Full steam ahead
Despite Trump skepticism, Navy committed to electromagnetic aircraft launching system

By Missy Ryan
The Washington Post

President Donald Trump last week renewed his questioning of the military’s new system for launching aircraft at sea, underscoring his skepticism about a technology the Navy has put at the center of its future aircraft carrier fleet.

In a call to servicemembers Thursday marking the Thanksgiving

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Steam is very reliable, and the electromagnetic — I mean, unfortunately, you have to be Albert Einstein to really work it properly.’

President Donald Trump
on aircraft catapults

Petty Officer
3rd Class
Damon Boyd
lubricates an electromagnetic aircraft launching system catapult aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford in 2017.

Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

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South Korea receives critical exemption for cross-border railway
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PACIFIC
USS Antietam sailors’ missing advancement exams found at Yokota
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Air Force to expand training of new pilots

By Jennifer H. Svan
Stars and Stripes

Faced with a shortage of some 2,000 pilots, the Air Force’s service academy is trying to churn out more pilot candidates.

More than 530 U.S. Air Force Academy cadets from the 2019 graduating class have been selected to attend pilot training, pending final qualifications and commissioning, the Colorado Springs, Colo.-based academy said in a statement last week.

The number represents a 26 percent increase over last year’s graduating class, academy officials said. In 2018, 417 graduates were scheduled to attend pilot training.

The academy’s superintendent, Lt. Gen. Jay Silveria, said in a statement that “we are proud as an institution to offer more flying opportunities to our cadets.”

In looking to expand the pipeline to pilot training, officials said, the academy is working with Air Education and Training Command to produce more candidates capable of bypassing initial flight training, a less specialized form of pilot training

SEE SHORTAGE ON PAGE 4

By the numbers

At the end of last fiscal year, the Air Force had about 21,000 pilots. Even including newly trained pilots, the service needs about 2,000 to replace those leaving. To achieve that:

- The Air Force already has cut undergraduate pilot training from 54.7 weeks to an average of 49.2 weeks.
- Last year, the Air Force expanded a voluntary recall program for retired pilots from 25 to 1,000 slots.
- The academy also plans to add flight-related courses to the sophomore and senior years to help advance pilot-training candidates.

SOURCE: The San Antonio Express-News
UN approves field survey for Koreas’ cross-border rails

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea gained a sanctions exemption that will allow it to take the first step in a plan to reconnect cross-border railways with the North, the latest in a series of efforts to improve relations between the rival nations despite slow progress in nuclear talks.

The United States has signed off on the steps taken thus far, and South Korea insists the allies are in lockstep and that it will stay within the constraints of the sanctions regime.

But Secretary of State Mike Pompeo sounded a warning last week that the inter-Korean rapprochement should be dependent on advances in the U.S.-led effort to persuade the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

He noted the longtime allies established a working group last week to strengthen cooperation and “be sure that we don’t talk past each other.”

“We do want to make sure that the peace on the peninsula and the denuclearization of North Korea aren’t lagging behind the increase in the amount of inter-relationship between the two Koreas,” he told reporters on Tuesday. “We view them as tandem, as moving forward together.”

The plan to reconnect the railways was first unveiled as part of an ambitious agreement reached between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during their first summit in April.

Moon dangled it as an example of economic cooperation that could be reaped by the North if it abandons its nuclear program, which has prompted the Security Council to implement increasingly tighter sanctions in response to a series of missile and nuclear tests.

South announced plans to hold a groundbreaking ceremony by the end of the year, initially saying the joint surveys wouldn’t begin as early as this month, although he acknowledged the need for more significant investment could be made in the railway project.

“Some is left is the issue of coordinating with the North Korean side on schedules,” he told lawmakers Friday.

“We’ll go through the processes required under the sanctions regime,” he said. “I can say that the U.S. basically supports overall inter-Korean relations.”

Kim and President Donald Trump agreed to work toward the “complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula,” during their landmark summit on June 12, but talks have stalled over details.

North Korea has called for the easing of sanctions in its negotiations with the United States, saying it should be rewarded for steps already taken toward denuclearization, including a testing moratorium on long-range and nuclear weapons.

The regime also has dismantled a missile engine testing facility and blown up its nuclear testing site, although U.S. officials and experts note the measures are likely reversible.

The Trump administration insists it will maintain economic pressure on Pyongyang until it sees more concrete measures, which have not been specified.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.

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Photos by AHN YOUNG-JOON/AF

Above: South Korean activists march Sunday along military wire fences at the Imjingak Pavilion near the border village of Panmunjom in Paju, South Korea, during a rally demanding peace on the Korean Peninsula. Below: South Korean soldiers stand guard during the rally.
The reality is, a carrier is a 24/7 operation. When the nation calls us to execute the mission, they don't call on us to execute the mission at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. They call on us at 3 o'clock in the morning.

Cmdr. Bill Lane
USS Abraham Lincoln’s “air boss”

The Navy completed reviews of the electromagnetic railgun (EMALS) system on its future carriers, including the USS Gerald Ford, which is scheduled to be delivered to the Navy in 2024.

The challenge is shifting the culture for all carrier sailors while maintaining performance, said Cmdr. Bill Lane, who, as the Lincoln’s “air boss,” runs the ship’s flight operations. Solutions could include reducing operation tempo during noncritical times and reducing flight schedules, he said.

“The reality is, a carrier is a 24/7 operation,” Lane said. “When the nation calls on us to execute the mission, they don’t call on us to execute the mission at 4 o’clock in the afternoon. They call on us at 3 o’clock in the morning.”

Capt. G. Merrill Rice, the senior medical officer aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, said studies have shown that working more than 18 consecutive hours can have the same effect as having a blood alcohol content of .08 or .10.

“The longer you’re awake, you’re just basically, essentially, performing under the influence of your own fatigue, but just not alcohol,” Rice said. “No one would say, ‘I’m driving a little drunk’ to your skipper, but we often will say, ‘I’m a little tired.’

The exchange was the latest in a series of comments that Trump has made challenging Pentagon procurement decisions, illustrating his confidence that he may know more than his military leaders. Trump has also said that he doesn’t have an immediate response to the president’s comments.

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Labor strikers impede base traffic in Italy

BY SCOTT WYLAND
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Striking Italian union workers deliberately impeded traffic entering the Navy Support Site on Black Friday to protest what labor leaders say are too few Italians employed by the base.

Italian union workers employed at most base departments, including the Navy Exchange and commissary, took part in the one-day strike timed for one of the busiest shopping days of the year.

Italy’s labor laws allow workers to slow traffic outside the gate but not block it, base security officials said.

The strike caused moderate inconveniences for motorists and no reported disruption at the base stores as American employees and nonunion Italian workers handled the duties. Labor leaders said it was a way to express discontent with base managers not addressing their grievances.

“Today we have to strike to have a little more attention,” said Biagio Montefusco, a representative with the Confederation of Italian Workers’ Trade Unions.

The status of forces agreement calls for Italians to make up at least 50 percent of the base workforce, and Italian employment is closer to 30 percent, Montefusco said. Base officials couldn’t be reached Friday for confirmation or comment.

Too many U.S. Navy spouses and children are hired for jobs Italians should fill, Montefusco said.

Base jobs are among the few options for dependents in Italy, where the SOFA makes it very difficult to work. Dependents must give up their SOFA status to be considered “ordinarily resident” and eligible for employment, according to U.S. Army Garrison Italy’s website.

In the past six years, Italians employed at the commissary fell from 116, Montefusco said.

The Navy air base in Sigonella is having similar labor issues, he said. A couple of weeks ago, unions launched a two-day strike to protest plans to transfer Sigonella’s Navy Gateway Inn & Suites to a private contractor who could use nonunion labor.

Labor leaders last met with Naples base command on Oct. 17, and no progress was made, said Bruno Mile, a union representative.

The base human resources office is supposed to address Italian workers’ complaints, but often takes no action, Mile said. “You see no will to solve the problems,” he said.

If discussions remain at an impasse, the union will consider more strikes, Montefusco said.

More than 530 U.S. Air Force Academy cadets from the 2019 graduating class have been matched to attend pilot training pending final qualifications and commissioning.

Army colonel who launched influential online ‘Warlord Loop’ dies at 97

BY GREG JAFFE
The Washington Post

John Collins, a retired Army colonel and veteran of three wars who founded and led a Rochelle-based defense group that helped fuel the Pentagon’s most influential think tank, died Thursday at his home in Alexandria, Va. He was 92.

