Origin, the space venture founded by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, on Monday challenged a Pentagon program that would award just two companies contracts worth hundreds of millions of dollars to fly national security satellites to space.

In a filing with the Government Accountability Office, Blue Origin said that the Air Force “is pursuing a flawed acquisition strategy” that discriminates against new bidders and limits competition. Bezos also owns The Washington Post.

The bid protest is the latest in a string of high-profile fights over the lucrative Pentagon missions. For years, the Defense Department relied on a single company, United Launch Alliance (ULA), a joint venture of Lockheed Martin and Boeing. Then, in 2014, SpaceX filed a lawsuit, saying it should be allowed to compete. Eventually, it settled with the Air Force and has competed for several missions, driving down prices.

Currently, ULA and SpaceX are the only companies certified to fly national security missions, though last year Blue Origin, Northrop Grumman and ULA won contracts to develop rockets that could fly the Pentagon’s national security launch requirements.

The Pentagon, however, plans next year to choose only two providers in the next round of contracts, sparking Blue Origin’s protest, an indication that the company fears it won’t be among the winners, in part because the Air Force is allowing bidders to offer a backup rocket. Blue Origin’s rocket, known as New Glenn, is not expected to fly until 2021.

Unless the Air Force changes its approach, this procurement will perpetuate a market duped in national security space launch well into the next decade, causing higher launch prices, less assured access to space and a missed opportunity to expand our nation’s security interests and bolster U.S. leadership in space,” Blue Origin said in a fact sheet given to reporters.

Despite the protest, Blue Origin said it submitted a bid for the launch contracts.

For months, Blue Origin has been lobbying members of Congress and the Pentagon to slow down the procurement. The company, which is based outside Seattle, has enlisted the support of Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, who earlier this year wrote a letter to the Air Force saying he was concerned it was moving too fast “in a way that risks undermining the Air Force’s goal of maximizing and sustaining fair and open competition.”

The Air Force previously has defended its program as fair and vital to national security. The Air Force declined to comment for this story.

Blue Origin isn’t the only company challenging the Air Force. Earlier this year, SpaceX filed a protest after it was left out of the initial round of funding the Air Force awarded to help companies develop their rockets. That lawsuit, filed in the Court of Federal Claims, is ongoing.
**Kremlin disputes Trump’s claims about missiles**

By Jake Rudnick and Ilya Arkhipov

Russia said it’s far ahead of the U.S. in developing new nuclear-powered missiles despite a failed test that prompted President Donald Trump to boast of American superiority in the field.

President Vladimir Putin “has repeatedly said that Russian developments in this area surpass the level achieved by other countries, and are quite unique,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Tuesday on a conference call, in response to a question on Trump's tweet. U.S. officials have said repeatedly in the past three years they are working on such programs, so Trump's statement offers no new information, he said.

An Aug. 8 blast in Russia’s Arkhangelsk region killed five atomic scientists during the test of a missile engine that, according to some media, was the “world’s most powerful” on an offshore platform in the White Sea. Trump later tweeted that the U.S. “is learning much from the failed missile explosion in Russia” and added that “we have similar, though more advanced, technology,” without giving more details.

Trump's comment appeared to be inspired by Chinese media reports of the test. The Associated Press quoted a Chinese media statement that the weapon being tested was the SSC-X-9 Skyfall, known in Russia as the Burevestnik. Putin introduced the nuclear-powered cruise missile to the world in a brief animated segment during his state-of-the-nation address last year.

Radiation levels in the port city of Severodvinsk, near the site of the failed test, reached as high as 16 times normal immediately following the incident, according to the state meteorological service. Gamma radiation measured at six of eight testing stations in the city of 180,000 ranged from 4 to 16 times the normal rate of 0.11 microsieverts per hour, with one observation point showing 1.78 microsievers per hour, Roshydromet said in a statement.

The maximum reported level of radiation would be harmless and on a par with a dental X-ray, according to Jonathan Cobb, a spokesman for the World Nuclear Association.

The radiation levels at the six stations declined steeply within half an hour and were close to normal levels after two and a half hours according to Roshydromet. Severodvinsk is about 25 miles from the offshore platform where the explosion occurred.

The Defense Ministry initially reported two were killed in the accident, which it said involved testing of a liquid-fueled missile engine. The ministry didn’t mention the nuclear element.

**Navy sub firepower upgrade delayed by welding flaws**

By Tony Capaccio

Welding flaws by subcontractor BWX Technologies Inc. are delaying delivery of the first missile tubes for a U.S. Navy submarine weapons upgrade by at least seven months, according to the service.

The delay to fix the problem is a setback for plans to increase the firepower for the next version of the Virginia-class submarine by equipping it with four new large-diameter tubes. Each tube can hold seven Tomahawk cruise missiles, increasing the number of weapons the submarine can carry to 65 from 37 on current vessels, according to the Congressional Research Service.

The Navy is under pressure to increase the number and range of weapons in its submarine fleet to counter the expanding lethality of the Russian and Chinese navies. Bottlenecks like the welding problem add to pressure on the Navy and its contractors as they work to accelerate production of the next Virginia submarines — known as Block V — while also starting construction on the new Columbia class in 2021.

The Navy and shipbuilders must “manage staffing demands and other resources across both programs,” the U.S. Government Accountability Office said in a May report.

BWX Technologies is under contract to produce and deliver three of four tubes to prime contractor General Dynamics Corp., which is building the Virginia-class submarine. EABE Systems is slated to produce the fourth tube for the initial “Virginia Payload Module” and remaining tubes for succeeding Block V submarines.

The previously undisclosed seven-month delay by Lynchburg, Va.-based BWX was due to “substandard welding” and “improperly administered testing, the Naval Sea Systems Command said a statement.

“The delay in tube delivery does not equate” to a delay in ship delivery, the Navy said in a statement.

The Virginia Payload Module and its four additional tubes will extend the submarine’s hull by 84 feet. The welding flaws were similar to those the company acknowledged last year for missile tubes that will go on the new Columbia-class submarines. Those continue to be repaired.

The U.S. shipbuilding base “has diminished significantly since previous major submarine construction in the 1980’s” even as it “will be faced with higher demands of supplying components for use on both submarines,” according to Shelby Oakley, a GAO director who monitors Navy shipbuilding.

As shipbuilders “plan to increase the hiring and training of skilled workers” they “must also ensure that its suppliers — who will face similar challenges — can produce and deliver high-quality components,” she said.

Before the welding flaws were discovered last year, BWX was contractually required to deliver the large-sized tubes to General Dynamics in October, January and April. Those dates are now projected for May, June and July 2020, the Navy said.

BWX Chief Executive Officer Rex Geveden told analysts last week on an earnings call that “the team is also performing well on missile tube repairs. We have completed all repairs on the Virginia payload module tubes and are about halfway through” the welding rework on the Columbia tubes.

“Understand our customers’ rigorous standards for success and are committed to delivering products and services of the highest quality,” BWX spokesman Christopher Dunmond said in a statement.

**Ind. Guard leader quits after retaliation alleged**

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The leader of the Indiana National Guard is resigning days after a former contract worker accused him of retaliating against her for reporting his alleged affair with a subordinate.

Gov. Eric Holcomb said Monday that Maj. Gen. Courtney Carr, the Indiana National Guard’s adjutant general, submitted his resignation letter last week and that it followed the governor’s “recommendation.”

Holcomb says Carr’s resignation is effective Friday. The governor said he’s thanked Carr, who became the guard’s leader in 2015, “for his service to our state and country.” Carr’s resignation comes after Shari McLaughlin filed a civil lawsuit in Marion County Superior Court on Aug. 1 against Carr.

McLaughlin’s suit alleges that after she reported Carr’s alleged affair with a subordinate, she was retaliated against with false accusations and intimidation. She resigned last year.

**Police: Ky. man arrested outside Pentagon with gun, bourbon had ‘liberty business’**

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. — Pentagon police say a Kentucky man with a shotgun arrived at the government facility last week and told officers he had driven through the night to attend to “liberty business” there.

WTOP-FM reported Charles Lawson of Pineville, Ky., was arrested and charged with unlawfully possessing a firearm after previously having been committed to a mental institution.

Court records say Lawson arrived the afternoon of Aug. 6, approached two Pentagon police officers and made incoherent statements. It says police then questioned Lawson, who disclosed he had weapons in his car. Police searched his car and found a loaded 12-gauge shotgun, an 18-inch machete, shotgun shells and a bottle of Jim Beam bourbon.

Lawson was hospitalized, and a doctor told police that Lawson mentioned he was previously diagnosed with schizophrenia.
Job seekers flock to chicken plants hit by ICE raids

BY JEFF AMY  
Associated Press

FOREST, Miss. — Days after immigration agents arrested 680 workers at Morton poultry plants, job seekers flooded to an employment fair Monday in hopes of filling some of those now-empty positions.

Koch Foods, based near Chicago, held the job fair to recruit new workers at all of its Morton plants, after Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on Wednesday arrested 243 workers suspected of working without legal authorization.

By 10 a.m., a crowd of dozens was on hand, and a steady stream of people came and went. Most were black and male with accents from the American South. A few appeared white or Hispanic.

While the raids at six plants were unprecedented, chicken processing facilities are normally plagued by heavy turnover and recently seek employees. Koch spokesman Jim Gilliland said Monday that job fairs are a “frequent occurrence.”

“They are part of normal efforts to employ,” Gilliland wrote in an email. “In this environment of relative full employment, most businesses are looking for qualified applicants; Koch is no different.”

Eddie Nicholson Jr. of Louis- ville, among Monday’s applicants at a state employment service office in Forest, wrote his resume succinctly: “They hire anybody.”

The 25-year-old has worked in chicken plants before and was considering a return, but wanted to see if wages had gone up. Plants in recent years have typically paid $11 to $12 an hour, according to labor statistics, but Nicho- lson said he wants $15 an hour.

Like Nicholson, many who ap- plied Monday were chicken plant veterans. They understand the arduous and sometimes dangerous work of slaughtering, butchering and packaging chicken, from hanging up live chickens, to pulling off skin, to cutting with super-sharp knives, to boxing up chicken, much of it done in near-freezing temperatures. The line moves fast and people repeat the same motions over and over.

“It’s definitely hard,” said Ce- drick Griffith of Magee, who said he’s been working at McDonald’s after getting fired from another chicken processor for missing many days. “You’re going to lose a lot of weight.”

That draining work, at relatively low wages, leads many people to quit.

So chicken plants are always hiring. Angela Stuessie, an anthropologist professor at the University of North Carolina who studied workers among labor organizing. The 25-year-old has worked at Koch, said the desire for cheap, docile labor led poultry firms to begin recruiting Spanish-speakers in the late 1990s.

At first, Stuessie said they were people who could do menial work. But they were eventually replaced by Mexicans, Guatemalans and others who often lacked legal paperwork. Later, came a wave from Argentina, Uruguay and Peru.

One has hundreds of jobs posted for its Morton facilities on a Mississippi state government job board. Only a few dozen other jobs are listed within 10 miles of Morton, many of them at fast food restaurants or dollar stores. The options are a little better in the larger town of Forest, thanks to defense contractor Raytheon and a sawmill. But Tyson, Koch and other chicken plants still dominate the market.

Pearl River Foods, a plant raided in the town of Cartthage, posted 200 jobs Aug.

Analysis shows 2020 votes still vulnerable to hacking

WASHINGTON — More than one in 10 voters could cast ballots on paperless voting machines in the 2020 general election, according to a new analysis, leaving their ballots more vulnerable to hacking.

A study released by the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law on Tuesday evaluates the state of the country’s election security six months before the New Hampshire primary and concludes that much more needs to be done. While there has been significant progress by states and the federal government since Russian agents targeted U.S. state election systems ahead of the 2016 presidential election, the analysis notes that many states have not taken all the steps needed to ensure that doesn’t happen again.

The report also notes that about a third of all local election jurisdictions were using voting machines that are at least a decade old, despite recommendations they be replaced after 10 years. The Associated Press reported last month that many election systems are running on old Windows software that will soon be outdated.

“We should replace antiquated equipment, and paperless equipment in particular, as soon as possible,” the report recommends.

The analysis comes as Congress is debating how much federal election help is needed to ensure state election systems are protected. Democrats have put forward legislation to require paper balloting, give more assistance to the states and give them more money to make improvements. But some Republicans, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, are wary of too much federal intervention and have said no more funding is needed.

Using voter registration and turnout data, the Brennan Center estimates that as many as 12% of voters, or around 16 million people, will vote on paperless equipment in November 2020. Security experts have said that paper-based systems provide better security because they create a record that voters can review before casting their ballots and election workers can use them to audit results.

The number represents an improvement from 2016, when 20 percent of voters cast ballots on paperless equipment. In the last presidential election, 14 states used paperless voting machines as the primary polling place equipment in at least some counties and towns. In 2020, the Brennan Center estimates, that number will drop to no more than eight.

The states that could still have some paperless balloting are Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas.

Homeland Security officials notified election officials in 21 states in 2017 that their systems had been targeted by Russia. Authorities have since said they believe all states were targeted to varying degrees.

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumer prices rose 0.3% in July, pushed higher by more expensive gas, medical care and housing. The consumer price index jumped 1.8% compared with a year earlier, up from 1.6% in June, the Labor Department said Tuesday. Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core prices increased 0.3% in July and 2.2% from a year ago.

The figures suggest that inflation is picking up slightly, though it remains modest. The economy is in its 11th year of growth, unemployment is low, and wages are growing modestly. These are trends that typically accelerate price gains.

But many companies are reluctant to charge more in the face of online and global competition.

While last month’s price gains were modest, they were widespread. Clothing prices increased 0.4%, used car and truck prices moved up 0.9%, and prescription drug costs rose 0.4%. Airline fares jumped 2.3%.

Rents rose 0.3% and are up 3.5% in the past year. Hotel stays have gotten 4.6% more expensive in the past year.

There are some signs higher wages may eventually be having an effect. The cost of housing operations, such as cleaning, landscaping and moving, jumped 5.4% in the past year. The Federal Reserve maintains a 2% inflation target to avoid the destabilizing effect of deflation, which can pull down prices and wages. It has mostly missed that target since it was established in 2012.

