WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump repeatedly pushed Ukraine’s president to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden, according to a rough transcript of a summer phone call that is now at the center of Democrats’ impeachment inquiry and Trump dismissing it as a “nothing call.” Yet the rough transcript clearly shows Trump’s willingness to engage a foreign leader on matters directly related to his re-election prospects.

The new impeachment probe plunges a deeply divided nation into an election year clash between Congress and the commander in chief. The probe injects deep uncertainty into the 2020 election campaign and tests anew the nation’s constitutional system of checks and balances.

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Trump spent Wednesday meeting with world leaders at the United Nations, a remarkable split screen even for the turbulence of the Trump era. On his schedule: a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, whose contacts with Trump are now central to the impeachment inquiry. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who launched the impeachment inquiry after months of resistance, said Trump’s call with Zelenskiy amounted to a “shakedown” to benefit his campaign. She declared, “Congress must act.”

BY LISA MASCARO,
MARY CLARE JALONICK AND JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump repeatedly pushed Ukraine’s president to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden, according to a rough transcript of a summer phone call that is now at the center of Democrats’ impeachment probe into Trump. In the conversation, Trump told his Ukrainian counterpart, “I would like for you to do us a favor.” He urges him to work with Attorney General William Barr and Rudy Giuliani, Trump’s personal lawyer.

The president’s words set the parameters of the political debate to come, with Democrats saying that it laid the predicate for an impeachment inquiry and Trump dismissing it as a “nothing call.” Yet the rough transcript clearly shows Trump’s willingness to engage a foreign leader on matters directly related to his re-election prospects.

The new impeachment probe plunges a deeply divided nation into an election year clash between Congress and the commander in chief. The probe injects deep uncertainty into the 2020 election campaign and tests anew the nation’s constitutional system of checks and balances.
Military commanders in Oklahoma were warned of the potential threat of violence at the theatrical release of the upcoming “Joker” movie, though law enforcement officials are not sure which theaters may be affected.

An Army Criminal Investigation Command memo issued Monday put commanders at Fort Sill, Okla., on notice about an intelligence bulletin that said a Texas law enforcement agency working with the FBI had warned “disturbing and very specific chatter in the dark web” about the possible targeting of an unknown theater for a mass shooting during the Oct. 4 release.

An image of the memo was posted briefly to the popular Air Force amn/nco/snco Facebook page before being removed Tuesday. The command, which is also known as CID, confirmed its authenticity to Stars and Stripes.

“Out of an abundance of caution, our Fort Sill office distributed the memo to internal military personnel at Fort Sill,” said CID spokesman Christopher Grey.

The memo was based on information in a bulletin from the Texas Joint Crime Information Center, Grey said.

An official at the Texas center, who declined to be named to discuss the matter freely, called the warning “valid,” but said there was no specific location mentioned.

CID has in the past issued warnings based on information from civilian agencies about matters that were found to not be serious threats. Earlier this year, the command issued an internal warning about the “Momo Challenge,” though it had been widely debunked as a hoax.

Still, CID issued the warning because the challenge, which purportedly involved a series of increasingly dangerous tasks leading up to suicide or self-harm, “still has potential holding power over young and impressionable children” online, Grey told Stars and Stripes via email in April.

“The warning’s intent is to make the Army community aware of the susceptibility of children as … internet and social media platform usage increases,” he said at the time. “We have a significant form usage increases,” he said at the time. “We have a significant role in preventing crimes and threats to our Army.”

The warning comes as the upcoming movie, which focuses on the eponymous villain from the Batman comics, played by Joaquin Phoenix, has been winning awards at pre-release film festivals. But it also has come under fire for purportedly glamorizing its villainous and violent main character.

Families of the victims of a 2012 shooting at a screening of the Batman film “The Dark Knight Rises” delivered a letter Tuesday to Warner Bros., the studio behind both that movie and the “Joker,” criticizing the latest film portrayal for its “sympathetic” take on the villain’s rise from loner to killer, the Guardian newspaper reported.

That attack, in Aurora, Colo., left 12 dead and 70 injured.

Sandy Phillips, whose daughter, Jessica Ghawi, was one of 12 people killed in the suburban Denver theater, told The Associated Press she and four others sent the letter to Warner Bros., asking the studio to lobby Congress for gun control, support survivor programs and end any contributions to politicians backed by the National Rifle Association.

The Aurora theater was remodeled and renamed after the shooting, the AP reported. An employee at Century Aurora and XD, reached by telephone by the AP Tuesday, said there were no immediate plans to show “Joker” at the theater but referred calls for comment to Cinemark spokesman James Meredith.

The Batman movie just happened to be a blockbuster opening at the time the shooter, James Holmes, intended to commit the crime, George Brauchler, the 18th Judicial District attorney who prosecuted the case, told the Denver Post. Holmes was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Meanwhile, “Joker” director Todd Phillips has responded to the controversy surrounding his film, including some critiques arguing that it could inspire violence.

“I would just argue that you might want to watch the movie,” Phillips told the website IGN. “You might want to watch it with an open mind.”

Joaquin Phoenix stars in the upcoming movie “Joker.” A threat of violence at the movie’s scheduled Oklahoma opening prompted the Army Criminal Investigation Command to issue a warning.

PCSing? RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at www.stripes.com/relo
Army’s warfighting plans face obstacles in Europe

BY JOHN VAN DIVER
Stars and Stripes

An Army strategy to work closely with allies to fight future wars could be at risk if the capability gap between the U.S. and some European militaries is allowed to widen, a new study suggests.

The Army outlined in a report called “Multi-Domain Operations 2028” its plan to rapidly deploy and integrate all elements of American military power — from traditional ground and air combat to newer warfighting zones such as cyber, space and information operations — in the event of conflict with “fears” like Russia or China.

The plan focuses on how to penetrate sophisticated enemy defenses and ensure the U.S. and its allies can maneuver, resupply and reinforce troops.

But there are problems with the strategy, the new study, titled “European Allies in Multi-Domain Operations,” has found.

“There is a risk that if the U.S. does not engage its allies early … U.S. capabilities will diverge from allied systems, making the level of integration of our forces difficult to achieve,” says the report by the Association of the U.S. Army’s Institute of Land Warfare. If the U.S. is to counterattack against a Russian incursion within 21 days, as miliary plans call for, “there will need to be widespread European cooperation on the movement of personnel and arms across borders,” the report said.

Political realignments in Europe are among the problems and could undermine the heart of the Army’s modernization push, says the report published this week with the London-based Royal United Services Institute.

The top priority in the Army’s effort to upgrade its arsenal, for instance, is developing long-range precision fires crucial for countering Russia.

“The intent is to deploy fires in Europe able to outrange Russia’s Iskander short-range ballistic missiles to strike railways, ammunition dumps and infrastructure critical to Russia’s Integrated Air Defense System in the event of conflict,” the report said.

The weapons would be central in future warfare, but the “political ramifications of reintroducing these systems to Europe may be significant,” the report says.

Allies may be concerned that new deployments would set off an arms race, risk aggressive messaging from Russia about its nuclear capabilities and ultimately make European populations feel they are potential targets. “In this climate, permission to base LRPF (long-range precision) fires on European territories may be difficult,” the report says.

Wars like Poland would probably be eager to host the American weapons, others, like Germany, could be expected to oppose such a move, opening a rift within NATO.

Meanwhile, non-NATO states like Austria could also be opposed to such weapon deployments and may cause difficulties in other areas that are key to the Army’s plans, such as the free movement of military equipment and troops around Europe, the report says.

For years, the U.S. military and NATO has been pushing for streamlined diplomatic clearances to accelerate troop movements in a crisis, but there are still no universal guidelines.

At the same time, military capability gaps are widening between the U.S. and its allies, and training isn’t keeping pace with the demands imposed by the multidomain concept.

NATO exercises, and joint exercises between European and U.S. forces, are “inflexible and overly scripted” with allies “reluctant to have their limitations demonstrated in front of U.S. partners.”

“For very little is trained to the point of failure,” the report states. “Scripting is also pushed by NATO, which wishes such activities to be used to bolster its image internally, and its deterrence posture externally. This makes failure unacceptable.”

Meanwhile, the warfighting concept also requires competing with Russia in areas such as information and cyberoperations, but to be effective that would require access to cyberinfrastructure of foreign states.

Providing access to the U.S. to conduct cyber-reconnaissance “would be politically sensitive,” according to the report.

For its part, the Army has described its plans as a work in progress.

When it released the Multi-Domain Operations 2028 concept at the end of last year, then-chief of staff Gen. Mark Milley said it was a “first step” in the Army’s evolution.

“We must examine all aspects of our warfighting methods and understand how we enable the joint force on the future battlefield. We must challenge our underlying assumptions,” Milley wrote at the time.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

For first time, Japan takes lead on Malabar exercise

BY CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Naval exercises involving warships and aircraft from the United States, Japan and India got underway off the coast of Sasebo, Japan, on Wednesday.

Exercise Malabar is an annual 10-day exercise aimed at addressing new threats and improving relations between the participating countries.

This year, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force for the first time will be leading Malabar through a series of on-shore and at-sea training events, according to a statement issued Wednesday by the U.S. 7th Fleet.

“Thanks to the hard work of staffs and leaders in the Indian and U.S. navies, we are free to address the need of our alliance, and the protection of ourhome countries,” the statement said.

Japan, in line with the Joint Staff Plan 2014, “is committed to the continued strengthening of its defense cooperation with the United States and other countries in the region,” the statement said.

US tanks, troops head to Lithuania for extended deployment

BY JOHN VAN DIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — More than 500 U.S. soldiers and dozens of tanks and heavy fighting vehicles will deploy to Lithuania in the coming days on an extended mission to bulk up NATO’s eastern flank, the Baltic country’s military said Wednesday.

The troops are being dispatched as part of U.S. Army Europe’s Atlantic Resolve campaign, which involves rotating hundreds of troops to locations up and down eastern Europe in an effort to deter Russian aggression in the region.

“The looming arrival of U.S. forces was welcomed by Lithuanian officials, who have lobbied more frequent and longer American troop rotations since Atlantic Resolve began in the wake of Russia’s annexation of Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

“We have sought a larger, longer-term U.S. military involvement in Lithuania and the region consistently and patiently,” Defense Minister Raimundas Karoblis said in a statement.

The deployment of the U.S. Army battalion for a longer period of time is good and awaited news and a result of our efforts and investment,” the U.S. military is “a vital factor of deterrence” in the Baltic region, Karoblis said.

Unlike past deployments of Army battalions to Lithuania, the current mission is for a long-term deployment rather than an international exercise, the Lithuanian Defense Ministry said.

The unit — the 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Hood, Texas — is expected to be in the country through spring 2020, it said.

The unit is part of a broader brigade rotation into Europe involving the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, which deploys in October, U.S. Army Europe said.

The 9th Cavalry will bring with it 30 Abrams tanks, 25 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles and 70 wheeled vehicles, the Defense Ministry said. They will be based out of a training area in Pabrade, a small town near the country’s border with Belarus.

Lithuania will provide lodging and logistical support during the deployment, the ministry said.

For the U.S.-led NATO alliance, the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have been an area of focus over the past couple of years. All three have multinationalliance battlegrounds, which were deployed on a year-round basis in 2017 to deter Russian aggression.

A U.S. battalion is also positioned in northern Poland, near the Russian military hub in Kaliningrad, which is wedged between Poland and Lithuania. NATO forces in the area are focused on defending the Suwalki Gap, a vulnerable 45-mile corridor regarded as likely a battle zone in the event of a conflict with Russia.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver
KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Mold and water issues have forced two new schools on U.S. bases in Germany to partially close as officials work to correct the potential health hazards.

Black mold was discovered in one of the walls at Kaiserslautern High School last spring, while a water leak was detected last week under the floor in the Vogelweh Elementary School’s first-grade “neighborhood” — a term used to describe a cluster of open classrooms in Department of Defense Education Activity’s newer facilities, dubbed “21st Century Schools.”

Kaiserslautern opened last fall and Vogelweh opened several weeks ago.

The building issues have not affected instruction, said the principals at both schools.

“We do not expect any disruption to daily activities,” Vogelweh principal David Lee said in a note to parents last week.

Students and furniture were moved out of the affected area at the Vogelweh school to allow the floor to dry, officials said.

Work was also being done to determine the source of the leak. Steve Ross, DODEA program manager for the Army Corps of Engineers Europe district, said in a statement. USACE is overseeing repairs at both schools.

The black mold at the high school may have started with clogged drains in one of the school’s “living walls,” a plant wall and irrigation system that’s one of several nontraditional design features built into the $74 million school, officials said.

The wall near where the mold was found is constructed of reinforced concrete with an aluminum frame — which holds fabric-lined baskets filled with plants and soil — and a drip irrigation system. It drains into the building’s sewer and stormwater system, Ross said.

Leaves appear to have plugged the open drains connected to one of the walls, causing water to overflow and drain into the floors, raising humidity in the atrium, Ross said.

Kaiserslautern High School has several living walls throughout the school. They’re intended to remove indoor air contaminants, serve as an educational tool and enhance the transmission of natural light.

The living wall was a pilot project at Kaiserslautern and no other DODEA school in Europe has one, Ross said.

The mold was tested this summer and damaged plaster was removed, Ross said. Dehumidifiers were used for several weeks to dry out the affected areas. The next step is to repair the damaged areas and retest the air quality, Ross said.