There was no specific cause of death, said Sean Collins, his son.

Collins enlisted in the Army in 1942 and fought in World War II, the Korea War and in Vietnam, where he served as the senior planner to Gen. William Westmoreland, the commander of U.S. forces. But he was best known in Washington for his achievements after he retired from the Army in 1972.

After he left the Army, Collins worked as a senior specialist in national defense for the Congressional Research Service, where he compiled reports for the U.S. military and national security strategy for members of Congress.

There, he coined the “Five SOF Truths,” which today remain the guiding principles for the training and employment of Special Operations Forces, said retired Army Col. David Maxwell.

Among Collins’ “SOF truths” was the maxim that “humans are more important than (military) hardware.” He warned that “Special Operations Forces cannot be mass produced” and emphasized that Special Operations Forces could not be recruited and trained quickly in response to an emerging crisis.

But Collins’ greatest contribution to U.S. national security was an online discussion group, called the “Warlord Loop,” which he founded in 1998 at age 77 and oversaw until illness forced him to cede daily management of it when he was 92.

Collins came up with the idea for the group in the late 1970s when he was still at the Congressional Research Service but received repeated rejections from his bosses for more than 20 years.

His vision was a discussion group in which the national security thinkers could debate ideas without being bound by the typical bureaucratic restrictions, such as seniority, budgets and the built-in biases of the various military services. In 1998, the emergence of the internet allowed Collins to start the group on his own without any help from senior national security officials.

The Warlord Loop’s influence was greatest in the years after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, when it became a place where officials from the Pentagon and State Department and troops serving on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan could debate the best approaches to battling insurgencies. Collins often chose the topics that were discussed on the Warlord Loop, which eventually grew to almost 500 members. He also enforced rules of civility, declaring himself the group’s “judge, juror and executioner.”

Unlike the Pentagon, which relied on a strict chain of command, the Warlord Loop gave equal weight to all ideas regardless of the source. Junior officers and enlisted personnel who had battled through long deployments at distant outposts could share their experiences and ideas directly with senior officials working in the Pentagon.
US, Japan plan more single-enlisted housing at Yokosuka

BY HANA KUSUMOTO

TOKYO — The U.S. and Japanese governments agreed to relocate Negishi Dependent Housing Area in Kanagawa Prefecture and turn it back to Japan in exchange for the release of the Fukaya Communique Site. The agreement also calls to proceed with the agreements to ensure that single sailors assigned to Yokosuka are provided accommodations in line with U.S. Navy standards.

The Japanese government will also build support facilities such as an assembly hall and sports venue, as well as a repair shop and fire station at the Ikego Housing Area near Yokosuka. The support facility additions will be released at a future date, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters Wednesday.

“The Japanese government will thoroughly explain the details of the agreement to the local communities, as well as to proceed with the procedure and work for restoration, which we hope to be done in about three years,” he said when asked about the timeline for return of Negishi housing. “We want to continue to steadily proceed with the agreements reached."

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Sailors’ lost advancement exams found at Tokyo base

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

US, Japan plan more single-enlisted housing at Yokosuka

The new bachelor housing will ensure that eligible single sailors assigned to Yokosuka are provided accommodations in line (with) U.S. Navy standards.

The new bachelor housing will ensure that eligible single sailors assigned to Yokosuka are provided accommodations in line (with) U.S. Navy standards." said Maj. Genieve White, U.S. Forces Japan spokesman. "The agreement also calls for the replacement of any existing community support facilities that may be displaced by construction."

To speed up the process of returning the Negishi Housing Complex to the land owners, the governments will discuss joint usage of the housing area to start the restoration work needed to use the land at its former function, according to the statement. They will decide the area’s return date based on the progress of any restoration work.

White said the release of Negishi “will be contingent upon specific construction milestones to protect the interests of both governments.” She did not identify these milestones.

In exchange, the governments withdrew a plan to build additional housing on the Yokosuka side of Ikego. The plan was first devised in 2003, when the U.S. and Japan agreed to return the Fukuoka Communication Site, Tomokita Storage Area and most of Kamikaya Communication Station, as well as to build 800 additional housing units at Ikego. They also agreed to return the Negishi Dependent Housing Area after housing units and support facilities were built at Ikego.

The Fukaya and Kamikaya communication sites were returned in 2014, and the number of housing units to be built at Ikego was reduced. In 2014, the number of units shrunk to 171.

Further details of the new plans will be released at a future date, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters Wednesday.

“The Japanese government will thoroughly explain the details of the agreement to the local communities, as well as to proceed with the procedure and work for restoration, which we hope to be done in about three years,” he said when asked about the timeline for return of Negishi housing. “We want to continue to steadily proceed with the agreements reached."

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Camp Humphreys closes a main access gate after incident

BY KIM GAMEL

SEOUl, South Korea — Camp Humphreys, the main U.S. military base in South Korea, closed one of its main access gates this past weekend after an incident with a car.

The incident happened about 2 p.m. Saturday and did not involve a gate-runner, said garrison spokesman Steven Fichtl. He declined to provide more details pending the ongoing investigation.

A photo posted on Facebook showed a four-door car that appeared to have smashed into a

raised barrier at the Dongchang-ri gate on Saturday, with the concertina wire and concrete walls that allowed the garrison in the background.

The gate was closed after the incident, but the garrison said it would reopen by 10 a.m. Sunday.

The nearby Anjeung-ri gate, which is normally closed on weekends, was opened to facilitate traffic and will resume normal hours once Dongchang-ri reopened, according to the announcement.

It was at least the third gate-related incident this year at Humphreys, which has undergone a

major expansion in recent years as part of a frequently delayed plan to relocate most U.S. forces south of Seoul.

In April, a car going the wrong way through another gate prompted a lockdown of the garrison, but authorities said it turned out to be a misunderstanding involving a driver who went the wrong way by mistake.

A South Korean man who drove through a gate without authorization was arrested in January.

The population at Humphreys, a sprawling base in the rural area of Pungtong, about 40 miles south of Seoul, has mushroomed to nearly 30,000 after the three main military commands — U.S. Forces Korea, Eighth Army and 2nd Infantry Division — moved their headquarters there, along with families and civilian employees.

Some 28,500 U.S. servicemem- bers are stationed in South Korea, which remains technically at war with the North since their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

Stars and Stripes reporter Marcus Fichtl contributed to this report.

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Sailors stand watch on the bridge of the USS Antietam in the Sea of Japan on July 5. The Antietam sailors’ advancement exams, which had been lost in the mail, have been located in Tokyo.

Kessler said in a post on the Antietam’s official Facebook page: “continue to update (Antietam sailors) on the way forward as exams arrive in Florida."
**WAR ON TERRORISM**

**Russia targets Syrian rebels after alleged gas attack**

**By Albert Ajh and Bassem Mubarak**

**Associated Press**

DAMASCUS, Syria — Russian warplanes attacked rebel-held areas in northern Syria for the first time in weeks Sunday as Syrian officials said more than 100 people were treated at hospitals for a suspected poison gas attack in the northern city of Aleppo that Damascus and Moscow blamed on rebels.

The rebels, who have denied carrying out any poison gas attacks, accused the government of trying to undermine a truce reached by Russia and Turkey in September during a summit in the Russian city of Sochi. The targeted area is rebel-held and home to extremist groups opposed to the regime such as the al-Qaida-linked Horas al-Din, which has described the deal as a “great conspiracy,” and the Ansar al-Din Front.

Russian military spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov told reporters in Moscow that Russian warplanes destroyed militant positions in northern Syria, blaming them for the attack with poison gas on Aleppo.

The latest wave of shelling and airstrikes in northern Syria is the most serious since a deal reached by Russia and Turkey that brought relative calm to the country’s north for the past two months.

“The planes of Russia’s Aerospace Defense Forces carried out strikes on the declared positions of terrorists in the area, from where the shelling of Aleppo civilians with chemical weapons was conducted late” Saturday,” Konashenkov said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Thiqa News agency, activist collective, said warplanes pounded rebel-held areas west and south of Aleppo city.

The airstrikes were the first since the truce went into effect on Sept. 17.