Its preferred measure rose just 1.4% percent in June compared with a year earlier. That measure isn’t as influenced by rental prices.

Fed Chairman Jerome Powell has cited tame inflation as a key reason the central bank cut short-term interest rates last month. Most economists expect further cuts this year to offset the negative impact of the Trump administration’s trade war with China.

Gas prices jumped 2.5% in July, though they have already fallen back and will likely keep doing so since oil prices are declining. The average price for a gallon of gas was $2.64 Tuesday, down 15 cents from a month earlier.

One restraint on inflation last month was food prices, which were unchanged. Dairy prices fell in July while fruit and vegetable costs rose.

Slight increase to consumer price index suggests rise in inflation

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER  
Associated Press

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US makes changes to protections for endangered species

By Ellen Knickmeyer  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration moved Monday to weaken enforcement of the 45-year-old Endangered Species Act, ordering changes that critics said will speed the loss of animals and plants at a time of record global extinctions.

The action, which expands the administration’s rewrite of U.S. environmental laws, is the latest that targets protections, including for water, air and public lands. Two states — California and Massachusetts, frequent foes of President Donald Trump’s environmental rollbacks — promised lawsuits to try to block the changes in the law.

So-called de-listings and changes to protections for species globally face erosion.

“Every time we can to ensure it,” he said in a statement. “An effectively administered Act ensures more resources can go where they will do the most good: on-the-ground conservation.”

The Endangered Species Act is credited with helping save the bald eagle, California condor and scores of other animals and plants from extinction. The prohibition is the first thing the administration said it could regulate under the government’s mandate to regard species loss.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said the revisions “fit squarely within the president’s mandate of easing the regulatory burden on the American public, without sacrificing our species’ protection and recovery goals.”

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The current action could allow the government to disregard the possible impact of climate change, which conservation groups call a major and growing threat to wildlife.

California lawmaker wants court to postpone corruption trial

By Bruce Schreiner  
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — U.S. Sen. Rand Paul is easing back into public view after his recent lung surgery sidelined him for part of the August congressional break.

The Kentucky Republican was set to deliver a speech Tuesday at a chamber of commerce luncheon in southern Kentucky. It marks his first public appearance since part of his lung was removed at a Tennessee hospital. The senator says the surgery stemmed from injuries suffered when a neighbor tackled him while he was doing yard work at his Kentucky home in late 2017.

Initially, most of Paul’s August travel plans were canceled due to the operation more than a week ago at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. But his recovery has progressed faster than expected, allowing him to go to Williamsburg for the chamber event Tuesday.

“I’d say it’s pretty well,” Paul said in a phone interview with The Associated Press on Monday, his first since the surgery. “And like anybody else who’s used to being active, it’s hard to sit still. I’m ready to get back in the mix of things and to start traveling around the state some.”

His schedule will be scaled back considerably from what had been planned before the surgery, with just a handful of appearances planned in the next two weeks.

He’ll return to Washington in September when Congress reconvenes, and by then “I shouldn’t have any limitations,” Paul said.

The surgery became necessary after he had struggled with what turned out to be a lingering infection in the damaged lung, the senator said.

The senator’s attacker, Rene Boucher, pleaded guilty to assaulting a member of Congress and received a 30-day prison sentence. Federal prosecutors have threatened, saying 21 months would have been appropriate. Paul sued Boucher, and a jury in Bowling Green, Ky., awarded the senator more than $580,000 in damages and medical expenses. Boucher has since sold his home next door to the senator.

While he was recovering, the nation was rocked by mass shootings.

Paul, a strong gun-rights advocate, signaled his willingness to support something along the lines of “red flag” laws that allow guns to be removed from those who may be a danger to themselves and others.

“Paul was opposed to sort of an emergency order for 48 hours and then you get a hearing in a court where you get the full due-process protections,” he said in the interview. “It’s the one thing that could fix a lot of stuff. I think
Women allege opera’s Domingo abused power to harass them

By JOCelyn GECker

For decades, Placido Domingo, one of the most celebrated and powerful men in opera, has tried to pressure women into sexual relationships by dangling jobs and relationships by dangling jobs and opportunities. Now, he is facing new allegations.

Eight opera singers and a dancer have told The Associated Press that they were sexually harassed by Placido Domingo — shown performing in 2006 — one of the most celebrated men in opera.

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The federal recommendation is that states provide payment rates at the 75th percentile, which allows eligible families to access 3 out of 4 providers without paying more out of pocket. But the report shows that states have lowered rates much lower.

States have discretion over the how to administer the program: They set their own income requirements and decide how much families are expected to contribute. The report cites several reasons that states may keep their rates low, including stretching limited resources to serve more families and taking into consideration the cost of higher-quality care. Nineteen states reported paying enrollment and registration fees for low-income families, and seven states said they pay for extra child care activities such as field trips.

The Administration for Children and Families, which oversees the block grant, relies on states to self-certify that they are setting rates that ensure low-income families have equal access to care. But the inspector general report shows most states aren’t meeting the requirements.

Last year, under a bipartisan agreement, Congress approved a $2.4 billion increase to the fund. But advocates say money continues to be a problem. “CCDF is severely underfunded, and as families across the country are struggling to afford care across all income levels, it’s dire for low-income families,” said Catherine White, director of child care and early learning at the National Women’s Law Center.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration has moved to tighten work requirements for low-income families that receive food stamps and housing assistance, creating concern for parents unable to find affordable child care.

“Two days after the 66-year-old financier’s death in a New York jail where he was awaiting trial on sex crime charges, federal General William Barr warned on Monday that any co-conspirators should not rest easy.”

Authorities are most likely turning their attention to the team of recruiters and employees who, according to police reports, knew about Epstein’s penchant for underage girls and lined up victims for him.

The Associated Press reviewed police reports, FBI records and court documents that show Epstein relied on an entire staff of associates to arrange massages that led to sex acts.

If any Epstein assistants helped to avoid charges by testifying against him, that expectation has been upended by his suicide.

“Those who had leverage as potential cooperators in the case now find themselves as the primary targets,” said Jacob S. Frenkel, a former federal prosecutor. “They no longer have anyone against whom to cooperate.”

Prosecutors focus on acts of some possible Epstein conspirators

One possible roadblock to further charges is the plea agreement Epstein struck more than a decade ago in Florida. The non-prosecution agreement not only allowed Epstein to plead guilty in 2008 to lesser state charges and avoid any federal charges, it also shielded from prosecution several associates who allegedly received and paid for recruitment for girls.

Federal prosecutors in New York, in charging Epstein last month, argued that the nonprosecution agreement is binding only on their counterparts in Florida.

But Gerald Lefcourt, a lawyer who negotiated the agreement, said the deal should still protect any alleged co-conspirators for what happened between 2001 and 2007.

Police reports say Epstein’s assistants worked like an advance team to facilitate his twice-daily massages, often from high school girls who were paid hundreds of dollars per “appointment.” Epstein’s personal assistant, Sarah Kellen, would call ahead to recruiters in Florida when Epstein was planning a trip to his Palm Beach mansion, the police reports say. Kellen, who is among four women named in the non-prosecution agreement, would allegedly greet girls arriving and escort them to a room with a massage table where Epstein would be waiting, wearing only a towel.
**Feds: Ohio gunman’s friend bought body armor, ammo**

**By John Serewer and Michael Balsamo**

Associated Press

A longtime friend of the Dayton gunman bought the body armor, a 100-round magazine and a key part of the gun used in the attack, authorities said Monday.

Ethan Kollie told investigators that he also helped Connor Betts assemble the AR-15-style weapon and he bought the equipment because he knew Betts was planning a massacre, federal agents said Monday.

Kollie first spoke with investigators just hours after the assault and later said he bought the body armor, the magazine and the rifle’s upper receiver and kept the equipment at his apartment so Betts’ parents would not find it, the court filing said.

Federal investigators emphasized that there was no evidence that Kollie knew how Betts would use the equipment or that Kollie intentionally took part in the planning.

The accusations came as prosecutors unsealed charges against Kollie, 23, who was arrested Aug. 4 after Betts opened fire on a crowd in a popular entertainment district, killing his sister and eight others. Police killed Betts within 30 seconds inside a crowded bar, and authorities have said hundreds more people may have died if Betts had gotten inside.

Betts, who used a OU11 scope and later said he bought the key part of the gun used in the attack, but there’s no indication of any other equipment or the body armor, a 100-round magazine and a key part of the gun used in the attack, a court document said.

Kollie and Betts apparently had been friends for several years. Kollie told agents that he and Betts smoked marijuana and used acid several times a week beginning about 10 weeks ago, according to a court document.

Connor Betts assemble the AR-15-style weapon in a prepared statement and the rifle’s upper receiver and the body armor, the magazine and a key part of the gun used in the attack, but there’s no indication of any other equipment or the body armor, a 100-round magazine and a key part of the gun used in the attack, a court document said.

Investigators have not released a motive for the shooting.

Eight of the victims who died were shot multiple times, according to the Montgomery County coroner’s office. More than 30 others were hurt, including five who were shot in the head after being hit by bullet fragments.

Two state lawmakers Monday reinduced legislation that would restrict access to guns. One bill would establish universal background checks. The second would raise the minimum age for all gun purchases to 21.

**Cosby lawyers say appeals court to toss #MeToo conviction**

**By Marycalle Dale**

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A Pennsylvania appeals court Monday questioned why actor Bill Cosby never got a supposed non-prosecution agreement in writing as his lawyers asked the panel to overturn his sexual assault conviction.

Cosby, 82, is serving a three-to-10-year prison term for drugging and molesting a woman at his home in what became the first celebrity trial of the #MeToo era.

The three-judge panel asked why Cosby’s top-shelf lawyers didn’t follow the norm and get an immunity agreement in writing, and approved by a judge, when accuser Andrea Constand first came forward in 2005.

“This is not a low-budget operation. They had an unlimited budget,” said Superior Court Judge John T. Bender. “Could it be they knew this was something the trial court would never have allowed?”

Cosby’s lawyers have long argued that he relied on the promise before giving testimony in Constand’s 2005 lawsuit that proved incriminating when it was unsealed a decade later.

Judge Carolyn Nichols echoed Bender’s point, asking, “How can the elected district attorney bind that office in perpetuity?”

Cosby’s lawyers also attacked Montgomery County Judge Ste ven O’Neill’s decision to let five other accusers testify when Cosby won trial on last trial, after more than 60 accusers came forward and his deposition was unsealed. Prosecutors said they chose women whose accounts showed that Cosby had a “signature” crime pattern. Bender seemed to agree, interrupting defense arguments that their stories had significant differences.

“The reality of it is, he gives them drugs and then he sexually assaults them,” he said. “That’s the pattern, isn’t it?”

Kristen L. Weisenberger, representing Cosby, said one of the women wasn’t even sure she’d been violated. But prosecutors said that’s how Cosby planned it.

“The defendant should not be rewarded because she has no recollection because of the drugs he gave her,” Assistant District Attorney Adrienne Lappe argued.

The court’s decision on how many other accusers should be allowed to testify will be closely watched by sexual assault survivors and defense lawyers as men like movie mogul Harvey Weinstein await trial in MeToo-type cases.

O’Neill had allowed just one other accuser at Cosby’s first trial in 2017, when the jury failed to reach a verdict.

Cosby’s lawyers called the decision to let five testify at the trial arbitrary and prejudicial. However, the panel said judges are not bound by their earlier rulings.

Cosby, who is serving time at a state prison near Philadelphia, was not in court for the arguments at the Pennsylvania Capitol in Harrisburg. The court typically takes several months to issue decisions.

Long beloved as “America’s Dad” for his TV role as Dr. Cliff Huxtable, Cosby has called his encounters with Constand and other accusers consensual.

In his deposition, Cosby acknowledged getting quaaludes in the 1970s to give to women before sex, including Therese Serignese, 19, whom he had met at a Las Vegas hotel. Serignese traveled from Florida to attend Monday’s hearing.

“Remember, there are 60 accusers,” she said. “Out of 19 prior bad act witnesses requested by the prosecutors, the judge only allowed five. I say Bill Cosby got a good deal there.”

**Fourth NRA board member resigns**

**By Tom Hamburger**

The Washington Post

Julie Golob, a professional sport shooter and a strong public advocate for gun rights, announced Monday that she was resigning from the National Rifle Association board before the end of her three-year term.

She is the fourth member in the past two years to leave the board of the NRA in a sign of further upheaval within the nation’s most powerful gun rights group.

Golob, a regular on shooting shows who has won competitions and is an advocate for women’s use of firearms, did not state a reason for her departure in a note posted on her website.

“I am proud to have had the opportunity to represent the members of the NRA but I can no longer commit to fulfilling the duties of a director,” she wrote.

Golob was a well-known personality in the gun rights world and produced a book on gun rights with titles such as “Helping Women Choose a Gun.”

Her departure follows a decision to continue to support NRA “programs and sports” and to continue to advocate for “the preservation of freedom.”

NRA President Carolyn Maslow thanked Golob for her service in a prepared statement and noted that “Julie, a gifted shooter, will continue to support the NRA’s programs. We proudly welcome her ongoing support of our organization.”

The NRA has a 76-member board of directors, most of whom continue to defend the current NRA leadership, which has been under heavy criticism in recent months.

Earlier this year, Oliver North was fired from his position as NRA president after raising questions about the finances of the tax-exempt organization. Even more significant for the organization’s dominance in gun policy debates, the NRA’s top lobbyist, Christopher Cox, resigned after being accused of participating in an alleged scheme to push gun sales.

Before North left the NRA, he said the organization’s private lawyer had earned extraordinary legal fees, and North requested a more detailed accounting of the spending.

Since North’s departure, the organization has been roiled by allegations of self-dealing, and he left the organization in a report last week that LaPierre sought to have the nonprofit organization buy him a luxury manor in 2018 after a man shot at a Florida high school.

Pressure has also mounted on the organization in the wake of last week’s shootings in Dayton, Ohio, and El Paso, Texas. As a chorus again demands background checks and other restrictions on firearms sales, gun-control advocates say Golob’s departure adds to the sense that the NRA is not being held accountable.