Repair efforts are expected to take about a month and a half.

Meanwhile, the wing where the mold was found remains closed.

Exposure to mold may cause health issues, particularly in individuals with allergies or asthma, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says on its website. There have been no reports of any illnesses connected to the mold, school officials said.

“The flexibility of modern schools, such as Kaiserslautern and Vogelweh, is what allowed classes to continue without “any disruption,” Lee, the elementary school principal, said in his note to parents.

“Our 21st Century learning environment allows us to accommodate a variety of class configurations and maintain our high expectations for instruction,” he wrote.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripesktown
**S. Korea out, China in at Japan’s fleet review**

By Hana Kusumoto and Caitlin Doornbos

South Korea is out, but China is in this year at the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Fleet Review scheduled for Oct. 14, a JMSDF spokesman said Wednesday.

South Korea last month decided to let expire in November an intelligence-sharing pact with Japan — the General Security of Military Information Agreement. The pact allows the countries to share critical security information, including intelligence on North Korea's nuclear and missile works.

"Japan-South Korea relations remains very harsh due to negative actions taken by the South Korean side," JMSDF Chief of Staff Adm. Hiroshi Yamamura said during a news conference Tuesday, according to a spokesman.

He did not specify during the conference what he meant by negative actions, the spokesman said.

"We comprehensively determined that we don’t have an adequate environment to invite South Korea for this year’s fleet review," Yamamura added, according to the spokesman.

South Korea's decision to end the pact brought criticism from the United States, which has defense treaties with both countries.

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"We comprehensively determined that we don’t have an adequate environment to invite South Korea for this year’s fleet review," Yamamura added, according to the spokesman.

South Korean officials have said the decision was made after Japan removed the country from its list of trusted trading partners and announced it would restrict exports of chemicals considered essential to South Korean manufacturers.

Relations between the countries have been fraught with tension for decades over atrocities that happened during Japan's occupation of South Korea in 1910-45.

Last year, South Korea's Supreme Court ruled Japan must compensate South Koreans forced to work for Japan during the occupation. Japan disputes the ruling, arguing a 1965 treaty settled the debts, according to a July 18 Reuters report.

South Korea has participated in Japan’s fleet review twice in the past, including the most recent one in 2015, according to the JMSDF spokesman.

The spokesman also said China will be participating for the first time.

The Chinese navy, which held its own fleet review in April to celebrate its 70th anniversary, similarly retracted an invitation to France to take part in the event. The French navy, in a rare move by a European power, on April 6 sent a warship through the Taiwan Strait, a waterway over which China asserts authority.

That act by France presumably led to China withdrawing its invitation, according to published reports at the time.

The U.S. declined an invitation to send warships to the China fleet review.

Japan expects 46 ships and 40 aircraft, including those from the U.S., China, Singapore, the United Kingdom, India and Australia, according to a JMSDF press release.

The review will be held in Sagami Bay, southwest of Tokyo Bay and between Japan’s Miura and Izu peninsulas.

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**MILITARY**

**Some Navy residents will see jump in electricity rates**

**By Wyatt Olson**
**Stars and Stripes**

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — Navy installation officials are scrambling to explain a 68% jump in electricity rates next month for airmen and sailors living in privatized housing on the island.

Residents of Hickam Communities and Ohana Military Communities were notified earlier this month that the rate for electricity coming from a Navy-owned power grid would increase from 19 cents per kilowatt-hour to 32 cents per kWh on Oct. 1.

A residence using 500 kWh per month — roughly the Hawaii state average — would see a monthly bill increase from $95 to $160.

The rate increase is the result of a Navy-wide budget reform that converted the engineering command from a self-supporting revolving-fund organization into a general fund entity. Under the new structure, the command is required to bill users the actual costs of utilities and facilities management.

For roughly the past five years, the engineering command had set the electricity rate paid by residents of Hickam Communities and Ohana Military Communities below what it actually costs the Navy to buy from Hawaiian Electric Co., Delao said.

As of Oct. 1, the Navy will buy electricity from Hawaiian Electric, add overhead costs of management and maintenance and then charge customers based on those real costs, he said.

Hawaii’s residential electricity rates are the highest in America. Delao said he flew to Washington two weeks ago to plead with “corporate headquarters” for rate relief from the 39 cents per kilowatt-hour the Navy had initially intended for Hawaii.

Last week, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii learned that the rate for fiscal year 2020 was being lowered to 32 cents per kWh, which is basically the same as Hawaiian Electric’s rate for regular residential customers on Oahu, he said.

Some residents questioned why the energy being generated and sold back to Hawaiian Electric from the many solar panels in the two communities did not lead to lower electric bills. An engineering command representative said solar is offsetting only 15 percent of electrical demand.

Delao and other officials at the town hall meeting encouraged residents to use the Navy’s Know Load program, an energy assessment program that evaluates the efficiency of home appliances.

But a resident who identified herself as a single mother challenged the usefulness of the program.

“I’ve done it twice, and both times they told me that I’m doing everything fine, everything’s perfect,” she told the audience.

“Yet I’m still paying over $300 a month.”

**Low-altitude flight ban urged after helo’s hard landing**

**By Marty Egnash and Marcus Kloekner**
**Stars and Stripes**

ANSBACH, Germany — A German prototype group called Wednesday for low-altitude military flights to be banned after an Army attack helicopter cut six high-voltage power lines when it made an emergency landing in the Bavaria region, officials and media reports said.

“The extremely lax flight regulations for U.S. helicopters stationed in Ansbach-Kaetternbach and Illesheim put lives in danger,” the Etz Langt’s pressure group said in a statement posted on its website.

“Flights as low as three meters above ground and landings in open fields and near residential areas are allowed. This is totally irresponsible,” the group said.

More than 200 firefighters responded to a fire near the town of Linden on Tuesday after a report of a helicopter crash, said area fire chief Johannes Hofmann, who said he was the first on the scene.

“We did not know if it was a bad crash and if the helicopter was on fire,” he said.

When Hofmann arrived, he saw the windshield cracked in several places. “One of the pilots said that he felt some pain in his back,” Hofmann said. “But he did not want to be checked out by our paramedics.”

The Apache and crew were from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, stationed in Ansbach, about 20 miles away, the Army said in a statement. The incident happened during a routine training flight.

“One of our Apache helicopters had to land quickly and unexpectedly,” said Col. John B. Broma, the brigade commander.

“There are no reported injuries at this time.”

Army aviators undergo training that is “realistic and challenging,” Broma said.

“It has to be to ensure we are constantly proficient and ready to respond to any mission we are called on to perform,” he said. “We balance that difficult training with taking every safety precaution we can.”

Hofmann, who has been a firefighter in the region since 2004, said he has seen a somewhat longer-lasting impact. The A7 highway between Rothenburg ob der Tauber and Bad Windsheim was shut down in both directions for several hours as crew worked to repair the power line, Hofmann said. It had reopened by Wednesday evening, local media reported.

The area where the emergency landing occurred is “not suitable for risky flight training,” said the Etz Langt’s protest group.

“In the U.S., there are plenty of uninhabited areas where no residents would be in danger,” the group said. “If Donald Trump wants to play war games, he should do it at home, not here.”

**Navy Exchange joins AAFES in banning sale of vape products**

**By Christian Lopez and James Bolinger**
**Stars and Stripes**

The Navy Exchange is banning concessionaires who sell electronic cigarettes and vape products at its locations starting Oct. 1, an official said Tuesday.

“The NEX does not sell any vaping products, but some NEX locations have concession vendors who do sell these products,” Navy Exchange Service Command public affairs officer Courtney Williams said in an email.

“Therefore, due to recent federal proposals, beginning on 1 OCT, the NEX will prohibit all concessionaires or vendors from selling e-cigarettes or vaping products in all NEX locations,” she said.

Williams said the Navy made the decision Sept. 12, the same day the Army Public Health Center warned servicemembers to avoid vape products after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said vaping may be linked to hundreds of cases of severe lung disease and at least six deaths in dozens of states.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service also plans to pull vape products from store shelves starting Monday.

The Marine Corps Exchange, however, hasn’t decided whether to take e-cigarettes and vape products off its shelves, a Marine Corps official said in an email Wednesday.

“No decisions have been made at this time,” said Bryan Driver, of the Plans, Policy and Analysis Directorate, Business and Support Services, Headquarters Marine Corps.

Last week, retail giant Walmart announced it would stop selling the products amid concerns about links to severe lung disease.

“While the NEX does not sell any vaping products, many NEX locations have vendors selling these products,” Lopez said in an email.

“In order to serve our military community, the NEX has decided to prohibit the sale of these products,” Lopez said.
Japan Coast Guard wants Osprey pilot in 2016 crash charged

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japan Coast Guard officials have requested that prosecutors charge a Marine helicopter pilot found to be at fault in a 2016 MV-22 Osprey crash off Okinawa.

The charges were referred Tuesday to the Naha District Public Prosecutors Office by the Okinawakoku Coast Guard Office, a Coast Guard spokesman confirmed to Stars and Stripes on Wednesday.

Coast Guard officials requested that the unnamed Marine pilot be charged with negligence resulting in an aircraft crash under Japanese aviation law, which could bring three years in prison or up to $3,863 in fines.

Prosecutors declined to comment Wednesday when asked if they intend to charge the pilot.

The pilot’s name is not known because Marine officials have declined to provide it to Coast Guard officials, a Coast Guard spokesman said.

“We will examine the case thoroughly and make a decision,” a spokesman for the prosecutor’s office said Wednesday.

The spokesman said not having the name of the servicemember does not necessarily doom any potential prosecution.

Coast Guard officials said they recently wrapped up their investigation into the incident. They declined to comment further.

In Japan, the Coast Guard serves in a maritime law enforcement capacity and is separate from the Ministry of Defense.

It is customary in Japan for some government officials to speak on condition of anonymity. Marine officials did not respond to requests seeking comment Wednesday. Okinawa prefectural officials declined to comment and Okinawa Defense Bureau officials, which represent Japan’s Ministry of Defense on the island, did not respond to requests seeking comment.

The status of forces agreement between the countries gives Japanese authorities jurisdiction to prosecute U.S. servicemembers “with respect to offenses committed within the territory of Japan punishable by the law of Japan.”

However, the SOFA also waives certain claims of property damage. Marine officials never recovered a vessel or cargo salvaged was owned by a Party and being used by its defense services for official purposes.

Officials from Japan’s Foreign Ministry did not respond to requests seeking comment regarding the SOFA on Wednesday.

The crash occurred during nighttime aerial refueling on Dec. 13, 2016, after one of the helicopter-airplane hybrid’s propellers clipped a thick hose on an Air Force C-130 tanker, officials said at the time.

The pilot was able to limp 18 miles back to Okinawa but put the tilt-rotor aircraft down into the sea rather than fly over a residential area to reach Marine Corps Air Station Futemna.

Two of its five crewmembers bled to death from injuries sustained in the crash. The aircraft — assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing — was a total loss, officials said.

Osprey operations were temporarily suspended after the incident.

The crew was lauded by then-III Marine Expeditionary Force commander Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson for risking their lives rather than flying over Okinawan homes en route to Futemna, though local opposition over the safety of the aircraft flared up.

Nicholson delivered the report regarding the incident to Okinawan officials on Sept. 11, 2017.

Responsibility for the crash was determined to rest solely with the pilot. Marine officials never commented on the pilot’s status or whether the pilot was punished.

The U.S. military took a series of preventative measures after the crash, from adding wake turbulence to flight simulators to education and instruction.

South Korean media have reported that the Trump administration has sought a fivefold increase to about $5 billion a year.

Trump has consistently called for South Korea to increase its contribution, in line with his general position that U.S. allies should pay more for their own defense.

By He and South Korean President Moon Jae-in also discussed the need during a summit Monday on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

“We are also revitalizing our alliances by making it very clear that all of our partners are expected to pay their fair share of the tremendous defense burden which the United States has borne in the past,” Trump reiterated during his speech Tuesday at the General Assembly.

In August, he tweeted that South Korea was “a very wealthy nation” and had “agreed to pay substantially more money to the United States in order to defend itself from North Korea.” South Korean officials stressed at the time that negotiations had not yet begun.

South Korea says it has paid nearly half of the $2 billion cost for stationing U.S. troops in South Korea annually as well as funding the nearly $11 billion expansion of Camp Humphreys, the new U.S. military headquarters base south of Seoul.

Stars and Stripes

KELSEY DORNFELD U.S. Marine Corps

An MV-22B Osprey from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing prepares to land on an Okinawan island in 2016. The Japan Coast Guard is seeking charges against a Marine Osprey pilot in a 2016 crash.

BY KIM GABEL AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEoul, South Korea — With a Dec. 31 deadline looming, the United States and South Korea agreed to work toward a “reasonable and fair” military cost-sharing deal as negotiators wrapped up the first round of talks Wednesday, the Foreign Ministry said.

U.S. demands that Seoul pay more for stationing some 28,500 American troops on the divided peninsula have raised pressure on the longtime alliance as the two sides are trying to get nuclear talks with North Korea back on track.

Talks led by State Department official James DeHart and veteran South Korean negotiator Chang Won-sam met Tuesday at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses in Seoul to discuss the 11th Special Measures Agreement.