Syria’s Arab News Agency, SANA, said Syrian troops pounded rebel positions near Aleppo, “inflicting heavy losses among terrorists.”

SANA said the alleged chemical attack late Saturday was carried out by “terrorist groups positioned in Aleppo countryside” that fired shells containing toxic gases on three neighborhoods in Syria’s largest city.

Human Rights Watch’s deputy director for the Middle East and North Africa, Lama Fakih, said “serious reports of suspected chemical weapons attacks should not be left without investigation.” She added that all parties, including the Syrian government and Russia, should facilitate an investigation.

**US soldier killed in Afghanistan ID’d**

**By Phillip Walter Wellman**

**Stars and Stripes**

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Army Ranger assigned to 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, was killed in action on Afghanistan on Saturday.

Sgt. Leandro A.S. Jasso, 25, was mortally wounded during a firefight with al-Qaida forces in Nimruz province, according to a Defense Department statement released early Sunday. He was medically evacuated from the combat zone and later died of his injuries at a medical facility in Helmand province.

Jasso, from Leavenworth, Wash., had been on his third deployment to Afghanistan. He enlisted in the Army in 2012 and became an accomplished soldier, completing the Basic Airborne Course and earning the Combat Infantryman’s Badge and the much-sought after Infantryman’s Badge and the much-sought after Combat Badge.

Afghans clash with police after arrest

KABUL, Afghanistan — Hundreds of protesters have clashed with police in the Afghan capital after the arrest of a Shiite militia commander.

Kabul police spokesman Basir Mujahid said three policemen were shot and wounded and another 20 were hit by stones thrown by the protesters, who torched two police checkpoints.

The demonstrations erupted after the arrest of Alipoor, who leads a Shiite militia in the western Ghor province and who goes by one name. It was not immediately clear what he is charged with, but state-allied militias are often accused of extortion and other malafide behavior.

Duras reprises attempted arrest Alipoor in June, security forces in Ghor clashed with his followers, leading to the deaths of seven civilians and four police officers in the northern province.

From The Associated Press

**US and Britain mourn loss of Syrian activists**

**By Sarah El Deeb**

**Associated Press**

BEIRUT — U.S. and British officials mourned the loss of a Syrian anti-government activist seen as a “symbol” of the uprising who was shot dead along with his colleague by unidentified gunmen in a rebel-held area in the countryside northwest of the country, where government forces are in control.

The activists’ death was announced by the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights in a statement Saturday that said they were shot dead along with their colleague by unidentified gunmen in a rebel-held area in the countryside northwest of the country, where government forces are in control.

The Observatory said four people were killed in the incident, one of them a British citizen who was a vocal critic of the government and its allies. The Observatory said the incident was caused by a bomb that exploded near a military checkpoint.

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Meanwhile, in Idlib, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and civil defense workers said government artillery shelled an opposition-held town, hitting students as they were leaving their school and killing at least three women and two children.

The shellings in Jarjanaz, to the east of Kafarnaibel, is in violation of a cease-fire deal in place in Idlib since September. The Observatory said two others were also killed in the shelling.

The officials described them in a statement as “patriots” who documented the “crimes” of the Syrian government.

Al-Jaafar was a cameraman who worked with Fares. The Observatory said the incident was caused by a bomb that exploded near a military checkpoint.

Fares brought global attention to Syria’s war, and Kafarnaibel, with its humorous English language protest banners that took jabs at his government and the international community’s response to the conflict. He also was a vocal critic of the Islamist militants who gained sway as the conflict raged on and now control Idlib and his hometown.

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Trial for driver in Charlottesville crash to begin

BY DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is demanding top congressional Republicans craft a plan to reduce the deficit report, Trump floated

The rally was organized in part to protest the planned removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Hundreds of Ku Klux Klan members, neo-Nazis and other white nationalists — emboldened by Trump's election campaign speeches this fall, he was being detained after the car crashed, Fields told the judge he was being treated for bipolar disorder, anxiety, depression and ADHD.

Prosecutors played surveillance video of a Dodge Challenger head slowly in the direction of the counterprotesters. The group’s show of strength include large-scale tax increases, spending cuts in Medicare and Social Security, two of the largest gatherings of white supremacists in a decade. The group's show of strength included dressing in battle gear, shouting racial slurs and attacking counterprotesters.

President Donald Trump talks with troops via teleconference from his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Fla., Thursday.

People fly into the air as a vehicle is driven into a group of counterprotesters at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va., on Aug. 12, 2017. James Alex Fields Jr., the accused driver, heads to court Monday.

Moss' 13-page order states. "He has only his own delay to blame. Papadopoulos pleaded guilty last month to lying to federal agents about his interactions with Russian intermediaries during the Trump campaign foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos to delay his two-week prison term and ordered him to surrender Monday as scheduled.

Papadopoulos sought the delay until an appeals court had ruled in a separate case challenging the constitutionality of special counsel Robert Mueller's appointment.

In an order Sunday, U.S. District Court Judge Randolph Moss said Papadopoulos had waited too long to contest his sentence after it was handed down in September. Moss noted that Papadopoulos had not appeal in most circumstances as part of his plea agreement and the judge said the challenge to Mueller’s appointment was unlikely to be successful in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Four federal judges have already dismissed Mueller’s appointment as proper.

The prospect that the D.C. Circuit will reach a contrary conclusion is remote," Moss wrote. Papadopoulos had filed an initial motion on Nov. 16, nearly two months after the deadline for appealing his conviction or sentence. He followed up with a request to delay his surrender — the stay request was denied — until the last business day before he was scheduled to surrender to serve his sentence."
Natural disasters become priority for new governors

By Geoff Mulvihill
Associated Press

Governors have a wide range of responsibilities in the coming year, from tax reform to education. Yet it’s a topic that receives less attention on the campaign trail and in their speeches that could determine their success — natural disasters.

In the last two years alone, storms and natural disasters have killed scores of people, damaged or destroyed tens of thousands of homes and cost tens of billions of dollars.

Wildfires in the West and hurricanes in the South have been especially destructive, and scientists say climate change is making that more common. As the severity escalates, governors are finding they have to make disaster planning a priority or risk the consequences of inaction defining their terms and enraging voters.

Handling disasters and emergencies was a prime topic last week when the National Governors Association held a three-day seminar in Colorado that most of the nation’s 19 governors-elect attended.

“As California’s wildfires, a spate of hurricanes, and unfortunate acts of mass violence have demonstrated, such events can occur at any time,” Scott Patti- son, the nonprofit association’s chief executive, said in a statement, “including a governor’s first day in office.”

Democratic governors especially, the main concern is how climate change appears to be worsening the effects of natural disasters.

In California, half of the 10 most destructive wildfires in state history have occurred since 2017, and the costliest have been in each of the past three years, according to the state firefighting agency. The state has spent $500 million from its emergency firefighting fund just since July 1, putting this wildfire season on pace to be among the costliest yet.

The state is dealing with its most destructive wildfire ever, a Northern California blaze that leveled a town of 27,000 this month, killed at least 80 people and left thousands homeless. That’s in addition to another, that roared through Malibu at the same time and left at least three dead, are the latest string of catastrophic wildfires that have put the state in what seems like a perpetual state of emergency.

Outgoing Gov. Jerry Brown has called California’s mega-fires “the new abnormal” as climate change turns the state warmer and drier.

The escalating destruction prompted state lawmakers to pass a series of wildfire-related bills this year. Among other provisions, they provide millions of dollars to cut trees and brush, make it easier for property owners to clear their land and require the state’s utilities to step up their fire prevention efforts.

During his campaign, incoming Gov. Gavin Newsom said wildfire prevention would be a priority for his administration and he outlined a number of steps he wants to take. Among them is a more aggressive approach to clearing trees and brush, particularly the state’s millions of dead trees.

He also proposed deploying a network of infrared cameras to detect wildfires early, improving the emergency alert system and increasing funding for fire departments throughout the state.

A spokesman, Nathan Click, said Newsom is putting together a comprehensive wildfire strategy as he prepares to take office in early January.

But the governor-elect also has been clear that the long-term goal must be reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

A massive federal report released Friday warns that disas- ters such as wildfires and hurricanes are worsening in the United States because of global warming.

It’s similar in Texas, which has seen widespread destruction from hurricanes and where Rep- ublican Gov. Greg Abbott has been noncommittal about whether he thinks human activity is affect- ing the climate.