“This is big,” said David Chipman, senior policy adviser at the Courage to Fight Gun Violence organization, founded by former Arizona congresswoman Gabby Giffords. While NRA leaders “run for the exits,” Chipman said his organization is seeing growth, particularly among gun owners.

“The NRA isn’t really representing the values of gun owners and this has opened up a space,” said Julie Huxtable, Chipman’s wife. “It’s not too late to change.”

The gun rights group is under investigation by a tax-exempt organization. Per-
Ore. town braces for planned far-right rally

**BY GILLIAN FLACCUS**

PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland police are mobilizing to prevent clash between pro-state far-right groups planning a rally here and the homegrown anti-fascists who oppose them. Meanwhile, the culture wars seep into this progressive haven.

Saturday’s rally — and the violence it may bring — are a relatively new reality here, as an informal coalition of white nativists, which include racist and extreme-right militias born on its focus on Oregon’s largest city as a stand-in for everything it feels is wrong with the U.S. At the top of that list are the masked and black-clad anti-fascists who turn out to violently oppose right-wing demonstrators as soon as they set foot in town.

“It’s Portlandia, and in the public mind it represents everything these (far-right) groups are against,” said Heidi Beirich, director of the Intelligence Project at the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups.

“It’s诡异,” Blazak said. “It’s the direct line back to the 1980s: the culture wars seep into this progressive haven. This is the thing these (far-right) groups that use rhetoric, they feel is wrong with the U.S. At the top of that list are the masked and black-clad anti-fascists who turn out to violently oppose right-wing demonstrators as soon as they set foot in town.

“The groups know they will get a headline-grabbing reaction from Portland’s so-called antifa, whose members have issued an online call to their followers to turn out to “defend Portland from a far-right attack.” Portland’s Rose City Antifa, the nation’s oldest active anti-fascist group, says violence against right-wing demonstrators is “exactly what they will do to defend themselves.”

Portland leaders are planning a major law enforcement presence on the heels of similar rallies in June and last summer that turned violent, and the recent hate-driven violence in El Paso, Texas, to call up the Oregon National Guard.

Experts who track right-wing militias and hate groups warn that the mix of people heading to Portland also came together for a Unite the Right rally in 2017 in Charlottesville, Va., which ended when a participant rammed his car into a crowd of counterprotesters, killing one person and injuring 19.

The rally is being organized by a member of the Proud Boys, who have been designated by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a hate group. Others expected to include members of the American Guard, the Three Percenters, the Oath Keepers and the Daily Stormers. American Guard is a white nationalist group, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, while the Three Percenters and the Oath Keepers are extremist anti-government militias. The Daily Stormers are neo-Nazis, according to the center.

Portland’s fraught history with hate groups adds to the complex dynamic.

Many of today’s anti-fascists trace their activist heritage to a group that battled with neo-Nazis in Portland’s streets decades ago, and they feel this is the same struggle in a new era, said Randy Blazak, the leading expert on the history of hate groups in Oregon.

“When I’m looking at what’s happening right now, for me it’s a direct line back to the 1980s: the battles between the fascist skinheads and the anti-racist skinheads,” Blazak said. “It’s the latest version of this thing that’s been going on for 30 years in this city.”

Police, meanwhile, have seemed overwhelmed by the cultural forces at war in their streets.

At the June rally, masked antifa members beat up a conservative blogger named Andy Ngo. Video of the 30-second attack grabbed national attention and further turned the focus on Portland as a new battleground in a divisive America.

But he said worries the extreme response from a small group of counterprotesters is starting to backfire. Many in the city oppose the right-wing rallies but also dislike the violent response of antifa, which provides social media fodder for the far-right.

“The opposition is playing right into the alt-right’s hands by engaging with them this way,” he said.

Joe Biggs, organizer of Saturday’s rally, said the attack on Ngo made him decide to hold the event with the goal of getting antifa declared a domestic terrorist organization. Biggs said those coming to Portland have been told not to bring weapons or start fights, but they will defend themselves if attacked.

He says he is not racist — he has a toddler daughter with his Japanese wife — but wants to show the world antifa’s violent tactics.

“That group of antifa there in Portland needs to be educated about who they are,” Biggs said in a phone interview with The Associated Press. “And guess what? They should be scared.”

Killer loses appeal, is step closer to facing firing squad

**Associated Press**

SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah death row inmate featured in the popular book "Under the Banner of Heaven" after killing his sister-in-law and her child for resisting his polygamy beliefs inched closer to becoming the first American to be executed by firing squad in nearly a decade after losing his latest appeal Monday.

Ron Lafferty could be executed as soon as next year after his latest legal setback, said Andrew Peterson, assistant solicitor general at the Utah attorney general’s office.

Lafferty’s lawyer, Dale Baich, said in an email that he will use all options to challenge the ruling and will likely ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review the case. Lafferty chose the firing squad decades ago when he was sentenced to die — before Utah changed its law to use it only as a backup method if lethal injection drugs aren’t available.

The last time a firing squad was used was in the U.S. in 2010, when Ronnie Lee Gardner was executed in Utah for the 1984 murders of an attorney during a failed courthouse escape.

Lafferty was convicted in 1984 of the 1984 slayings of his sister-in-law and her baby daughter, which he committed while high on drugs. He claimed to get a revelation from God to kill the two because of her resistance to his fundamentalist beliefs in polygamy.

His case became well known worldwide when it was included in Jon Krakauer’s 2003 book "Under the Banner of Heaven" after killing his sister-in-law and her baby daughter, which he committed while high on drugs. He claimed to get a revelation from God to kill the two because of her resistance to his fundamentalist beliefs in polygamy.

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Service animal flight rules clarified

By Lori Aratani

WASHINGTON — Airlines cannot limit the number of service animals on a flight, but will be allowed to deny boarding to an animal that is too large, too heavy or younger than four months, according to guidance provided Thursday by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Officials are developing new rules governing what types of animals will be allowed to accompany passengers on flights and what documentation will be required to determine whether the animal’s presence is a legitimate need.

Proposed regulations are expected to be released by the department later this year and it’s possible new rules could be in place next summer or fall, officials said.

Until then, the information released Thursday is designed to clarify rules already in place.

The department’s work comes at a time when the definition for what is considered a service animal has grown dramatically, leading to conflict and sometimes injury.

According to the industry trade group Airlines for America, the number of emotional support animals traveling aboard commercial flight increased from 481,000 in 2016 to 751,000 in 2017.

Last month, an American Airlines flight attendant received five stitches after she was bitten by an emotional support dog on a flight out of Dallas/Fort Worth. DOT officials also revealed the case of a half-dozen severely scared by a dog that produced 30 days to revise their rules to meet DOT’s current requirements.

DOT officials said that airlines will have 30 days to revize their rules to meet DOT’s current requirements. Officials said they will continue to review all complaints, but given their resources will focus their efforts on cases involving the most common service animals — dogs, cats and miniature horses.

Airlines are not required to accept exotic animals, including snakes, ferrets, sugar gliders, spiders, rodents and reptiles.

Airlines are not required to transport emotional or psychiatric support animals unless the passenger provides medical documentation of their need as specified under current rules.

DOT officials said that airlines will have 30 days to revise their rules to meet DOT’s current requirements. Officials said they will continue to review all complaints, but given their resources will focus their efforts on cases involving the most common service animals — dogs, cats and miniature horses.

Health workers in protective gear check on a patient at an Ebola treatment center in Beni, Congo, last month. Health authorities in Congo have halted an Ebola treatment study early because the drug being tested was not working.

The outbreak — the world’s second-worst health crisis after SARS — has infected nearly 2,800 people and killed nearly 1,900 since it began a year ago. The World Health Organization designated it a “public health emergency of international concern” last month.

The new therapies were tested in a multi-drug, randomized, controlled trial conducted on the front lines of the Ebola outbreak since November. Researchers administered one of four drugs to the 681 patients who had participated in the study as of Friday.

When a monitoring group determined that two of those drugs were vastly outperforming the others based on data from 499 patients, scientists called off the study and said they would exclusively treat Ebola patients with the more effective drugs going forward.

The two antibody-based treatments, REGN-EB3 and mAb-114, work by blocking a critical protein in the Ebola virus. Patients receive them once, intravenously, and “ideally, as soon as possible” after infection, Fauci said.

They saved about 90 percent of patients with low levels of infection, according to preliminary data released from the trial. Across all levels of infection, patients who received REGN-EB3 had a mortality rate of 29 percent, while those treated with mAb-114 had a mortality rate of 34 percent. The average mortality rate for Ebola has been about 50 percent, according to the WHO.

These rates were far enough below those of the two other treatments — including ZMapp, first tested in the 2014 West Africa outbreak — that scientists decided to end the trial early.

Now, all Ebola patients will receive one of the two more effective drugs.

“This underscores the importance of doing randomized, controlled trials. You can get ethically sound and scientifically sound information rapidly,” Fauci said.

Man’s dentures found stuck in his throat days after surgery

Associated Press

Here’s why it’s best to remove false teeth before surgery: You just might swallow them.

A 72-year-old British man was reporting the case of a 72-year-old British man whose partial dentures apparently got stuck in his throat during surgery and weren’t discovered for eight days.

The man went to the emergency room because he was having a hard time swallowing and was coughing up blood. Doctors ordered a chest X-ray, diagnosed him with pneumonia and sent him home with antibiotics and a subpoena to return to the hospital for a second visit another X-ray revealed the problem: His dentures — a metal root plate and three false teeth — lodged at the top of this throat.

The man thought his dentures were lost while he was in the hospital for minor surgery.

How it happened remains exactly clear, but a half-dozen cases have been documented of dentures going astray as surgical patients went to sleep.

Placing a tube in a patient’s airway can push things where they don’t belong, said Dr. Mary Dale Peterson, an anesthesiologist at Driscoll Children’s Hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dentures, retainers, loose teeth and tongue piercings can cause problems, said Peterson, a past president-elect of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. Before a child’s surgery, she said, the bathing clinic involved.

For their part, patients should tell their doctors about mouth problems before surgery, said Dr. Rui Amaral Mendes, an anesthesiologist at BMJ Case Reports, which published the paper Monday.

What can be learned from this case? Doctors need to listen carefully to their patients and build a timeline of what happened rather than relying heavily on scans and tests, said Dr. Rui Amaral Mendes, an anesthesiologist at BMJ Case Reports, which published the paper Monday.

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“Stay on the safe side,” he said. “Inform your physician of what’s going on in your mouth.”
A staff member works on a cellphone production line during a media tour in a Huawei Technologies Co. factory in Dongguan, China, in March. The U.S. is delaying tariffs on Chinese-made cellphones, laptop computers and other items and removing other Chinese imports from its target list altogether.

**US delays tariffs on some Chinese goods, drops others**

**Bloomberg**

The Trump administration will delay until mid-December the 10% tariff on some Chinese products — on many holiday-shopping lists, with the president acknowledging that the levies would have hurt consumers.

By granting a grace period for everyday items like some phones and toys, the U.S. conversation appears designed to avoid any disruption or additional price increases for American consumers heading into the final four months of the year — from back-to-school purchases to Christmas shopping.

The announcement also came as the two sides spoke for the first time since the recent escalation in tensions. President Donald Trump said his administration had a “very productive” call with China and that he thinks Beijing wants to “do something dramatic” on trade.

“They really would like to make a deal,” Trump said Tuesday before boarding a helicopter in Morristown, N.J.

The levies were delayed “so it won’t be relevant to the Christmas shopping season,” he added.

Stocks surged on the news Tuesday. Apple spiked as much as 5.8% and Best Buy climbed as much as 11% on optimism that the reprieve would boost electronics sales in the holiday season. Apparel retailers including Gap and L Brands rose, as did toy maker Hasbro and discount chain Dollar Tree.

The U.S. Trade Representative’s office said in a statement Tuesday that tariffs would be delayed until Dec. 15 for items such as cellphones, laptop computers, video game consoles, certain toys, computer monitors, and certain items of footwear and clothing.

“What this means is that retailers will be able to get their shipments in without the 10% tariff, which is a sigh of relief,” said Poonam Goyal, a retail analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence. “It definitely saves the holiday season.”

Not all retailers will escape the hit, however. A wide range of goods, from shoes and apparel to sporting goods, will still be subject to a tariff as of Sept. 1, he will tax the $300 billion in Chinese imports that he has so far spared. In retaliation, China has imposed tariffs on $110 billion in U.S. products.

Still, the poll finds that only 41% of Americans believe that China’s growing economy is a bad thing for the United States, compared with 50% who called it a good thing.

Respondents were far more worried about China’s rising military power: 81% said it was bad, 11% good.

Half said they had no confidence in President Xi Jinping, the same as last year. In addition to being locked in a trade war with Trump, Xi has overseen a crackdown on dissent in China and a more combative foreign policy in East Asia.

Americans 50 and older were most likely to hold negative views of China (67%) compared with 58% of those ages 30-49 and 49% of those 18-29.

Likewise, 69% of Americans with a four-year college degree expressed disapproval of China, versus 57% of those who didn’t have a degree.

Pew surveyed 1,503 adults from May 13 to June 18.

While some tariffs will take effect on Sept. 1 as planned, “certain products are being removed from the tariff list based on health, safety, national security and other factors,” the USTR also said.

About $250 billion of Chinese goods have already been hit by 25% duties.

**Pew survey: 60% in US hold dim view of China**

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Rising tensions over trade have dimmed Americans’ opinions of China.

A new Pew Research Center poll finds that 60% say they have an unfavorable view of China — up from 47% last year to the highest proportion since Pew started asking the question 14 years ago.

The survey results being released Tuesday found that 24% of Americans regard China as America’s top threat for the future, the same percentage that said so of Russia. North Korea (12%) was the only other country to draw double-digit concern.

The Trump administration and Beijing have been clashing for more than a year over allegations that China steals trade secrets, pressures foreign companies to hand over technology and unfairly subsidizes companies to hand over technology and unfairly pressures foreign companies to hand over technology and unfairly subsidizes.

