How resourceful crewmembers keep Polar Star, the Coast Guard’s dilapidated 43-year-old icebreaker, mission-ready

By Richard Read
Los Angeles Times

The icebreaker Polar Star was 1,000 miles out of its homeport of Seattle last December, three days into its yearly voyage to resupply scientific bases in Antarctica, when a powerful swell hit its bow and flooded the deck.

The ship shuddered.

The roar of the ventilators in the galley quit as Joseph Sellar, a 25-year-old Coast Guard culinary specialist from New Hampshire, watched seawater explode from the ceiling.

He lunged toward a switch to close the overhead vents. With a loud pop, an outlet ejected a spark.

"Are we sinking?" asked a petty officer on temp duty from Virginia.

Sellar knew better.

"Calm down," he said, whipping out his cellphone to record the gusher.

The U.S. spends $2 billion a day on the most advanced military ever assembled, with more aircraft carriers, fighter planes and nuclear submarines than any other nation. The Pentagon intends to develop a space fleet of orbiting lasers, missile sensors and satellites.

Then there is the Polar Star.

SEE ICEBREAKER ON PAGE 4

By Tara Copp
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Former Air Force and Navy fighter pilots are calling on the military to begin cancer screenings for aviators as young as 30 because of an increase in deaths from the disease that they suspect may be tied to radiation emitted in the cockpit.

“We are dropping like flies in our 50s from aggressive cancers,” said retired Air Force Col. Eric Nelson, a former F-15E Strike Eagle weapons officer. He cited prostate and esophageal cancers, lymphoma and glioblastomas that have struck fellow pilots he knew, commanded or flew with.

Nelson’s prostate cancer was first detected at age 48, just three months after he retired from the Air Force. In his career he has more than 2,600 flying hours, including commanding the 455th Air Expeditionary Group in Bagram, Afghanistan, and as commander of six squadrons of F-15E fighter jets at the 4th Operations Group at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina.

Last month McClatchy reported on a new Air Force study that reviewed the risk for prostate cancers among its fighter pilots and new Veterans Health Administration data showing that the rate of reported cases of prostate cancers per year among veterans using the VA health care system across all services has risen almost 16% since fiscal year 2000.

The Air Force study also looked at cockpit exposure, finding that “pilots have greater environmental exposure to ultraviolet and ionizing radiation ... (fighter pilots) have unique intra-cockpit exposures to non-ionizing radiation.”

SEE PILOTS ON PAGE 3
MILITARY

US, Malaysia wrap up joint training

BY CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy finished five days of training with its Malaysian counterparts on Sunday, the 25th year of a regular exercise and the first year the U.S. Coast Guard has taken part. Maritime Training Activity Malaysia 2019 closed with a ceremony at the Royal Malaysian Naval Base at Lumut on the Strait of Malacca, the Navy said in a news release.

The exercise involved drills to improve maritime security and law enforcement skills and included training in counterpiracy, countersmuggling, port security and maritime interdiction. More than 300 sailors and Coast Guardsmen from both countries took part, according to the Navy.

The Coast Guard contingent trained with its counterparts from the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency.

The Strait of Malacca is an important commercial waterway that links the Bay of Bengal and the South China Sea. The United States has worked with friendly nations and allies in the area, from Sri Lanka to Indonesia and Australia, to improve "interoperability," the ability to work together in the event of a crisis, as well as tend to friendly relationships.

The U.S. Coast Guard commandant, Adm. Karl Schultz, in July told reporters that Malaysia is among several countries in the Indo-Pacific region whose coast guard the United States has helped train. At the time, Schultz said partnering with western Pacific island nations will help the United States counter assertive action by China to expand its sphere of influence.

"We are collaborating, working very diligently with the Vietnamese," the admiral said at the time. "We've worked with the Malaysians, the Indonesians, helping them build out their capacity, with the Philippines, as I've mentioned."

During the Malaysian exercise last week, the two nations held naval exercises at sea, including tactical drills, replenishment at sea and visit, board, search and seizure drills.

A temporary fast transport USNS Millinocket and the replenishment oiler USNS Rappahannock practiced with a frigate and corvette from the Malaysian navy and a vessel from the Malaysian coast guard, according to the Navy.

U.S. and Malaysian helicopter pilots practiced deck landings in the Navy’s MH-60S Seahawk, the Coast Guard’s MH-65 Dolphin and the Royal Malaysian Navy’s Super Lynx.

Onshore portions of the exercise included classroom sessions on damage control, military operations and law, military medicine and aviation maintenance. Sailors from Task Force 73, Destroyer Squadron 7, the littoral combat ship USS Montgomery, the Coast Guard cutter Stratton and Helicopter Combat Squadron 25 took part, according to the Navy.

All the vessels and units are part of the U.S. 7th Fleet, which is headquartered at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

"This speaks to the importance that both our navies and coast guards place on the sustained interoperability, and we look forward to working with our partners at every opportunity."

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PHOTOS BY TRISTIN BARTHELS

US, Malaysia wrap up joint training

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Stratton prepares to moor near the USS Montgomery at Lumut Naval Base, Malaysia, on Aug. 13 as part of Maritime Training Activity Malaysia 2019.

Ships of the U.S. Navy, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency and Royal Malaysian Navy sail together Friday during the exercise.

An Aug. 17 story about the Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands program should have said that Air Force Lt. Col. Frank D. Bryant Jr. died in 2011.

An Aug. 15 story should have said that the Air Force has installed new wings on 173 of its 281 A-10 aircraft; the service is looking for a contract to replace wings on the remainder.

Corrections
By Jennifer H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

A building at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., now bears the name of a former Spangdahlem airman who was murdered last year outside his Louisiana home, one of five Barksdale airmen and civilians to be killed in the last 14 months.

Tech. Sgt. Joshua Kidd’s family, including his wife and young son, unveiled the new name — “TSgt Joshua L. Kidd Weapons Load Training Facility” — at a dedication ceremony last week, the Air Force said in a statement.

Kidd was killed by a gunshot to the chest on the morning of Sept. 25, 2018, after he interrupted two youths who prosecutors say were trying to steal items from his car outside his Bossier City home.

Two Louisiana teenagers have been charged as adults in connection with his death.

“I would wish more than anything that Josh could see this,” the Air Force statement quoted his wife, Alyssa Kidd, as saying at the ceremony Friday. “There are no words to describe what it’s like to see all of you come out and support Joshua. It’s a true testament to how he impacted each and every one of us.”

Final approval for dedicating the building in Kidd’s name came from Gen. Timothy Ray, head of Air Force Global Strike Command, the service said.

Kidd was recognized during the ceremony for his “unwavering leadership and influential legacy,” the Air Force said.

A GoFundMe campaign created last year, which raised nearly $44,000 for Alyssa Kidd and the couple’s young son, Beckham, for gear and for a scholarship fund for the professional pilot academy, has helped to assist deployed airmen and their families and older mentor younger airmen.

Kidd enlisted in the Air Force in March 2008. Before his assignment to Barksdale, he was assigned to Osan Air Base, South Korea, and Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, where, from 2009 to 2012, he was a weapons load crew chief.

Kidd was one of five installations in his 25-year Air Force career identified as needing to be made safer since June 2018, according to the Air Force.

The state of murders prompted 2nd Bomb Wing commander Col. Michael Miller to issue a statement last month expressing concern about the safety of airmen and civilians assigned to the wing, home to three squadrons of B-52 Stratofortress bombers.

“The residents and leaders of our country have been absent in their commitment to live,” said a 2019 speech by the Air Force’s first female four-star general, Gen. Glen Chisholm, who recently retired.

Alyssa Kidd and her son, Beckham, receive a replica of the plaque that will go onto the newly named “TSgt Joshua L. Kidd Weapons Load Training Facility” from Col. Michael Cholvari, 2nd Maintenance Group commander at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., on Friday. Kidd was killed last fall in an attempted break-in of his vehicle outside his home in Bossier, La.

The military’s health care system, TriCare, currently covers prostate cancer screenings at age 50 for servicemembers with no family history of the disease and as young as age 40 if there is a family history of the disease in two or more family members. The pilots who spoke with McClayt said they did not have a family history of prostate cancer when they were diagnosed.

Retired Navy Cmdr. Thomas Hill was a career F-4 and F-14 pilot and squadron commanding officer with more than 3,600 flight hours and more than 960 aircraft carrier landings. Hill was 52 when he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. In December 2011, at age 60, he learned he also had esophageal cancer.

Hill has spent the last two years tracking premature deaths or cancers among former commanding officers of F-14 squadrons. So far he’s found more than 10 current or former officers who have either been diagnosed or have died from the disease.

“God, they’re all my friends,” he said. What has frustrated some pilots is that the government has looked into the connection between military service and cancer rates for years, but with mixed results.

For example, a 2009 peer-reviewed study published by the American Association for Cancer Research looked at cancer rates among servicemembers from 1990 to 2004 and reported in 2009 that “prostate cancer rates in the military were two to three times those in the general population, and breast cancer rates were 20% to 40% higher.”

However, a 2011 study published in the peer-reviewed journal “Aviation, Space and Environmental Medicine” found no significant difference in prostate cancer rates between pilots and nonpilots in the military. It’s the same conclusion that the Air Force study reached.

“The Air Force did not ask the right question,” Hill said of the study, which like the 2011 aviation journal review compared cancer rates between pilots and nonpilots. Hill said he did not look at what happened to the pilots’ health after their military careers. The Air Force said its study was limited by lack of access to pilots’ health records after they separated from the service.

“If they are really going to protect the people who have gone out and served, they need to look at the guys’ health 20 years after they have finished their military careers,” Hill said.

His own informal review of fellow pilots showed a similar pattern. Cancers usually surfaced about 15 to 20 years after pilots left the military, which would not have been captured by the Air Force review.

Derek Kaufman, a spokesman for Air Force Materiel Command, said further studies are under consideration.

“We have presented potential options for a follow-up study to the Air Force Medical Readiness Agency,” Kaufman said.

None of the pilots who spoke with McClayt said a greater risk of cancer would have kept them from flying. They said the military should acknowledge the risk and put additional protections in place for the next generation of military aviators.

Hill said he’s also worried about the enlisted crew who manned the flight decks of the aircraft carriers.

“The kids that worked the flight line and the flight deck were exposed eight hours a day to that stuff,” retired Cmdr. Thomas Hill, Navy

The military said the Barksdale community to come out and support Kidd’s family said the building in Kidd’s name came from Gen. Timothy Ray, head of Air Force Global Strike Command, the service said.

MILLITARY

USAF base dedicates facility to slain airmen

Pilots: No link established between radiation from jet radars and illnesses

FROM FRONT PAGE

Retired Navy Cmdr. Mike Crosby served as a radar intercept officer in F-14 fighter jets from 1994 to 1997, accumulating more than 2,000 flight hours. He started Veterans Prostate Cancer Awareness Inc. in 2016 after his own prostate cancer diagnosis.

“I think there’s been a lot of avoidance in addressing this issue,” he said.

Crosby and other pilots who contacted McClatchy said they suspect the cancers in their community may be linked to prolonged exposure in the cockpit to radiation from the radar systems on their advanced jets, or other sources such as from cockpit oxygen generation systems.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that exposure to some types of radiation can cause cancer.

However, to date there has been no link established between the specific radiation emitted from radars on the advanced jets and the illnesses pilots are now seeing.

“When you’re 30 years old you need to start screening for prostate cancer, even if it comes out of your own pocket,” Nelson said. “You need to see a urologist once a year. Not your primary care physician, not your flight doc. Pay the money and stick around for your great-grandkids.”

If the military would begin screening for cancer earlier, “that would save lives,” Nelson said.

The military’s health care system, TriCare, currently covers prostate cancer screenings at age 50 for servicemembers with no family history of the disease and as young as age 40 if there is a family history of the disease in two or more family members.

The pilots who spoke with McClatchy said they did not have a family history of prostate cancer when they were diagnosed.

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Hill said he’s also worried about the enlisted crew who manned the flight decks of the aircraft carriers.

“One day every 2 months,” Hill said. "Not a bad risk to go fly a jet when you are one of five members and their families assigned to Barksdale Air Force Base,” Hill said in the statement. “Not only am I concerned about their personal well-being, but also our ability to recruit and retain the very best talent to complete our mission to defend our nation.”