“South Korea and the United States agreed to continue the negotiations for sharing the cost at a reasonable and fair level based on mutual respect and trust as allies in a dynamic and new negotiating environment,” the Foreign Ministry said.

“Both sides shared the view that the [South Korean]-U.S. alliance is stronger than ever.”

The next round of talks is to be held next month in the United States.

The two sides missed last year’s deadline after months of fraught bargaining but agreed in February on a stopgap measure that required South Korea to pay 1.04 trillion won ($920 million at the time) for 2018.

That was an 8.2% increase from the previous year. However, the contracting allies were only one year, instead of the usual five years, and is due to expire at the end of this year.

South Korean media have reported that the Trump administration has sought a fivefold increase to about $5 billion a year.

Negotiations over the agreement, which have taken place since 1991, have always been difficult.

But the current discussions come as the allies face new challenges after the South Koreans ended a U.S.-backed military intelligence-sharing agreement with rival Japan.

North Korea also has stepped up criticism of the alliance, which it considers an existential threat, as it seeks security guarantees as well as sanctions relief in exchange for possible concessions over its nuclear weapons program.

Washington wants Seoul to pay more for stationing troops on peninsula

Stars and Stripes

BY KIM GABEL AND YOO KYONG CHANG
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Stars and Stripes
Edwards AFB will honor parachutist who died in jump

By Chad Garland
Stars and Stripes

A memorial for Staff Sgt. Adam Erickson was held Friday at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The base will dedicate two parachute drop zones in honor of Erickson, a master parachutist who died in a jump.

A caravan of airmen traveled to that ceremony, “to ensure a sea of blue service dress uniforms” was present, including more than 70 members of the SERE community who shared stories of Erickson’s life with his family, Eishen said.

Listening to family stories “confirmed how lucky we were to know Adam.”

“Thank you, Adam.”

daniel.chad@stripes.com

Veterans ask Trump to end delay on blue water claims

By Nikki Wentling
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Vietnam veteran Bobby Daniels has between 24 and 32 so his wife can receive survivor’s benefits, VA recognize his Agent Orange exposure the secretary can enforce a stay on claims year, citing a provision in the law that says one of the areas will be called “Rick Drop Zone” in a nod to the nickname of Staff Sgt. Adam Erickson, 29, who was killed on Sept. 10 during a routine military proficiency jump, Master Sgt. Brandon Fountain said during a memorial service at one of the base’s chapels on Friday.

Erickson was a Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialist who was certified as a test parachutist and a Vietnam veteran commissioned officer in charge of parachutist program operations before he died in a jump.

“Thank you for making him the wonder, smart, funny and ridiculous perfect man that he was,” Fountain told the Erickson family.

“Saying Adam will be missed is a massive understatement; he very clearly enhanced every life that he touched,” Fountain said.

Erickson had deployed to Qatar to support battlefield personnel recovery operations in U.S. Central Command and had served as a jumpmaster on a deployment to Romania this year.

Calling him a “phenomenal jumpmaster,” Fountain said Erickson had earned the coveted master parachutist rating just weeks before his death.

“The days since his death have been ‘full of mixed emotions,’” 412th Test Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Ian Eishen said in a Facebook post Saturday thanking members of the Air Force and the community for various forms of support.

Donors rallied to raise more than $23,000 to ensure family, friends and others could travel to attend Erickson’s funeral last week near his hometown. Erickson’s sister has said some of that money would be used for memorial arts and in Ojai.

“When Adam’s prior Group Chief Marc Allen took leave to fly back to the area to help this team grieve and asked what he could do, the family said they needed help with yardwork” before the large gathering of family arrived for the funeral, Eishen said.

“So Marc got to work.”

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Man sentenced for theft from Army Reserve

By Rose L. Thayer
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — A former Army Reserve civilian employee was sentenced Tuesday to 18 months in federal prison for stealing more than $400,000 from the 63rd Regional Support Command at Moffett Field in Mountain View, Calif., according to the Justice Department.

Ramón Tory, 55, of Irvine, Calif., admitted guilt in a plea agreement to charges of wire fraud and theft of government money in a scheme related to creating a public service announcement for the command.

Along with time behind bars, U.S. District Court Judge Beth Labson Freeman in the Northern District of California’s San Jose Division sentenced Tory to three years supervised release and ordered him to pay $302,982.29 in restitution and forfeiture of the same amount, according to a press release.

Between December 2015 and October 2017 while employed as a manpower analyst with the command, Tory devised a scheme to steal money from the unit through a contract for the creation of a public service announcement touting the command’s accomplishments. In February 2016, Tory began creating fake invoices for work allegedly performed by a California production company.

thayer.rose@stripes.com

Recent updates are available at
https://www.stripes.com

garland.chad@stripes.com

tester.andy@stripes.com

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thayer.rose@stripes.com

https://www.stripes.com

garland.chad@stripes.com

tester.andy@stripes.com

tester.andy@stripes.com

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A place to recover from surgery over the years.

As disturbing anecdotal stories of poor quality ratings as well with the request in August followed Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, VA nursing homes are not able to be broken up in the human body over time and are not able to be broken down into man-made chemicals that are found in everyday products, such as plastics.

The Northern Arizona VA Health Care System warns of fish contaminated with chemicals throughout the environment and require the military’s Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) packaging to be set aside money for cleanup and take preventative measures from further PFAS contamination.

The provisions include phasing out use of PFAS in firefighting foam by 2025, boosting funding for the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s nationwide health study on PFAS, provide the U.S. Geological Survey with $5 million to conduct a nationwide sampling for PFAS in the environment and require the Government Accountability Office to review the Department of Defense’s response to PFAS contamination in and around military bases.

Jennifer Sass, a senior scientist with the nonprofit National Resource Defense Council, spoke at the news conference, explaining PFAS can be harmful, even in small quantities.

“PFAS have been linked to cancer and other deadly diseases,” she said.

Kildee and Dingell want PFAS guidelines to be included in the national Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020. This would be an integral starting point in the beginning phases of cleanup operations at PFAS contamination sites, Dingell said. These guidelines would also hold accountable corporations designated as polluters for PFAS contamination by making further tightening of the definitions for a category of man-made chemicals that are found in everyday products, such as plastics.

The highest levels were found in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., the National Guard’s Fort Hood, Texas, and Naval Base in Los Alamitos, Calif., and Belmar Armory, Mich. The Environmental Protection Agency designates per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, as “a category of man-made chemicals that are found in everyday products, such as plastics.” PFAS chemicals build up in the human body over time and are not able to be broken down into man-made chemicals that are found in everyday products, such as plastics.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s Superfund Program, which is responsible for cleaning up the nation’s most contaminated land. The designation would also ban the use of PFAS in the military’s Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) packaging in the United States. The rule would require the military to cooperate with state governments when PFAS contamination is found in the environment.

Kildee is the founder and co-chairman of the PFAS Task Force, a bipartisan, bicameral group that works to educate the public and create legislation to address PFAS contamination in the environment. The task force works with members of Congress to address the PFAS public health threat. The task force also included several provisions that would set aside money for cleanup and take preventative measures from further PFAS contamination.

The Army proposed restricting below-ground burial in the Virginia cemetery to service members killed in action, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, wounded veterans, Medal of Honor recipients, active and passive combat veterans who worked as disabled veterans and retirees, combat service members killed in action, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, wounded veterans, Medal of Honor recipients, active and passive combat veterans who worked as disabled veterans and retirees, emotional conditions, and when we find them, we note them in the beginning phases of cleanup operations at PFAS contamination sites.

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“Bedbugs can occur in any hospital,” director Barbara Oemcke wrote on Sept. 16. She advised employees to follow their local policy on encountering bedbugs identified as infesting pest control employees to allow the facility’s “professional team of experts to treat and eradicate” the bedbugs.

“Three of the bugs were found in two rooms earlier this month, according to Mary Dillingham, spokeswoman for the Prescott VA. Staff immediately “reported the incident to pest control officials,” who followed protocol by conducting preventive measures throughout the hospital and reviewing the issue weekly. The VA said 14 patients were found with bedbugs on their person, and this incident did not negatively affect patient care and “very few, if any,” were present in the beginning phases of cleanup operations at PFAS contamination sites.

When the VA first released star-rating data in 2018, nearly half of the nation’s centers were rated one-star, the lowest rank, according to the senators’ statement. The latest data has shown improvement in the ratings.

The VA, however, refuted the senators’ information. The agency said its own data shows only 11 community living centers had the one-star rating at that time, based on various factors including nursing staff and unannounced inspections. The VA data showed the majority of facilities had a rating of four or five stars.

“We appreciate that many veterans rate their care highly,” director Barbara Oemcke wrote on Sept. 16. She advised employees to follow their local policy on encountering bedbugs identified as infesting pest control employees to allow the facility’s “professional team of experts to treat and eradicate” the bedbugs.

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Impeachment: Trump's Ukraine dealings prompted call for probe

FROM FRONT PAGE

Trump, who thrives on combat, has all but ensured Donald Trump's account of the impeachment, confident that the specter of an investigation led by the opposition party will bolster rather than diminish his political support.

"Just so you understand, it's the single greatest witch hunt in American history, probably in history," Trump said in a meeting with foreign leaders in New York.

Republicans largely stood by the president and dismissed the notion that the rough transcript revealed any wrongdoing by Trump.

"I think it was a perfectly appropriate phone call," said Rep. Liz Cheney, the No. 3 House Republican. "The Democrats continually make these huge claims and allegations about President Trump, and then you find out there's no there there."

The call is one part of a whistleblower complaint on the president's activities, although the administration has blocked Congress from getting other details of the report, citing presidential privilege.

The complaint was being reviewed for classified material and could go to Congress by Thursday, according to a person familiar with the issue who was not authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

In the rough transcript of the 30-minute phone call with Zelenskiy, Trump encouraged the Ukrainian leader to talk with Giuliani and Barr. Immediately after saying they would be in touch, Trump referenced Ukraine's economy, saying: "Your economy is going to get better and better and I predict. You have a lot of assets. It's a great country."

In the days before the call, Trump ordered advisers to freeze $400 million in military aid for Ukraine — prompting speculation that he was holding out the money as leverage for information on the Bidens. Trump has denied that charge and money as leverage for information on the Bidens. Trump has denied that charge and

But details of Trump's dealings with Ukraine prompted Democrats to quickly shift course. By the time Pelosi announced the probe, about two-thirds of House Democrats had announced support for moving toward impeachment probes.

The burden will probably now shift to Democrats to make the case to a scandal-wary public. In a highly polarized Congress, an impeachment inquiry could succeed only if the two sides can disagree when shown the same evidence rather than approach consensus.

On Wednesday, the Democratic-controlled House was expected to consider a resolution approving the Trump administration turn over to Congress the whistleblower's complaint. The Republican-led Senate, in a rare bipartisan move, has already approved a similar resolution Tuesday.

The lawyer for the whistleblower, who is still anonymous, released a statement saying he had asked Trump's director of national intelligence to turn over the complaint to House committees and asked guidance to permit the whistleblower to meet with lawmakers.

What you need to know about the impeachment inquiry

By Amber Phillips
The Washington Post

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., announced a formal impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump on Wednesday.

Amid a grounds swell of support for impeachment proceedings among House Democrats, a new poll finds a majority of Americans do not favor ousting President Donald Trump from office.

Thirty-seven percent of voters say Trump should be impeached and removed from office, while 57% say he should not be impeached, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released Wednesday morning.

The poll was conducted from Thursday through Monday, as details were emerging about Trump's July call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in which Trump acknowledged he asked Zelenskiy to investigate former vice president Joe Biden and his son.

That revelation prompted a rush of moderate House Democrats to call for an impeachment inquiry into Trump, a step they had resisted for months.

On Tuesday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., announced the launch of official proceedings, accusing Trump of violating the Constitution in seeking help from a foreign leader to damage a political opponent.

The poll shows Trump remains popular among Republicans and faces no significant threat from his three GOP primary challengers. Among Republican voters, he has 80% support, while none of the three challengers has more than 10%.

The poll is said to have a margin of error of plus or minus 3.2 percentage points.

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By John Wagner
The Washington Post

Trump's "own making."

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Dems’ clash with Trump has new legal framework

By Michael Scherer
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Democratic decision to launch an impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump on Tuesday pushed a strained nation to a new political brink, activating for the fourth time in history the U.S. Constitution’s most critical fail-safe with no certainty about what it will take to resolve.

After years of circling each other in an increasingly bitter political clash, Trump and his Democratic opponents will find themselves locked in a legal process designed to remove from power elected leaders who have been accused of playing the part of political sides committed to emerge victorious from the fight.

“I can’t tell you what will come from this. I don’t think anybody can,” said Dan Sena, who was working on the Trump reelection campaign, of the political risks that have been contained in the Mueller report.

A voter backlash against the president’s actions potentially far as to call President Donald Trump’s removal from office, which Trump getting reelected would be.

But on Tuesday, she announced the launch of an investigation into declaring that the president’s behavior was “troubling in the extreme.”

The remaining senators are not doubt responding to Trump’s powerful sway with their own constituents and public polls.

Although impeachment proceedings reflect America’s democratic system as working as it was, the political framework that they are designed to use every tool at their disposal to test the very foundation of that system, just as they have done since its earliest days.

Only three times before has the House formally pursued a president’s impeachment. President Andrew Johnson was acquitted by the Senate, in the tumultuous aftermath of the Civil War, in 1868. President Bill Clinton was acquitted by the Senate in 1999.