President Donald Trump has imposed tariffs on $250 billion in Chinese goods and has said that on Sept. 1, he will raise them to 25%.

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The administration has been targeting foreign technology and unfairly subsidizes companies to hand over technology and unfairly subsidizes.

In the case of China, the levy on $250 billion in Chinese goods, drops others

**Trump trashes CNN’s Chris Cuomo over ‘Fredo’ confrontation**

**New York Daily News**

NEW YORK — President Donald Trump trashed Chris Cuomo for getting into a profanity-laced confrontation with a man who addressed him as “Fredo.”

Interrupting his golf vacation, Trump retaliated with an Italian slur to slam the CNN anchor, whom he accused of losing his cool due to “low ratings.”

“I thought Chris was Fredo too,” Trump said on Twitter. “The truth hurts.”

Donald Trump Jr. earlier called Chris Cuomo “the dumb brother” for letting himself get dragged into the confrontation, which was apparently staged by a right-wing YouTube show.

He used a wink-wink emoji to stress that Chris Cuomo isn’t as black as his brother, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

“Fredo isn’t the N word for Italians, it just means you’re the dumb brother,” Donald Trump Jr. wrote on Twitter. The Twitter spat erupted over a YouTube video that depicted Chris Cuomo squaring off against a stranger who apparently called him “Fredo.”

As a result, Chris Cuomo got some surprising support from Sean Hannity, who broke with his right-wing allies to say the fellow TV person was possibly right.

A Trump reelection campaign spokesperson blasted Chris Cuomo as racist for racializing his “Fredo” comments.

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Riot police clash with protesters at Hong Kong airport

BY YANAN WANG AND KATIE TAM
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Riot police clashed with pro-democracy protesters at Hong Kong’s airport late Tuesday night, moving into the terminal where the demonstrators had shut down operations at the busy transport hub for two straight days.

Officers armed with pepper spray and batons confronted the protesters who used luggage carts to barricade entrances to the airport terminal.

Police took several people into a police van waiting at the entrance to the airport’s arrivals hall.

Police said they tried to help ambulance officers reach an injured man who was pro-democracy protesters had detained on suspicion of being an undercover agent.

A protester was detained a second man who they suspected of being an undercover agent. After emptying out his belongings, they found a blue T-shirt that has been worn by pro-Beijing supporters that they said was evidence he was a spy.

Earlier in the day, authorities were forced to cancel all remaining flights as the pro-Beijing leader warned that the protests have plunged the city at around 2 p.m. Fuller described the weapon as a butcher’s knife.

Police said a man was arrested, and that a 41-year-old woman with a stab wound to her back was taken to a hospital in stable condition.

A police officer was injured in the incident, and police said they were still investigating the circumstances of the attack.

Some protesters wore bandages over one eye in solidarity with a comrade reportedly hit with a beanbag round.

The airport disruptions are an escalation of a summer of demonstrations aimed at what many Hong Kong residents see as an increasing erosion of the freedoms they were promised in 1997 when Communist Party-ruled mainland China took over what had been a British colony.

The Russian capital has been on edge during the three weekends of protests.

Giving the Kremlin’s first official comments on the protests in Moscow, spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Tuesday rejected suggestions that President Vladimir Putin does not see the increasing wave of discontent as anything significant.

Peskov rejected suggestions that Putin has not spoken out about the demonstrations because he does not think there is anything “exceptional” about them.

“Protests happen in many countries,” he said, adding that there are more important events in Russia for the president to care about.

Peskov rejected suggestions that the protests have plunged the Kremlin into a political crisis and defended police response at the three weekends of protests.

“We believe that a disproportionate use of force by law enforcement officers is absolutely unacceptable but we think that the police response in clamping down on rioting was totally justified,” Peskov told reporters.

Some of the opposition gatherings in the past weeks did not receive official permission, and authorities deployed a sizeable police force to disperse peaceful protesters. Police officers were seen using force on individuals who were merely standing on the street and who did not put up resistance during arrest.

Russian investigators last month launched a criminal probe into alleged rioting even though no property damage or violence from the demonstrators has been reported. Peskov on Tuesday refused to comment on why authorities describe the protests as riots.

The Moscow protests originally started last month as a reaction to authorities’ refusal to register a number of independent candidates for the upcoming election to the Moscow city legislature. They later gained momentum to reflect widespread frustration with Russia’s tightly controlled politics.
Kashmir lockdown enters 9th day

Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India — Residents of Indian-administered Kashmir were running short of essentials on Tuesday as an unprecedented security lockdown kept people indoors for a ninth day.

India has imposed a near-constant curfew and a communications blackout as it tries to stave off a violent reaction to the government’s decision on Aug. 5 to strip Kashmir of its autonomy.

The reaction to India’s move has so far been largely subdued. But anti-India protests and clashes have occurred daily, mostly as soldiers withdraw from the streets at dusk. Though the shootings of the lockdown is unprecedented, civil resistance to Indian rule is not uncommon in Kashmir, and young men have hurled stones and abuse at police and soldiers.

Indian troops patrolling the disputed region allowed some Muslims to walk to mosques to mark the Eid al-Adha festival on Monday, and shops were opened briefly on previous days.

The lockdown is expected to last at least through Thursday, India’s independence day.

Surveillance drones and military helicopters hovered over Srinagar, the region’s main city. On Sunday, soldiers stopped vehicles in the city’s main business hub, causing traffic jams just as a low-flying drone passed by, according to Javaid Ahmed, a resident who said he witnessed the scene from a nearby building.

He said he later saw the same scene broadcast on Indian TV channels.

“That footage was used to say Kashmir was normal with everyone thronging the streets,” Ahmed said.

Kashmiris fear India’s move to put the region under greater New Delhi control will alter its demographics and cultural identity.

India said its decision to revoke Kashmir’s special constitutional status and downgrade it from statehood to a territory would free it from separatism.

Rebels have been fighting Indian rule for decades. Some 70,000 people have died in clashes between militants and civilian protesters and Indian security forces since 1989. Most Kashmiris want either independence or a merger with Pakistan.

Kashmir is split between India and Pakistan and is claimed by both. The nuclear-armed rivals have fought two wars over it. The first ended in 1948 with the region divided and a promise of a U.N.-sponsored referendum on its future. It has never been held.

Canadian police: Teen suspects killed selves

By Rob Gillies
Associated Press

TORONTO — Canadian police said Monday they believe two teenage fugitives suspected of killing a North Carolina woman, her Australian boyfriend and another man took their own lives amid a nationwide manhunt.

The Winnipeg Free Press reported that Manitoba Medical Examiner completed the autopsies and confirmed that two bodies found last week in dense bush in northern Manitoba province were indeed Kam McLeod, 19, and Bryer Schmegelsky, 18. A police statement said they appeared to die by suicide.

McLeod and Schmegelsky were charged with second-degree murder in the death of Leonard Dyck, a University of British Columbia lecturer whose body was found July 19 along a highway in British Columbia.

They were also suspects in the fatal shootings of Australian Lucas Fowler and Chynna Deese of Charlotte, N.C., whose bodies were found July 15 along the Alaska Highway about 300 miles from where Dyck was killed.

The couple had met at a hostel in Croatia and their romance blossomed as they adventured across the U.S., Mexico, Peru and elsewhere, the woman’s older brother said.

A manhunt for the teenage suspects had spread across three provinces and involved the Canadian military. The suspects had not been seen since July 22, and their bodies were found near Gillam, Manitoba — more than 2,000 miles from northern British Columbia.

Police said in a statement McLeod and Schmegelsky were dead for a number of days before they were found.

Two guns were located, and authorities are working to confirm that the firearms are connected to the murders in British Columbia.

The British Columbia Prosecution Service said criminal charges don’t move forward if the person who has been accused is proven dead.

The specific items that were found on the shoreline of the Nelson River proved key in helping locate the suspects.

Specialized teams began searching high-probability areas nearby, and on Wednesday morning, the two bodies were found within 0.6 miles of the objects.

The deaths of the three victims had shaken rural northern British Columbia and Manitoba.

McLeod and Schmegelsky grew up on Vancouver Island and their romance was alleged to be driven by a local Walmart before they set off on a trip to Yukon for work.

They were originally considered missing persons and only became suspects later.

Best in bouldering

Above: Defending bouldering world champion Janja Garnbret, of Slovenia, winner of the women’s bouldering final at the International Federation of Sport Climbing World Championships, competes Tuesday in Hachioji, Japan. The competition is doubling as an Olympic qualifier, as sport climbing will make its Olympic debut next year in Tokyo. Left: Yannick Flohe, of Germany, competes in the men’s bouldering semifinal.

Photos by Jae C. Hong/AP

Tesla on Autopilot hits truck, explodes

The Washington Post

A Tesla using an advanced driver assistance system slammed into the back of a tow truck on a Moscow highway over the weekend, bursting into flames after the collision. The driver, according to Russian news reports and social media footage, was killed.

The driver, Aleksey Trytaykov, 41, told Russian news outlet REN TV that the vehicle was operating in Autopilot mode at the time of the crash. Trytaykov broke his leg, the reports said, and he was accompanied in the vehicle by two children who also required medical attention.

It was not immediately clear what type of Tesla the driver was in. Tesla declined to comment on the crash, which occurred Saturday.

The collision was the latest in a string of highly publicized crashes in which Tesla’s Autopilot was allegedly engaged. In the U.S., investigators have probed at least three fatal crashes involving Autopilot.

The feature was active during another deadly crash in China. The crash over the weekend was the first of its kind in Russia, however, according to news reports.

Tesla’s Autopilot assists with keeping a vehicle in its lane, steering and other functions, like taking the vehicle from highway on-ramp to off-ramp. Still, the driver is told to be fully engaged and alert during the operation of the vehicle.

The automaker has consistently said that Autopilot is safer than a human driving alone. It says the crash rate with Autopilot is nearly half that during normal unsupervised driving — though it hasn’t released detailed data for verification.

Tesla has consistently come under regulatory scrutiny for claims regarding the safety of its vehicles. It pledges to release vehicles capable of “full self-driving” by year’s end and has consulted safety regulators and industry competitors, The Washington Post has reported.

Federal regulators also scolded Tesla CEO Elon Musk last year for making what they said were “misleading statements” on Tesla safety, including claiming that Tesla’s Model 3 has the lowest probability of injury of any vehicle the federal government had tested.
Europe wrestles with rise of electric scooters

BY ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press

PARIS — Ban them outright. Issue speeding tickets. Make users take a driving test. From Paris to Berlin, European cities are searching for solutions to the two-wheeled phenomenon that’s fast transforming cityscapes worldwide: Electric scooters.

Proponents call them a leap into the future, an exhilarating, app-based way to zip from the Louvre to the Eiffel Tower without generating planet-choking pollution.

Rubbish, says critics, noting growing numbers of injuries and even deaths involving e-scooters. They decry a new nuisance to pedestrians, cyclists and drivers who are already battling for the limited space on city streets.

Across the U.S. cities are also struggling to regulate companies renting the vehicles and keep riders safe. Here’s what some European governments are doing about it:

France: France’s government met Monday with the victims of scooter accidents as it prepares new rules. Paris alone has more free-floating scooter companies than the entire United States, according to a June study, and at least 20,000 whizzing through its historic streets.

Most are app-based, rented scooters that you pick up and drop off wherever you want, and that’s especially appealing to tourists and teens. But victims’ groups say these users don’t know French road rules and can’t always be held liable for accidents. One scooter driver has been killed in Paris and scores injured this year.

Paris imposes $150 fines for riding on the sidewalk on scooters. The city’s mayor wants to limit scooter speeds to 12 mph in most areas, and 5 mph in areas with heavy foot traffic. She plans to limit the number of operators to 10 and cap the number of scooters.

New rules expected in September will expand those limits to other French cities, and include potential speeding fines up to $1,680.

Critics say current proposals don’t go far enough. Some want age limits for riders, and require them to take driving tests and have insurance, so that governments don’t have to pay for medical care or other damage they cause.

Germany: Berlin legalized electric scooters two months ago and quickly realized it needs tougher rules.

Last week, city officials in the German capital announced plans for on-street parking zones for the battery-powered vehicles, which are often left haphazardly on sidewalks and elsewhere. City police will also step up patrols to prevent illegal behavior such as doubling.

German police say seven people have been seriously injured and 27 suffered minor injuries in scooter accidents since mid-June, saying most were due to riders behaving carelessly. While pro-scooter folks say they’re a way to cut down on more polluting forms of transport, the anti-scooter faction says they’re mainly used by people who would otherwise walk or take public transport anyway.

Britain: In the U.K., e-scooters are banned from sidewalks and it is an offense to use them on the roads because they don’t comply with laws requiring insurance, taxes and driver testing. Advocates have protested, arguing it’s time for a change in regulations.

Television presenter and YouTube personality Emily Hartridge, 35, became the first person in Britain to be killed while riding an e-scooter when she was struck by a truck in south London on July 12.

The following day, a 14-year-old boy suffered a head injury after crashing into a bus stop in southeast London.

Spain: Electric scooters dot the urban landscapes of major Spanish cities and the official traffic regulator has proposed new guidelines — but their approval hinges on Spanish politicians forming a new national government. A hunk parliaments emerged from April’s national election.

In the meantime, cities have adopted a hodge-podge of restrictions.

Helmets are only mandatory in Madrid for those under 16. Yet they are compulsory for everyone in Barcelona, where a 92-year-old died after she was run over by an electric scooter last year. The rider was investigated for involuntary homicide but was ultimately only fined because of the lack of regulations.

In Madrid, the city requires scooter-users to operate only in roads with no more than one lane per way, while imposing a maximum speed limit of 18.6 mph.

Seville last week joined the scooter ride-sharing frenzy, but the southern city’s rental operator is testing a way to self-restrict rides to and from designated private parking spots.

In Brussels — the capital of Belgium and the European Union — has been inundated with e-scooters over the last year.

Recent data of the 19 municipalities that make up Brussels has its own rules on the vehicles. Some impose fines or speed limits, while others impose parking restrictions.