Local news radio station KEEL reported Miller sent an email to the Bossier Parish Sheriff’s Office, asking police Chief Ben Raymond, saying that the “overwhelming consensus” of most residents in the neighborhood that Barksdale was that Shreveport and Bossier City “are not safe places to live.”
The ship's bulbous prow thrust upward, riding a ledge, penguins scattering in its path. Then it crashed through the ice sheet. Glistening, boulder-sized shards broke off, bobbing toward the stern. On the dashboard, an indicator light flashed red. A black wall phone jangled. “You’re overloading the port shaft,” said a voice from main control, deep below decks.

It was a refrain familiar to Kutkiewicz and the other four ice pilots who rotated in three-hour shifts around the clock.

The ship was now a 13,500-ton jackhammer.

Four days and 4 miles into the ice, the Polar Star sprang a leak. Seawater sprayed through a broken fitting in a cramped compartment that houses the shaft turning the main propeller, which drives water past the rudder.

Without a speedy fix to regain steering, the Polar Star would face a nightmare scenario: getting stuck in ice as the ocean froze around it. With no other heavy icebreakers in its fleet, the U.S. would have little choice but to rely on foreign help for a rescue.

Crewmembers figured that if anyone could plug the hole, it would be chief engineer Brad Jopling, the son of a Montana heavy-equipment mechanic. Jopling, 40, never complained about being woken at odd hours by mechanics presenting handfuls of broken parts.

A portable pump slowed the water’s rise while he and his team worked for hours to plug the fist-sized hole.

Two Navy divers suited up. Laden with ropes, rubber mats and heavy plastic wrap, they were about to descend 30 feet to Polar Star’s idled propellers when a watch officer noticed a different threat: a pod of killer whales.

**SEE ICEBREAKER ON PAGE 5**
Icebreaker: Coast Guard expects to keep vessel in service 7 more years

FROM PAGE 4
Two hours later, the divers finally splashed into the water and bound the mats around the leaking propeller shaft where it protruded from the hull. The hope was that, wrapped in plastic, the mats would form enough of a seal to slow the flow.

On a second try, they managed to cut the stream to a trickle. The plan had worked.

Jopling and an assistant crawled back into the compartment, staying off the cold with jokes about working without pay. Crouching in water up to their necks, they used a wrench adapted in the ship’s welding shop to remove and replace the fitting.

“If you don’t mind, it don’t matter,” Jopling liked to say.

But he cared deeply for the ship and worked not just to fix it but to make it stronger.

“Well, that didn’t sound right,” she said to a co-worker.

On more modern ships, crewmembers can remotely activate sprinkler systems or chemical retardants. Not on the Polar Star.

Kutkiewicz broke out the thermal imaging camera. She grabbed a thermal imaging camera. She grabbed a thermal imaging camera. She grabbed a thermal imaging camera.

A shot of purple fire retardant darted toward the ceiling. But the sense of peace was short-lived. On Feb. 11, one day into the trip home, another fire broke out.

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But he cared deeply for the ship and worked not just to fix it but to make it stronger.

“The bleeding into it, and pour your heart and soul into it,” he said. “All you got to do is get everyone home safe and make it better.”

The leak and repair had halted the ship for more than 30 hours. Some crew members had seized the opportunity to take in the stark beauty of a continent that had no countries, currency, cities or hotels.

In his stateroom, Stancil held the crumbling part between his thumb and forefinger. The brittle fitting, an inch and a quarter in diameter, had been mistakenly installed during a previous repair.

It was made of mild steel instead of corrosion-resistant copper nickle.

Cause for alarm
The Polar Star suffered shipwide power outages twice over the next 11 days. Steel bars meant wide power outages twice over.

The ship spent two weeks at the McMurdo Station ice base, not counting a jaunt back for 123,000 cookies, 18 concrete foundation footers, a tractor-trailer and a construction elevator.

The day before the Polar Star departed McMurdo, Stancil let crewmembers walk out on the ice sheet for a few hours. Some played touch football. One group admired seals and an emperor penguin. Kutkiewicz broke out her cross-country skis.

But the sense of peace was short-lived. On Feb. 11, one day into the trip home, another fire broke out. Then another.

Courtney Will, a damage control petty officer, was working in the ship’s coffee shop two levels below the main deck when she heard a boom.

“Then, we did sound right,” she said to a co-worker.

Six hundred and fifty miles north of Antarctica, arenas blared.

Coast Guard officials say more ships in the Arctic mean more potential accidents and rescues, more smuggling to interdict, more terrorists to stop and greater need to assert U.S. sovereignty in the nation’s economic zones extending 230 miles from shore.

They expect the Polar Star to remain in service at least seven more years to accompany the new vessel to Antarctica for two seasons as a backup. That would make it a half-century old.

And so, in April the ship traveled from Seattle to the California port of Vallejo, where tugboats nudged it into a slip and onto blocks. Muddy water drained from around the scarred hull.

Workers swarmed the ship like a pit crew at Indianapolis. They would strip down and rebuild engines and turbines. They’d patch up the desalination units yet again. They’d place the three 85,000-pound propellers on wide-load trucks to haul them 600 miles to Oregon for reconditioning.

They had five months to overhaul the Polar Star for next season.

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African military's work on valuing NCOs as US does

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

GARMISCH, Germany — High-ranking enlisted troops in four African nations visiting this week illustrate the importance of noncommissioned officers in some African militaries, where senior enlisted ranks don’t have the same status as in the U.S. military.

Another African senior NCO, one of more than 60 in attendance at the first conference he’d ever attended for enlisted leaders in more than 30 years of service.

African militaries work on valuing NCOs as US does

By Chad Garland
Stars and Stripes

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Afghan leader vows to crush ISIS safe havens

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan—Afghanistan's president on Monday vowed to “eliminate” all safe havens of Islamic State as the country marked a(subdued 100th Independence Day after a horrific wedding attack claimed by the local ISIS affiliate.

President Ashraf Ghani's comments came as Afghanistan mourns at least 63 people, including children, killed in the Kabul bombing at a wedding hall late Saturday night. Close to 200 others were wounded.

Initial violence was reported Monday as an Afghan official said at least 66 people were wounded in a series of explosions in the eastern city of Jalalabad. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Many outraged Afghans are asking whether an approaching deal between the United States and the Taliban could bring peace. The Taliban insist on agreeing to a broader peace process that could take years.

More than anything in their nearly yearlong negotiations with the U.S., the Taliban want some 20,000 U.S. and allied forces to withdraw from the country. The U.S. for its part wants Taliban assurances that Afghanistan — which hosted al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden before 9/11 — will not be a launching pad for global terrorist attacks.

The U.S. envoy in talks with the Taliban, Zalmay Khalilzad, on Sunday said the peace process should be accelerated to help Afghanistan defeat the ISIS affiliate. That would include intra-Afghan talks on the country's future, a process that could take years.

But Ghani on Monday asserted that the Taliban, whom the U.S. now hopes will help to curb the ISIS affiliate’s rise, are just as much to blame for the wedding attack. His government is openly frustrated at being sidelined from the U.S. talks with the insurgent group, which regards the Afghan government as a U.S. puppet.

The deadly bombing at a wedding in Afghanistan’s capital late Saturday was a stark reminder that the war-wary country faces daily threats not only from the long-established Taliban but also from a brutal local affiliate of Islamic State, that claimed responsibility for the attack.

Here is a look at some of the deadliest attacks in recent years.

2019

Aug. 17. An ISIS suicide bomber kills at least 63 people, including women and children, at a crowded wedding party in Kabul.

Aug. 31. A Taliban car bomb aimed at Afghan security forces kills 14 people and wounds more than 140 in Kabul.

Sept. 28. A roadside bomb tears through a bus in western Afghanistan, killing at least 32 people.

July 28. An attack against the Kabul office of the Afghan president's running mate kills at least 20 people.

2018

Nov. 20. A suicide bomber kills at least 50 at a gathering of Islamic scholars in Kabul.

Sept. 11. A suicide bombing at a rally against a police commander in eastern Afghanistan kills at least 68. An ISIS claim responsibility after a suicide blast in a Shiite area in Kabul kills 34 students.

March 8. ISIS claims responsibility after gunmen wearing white lab coats storm a military hospital in Kabul, killing 60 people.

Dec. 28. An ISIS suicide bomber strikes a Shiite cultural center in Kabul, killing at least 41 people.

July 23. A suicide bomber detonates his explosive vest among demonstrators in Kabul, killing at least 61 people.

April 30. ISIS claims responsibility after a double suicide bombing in Kabul kills at least 25, including several journalists.

April 22. An ISIS suicide bomber attacks a voter registration center in Kabul, killing 57 people.

Jan. 27. The Taliban claim responsibility after a bomb-rigged ambulance explodes in Kabul, killing at least 103.

The deadliest recent attacks in Afghanistan

Turkey says airstrikes target its army convoy in Syria, kill 3

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Air strikes targeting a Turkish army convoy inside Syria on Monday, killing three civilians and wounding others, the Turkish Defense Ministry said, but there was no word on Turkish casualties.

The ministry said the convoy was attacked while heading to a Turkish observation post in the rebel-held stronghold of Idlib, where Syrian troops have been on the offensive since late April.

However, Syria's Foreign Ministry said the convoy of armored vehicles was delivering ammunition to a major rebel-held town, Khan Sheikhun, which lies on the front line of fighting along the southern edge of the enclave.

The town is a stronghold of the al-Qaeda-linked militant group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the most powerful group in the rebel-held area.

The Turkish move into Idlib appears to be a message by Ankara that it will not allow Syrian forces to capture Khan Sheikhun. Syrian government forces also targeted Khan Sheikhun on Monday. The town’s fall would also cut the highway linking Idlib to northern parts of Hama province, home to one of Turkey’s 12 observation posts on the edge of Idlib province.

Turkey’s private DHA news agency said Syrian government planes targeted the route of a Turkish military convoy carrying reinforcement vehicles and personnel. The report said the convoy could not proceed because the route between Maaret al-Numan and Khan Sheikhun was targeted, and sheltered at a safe location. The agency did not report any casualties.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said air strikes believed to be Russian struck near the highway and forced the nearly 25-vehicle Turkish convoy to stop.

Mazen al-Shami, an opposition activist based in Idlib, also said that warplanes struck areas near where the convoy was moving. The Shami Network, an activist collective, posted photos of the convoy — a mushroom of smoke, apparently from the airstrike, could be seen in the distance.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry called the convoy’s incursion a “flagrant Turkish intervention,” saying it had reached Saraqib, a town north of Khan Sheikhun early on Monday.
White House to end payments of some foreign aid

By Justin Sink

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration will move forward within days with a plan to cancel certain foreign aid payments authorized by Congress, setting up a fight with lawmakers opposed to the move.

A senior administration official confirmed that the so-called rescissions package would be announced early this week.

Some of the funding being zeroed out was for projects like installing solar panels in the Caribbean and creating safe spaces in Ireland for people upset about Brexit, said the administration official, who declined to be identified discussing plans not yet made public.

CNN reported Saturday that the move would take aim at funding for the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as the United Nations for certain peacekeeping operations in the Northern Triangle countries of Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

The official said that Congress, during the Trump administration, has funded State and USAID at about $12 billion above the president’s budget requests, and that the rescission package would return some of that excess back to the budget.

Republican lawmakers who are typically Trump allies, notably Sen. Lindsey Graham, of South Carolina, last week urged the president to reconsider “in the strongest possible terms” after word of the possible rescissions was reported.

“We share your concern about our mounting national debt, which in itself creates security risks to the country,” Graham and Rep. Hal Rogers, of Kentucky, said in a letter to Trump.

“But it has been reported that this proposal makes sweeping and indiscriminate cuts with- out regard to national security impacts.”

The post tagged the Jewish Community Center, of Youngstown. Authorities say the Instagram account was Reardon’s.

Fla. man accused of planning mass shooting

DAYTONA BEACH SHORES, Fla. — Authorities said a Florida man has been arrested and accused of threatening a mass shooting in text messages.

The Volusia County Sheriff’s Office said Tristan Scott Wix, 25, of Daytona Beach, sent several text messages stating he wanted to “break a world record for longest confirmed kill ever.”

The office said that in another message Wix tested he wanted to reach 100 victims and had decided on a location.

It was unclear whom Wix was texting or how deputies obtained the information.

Dravon Ames speaks at a June 18 community meeting in Phoenix as his fiancee, Iesha Harper, holds their daughter. London. Ames’ run-in with police, captured on cellphone video, contributed to calls for civilian oversight of police in Phoenix.

Phoenix looks to be next big city where citizens allowed to help oversee police killings of black men and others in recent years.

Police in Colorado Springs, Colo., released video last week showing officers fatally shooting a black man as he ran away.

Williams, who’s a black woman, and other Phoenix officials are moving toward adopting some kind of independent civilian oversight of police and are visiting communities this month to review their models.