As in each of those cases, Democrats now have little hope of Trump’s removal from office by the Senate if they impeach him in the House. Republicans control the upper chamber, which would have to convict him by a two-thirds margin. Since the disclosures about Ukraine, a single Republican, Sen. Mitt Romney, of Utah, has gone so far as to call the president’s actions potentially "troubling in the extreme.”

Since the disclosures about Ukraine, only a single Republican, Mitt Romney, above, has gone so far as to call President Donald Trump’s actions potentially “troubling in the extreme.”

The world reacted warily to news that President Donald Trump would face impeachment proceedings with some saying it would have little effect on hot-button issues such as the trade dispute with China or his administration’s handling of the border. But some predicted that increased domestic pressure would force Trump to seek a quick foreign policy breakthrough.

With Washington in an entrenched state of partisan division and the Trump administration’s relations with allies and adversaries mired in mistrust, experts said the specter of Trump’s impeachment, if any, would further dim the prospects for Trump to re-energize his campaign that Trump may have repeatedly calibrating conflicts even when the facts are not on his side. His 2020 reelection campaign, premised on the notion that liberal elites.

Democrats and the media are consensus against the American people, is now certain to prompt a new rallying cry.

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Rouhani slams US’ ‘economic terrorism’

By Ava Battrawy
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Iran’s president accused the United States of “merciless economic terrorism” Wednesday, using his U.N. speech to stress that security in the Persian Gulf can be guaranteed only when his nation’s security is at as well — and only with the involvement of Iran’s neighbors.

President Hassan Rouhani told the U.N. General Assembly gathering that Iran would not negotiate on the issue of its nuclear program as long as sanctions remain in place.

“Our response to any negotiation under sanctions is negative,” he said. He said Iran has “resisted the most merciless economic terrorism” from a nation that is engaging in “international piracy.”

Iranian state television broadcast Rouhani’s speech live across the country of 80 million people.

He spoke as his country’s nuclear deal with world powers unravels under pressure from the Trump administration. Iran has turned back to expanding its nuclear enrichment program after President Donald Trump’s decision last year to pull out of the accord and reimpose sanctions on Tehran, threatening its ability to export oil.

Rouhani’s highly anticipated remarks at the U.N. came a day after Trump described Iran as “one of the greatest threats to the planet.”

The escalating crisis has raised concerns that direct conflict, with Iran at the center, could break out in the region — a scenario that all concerned parties, including Iran and Saudi Arabia, have stressed they want to avoid.

The United States has sent military reinforcements and beefed up its security presence in the Middle East in past months amid the rising tensions with Iran.

Rouhani’s manner during the speech was measured, but the words he delivered were ominous.

“Our region is on the edge of collapse, as a single blunder can fuel a big fire,” he said.

The region will become secure when U.S. troops withdraw, he said.

Rouhani spent much time appealing to Iran’s neighbors, saying that their destinies are intertwined and they should consider each other rather than pinning their hopes on the involvement of the United States.

“Security shall not be supplied with American weapons and intervention,” he said. “Security cannot be purchased or supplied by foreign governments.”

Rouhani’s remarks come as the U.S. and its allies accuse Iran of behind a major drone and missile strike on Saudi Arabia’s key oil sites earlier this month. Iran has denied any involvement and says any strikes by the U.S. or Saudi Arabia will lead to “all-out war.”

The Sept. 14 attack followed months of lower-level attacks on oil tankers and the shooting down of a U.S. surveillance drone over the Strait of Hormuz. The U.S. and its regional allies blame those attacks on Iran, which it also denies.

Trump, speaking at the U.N. on Tuesday, left open the possibility of diplomatic engagement with Iran. That was the same day that Rouhani insisted that he’d consider meeting only after sanctions against his country are lifted.

But as he ended his General Assembly speech, Rouhani suggested there was still some room for diplomacy.

“This is the message of the Iranian nation: Let’s invest on hope toward a better future rather than on war and violence,” he said. “Let’s return to justice, to peace, to law, commitment and promise and finally to the negotiating table.”

Ukraine’s leader avoids controversy in speech

By Jennifer Peltz
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Abruptly cast into the center of a political storm in the United States, Ukraine’s president steered clear of the controversy Wednesday as his country’s ongoing conflict with Russia seemed to take a back seat.

Volodymyr Zelenskiy, the 41-year-old comedian who became president in May after running as a political novice, spoke in diplomatic language and avoided references to the classic World War II references to the classic World War II.

“Every leader bears his share of responsibility not only for the destiny of his own country but for the whole world,” said Zelenskiy, who at one point held up a bullet to decry violence and made references to the classic World War II novels “All Quiet on the Western Front” and “A Farewell to Arms.”

“Today, it depends on everyone here whether there will be life at all,” Zelenskiy said.

Barely 100 days into his tenure, Zelenskiy is in a delicate spot after the phone call with Trump, the leader of one of Ukraine’s most steadfast allies. The two were due to meet on the sidelines of the assembly later Wednesday.

At issue is whether the Republican Trump abused his presidential powers and sought help from Ukraine to undermine a Democratic foe, former Vice President Joe Biden, and help his own reelection.

Trump repeatedly pressed Zelenskiy to investigate Biden, according to a rough transcript summarizing the call released Wednesday. The phone call came days after Trump ordered advisors to freeze $400 million in military aid for Ukraine, prompting speculation that he was holding up the money as leverage for information on Biden.

Trump has denied that the funds were blocked as leverage for information on the Biden and his son, Hunter, and says he did nothing wrong, calling the matter a “witch hunt.”

In a TV interview over the weekend, Ukraine’s foreign minister denied Zelenskiy was pressured to investigate Hunter Biden. Zelenskiy’s office has declined to comment on the reports.

The United States has given Ukraine millions of dollars in aid since a pro-Western government took power in Kyiv in 2014.

Zelenskiy, 41, a popular comedian with no political experience, unseated incumbent Petro Poroshenko in an election this year in the nation of 45 million people.

US slams UN over abortion

The Washington Post

The Trump administration declared that there’s no “international right to abortion” at a United Nations meeting in New York this week, calling on other countries to join a coalition pushing the elimination of what it calls “ambiguous” terms and expressions, such as sexual and reproductive health, from U.N. documents.

“We remain gravely concerned that aggressive efforts to reinterpret international instruments to create a new international right to abortion and to promote international policies that would undermine this family have advanced through some United Nations forums,” Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a letter circulated in advance of the gathering.

Earlier this year, HHS officials began meeting with representatives from other countries, urging them to join a new international coalition that would focus on the value of “the family,” and which would not condone harmful sexual risks for young people or promote abortion as a means of family planning.

In countries, civil society and women’s rights groups have expressed alarm at the efforts and accused the United States of aligning with countries like Saudi Arabia and Sudan with poor human rights records and of putting unfair pressure on other nations that depend on U.S. aid.

Numerous country representatives to the United States under the hashtag SRHR — sexual and reproductive health and rights, the only of its kind — have sought to erase from U.N. documents.

Sweden’s minister for International Development Cooperation tweeted that the action was “unbelievable news,” and that “women’s rights must be protected at all times.”

The Netherlands’ Sigrid Kaag, minister of foreign trade, spoke out in a competing joint statement issued on behalf of 58 countries. While she did not use the word abortion, she repeatedly stressed the need to uphold the full range of sexual and reproductive rights.

Francoise Girard, president of the International Women’s Health Coalition, said “sexual and reproductive rights are human rights, and are enshrined in UN agreements for almost 25 years now.”

“The Trump administration’s proposal is an attempt to repeat attempts to strip women, girls, and gender-diverse people of real improvements at the United Nations, actions that have failed,” Girard said.

Antiabortion groups, meanwhile, praised the statement as a sign of the administration’s “strong pro-life leadership on the world stage.”
The oceans and the icy parts of the cryosphere, because their futures are interconnected. These changes will not just hurt the 71% of the world covered by the oceans or the 10% covered in ice and snow, but it will harm plants, animals, food, societies, infrastructure and the global economy, according to the special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The oceans absorb more than 90% of the excess heat from carbon pollution in the air, as well as much of the carbon dioxide itself. The seas warm more slowly than the air but trap the heat longer, with bigger side effects — and the report links those waters with Earth’s snow and ice, called the cryosphere, because their futures are interconnected.

“The world’s oceans and cryosphere have been taking the heat for climate change for decades. The consequences for nature and humanity are sweeping and severe,” said Ko Barrett, vice chair of the IPCC and a deputy assistant administrator for research at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The report found:

- Seas are now rising at one-seventh of an inch a year, which is 2.5 times faster than the rate from 1900 to 1999.
- The world’s oceans have already lost 1% to 3% of the oxygen in their upper levels since 1970 and will lose more as warming continues.
- From 2006 to 2015, the ice melting from Greenland, Antarctica and the world’s mountain glaciers has accelerated and is now losing 720 billion tons of ice a year.
- Arctic June snow cover has shrunk more than half since 1967, down nearly 1 million square miles.
- Arctic sea ice in September, the annual minimum, is down almost 1.3% per decade since 1979. This year’s low, reported Monday, tied for the second-lowest on record.
- For the first time, the international team of scientists is projecting that “some island nations are likely to become uninhabitable due to climate-related ocean and cryosphere change.”

Trump’s Senate allies give OK to $5B wall request

By Andrew Taylor

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s Senate GOP allies have given their OK to a long-shot $5 billion request to build about 200 miles of fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border, but the plan ran into immediate opposition from Democrats and is a nonstarter with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The wall money is contained in a $71 billion draft funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security that cleared its first, easiest hurdle in a Senate panel on Tuesday. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Ron Johnson, R-Wis., announced the $5 billion figure.

The money faces an uphill battle. Tuesday’s subcommittee vote was routine but a heated debate awaits on Thursday when the legislation is voted on in the full Appropriations Committee, where Democrats promise votes to cut the wall funding entirely.

Trump won $1.4 billion earlier this year through the regular appropriations process. He almost immediately declared a national emergency that triggered his ability to tap federal agencies’ money accounts and various transfers from the Pentagon, Trump would have obtained almost $15 billion for the wall.

The new GOP-backed money comes after Trump roiled Capitol Hill by transferring $6.1 billion from Pentagon accounts to get around lawmakers opposed to his border wall. Some $3.6 billion of the wall money is coming through Trump’s controversial emergency declaration earlier this year, which permitted him to raid military construction projects such as schools and target ranges to finance the wall.

“There is a line here that I believe has been overstepped,” said GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski, of Alaska. “It is in this committee where we determine what the appropriation level will be for the wall.”

Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., said the $5 billion is a “gross waste of taxpayer dollars.”

The Senate was slated to vote Wednesday on a Democratic measure to nullify Trump’s emergency powers. An identical bill passed Congress earlier this year but was successfully vetoed by Trump.

“If Republicans stand with President Trump, they will be saying they fully support allowing the president to take money from our military to fund the border wall,” said Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

Tuesday’s legislation also would fund $52,000 detention beds for immigrants entering the country illegally, a panel aide said, which is higher than current levels set to the levels presently presented after the Trump administration used transfer powers to finance additional beds.

Capito said the border wall and detention beds are “two areas where Republicans and Democrats can’t seem to agree.”

The homeland security measure is one of four bills slated for initial committee votes this week. But floor action is on hold after Democrats filibustered a huge funding package last week that included an estimated $70 billion Pentagon funding bill. Democrats vow that the defense funding bill, which is a top priority of Trump and his GOP allies, won’t advance until there is bipartisanship progress on domestic spending measures that they particularly care about.

Ex-Flynn business partner sees convictions tossed out

Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A federal judge on Tuesday tossed out convictions against a one-time business partner of former national security adviser Michael Flynn who was accused of acting as a Turkish foreign agent.

U.S. District Judge Anthony Trenga ruled that the evidence against Bijan Kian was insufficient to sustain a conviction even though a jury convicted him at a trial earlier this year.

The case spun off from special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation of Russian election interference. Prosecutors alleged Kian and Flynn were acting at Turkey’s behest when they undertook a project to discredit an exiled cleric wanted by Turkey’s government.

Trenga also ordered that Kian should be granted a new trial in the event that an appeals court reverses his decision.

By Andrew Taylor

WASHINGTON — A judge has denied Trump confidant Roger Stone’s efforts to suppress evidence in the case against him, according to a court opinion made public Tuesday.

Stone is one of a half-dozen aides and advisers to President Donald Trump who were charged as part of special counsel Robert Mueller’s Russia investigation. He is accused of lying to Congress, witness tampering and obstructing a congressional proceeding and is set to stand trial in November in Washington’s federal court.

Stone had asked a judge to throw out the evidence seized from 18 FBI search warrants.

Those warrants were based on the U.S. intelligence community’s assessment that Russia had hacked Democratic email accounts and distributed stolen communications to WikiLeaks, which published the messages in the weeks before the 2016 election in what officials have said was an effort to help Trump and harm the campaign of his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton.

Stone has challenged the accuracy of those conclusions and says the warrants used to search his devices and property were therefore invalid. He contends the private cybersecurity firm that investigated the hack of the Democratic National Committee failed to preserve evidence of the intrusion and that the intelligence community relied on the company’s assumptions that Russia was behind the hack. Mueller’s report also firmly concluded that Russia was behind the hack.
Police still seek motive in Virginia Beach shooting

By PETER COTU, ALISSA SKELTON and JANE HARPER
The Virginian-Pilot

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Before anyone could call police, 10 people had been shot dead. Two more had been severely wounded.