Texas has sought $12 billion from the federal government for a 60-mile coastal “spine” of con- crete seawalls, floating gates and steel levees as a defense against future hurricanes and higher tides expected from climate change. That’s just a fraction of the work the state estimates need to be done over the next decade to reduce the impact of flooding.

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey left Houston underwater, killed doz- ens and left an estimated $125 billion in damage. Abbott named a recovery czar after the storm and wants to “future-proof” the Texas coast, but attention on the issue has faded.

Nonprofit group challenges Georgia lieutenant governor’s election

By Chevel Johnson
Associated Press

A nonprofit group and three Georgia voters are challenging the results of the lieutenant governor’s election, arguing that there may have been tens of thou- sands of votes never recorded in the race.

The Coalition for Good Gov- ernance argues that an accurate result in the Nov. 6 election can’t be determined because of flaws and malfunctions in the electronic voting system, according to a lawsuit filed Friday in Fulton County Superior Court.

The conduct of the election was “so defective and marred by material irregularities as to place in doubt the result of the election under Georgia law. This court should, therefore, declare the contested election invalid and set the date for a second election between the same candidates,” the lawsuit states.

It said the large difference in votes for all other statewide races and the low reported participa- tion rate in the lieutenant governor’s race also are factors in the lawsuit, which names Secretary of State Robyn Crittenden and the Election Boards of Fulton, Gwinnett and DeKalb counties as defendants. Crittenden’s office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The lawsuit notes the lieutenant governor’s race reported only 3,780,034 votes, while every other statewide race tally exceeded 3,843 million votes. The plaintiffs argue that “this high under-vote rate is a likely result of the touch- screen voting system malfunc- tions, and that the un-auditable system does not permit a reliable determination of the vote count.”

Georgia’s election practices have been challenged repeatedly in court this year.

Democrat Stacey Abrams, who ran for governor, has promised to file a federal lawsuit over the way Georgia elections are run. She accused Brian Kemp, the state’s new governor, of using his then-secretary of state’s office to aggressively purge the rolls of in- active voters, enforce an “exact match” policy for checking vot- ers’ identities that left thousands of registrations in limbo and enact other policies to tilt the out- come in his favor.

The claims in the election contest filed Friday reflect many of the issues raised in the Curling v. Kemp lawsuit regarding Geor- gia’s flawed electronic voting system. The Coalition for Good Governance also organized that 2017 lawsuit now pending in fed- eral court. The Secretary of State and the State Election Board have appealed the case, which is expected to be tried in 2019.

“Georgia voters must not be forced to accept election outcomes that cannot be verified and in which they have no confidence. The anomalies in this race, combined with the thousands of vot- ers’ complaints of malfunctioning machines, erroneous voter registra- tion files, improperly rejected ballots, and irregularities in vote counts, cast tremendous doubt on the election,” said Marilyn Marks, executive director of the Coalition for Good Governance.
Los Angeles — From the ashes of his Malibu home, Wolter Mehring salvaged a coin collection that still gleamed in its blackened box. He and his son had been searching the wreckage with a metal detector on Saturday, looking for jewelry.

Little remained of the house where Mehring and his wife, Patti, had raised their four children. A bit of the brick chimney stood, heaped with a white mess that Mehring said was once an amethyst crystal from Brazil. Their chickens had not survived.

He was still watering an avocado tree that his father-in-law, now deceased, had once planted, hoping it would make it through.

When the Mehrings left, they took little with them. Some passports. A laptop. They had been through fire in Malibu before.

“We always left. We always came back,” Wolter Mehring said. “We didn’t think about not coming back.”

Hundreds of Malibu, Agoura Hills and Thousand Oaks area evacuees spent the holiday weekend returning to their burned-out neighborhoods to survey their damaged or destroyed homes and to begin rebuilding their lives. Some were still debating whether to stay or leave.

The Woolsey fire, which stranded Los Angeles and Ventura counties, began Nov. 8 and killed three people, scorched more than 96,000 acres and destroyed 1,600 structures before it was fully contained on Thanksgiving Day. Authorities on Sunday said the Camp fire in Northern California, which began Nov. 8 in Butte County, has been fully contained.

The nation’s deadliest wildfire in a century killed at least 85 people, destroyed 14,000 homes and blackened more than 153,000 acres.

Rain is expected to move into the Camp fire burn areas beginning Tuesday and continue through the end of the week, according to the National Weather Service. Up to 3 inches could fall in lower elevations. On Wednesday, the same system is expected to deliver a half-inch to 2 inches in burn areas in Southern California.

Despite intermittent power outages and loss of cellphone and natural gas service in their neighborhoods, residents in the Woolsey fire zone in Southern California began returning over the last week as evacuation orders were lifted. Some orders remain in place for remote hillside and canyon areas.

And yet Mehring remained upbeat. His son Nathan was getting married in a week to his fiancee, Jackie Brody, who joined them in combing the ruins of the house.

“We always left. We always came back. We didn’t think about not coming back,” Mehring said.

The young couple were living on a sailboat after their tiny house nearby was destroyed. The boat was a bit cramped, but water was nice after the flames, Nathan said. And the disaster had calmed some of the wedding jitters, the couple said.

“No one expects too much from you anymore!” Brody joked.

At one point, the soon-to-be bride and groom had kayaked from Pacific Palisades up to Malibu by night to return to the Mehring house, where they found the family dog, a skittish terrier named Maggie, alive amid the rubble days after the blaze.

They were calling her Miracle Maggie, Wolter Mehring said.

Mehring went back and forth about whether they should rebuild. His mother-in-law, 81, was set on staying. He had heard that Malibu would expedite building permits. And although he had lost some faith in local government during the disaster, he truly loved Malibu.

Maybe a concrete building could better withstand fire, he mused. “We’re definitely going to get rid of all the pine trees,” he said. “And the neighbors will hopefully get rid of the eucalyptus. I’m too old for this.”

As they surveyed the charred house, Stefanie Colvig pulled up, offering split pea-and-ham soup. She worked at the same school as Patti. Another friend, Chris Ayotte, had stopped by with cookies.

“It’s a new chapter of our life,” Wolter Mehring said philosophically before he turning back to the debris. “I can’t say it’s boring right now.”

Along Trancas Canyon Road on Saturday, a woman snapped photos of the blackened wreckage of what was once an alcohol and drug treatment center. A wedge of scorched wall stood at a tilt, like a listing ship, peering over the Pacific below. Someone had taped business cards to a wall bordering the site, advertising a restoration business, but it was hard to imagine what could be restored.

The woman, who declined to give her name, said she had been sober nearly seven months. “This place saved my life,” she said.

The fire seemed to have hopscotched along Latigo Canyon Road as it snaked through the hillside overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

The charred mess of what once was a house sat next to a wooden swing that still swayed in the breeze, suspended from the sweeping branches of a tree overlooking the austere moonscapes.

Down the road, Jeremiah Redclay chatted with neighbors outside a blue-gray stucco house that still stood, its generator rumbling, at the corner of Ocean View Drive. Dogs tussled on the brick driveway. Carol King, who lived there, invited a neighbor in to charge her cellphone and offered up her restroom to another stranger.

It had become a gathering place for residents who stayed through the flames and those who trickled back afterward, a rare spot where cellphones still picked up service.

Redclay and his son, Elijah, 19, had remained in the neighborhood to fend off the flames with garden hoses while his wife, Briana, and their younger kids evacuated. At night, they slept on their driveway to prevent embers from creeping up on them. The sound, he said, was like bones breaking. At one point, his truck was engulfed in flames when he stepped away to extinguish another blaze.

“We didn’t have one firetruck up here the whole time,” Redclay said.

Briana Redclay had driven downhill in a car loaded with kids, belongings and their bulldog Forrest and waited for hours at the grocery store. When she asked a deputy which way to go, he said she didn’t know.

Firefighters who had left the hillside told her it was too dangerous up there. They drove in silence to her sister’s house in Topanga Lake.

Hours passed before they had any hint that Jeremiah and Elijah were OK. It was a text message from a stranger whose number her daughter had gotten, someone else who had remained in the blazing hills.

“Hey, we’re here. We’re safe, she and the kids walked back to join them after the evacuation order had been lifted.

Word was that school would begin again in early December, but the kids doubted it. Teachers had lost their homes, they had had no contact.