Walker, who co-wrote the book “The New World of Police Accountability,” said citizen oversight is a must for all modern U.S. police agencies.

“Phoenix needs to get over this opposition to civilian oversight. It exists virtually everywhere else,” Walker said. “It is a basic way of building trust.”

Walker said there are two basic types of oversight: civilian review boards, which investigate individual complaints, and independent auditors or monitors, which he prefers because they recommend practices and policies. There are also hybrids with elements of both.

“The communities need a process they can trust, whether it is a board, an auditor or a monitor,” agreed Liana Perez, of the educational group the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement.

While oversight boards or monitors offer recommendations, final decisions on firings and other discipline lie with the police chief and city and state laws.

The Phoenix Law Enforcement Association said on its website that it’s a “bad idea” for civilians unfamiliar with state and U.S. constitutional law to make independent recommendations about police discipline.

The union added that residents already sit on some Phoenix police boards with officers and commanders who oversee use-of-force cases.

But the civilian review models would go further and be independent from the police department.

Civilian board members could recommend discipline of officers and changes in policies and procedures. Depending on what Phoenix chooses, board members could even get subpoena power to compel people they are investigating to testify.

The police union did not respond to requests for additional comment on civilian review.

The changes came after cellphone video emerged in June showing Phoenix officials answering a shoplifting call by aiming their guns and yelling obscenities at Dravon Ames and his pregnant fiancee, Iesha Harper, who was holding their 1-year-old daughter. The video sparked outcry nationwide.

The couple later said their 4-year-old daughter took a doll from a store without their knowledge.

Man accused of threat to Jewish center jailed

NEW MIDDLETOWN, Ohio — Police said a man accused of making what they believe was a threat to a Jewish center in Ohio on Instagram has been arrested on telecommunications harassment and aggravated menacing charges.

New Middletown police said they arrested James Reardon Jr., 20, at his home Saturday in a Mahoning County village. WKBN-TV reported police Chief Vincent D’Egidio said Reardon allegedly posted a video last month of a man shooting a semi-automatic rifle with the caption: “Police identified the Youngstown Jew- ish Family Community shooter as local white nationalist Seamus O’Rearedon.”

Reardon was scheduled to be arraigned Monday by video in Struthers Municipal Court.
Suburban voters pressure GOP to act on gun safety

By Jonathan J. Cooper
Associated Press

GILBERT, Ariz. — Following the news has grown stressful for Angela Tetschner, a 39-year-old nurse raising four children in this sprawling Phoenix suburb of tile roofs, desert yards, young families and voters who are increasingly up for grabs.

"Sometimes I do think about the school shootings," Tetschner, who doesn’t pay much attention to politics but has been disappointed in President Donald Trump, said days after sending her 5-year-old boy to kindergarten. She’d like to see Congresstighten gun laws, but her expectations for action are low.

"I can’t put your kid in school and just hope and pray that nothing happens."

Tetschner’s worries are weighing heavy on Republicans in Arizona and elsewhere in the wake of recent mass shootings. The party has seen once-reliable suburbs turn competitive as women worry about their children’s safety and bristle at Trump’s harsh rhetoric on race and immigration, and they embrace Democratic alternatives in last year’s midterm elections.

GOP candidates looking ahead at tough races increasingly are eyeing new ways to address anxieties about gun violence, and to do that without crossing the party’s base, which sees gun restrictions as an infringement on the constitutional right to bear arms.

“Republicans’ backs are already against the wall among suburban voters, particularly college-educated women,” said Whit Ayres, a Republican consultant. “And the inability of our political leaders to pass reasonable reforms related to gun violence only makes the matter worse.”

That tension is palpable in Arizona, a state with an ardent gun culture as well as a growing population of newcomers seeking jobs and affordable housing in the suburbs that ring Phoenix.

Republican Sen. Martha McSally’s challenge is to navigate that divide. The freshman senator is facing a difficult reelection fight, probably against Democrat Mark Kelly, a former astronaut who became a prominent gun control advocate after his wife, then-U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, was shot in the head in an attempted assassination in Tucson in 2011.

While gun control often fades from the conversation weeks after a high-profile shooting, the issue is likely to be a steady presence in this race but not determine the outcome by itself.

“Republicans’ backs are against the wall, trying to find their decision-making process, but it’s only a part of it,” said David Winston, a Republican pollster who advises GOP congressional leaders.

Pressure on McSally has been evident since shootings in California, Texas and Ohio. She has adopted a softer tone and spoken forcefully against hate and domestic terrorism. A vocal supporter of gun rights who once called universal background checks unconstitutional, McSally now says she is open to talking about new gun laws.

She also said she intends to introduce legislation to make domestic terrorism a federal crime.

“We all need to do our part, whether there’s a federal element, a state element, a society element,” McSally told reporters in Phoenix on Thursday. “Let’s figure out what we can do that’s meaningful, that’s thoughtful, that’s not political theater in order to stop these crimes.”

McSally’s message echoes what other Republicans are saying.

After two shootings killed 31 people in less than 24 hours, President Donald Trump started talking about tougher background checks on gun buyers and prominent Republican expressed support for laws that make it easier for authorities to seize weapons from people deemed suicidal or dangerous.

After Amash dumped Trump, his district may do same to him

By Sara Burnett
Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Erinna Betka-Pope was on her lunch break when she spotted hundreds of Donald Trump supporters protesting outside the office of Rep. Justin Amash, the first Republican on Capitol Hill to say Congressshould begin impeachment proceedings against the president.

The protesters, who stood on the sidewalk with “Squash Amash” signs, saw his comments as the ultimate betrayal of a president they adore. But for Betka-Pope, a Trump critic, Amash’s actions were commendable—and worthy of a counterprotest. The 32-year-old from Grand Rapids, who works in theater and sketch comedy, put on a Trump mask she bought days after sending her 5-year-old boy to kindergarten. She’d like to see Congress tighten gun laws, but her expectations for action are low.

“If you can’t put your kid in school and just hope and pray that nothing happens, you’ve failed as a parent,” she said.

Amash’s is another cautionary tale for GOP lawmakers who consider opposing Trump, whose job approval rating among Republicans has hovered around 90% for the past year, according to Gallup.

Those who stand against him quickly find it is a lonely place to be and may spell the end of their political careers in an era of tribal politics, the worst thing to be may be a politician without a tribe.

The biggest winners to come out of Amash’s big stand may be Democrats. Amash ultimately left the GOP and is running for his seat as an independent. He is flirting with running for president as a Libertarian, a threat that could wound Trump more than 200,000 Michigan votes and support a third-party candidate in 2020.

If Amash goes that route, he could help a Democrat win, just as he could if he stays in the race for the Grand Rapids-area House race. With Amash likely to miss the GOP’s set-up a three-way race that could divide right-leaning voters and help the Democratic nominee win what was once a GOP stronghold. Democrats now see it as one of their best chances to pick up a House seat next year.

“I think this was a district every- everybody was eyeing when we thought we’d be running against one Republican,” said Brian Stryker, a Democratic pollster who’s working for Hillary Scholten, a Democrat seeking the nomination. “It’s better to have two Republicans on the ballot.”

One bedrock of Republicanism in the state, Kent County has become more Democratic as Grand Rapids and its suburbs have grown diverse and better educated in recent years, thanks to growth in several universities and the medical sector. The birthplace of Gerald Ford and hometown of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos now looks a lot like the politically divided suburban districts Democrats flipped in 2018 to win control of the House.

Democrats and Republicans vying for the seat are both raising money with a view to Democrats on pace to surpass Amash and one Republican already doing so. In a cruel twist for the congressman, Democrats say they’re poised to hammer Amash for the times he voted with his former party, such as his support for a House bill to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, President Barack Obama’s health care overhaul.

Amash laid out his position on impeachment in May with a series of tweets, saying special counsel Robert Mueller’s report on Trump’s conduct during and after the 2016 presidential election includes “multiple examples of conduct satisfying all the elements of obstruction of justice.”

The politically powerful DeVos family said it would no longer give him money. GOP state Rep. Jim Lower announced his candidacy two days later and raised $50,000 in roughly 48 hours.

Amash announced he was leaving the Republican Party on July 4, writing in a Washington Post op-ed that “modern politics is trapped in a partisan death spiral.”

Trump responded by calling Amash “one of the dumbest & most disloyal men in Congress.”

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• STARS AND STRIPES •
Economists survey finds that 34% expect recession in the US in 2021

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A number of U.S. business economists appear sufficiently concerned about the risks of some of President Donald Trump’s economic policies that they expect a recession in the U.S. by the end of 2021.

Thirty-four percent of economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics, in a report being released Monday, said they believe a slowing economy will tip into recession by the end of 2021.

That’s up from 25% in a survey taken in February. Only 2% of those polled expect a recession to begin this year, while 38% predict that it will occur in 2020.

Trump has dismissed concerns about a recession, offering an optimistic outlook for the economy after last week’s steep drop in the financial markets and saying Sunday, “I don’t think we’re having a recession.” A strong economy is one of the pillars of his reelection prospects.

The economists have previously expressed concern that Trump’s tariffs and higher budget deficits could eventually dampen the economy.

The Trump administration has imposed tariffs on goods from many key U.S. trading partners, from China and Europe to Mexico and Canada. Officials maintain that the tariffs, which are taxes on imports, will help the administration gain more favorable terms of trade. But U.S. trading partners have simply retaliated with tariffs of their own.

Trade between the U.S. and China, the two biggest global economies, has plunged. Trump decided last Wednesday to postpone until Dec. 15 tariffs on about 60% of an additional $300 billion of Chinese imports, granting a reprieve from a planned move that would have extended duties to nearly everything the U.S. buys from China.

The financial markets last week signaled the possibility of a U.S. recession, adding to concerns over the ongoing trade tensions and word from Britain and Germany that their economies are shrinking.

NYPD fires officer involved in Eric Garner’s death

By Tom Hays and Michael R. Sisak

Associated Press

NEW YORK — After five years of investigations and protests, New York City’s police commissioner Monday fired an officer involved in the 2014 chokehold death of an unarmed black man whose dying cries of “I can’t breathe” fueled a national debate over race and police use of force.

Police Commissioner James O’Neill announced at a midday news conference that he had fired Officer Daniel Pantaleo, who is white, based on a recent recommendation of a departmental disciplinary judge. He said it was clear that Pantaleo “can no longer effectively serve as a New York City police officer.”

“None of us can take back our decisions,” O’Neill said, “especially when they lead to the death of another human being.”

O’Neill has been deliberating on whether to accept a disciplinary judge’s recommendation to fire Pantaleo for using a banned chokehold on Eric Garner.

The recordings led to years of protests and calls by black activists and liberal politicians for Pantaleo to lose his job.

City officials had long insisted, though, they couldn’t take action until criminal investigations were complete.

A state grand jury declined to indict Pantaleo in 2014.

Federal authorities, however, kept a civil rights investigation open for five years before announcing last month they wouldn’t bring charges.

Pantaleo’s lawyer has insisted the officer used a reasonable amount of force and didn’t mean to hurt Garner.

New York City’s mayor has declined to say whether he believes Pantaleo should lose his job but has been promising “justice” to the slain man’s family.

Garner’s death came at a time of a growing public outcry over police killings of unarmed black men that sparked the national Black Lives Matter movement.

Lawmaker under fire for posting noose photo

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — An Indiana lawmaker who posted nooses under a Facebook story about a black man pleading guilty to rape is drawing criticism for using racist imagery.

Republican state Rep. Jim Lucas, from Seymour, posted a picture of a gallows with two nooses under a WISH-TV story about Marquise Dozier’s case.

Lucas said he wanted to punish the man and believes in capital punishment. Dozier faces up to 72 years in prison.

Lucas said he’s previously posted the image under stories involving white offenders.

Lucas said he isn’t racist and doesn’t believe the photo is racist.

The chair of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus blasted the photo.

Democratic state Rep. Robin Shackleford told The Indianapolis Star that noose imagery is well-known to be connected to the lynchings of blacks and the “normalization of racism” must end.
Doctors say new rule will result in sicker immigrants

BY SOPHIA TAREEN
Associated Press


Doctors and public health experts warn poor health and rising costs they say will come from sweeping Trump administration changes that would deny green cards to many immigrants who use Medicaid, as well as food stamps and other forms of public assistance. Some advocates say they’re already seeing the fallout even before the complex, 837-page rule takes effect in October.

Two California counties and attorneys general in 13 states sued, saying the changes will increase public health risks.

There are signs that is already happening in cities including Chicago and New York, where immigrant advocates say.