Within minutes of the first 911 call, two more would end up dead and two would suffer serious injuries in the May 31 mass shooting in Virginia Beach’s municipal complex.

After nearly four months of investigation, more than 750 interviews and thousands of hours of detective work, police still don’t know why.

“We have asked the question ‘Why. Why did this suspect do it?’ and we’ve gotten no answers,” said Detective Chief Patrick Gallagher. “We’re still looking to determine motive.”

Police cornered the shooter, DeWayne Craddock, six minutes after they entered the building and shot multiple times through a wooden door, Gallagher said in a briefing Tuesday to the City Council and family members of the victims.

There was no apparent pattern to those he targeted, Gallagher said. Six were women, 10 were men. Some were black, some were white. There were also people he encountered in the building that he chose not to fire at.

“He shot people he knew, he shot people he didn’t know,” the deputy chief said.

The only thing that was to come was discovered in his computer history. He did a Google search for maps of Building 2 and the Municipal Center, police said.

Detectives have conducted nearly all the interviews that they plan to do. But they still have thousands of documents, emails and other information to scrounge before they complete their investigation, Gallagher said. It likely will be another six to nine months before it’s done, he said.

Arnette Heinzie, head of the Chicago firm leading the separate independent probe into the mass shooting, said Tuesday that he expects to deliver a final report by Next Month.

After the briefing, families of three of the victims said the police update raised more questions than answers.

“It doesn’t add up,” said Jason Nixon, the husband of Kate Nixon, who was killed. “It’s like he just wakes up in the morning and says, ‘I’m going to kill people.’ There is a wall-up to what caused all of this.”

On Tuesday, families were allowed to enter the site of the tragedy for the first time.

Virginia Beach Police Chief Jim Cervera and Capt. Theresa Orr, who are leading the investigation into the shooting, stood outside a side entrance to Building 2 about an hour before the briefing, waiting to escort another family.

They had already led two families to individual offices to have the chance to provide some kind of relief, though he acknowledged there will never be complete closure after a violent death.

The family of Kate Nixon, the former city engineer who died in the shooting, went into Building 2 on Tuesday afternoon. Her husband, Jason, wrote a note to his wife on the wall.

“I will always love you. I will make sure the girls are taken care of. I will raise them the way you would want me to. Me and the girls will never forget you. You have always been there for us, and I won’t have to until we get the truth of your murder.”

Two more had been severely wounded. Eleven people had been shot dead.

“I’m speechless. I wish I could say a lot more but it’s just, I’m shocked up,” a teary-eyed Perez said outside a church hours after landing in Chicago. “I’m so blessed to be here.”

His immigration hearing was set for Wednesday, but it’s unknown when immigration officials will decide the case.

Perez’s attorney, Chris Bergin, hoped for a speedy decision so Perez wouldn’t have to return to Mexico after the 14 days are up.

Officials with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and U.S. Customs and Border Protection declined to comment, citing privacy laws.

Perez is among several deport- ed military members who have been recently pardoned by Dem- ocratic governors. His case has received wide support, including from Sen. Tammy Duckworth, of Illinois, a veteran who said Tues- day that Perez should never been deported in the first place.

Perez was born in Mexico, but his family immigrated when he was a young child. His parents are naturalized U.S. citizens and his two children were born in the U.S.

He joined the Army in 2002 and served in Afghanistan where he suffered a brain injury and was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

It was the disorder, which caused crippling anxiety, that led him to the drug charge, according to Bergin. Perez wasn’t able to immediately get medical care through a federal Veterans Administration hospital, so he turned to drugs.

In 2008, he was accused of giving cocaine to an undercover police officer. He pleaded guilty and spent seven years in prison and was then turned over to Im- migration and Customs Enforce- ment, who detained him for two years. Perez was deported last year after failing to persuade a federal appeals court to block his removal.

Perez said he faced “danger- ous” conditions while living in Tijuana, Mexico, after his deport- ation, but he didn’t want to talk about it.

He also declined to discuss how he was managing PTSD, saying it was too personal.
Pakistan begins cleanup after earthquake

BY ANJUM NAVED
Associated Press

MIRPUR, Pakistan — Authorities began distributing tents, food and water among thousands of earthquake victims in Pakistan-held Kashmir on Wednesday as the death toll from a powerful magnitude 6.8 trembler that rocked a large swath of the country’s northeast a day earlier jumped to 37, officials said.

Kashmir bore the brunt of Tuesday’s quake in which hundreds of other people were injured. One person was killed in Jhelum, a city in northeastern Punjab province.

Fearing aftershocks, many spent the night in the open in the hardest hit areas in Mirpur, a district in Pakistan-held Kashmir where hundreds of homes and buildings were damaged, affecting thousands in the city of some 5 million residents.

Authorities said rescue work in quake-hit areas was completed and authorities were still assessing damages.

According to a military statement, army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday visited quake-affected areas in Kashmir.

Earlier, under cloudy skies, some residents complained they had not received aid 24 hours after the quake rattled the region and some were seen by an Associated Press reporter picking through ruined buildings. Others sat in shock as relatives and a small number of volunteers provided small amounts of food.

“I came out of the (office) building and a part of the roof collapsed on my head. I was injured on my head and back,” resident Muhammad Mehmood said. “After receiving treatment, I came to my home and saw seven rooms of my house had collapsed but my family members were safe.”

Mehmood said he was frustrated at having to wait for assistance.

“You can see my damaged home. You can see other damaged homes — and is there any sign of government help?” he said.

Government aid arrived in Mirpur after Mohammad Afzal, chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority, said tents, food and blankets should start reaching affected areas in the next few days. “Each and every quake victim will be looked after.”

Afzal said doctors were treating hundreds of people, some of whom had received multiple injuries. Authorities in Mirpur were searching for six people who are believed to be close to the earthquake’s epicenter.

Earlier in the day, mourners buried the dead in Mirpur and nearby villages. Mirpur is in the mountainous Kashmir region, which is divided between Pakistan and neighboring India but claimed by both in its entirety.

“The shallow earthquake was (6 miles) deep, and that is why it caused so much damage in Mirpur in Kashmir,” which isn’t far from the quake’s epicenter, meteorologist Muhammad Riaz said Thursday.

The quake also rattled the capital, Islamabad, and parts of northwest Pakistan but caused no damage there. Pakistan is prone to violent seismic upheavals. A magnitude 7.6 quake in 2005 killed thousands of people in Pakistan and Kashmir.

Lawmakers squabble with government over suspension in Britain

BY DACIA KIRKA
AND JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON — British lawmakers returned to the House of Commons on Wednesday, venting their pent-up anger over Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s failed attempt to suspend Parliament and warning that democracy itself is under threat from the government.

Johnson planned to address Parliament later in the day after returning in haste from the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

Johnson remains on a collision course with Parliament over his determination to pull Britain out of the European Union on Oct. 31 with or without a withdrawal agreement.

Parliament has passed a law requiring him to seek a delay but Johnson has said he won’t do that under any circumstances.

Johnson has begun to position himself as the champion of the people facing a recalcitrant establishment bent on frustrating the 2016 Brexit vote.

Johnson’s attorney general, Geoffrey Cox, called Parliament a “disgrace” and tried to bait it into voting for a no-confidence motion on Johnson’s government and triggering an early election. He said Parliament would be “too cowardly” to do that.

“This Parliament should have the courage to face the electorate, but it won’t, because so many of them are really all about preventing us leaving the European Union,” Cox told lawmakers. “But the time is coming. The time is coming, Mr. Speaker, when even these turkeys won’t be able to prevent Christmas.”

Opposition Labour Party lawmaker Barry Sheerman accused Cox of having “no shame at all.”

“The time is coming, Mr. Speaker, when even these turkeys won’t be able to prevent Christmas.”

The oil-and-gas-rich country is now struggling to find a new political path, and protesters have maintained street demonstrations because much of the state apparatus under Bouteflika remains.

In a statement from the town of Bilia, the court said seven people were convicted in the closed-door trial in the town of Bilia. One of the defense lawyers, Mokrane Ait Larbi, said he would try to appeal.

Among them were Said Boutefta, brother and special counsel of Bouteflika, and former intelligence figures Gen. Ahmed Tartag and Gen. Mohamed Mediene, who was known as Toufik — a name that once made Algerians tremble.

Ex-president’s brother is 1 of 7 guilty in Algerian plot

BY AOMAR OUALI
Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria — A military court in Algeria on Wednesday sentenced the brother of the country’s longtime former leader and two ex-intelligence chiefs to 15 years in prison for plotting against the state.

The overnight ruling against men who once wielded immense power in Africa’s largest country represents another blow to the legacy of Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who was forced out as president by street protests and the army chief in April.

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Among them were Said Bouteflika, brother and special counsel of Bouteflika, and former intelligence figures Gen. Ahmed Tartag and Gen. Mohamed Mediene, who was known as Toufik — a name that once made Algerians tremble.

They were convicted of plotting against the state and undermining the army in the early weeks of the protests against Bouteflika, who was seeking a fifth mandate despite informalities following a stroke.

The charges centered on March meetings between the three men and the leader of the left-wing Workers Party, Louisa Hanoune. Some feared they were plotting to fire powerful army chief Ahmed Gaid Salah, who was siding with the protesters.

The four were arrested in May, after Bouteflika was forced out amid anger at rampant corruption, unemployment and lack of political freedom. The pro-democracy demonstrations have continued since.

The trial was chaotic. Said Bouteflika refused to answer the judge’s questions and walked out, according to one of the lawyers present. Tartag, who worked directly under the president, refused to leave his cell. Neither was there any verdict.

Lawyer Ait Larbi, who represents Hanoune, called it a “political trial.”

All four were sentenced to 15 years in prison, the news reports said. Three others who are believed to have fled abroad were convicted in absentia to 20 years of prison.
Climate activist wins ‘Alternative Nobel’

Swedish's Thunberg is among 4 winners

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg is among four people named Wednesday as the winners of a Right Livelihood Award, also known as the “Alternative Nobel.”

Thunberg is being recognized “for inspiring and amplifying political demands for urgent climate action reflecting scientific facts,” the prize foundation said.

It added that the 16-year-old, who has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, “personifies the notion that everyone has the power to create change. Her example has inspired and empowered people from all walks of life to demand political action.”

Created in 1980, the annual Right Livelihood Award honors efforts that the prize founder, Swedish-German philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull, the foundation’s executive director and nephew of the founder, said “we honor four practical visionaries whose leadership has empowered millions of people to defend their inalienable rights and to strive for a livable future for all on planet Earth.”

An award ceremony is planned in Stockholm on Dec. 4, six days before the Nobel prizes are handed out.

Thunberg said in a statement by the Right Livelihood foundation that “whenever I receive an award, it is not me who is the winner. I am part of a global movement of school children, youth and adults of all ages who have decided to act in defense of our living planet.”

Male model arrested in sex case in Thailand

By BUSABA SIVASOMBOON

Associated Press

BANGKOK — Police in Thailand on Wednesday arrested a male model accused of taking an unconscious woman home, boasting online about his sexual exploits and leaving her lifeless body in the lobby of his building.

Police charged bogus of illegal detention leading to death, abduction with intent of committing an indecent act and molestation against Ratatchadech Wongtabut, 24, in a case that has riveted the attention of the public and press.

The victim, Thitima Noraphanpiphat, 25, made a living as a “pretty,” the term for young women normally hired for events such as auto shows to pose seductively with products they are promoting.

Thitima, who used Lunabelle as her professional name, was hired to attend a party from which Ratatchadech left with her on the night of Sept. 16.

A media frenzy over the case has been fueled by the suspect’s provocative online posts boasting of past sexual conquests, including as he had Thitima in his room, and copious surveillance video showing him carrying the apparently unconscious victim.

Thitima’s family and boyfriend went to the police to press their case that her death involved wrongdoing and that the perpetrator was held to account. They acted as Ratchadech’s involved was made public and he initially had been questioned by police and released without charge after denying any criminal actions.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Lt. Gen. Surthipong Wongpin said at a news conference Wednesday that Ratchadech acknowledged taking Thitima to his apartment but said he had no intention to do her harm and did not realize she was dead while she was with him.

Police announced Tuesday that Thitima may have already been dead by the time Ratatchadech brought her back to his apartment. They said Wednesday that an autopsy found Thitima had died from extreme alcohol intoxication, citing a blood alcohol concentration of 418 milligrams per 100 milliliters.

There had been speculation that Thitima was given a date rape drug such as GHB. But the drug rapidly disappears from the blood stream, making its presence difficult to confirm. Thai media cited police as saying none had been found in Ratchadech’s apartment.

Police are investigating others who may be involved in the affair, especially the owner and guests at the house where Thitima attended the party before she died.

Administration to triple democracy aid to Venezuela

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Trump administration is more than tripling U.S. support for pro-democracy work in Venezuela and for the first time directly funding opposition leader Juan Guaido as he attempts to set up a government to replace President Nicolas Maduro.

The $52 million in new aid was announced Tuesday by Mark Green, the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, following a meeting in New York with Guaido’s envoy, Carlos Vecchio, whom the Trump administration recognizes as Venezuela’s ambassador in Washington.