The Brussels region is now grappling with information from all these municipalities to streamline the rules. A city spokeswoman says there has been one deadly accident so far involving e-scooters and a major hospital says it’s treating up to two injuries a day related to scooter accidents.

Helmets are not required by law, but debate is swirling around obliging scooter-mono-wheel riders to wear them.

Italy: Italy’s transportation ministry set new rules last month for e-scooters, Segways, hoverboards and other electric forms of transport.

Scooters are allowed in streets but can’t go faster than 18 mph. In pedestrian areas, e-scooter speeds are limited to just 3.6 mph. Now it’s up to Italian cities to designate areas and post signs, and establish rules for scooter-sharing businesses.

Balkan countries: In the Balkan countries, e-scooters are still operating in a grey zone, except for Slovenia, which is drafting legislation that will restrict them to pedestrian areas and bicycle lanes.

The maximum speed will be restricted to 15 mph, but in pedesrian zones, e-scooters will have to stay at a walking pace.

They will be subject to same local rules as for bicycles, which means they will have to have lights and helmets will be mandatory for underage riders.

After deadly wrecks, Atlanta bans electric scooters at night

By Jeff Martin and Andrea Smith
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Atlanta is banning electric scooters in the nighttime hours during what’s been a deadly summer for riders.

The ban comes as cities across the nation struggle to regulate the companies renting the devices and keep riders safe.

In Atlanta, three riders have died since May in crashes that involved a public bus, an SUV and a car. Police in the Atlanta suburb of East Point say a fourth rider was killed there last week in a collision involving his scooter and a truck.

“Sadly, we have seen a pattern in the recent and tragic fatalities involving scooters — they all occurred after sunset,” Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said in a statement Thursday.

City officials on Thursday announced a ban on electric scooters and electric bikes from 9 p.m. until 4 a.m. daily. The ban takes effect Friday.

“This environment didn’t exist 14 months ago or 12 months ago — this is a brand new thing,” Tim Keane, Atlanta’s commissioner of city planning, said in an interview Thursday.

“We want this to be temporary,” he said. “We hope that this ban is very temporary.”

City officials have asked e-scooter vendors to disable the devices during the hours they’re banned, the mayor said. The companies are cooperating, and “I’ve heard no pushback at all,” Keane said.

“We think it’s a reasonable step as a temporary measure while the scooter program is re-examined,” said Nima Daivari, Lime’s community affairs manager for Georgia. San Francisco-based Lime has one of the largest fleets in Atlanta, with an average of about 1,800 available for rent last month. “They see the value here, and Atlanta is a city that’s notorious for traffic congestion.”

Traffic safety data showing the dangers of riding during late-night hours is “compelling,” Santa Monica, Calif.-based Bird said in a statement Thursday. It had more than 1,200 devices operating in Atlanta last month, city records show.

Late-night and early-morning travel, especially between midnight and 5 a.m., “is many times more dangerous due to impaired road users, fatigue and poor visibility,” Bird said. The company has managed its service hours to avoid late night riding, and will comply with Atlanta’s new guidelines, it added.

Other communities, including Dallas, Nashville, Tenn., and Athens, Ga., have recently considered some form of regulation of scooters, partly over concerns about safety.

Chicago has a nighttime ban similar to Atlanta’s new policy.

A man rides an electric scooter in Paris on Monday.
Man accused of taking 76 cigarette cartons

VT WORCESTER — A Royaltown man is accused of stealing $6,000 worth of cigarettes from a market in Worcester.

Vermont State Police said the 76 cartons of cigarettes and other items from a burglary in Washington and two break-ins at the Waterbury Park center were found in the vehicle of Thomas Farnsworth, 46. WCAX-TV reported that police said Farnsworth’s sneakers also matched a footprint left behind at LBJ’s Grocery from where the cigarettes were stolen.

Police say fireworks mistaken for gunfire

UT BOUNTIFUL — Police in Bountiful were searching for the person responsible for setting off fireworks in a park restroom, which were mistaken for gunfire.

The Bountiful City Police Department said that investigators are working to identify a suspect seen on surveillance video at a city park.

According to police, someone lit large aerial fireworks and severely damaged a bathroom. They said people in the area mistook them for gunshots.

Police said a vehicle involved in the incident is described as a newer silver Ford truck that had furniture in the bed.

Heinz helping person who took, gave ketchup

NJ LACEY TOWNSHIP — Heinz is helping the person who was hit by guilt and bad fortune after stealing a bottle of ketchup from a restaurant in New Jersey.

The so-called “Ketchup Thief” earlier this month left two new bottles of the condiment along with a note saying the person had stolen it because it would be “risky.” However, the person’s car was struck a few hours later and the person’s “karma” took a turn for the worse. The person hospitalized back would be repaired by leaving two new bottles.

Heinz, writing on Twitter, said “Heinz makes you do crazy things.” The Pittsburgh-based company offered to help the reformed thief pay for the car damage without revealing the person’s identity.

Heinz posted that it found the person.

Boy writes about maple sugaring, wins contest

NH NEW BOSTON — A New Boston boy who wrote and illustrated a book about maple sugaring with his dad has won a statewide contest.

The New Hampshire Maple Producers Association gave the annual Walter A. Felker Memorial Award to Trevor Gaudet. The contest was open to New Hampshire residents 16 and younger and aimed to encourage interest in the state’s maple sugaring tradition.

A whale of a game

Youngsters enjoy a game of basketball on the just-painted courts at Clasky Common Park in New Bedford, Mass., on Friday as part of a block party by Creative Courts, who painted the courts with a nautical theme.

County fair setting up ‘free-expression area’

OR GRANTS PASS—One Oregon county fair is setting up a “free-expression area,” with restrictions on bullhorns, signs and sound systems.

The Daily Courier reported the Josephine County Fair is setting up a 30-foot-by-30-foot outdoor area near two of the entrances to a building where vendors will be set up for the upcoming fair.

The fair board recently banned signs except in areas where vendors and others have paid a fee to use them.

Fairgrounds director Tamra Martin said efforts have been made to create a “family-friendly,” entertaining event. She said the location of the “free-expression area” provides visibility for those wanting to be heard.

Group finds more artifacts at dig site

IL WILMINGTON — A group conducting an archeological dig in northern Illinois found pieces of broken pottery, projectile points and other artifacts dating to the 1600s.

Two University of Notre Dame professors have been leading summer volunteers on an exploration at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The project at the Middle Grant Creek Site is revealing how people of the Oneota culture lived in the area four centuries ago.

THE CENSUS

The approximate number of tires Pennsylvania State Police said a woman and two teenagers dumped in a parking lot of a vacant motel in Schuylkill County. The Reading Eagle reported that troopers found June Kuzowski, 61, and two 15-year-olds throwing the tires out of a truck and onto the lot on Saturday night. Police determined Kuzowski had the teens load the truck with the tires at an auto garage and drove to the lot to dispose of them. She’s charged with scattering rubbish and corruption of minors.

Earlier this month volunteers digging in a 6-foot-deep pit found projectile points made of rock that would have been used for hunting. They’ve also found painted pottery and needles made from bones, which were likely used to weave mats from tallgrass.

FIREMEN RESCUE WORKER DANGLING FROM TOWER

IL FORT MYERS — A utility worker was in a Florida hospital after fainting 100 feet above the ground and dangling from a tower until firefighters could rescue him.

The Fort Myers Fire Department said the man was installing cabling on a 200-foot communications tower when he reported becoming ill. He fainted and injured his head as he tried to climb down the structure. Fort Myers Deputy Fire Chief Tracy McMillion said the man’s harness kept him from falling to the ground.

The News-Press reported that the man suffered “significant head injury” and was taken to Lee Memorial Hospital.

Bear breaks into house, leaves through a wall

CO DENVER — A black bear broke into a Colorado house over the weekend and left by breaking through a wall “like the Kool-Aid Man.”

Estes Park police say the break-in occurred Friday night and that the animal was likely attracted to trash.

A Facebook post by the police department said: “Upon officer’s arrival, said bear forcibly breached a hole in the wall like the ‘Kool-Aid Man’ and made its escape.”

The Denver Post reported no one was injured.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife said bears entered over 35 vehicles and nine residences in the Estes Park area in the 10 days before Aug. 3.

Officer rescues dog kicked out of car

CA PLACERVILLE — The California Highway Patrol is trying to find who kicked out a dog out of a vehicle and abandoned the animal on the side of Highway 50 in Placerville.

The CHP’s Placerville office said witnesses reported seeing a vehicle slow down before some- one kicked the dog out and the vehicle sped off. It said an officer quickly got there and rescued the dog before it was hurt.

The agency is asking anyone with information on who may have abandoned the dog to call.

Newspaper carrier aids possible crime victim

IA ANKENY — Court re- cords show a Des Moines newspaper carrier helped save a woman caught in a sex traffick- ing ring.

The Des Moines Register said one of its delivery workers, Lavon Franz, was on her paper route on July 28 in Ankeny when she saw a woman waving her arms on the side of the road. When Franz pulled over, the woman — who had no cellphone or ID — was crying and said she wanted to go back home to a small town about an hour northwest of Ankeny.

Franz took the woman to a convenience store, where an employ- ee called police.

Police arrested a 25-year-old woman from East Dubuque, Ill., on suspicion of pimping and human trafficking.

From wire reports
Several actors have been as entrenched in the science fiction, fantasy and comic book genres as Morena Baccarin. It started in 2002 with the cult favorite "Firefly" and has continued through "Stargate SG-1," "V," "Deadpool," "The Flash" and "Gotham."

There’s just one peculiar thing about being closely associated with projects that make people flock to Comic-Con. Carving out such a deep place in the roles wasn’t something Baccarin completely planned.

"It just kept happening. My very first TV job was ‘Firefly’ and then people started thinking of me in those terms, so I started getting other similar roles," Baccarin says. "But, I also like looking for strong female characters and when I started, that’s where the strong female characters were — in the sci-fi, fantasy world. Now it is changing so much."

Baccarin continues to get questions about "Firefly," which ended 16 years ago. She is amazed that people are still obsessed with it and proud she was part of something that people continue to love.

Baccarin has been able to work in other projects, with appearances on "Heartland" and "Homeland." Her latest job, "Ode to Joy," gave her the opportunity to show her skills with romantic comedies. In the film, she plays the woman who captures the heart of a man (Martin Freeman) who has spent his life keeping his emotions in check because of a medical condition that results in him passing out if his emotions spike.

Baccarin welcomed the change of pace because she had been looking for "something different, something lighter." The search was happening while she was in the middle of playing Leslie Thompkins on the dark and moody "Gotham."

"It was time for me to move on," Baccarin says. "I really want to become an actor but sort of fall into it. I did it in high school and thought it would just be a way to enjoy school but somewhere along the way, I fell in love with it. Once I started acting, there was never any doubt of what I wanted to do."

"Old Town Road" sets more Billboard chart records

Associated Press

Lil Nas X is galloping his way to two new records on the Billboard charts thanks to the massive success of "Old Town Road."

The song that beat Mariah Carey and Missy Elliott in recent years as the longest-running No. 1 hit in the history of the Hot 100 has now set records on Billboard’s Hot R&B/Hip-Hop songs and Hot rap songs charts, respectively.

"Old Town Road," which features Billy Ray Cyrus and is spending its 19th week at No. 1, surpasses the record set by Drake’s "One Dance" on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop songs chart. Drake’s track spent 18 weeks at No.1.

On the Hot rap songs chart, where Lil Nas X’s county-rap tune is also spending its 19th week on top, the 20-year-old beats the record set by Drake’s "Hotline Bling," Iggy Azalea’s "Fancy" and Missy Elliott’s "Hot Boyz," which all spent 18 weeks at No.1.

Last month, Lil Nas X’s viral song became the most successful No. 1 song of all-time when it reached its 17th week at No. 1 on the all-genre Hot 100 — Billboard’s main chart for singles — surpassing the 16-week record held by Carey and Boyz II Men’s "One Sweet Day" and Luis Fonsi, Daddy Yankee and Justin Bieber’s "Despacito."

Other news

- Missy Elliott, one of the most iconic artists in the history of music videos, will receive the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award at the 2019 MTV Video Music Awards. MTV announced Monday that Elliott also will perform on Aug. 26 at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. Since her debut video for “The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)” in 1997, in which she sported an inflated trash bag with confidence and charisma, Elliott has been a powerhouse on the video scene with an oddball, eccentric and creative style that’s inspired generations after her. Her performance on the VMA stage will mark her first since 2003. This year, Elliott became the first female rapper inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

- Kenya Barris, the creator of the sitcom “black-ish,” has filed for divorce from his wife of 20 years, Dr. Rania “Rainbow” Barris. Los Angeles Superior Court documents show that Kenya Barris filed to end the marriage on Friday, his 45th birthday. Kenyan Barris, who also produced the “black-ish” spinoff “grown-ish” and co-wrote the film “Girls Trip,” and Rania Barris, an anesthesiologist, married in 1999 and have six kids. Rania Barris previously filed for divorce in 2014, but the couple reconciled and withdrew the request in 2015.
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Epstein did not deserve the ‘allegedly’ stories require that allowed Epstein, for years, to allegedly order high school-aged girls like room service, forcing them into nude massages and oral sex. When you’re wealthy, you get a pass. "Do what you will," Epstein told a judge in mid-June 2019: "I’m not doing it to any of your friends -- all along."

Attorneys for Epstein’s victims have been unable to get their hands on the full, unredacted court records of his case. The Justice Department redacted the documents, saying they contained "personal, private, or confidential information that is not of public record." But the documents, which have been sealed since 2016, were unsealed last Tuesday.

On Monday, a judge granted a petition to unseal the documents, saying that they "are matters of public concern and therefore is not ‘private’ for purposes of the protective order." The judge ordered the documents to be unsealed by Friday so that they can be reviewed by the public.

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September 20, 2019

Data support more checks for young gun buyers

By Cassandra Crisafi, Harold Pollack and Daniel Webster

Special to The Washington Post

It’s naive to think that any single policy or program can prevent every form of gun violence, ranging from intimate partner violence to gang drive-by homicides, suicides and mass-shooting atrocities. Yet each form of such violence involves one common mechanism: a gun. We should reduce these risks through a suite of evidence-based policies that do two things — create more careful licensing for gun purchasers and make legitimate childhood safe for young adults.