Within hours of the announcement, Minnesota immigration attorney said she received a flurry of calls from worried clients about whether to leave Medicaid.

Federico Mason, who emigrated from Mexico last two decades ago, and was worried about the new rules because he is low-income and doesn’t speak English well. The Chicago resident said he has no immediate plans to remove his teenage-year-old son, who is U.S. citizens, from Medicaid, but the new rule has made him more fearful about providing for his family and applying for a green card.

“If one day I want to adjust my status, it will be more difficult because of these unfair policies that continue to discriminate against me,” he said in Spanish.

Overall, noncitizen, low-income immigrants have had a far different future.

“His has been able to afford care for chronic diseases like asthma and diabetes, as well as preventive measures. Instead, they’ll rely on far more costly emergency rooms.

“This has forced the immigrant families into an impossible choice,” Behrens said.

Roughly $440,000 people apply for green cards annually, with about 382,000 falling into categories that would be subject to the new review, according to the government.

Esperanza Health Centers, which runs four Chicagobased clinics that serve low-income and largely immigrant populations, has seen an increase in the number of uninsured children. Since a draft of the new rule was released in the fall, the clinics report having 600 children without insurance, including those who have disenrolled from Medicaid.

Typically, it’s about 200, according to Jessica Boland, director of behavioral health.

The issue is personal for Dr. Jasmine Saavedra, a pediatrician who works at an Esperanza clinic in a heavily Latino Chicago neighborhood.

She is convinced that if new Trump administration criteria were in effect for her parents three decades ago, she would have had a far different future.

Her parents emigrated from Mexico in the 1980s unable to speak English and with little education. While working low-wage jobs, they relied on food stamps for a short time to get by.

Her mother later quit public assistance because of the stigma, but Saavedra said there were days when her mother wouldn’t eat so her children could. She believes that helped her become a doctor and her two sisters become an accountant and a nurse.

2 shuttered Arizona shelters for immigrant children could reopen

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The nation’s largest provider of shelters for immigrant children is looking to reopen facilities in Arizona after the state of Arizona forced it to shutter last year because of issues with employee background checks and allegations of abuse.

Southwest Key filed applications to reopen a downtown Phoenix facility that houses boys and one in the outer suburbs that can house 139.

The suburban facility, in a place called Youngtown, was shuttered last year amid reports that staff shoved and dragged un

Southwest Key says it’s ready to reopen the closed facilities.

Spokesman Neil Nowlin said in a statement that Southwest Key has resolved the issues that led to the closing of the shelters and that there is a continuing need for beds to house immigrant children.

“We are committed to caring for these youth and safely reunifying them with a loved one or sponsor,” Nowlin said.

He didn’t respond to questions from The Associated Press regarding what remedial actions the organization had taken and how many young people were in its care.

Immigration authorities say they’re dealing with a large increase in the number of unaccompanied children who come to the U.S. via Mexico.

The U.S. Border Patrol apprehended more than 69,000 unaccompanied children between October and the end of July, according to its data. That’s compared with just over 41,000 in all of the 2018 fiscal year.

Southwest Key filed the new applications to reopen in June and July. An Arizona Department of Health and Human Services spokesman said the department hasn’t yet completed a review, and he couldn’t say how long it would take.
Partisan streak of Netanyahu receives conflicting reviews

By Joe Klein

JERUSALEM — In the eyes of critics, Benjamin Netanyahu’s decision to bar two Democratic congresswomen from entering Israel was a masterful PR move. But in the eyes of his Likud party, it was a disastrousATIONAL step towards the political left. Netanyahu, who is Israel’s prime minister, and his allies on the hard right argue that by preventing the visit of Ilhan Omar, newly elected to Congress from Minnesota, and Rashida Tlaib, elected from Michigan, he has scored a major political victory for himself and the country.

New York Times June 27, 2019

Danish PM: Trump’s idea to buy Greenland ‘absurd’

By Jan M. Olsen

COPENHAGEN — Denmark — Greenland is not for sale, and President Donald Trump’s idea of buying the semiautonomous Danish territory in the Arctic from his Nordic neighbor is “an absurd discussion,” Denmark’s prime minister said.

The latest move, popular among Trump’s allies over the past year, has been condemned by the Danish government, which said it would not consider the offer.

Mette Frederiksen, who was visiting the world’s largest island to meet Premier Kim Kielsen, told reporters: “Greenland is not for sale.”

In the wake of the decision, Israeli commentators and analysts said Netanyahu had blatantly disregarded a bedrock principle of Israeli foreign policy — that it remain above America’s partisan fray.

“The problem is not with these two members of Congress or with the boycott movement against Israel, whose achievements are zero,” columnist Nahum Barnea wrote in the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth on Friday.

“The problem is that Israel is losing the Democratic Party, which for years was Israel’s mainstay in the U.S. It is losing its elected officials, and what is much worse, it is losing its voters. Anyone who is opposed to Trump is finding it more and more difficult to support Israel.”

Demolition levels UK power plant once known as one of country’s ugliest sights

Associated Press

LONDON — A British power station once voted one of the country’s ugliest sights has been demolished.

The cooling towers of the disused coal-fired Didcot power station in Oxfordshire, England, are demolished Sunday.

The cooling towers at the disused coal-fired Didcot power station in Oxfordshire, England, are demolished Sunday.

Benjamin Netanyahu

The cooling towers of the disused coal-fired Didcot power station in Oxfordshire, England, are demolished Sunday.

By Joseph Krauss

The plant has been out of commission since 2013, but plans to demolish it were delayed when four workers were killed on the site in 2016.

British media reported Sunday that an electrical explosion occurred around the same time as the demolition, knocking out power to homes in the surrounding area.

The link to the demolition is not yet clear.

Turkey suspends 3 mayors, alleging links to militants

The Washington Post

ISTANBUL — Turkey’s government said Monday it had indict ed three popular sitting mayors from Kurdish-majority provinces on terrorism charges and replaced them with state officials.

The suspension of the mayors came five months after they were elected in landslide victories in local polls. The move, criticized by opposition parties as anti-democratic and the latest evidence that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s government is intent on marginalizing pro-Kurdish voices.

The mayors of Diyarbakir, Mardin and Van provinces are members of the opposition People’s Democratic Party, or HDP, a partner of the Kurdish People’s Democratic Party. After imprisoning them, they won nearly a million votes in local elections held in March — exceeding the voting rate from the previous elections, a prize the ruling party was counting on to help it win elections expected later this year.

Erdogan has frequently accused the HDP of supporting the PKK, which has fought a decades-long insurgency against the Turkish government. HDP officials have denied such links. Dozens of HDP members have been arrested in the last three years, including mayors who were replaced with state administrators.

“This is a new and clear political hostile move against the political will of the Kurdish people,” the Interior Ministry said.

The ministry also announced Monday that it had arrested more than 400 people across Turkey for links to the PKK, as part of the government’s multifront war against the militant group.

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By Raphael Satter
Associated Press

LONDON — Secret British government documents have warned of serious disruptions across the country in the event that the U.K. leaves the European Union without a trade deal on Oct. 31, according to a report.

The Sunday Times newspaper published what it said was what the British government expects in the case of a sudden, “no-deal” Brexit.

Among the most serious are “significant” disruptions to the supply of drugs and medicine, a decrease in the availability of fresh food and even potential fresh water shortages due to possible interruptions of imported water treatment chemicals.

Although the grim scenarios reportedly outlined in the government documents have long been floated by academics and economists, they’ve been repeatedly dismissed as scaremongering by Brexit proponents.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said he is ready to leave the EU regardless of whether he is able to renegotiate the Brexit deal struck with Brussels by his predecessor, Theresa May.

His own officials, however, have warned that with a no-deal Brexit, the sharing of law enforcement data and the health of Britain’s crucial financial services industry could be jeopardized after Oct. 31.

The opposition Labour Party, which is trying to delay Brexit and organize a government of national unity, held up the report as another sign that no-deal must be avoided.

“It seems to me is what we’ve seen is a hard-headed assessment of reality, that sets out in really stark terms what a calamitous outcome of no-deal Brexit would mean for the United Kingdom,” lawmaker Nick Thomas-Symonds told Sky News television.

Notre Dame cleanup resumes with major anti-contamination measures

By Didier Durand, whose stonecutters, cleanup workers and other protective gear after a Paris site Monday for the first step in the fight the U.S. to devise a plan to protect workers from lethal agents that could come in handy in any negotiated transition. But to date, he's run the institution, which the U.S. considers illegitimate, as a rubber-stamping foil to the opposition-controlled congress, showing no signs of possible deception. It's not clear who initiated the contact with Cabello. But the U.S. would offer top socialists relief if they take ‘concrete and meaningful actions’ toward a political solution. In May, it quickly lifted sanctions against Maduro’s former spy chief, Gen. Manuel Cristopher Figuera, after he defected during a failed military uprising.

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In wake of mass shootings, churches arm, train members of anxious congregations

By Jake Bleiberg
Associated Press

HASLET, Texas — Acris gun store added the sunny entrance of a Texas church on a recent Sunday.

Seven men wearing heavy vests and carrying pistols armed with blanks ran toward the sound of the shots, stopping at the end of a long hallway. At the foyer, the “bad guy” raised the muzzle of an AR-15, took aim and squeezed the trigger.

The simulated gunfight at the church in Haslet was part of a niche industry that trains civilians to protect their churches using the techniques and equipment of law enforcement.

“Ten years ago, this industry was not a thing,” said David Riggall, a Texas police officer whose company trains churchgoers to volunteer as security guards. “I mean, sanctuary means a safe place.”

In 1993, Doug Walker said security was not a concern when, as a recent Baptist seminary graduate, he founded Fellowship of the Parks church in Fort Worth. But six years later, after a gunman killed seven people and took his own life at another church in the Texas city, the pastor said his thinking changed.

Today, the interdenominational church has four campuses and 3,000 worshippers on an average Sunday, Walker said. It has increased security as it has grown, asking off-duty police to carry weapons at church events. It recently hired Riggall’s company, Sheepdog Firearms, a Birmingham, Ala.-area gun range, offers police-style training to people looking to protect their churches.

Owner David Youngstrom acknowledged the eight-hour course doesn’t produce experts.

“It gives a good record for something that will hold up in court,” Youngstrom said.

Laws about carrying firearms in houses of worship vary from state to state. But as a general matter of liability, churches training members for security is not much different from a business hiring guards, according to Eugene Volokh, a professor at the UCLA School of Law.

A church could be sued if people were harmed because its security was badly trained, Volokh said, but also if it generally failed to protect people on its grounds. Both can be insured against and either is unlikely, he said.

“Some churches comfortable arming members also draw lines to preserve an environment conducive to worship,” said Brian Higgins, a former police chief for Bergen County, N.J., and instructor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, said he’s seen varied approaches to firearms in his work consulting at houses of worship. Attitudes toward guns differ between urban and rural areas, as do the security needs, he said.

Congregations that once felt guns were unnecessary or inappropriate have welcomed armed security, said Brad Orsini, security director for The Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. But arming worshippers is not an approach the former FBI agent recommends.

“Carrying a firearm is an awesome responsibility,” said Orsini, who served in the Marine Corps before his nearly three decades with the FBI. “Because you have the ability to have a carry concealed permit does not make you a security expert. Because you have a firearm doesn’t necessarily mean you should be carrying it at the church on the weekend.”

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Energy, banks most vulnerable to trade war

BY STAN CHOE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Looking across the stock market, it’s hard to find a company that isn’t vulnerable in some degree to the U.S.-China trade war.

Stocks of companies that do lots of business with China, such as chipmakers and other technology companies, are obvious candidates for investors to sell when trade worries rise. They have fallen more than the rest of the market whenever President Donald Trump sends out a tweet or speaks about tariffs.

But investors are also looking beyond these first-order effects as they pick out which stocks look susceptible to the trade war. Those picks now include many companies that have no significant ties to China but are still at risk.

That’s why all but 2% of the stocks in the S&P 500 fell on Aug. 5, when worries ratcheted higher after China let its currency devalue to its lowest level in a decade.

The damage has been widespread since Trump shocked investors on Aug. 1 by saying he planned soon to extend tariffs across virtually all Chinese imports.

The latest tariffs cover about $300 million of Chinese goods, many of them consumer products that were exempt from early rounds of taxes. Even though Trump has delayed some of the tariffs, they will ultimately raise costs for U.S. companies bringing goods in from China.

These companies will then have to either pass higher prices on to their customers or give up some of their profits. That’s a big deal for investors because a stock’s price tends to track the path of its earnings over the long term.