But in some ways, Jeremiah Redclay said, those days had been “kind of a gift.”

The children were outside, exploring the hillsides, unthetered from their iPads. Neighbors they had never met became fast friends. A friend hosted a Thanksgiving dinner, filled with people who had stayed and tried to fight the blaze.

People always think of Malibu as a place with tons of wealthy people,” said Redclay, an artist who paints egg tempera seascapes. “But the bulk of the people here are ordinary people, people that are hardworking. If you live here, it’s like living in a small town.”

And the fire had not made him hesitant to stay in Malibu. “I love it out here,” he said, gesturing toward the glittering horizon to the west. “You’re out of the city. You have the ocean. You always have that connection. For me, as an artist — this gives me that.”

## We always left. We always came back. We didn’t think about not coming back. ##

Wolter Mehring Malibu resident
Protesters carry a sign reading "Justice for E.J." during a protest at the Riverchase Galleria in Hoover, Ala., on Saturday.

Associated Press

By KIM CHANDLER

HOOVER, Ala. — Protesters on Saturday marched through an Alabama shopping mall where police killed a black man they later acknowledged was not the triggerman in a Thanksgiving night shooting that wounded two people.

An officer shot and killed E.J. Fitzgerald Bradford Jr., 21, of Hueytown while responding to the Thursday mall shooting. Police said Bradford was fleeing the scene with a handgun.

Protesters initially told reporters Bradford had been dead at the mall, but later retracted the statement.

"We knew that was false," said stepmother Cynthia Bradford when she heard police were blaming him for the shooting. She described her stepson, who went by E.J., as a respectful young man whose father worked at a jail for the Birmingham Police Department.

Hoover Police Capt. Gregg Rector said investigators now believe that more than two people were involved in the initial fight ahead of the shooting, and that "at least one gunman" is still at large who could be responsible. Police said while Bradford "may have been involved in some aspect of the altercation, he likely did not fire the rounds that injured the 18-year-old victim." Rector said police had not yet set the initial statement about Bradford was not accurate.

The shooting remains under investigation, including whether Bradford played any role in the initial disturbance.

The unanswered questions stirred emotions in the suburb outside the majority-black city of Birmingham.

More than 200 demonstrators, including several relatives, chanted "E.J." and "no justice, no peace," as they marched past Christmas shoppers at the mall. They held a moment of silence at the spot outside a shoe store where Bradford was killed.

Family members described his horror of finding out from social media that Bradford was dead. Video circulated on social media of Bradford lying in a pool of blood on the mall floor.

"Speaking to The Associated Press on Saturday night from his family's home, Bradford's father, Emaniac Bradford Sr., called E.J. "a good kid, a very good kid."

Bradford Sr. said his son had a permit to carry a weapon for self-defense. He said he doesn't know exactly what happened at the mall but said it was hurtful that police portrayed his son as the shooter.

"They were so quick to rush to judgment... I knew my son didn't do that, People rushed to judgment. They shouldn't have done that," Bradford Sr. said.

Family members said they plan to ask to see body camera footage from officers.

Hoover police have not confirmed an AP report whether such footage exists.

Carlos Chaever, an activist in Birmingham who organized the protest, said that when authorities acknowledged that the person killed was not the actual shooter, "that sent us in an uproar. More protests will be held in the future to hold officials accountable, he added.

When we found out about this incident, there were questions from the jump. People were upset because a man was shot and killed by police in our own backyard," he said.

The incident began Thanksgiving night with a fight and shooting in suburban Birmingham at the Riverchase Galleria, a mall crowded with Black Friday bargain hunters. An 18-year-old man was shot twice and a 12-year-old bystander was shot in the back. Hoover police said Friday morning that the girl was in stable condition.

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency is investigating the incident since it is an officer-involved shooting. The Hoover Police Department is conducting its own internal investigation.

The officer who shot Bradford was placed on administrative leave while authorities investigate the shooting. The officer's name was not released publicly. The officers were not hurt.

"We hold a moment of silence outside the majority-black city of Birmingham. The shooting remains under investigation, including whether Bradford played any role in the initial disturbance. The unanswered questions stirred emotions in the suburb outside the majority-black city of Birmingham. More than 200 demonstrators, including several relatives, chanted "E.J." and "no justice, no peace," as they marched past Christmas shoppers at the mall. They held a moment of silence at the spot outside a shoe store where Bradford was killed. Family members described his horror of finding out from social media that Bradford was dead. Video circulated on social media of Bradford lying in a pool of blood on the mall floor.

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Future of Oswald landmarks is uncertain

BY MICHAEL GRANBERRY
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Patricia Puckett Hall sat alone in her home at 1026 N. Beckley Ave., pondering the future while immersing herself in the past.

Hall is the third generation of women from the same family to have kept her Oak Cliff residence open as a rooming house. Her grandmother and mother are gone, but long after Hall is gone, no one will forget who lived in the house on Nov. 22, 1963, the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

He was a tenant, a sullen, quiet man, whose name was Lee Harvey Oswald.

Fifty-five years after Oswald was taken into custody on suspicion of killing Kennedy and Dallas police officer J. D. Tippit — who was gunned down less than a mile from the rooming house — curiosity and questions remain.

People still want to know where Oswald lived, so busloads of visitors still flock to the tiny house where she leads them on a $40-per-person guided tour. She has restored Oswald’s eerie, closet-like bedroom, which contains his same narrow bed and an upright armoire that housed his clothing and his handgun. The house as a whole has a Miss Havisham feel to it, as though it’s frozen in 11/22/63.

But will it always be that way? A while back, Hall tried to sell — for $500,000. No one matched the offer. But her home and a nearby duplex, at 214 W. Neely St., where Oswald and his wife, Marina, lived in the months before the assassination, pose a daunting challenge to the City of Dallas:

What if these houses are sold? Will the buyer be as rigorous as maintaining history has Hall tried to be?

Nicola Longford, chief executive of the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, said the museum has not been approached in recent years about any “potential collaborative tour concept” shared with owners of the houses where Oswald once lived.

Even so, she said, museum officials “help guide any interested guests to visit other historical sites.” And she did not rule out possible partnerships the future that would explore the “overlapping” relationships between Dealey Plaza and houses linked to Oswald.

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings also weighed in, saying: “I’m a huge advocate for historic preservation, and we’d be happy to talk to any property owner about ways we can further that critical cause anywhere in Dallas. That said, we feel before and long after the front foot again and I’m not aware of any taxpayer funds allocated for programming or preservation related to those properties.”

Part of what puts the Oswald houses at risk is the nature of Oak Cliff itself.

In recent years, developers have invaded Oak Cliff like a gentrification army. They are busily constructing, block after cluttered block, apartment buildings, gourmet coffee shops, chi-chi shops and restaurants where even gourmands like pointing where even gourmands like

David Spence, whose company Good Space has spearheaded much of the redevelopment and preservation in North Oak Cliff, said the house at 214 W. Neely St. “can’t be divided into anything other than its existing two units. It is a duplex. It could become a single-family residence but not a triplex, for instance. Zoning restrictions keep its use limited to what it is, and it can’t be commercial.”

Hall’s house on North Beckley, however, could be expanded or converted into something else entirely. “That one,” Spence said, “is a candidate for the kind of dense commercial and multifamily development we’re seeing in North Oak Cliff.”

That’s shorthand for saying that Hall’s home, once lived in by Oswald, could easily become a high-rise apartment building, or yes, even a发生-selling storefront. Hall prides herself on having strived for years to preserve her chapter of Dallas history, but at 66, she admits she can’t do it forever. At some point, she will have to sell, she said, or her two sons will own the home, and they will most likely sell, even to a developer who has different ideas of what to do with the property than keeping intact where Lee Harvey Oswald once slept.

The owner of the house at 214 W. Neely is listed in Dallas County property records as 1122 Holdings LLC. Officials for 1122 Holdings declined to be interviewed but did permit photographs on the property.

Speaking of, one that was taken in the backyard of 214 W. Neely is forever chiseled into infamy. It is a chilling black and white image of a smiling Oswald, holding his rifle, his handgun strapped to his side, taken by Marina in the spring before Kennedy died. It is one of history’s darkest examples of a grim foreshadowing.

All of this adds up to a delicate issue of historical preservation, but the City of Irving gets kudos for figuring out how to do it and do it tastefully.