Better background checks for all sales would be a big step toward providing a gun policy. These measures are most effective when paired with a system that requires purchasers to obtain a license from law enforcement. Most states with such systems are linked to a licensing process that requires purchasers to submit fingerprints, as people must do when applying for occupational licensing. Fingerprint-based background checks are less likely to miss people who are legally barred from owning guns.

Licensing also creates greater accountability, whereby sellers, both licensed and private, can be held accountable to someone with a valid license. Many studies have found that purchasers who are denied a gun can be held accountable for the gun, as they are more likely to have been involved in gun violence.

The risk of committing a homicide peaks between the ages of 18 and 24, and it’s highest for young adults in the mid-to-late teens. Fully 38 percent of murder offenders with known ages are below age 25. This is due in part to ongoing development of brain domains that regulate impulse control, judgment and long-term planning. Yet people in this age range frequently provide little actionable information about their friends or trustworthy sources to medical or law enforcement authorities.

The angry 20-year-old loner who posts racist or misogynist Reddit manifestos is a common prototype of the mass shooter. He’s even less likely to have been involuntarily committed to a mental institution. In some states, beliefs and decisions of the administrative system, he’s just another guy who lives at home with his parents, taking classes part time at community college.

Within the past two weeks, young adults used legally purchased firearms to perpetrate several high-profile gun violence incidents. These are not examples. They are not typical, but they do underscore gun violence that is occurring around young adults and people in their mid-teens.

Young adults ages 18 to 24 account for only 9 percent of the population, yet they accounted for 23 percent of the gun-related homicide victims in 2017. This increased risk for both perpetration and victimization of gun violence requires additional levels of oversight of young gun purchasers.

Rental car companies have figured out that young drivers are greater safety risks than their older friends and relatives, and, consequently, implement more rigorous standards before renting a car. Why not the same for guns? We are not suggesting that individuals under age 25 should be barred from buying guns, but merely that more oversight is warranted.

For example, youthful gun purchasers might need to meet higher standards for gun ownership (e.g., no criminal history at all) and additional safety training. There could be a more rigorous licensing process through law enforcement, such as requirements that parents or others provide support for the gun purchaser.

Or we could take a lesson from motor vehicle safety and create a graduated licensing system for guns. Graduated driver’s licenses have reduced rates of motor vehicle deaths among young drivers by limiting exposure to risky situations that could lead to fatal accidents.

Of course, exemptions could be extended to those serving in the military or law enforcement.

Our patchwork of state laws makes it far too easy for people who are dangerous to themselves or others to obtain firearms. Armed with anger and hate, these individuals can cause harm, even when they don’t make the news. The problem is part systemic, a result of bad, bizarre legal reasoning, and policy. As long as assault weapons are legal, licensing standards for purchasing these weapons could be a more rigorous licensing process for guns. Graduated driver’s licenses and additional safety training could face similar requirements.

These solutions can help reduce gun violence without infringing upon lawful gun owners’ interests. The American public is crying out for effective action.

No single policy will prevent all mass shootings or eliminate everyday acts of gun violence. That’s no reason to be passive. A portfolio of feasible efforts such as these is a great place to start.

Cassandra Crisafi is an assistant professor and deputy director at the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research. Harold Pollack is the Morris and Maria Ross Professor of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago and a Bloomberg Professor of American Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School and director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research.
Economy’s rapid job growth leaves employees in the dust

By Michele R. Smith
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Ken White had a good job at a credit card processor for 22 years, but he was laid off in the Great Recession.

Today, at 56, White does similar work. Yet everything feels different. He’s a contractor for a technology services firm that assigns him to manage tech projects for a regional bank. He’s paid just two-thirds of his old salary. The bonuses and stock awards he once earned are gone.

Despite the U.S. economy’s job growth, White and others like him don’t feel like beneficiaries of the expansion. Indeed, many people feel their jobs are at a half-century low. Yet many people feel their jobs have been devalued by employers who increasingly prioritize shareholders and customers.

Economic research, government data and interviews with workers sketch a picture of lagging wages, eroding benefits and demands for employees to do more with fewer resources. Experts say a confluence of forces are at play: globalization, workplace automation, a decline of labor unions, fiercer price competition and outsourcing.

We’ve made decisions and baked into the structure this extreme inequality,” said Barbara Dyer of the Good Companies Good Jobs Initiative at MIT’s Sloan School of Management.

A collaborative analysis of the 2015 General Social Survey by The AP-NORC Center and GSS staff finds more people saying work has grown more demanding.

About one in three American workers said they face too much pressure to work well. About one in five held a job other than their main one. About three-quarters had to work extra hours beyond their usual schedule at least once a month. Those numbers are up from 2006.

A Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis analysis found corporate profits have far outpaced employment and compensation since the early 2000s.

Paul Nota has worked at CVS in Massachusetts since 2002 in several roles: technician, supervisor, assistant manager. He likes CVS and still works there part time. But he’s noticed a change from earlier days, when he felt CVS “thought of the employee first” with small appreciation like company barbecues.

Those gestures are mainly gone, he said, while the company asks for more.

Nota, 32, juggles helping people in line, answering calls and handling the drive-thru. He said they’ve been told they could soon be given flu shots, but notes they won’t get extra pay.

“It’s all about rapid growth now,” he said. “How can you help the bottom line? And that way is not paying your employees much.”

CVS spokesman Mike DeAngelis said the company has made workflows more efficient with tools such as new phone technology. CVS last year raised minimum starting pay to $11 an hour and stepped up pay raises. DeAngelis said turnover among pharmacy technicians has declined.

Another trend that has disrupted life for some workers is when companies outsource jobs not central to their business.

Companies looking “to get out of the messy job of employing people” shed janitors, security guards or tech support, said David Weil, dean of the Heller School of Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University and a former Obama administration official.

Weil’s 2014 book “The Fissured Workplace” documented how companies hire outside firms to do work formerly done in-house. These companies hire people at lower pay with fewer benefits and job protections and in some cases outsource work to still other companies. Some workers are hired as contractors, who are technically self-employed even though they report to the same workplace.

Hotel brands such as Marriott, Hyatt and Hilton now operate this way. Uber and Instacart are other examples. So are universities that outsource janitorial work to still other companies. Some workers are hired as contractors, who are technically self-employed even though they report to the same workplace.

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Men Finalist

BADU ALABU, Moldova, def. Marin Cilic (Croatia) 7-6(3), 7-6(2), 3-6, 6-3.

Women Finalist

ALIA SWIATEK, Poland, def. Caroline Garcia (France) 6-4, 6-1.

Pro soccer

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L T Pts  GF GA
Philadelphia 11 11 50 115
New York City FC 11 10 49 113
New York 11 9 47 112
Montreal 11 8 44 111
Orlando City 11 7 41 107
FC Dallas 11 7 41 107
Columbus 11 7 41 107
Cincinnati 11 7 41 107

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Los Angeles FC 13 7 55 65
Seattle Sounders FC 13 7 45 55
D.C. United 13 6 44 54
New York Red Bulls 13 6 44 54
Real Salt Lake 13 6 44 54
FC Dallas 13 5 44 54
Atlanta United FC 13 4 44 54
Seattle Sounders FC 13 5 44 54

College football

Pro Football

NFC East

Philadelphia Eagles 12 3 106 58
New York Giants 11 4 96 68
New York Jets 11 4 96 68
Washington Football 10 5 86 78

NFC West

San Francisco 49ers 13 2 122 42
Los Angeles Rams 12 3 111 51
Arizona Cardinals 11 4 96 68
Seattle Seahawks 11 4 96 68

NFC North

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Detroit Lions 10 5 86 78
Green Bay Packers 10 5 86 78
Minneapolis Vikings 10 5 86 78

NFC South

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New Orleans Saints 10 5 86 78
Carolina Panthers 10 5 86 78

NFC South

Washington Football Team 10 5 86 78
New York Giants 11 4 96 68
New York Jets 11 4 96 68
Philadelphia Eagles 12 3 106 58

Pro basketball

NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE

Washington 16 16 67 33
Chicago 16 16 67 33
New York 16 16 67 33
Boston 16 16 67 33
Atlanta 15 15 65 35

NBA WESTERN CONFERENCE

Los Angeles Lakers 16 16 67 33
Denver 16 16 67 33
Golden State 16 16 67 33
Phoenix 16 16 67 33
Portland 15 15 65 35

Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL

American League

Boston Red Sox -- Placed INF Michael Chavis on 10-day IL, retroactive to July 25.

New York Yankees -- Placed OF DJ LeMahieu on 10-day IL, retroactive to July 25.

Chicago White Sox-- Placed RHP Dylan Cease on 10-day IL.

Kansas City Royals -- Placed LHP Daniel Lynch on 60-day IL.

San Diego Padres -- Placed RHP Cal Quantrill on 60-day IL.

Seattle Mariners -- Placed INF Taylor Trammell on 60-day IL.

Minors:

LA Dodgers -- Called up LHP Jack Flaherty from Oklahoma City (AAA).

Toronto Blue Jays -- Called up RHP Ryan Borucki from Buffalo (AAA).

Texas Rangers -- Recalled INF Marksely Reyes from Round Rock (AAA).

Washington Nationals -- Recalled SS Luis Garcia from Syracuse (AAA).

Cleveland Indians -- Recalled RHP Shane Bieber from Columbus (AAA).

San Francisco Giants -- Recalled RHP Logan Webb from San Jose (AA).

San Diego Padres -- Placed C Rob Brantly on the 60-day IL.

New York Yankees -- Optioned RHP Roniel Raudonikis to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre at 

New York Yankees -- Optioned RHP Forrester Tung to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

San Diego Padres -- Recalled RHP Natsaih Johnson from El Paso (AAA).

New York Yankees -- Recalled INF Yoan Moncada from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

New York Mets -- Recalled C Asa Lacy from Altoona (AA).

New York Yankees -- Recalled LHP Ben Gayle from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

Toronto Blue Jays -- Recalled SS Bo Bichette from Buffalo (AAA).

San Diego Padres -- Recalled OF Tito Polo from El Paso (AAA).

Tampa Bay Rays -- Recalled OF Patrick Leyhill from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

Cleveland Indians -- Placed OF Yandy Diaz on the 10-day IL.

Seattle Mariners -- Recalled INF Andy Young from Tacoma (AA).

Los Angeles Angels -- Recalled RHP Nick Plummer from Salt Lake (AA).

San Diego Padres -- Recalled RHP Kyle Lloyd from El Paso (AAA).

San Diego Padres -- Recalled RHP Henry Henry from El Paso (AAA).

Seattle Mariners -- Recalled RHP Sam Haggerty from Tacoma (AA).

San Diego Padres -- Recalled RHP Joe Musgrove from El Paso (AAA).

San Diego Padres -- Recalled OF CJ Abrams from El Paso (AAA).

San Diego Padres -- Recalled RHP Nick Margevicius from El Paso (AAA).

San Diego Padres -- Recalled RHP J.D. Hammer from El Paso (AAA).


San Diego Padres -- Recalled RHP Drew Rasmussen from El Paso (AAA).

San Diego Padres -- Recalled RHP Nick Tropeano from El Paso (AAA).

San Diego Padres -- Recalled RHP Trent Grisham from El Paso (AAA).

New York Yankees -- Recalled RHP Jack Flaherty from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

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Toronto Blue Jays -- Recalled SS Bo Bichette from Buffalo (AAA).

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NEW YORK — Gleyber Torres walked to the plate in the eighth inning with runners on first and second, two outs and the Yankees ahead by five runs.

Baltimore called for an intentional walk, and who could blame the Orioles?

The Yankees’ Gleyber Torres celebrates with teammates after he scored on a three-run triple by Brett Gardner during the first inning of the second game of Monday’s doubleheader against the Baltimore Orioles in New York. Torres hit three home runs in the two games.

Torres torments Orioles as Yankees take 2 games

By Ronald Blum

NEW YORK — Gleyber Torres walked to the plate in the eighth inning with runners on first and second, two outs and the Yankees ahead by five runs. Baltimore called for an intentional walk, and who could blame the Orioles?

Torres hit three of New York’s seven home runs in an 8-5, 11-8 doubleheader sweep Monday, including three-run drives in the fifth and sixth innings of the night game. Torres has 13 of New York’s record 59 three-run drives in the fifth and sixth innings of the night game. Torres has 13 of New York’s record 59 three-run drives in the fifth and sixth innings of the night game.

I just kind of had enough,” Orioles manager Brandon Hyde said of the walk, which was followed by Brett Gardner’s groundout. “We’re making him look like a first-ballot Hall of Famer.”

Didi Gregorius hit a three-run homer in the first inning of the day game and had four RBIs. Urshela, Torres and Cameron Maybin added solo shots, all off Gabriel Ynoa (1-7).

Gardner hit a three-run triple off Ty Blach (0-1) in the opening inning of the night game, Mike Ford had a solo home run and Torres homered off Evan Phillips and Tom Eshelman to make it 11-3.

James Paxton (8-6) started the game and won a

third straight start for the first time since his streak of seven for Seattle from 2017. The injury-decit-

ed Yankees brought in some fresh arms in the night game, when 27-year-old left-hander Joe Mantiply (1-0) got his first big league win in his Yankees debut.

Purchased from Cincinnati on Friday for $1, Mantiply relieved with one out in the second and allowed three runs over three innings in his return to the major leagues from Tommy John surgery in March 2018. Mantiply’s only previous appearances were five relief outings for Detroit in September 2016, and he wondered whether he would make it back.

The Yankees’ Didi Gregorius follows through on a three-run homer during the second game.

Roundup

Indians take over first in AL Central

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Carlos Santana homered leading off the ninth inning to send the Cleveland Indians to a 6-5 win over the fast-fading Boston Red Sox on Monday night and back into first place in the AL Central.

After the Red Sox tied it in the top of the inning, Santana hit a solo shot against Marcus Walden (7-2), driving it barely over the wall in left to give the Indians their biggest win this season.