One concern is that all the uncertainty on trade will lead businesses and shoppers to hold off on spending in hopes of waiting out the tumult. Businesses say they have seen inklings of such behavior, which, if it accelerates, could lead to a self-fulfilling cycle where weaker sales for companies push them to cut back on hiring. That could lead in turn to even weaker spending and do more damage to the economy. That’s trouble for most companies, to some degree.

It’s also why some of the hardest-hit stocks in recent weeks have little business, if any, in China but remain vulnerable to the consequences of the trade war. Among the losers in the dispute are:

Energy companies

Energy stocks in the S&P 500 have plunged 10.2% since just before Trump sent his Aug. 1 tweet, the worst decline of the 11 sectors that make up the index.

National Oilwell Varco, for example, is based in Houston and gets most of its revenue from supplying drilling and other technologies in the Middle East, Brazil and Norway. But its stock has plunged nearly 22%, seven times the loss of the overall S&P 500.

That’s in large part because the price of oil has sunk on worries that the trade war will do lasting damage to the global economy. If that happens, countries around the world will have less need to burn oil. The price of benchmark U.S. crude plunged nearly 8% on Aug. 1, its worst day in 4½ years.

Banks

Financial stocks have been the second-worst performing sector in the S&P 500 in recent weeks as the prospect of less-profitable lending threatens banks’ profits.

Comerica, for instance, has been sucked into an industrywide downdraft. It is based in Dallas and has bank branches mostly in Arizona, California, Florida, Texas and Michigan. It has some businesses operating outside the country but in Canada and Mexico, not China. Its stock has sunk 16.2% during the trade tensions.

The escalation in the trade war has led a growing number of economists and analysts to warn about a possible recession. Those concerns have spread to the bond market, where interest rates have sunk sharply.

The market for interest rates has gone so haywire this month because of worries about a possible recession that long-term Treasury yields in some cases are lower than short-term yields. That’s trouble for an industry that relies on borrowing money at short-term rates, lending it out at long-term rates and pocketing the difference.

Microchip companies

Companies that make microchips that go into laptops and other electronics have been some of the trade war’s biggest victims because of how dependent they are on China.

Consider Micron Technology, which got more than 57% of all its sales from China in its last fiscal year. Not only that, it needs China for rare earth minerals found there, and it also has significant manufacturing operations in the country. Micron sank 2.9% on Aug. 1, when Trump announced he would extend tariffs to products that include laptops and mobile phones. That was more than triple the S&P 500’s loss. Since Trump’s 2018 tweet that “trade wars are good, and easy to win,” Micron is down 8.5%, while the S&P 500 is up 7.9%.

Industrial companies

Since Trump initiated the trade war with China in 2018, in the market has been to sell big industrial companies whenever tensions rise. The temptation makes sense given how global the companies are, but it may be mis guided, said Stephen Volkmann, an equity analyst at Jefferies who covers machinery and industrial companies.

“Every time there’s a tweet, I get a call and asked, ‘How does this affect CAT?’” Volkmann said, using the ticker symbol for heavy equipment maker Caterpillar. “CAT tends to make what they sell where they sell it.”

That means many of its products do not have to cross borders before they are sold, which offers some insulation from the effects of tariffs. Other industrial companies have also already absorbed tariffs and successfully passed the costs on to their customers.

But “it’s a little like shouting in the wind to get anyone to care,” Volkmann said. Asked if any of the industrial companies he follows is much more vulnerable than others because of this next round of tariffs, he struggled to name one.

“The most important part is: Do we enter a recession because of this next round of tariffs?” he said. “If that’s true, that’s true for all my companies.”

EXCHANGE RATES

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(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. The rates provided for reference are for Department of Defense personnel purchasing British pounds in Germany, check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and they are subject to change.)

INTEREST RATES

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The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.
Airport worker fired for writing ‘You ugly!’ note

NY
ROCHESTER — An airport security worker in New York has been fired for handing a passenger a handwritten note that said, “You ugly!!!”

The June incident came to light last week after passenger Neal Strassner obtained security video through a public records request and posted it to YouTube.

The video from Greater Rochester International Airport shows the worker handing Strassner the note after he passes through a metal detector. Strassner said he didn’t think much of it and continued toward his gate. That’s when he said the woman yelled out, “You gonna open the note?”

Strassner said that when he did, the woman burst out laughing. He later complained to her supervisors.

Carbon dioxide tank explodes at wedding

NJ
GARFIELD — Authorities said a carbon dioxide tank being used by a disc jockey at a New Jersey wedding exploded, injuring three people on the dance floor.

NorthJersey.com reported that Garfield police said the tank exploded shortly after 11 p.m. Friday at the Venetian.

Deputy Chief Ron Polonikay said the 32 to 34-year-old victims were taken to Hackensack University Medical Center with injuries not considered life-threatening. All were reported in stable condition.

Mechanical lift crashes; window-washers saved

CO
DENVER — Firefighters rescued two window-washers after a mechanical lift crashed through a parking garage in Denver’s Cherry Creek neighborhood, the Denver Post reported. The crash also ruptured a gas line.

Police told the Post that the incident happened Saturday on Cook Street. Denver Fire Department spokesman Lt. Robbie Turner said two workers were rescued by fire officials and evaluated at Denver Health.

Turner said he did not know if the workers were injured.

Woman thinks she’s ill, gives birth to triplets

SD
STURGIS — A South Dakota woman who recently gave birth to triplets said she didn’t find out about her pregnancy until she went to the hospital with what she thought was kidney stones.

KOTV-TV reported that Dannette Gilzt, of Sturgis, gave birth to the healthy triplets on Aug. 10.

Gilzt said that despite having two other children, she did not know she was 34 weeks pregnant.

She said that when she started having pains, she thought it was from kidney stones, which she has had before. Doctors told her she was actually in labor — with multiple babies.

The triplets were born within four minutes. Each weighed about 4 pounds. The babies’ names are Blaze, Gypsy and Nikki.

Man uses loader to dump dirt on girlfriend

FL
CRESTVIEW — Authorities said a Florida man used a front-end loader to dump a large bucket full of dirt on a car with his girlfriend inside.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office said Hunter Mills, 20, was charged with felony criminal mischief.

The sheriff’s office said Mills invited his girlfriend to talk with him at a dirt pit in Crestview where he worked. Officials say the girlfriend arrived in a white sedan owned by someone else, and after he asked her a question, he used a front-end loader to dump a mound of dirt atop the car.

She wasn’t hurt, but officials posted a photograph on social media showing dirt piled on the car and spilling across the driver’s seat and elsewhere.

Man convicted after rap battle leads to murder

MN
MINNEAPOLIS — A St. Paul man has been found guilty of fatally stabbing a man earlier this year after they offended each other during a rap battle.

The Star Tribune reported that Quinten Osgood, 29, was convicted Friday of two counts of second-degree murder and one count of first-degree manslaughter for the January killing of Anthony Madison.

Authorities say Osgood was attending a party at Madison’s home Jan. 3 and the two started arguing over music. Prosecutors say Madison ordered Osgood to leave, and he damaged a gate as he left.

Madison confronted him outside, and the two fell to the ground fighting. Prosecutors say Osgood stabbed Madison during the fight, killing him. Osgood told jurors he acted in self-defense.

Man sentenced for stealing fireman’s truck

CA
CHICO — One of two men convicted of stealing a firefigther’s pickup truck during the deadliest wildfire in California history has been sentenced to 41 days in jail and three years of probation.

The Chico Enterprise-Record reported that Robert Depalma, of Concow, was also ordered to pay more than $6,000 in restitution at his sentencing in Butte County Superior Court on Friday.

Prosecutors said Depalma and William Ehrbacher stole the truck from a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection station on Nov. 8, when the wildfire broke out and largely leveled the town of Paradise and killed 86 people.

Ehrbacher admitted to taking the truck, and Depalma admitted to driving it for several days.

Amusement park to debut new steel coaster

OH
MASON — A new steel roller coaster is set to debut at one of Ohio’s largest amusement parks next year.

“Orion” will open at Kings Island in Mason in spring 2020.

Kings Island officials say it will be the tallest and fastest coaster at the Cincinnati-area amusement park.

Mike Kooritz, vice president and general manager of the park, said the ride is categorized as a Giga coaster. Park officials say coasters in that category have a height or drop between 300 and 399 feet. The Orion will move at 91 mph and feature a 300-foot drop.

Message in bottle from Russian navy found

AK
NOME — A 50-year-old letter in a bottle was discovered by a man on the shores of western Alaska, connecting him with the Russian navy.

KNOM-AM reported Aug. 13 that Tyler Ivanoff found the handwritten Russian letter early this month while gathering firewood near Shishmaref.

Officials said Ivanoff posted photos on Facebook, where Russian speakers translated the message to a greeting from the Russian navy dated 1969.

Officials said Russian reporters located the original writer, Capt. Anatoly Botsanenko, who said he sent the message while aboard the Sukul, a ship whose construction he oversaw in 1966 and that he sailed on until 1970.

Officials say Botsanenko teared up when shown photos of the bottle.
The Rock marries longtime girlfriend

With a simple “We do,” Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson announced his wedding to his longtime girlfriend on Instagram.

A photo of the movie star and Lauren Hashian was posted on the social media site. Both were wearing white, and they were standing overlooking the ocean. The post said the date of their apparent nuptials was Sunday, in Hawaii.

The couple have been dating for several years and have two young daughters. Johnson also has a teenage daughter from a previous marriage.

Johnson has a lot to celebrate. His movie “Hobbs and Shaw” has been a box office success since it was released this month.

R-rated comedy topped the North American box office over the weekend thanks to the raunchy coming-of-age tale “Good Boys.” The weekend’s top new widely released films — the animated sequel “The Angry Birds Movie 2,” the shark attack sequel “47 Meters Down: Uncaged,” the Bruce Springsteen-inspired “A Star Is Born” — all faced strong competition from the genre to TV and streaming services. But Universal Studios, which released “Good Boys,” rode a buzzy premiere at South By Southwest, good reviews (80% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and the imprimatur of producers Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg (“Good Boys” is much like a tween version of “Superbad”) to notch the best opening for an original comedy this year. Second place is Universal’s body-switch comedy “Little.”

Directed by Gene Stupnitsky (who co-wrote the script with Lee Eisenberg), “Good Boys” stars Jacob Tremblay, Keith L. Williams and Brady Noon as sixth graders trying to make it to their first kissing party. The movie’s much-watched red-band trailer traded on its ironies. As Rogen says, Tremblay, Williams and Noon are all too young to see their own movie alone.

‘After the Wedding’ a family affair for Moore

By Ragan Clark

Associated Press

Julianne Moore is accustomed to working with her husband, director Bart Freundlich, but it was a real family affair when their daughter joined them for their latest collaboration. Liv Freundlich, 17, was a production assistant on “After the Wedding,” which was released this month.

“We loved having her around more than she loved being around,” Freundlich said with a laugh. “The best part of it was just getting to be with each other constantly.”

The film, written and directed by Freundlich, is a remake of director Susanne Bier’s hit Dutch movie of the same name. To put his own stamp on it, Freundlich swapped the gender of the leads to women, using Moore and Michelle Williams. Billy Crudup plays a role that was portrayed by a woman in the original.

Williams plays Isabel, an orphanage volunteer living in India who comes to the U.S. to ask Moore’s character, Theresa, to fund her organization. She attends a wedding for Theresa’s daughter and meets Theresa’s husband, played by Crudup, with whom she has a history.

Moore also served as a producer. Freundlich said it helps to be married collaborators because they don’t compartmentalize their home life and work life. Moore joked it “might’ve been more fun for him.”

“I’m usually used to going home and dropping it,” said Moore. “It’s sort of a relief for me to get in my car and be like, ‘Phew, that’s the end of my day and I’ll think about tomorrow later,’ but for a director it’s constant. The amount of work that they have to do is really extraordinary. So, we would talk about it in the car on the way home, we would talk about it before we would go to bed, we would talk about it first thing in the morning. But, like I said it was a shared passion, too, so that was wonderful.”

A raunchy return

Good Boys’ tops box office, ending drought for R-rated comedies

By Jake Coyle

Associated Press

The R-rated comedy, left for dead by some Hollywood studios, again reached No. 1 at the box office over the weekend thanks to the raunchy coming-of-age tale “Good Boys.” Over the weekend, the coming-of-age film became the first R-rated comedy to reach No. 1 since “The Boss” in April 2016.