The funding was mostly repurposed from aid originally earmarked for Honduras and Guatemala that President Donald Trump cut last year after accusing the Central American countries of failing to stem the flow of migrants to the U.S.

The funding boost shows the level of U.S. support for Guaido, who has drawn recognition as Venezuela’s rightful leader by more than 50 nations. But he has been unable to translate the international support and popularity at home into real power capable of helping regular Venezuelans suffering from hyperinflation and an economic collapse.

A senior Trump administration official said the new U.S. aid package seeks to address that deficit, providing about $19 million to pay for secure communication devices, travel stipends and training in budget planning and other tools to effectively govern should they manage to force Maduro from power.

The U.S. official spoke on the condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to publicly discuss details of the aid package.

Guaido’s team said in a statement that it would not administer the money directly or give it to any institution or political party.

It said it hoped to work with the U.S. in the coming days to decide how the funds would be spent and leave it to the American authorities to distribute the funds and audit their use.

Baby Archie makes appearance in S. Africa

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Baby Archie made a rare public appearance on Wednesday as Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, continued their first official tour as a family in South Africa.

Meghan held Archie as the royal couple met with Nobel Peace Prize winner and Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Cape Town.

The youngest member of Britain’s royal family had been out of the spotlight since his christening in July. Archie, born in May, is the first child of Prince Harry and the former Meghan Markle, seventh and in line to the British throne.

German man douses Autobahn fire with beer

BERLIN — A German motorist is being credited for his quick thinking after his engine caught fire on the Autobahn. He turned to a slightly different foam extinguisher to douse the flames: bottles of beer.

Police told the dpa news agency that the 47-year-old, whose name was not released, was on the highway near the town of Hoeschbach in Bavaria the day before he smelled something odd.

Pulling over, the man spotted flames under the hood of his car. He quickly grabbed bottles of beer from a case in his car and quenched the fire.

Boat capsizes, leaving 7 dead in Philippines

KALIBO, Philippines — The Philippine coast guard said seven rowers drowned and 14 others were rescued when their dragon boat turned over Tuesday after being lashed by strong waves during a practice run off a popular resort island.

A spokesman Armand Balilo said the accident happened off Boracay island in the central PhilippineVisayas region, where a local dragon boat team was practicing ahead of a rowing competition.

The boat capsized less than a third of a mile from the nearest beach.
**AMERICAN ROUNDPUP**

**Woman pleads guilty to trespassing after selfie**

ND BISMARCK — A Mandan woman pleaded guilty to trespassing after authorities say she jumped a guard rail at Bismarck’s Dakota Zoo in July and approached a primate cage to take a selfie.

Ashlee Brown, 18, was fined $300 after Monday’s guilty plea and will be on supervised probation for nearly a year. She can keep the incident off her record if she stays out of trouble during that time.

Authorities said Brown touched a siamang, which is a small ape, and took a photograph.

**Canceled festival of the undead to rise again**

DE DEWEY BEACH — A horde of undead is once again expected to flood the streets of a small Delaware town.

News outlets reported that organizers of Milton’s 2019 Zombie Fest announced the event’s resurrection on Monday, unveiling a new name and location. The new, all-ages Milton Theatre Zombie Fest will take place Oct. 19 in Dewey Beach.

The original festival was killed in August, with organizers blaming town leaders for the loss of an event that nearly doubles Milton’s population each year.

Organizer and theater director Fred Munzert said the cancellation announcement led 11 other Delaware towns to offer to host the growing festival.

**Man cited after loaded gun found in luggage**

WV HUNTINGTON — Officials said a West Virginia man was caught with a loaded gun at an airport checkpoint.

The Transportation Security Administration on Monday said the man was stopped with a 9 mm handgun in his carry-on bag at the Huntington Tri-State Airport on Sunday.

The TSA didn’t release the name of the man, who they said was cited by police on a weapons violation. The gun had a bullet in the chamber and there were another 13 bullets in his bag.

**B.B. King guitar sells for $280K at auction**

MS JACKSON — A guitar given to B.B. King for his 80th birthday has sold for $280,000 at an auction of items from the blues legend’s estate.

Julien’s Auctions said King often used the black Gibson ES-345 prototype that was one of several guitars he called “Lucille.”

A spokesman for the auction house, Mozell Milley-Bailey, said Monday the buyer wants to remain anonymous.

Before the auction, Julien’s estimated the guitar’s value at $80,000 to $100,000. The headstock has “B.B. King 80” and a crown inlaid with mother-of-pearl, and the guitar is autographed on the back.

The auction of more than 550 items from King’s estate took place in Los Angeles on Saturday, a few days after what would have been his 94th birthday.

**Flag-raising celebration**

Lesly Fernandez, front center, dances with the Esperanza Academy Dance Ensemble during a Puerto Rican flag-raising that was hosted by the City of Philadelphia Office of Immigrant Affairs at City Hall in Philadelphia on Monday.

**Officer who arrested 6-year-olds is fired**

FL ORLANDO — A police officer who arrested two 6-year-old students at a Florida elementary school last week has been fired.

Orlando police Chief Orlando Rolon announced Officer Dennis Turner’s termination Monday afternoon. He said he reminded other officers of department policy that prohibits arrests of children under 12 without a manager’s approval.

State Attorney Aramis Ayala, head prosecutor of Orange and Osceola counties, said earlier Monday she was dismissing misdemeanor battery charges against both children. Officials didn’t say what prompted the arrests.

**Man smoking sprayed with fire extinguisher**

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A business owner has apologized after spraying a man smoking a cigarette in the face with a fire extinguisher in downtown Salt Lake City.

KSL-TV reported that Jon Bird was smoking a cigarette near the Gallivan Center on Friday evening when a business owner confronted him several times about smoking near his eatery.

Bird said he was volunteering at an event and security personnel gave him permission to smoke at the spot.

In a widely shared video, business owner Alex Jamison can be seen spraying Bird from a few feet away as Bird shields his face.

Jamison said he overreacted and he apologized to Bird.

**Stolen camera sends pictures that ID holder**

LA WOODBURY — Louisiana wildlife agents said a stolen cellular game camera sent keeping pictures, letting them identify the man who had it.

He and the man he said he’d bought it from were arrested.

**Criminal complaints allege Brian Casaus used his position as the restaurant’s controller and office manager to transfer funds from the restaurant’s bank account to personal accounts belonging to him and his wife.**

**Policy deliver trashed Amazon packages**

MA BURLINGTON — Officers in a Massachusetts police department briefly turned into Amazon delivery drivers after a stash of undeivered packages was found in a cemetery.

Burlington police tweeted that a “diligent groundskeeper” at a cemetery in the town northwest of Boston found the packages Monday morning in a trash receptacle and contacted police.

Police did not say exactly how many packages there were, but in photos posted on social media, it looked to be about 20.

Because the packages were addressed to Burlington residents, police took it upon themselves to deliver them.

From wire reports
Role with responsibility

Giancarlo Esposito feels pressure with ‘Godfather of Harlem’ part

By Rick Bentley
Tribune News Service

Ian Malcolm (Thatch) and minister/pastor Malcolm X (Thatch) and minister/pastor Adam Clayton Powell Jr. in the 10-part series “Godfather of Harlem.”

It has never mattered to Giancarlo Esposito whether he was taking on the role of a talking mirror, a member of a California police department, one of the most evil men to set foot in Albuquerque, N.M., or a noted politician. He attacks them all with a deep passion, as he shows in his latest work, playing Adam Clayton Powell Jr. in the 10-part series “Godfather of Harlem.”

Esposito co-stars with Forest Whitaker, Vincent D’Onofrio, Nigel Thatch and Ilenesh Hadera in the production, which launches Sunday on Epix. The series is based on the story of infamous crime boss Bumpy Johnson, who in the early 1960s returned from 10 years in prison to find the New York neighborhood he once ruled in shambles. Johnson’s efforts to regain control bring him in contact with radical preacher Malcolm X (Thatch) and minister/congressman Powell.

Esposito feels more pressure when he’s taking on a character based on a real person. Powell is well remembered because of his connection to the civil rights movement. “I feel extra responsibility when it’s a historical character to render them real,” Esposito says. “I do much research for any character I do, but you have to make choices as an actor. With characters who don’t come from a historical background, you give them your historical background.”

“Every role needs to be full and complete, but even more with those based on real people because there are people still alive who knew Adam Clayton Powell. When I say I want to get the character right, that means to render the role completely human and completely complicated with all of the colors that he had as a human being.”

Esposito got his first real understanding of the Harlem politician when he met his son at an event years before the series was in production. Esposito was excited about the meeting because he knew how powerful Powell was and how much he got accomplished.

Before Esposito started working on “Godfather of Harlem,” he had a full understanding of how Powell knew he was smart and charming. The only blip he saw was the year in college when Powell passed as white.“People didn’t know if I was black or white. They knew I had brown skin, but they also knew there was something different about me,” Esposito says. “Not knowing where you belong is a burden to carry. I wanted to be me, and so I started to make choices that were reflective of my spirit, my politics, my humanity.”

“Once Upon A Time,” “Bakersfield, P.D.” “Breaking Bad,” everyone began to put a face with the name. Other credits include “Homicide: Life on the Street.” Up next is a starring role in the live-action Star Wars series “The Mandalorian” that will be broadcast on the Disney+ streaming service later this year.

Esposito can’t talk much about the Star Wars project except to say getting to be part of a beloved franchise is something that’s very exciting to him. Plus, he’s taking on a role unlike anything his fans have ever seen him play.

Playing diverse roles isn’t an official plan. Esposito set out for himself when he was young, but he knows he’s always wanted to be able to take on a variety of roles.

Giancarlo Esposito plays the pastor and politician Adam Clayton Powell Jr. in the 10-part series “Godfather of Harlem.”

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Giancarlo Esposito plays the pastor and politician Adam Clayton Powell Jr. in the 10-part series “Godfather of Harlem.”

 anything. My career has been based on meritocracy, quality, integrity. I feel more blessed that I have not allowed myself to think as a color. The idea is to play a human being each and every time.”

Giancarlo Esposito plays a wide range of roles, but the actor says he feels more pressure when he’s taking on a character based on a real person.

By Rick Bentley
Tribune News Service

Giancarlo Esposito plays the pastor and politician Adam Clayton Powell Jr. in the 10-part series “Godfather of Harlem.”

Jann Wenner to step down as chairman of Rock Hall

Associated Press

Jann Wenner will retire next year as chairman of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation.

Wenner announced Wednesday that he will step down Jan. 1. The chairman and publisher of Rolling Stone magazine is one of the founding members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and is credited with recruiting architect I.M. Pei to create its Cleveland museum.

The annual induction ceremony is a major concert event that is broadcast by HBO.

Wenner, 73, will be replaced by Rock Hall board member John Sykes, the co-founder of MTV and VH1.

Wenner will remain on the board of directors.

Dern, Neil, Goldblum in ‘Jurassic World 3’

Jeff Goldblum, Laura Dern and Sam Neill will reprise their “Jurassic Park” roles in the upcoming “Jurassic World 3.”

Their castings were announced Tuesday night by executive producer and director Colin Trevorrow at a screening of “Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom,” Dern and Neill haven’t been back with the dinosaurs since 2015’s “Jurassic World III.”

All originated their roles in the 1993 original, “Jurassic Park.”

“Jurassic World 3,” starring Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard, is to be released in June 2021.

Grateful Dead’s poetic lyricist dies at 78

Robert Hunter, the man behind the poetic and mystical words for many of the Grateful Dead’s finest songs, has died at age 78.

Hunter died Monday at his Northern California home with his wife, Maureen, at his side, former Grateful Dead publicist Dennis McNally told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The family did not release a cause of death.

“We loved Bob Hunter and will miss him unimaginably,” Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart said, adding the lyricist was “a visionary wordsmith extraordinare.”

Although proficient on a number of instruments including guitar, violin, cello and trumpet, Hunter never appeared on stage with the Grateful Dead during the group’s 30-year run that ended with the 1995 death of lead guitarist Jerry Garcia, his principal songwriting partner.

Hunter’s memorable Grateful Dead songs include “Friend of the Devil,” “Box of Rain,” “Uncle John’s Band,” “Cumberland Blues,” “It Must Have Been the Roses,” “Terrapin Station,” “The Days Between,” “Brown Eyed Women,” “Jack Straw” and “Black Muddy River.”

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A glimpse into a world where Trump is not in peril

By Gary Abernathy
Special to The Washington Post

HILLSBORO, Ohio — President Donald Trump is seen in the news as perpetually on the verge of being toppled by the latest scandal of the day. But not here in Hillsboro or places like it.

The latest round of accusations involving Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh led to calls for Kavanaugh's resignation in Washington but were largely dismissed elsewhere as more of the same, partisan attack. Pennsylvania's state Rep. Stack Lewis, a Democrat, said, "There's a new standard when it comes to the Senate. It's called 'binary' and 'suffocating.'"

The saga of Trump, Ukraine and the House Democrats continues as the political marketplace for 2020. The House of Representatives has about a month before the next round of impeachment hearings, with Congress scheduled to adjourn for the year before the end of the month.