The Indians moved past the idle Minnesota Twins and are alone in first for the first time since April 19.

Jose Ramirez hit a three-run homer and Franmil Reyes had a two-run shot as the Indians improved to an MLB-best 43-17 since June 4, when they trailed the Twins by 10 ½ games.

Down 5-1 after three innings, the Red Sox chipped away and finally tied it in the ninth on a two-out double by Xander Bogaerts off Indians closer Brad Hand (6-3).

But Santana bailed him out and added a new chapter to his own comeback season with Cleveland. J.D. Martinez and Jackie Bradley Jr. homered, but Boston lost for the 12th time in 15 games.

The defending World Series champions came in trailing the New York Yankees by 16 games in the AL East and 7 ½ back in the wild-card race.

Nationals 7, Reds 6: Trea Turner and Matt Adams homered, Erick Fedde pitched well after allowing a solo shot on the game’s first pitch and depleted Washington held on to edge visiting Cincinnati.

Fedde led 7-2 but blew most of that advantage before Sean Doolittle got his 27th save in 32 chances. He entered in the ninth with a 7-4 lead, but the struggling lefty closer’s first pitch of the evening became Phillip Ervin’s pinch-hitter homer. The next batter singled and came around on Joey Votto’s two-out double off the wall in left. Doolittle finally ended things on Josh VanMeter’s foul pop to third baseman Anthony Rendon.

The Nationals opened a six-game homestand without three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer, left fielder Juan Soto or first baseman Ryan Zimmerman — all injured — while second baseman Brian Dozier was ill and limited to pinch-hitting duty.

Blue Jays 19, Rangers 4: Brandon Drury hit his first career grand slam, just his second hit, and had a two-run homer among his three extra-base hits, and host Toronto routed Texas.

Bo Bichette had the first four-hit game of his career and Randal Grichuk had three hits, including a solo homer, as the Blue Jays won for the 10th time in 15 games. Drury had five RBI, while Smoak and Grichuk each had four. Danny Jansen had a two-run homer.

Diamondbacks 8, Rockies 6: Jake Lamb, Nick Ahmed and Carson Kelly homered during a four-run sixth inning and visiting Arizona beat Colorado.

Over the course of 13 pitches, Arizona went from trailing 6-3 to leading 7-6. Lamb started the comeback with a solo shot off reliever Jake McGee. Ahmed later hit a two-run homer and Kelly followed with a solo shot off Chad Bettis (1-6).

It was the Diamondbacks’ 27th comeback win of the season and keeps them in the thick of the wild-card chase. Kevin Newman, Josh Bell and Bryan Reynolds also homered for the Pirates, who won for just the third time in 21 games and only the fifth since the All-Star break.

Pirates 10, Angels 2: Mitch Keller (1-1) earned his first major league victory, Jacob Stallings had a homer and a two-run double, and visiting Pittsburgh snapped its eight-game losing streak with a victory over Los Angeles.

Rays 10, Padres 4: Avisail Garcia had a two-run home run among his three hits and Matt Duffy had four hits and three RBIs for Tampa Bay in its first game since San Diego in 2004.

The Rays won their fourth game in a row overall and their eighth straight on the road.

Joey Lucchesi (7-7) took the loss. He allowed three runs and five hits in 4 1/3 innings, struck out six and walked three.
The Nationals’ Trea Turner, right, celebrates after bringing home Victor Robles, left, and Erick Fedde in the fourth inning on Monday.

**American League**

**East Division**

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**MLB SCOREBOARD**

**Arizona**

- J.D. Martinez 2 HR, 5 RBI, 5 for 5; C.Kelly 2 HR, 4 RBI, 3 for 5; S.Kittredge 1 HR, 2 R, 3 for 5.
- Arizona 4-0, Arizona 8-3, Arizona 9-2.

**Boston**

- S. Wright 1 HR, 3 for 5; J. Davis 1 HR, 3 for 5; A. Gardner 1 HR, 3 for 5; B. C. Brown 2 HR, 2 for 5.
- Boston 4-2, Boston 8-3.

**Cincinnati**

- S. Marte 1 HR, 2 for 5; P. Strus 1 HR, 2 for 5; J. Arias 1 HR, 2 for 5; P. Rosario 1 HR, 2 for 5.
- Cincinnati 4-2, Cincinnati 8-3.

**Cleveland**

- S. Gordon 1 HR, 2 for 5; J. Reynolds 1 HR, 2 for 5; B. Buxton 1 HR, 2 for 5; T. Ruffin 1 HR, 2 for 5.
- Cleveland 4-2, Cleveland 8-3.

**Los Angeles**

- J. Aquino 1 HR, 2 for 5; J. Broxton 1 HR, 2 for 5; K. H. Miller 1 HR, 2 for 5; P. Hedges 1 HR, 2 for 5.
- Los Angeles 4-2, Los Angeles 8-3.

**Minnesota**

- G. S. Mauer 1 HR, 2 for 5; J. Mauer 1 HR, 2 for 5; B. Dozier 1 HR, 2 for 5; K. Donaldson 1 HR, 2 for 5.
- Minnesota 4-2, Minnesota 8-3.

**New York**

- M. Espinal 1 HR, 2 for 5; J. Bruce 1 HR, 2 for 5; C. Jeter 1 HR, 2 for 5; A. Sanchez 1 HR, 2 for 5.
- New York 4-2, New York 8-3.

**Tampa Bay**

- G. S. Rodriguez 1 HR, 2 for 5; J. Cron 1 HR, 2 for 5; T. Krieger 1 HR, 2 for 5; K. Sogard 1 HR, 2 for 5.
- Tampa Bay 4-2, Tampa Bay 8-3.

**Washington**

- M. Scherzer 1 HR, 2 for 5; B. Rigney 1 HR, 2 for 5; J. Zimmerman 1 HR, 2 for 5; C. MAXX 1 HR, 2 for 5.
- Washington 4-2, Washington 8-3.

**White Sox**

- J. Leuer 1 HR, 2 for 5; T. Krieger 1 HR, 2 for 5; K. Sogard 1 HR, 2 for 5; M. Scherzer 1 HR, 2 for 5.
- White Sox 4-2, White Sox 8-3.
MLB/NBA

Even-keeled Twins trying to stay that way in a tight race

By Dave Campbell
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The home clubhouse in Minnesota was silent after the final game of the series was lost to Cleveland in distressing fashion, a fifth defeat in the last seven contests for the Twins that let the surging Indians create another tie for the division lead.

As players packed for a road trip, minus the usual upbeat music blaring in the background, the mood in the room was hardly somber or tense. Even having the mood of a winning run get thrown out at the plate in the ninth inning and the team’s top relief pitcher give up a grand slam in the 10th didn’t qualify as a devastating development amid the 162-game grind of baseball.

Particularly not under the supervision of rookie manager Rocco Baldelli, whose perpetual-relaxed and upbeat demeanor is a reason why they didn’t start so hot. It’s a mark of their starting pitchers are building on.

The Twins, even if designated hitter Nelson Cruz is 39 and three of their starting pitchers are eligible for free agency this fall, surprised even a significant fraction of their own organization by taking a lead that ballooned to 11½ games on June 3. They’re built largely around players just entering their primes, like closer Taylor Rogers, whose ERA hit a season-worst 2.68 after Carlos Correa joined the team upon joining the team.

“Even-keeled Twins trying to stay that way in a tight race” by Dave Campbell

A break for players, fans

Some NBA tip-offs for TV will be earlier, back-backs down again

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

The NBA schedule is a little bit easier on players.

Fans may catch a break — and some more sleep — as well.

The league announced its 2019-20 schedule on Monday, featuring another dip in back-to-back games for teams and a major change in the number of nationally televised games starting at 10:30 p.m. on the East coast.

Golden State and the Los Angeles Lakers will start several games a half-hour earlier than usual, while broadcasts ESPN and Turner are going to earlier start times on many of their midweek doubleheader nights.

Some games have been on NBA Commissioner Adam Silver’s mind for some time, especially since roughly half of the nation’s television audience is in the Eastern time zone — but now, a number of the league’s biggest stars play on the West Coast. It’s a concern for nationally televised midweek games to end around 1 a.m. or even later last season, and that was reason enough for ratings.

“It’s something that I think we have to address,” Silver said in an interview.

And changes are definitely coming.

ESPN’s Wednesday doubleheaders — mostly at 8 and 10:30 p.m. last season — will begin at either 7 or 7:30 p.m., followed by a second game starting at 9:30 or 10 p.m. in the East. TNT had nine Tuesday doubleheaders last season with the second game starting at 10:30, so that season number is down to two.

In all, there were 57 games on a second television last season, starting at 10:30 p.m. last season. That number falls to 33 this season, a dip of 42 percent.

Meanwhile, players might be getting a touch more rest this season as well. For the first time since April 19, the NBA has found a way to lower the average number of times a team has to play on consecutive days. The league average is 12.4 back-to-backs this season, down from 13.3 last year and 36 percent down from the average of 19.3 five years ago.

The regular season ends with 13 games on April 15. The play-offs start April 18.

Other highlights from the 2019-20 schedule:

Opening night

Toronto will get its rings on Oct. 22, when it plays host to New Orleans and No. 1 overall pick Zion Williamson. The Lakers — now featuring Anthony Davis to play alongside LeBron James — will play at the Clippers — now featuring Kawhi Leonard and Paul George in the second half of that doubleheader, and that will be one of the 10:30 p.m. Eastern nationally televised midweek games that will otherwise be largely avoided this season.

Christmas

Toronto gets to host a Christmas game for the first time, playing host to Boston at noon Eastern. The other Christmas matchups (all times Eastern): Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 2:30 p.m.; Houston at Golden State, 5 p.m.; Clippers and Memphis (again against New Orleans).

Europe in prime time

The schedule features 48 games — 24 on Saturdays, 24 on Sundays — that will air in prime time in Europe. That doesn’t include the Jan. 24 game in Paris between Milwaukee and Charlotte.

Early list of NBA games to watch

Associated Press

The NBA released its upcoming schedule Monday and here are some rematches, homecomings and other games to watch during this 2019-20 NBA season:

Finals rematches: Toronto at Golden State, March 5; Golden State at Toronto, March 16.

It may be a while for the East to get back together and recreate — sort of — the 2019 NBA Finals. The Raptors won’t have Kawhi Leonard or Danny Green, the Warriors won’t have Klay Thompson, Shaun Livingston or Andre Iguodala. But since these games aren’t until March, there’s a reasonable chance that they will be back on the air.

Lakers-Clippers rivalry: The battle for L.A. this season could be the battle for the top spot in the Western Conference. They’ll play on opening night, Oct. 22; Christmas; Jan. 28 and then in an afternoon matchup on March 4.

MVP Showdown: NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks face now-former MVP James Harden and the Houston Rockets on Oct. 24 — in Houston, the season-opener for both teams. They won’t play again until March 25 in Milwaukee.

Warriors coach Steve Kerr speaks at a news conference after Game 3 of the NBA Finals against the Toronto Raptors in June.

The Houston guard will face Oklahoma City as an opponent for the first time on Oct. 28, and travel to OKC for the first time on Jan. 9.

Jimmy Butler-Sixers: The Heat forward will have a whole new point guard, since that’s when he’ll return to Boston for the first time as an opponent since leaving the Celtics.

Kemba Walker-Hornets: He returns to Charlotte for the first time on Nov. 7, when Boston visits the Hornets.

The Raptors will reunite with the 2019 NBA Finals MVP relatively early this season, and it’s likely that Leonard and Green will get their championship rings — along with one last well-deserved round of applause from the Raptors’ faithful — during the December trip to Toronto.

The NBA tip-offs for TV will be earlier, back-backs down again
NC State seeks next top WR target

By Aaron Beard
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina State needs to find its next go-to receiving threat.

The Wolfpack lost top receivers Kelvin Harmon and Jakobi Meyers — both ranked among the Atlantic Coast Conference’s leaders in multiple categories — to the NFL. Now Dave Doeren, who is looking at whether Emeka Emezie and the rest of the supporting cast are ready to handle those vacant leading roles.

“You’re taking two guys out of the offense who each had 80-plus balls and 1,000-yard seasons,” redshirt sophomore receiver Thayer Thomas said Sunday during the team’s preseason media day. “Those have to go to somewhere. ... [Receivers coach George McDonald] is expecting us to take on a lot, but I think we’re all ready for it.”

N.C. State certainly needs the receivers to be ready considering all the offensive changes for the Aug. 31 opener against East Carolina.

Senior quarterback Ryan Finley is in the NFL after three years as a starter, leaving an uncertain position battle all over the season top. Top rusher Reggie Ballage (1,091 yards and 18 touchdowns in 2018) is also gone, while offensive coordinator Eli Drinkwitz left to become the head coach at Appalachian State.

The departure of Harmon and Meyers has left a huge hole, too.

They were big receivers who presented challenges for almost all over the field. Harmon did his best work making tough contested catches, while Meyers took a major step making tough contested catches, presenting challenges all over the field.

Doeren praised Emezie’s willingness to learn from Harmon and Meyers last year, and said Sunday he’s shaken off an introverted nature to take a more outspoken leadership role among the receivers.

“I’m proud of him,” Doeren said. “Standing up in front of a group and talking is something that he would never have done two years ago. ... I think he’s (at) a lot different place mentally right now, where he can do that. The players look up to him. They really do, because of how hard he works and how serious it is to him.”

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Behind Emezie is Thomas (34 catches for 383 yards and three touchdowns), redshirt junior C.J. Riley (28 catches for 315 yards and two touchdowns) and graduate transfer Tabari Hines — who had played previously at Oregon and Wake Forest.

N.C. State will need all of them, too, to replace what was lost.

“It definitely shows us the blueprint of how to be successful here,” Riley said of Harmon and Meyers. “We watched them work, we watched them play. ... We’ve just got to follow their steps.”

By Mitch Stacy
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State defensive lineman Robert Landers (67) celebrates a sack last season. Landers struggles with mental illness, and he doesn’t care who knows it. In fact, he wants more people to know it.

He took to Twitter in the aftermath of the mass shooting in his hometown of Dayton to make his struggle public.