In 2009, the City of Irving acquired the former residence of Ruth Paine at 2515 W. Fifth St.

The house opened as a museum in 2013, near the 50th anniversary of Kennedy’s death. The house is now on the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors have included history buff and talk show host, Conan O’Brien.

3 Chicago officers accused in Van Dyke shooting cover-up going on trial

BY DON BARWIN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Dashcam video showing Jason Van Dyke pointing his gun at black teenager Laquan McDonald and then, after he had been shot, walking away was key evidence in the murder conviction of the white Chicago police officer. The same video will be at the forefront again this week as three more officers stand trial, accused of lying to protect Van Dyke in the aftermath of the killing.

The trial starting Tuesday of David March, Joseph Walsh and Thomas Gaffney won’t receive nearly as much media attention as Van Dyke’s, but there’s no understanding the significance of using that same video to underscore what prosecutors call the Chicago Police Department’s unofficial code of silence, in which officers cover for each other.

“When you go out and talk to people who are living in communities that have experienced police abuse, what really makes you feel betrayed and longed for in the system is the officers who cover up what they’ve seen or don’t say anything,” said Christy Lopez, a Georgetown University law professor who led a federal probe of the city’s police force.

The charges of conspiracy, misconduct and obstruction of justice boil down to the accusation that March, Walsh and Gaffney falsified their reports about the October 2014 shooting and didn’t interview witnesses who could have provided accounts they didn’t want to record.

Prosecutors contend that Walsh, who was Van Dyke’s partner, and Gaffney, a patrolman, wrote among other things that McDonald assaulted Van Dyke. Gaffney claimed Van Dyke and other officers had been injured. Further, Walsh supported Van Dyke’s claim that McDonald lunged at the two of them with a knife, and even after bullets knocked McDonald down, he “attempted to get up while still armed with a knife.”

None of those details was apparent on the dashcam video that captured the incident and has been shown on news shows countless times since a judge ordered the city to make it public a year after the shooting.

Prosecutors say March — a detective who investigated the shooting and who along with Walsh has been left the department — not only cleared Van Dyke of any wrongdoing by saying the video matched witness accounts but also told another officer to include false information in her report. Gaffney remains on the force but has been suspended.

While no other officers have been charged, the special prosecutor, Patricia Brown Holmes, said it is clear that others on the force, including brass, wanted Van Dyke to be cleared.

“The whole indictment is a sham, based not on evidence, but on politics,” March’s attorney, James McKay said at a recent hearing.

Lopez, the law professor, said a conviction would send a powerful message to police officers all over the country that, “You can be held accountable, even if you didn’t pull the trigger.”

Chicago’s second trial in a matter of weeks to rely on the same explosive video will only remind everyone of that, he said.

PHOTOS BY VERNON BRYANT, DALLAS MORNING NEWS/TNS

Pat Hall sits inside the small room in her house on N. Beckley Avenue in Dallas, where Lee Harvey Oswald was living on the day of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, on May 2, 2013.

This is the house on N. Beckley Avenue in Dallas as it appeared on May 2, 2013.

The house opened as a museum in 2013, near the 50th anniversary of Kennedy’s death. The house is now on the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors have included history buff and talk show host, Conan O’Brien.
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Some retailers stumble into spending weekend

BY MATT TOWNSEND, LESLIE PATTON, KIM BHASIN AND MATTHEW BOYLE

Black Friday is increasingly an online shopping event, and that’s not necessarily a good thing for legacy retailers, some of which found themselves falling behind during America’s annual spending spree.

Chains have decades of expertise filling stores with mountains of televisions and bathroom towels while coming up with doorbuster deals to lure the masses. But e-commerce isn’t yet the industry’s forte — despite heavy investment and plenty of lip service about how far they’ve come. That was apparent again this holiday weekend as retailers including Lowe’s Cos., Walmart Inc., Lululemon Athletica Inc. and Kohl’s Corp. dealt with glitches and malfunctioning websites — and customer ire.

“It really does show the importance of investing in logistics and technology,” said Marshal Cohen, an analyst at researcher NPD Group. “They have to be able to handle the online rush.”

Big U.S. retailers have cruised for most of this year by practicing solid — if not standout — results while coming up with doorbuster sales in the fourth quarter.

One estimate by Citigroup said the Black Friday weekend would be a big shopping day in its own right. “We are watching the next edition of Black Friday, a more civilized and opportunistic edition,” said Chief Executive Officer Jeff Gennette of Macy’s, who visited stores in four states to start the holiday weekend.

Of course, not all locations looked like just another day at the mall. Thousands of eager shoppers lined up at the entrance of Macy’s Herald Square flagship store in Manhattan, the largest department store in the U.S., at 5 p.m. on Thanksgiving. The bottom two floors, which sell accessories, cosmetics and shoes, were clogged with customers who struggled to cram on to the few escalators. Macy’s Chief Executive Officer Jeff Gennette was in attendance to cheer on the crowd as they entered.

“It really does show the importance of investing in logistics and technology. They have to be able to handle the online rush.”

Marshal Cohen
NPD Group

In a Walmart store in Northern New Jersey, customers sipped free coffee and mapped out their shopping before Black Friday deals began at 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. The stores saw “a pretty consistent flow of customers” through the evening, according to market manager Ashley Villeiro.

Electronics and home goods were the two most popular departments early on, she said, with shoppers migrating to the toy department after that. “It’s an event for a lot of people,” she said.

Some retailers stumble into spending weekend

**WEATHER OUTLOOK**

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

**Ukrainian navy: Tugboat rammed by Russian ship**

**MO斯COW** — A Russian coast guard vessel rammed a Ukrainian navy tugboat, resulting in damage to the ship's engines and hull, the Ukrainian navy said Sunday. The incident took place Saturday when two Ukrainian navy artillery boats and a tugboat were transiting from Odessa on the Black Sea to Mariupol in the Sea of Azov via the Kerch Strait, a narrow passage between Crimea and the Russian mainland.

"Russian coast guard vessels ... carried outDramatic actions against Ukrainian navy ships" during the transit, the Ukrainian navy statement said. It said a Russian coast guard ship damaged the tugboat's engine, hull, side railing and a lifeboat. Russia's Federal Security Service told Russian news agencies Sunday that the Ukrainian ships had been targeted by the Kerch Strait, a narrow passage between Crimea and the Russian mainland.

Israel: Visit by Chad's leader a 'breakthrough'

**JERUSALEM** — Israel's prime minister said the leader of the African nation of Chad arrived for a historic visit.

Benjamin Netanyahu said he planned to host President Idriss Deby on Sunday in Jerusalem. He said they would meet privately and then give a joint press statement before dining together. This would be the first-ever visit by a president of Chad, which broke off relations with Israel in 1972. Netanyahu called the visit "another diplomatic breakthrough."

**Protests follow deaths in Kashmir gunbattle**

**SRINAGAR, India** — Six rebels and an army soldier were killed in a gunbattle in the Indian-controlled Kashmir on Sunday, officials said, sparking violent protests by residents in the Indian part of the disputed region and leaving a large vehicle turned on its side.

South Sudan plans to eliminate use of child soldiers

**JUBA, South Sudan** — After coming face to face with "unpredictable," gun-waving children as young as 12, the commander of the failed U.N. peacekeeping mission during the Rwandan genocide dedicated his life to eliminating the use of children as weapons of war.

In an interview with The Associated Press in civil-war-torn South Sudan, Romeo Dallaire, who is widely known for warning the U.N. about Rwanda’s massac- cre in 1994, said the current approach to combating child soldier recruitment is not "sufficient." Local security forces must be part of the solution, he said.

"My personal experiences of having to negotiate with, having to face children with weapons ... may not have been the right way of doing it," Dallaire said.

His visit marked the launch of a three-year program by the Canada-based Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative. The $2.2 million project funded by Global Affairs Canada aims to work with at least 1,200 South Sudanese soldiers, police and prison personnel. The first round of training will involve 100 senior army officers.

With 19,000 children associated with armed groups, South Sudan has one of the world's highest rates of child soldiers, according to the U.N.

Almost 6,000 child soldiers have been recruited by government and opposition forces in the past four years of fighting, according to a U.N. report released in September.

"The figures are unacceptable high," Virginia Gamba, the new U.N. chief for children and armed conflict, told the AP.