Yet it was a terrible day for Biden, as a Trump television ad introducing his running mate, Mike Pence, and the line "Democrats arecorrupt, i t gives Biden into a wood chipper as part of their vain quest." Biden's running mate, Kamala Harris, has worked to counter the narrative that Trump is the only one in the race who can beat "the guy in the white house." Biden has repeatedly vowed to beat Trump, and in the heat of battle, has promised to "beat the guy in the white house." Biden's campaign has been focused on the issues, and has vowed to bring the country together.

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Donald's is also exploring adding the United Kingdom, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain U.S., Canada, Australia, France, other fields. such as how it can lead to jobs in about working for the company, the application process. number and get a link to continue that, users can share their phone to work in and play McDonald's will ask which country they want to work in a and play McDonald's in a tight job market. The U.S. un-

The function is available in the Amazon's platforms, both companies have built voice-recognition systems on Google and Apple has already caused GM to lay off 1,850 workers and shut down its assembly plant in Ontario, Canada, near Toronto. Another 730 were laid off from an engine plant in St. Catherine's, Ontario. UAW workers

McDonald's developed the technology. For McDonald's, voice-initiated hiring is a way to stand out in a tight job market. The U.S. unemployment rate of 3.7% is near a 50-year low. Unemployment is also below 4% in the U.K. and Germany. McDonald's employs 2 million people at 38,000 restaurants worldwide, and its needs are constantly changing based on turnover and seasonal demands. Over the summer, the Chicago-based company said it was hiring 250,000 people in the U.S. alone.

DETROIT — As the United Auto Workers' strike against General Motors stretches into a second week, it's not just the company and striking workers getting pinned. With many replacement part warehouses shut down, dealers are beginning to run short of components to repair cars, trucks and SUVs. Companies that make auto parts are also starting to see work slow down. Dealers inventory of new vehicles is holding up but starting to get depleted on a few models. Meanwhile, GM is losing millions of dollars and has been forced to close one Canadian factory and send workers home at another. The few remaining workers are going to have to get by on $250 per week in strike pay.

Here's a look at the ripple effects of the strike:

Auto parts

The biggest impact so far seems to be the lack of availability of some replacement parts for GM vehicles. The strike has shut down a parts depot in Charlotte, N.C., where the Southeast region normally gets its replacements, said Ed Williamson, who owns several GM dealers in the Miami area. Parts suppliers, especially smaller ones where GM is the main customer, are also starting to get hit, said Morningstar analyst David Whiston.

GM had a 77-day supply of vehicles at the end of August, but big SUVs were only at about 55 days. With no shipments since Sept. 16, supplies are starting to drop. Michelle Krebs, executive analyst for Autotrader, said dealers have told her that they'll have ample supply for another week or so. Sales in September thus far have been slowing from August levels, so supplies aren't being depleted that quickly, she said.

Citi analyst Itay Michaeles estimated GM is losing $100 million in profits per day. The strike has already caused GM to lay off 1,850 workers and shut down its assembly plant in Ontario, Canada, near Toronto. Another 730 were laid off from an engine plant in St. Catherine's, Ontario.

Dealer inventory

GM's last GM paycheck, the first to be paid on Friday, starts this Friday. When they're on the job, most workers get about $30 per hour in wages, or roughly $1,200 per week. Whiston estimates that the work stoppage will cost the UAW's roughly $750 million strike fund about $31.5 million per week in strike pay and health care costs.

### Exchange Rates

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**MARKET WATCH**

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### Interest Rates

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<td>Reinvestment rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.65</td>
<td>30-year bond rate</td>
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### WEATHER OUTLOOK

**THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

- **Baghdad** 106°F/41°C
- **Kabul** 93°F/34°C
- **Tehran** 90°F/32°C
- **Cairo** 100°F/38°C

**THURSDAY IN EUROPE**

- **London** 68°F/20°C
- **Paris** 65°F/18°C
- **Berlin** 64°F/18°C
- **Moscow** 72°F/22°C

**FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC**

- **Tokyo** 72°F/22°C
- **Osaka** 74°F/23°C
- **Sasebo** 78°F/26°C
- **Guam** 84°F/29°C

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

ACROSS
1 Paint layer 58 Turner and Danson
5 Remit 26 Periodic table listing
8 Con job 28 Bedazzle
12 Singer Guthrie 29 Harasses
13 “As I see it,” 30 Bond rating
to a texter 31 Set afire
14 Little, in Livorno 32 In dreamland
15 Some HDTV’s 33 Away from SSW
16 Joke 34 Pendant with a photo
17 Madame Bovary 41 Symbol of strength
18 Kidnapper’s demand 42 Frankfurt fellow
20 Tarzan types 43 Pennsylvania
22 Before 44 Apothecary
23 Poem of praise 46 Hibernia
24 Honey bunch? 47 Lost traction
27 Countyside 48 Some babies
32 Unwell 51 German
33 Pair 52 Conjunction
34 — chi 53
35 Scouring powder
38 Aspiring
44 To your story.
45 To get you story.
46 To get you story.
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54 To get you story.
55 To get you story.
56 To get you story.

DOWN
1 Novelist Caleb
2 Sea predator
3 Actor Cumming
4 Coin flips
5 Colors
6 “I — Rock”
7 Meditative practice
8 Swimsuit brand
9 Remarks on
a blog
10 Pinnacle
11 Complain
12 Otherwise
21 Luau bowlful
24 Pen name
25 Right angle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

CRYPTOQUIP

N E Q A H Z T S H Z N V K H E S
N D U S E K K N D F S H K H A N U N L D
G E V N D H S U . L D H Q N F W S U E T
Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: BIG, SCARY HUMANOID
CREATURE THAT IS SAID TO INHABIT A
M ARSHY REGION: THE BOGGY MONSTER.
Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T
**STARS AND STRIPES**

**FREE AD Guidelines:**
- Free ads are available only to DoD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 30 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to classify, rewrite, and reject any ads.

**SCAM FADS**

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers in classifieds advertisements.

- Be aware of the common red flags.
- Some of the latest Scam fads are:
  - Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using PayPal.
  - People saying they are selling their vehicle and using FreeDog for adoption.

**SELLER BEWARE**

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

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Patterned Sherron Ranch Chairs from UK: $125.00
Two Thousand 
on the Home Front
On Sale Now!!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arts &amp; Crafts</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Furniture**

- **Antique English Bureau (Renaissance)**
- **Antique English Furniture (16th Century)**
- **Antique American (19th Century)**
  - **Free American (19th Century)**

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Hosted by Michelle Harven and Air Force veteran Desmon Farris.
Tennis

Tashkent Open

Wednesday, Oct. 2

Women’s Doubles

Nina Stojanovic, Russia, and Sabina Sharipova, Uzbekistan, 6-4, 6-3, 7-5.

Women’s Singles

Katarina Zavatska, Ukraine, def. Terza Martincova, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-4.

Kudermetova, Russia, 6-3, 6-1.

Era Martinova, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-4.

Cardas Berankis, Lithuania, 6-4, 6-3.

Kovalenok, Russia, and Katarina Zavatska, Ukraine, 6-4, 6-4.

Priscilla Baptista, Brazil, def. Ysaline Bonaventure, Belgium, 7-6 (7), 6-4.

Clara Kowalczyk, Germany, def. Anna Karolina Schmiedlova, Slovakia, 6-4, 6-4.

Kovalenok, Russia, and Sabina Sharipova, Uzbekistan, 6-4, 6-4.

Women’s Doubles

Dorota Kuczmarska, Poland, and Katarina Zavatska, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-4.

Monica Niculescu, Romania, 6-4, 6-4.

Daria Kasatkina, Russia, def. Katarina Zavatska, Ukraine, 7-6 (4), 7-5.

Alexandra Caneva, Italy, def. Elisa Santamaria, Spain, 6-4, 6-4.

Boutron, Jordan, def. Jelena Jankovic, Serbia, 6-4, 6-4.

Clara Kowalczyk, Germany, def. Anna Karolina Schmiedlova, Slovakia, 6-4, 6-4.

Taylor Fritz (6), United States, 6-4, 7-5, 6-4.

Bianca Andreescu, Canada, 6-4, 6-4.

French Open

Danka Kovinova, Czech Republic, and Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, def. Vitalia Diatchenko, Russia, and Sabina Sharipova, Uzbekistan, 6-4, 6-4.

Bianca Andreescu, Canada, def. Andrea Petkovic, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.

Taylor Fritz (6), United States, 6-4, 7-5, 6-4.

Bianca Andreescu, Canada, def. Andrea Petkovic, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.

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Briefs

Matthews issued summons
TORONTO — The Toronto Maple Leafs say they are aware of a complaint of disturbing the peace against star forward Auston Matthews.

The team says Matthews is cooperating with authorities and declined further comment “out of respect for the process involved.”

A. Scottsdale, Ariz., police spokesman said the department in Matthews’ hometown investigated a disorderly conduct case involving an Auston Matthews on May 26. He said Matthews was not arrested and the case has been forwarded to the city prosecutor’s office for review.

Online court records show an Auston Matthews with a birthdate of September 1997 was issued a summons on July 23 for “disorderly conduct — disruptive behavior or fighting.” The Leafs center was born Sept. 17, 1997.

Matthews, the first pick in the 2016 draft, has 111 goals and 205 points in 212 NHL games. He also has 10 goals and three assists in 20 playoff appearances for Toronto.

Blue acquire Faulk in trade
ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Blues acquired All-Star defenseman Justin Faulk from the Carolina Hurricanes on Tuesday in exchange for high-scoring Joel Edmundson and a prospect.

The Blues also announced Faulk had signed a seven-year contract extension worth $45.5 million that goes into effect following this season with the defending Stanley Cup champions.

Faulk gives the Blues another offensively gifted right-handed shooting defenseman who could play on the second or third pair. He could also run the second power-play unit.

The 27-year-old Faulk had 85 goals and 258 points — club records in both categories among defensemen — and had spent his entire eight-year NHL career with Carolina.

Leafs release goalie Neuvirth
TORONTO — The Toronto Maple Leafs have released veteran goalie Michal Neuvirth, meaning Michael Hutchinson has likely won the backup job.

Neuvirth was named the No. 2 spot behind Frederik Andersen. But he played just two periods during training camp because of an unspecified injury.

The 31-year-old Neuvirth has played in the NHL with Washington, Buffalo, the New York Islanders and Philadelphia. He has a career record of 105-93-26, with a .910 save percentage and 2.71 goals-against average in 257 games.

Isles break ground on arena
ELMONT, N.Y. — Work has begun on a $1.3 billion arena for the New York Islanders hockey team at Belmont Park.

The 19,000-seat arena will also include shops, restaurants and a hotel. Work is expected to be completed in time for the 2021-2022 season.

Until then, the Islanders will play home games at the Nassau Coliseum and the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

The new arena is being built on state-owned property. As part of the work, developers have agreed to pay to build a new Long Island Rail Road station nearby.

— Associated Press

Keeping butts in the seats
League aims to fill arenas, drawing fans away from TVs

BY LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

DETROIT — The Detroit Red Wings are desperately trying to keep fans filing into 2-year-old Little Caesars Arena as the allure of the new facility wears off while the team goes through a painful rebuild.

The Red Wings filled the arena to 98% of capacity on average last season.

While the spectacular facility wears off while the team goes through a painful rebuild. The Red Wings filled the arena to 98% of capacity on average last season.

The Blues will raise a championship banner Oct. 2 before opening the season against the Washington Capitals.

The Blues will raise a championship banner Oct. 2 before opening the season against the Washington Capitals. Blues season-ticket holder Mike Buschhorn plans to be there for the party, deciding not to cash in on his tickets by selling them and watching the festivities on TV.

“You have to be at a hockey game in person to get it. TV doesn’t do it justice. It is the most exciting sport to be at,” Buschhorn said.

The price of tickets, however, plays a part in keeping some fans at home.

“It’s a lot cheaper for a 12-pack on the weekends,” Blues fan John Pucks said.

The Carolina Hurricanes have gotten creative, trying to climb up from the bottom of the NHL’s attendance figures in terms of percentage of capacity. Carolina sold a little more than three-fourths of its tickets at its Raleigh arena last season to rank ahead of only Ottawa two years ago.

Despite another season without a trip to the playoffs, the Blues believe the circumstances are right.

“I think you got to apply the same tactics they have in Carolina,” Blues general manager Doug lady said.

“We have to do everything we can to make sure those fans come back, and we’re doing that this summer in a really big way. We’re working hard to bring back fans.”

— Freelance writer Joe Harris in St. Louis contributed to this report

Thursday, September 26, 2019

*SARS AND STRIPES*

Thursday, September 26, 2019

NHL
Twins move closer to an AL Central title

Associated Press

DETROIT — The Minnesota Twins took another step toward an AL Central title with a 4-2 win over the Detroit Tigers on Tuesday night.

More importantly, they think they dodged an injury that could have significantly hampered their chances in October.

After allowing one run and two hits in the first six innings, Twins starter Jake Odorizzi caught manager Rocco Baldelli’s attention with some odd arm movements as he warmed up for the seventh. Odorizzi’s arm wasn’t the problem.

“I had a cramp in my back,” he said. “I was just getting the blood flow going again — but my hamstring was cramping a little,” Odorizzi said.

“I could have kept going, but taking me out was probably the right thing.”

The Twins improved to 97-60, clinching home-field advantage throughout the NL playoffs even before it beat staggering San Diego.

The seven-time NL West champions had 106 losses when NL East champion Atlanta (96-62) lost 9-6 at home against the Twins.