His coach, Ryan Day, feels so strongly about the issue that he and his wife sponsor a charity for pediatric and adolescent mental wellness at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus. It’s personified for Day, too, who was 9 when his own father killed himself.

Day said Ohio State also has added to its counseling staff this year for players who need someone to talk to.

“They understand that we’re here, (and) there’s no stigma attached to asking for help,” Day said. “It’s one of those things we want to make sure there is no stigma attached to it. I think our guys are hearing the message, and I’m proud of BB for standing up.”

More schools are now being proactive about watching players closely and trying to help.

For example, the Pac-12 has committed around $3.5 million per year in research grants for projects to improve the health, general well-being, and safety of student-athletes.

“I said this 10 years ago in a meeting one time in the ACC, and people said, well, they kind of laughed,” Texas A&M coach Jimbo Fisher said.

I said, listen, guys, mental health is a huge part of what’s going on right now,” he said. “When you’re 18, 20 years old, the kids — the things they’re facing is a hundred times greater than we ever did when we were coming up because of (the media) and the social media and the accessibility and the expectations. It’s crazy what these kids go through, and it’s a shame sometimes.”

Ohio State defensive lineman Robert Landers (67) celebrates a sack last season. Landers struggles with mental illness, and he doesn’t care who knows it. In fact, he wants more people to know it. He took to Twitter in the aftermath of the mass shooting in his hometown of Dayton to make his struggle public.

Landers shines light on mental health struggles

Ohio State DL hopes being up front about issue will help others

By George McDonald
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina State wide receiver Emeka Emezie is the most likely candidate to replace the production of receivers Kelvin Harmon and Jakobi Meyers, both of whom are in the NFL.

210-pound junior who had some strong games of his own as the team’s No. 3 target while finishing with 416 yards receiving. He’s even switched from jersey No. 86 to take Harmon’s No. 3 this year.

“I just tried to take different parts of their games,” Emezie said. “I’m still trying to take different parts of their games. I’m watching their film always. It just pays off. I see it on the field, I see it in practice, I see it in games.”

Doeren praised Emezie’s willingness to learn from Harmon and Meyers last year, and said Sunday he’s shaken off an introverted nature to take a more outspoken leadership role among the receivers.

“Behind Emzie is Thomas (34 catches for 383 yards and three touchdowns), redshirt junior C.J. Riley (28 catches for 315 yards and two touchdowns) and graduate transfer Tabari Hines — who had played previously at Oregon and Wake Forest.

N.C. State will need all of them, too, to replace what was lost.

“It definitely shows us the blueprint of how to be successful here,” Riley said of Harmon and Meyers. “We watched them work, we watched them play. ... We’ve just got to follow their steps.”
Murray loses first match in return to singles play

British Andy Murray, above, hits a forehand volley against France's Richard Gasquet, below, during first-round play Monday at the Western & Southern Open in Mason, Ohio. Gasquet won in straight sets.

**Associated Press**

MASON, Ohio — Andy Murray moved well in his first singles match since January, but not well enough to move on — even to the U.S. Open.

Using a bottomless arsenal of drop shots, Richard Gasquet snapped a five-match losing streak against Murray with a 6-4, 6-4 win in the first round of the Western & Southern Open on Monday.

The singles match was Murray's first since a painful exit from the Australian Open that had him thinking his career might be over. The three-time Grand Slam champion underwent a second hip surgery on Jan. 28, receiving metal implants that helped eliminate the pain that had hobbled him for a long time. Murray played doubles in several tournaments, including Wimbledon with Serena Williams and at Washington with brother Jamie, before deciding to try singles at Cincinnati, where he is a two-time champion.

"I don't really know what I was expecting, to be honest," Murray said. "I think I did OK. I think there was a lot of things I would like to have done better in the match, but, you know, you also have to be somewhat realistic, as well, in terms of what you can expect in terms of how you actually play and hit the ball."

"I think physically, you know, my legs were a little bit heavy at the end of the match in comparison to maybe what they normally would be if you played, you know, a bunch." The U.S. Open's wild-card inviting Murray to decide against playing in New York.

"We were hoping to maybe hold a wild card until a little bit closer to the time to see how I feel and get some matches, hopefully, and a bit of practice, but they were announcing the wild cards today and didn't want to wait," he said.

The 32-year-old's rust was evident as he double-faulted on his first serve, but he recovered to last 1 hour, 36 minutes with no apparent health issues.

Top-seeded Novak Djokovic and third-seeded Roger Federer remain in the men's draw. It's the first tournament for both players since their five-set final at Wimbledon, won by Djokovic in a match considered one of the greatest in history.

The other member of the Big Three, Rafael Nadal, withdrew from the Masters event, citing fatigue after he won the Rogers Cup in Montreal on Sunday.

The women's Rogers Cup champion, Canadian Bianca Andreescu, also withdrew from Cincinnatit to rest for the U.S. Open. Andreescu won in Toronto after Serena Williams retired with back problems.

Gasquet will play fourth-seeded Dominic Thiem in the second round.

Before a standing-room only Grantland Court crowd, including a teen boy waving a red-and-white pinata shaped like a horse, Nick Kyrgios reached the second round with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Lorenzo Song. Kyrgios will face eighth-seeded Karen Khachanov.

In the women's draw, five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova moved on to a second-round matchup with top-seeded Ashleigh Barty by knocking off fellow wildcard Alison Riske 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Among other men's matches, wildcard Sam Querrey earned a second-round berth opposite Djokovic with a 7-6 (2), 7-6 (1) win over Pierre-Hugues Herbert.

Lowry withdraws from consideration for World Cup team

**Associated Press**

Kyle Lowry of the NBA champion Toronto Raptors has withdrawn from the pool of candidates USA Basketball is considering to take to the FIBA World Cup later this month.

Lowry said his surgically repaired thumb isn't ready to allow him to participate in on-court workouts. He had surgery last month to repair a torn tendon that dogged him during the NBA playoffs, and was hopeful of being on the floor as early as Tuesday when the Americans resumed practices in El Segundo, Calif.

But after meeting with his surgeon on Monday, Lowry apparently realized he wasn't going to be able to play.

"I was hoping to be available in time to help my country in their quest for gold in this upcoming tournament," Lowry wrote on Instagram. "I love playing for the USA, but I have to do this one out and support the team from home."

Lowry's decision means 15 players are still in the running for 12 spots — and one of those is 15, Boston guard Marcus Smart, missed much of last week's camp in Las Vegas with a calf injury. It is possible that USA Basketball could add to the player pool before making any final decisions on the World Cup roster, though the Americans were also prepared if Lowry was not cleared to play.

**NCAA: Agents don't have to have degree**

**INDIANAPOLIS —** The NCAA backtracked Monday on new certification standards and will no longer require a bachelor's degree for a sports agent to represent Division I men's basketball players who declare for the NBA Draft while maintaining college eligibility.

The requirement drew criticism last week when the certification standards were revealed, including a social media blast by NBA star LeBron James. The requirement was quickly dubbed the "Rich Paul Rule" in reference to James' agent, who does not have a college degree.

The NCAA announced it would amend the standards so bachelor's degrees would not be required for agents currently certified and in good standing with the NBA players association. The NCAA had said last week it modeled its rules after those of the National Basketball Players Association.

**Baylor's Scott-Grayson dismissed from team**

WACO, Texas — Sophomore guard Honesty Scott-Grayson was dismissed by the Baylor women's basketball program Monday for an unspecified violation of team rules.

Scott-Grayson averaged 2.5 points for the Lady Bears last season in their run to the national championship.

This marks the second consecutive year that Baylor has removed a sophomore guard from the team for violating team rules. The Lady Bears dismissed Alexis Morris last September following Morris' productive freshman season.

Scott-Grayson was part of a five-player freshman class last season that was ranked No. 1 in the country by most recruiting publications.

**Seahawks' Wilson joins Sounders ownership**

SEATTLE — The Seattle Sounders are adding Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson and wife Ciara, hip-hop artist Macklemore and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella to the MLS club's ownership group.

Other investors are also coming aboard while current majority owner Adrian Hanauer is increasing his investment stake in the club. Hollywood producer Joe Roth, who helped bring the MLS to Seattle, is leaving the franchise.

Wilson has been attempting to get into sports ownership. He was previously a partner in an effort to build a new basketball arena in Seattle and has also been part of the project in Portland, Ore., to build a new football stadium in the hopes of luring an MLB team to the city.

**5 Russian weightlifters face doping charges**

MOSCOW — Five Russian weightlifters, all of them world or European championship medalists, face doping charges which could herald a new wave of cases across a range of sports.

The International Weightlifting Federation said Tuesday no evidence against the five lifters, including Olympic bronze medalist Ruslan Albegov, comes from new investigations by the World Anti-Doping Agency into widespread drug use in Russian sports.

Albegov is a two-time world champion who won bronze in July in a test event for next year's Olympics.

The others are world champion Timur Turlyyev and double European champions Oleg Chen and David Bedzhanyan, as well as Egor Klimonov, who won European championship silver in April.

Russia was banned entirely from weightlifting at the 2016 Olympics.
Carolina Panthers running back Cameron Artis-Payne carries the ball against the Bears during a preseason game Thursday in Chicago. The Panthers will hold joint practices with the Buffalo Bills this week before Friday's preseason meeting in Charlotte, N.C.

**Talent:** College football was already established when NFL came along

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playing a more entertaining style, the NFL surged in popularity in the middle of the 20th century and turned college football into a means to an end for many players.

Now college teams brag about sending players to the league, even while NCAA officials and college sports leaders try to downplay what has become obvious.

“Definitely think college football is sort of the minor leagues in a way. Like a breeding ground for the NFL,” said Eric Winston, who played 10 years in the NFL as an offensive lineman and is currently the president of the players’ association.

College football was already entrenched in American culture when the NFL was established in 1920 with most of its teams in small Midwestern towns.

“Baseball was the national pastime, but college football was the greatest sporting spectacle,” said Mike Oriard, a Notre Dame graduate and former NFL player who has written several books on the history of football.

When University of Illinois star Red Grange joined the NFL in 1925, a deal scandalously planned while he was still playing in college, he drew scorn from those in college football. Not only was professional football considered barbarian, it was thought to be a lesser version of the sport. Indeed, the NFL champion played a yearly exhibition game in August against a team of college all-stars in Chicago, starting in 1934. The college players won six of the first 17 games and there were two ties.

Grange became one of America’s most famous sports stars, but he was more a phenomenon than a trend setter.

“Professional football was out there as an option for former college players who didn’t have anything better to do,” Oriard said. “It was the Depression and if you didn’t get a job right out of college you might play pro football for a couple of years.”

After the league reorganized in the early 1930s and moved teams to big cities, it established a college draft. Berwanger was the first player selected, taken by the Philadelphia Eagles. His rights were later traded to the Chicago Bears. But the team never could meet his salary demands.

Davy O’Brien won the Heisman Trophy in 1938 and was the first winner to play in the NFL. He lasted two years before joining the PHL. That was typical throughout the 1940s and into the 50s. Dick Kazmaier, a running back for Princeton, won the Heisman in 1951 and was drafted by the Bears. He decided to go to Harvard business school.

Despite all that, the NFL was gaining traction among working-class fans in places such as New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Cleveland that didn’t directly compete with college football. Salaries were growing and a career in football was becoming more appealing. College football viewed the NFL as the opposition and tried to keep it at a distance.

“I initially, when I came into the league, was very afraid of it and especially with the Cowboys in the 60s there were a lot of schools that did everything but ban you from their campus,” said Gil Brandt, the longtime Cowboys executive inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

In the 1960s, the emergence of the AFL brought competition for players and escalated salaries. While the college game was still mostly run-based, professional football teams were pushing the passing game. Joe Namath threw almost as many passes (340) in his first season with the New York Jets of the AFL as he did in his 30-game career (374) at Alabama.

“Eventually the NFL became so much more fun to watch,” Brandt said.

While the NCAA had rules in place that limited how often the top teams could appear on television, fearing it would be a recruiting advantage and draw fans away from attending games, they wanted as much television exposure as possible.

By the mid-1960s, top college football players were assumed to be heading to the NFL. It was clearly a step up in competition. The last time a college all-star team beat an NFL champion was 1963, a loss Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi held over his players for years. The game was discontinued in 1976.

In the 1970s and 1980s, NFL strategies became more pervasive in college football, most notably in the increased reliance on the pass. As the two versions of the sport became more similar, college players were entering the NFL better prepared to play professional football.

The most significant development in the late-NFL-to-AFL line in the 1980s came in 1989, when Sanders decided to jump to the San Francisco 49ers. Sanders had been a three-year starter at Colorado and was drafted No. 3 overall by the Denver Broncos in 1987.

That year a record 135 players gave up college eligibility to enter the NFL Draft once they were three years removed from high school graduation.

Big-time programs — not just the likes of Alabama, Clemson and Ohio State but want to be seen as a fast track to an NFL payday. "They're now displaying the names of former players who have moved on to the NFL on the walls of football facilities, in the pages of media guides and on social media."

Mike Lombardi, a former NFL executive who has worked for the Cincinnati Bengals, Seattle Seahawks and Cleveland Browns, said the message from college coaches is: “You come here, you know you'll develop you into a pro player. It sells that program.”
Talent pipeline

College football a de facto minor league

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

Jay Berwanger won the inaugural Heisman Trophy in 1935 for the University of Chicago and became the No. 1 player taken in the first NFL Draft a few months later.

He chose to work at a rubber company and be a part-time coach for his alma mater rather than try to make a living playing football.

More than five decades later, Oklahoma State Heisman Trophy winner Barry Sanders threatened to sue the NFL if it did not allow him to be drafted while he still had college eligibility.

In the early days of the NFL, college football was king and playing professionally was not something most players aspired to do. By planting its flag in large cities, embracing television exposure and

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Clockwise from top left: Illinois’ Red Grange; Chicago’s Jay Berwanger; Oklahoma State’s Barry Sanders. AP photos

Shining a light
Buckeyes’ Landers open about mental health struggles » College football, Page 29

Torres leads Yanks to doubleheader sweep » MLB, Page 26