"It's not government policy to recruit children, Dallaire said it happens because youth socialize with armed groups in their communities."

In an attempt to break this cycle, the Dallaire initiative keeps in mind the realities that both soldiers and children face in conflict. By providing guidance to soldiers on how to interact with children in specific scenarios, the training focuses on behavior change, said Shelly Whitman, the executive director.

**Violent clashes continue as French protest fuel tax hike**

**PARIS** — French police fired tear gas and water cannons to disperse violent demonstrators in Paris on Saturday as thousands gathered in the capital and beyond and staged road blockades to vent anger against rising fuel taxes.

Thousands of police were deployed nationwide to contain the eighth day of deadly demonstra-tions that started as protests against taxes but morphed into a protest of President Emmanuel Macron and the perceived elitism of France’s ruling class. Two people have been killed since Nov. 17 in protest-related tragedies.

Tense clashes on the Avenue des Champs-Elysees that ended by dusk Saturday saw police face off with demonstrators who burned plywood, wielded placards reading “Death to Taxes” and up-turned a large vehicle.

At least 19 people in Paris, including four police officers, were slightly hurt, and one person had more serious injuries, police said.

Macron responded in a strongly worded tweet, saying, "Shame on those who attacked [police]. Shame on those who violated the law."

Police said dozens of protesters were detained for "throwing projectiles," among other acts. By nightfall, the Champs-Elysees was smoldering, and in the Place de la Madeleine, burned scooters lay on the sidewalk like blackened shells.

From The Associated Press
Ecumenical patriarch blesses Orthodox cathedral in Romania

BY ALISON MUTLER
Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Tens of thousands of Romanians gathered Sunday for the blessing of a grandiose Orthodox cathedral consecrated to mark 100 years since modern-day Romania was created in the aftermath of World War I.

Believers from all over the country and beyond stood outside the “Salvation of the People” cathedral to watch the service transmitted on giant screens on a misty morning in the capital.

The ecumenical Istanbul-based Patriarch Bartholomew I and Romanian Patriarch Daniel led the service, broadcast live on television, joined by 100 priests dressed in white-and-gold cassocks.

The 394-foot-high cathedral towers over a giant palace nearby built by the late Communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu. Six bells rang out after the blessing.

The church says the unfinished building has cost $125 million, three-quarters of which was public money. Critics say the money would have been better spent on churches and hospitals. The state pays priests’ salaries and for church building maintenance.

Some 86 percent of Romanians are believers in the Orthodox church, which enjoyed a revival after communism ended in 1989. But its popularity has declined in recent years, particularly in cities.

Builder Constantin Dumitrescu, 47, an Orthodox believer, said the cathedral was “a much too big investment for a poor country.”

Construction began in the neo-Byzantine structure in 2010. It was voted Romania’s most kitsch architectural structure in Romania in a 2017 online survey.

The cathedral aims to “honor Romanian heroes of all times.” Romania’s King Carol I passed a law for the cathedral to be built in 1884, but two world wars and decades of communism meant it never happened.

A group of ethnic Romanians from Ukraine dressed in colorful costumes also attended the event.

“This is our faith, our soul,” said Elena Nandris, mayor of the southern Ukrainian village of Maha, with tears in her eyes. “This is a once-in-a-lifetime event.”

Indian police map area of island where US man was killed, buried

BY ASHOK SHARMA
Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Police said they have mapped the area of a remote Indian island where tribespeople were seen burying the body of an American adventurer and Christian missionary after allegedly killing him with arrows this month.

But before they can attempt to recover the body of John Allen Chau, 26, authorities have to learn how to figure out how to get the remains of Chau, who was killed by North Sentinel islanders who apparently shot him with arrows and buried his body on the beach.

Friday’s visit was the second boat expedition of the week by a team of police and officials from the forest department, tribal welfare department and coast guard.

The officials took with them two of the seven people who were arrested for helping Chau get close to the island in an effort to determine his route and the circumstances of his death. The fishermen who had taken Chau to the shore saw the tribespeople dragging and burying his body on the morning of Nov. 17.

Officials typically don’t travel to the North Sentinel area, where people live as their ancestors did thousands of years ago. The only contacts, occasional “gift-giving” visits in which bananas and coconuts were passed by small teams of officials and scholars who remained in the surf, were years ago.

Indian ships monitor the waters around the island, trying to ensure outsiders do not go near the Sentinelese, who have repeatedly made clear they want to be left alone.

Chau went to “share the love of Jesus,” said Mary Ho, international executive leader of All Nations. All Nations, a Kansas City, Missouri-based organization, helped train Chau, discussed the risks with him and sent him on the mission to support him in his “life’s calling,” she added.

Zimbabwe’s president says Mugabe can no longer walk

BY AYA BATRAWY
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A prominent Saudi royal said Saturday that whether or not heads of state gathered in Argentina this week for the Group of 20 summit warmly engage with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, he is someone “that they have to deal with,” the prince said.

He said Saudi Arabia will continue to play a role on the world stage, and that Trump’s statement of support for Saudi Arabia recognizes the importance of the kingdom.

“Unfortunately there’s not enough evidence to blame the crown prince for Khashoggi’s killing, despite a U.S. intelligence report’s assessment to the contrary,” Trump says the kingdom is an important ally that has helped to lower oil prices.

“I thought President Trump was expressing what he felt was in the interest of the United States,” Turk said. “He emphasized the strategic relationship between the two countries in the same statement and how Saudi Arabia has been helpful in many instances—not just oil.”

The prince also firmly dismissed the U.S. intelligence assessments that the crown prince had ordered Khashoggi’s killing, saying there was “no evidence” the crown prince had any involvement.

The crown prince embarked late Thursday on his first foreign tour since the Oct. 2 killing with a visit to the United Arab Emirates. He’s expected to visit other Gulf Arab states in the coming days before traveling to the Oct. 20 summit in France.

President Donald Trump and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has kept interna- tional pressure on the kingdom, are among those expected to attend.

“Whether the leaders in that summit will warmly engage with the crown prince or not, I think all of them recognize that the kingdom as a country and King Salman and the crown prince are people that have to deal with,” the prince said.

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Mexico denies report of US deal on migrants

By Cecilia Sanchez and Patrick J. McDonnell

MIAMI — Mexico’s incoming political leadership is denying a published report that it has agreed to a Trump administration proposal requiring asylum-seekers arriving at the southwest border to wait in Mexico as U.S. authorities consider their claims for safe haven.

The Washington Post reported Saturday that Washington had won the support of the government of Mexican President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador — who takes office on Dec. 1 — for a plan mandating that asylum-seekers at the border remain in Mexico as their claims move through the U.S. immigration system.

The Trump administration has long sought such an accord with Mexico as a means of resolving what it has termed a “crisis” of escalating number of Central American asylum applicants and limited detention space in which to hold them on U.S. territory as their petitions are considered.

Critics on both sides of the border have long assailed the notion of Mexico serving as a way station or transit grounds for Central Americans and others applying for asylum in the United States.

The administration of Mexico’s current president, Enrique Pena Nieto, rejected a similar Trump proposal last year.

But The Post quoted Olga Sanchez Cordero, Mexico’s interior minister-designate, as saying Mexico’s new government had accepted the policy as a “short-term solution” to the issue of Central American migration — which has been dramatized in recent weeks through the U.S. immigration system.

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A 15-year-old boy was also critically injured that night by a bullet to the side, but survived, another likely victim of a U.S.-made weapon of war.

The Miami Herald found that the political violence in Honduras, which has contributed to an exodus of migrants, was sometimes carried out with U.S.-made weapons used by the government’s paramilitary force. The Honduran military police should not possess U.S.-made rifles sold under private arms licensing agreements, according to the State Department.

Now, a year after dodging bullets fired by a paramilitary armed with U.S. weapons, Martinez is part of the caravan of thousands of migrants that left Honduras in October to make their way toward the U.S. border. The first migrants from the group just reached the U.S. border.

“Almost every day, they’re killing us in Honduras with US-made guns, some in caravan say.

By Sarah Blaskey

Miami Herald

MIAMI — A group of Honduran military police officers — dressed in army fatigues, their faces covered in black masks — jumped from the back of a pickup trucks around 11 a.m. on Dec. 1, 2017, witnesses say.