In recent years, R-rated horror has largely taken the place of R-rated comedy at the box office, as Hollywood has increasingly ceded the genre to TV and streaming services. But Universal Studios, which released “Good Boys,” has kept the flame. The studio was behind “The Boss” as well as the intervening years’ highest grossing domestic comedies: 2017’s “Girls Trip” and 2018’s “Night School.”


“Good Boys” rode a buzzy premiere at South By Southwest, good reviews (80% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and the imprimatur of producers Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg (“Good Boys” is much like a tween version of “Superbad”) to notch the best opening for an original comedy this year. Second place is Universal’s body-switch comedy “Little.”

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“I’m usually used to going home and dropping it,” said Moore. “It’s sort of a relief for me to get in my car and be like, ‘Phew, that’s the end of my day and I’ll think about tomorrow later,’ but for a director it’s constant. The amount of work that they have to do is really extraordinary. So, we would talk about it in the car on the way home, we would talk about it before we would go to bed, we would talk about it first thing in the morning. But, like I said it was a shared passion, too, so that was wonderful.”
Outback continues to be a family-hauling staple

BY LARRY PRINTZ
Tribune News Service

FORT BRAGG, Calif. The Subaru Outback may not look heroic, but it is. Introduced six generations ago in 1994, it marked a change in direction for the brand, which had been intent on chasing Toyota and was failing. Instead, the Outback saved Subaru as the car’s success led the brand to refocus on selling all-wheel drive as a unique selling point in its cars. In 1994, that was unique. Twenty-five years later, it still is, at least in cars.

The Outback’s popularity can be seen in the lack of change in appearance. Looking at the redesigned 2020 Outback, you’d be hard-pressed to tell that it’s new. Even though it rides on Subaru’s new global platform, you have to look closely to notice any difference. It looks a bit sleeker and a bit bigger, and it wears a larger emblem on the grille. But climb inside and you’ll find the Outback has changed significantly.

The larger interior sports a newfound refinement that’s quite fetching, anchored by an 11.5-inch vertical tablet-style screen on most models. (A 7.5-inch screen is standard on base models.) The user interface features large, easy-to-activate buttons and an intuitive software setup. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are standard, and an in-vehicle Wi-Fi hotspot. Harman Kardon audio system with Clari-Fi, and an advanced adaptive cruise control now integrates with Lane Centering, while its new drowsy driver alert system uses a dedicated infrared camera and facial recognition technology to identify driver fatigue and alert the driver and passengers. The system recognizes drivers when they enter the car and appropriately adjusts the seats, side mirrors and radio station presets.

Regardless of which trim level you buy — Base, Premium, Sport, Limited with the base motor, or Limited XT, Onyx Edition XT, Touring XT with the turbo motor — the Outback makes for an ideal family hauler. While opting for the turbocharged engine does make for a significantly more powerful automobile, it doesn’t make it more fun to drive.

The Outback’s independent suspension uses MacPherson struts up front and double wishbones in the back. Sling it into a corner, and you can feel the car’s weight as the car safely understeers and the tires let you know they’re reaching their limits. There’s little body lean and virtually no unwanted rebound over bumps. In fact, bump absorption is very good.

Outback Limited

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base price: $27,655-$40,705</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engine: DOHC 2.5-liter horizontally-opposed four-cylinder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horsepower/Torque: 182 horsepower/176 foot-pounds @ 4,400 rpm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA fuel economy: 26 mpg city/33 highway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cargo capacity: 32.5-75.7 cubic feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towing capacity: 3,500 pounds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And, driven as most owners will, it returns an immensely satisfying driving experience. This is very much the ideal family hauler and foul-weather foe, one that handles competently and safely. Any sportiness you associate with it comes from the sports gear you load into it, not from the car’s handling on-road.

Off-road it’s a different story. This is where the Outback surprised me, proving to be more capable than you’d expect. While it lacks a dedicated low range, it features X-Mode, which helps overcome slick situations by adjusting the engine output and transmission gearing, increasing all-wheel drive engagement and optimizing the vehicle’s traction control, active torque vectoring and hill descent control systems.

You’ll find it performs as promised, pulling through muck and mire or controlling the vehicle’s speed down a slippery slope that would hinder lesser vehicles. The Outback is also surprisingly comfortable, absorbing all but the worst furrows, rocks and tree branches with aplomb. But its approach and departure angles do call for care when traversing ruts, fording streams and cresting hills.

And its cargo hold is immense. In fact, it’s longer and wider than the far more expensive but not necessarily better Chevrolet Blazer.

The Outback also boasts a radically improved technology package. A new front view camera captures images within the driver’s blind spots in front of the vehicle. Advanced Adaptive Cruise Control now integrates with Lane Centering, while its new drowsy driver alert system uses a dedicated infrared camera and facial recognition technology to identify driver fatigue and alert the driver and passengers. The system recognizes drivers when they enter the car and appropriately adjusts the seats, side mirrors and radio station presets.

Other options include driver-assist technologies like LED Steering Responsive Headlights; Reverse Automatic Braking; Blind Spot Detection with Lane Change Assist and Rear Cross Traffic Alert; and EyeSight Assist Monitor with head-up display. There’s even an optional 12-speaker Harman Kardon audio system with Clari-Fi, and an in-vehicle Wi-Fi hotspot.

Prices start at $27,655 for the base Outback, topping out at $40,705 for the Outback Touring XT.

Subaru claims a hiking boot inspired its new Outback, and the analogy is an apt one. Capable and functional, it gets its appeal from its utility, but now with the added allure of a more upscale interior and up-to-date technology.
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OPINION

Navy could be torpedoing Trump’s 2020 chances

BY HUGH HEWITT
Special to The Washington Post

Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin were the most sur-
disingly Trump gains in the 2020 election. Is it looking very much like a three-state race again, with the same trio playing the de-

Florida and Ohio are not likely to be in play—the 2018 midterm results confirmed their deepening red hue. And Democratic hopes of flipping Texas or Arizona are in the same category with Republican plans to turn New Hampshire or Colorado—per-

When it comes time to defend his red wall along the Great Lakes, Trump is going to consider a “public relations victory” that turned the Navy’s Pentagon leadership’s failure to imple-

Pennsylvania workers make many of the essentials that go into ships, including shafts manufactured in Erie and cool-

While the Washington Post is a well-known source for breaking news and analysis, it often includes personal opinions and editorials. This particular article, by Hugh Hewitt, discusses the potential impact of Trump’s performance in key states like Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin on his chances in the 2020 election. Hewitt notes the surprising gains made by Trump in these states and questions whether his performance might be a sign of a broader trend. He suggests that these states could be crucial to Trump’s re-election prospects, as they have historically been reliably blue but have shown signs of warming up to Trump. Both Pennsylvania and Michigan are also battleground states in the 2020 US presidential election, due to their narrow margins of victory in recent years.

Hewitt highlights the importance of these states to Trump’s campaign, noting that his performance in these areas could significantly impact the outcome of the election. He suggests that Trump’s ability to mobilize her supporters and win over undecided voters in these states could prove crucial to his success in the November 2020 election.

Overall, the article provides a glimpse into the complex political landscape of the United States and the challenges facing both presidential candidates as they campaign for the highest office in the land. It underscores the importance of understanding the dynamics at play in key states and the potential impact of the outcomes in these areas on the overall election result.
Looking at the news
A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

If the Vaping Craze Peters Out, JUUL is Testing the Nicotine Popsicle

STATUE OF LIBERTY POEM REWRITE
S T A R S  A N D  S T R I P E S

Frazz

I HEAR YOU'RE OUR BOSS'S NEW PET EMPLOYEE.

PLEASE DON'T TELL HIM ALL OF THE BAD THINGS I HAVE SAID ABOUT HIM BEHIND HIS BACK.

I'LL GIVE YOU A HUNDRED DOLLARS IF YOU KEEP QUIET.

I KNEW I COULDN'T MONETIZE THIS.

ONE WEEK LATER

I'M SURE IT'S NICE, BUT I ALSO SUSPECT TIME DRIPS THERE.

BUT IT FLIES IN THE COMICS SOMETIME.

SORRY IF I SMELL LIKE COW.

Frazz

I HEAR YOU'RE OUR BOSS'S NEW PET EMPLOYEE.

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BUT IT FLIES IN THE COMICS SOMETIME.

SORRY IF I SMELL LIKE COW.

Dilbert

WHAT ARE YOU DOING P163

STUDYING AN ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF LOUISIANA FOR MY GOVERNMENT CLASS.

OH YEAH? WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

WELL, THE MOUTH OF THE MISSISSIPPI IS RIGHT HERE SO I'M WONDERING IF IT FLOODES WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS COUNTY AND THIS COUNTY?

Parishes

Parishes

That poor county.

Never mind.

Non Sequitur

We always had a knack for finding a positive outlook on anything.

Hey, Turo, it's LeMond. We haven't spoken in decades, and I don't even remember you.

Something about me. Not caring how you feel about stuff. Or whitewashed.

Well, actually, no. I don't want to let you know I'm writing a memoir. So I'm hoping you can remember me what happened.

Canderville

Norwegian berserker tank

Carpe Diem

Okay, I guess that's enough.

Thanks for the reminder

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**SCAM FADS**

Classifieds can target both sellers and buyers with classified ads.

Be aware of the common red flags:
- Some of the latest Scam Fads are:
  - Vehicle buyers wanting to buy right now and have the vehicle shipped through a fast-pay seller.
  - People saying free dog (different breed) for adoption.

**Announcements**

**040**

**Automotive**

**042**

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## Young baseball

### Little League World Series

#### Atkins Field

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Home Runs</th>
<th>Runs</th>
<th>RBIs</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Scout honor roll

- **James Rodriguez**, South Carolina
- **Ethan Walker**, Ohio
- **Alex Contreras**, Texas
- **Emma Sanchez**, California
- **Nathan Garcia**, Florida
- **Isabella Thompson**, Georgia
- **Liam Murphy**, Kentucky
- **Ronaldo Martinez**, New York
- **Amanda Johnson**, Pennsylvania
- **Blake Taylor**, Illinois

### Atlantic Coast Conference

- **Florida State University**
- **Georgia Tech**
- **Miami**
- **North Carolina**
- **Virginia**

### ACC Championship

- **Florida State**
- **Virginia**

### ACC Tournament

- **Virginia**
- **Florida State**

### NCAA Division I

- **Boston College**
- **Boston University**
- **Dartmouth College**
- **Harvard University**
- **Yale University**

### College World Series

- **Florida State**
- **Oregon State**
- **Tennessee**
- **Texas Tech**
- **Virginia**

### Division I

- **Duke University**
- **North Carolina State University**
- **Wake Forest University**

### Division II

- **University of Montana**
- **University of Northern Colorado**
- **University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point**
- **University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh**
- **University of Wisconsin-La Crosse**

### Division III

- **Amherst College**
- **Bowdoin College**
- **Colby College**
- **Oberlin College**
- **Trinity College**
Backup QB Hill rallies Saints

By JOE REEDY
Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Taysom Hill has been the quintessential all-purpose player the past two seasons. On Sunday, he showed again what makes him such a valuable weapon for the New Orleans Saints.

Hill had 191 yards of offense and directed three second-half scoring drives to help the Saints rally for a 19-17 preseason victory over the Los Angeles Chargers.

In a game where Philip Rivers and Drew Brees were on the field for just one quarter each, Hill showed what he can bring to the team in the absence of their starters.

Hill threw a 27-yard TD pass to Austin Carr with 3:10 remaining in the third quarter to bring the Saints back from a 17-3 deficit. The Saints went on to win 20-17 in overtime, improving to 1-1 in the preseason.

“Taysom has been the star of this team all year,” head coach Sean Payton said. “He’s been a great leader for us and has done a lot of good things for us. He’s been a great asset to this team.”

The Saints were trailing 17-3 at halftime when Hill entered the game. He directed three scoring drives in the second half, finishing with a 10-yard TD pass to tight end Mike Jurecki in overtime.

“Taysom is a tremendous player,” Payton said. “He’s a guy that can make plays with his arm and his legs. He’s a great leader and a great teammate.”

Hill finished the game with 123 passing yards and one TD, along with 51 rushing yards and another TD.

“Taysom is one of the best players in the league,” said Chargers coach Anthony Lynn. “He’s a dynamic athlete who can do so many things. We knew he was going to be a challenge for us.”

The Saints improved to 1-1 in the preseason with the win, while the Chargers dropped to 0-2. The game was played at the StubHub Center in Carson, Calif.