Rodriguez (19-5) is unbeaten in 21 starts since losing to the Chicago White Sox on May 22. He is on the longest streak of consecutive winning decisions since Toronto’s Roy Halladay was 15-0 during an 18-start span in 2003.

Another record season for strikeouts

Major League Baseball has set its second-straight record for the 12th straight season. Batteries struck out 369 times Tuesday to raise the season total to 41,467.

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The A’s let their lead for the top half of the 12th inning.

Choi homered off Cory Gearrin (1-3) after Pete Fairbanks (2-3) struck out Brett Gardner with a runner on second and two outs in the top half of the 12th inning.

Choi hit a single-game ending home run in the 12th inning that helped the Twins win 1-0.

The A’s let their lead for the top half of the 12th inning.

Taylor Rogers pitched a perfect ninth for his 29th save. It was his 100th win this season.

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The Indians beat the Cleveland pounded host Chicago.

Twins manager Rocco Baldelli agreed and brought in Kyle Gibson.

“Under different circumstances, I would have left Jake out there, but this way we are sure there, but this way we are sure...
The text contains a mix of sports-related content, including baseball statistics and a football score from a previous game. It also includes a table showing the standings of various baseball teams, as well as individual player statistics. The content is structured in a way that is typical of a sports news article or a sports section in a newspaper.
CINCINNATI — The clubhouse rocked with music played by a DJ. Television screens showed the Cubs losing again, moving the Brewers to the verge of another postseason berth.

“Yes!” One Brewer yelled as the Pirates piled it on against Chicago.

“I’m hoping for it.”

“I’ve seen glimpses of it being there, but it all started to fall into place for us,” said Adrian Houser, who worked the first four innings.

Braun homered as Brewers close in on playoffs

By Joe Kay
Associated Press

The Brewers’ Ryan Braun runs the bases after hitting a solo home run during the second inning against the Cincinnati Reds on Tuesday. Milwaukee won 4-2.

The Brewers trail the Cardinals in the NL Central. With 2018 National League MVP Christian Yelich sidelined by a broken right kneecap, the Brewers have turned to their own hitting stars each night. Milwaukee has the best record in the majors in September at 9-3.

Braun has been a solid contributor lately, reaching the season’s 500th milestone in Cooperstown.

“I’ve been overwhelmed with emotion.”

The Brewers head to St. Louis for a pair of twins in the final third of the month heading indoors for the real party. The club has included a four-game sweep at the stadium’s infield and watched the seventh chance.

Events, weather and a dose of levity to the club.

“With everything we do through as a group, reliever Sean Doolittle said, “it feels so much sweeter.”

Anthony Rendon delivered two sacrifice flies to raise his majors-leading RBI total to 124 in the victory, a result that also eliminated Philadelphia and $330 million outfielder Bryce Harper, the ex-Nationals star.

“I’ve got no hard feelings to-day, and part of another this month once he was back in the lineup. The Nationals entered Tuesday on a real roll, fourth in the NL East, thanks to defensive sloppiness, bad baserunning and, above all, unrelievable-as-can-be-work from the bullpen.

Martinez said in the mayhem, his entire season went, the Nationals clinched playoff berth.

“Right after center fielder Victor Robles made a running catch for the last out of the second game in Washington, the Nationals Park scoreboard showed the Cubs vs. the Pirates.

Many of the Nationals stood on the stadium’s infield and watched the Cubs’ 9-2 defeat, then started celebrating before heading indoors for the real deal, which included red cans of Budweiser, blue cans of Bud Light, white cans of Stella Artois and bottles of Campo Viejo Cava.

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Pettis’ slow start this season leads to big TD

By Josh Dubow
Associated Press

SAN CLARA, Calif. — Dante Pettis’ roller-coaster start to his second season in the NFL has led to him being the focal point for the biggest touchdown of the year for the San Francisco 49ers.

Pettis came into the year expected to build on a promising rookie season, but struggles with knee injuries limited him to three catches in Week 2 in Cincinnati but had an interception go off his hands and only three receptions of former Major League Baseball player Gary Pettis.

SOURCE: Associated Press

I can do this. I know I’m here for a reason.

The 49ers were counting heavily on Pettis heading into this season after a strong finish to his rookie season. Pettis caught a 22-yard TD pass from Garoppolo in his NFL debut last year before suffering with knee injuries that limited him to three catches through the first nine games of the season.

But Pettis had 17 catches for 338 yards and four TDs during a four-game stretch late in the season before re-injuring his knee, showing why the Niners traders up into the second round to take him in the 2018 draft.

That success didn’t carry over into this season as Pettis struggled throughout training camp, leading him to play deep into some exhibitions when most established players were already done for the night as Shanahan said he hadn’t earned a starting role.

Pettis then managed to get on the field for two snaps in the opener at Tampa Bay, catching one pass for 7 yards. After a good week of practice, he got more time in Week 2 in Cincinnati but threw more passes (one) than he had thrown his way (zero) as he once again came off the bench.

He’s just gotten better each week,” Shanahan said. “We all know how he finished last year. Had a few bumps in the road through training camp, which I think has been well documented throughout training camp, which had a few bumps in the road in Week 2 and had an interception go off his hands in the first half this past week against Pittsburgh.

Despite all the lows, Shanahan and quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo still decided to go in Pettis’ direction with the Niners trading late against the Steelers.

The move paid off with a 5-YA TD catch that gave the 49ers a 2-0 victory Sunday for their first 3-0 start in 21 years.

“Was good. There obviously haven’t been a lot of ups and downs. I know that part of sports. I’ve been around professional sports my whole life,” said Pettis, whose father, Gary, is a former major league outfielder.

“I know what happens. You’re just not going to be good every single day. Now that I know what it’s like to go through that, I know

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Fink likely starter for No. 21 Trojans

By Greg Beacham
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Quarterback Kedon Slovis is in the concussion protocol for No. 21 Southern California, increasing the likelihood of Matt Fink making his first career start at No. 17 Washington this weekend.

Coach Clay Helton confirmed Tuesday night that Slovis isn’t currently cleared to practice or play.

Slovis was injured on the second play of the Trojans’ victory over then-No. 10 Utah last Friday. Fink stepped in and passed for 351 yards with ample help from his outstanding receivers in USC’s 30-23 win.

Fink is likely to lead the underdog Trojans against the defending Pac-12 champion Huskies (3-1, 0-1). Offensive coordinator Graham Harrell is working overtime to train his third starting quarterback this season under the scheme’s most important position.

J.T. Daniels was lost to a season-ending knee injury right before halftime in USC’s season opener, and 18-year-old freshman Slovis stepped in to start the next three games. He was outstanding in a victory over a ranked Stanford team, but threw three interceptions in an embarrassing overtime loss at BYU.

Fink realizes he could be playing for the permanent starting job if he performs well in Slovis’ absence, but it’s all tied to the Trojans’ overall success.

“Every day is a great opportunity, especially today,” Fink said. “Again, it (stinks) to see anyone on the team get hurt, but that leaves more opportunity and more doors for myself, so I’m going to go ahead and take that and run with it.”

Fink will be USC’s only scholarship quarterback at Washington if Slovis doesn’t suit up. Jack Sears, who finished fourth in the four-man quarterback competition in training camp despite previous starting experience at USC, entered the transfer portal and hasn’t returned to the team.

Fink nearly left the Trojans himself after spring football, entering the transfer portal and even taking a visit to Illinois. The Rancho Cucamonga native strongly considered a move to the Illini before returning to USC in June, citing a desire to stay close to home.

When asked to choose the best part of his performance against Utah, he cited the chance to celebrate afterward with his family. Fink’s father was at practice Tuesday to watch him running the first-team offense.

“It’s kind of surreal, (but) it’s an amazing opportunity for me and the team to keep moving forward,” Fink said.

Fink threw 18 passes in his first two seasons at USC as a backup to Sam Darnold and Daniels. He threw 30 more against the Utes, including one TD pass apiece to Tyler Vaughns, Michael Pittman Jr. and Amon-Ra St. Brown, his triumvirate of elite receivers.

Helton and Harrell are getting creative to prepare backups for the potential disaster of Fink going down with an injury.

Brandon Perdue, a walk-on junior who played quarterback sparingly in high school and junior college before moving to safety at USC, would be Fink’s primary backup. He has been the quarterback of USC’s scout team in practice, but hasn’t thrown a competitive pass since some brief action for New Mexico Military Institute in 2017.

Page 31

Around the Pac-12

Believe it or not, Cal’s the only unbeaten team

By Anne M. Peterson
Associated Press

Following California’s victory over Mississippi, coach Justin Wilcox said: “We find a way to make it interesting.”

Yes, they certainly do.

The Golden Bears not only emerged with a dramatic 28-20 victory over Ole Miss last weekend but also left them as the lone undefeated team in the Pac-12.

Cal (4-0, 1-0) is among the league’s biggest surprises going into Week 5 of the season. Also surprising? The Trojans finding ways to win big games at home even when faced with considerable challenges. And the previously winless Bruins knocking off Washington State in spectacular fashion.

The Pac-12 is the only Power 5 conference with four, but the Cougars, Utah and Arizona State all lost as the league cannibalized itself.

Cal, meanwhile, was becoming the first Pac-12 team to win on the road against the SEC since 2010, when Oregon beat Tennessee 48-13 in Knoxville. The Bears jumped from No. 23 to No. 15 in the AP rankings as a result.

The victory was dramatic. Cal linebacker Evan Weaver tackled Ole Miss quarterback John Rhys Plumlee for no gain at the 1-yard line as time expired. Just before that, Plumlee had completed a third-down pass to Elijah Moore at the 1 with less than 15 seconds remaining.

Mississippi coach Matt Luke pleaded with the officials to stop the clock for a look at the replay, but the Pac-12 officiating crew quickly marked the ball at the 1-yard line and the Rebels attempted, unsuccessfully, to score on Plumlee’s quarterback sneak.

The Pac-12 issued a statement Sunday night saying it had confirmed that officials correctly ruled that Ole Miss “did not score a touchdown and there was no irrefutable video evidence to reverse those calls by replay.” But the conference also said it would have “supported” stopping play in this instance for a review to confirm the call.

Other surprises in the Pac-12 heading into Week 5:

Bruins’ big win

Goodness, where to start? Winless UCLA (1-3, 0-1) rallied from a 32-point deficit in the second half to beat Washington State 67-63 in the highest-scoring game in league history. The Bruins scored 50 points in 19 minutes.

Sophomore quarterback Dorian Thompson-Robinson set a UCLA record with 584 yards of total offense, including a career-high 507 passing yards and five touchdowns. He was named the Pac-12’s Offensive Player of the Week.

At the same time it was a surprising meltdown for the Cougars (3-1, 0-1). Anthony Gordon threw nine touchdown passes and WSU still lost the game.

The Bruins visit Arizona (2-1) on Saturday, while Washington State is at No. 19 Utah (5-0, 1-0).

The Trojans

Clay Helton’s seat got a little less hot following No. 21 USC’s 30-23 victory Friday night over the Utes. And the Trojans pulled it off with a third-string quarterback.

Combine that with an earlier win over Stanford, and USC tops the South with a 2-0 conference record.

One downside, the conference’s chances at a College Football Playoff berth just got way narrower. Whereas Utah was favored to win the South, and still could, only Cal and Oregon seem to have a sliver of a CFP hope now. The Golden Bears likely need to go undefeated and the Ducks need Auburn to keep winning.

Oh, and the Golden Bears visit the Ducks on Oct. 5.
WASHINGTON — Dave Martinez’s words were drenched with emotion as he stood in a booze-soaked clubhouse, Washington Nationals players celebrating all around after clinching an NL wild card exactly four months after they woke up with a 19-31 record and calls for him to be replaced as manager.

It’s been quite a turnaround for Martinez — and for his club.

“They don’t want to go home. They want to keep playing,” Martinez said Tuesday night, wearing the same red T-shirt reading “Let’s get wild” as his players had on. “They don’t quit.”

Trea Turner’s go-ahead grand slam in the sixth inning lifted Washington to a 6-5 comeback victory over the Philadelphia Phillies for a doubleheader sweep that assured the Nationals of extending their season and eliminated the Phillies from playoff contention.

SEE NATIONALS ON PAGE 29

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dave Martinez’s words were drenched with emotion as he stood in a booze-soaked clubhouse, Washington Nationals players celebrating all around after clinching an NL wild card exactly four months after they woke up with a 19-31 record and calls for him to be replaced as manager.

It’s been quite a turnaround for Martinez — and for his club.

“They don’t want to go home. They want to keep playing,” Martinez said Tuesday night, wearing the same red T-shirt reading “Let’s get wild” as his players had on. “They don’t quit.”

Trea Turner’s go-ahead grand slam in the sixth inning lifted Washington to a 6-5 comeback victory over the Philadelphia Phillies for a doubleheader sweep that assured the Nationals of extending their season and eliminated the Phillies from playoff contention.

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Photos by Patrick Semansky/AP

Above: Washington Nationals shortstop Trea Turner rounds the bases after hitting a go-ahead grand slam in the sixth inning of the second game against the Philadelphia Phillies on Tuesday night in Washington.

Left: Nats manager Dave Martinez celebrates in the clubhouse after his team clinched an NL wild card. Martinez seemed likely to lose his job after an 82-80 rookie season and a dismal record through 50 games this year.

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Wild ride

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