The Saints will play the Houston Texans in their next preseason game on Sunday, Aug. 25. The Chargers will face the San Francisco 49ers on Thursday, Aug. 29.
SPORTS BRIEFS/GOLF

Briefly

Raiders GM tells Brown: It’s time ‘to be all-in or all out’

Associated Press

Oakland Raiders general manager Mike Mayock told disgruntled receiver Antonio Brown it’s time to decide whether he’s “all-in or all out” about playing this season after losing a fight with the NFL and NFLPA over his health.

Mayock issued a statement to reporters that the Raiders released in a video on Twitter expressing his frustration Brown didn’t participate in practice Sunday despite being healed from the boxed inside feet that have sidelined him for most of training camp.

“You all know that A.B. is not here today. So here’s the bottom line: He’s upset about the helmet issue. We have supported that. We appreciate that,” Mayock said.

“But at this point, we’ve pretty much exhausted all avenues of relief. So from our perspective, it’s time for him to be all-in or all out. So we’re hoping he’s back soon. We’ve got 89 guys busting their tails. We are really excited about what this franchise is going and we hope A.B. is going to be a big part of it starting Week 1 against Denver. End of story. No questions.”

Brown has been upset that the NFL and NFLPA won’t allow him to use the same Schutt Air Advantage helmet he used throughout his career, which he has used throughout his career, according to CBS News.

Whitaker spent more than two decades working for CBS Sports, according to CBS News.

The longtime broadcaster died Aug. 12 and then set out to find a newer version of the helmet that he has used throughout his career, which he has used throughout his career, according to CBS News.

Ex-Cavs coach Blatt has been diagnosed with MS

Olympiakos, Blatt said he was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

In a statement posted Monday on the website of Greek club Olympiakos, Blatt said he was diagnosed with the condition, which attacks the central nervous system, “a few months ago” and has experienced fatigue, weakness in his legs and balance problems.

The NBA’s Cleveland Cavaliers have hired former coach David Blatt as director of basketball operations for their G League team.

Blatt was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and is off his coaching duties as he undergoes treatment.

Justin time: Thomas holds on

Golfer ends 12-month winless streak with BMW Championship title

Associated Press

MEDINAH, Ill. — Staked to a six-shot lead, Justin Thomas spent more time Sunday worrying about what could go wrong than ending 12 months without winning.

And right when it started to go wrong, Thomas delivered his biggest shots in the BMW Championship.

In a span of three holes around the turn at Medinah, his six-shot lead shrank to two. Thomas answered with two clutch wedge shots, two big putts and sailed to a 4-under 68 to secure a three-shot victory over Patrick Cantlay, a 4-under 68 to secure a three-shot victory over Patrick Cantlay, who gave him a battle to the end with a 65.

“Patrick played unbelievably, put a lot of heat on me,” Thomas said. “In the end, it could have been good for me. It kept me focused, kept my head down. ... I was really nervous going into today. I remembered that it’s really hard to win a golf tournament, and I’m glad that I was able to do so.”

The timing was ideal.

Justin Thomas celebrates his birdie putt Sunday on the 18th green to clinch his win in the BMW Championship golf tournament at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill. He finished under 25.

His first victory since the World Golf Championship at Firestone last year moved him to the top of the FedEx Cup going into the Tour Championship, where he will start the tournament at 10-under par with a two-shot lead under the new scoring format as the final 30 players chase a $15 million first prize.

“I can certainly say I never slept on a Wednesday lead,” Thomas said.

“Guys giving me advice in the locker room how to finish off a tournament,” Thomas said. “I was like, ‘I’ve done this a couple times guys but, thank you.’ That’s what I was saying on the way over here. It’s a lot of the outside noise.”

VETERAN SPORTSCASTER WHITAKER DIES AT 95

Jack Whitaker, who announced the first Super Bowl for CBS Sports among other milestone events during a decades-long career, has died at 95.

The longtime broadcaster died in his sleep Sunday in Devon, Pa., according to CBS News.

Whitaker spent more than two decades working for CBS Sports, where his coverage included football, golf, boxing, soccer, baseball and horse racing. He worked on each of the first 21 Super Bowls, as well as the four PGA majors and Triple Crown races.

Following his lengthy stint with CBS, Whitaker went to ABC Sports, where he covered multiple Olympic Games and also worked as a sports reporter for a number of ABC News programs.

He retired from broadcasting more than a decade ago and entered the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2012.

Power wins shortened Pocono IndyCar race

LONG POND, Pa. — Will Power won the shortened race Sunday at Pocono Raceway, the 13th straight season he’s won an IndyCar race. The race was called with 72 laps left because of lightning and severe weather in the area.

Lightning strikes at Pocono after a rain-shortened NASCAR race killed one fan in 2012.

Power was in the right position to win a race marred by yet another horrific wreck that collected five drivers on the first lap and sent Chip Ganassi Racing driver Felix Rosenqvist to the hospital.

IndyCar at Pocono has turned into perhaps the scariest race day in motor sports, 500 miles of danger for drivers on the 2%-mile track and white knuckles and clasped hands for anyone watching the event.

Justin Wilson died in 2015 from a head injury after being struck by debris from another car. Robert Wickens was paralyzed in an early-lap accident last year. His time to decide whether he’s “all-in or all out”

He’s upset about the helmet issue.

“Guys giving me advice in the locker room how to finish off a tournament,” Thomas said. “I was like, ‘I’ve done this a couple times guys but, thank you.’ That’s what I was saying on the way over here. It’s a lot of the outside noise.”

Woods was a long shot going into the final round to crack the top 30, and he closed with a 73. East Lake was his first victory in five years, capping his return from four back surgeries, a special moment replaced by his Masters victory.

“It’s disappointing,” Woods said. “Last year culminated in a pretty special moment for me and would have been nice to go back there.”

Only seven players dating to 1928 had ever lost a six-shot lead on the PGA Tour. Thomas didn’t want to be the next.

That’s why he shut off his phone on his way to the course. It seemed everyone but him had already declared him the winner, and he found no refuge in the locker room.

“Guys giving me advice in the locker room how to finish off a tournament,” Thomas said. “I was like, ‘I’ve done this a couple times guys but, thank you.’ That’s what I was saying on the way over here. It’s a lot of the outside noise.”

Justin Thomas celebrates his birdie putt Sunday on the 18th green to clinch his win in the BMW Championship golf tournament at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill. He finished under 25.
**MLB Standings**

**American League**

**East Division**

- New York Yankees (93-69)
- Boston Red Sox (91-71)
- Tampa Bay Rays (91-71)
- Baltimore Orioles (67-81)
- Toronto Blue Jays (73-79)

**Central Division**

- Chicago White Sox (93-69)
- Minnesota Twins (93-69)
- Cleveland Indians (87-75)
- Kansas City Royals (84-79)
- Detroit Tigers (72-90)

**West Division**

- Houston Astros (103-59)
- Texas Rangers (75-77)
- Los Angeles Angels (70-77)
- Seattle Mariners (62-80)
- Oakland Athletics (52-90)

**National League**

**East Division**

- Atlanta Braves (96-66)
- Philadelphia Phillies (73-85)
- New York Mets (77-82)
- Miami Marlins (70-102)
- Washington Nationals (73-79)

**Central Division**

- St. Louis Cardinals (97-65)
- Milwaukee Brewers (96-66)
- Cincinnati Reds (94-69)
- Pittsburgh Pirates (82-80)
- Chicago Cubs (78-84)

**West Division**

- Los Angeles Dodgers (102-57)
- San Francisco Giants (96-61)
- San Diego Padres (87-75)
- San Diego Padres (79-83)
- Arizona Diamondbacks (77-85)

**St. Louis Cardinals**

- 3B—Jimenez (1). HR—Jimenez (22), Phillips (1). 3B—Panik (1). HR—Con- 

**San Francisco Giants**

- 3B—Chafin pitched to 3 batters in the 8th.

**Indianapolis**

- 3B—Chafin pitched to 3 batters in the 8th.

**Cubs, 7 Pirates**

- Winning pitcher pitched to 3 batters in the 8th.

**Mariners, 7 Blue Jays**

- Winning pitcher pitched to 3 batters in the 8th.

**Red Sox, 13 Orioles**

- Winning pitcher pitched to 3 batters in the 8th.

**Braves, 5 Dodgers**

- Winning pitcher pitched to 3 batters in the 8th.

**Indians, 8 Yankees**

- Winning pitcher pitched to 3 batters in the 8th.

**Cardinals, 5 Reds**

- Winning pitcher pitched to 3 batters in the 8th.

**Mets, 11 Royals**

- Winning pitcher pitched to 3 batters in the 8th.
Houston Astros pitcher Zack Greinke allowed four hits and three walks with six strikeouts in a 4-1 win at Oakland on Sunday, ending the Astros’ five-game slump.

**Greinke wins 200th game, Astros end five-game slump**

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — After earning his 200th win, Zack Greinke hopes he’s on his way to even bigger achievements with the Houston Astros this season.

Greinke reached the milestone with seven smooth innings Sunday, pitching the first-place Astros past the Oakland Athletics 4-1 to avoid a four-game sweep.

Alex Bregman had a three-run homer among his four hits to back Greinke, who won his third straight start since joining Houston from the Arizona Diamondbacks at the July 31 trade deadline to make the Astros a World Series favorite.

“Wins are good. You look back at the end of the year and the team wins a lot and you win a lot, you can’t ask for much more than that,” Greinke said. “I wouldn’t say there’s many pitchers that would say that that’s the No. 1 most important stat for them, but if you and the team are winning, it’s the most important. It doesn’t necessarily say you’re pitching the best, but it’s the most important.”

Greinke (13-4) went nine up, nine down on 25 pitches to start the game before giving up Marcus Semien’s 21st homer — two days after Semien doubled to break up a perfect game bid by Justin Verlander.

Greinke allowed four hits with three walks and six strikeouts to help the Astros stop a five-game losing streak. He became the 115th pitcher in major league history to reach 200 career wins, and the second in Houston’s rotation along with Verlander.

“You look back at the end of the year and the team wins a lot and you win a lot, you can’t ask for much more than that.”

Zach Greinke
Astros pitcher, on winning his 200th game

is anything from like 66 to 92 mph, which is incredible,” A’s starter Brett Anderson said. “He’s a Hall of Famer in my book.”

Yuli Gurriel added an RBI double in the sixth for undermanned Houston, which had a two-man bench but snatched Oakland’s four-game winning streak. The Astros went back ahead of the A’s by 7 ½ games, matching the club’s season high. One more win will clinch a winning record at the Coliseum for the AL West race.

Anderson (10-9) exited in the sixth because of a blister on his pitching hand.

“I don’t think it’ll be a problem for his next start,” manager Bob Melvin said.

The left-hander allowed four runs on seven hits in five innings, struck out three and walked four in losing his second straight start and fourth in five.

Oakland saw its home winning streak end at six games, matching the club’s season high. One more win will clinch a winning record at the Coliseum for a third consecutive season.

Fill-in right fielder Chad Pinder threw out Jose Altuve at home plate in the first after he reached on a two-base throwing error by Anderson.

Greinke (11-7) allowed five hits and three walks with six strikeouts in a 4 ½ innings.

With grinning Little Leaguers dressed in their uniforms filling the stands at BB&T Ballpark, Quintana (11-7) allowed five hits and walked none. The left-hander improved to 7-0 in nine starts since his last loss June 22.

Braves 5, Dodgers 3: With All-Star outfielder Ronald Acuna Jr. benched for not hustling, Rafael Ortega stepped up with a six-inching grand slam to lift host Atlanta over Los Angeles.

Acuna was pulled before the fifth after failing to run out to a drive off the right field wall in the third. The ball bounced off the wall for a long single. The 21-year-old Acuna likely would have had an easy double if he had hustled from home plate.

Braves manager Brian Snitker followed Acuna into the tunnel for an apparent conversation during the fourth inning before Adam Duvall entered the game in left field in the fifth, with Ortega moving from left to center.

Mets 11, Royals 5: Pete Alonso hit his 40th home run to lead host New York to a 11-5 win at Kansas City. Michael Conforto launched a two-run homer in the first inning and drove in four runs. Amed Rosario put the Mets ahead 6-4 with a two-run single in the seventh, and Alonso went deep in the ninth. He snapped a tie with Cody Bellinger, who hit 39 home runs for the Dodgers in 2017 on the way to winning Rookie of the Year honors.

Indians 8, Yankees 4: Mike Clevinger struck out 10 in five shutout innings to win his seventh straight decision, Mike Freeman had three extra-base hits and Cleveland won at New York for a four-game split between AL pennant contenders.

Freeman hit a three-run homer and a pair of doubles. Oscar Mercado homered and drove in three runs, and Francisco Lindor also connected for the Indians.

Red Sox 13, Orioles 7: Rafael Devers went 4-for-5 with a homer, two doubles and four RBIs as host Boston rallied from an early six-run deficit to complete a three-game sweep of Baltimore.

Cardinals 5, Reds 4: Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run homer, Tommy Edman added a solo shot among his three hits and St. Louis won at Cincinnati to split their four-game series.

Rays 5, Tigers 4: Ji-Man Choi’s two-run single in the bottom of the ninth completed a rally from a late three-run deficit, and host Tampa Bay kept itself in the AL’s second wild-card spot and avoided a series loss to Detroit.

Nationals 16, Brewers 8: Juan Soto hit two of Washington’s team-record-tying eight homers in a 16-8 rout of visiting Milwaukee.

Twins 6, Rangers 3: Jorge Polanco cleared the bases with a tiebreaking triple in the eighth inning, helping visiting Minnesota to its first-ever four-game sweep of Texas.

Mariners 7, Blue Jays 0: Yusei Kikuchi pitched his first shutout in the majors, throwing a two-hitter that led Seattle to a win at Toronto.

Rockies 7, Marlins 6 (10): Garrett Hampson hit a bases-loaded single in the bottom of the 10th inning, and host Colorado rallied to complete a three-game sweep of Miami.

Diamondbacks 6, Giants 1: Wilmer Flores and David Peralta homered, Merrill Kelly held San Francisco to one run in 5 1/3 innings, and host Arizona avoided a four-game sweep.

Angels 9, White Sox 2: Shohei Ohtani, Kole Calhoun, Matt Thaiss and Anthony Rendon all homered to lead host Los Angeles over Chicago.
Georgia leads the pack behind Alabama

By John Zenor
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama is still king in the Southeastern Conference, if not nationally. Nothing that happened in the national championship game changed that, beyond serving as a heartening reminder that Nick Saban’s Crimson Tide isn’t in fact invulnerable.

The pursuit continues in the SEC, with Georgia again leading the chase pack after coming ever so close the past two seasons — in league and national championship games.

So Tide players are motivated by the mantra “never be satisfied.” For Georgia, the catch-phrase is “do more.” Meanwhile, both can eye each other throughout the regular season just in case they meet in the SEC title game.

An Alabama team that won every regular-season game by at least 22 points had to rally to beat the Bulldogs in Atlanta with the SEC title on the line before ultimately getting pummeled 44-16 by Clemson in the national championship game two years ago.

South Carolina’s schedule shapes up as arguably the nation’s toughest.

“I’m not worried about the schedule,” South Carolina coach Will Muschamp said. “I’m worried about the Gamecocks. That’s all. I’m worried about the things that we have to do.”

“Every game’s a must-win,” South Carolina quarterback Tua Tagovailoa said on Tuesday. “Early in the season, we’d been beating teams by a lot. Of course you’re going to get satisfied, because you feel invincible as a team. But never being satisfied is the way to go for us.”

Georgia safety J.R. Reed says the Bulldogs can’t focus on a SEC title game rematch with the Tide.

“We can’t look ahead way down there,” Reed said.

South Carolina coach Will Muschamp and his team hosts both of the participants in last year’s College Football Playoff championship game: Clemson and Alabama.

Three Southeastern Conference coaches have said the SEC’s September schedule includes trips to Georgia and Alabama, have high hopes and veteran quarterbacks.

Trouble galore: Gamecocks may have toughest schedule

By Steve Megargee
Associated Press

South Carolina has the type of brutal schedule that could help the Gamecocks be a better team that winds up with a worse record than last year.

The Gamecocks host both of the participants in last year’s College Football Playoff championship game: Clemson and Alabama. They also travel to Georgia, the runner-up in the national championship game two years ago.

South Carolina’s schedule shapes up as arguably the nation’s toughest.

“I’m not worried about the schedule,” South Carolina coach Will Muschamp said. “I’m worried about the Gamecocks. That’s all. I’m worried about the things that we can control. Again, I think that’s why you come to a place like South Carolina or you come to the Southeastern Conference, to play against the best and be in the limelight every week and have great opportunities every single Saturday.”

South Carolina opens the season with a neutral-site game against North Carolina in the debut of Mack Brown’s second stint with the Tar Heels. The Gamecocks follow that with a home game against Football Championship Subdivision program Charleston Southern.

Then the Gamecocks host Alabama, visit Missouri and host Kentucky to close September. South Carolina visits Georgia and hosts Florida on consecutive weekends before visiting Tennessee and hosting Vanderbilt. South Carolina ends the season by hosting Appalachian State, visiting Texas A&M and hosting in-state rival Clemson.

South Carolina faces six teams that were ranked 16th or better in the final Associated Press Top 25 last season. That doesn’t even include Appalachian State, which has gone 41-11 over the past four seasons.

Other teams have particularly tough schedules, too:

Auburn

Notes: Auburn faces four of the top eight teams in last year’s season-ending Top 25. The Tigers also travel to Texas A&M and open with a neutral-site game against Oregon.

South Carolina coach Will Muschamp and his team hosts both of the participants in last year’s College Football Playoff championship game: Clemson and Alabama. South Carolina also travels to Georgia, the runner-up in the national championship game two years ago.

at Indiana. Nov. 30: Ohio State.

Notes: The strength of this schedule is its balance. The Wolverines don’t face an FCS team. Their two Group of Five opponents (Middle Tennessee and Army) reached bowl games last season. Army ended the year ranked 19th.

Southern California

Notes: There’s not a breather on this schedule. USC’s three nonconference opponents (Fresno State, BYU and Notre Dame) went a combined 31-9 last season. USC’s cross-divisional opponents in its Pac-12 schedule include North powers Oregon, Washington and Stanford.

Stanford

Notes: Stanford’s three nonconference opponents (Northernwestern, UCF and Notre Dame) went a combined 33-7 last season. Stanford faces four teams that finished last season ranked 13th or higher. The Cardinal’s September schedule includes trips to USC and UCF plus a home game with Oregon on consecutive weekends.

Texas A&M

Notes: Texas A&M faces four of the top eight teams from the season-ending AP poll. The Aggies play three of those games on the road, including visits to Georgia and LSU the last two weeks of the season. This schedule has plenty of weightiness but also includes FCS program Lamar plus Texas State and UTSA.
Clemson leads first Top 25 poll

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

Cross off another milestone for Clemson, college football’s newest superstar.

For the first time, the defending national champions are No. 1 in The Associated Press preseason Top 25. The Tigers won the program’s second national title in three seasons behind freshman quarterback Trevor Lawrence in January. Clemson now can claim equal standing with Alabama at the top of the sport.

The Crimson Tide, coming off an 11-1 loss to Clemson in the College Football Playoff championship, is No. 2. Clemson received 45 first-place votes and Alabama received the other 10 from the media. Clemson snaps a record-breaking string of three straight years in which Alabama was preseason No. 1.

Georgia, Alabama’s Southeastern Conference rival, is No. 3, followed by No. 4 Oklahoma and No. 5 Ohio State.

Clemson’s rise under coach Dabo Swinney has been uncommon in college football. The school won the national championship in 1981, but mostly had resided on a tier well below the traditional national powers. Clemson football was usually good and sometimes excellent, but never this.

Last season’s championship made Clemson just the 12th school with at least three AP titles since the poll started in 1936.

The Tigers enter 2019 with a 15-game winning streak and eight straight double-digit victory seasons. Since 2015, when they lost the national championship game to Alabama, the Tigers are 55-4.

Nick Saban’s Alabama dynasty, with five national titles in a 10-year span, has finally met its match. The Tide is also 5-4 in the last four seasons.

Clemson and Alabama have split the last four national championships, played in the last four playoffs and are poised to make it five straight. This will be the third time since 2016 the Tigers and Tide have started the season Nos. 1 and 2 in the Top 25. Beginning with 2015, when Alabama and Clemson occupied the top two spots in the last four AP polls of the season, the Tide and Tigers have been Nos. 1 and 2 in some order 22 times.

Last year’s Clemson team was highlighted by a defensive line that had three starters selected in the first round of the NFL Draft, and a fourth taken in round four.

The Tigers have some rebuilding to do on that side of the ball, but recent history suggests reinforcements are ready. This year Lawrence and the offense will be the headline. The first freshman quarterback in more than three decades to lead a team to a national championship, Lawrence will be joined by star receivers Tee Higgins (12 touchdowns) and Justyn Ross (nine touchdowns) and star linebacker in the back Travis Etienne (8.1 yards per carry).

Alabama returns quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, the Heisman Trophy runner-up, and an array of weapons, too. As a new season starts, college football fans best be prepared for Tide vs. Tigers V.

Poll points

Clemson is the 23rd team to be preseason No. 1 and the first first-timer since Georgia in 2008. The Tigers will try to become the first team to start No. 1 since Florida State and Oklahoma for the most in AP poll history. Just as many teams (13) have started Nos. 2 and won the title as No. 1.

Consistent Buckeyes

Ohio State is ranked in the preseason for the 31st consecutive season (1989-2019), the third best all-time streak behind only Penn State (34 years, 1968-2002) and Nebraska (33 years, 1970-2002). The Buckeyes have been ranked in 66 of 70 preseason polls, most of any school. The Buckeyes were unranked in 1966-67, 1969 and 1988.

Tough draw

No. 12 Texas A&M and South Carolina will each play the preseason top three. Only three times in the past 15 years has a team drawn the entire preseason top three on its schedule:

- In 1968, Northwestern faced Purdue, USC and Notre Dame and went 0-3.
- In 1972, Minnesota faced Nebraska, Colorado and Ohio State and went 0-3.
- In 1975, Missouri faced Oklahoma, Alabama and Michigan and went 1-2, beating No. 2 Alabama to open the season.

Been a while

- No. 14 Utah has been a regular in the preseason rankings for most of the last five seasons, but the Utes have not been ranked in the preseason since 2011 when they started No. 19.
- No. 21 Iowa State is making its second appearance in the preseason poll. The Cyclones were No. 20 in 1978.
- No. 22 Syracuse is in the preseason Top 25 for the first time since 1998, when the Orange were No. 17.

New faces

For the second time in four seasons, the league will have four new head coaches with three in the Coastal Division.

Scott Satterfield, Louisville: The 46-year-old had a strong run at Appalachian State and must rebuild a Louisville program that abruptly bottomed out under fired coach Bobby Petrino. Geoff Collins, Georgia Tech: Collins arrives from Temple to replace Paul Johnson, who retired after 11 seasons directing a run-happy option scheme. Now Collins is trying to reshape the offense while adapting to players recruited to the option scheme.

Manny Diaz, Miami: Diaz had left as Miami’s defensive coordinator to become Temple’s new coach, only to end up taking over the Hurricanes after Richt’s unexpected retirement.

Mack Brown, North Carolina: Tar Heels fans would love anything approaching Brown’s first stint in Chapel Hill, a decade-long run that included top-10 seasons in 1996 and 1997 before his 16-year run at Texas. He inherits a program that lost 21 of 27 games since November 2016 under former coach Larry Fedora.

Reversing course

Pressure is high at Florida State and Virginia Tech.

The Seminoles made just 5-7 in their first year under Willie Taggart and failed to earn a bowl trip for the first time since 1981. And the Hokies finished 6-7 in their third year under Justin Fuente, marking their first losing record since 1992.

The good news, at least, is both teams will have plenty of returners familiarizing experience. FSU has 15 starters back on offense and defense, while Virginia Tech has 16.
Clemson players huddle before the national championship game against Alabama on January 7 in Santa Clara, Calif. The Tigers thrashed the Crimson Tide 44-16, and Clemson enters this season as overwhelming favorite in the Atlantic Coast Conference and a serious contender for a third national title in four seasons.

Roaring back

In the ACC, it’s four-time champion Clemson – and everyone else

By Aaron Beard
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Reigning national champion Clemson has taken any drama out of the Atlantic Coast Conference race.

At least on paper.

Dabo Swinney’s program has risen to the top of college football, not just the ACC, during a multi-year tear. The Tigers enter the 2019 season with four straight ACC championships, the kind of domination last seen when Bobby Bowden’s Florida State teams romped through the 1990s with at least a share of nine straight titles.

They’re an overwhelming favorite yet again as they contend for a third national title in four seasons.

“Truly, we don’t carry everything over,” Swinney said, adding: “It’s always about what’s next. You’ve got to show up every year with something to prove.”

That mission now is becoming the first power conference team to win five consecutive league championship games. The strength will be on an offense led by quarterback Trevor Lawrence — the preseason ACC player of the year and one of 13 Tigers players making up nearly half of the 27-player preseason all-conference team.

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