From the shadows, they opened fire on Alejandro Martinez, 20, and several dozen other unarmed young people marching in the streets of Tegucigalpa in protest of the recent presidential election. As bullets flew in every direction, Martinez ran, looking for shelter. She made it out alive.

The modern, M4-style firearms — generally have to file for protection in Mexico, not in the United States.

Critics also say that Mexico’s system for processing refugee requests is already overwhelmed and ill-prepared to handle a huge new influx.

More than 6,000 caravan members, mostly Hondurans, have arrived this month to the Mexican border cities of Tijuana and Mexicali, posing a humanitarian, logistical and political challenge for the two cities on the Mexico-California border.

Tijuana’s mayor declared a “humanitarian crisis” on Friday as the border city sought additional federal and state aid to help house the migrants, most of whom are crowded into a sports complex a block from the U.S.-Mexico border fence.

Honduran migrant Genesis Belen Mejia Flores waves an American flag at U.S. border control helicopters flying overhead near the Benito Juarez Sports Center serving as a temporary shelter for Central American migrants.

Honduran military police told Herald reporters in late 2017 the forces in Tegucigalpa carry M4s that came from the United States.

The modern, M4-style firearms carried by the Honduran military police last year likely came from a private sale — known as a direct commercial sale — an arms deal between a U.S. weapons seller (usually the manufacturer) and the Honduran government. Licensing agreements for international weapons sales always require U.S. government approval.

The State Department authorized companies to export more than 10,000 firearms to Honduras between 2015 and 2017, according to information obtained by the Security Assistance Monitor, an organization that tracks U.S. arms deals.

According to the Federal Register, the State Department specifically approved private sales of M4 carbine semi-automatic rifles and accessories to Honduras in 2015 and again in 2017 of more than $1 million each.
Trolleys again rumbling through city's Loop area

ST. LOUIS — Trolleys are again carrying passengers in St. Louis' Loop area and University City. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported two refurbished trolleys began runs Friday through St. Louis' famous strip of shops and restaurants.

The $31 million line runs for 2.2 miles between the western end of the Delmar Loop in University City and the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park.

The line opened last week but is operating on only part of the St. Louis segment until a bond agreement can be reached with University City.

Couple looking for pet peacock among turkeys

SPRINGFIELD — A Vermont woman whose family peacock ran off with a flock of turkeys said she hopes to get close enough to catch it with a net.

The peacock belonging to Rene and Brian Johnson has been on the run for more than six weeks.

Last week, the Johnsons posted a message on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Facebook page: “My peacock has run off with the turkeys. Do you have any suggestions on how to catch the little tweepy?”

Rene Johnson told WCAX-TV she thinks the bird she calls Pea was lonely so it sought turkey companions.

School will take food to cover parking fines

MARQUETTE — Some people issued parking tickets from Northern Michigan University can keep cash in their pocket if they donate items to the school's food pantry.

Donations of a variety of items can reduce or eliminate a fine of up to $25, although no ramen noodles, please. The value of items is determined at drop-off, but the Marquette campus offers options in categories ranging from $5 to $25.

The Food 4 Fines program is similar to efforts elsewhere connected to parking or library fines.

Shoe sale gone bad leaves 2 women injured

ORLANDO — Authorities said a man shot two women during a shoe sale gone wrong and then stole a car, ditched it and attempted to carjack another woman before taking off on a stolen bicycle.

The Orlando Sentinel reported the women suffered injuries that are not considered life-threatening.

Investigators said the man had arranged to buy shoes from one of the women and shot them after trying to rob them.

Chilly turkey trot

Trisha Patton dressed warmly during the Main Avenue Miracle Mile on Thursday in Ashtabula, Ohio. Several hundred people participated in the event which benefits Samaritan House, a local homeless shelter.

3D crosswalk is introduced to city

KANSAS CITY — Public works employees in Kansas City are testing what they described as a “three-dimensional crosswalk” in one neighborhood.

The Kansas City Star reported the crosswalk gets the name because of the impression the paint gives on the roadway. While it looks like a typical crosswalk from a distance, the blocks appear to float in the air when drivers get closer.

Public Works Department traffic engineer Liteana Laboy said the crosswalk is modeled after one in Iceland.

Laboy said officials wanted to try it because they thought it would have an effect on safety.

Deputies arrest man in store hostage situation

VANCOUVER — Authorities said deputies arrested a man after they said he held people hostage in a vehicle in a Vancouver Walmart parking lot and then caused the store to go into lockdown when he fled.

Clark County Sheriff’s Office investigators said three people were using meth in a car Friday morning when the driver claimed drugs and money were missing and wouldn’t let them leave.

Investigators said the driver let a man out of the car to steal jump cables from the store.

The sheriff’s office said the man asked employees to call 911. When deputies arrived, the driver and a woman in the vehicle fled and the man ran through Walmart.

Deputies found him hiding behind an RV.

More artifacts recovered from pirate ship wreck

YARMOUTH — The man leading the exploration of a pirate ship that sank off the coast of Cape Cod 300 years ago said this year’s excavations at the site have yielded hundreds of bracelets and other artifacts.

Barry Clifford, who discovered the Whydah in 1984, told the Cape Cod Times that 600 of the bracelets, known as manillas, were recovered from the site before October storms put an end to this year’s efforts.

The team also recovered a concretion containing the barrel and walnut stock of a musket that may date to the late 1600s or early 1700s.

The Whydah sank in 1717.

City passes limits on where scooters can roll

GREENSBORO — Scooters are returning to a North Carolina city after the company which deployed them took them off the streets so officials could revise regulations to accommodate them.

The News & Record of Greensboro reported the Greensboro City Council voted to allow the electric scooters to return, but only on streets where the speed limit doesn’t exceed 35 mph. The council also approved a permitting process that requires scooter companies to pay $300 for a permit to deploy no more than 200 scooters in the city. Companies also would pay a $50 fee per scooter.

Residents blame bobcats for slew of missing pets

ALBUQUERQUE — Some Albuquerque residents said bobcats could be responsible for the disappearance of several pets.

KOAT-TV reported residents said bobcats have been spotted near their homes. They said they have seen at least a female bobcat and her three kittens.

Residents said none of the bobcats has been aggressive, but they believe the animals are responsible for several missing cats, chickens and a duck.

Surveillance cameras at one home captured a bobcat walking through a yard with what appears to be some sort of animal in its mouth.

From wire reports
Calm, cool composer

Sweden's Ludwig Goransson is having the best year of his career

By Mesfin Fekadu
Associated Press

He's had his hand in two of the year's biggest pop culture moments — with the film “Black Panther” and the song “This Is America” — but unlike Michael B. Jordan or Childish Gambino, Ludwig Goransson can easily walk down the street like a regular dude.

At just 34, the talented and skilled composer from Sweden is having the best year of his career. He completed the film score for the uber-successful “Black Panther,” even traveling to Senegal and South Africa to learn about African music and work with local musicians.

He earned three nominations at this year’s Grammy Awards for his production and songwriting work on Gambino's 2016 album, “Awaken, My Love!,” and the duo reached even greater heights with the epic “This Is America” — and its heralded video — which went viral and became an instant No. 1 smash. In May, Goransson also composed music for “Venom,” released last month, and returned to the “Creed” franchise to do its film score.

“It definitely feels like I’m living a dream. But I try not to pinch myself because I don’t want to wake up,” the long-haired, easygoing musician said.

Oh, and he's even worked with Beyonce and Jay-Z.

“I worked on a little trailer for the tour,” said Goransson, who is signed to Jay-Z’s Roc Nation. “It was just a short little thing, but still it was Beyonce and Jay-Z. It doesn’t get bigger than that.”

Goransson is clearly booked, and busy. He worked for months on “Creed II,” starring Jordan, Sylvester Stallone and Tessa Thompson, saying the franchise “is so close to my heart” because the first film in 2015 was one of the first studio features he composed music for.

Goransson moved to America to study at the University of Southern California more than a decade ago, where he met Ryan Coogler and composed music for the director's student film. When Coogler directed the critically-acclaimed independent, “Fruitvale Station,” he called on Goransson. “Creed” and “Black Panther” soon followed.

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What's really great is that it was a very natural progression for us. Every time we worked together it was always like stepping stones together,” Goransson said of his relationship with Coogler, who didn't direct “Creed II” but is credited as an executive producer. “We're developing and we're getting to know each other more for every project.”

Goransson, who now lives in Los Angeles, grew up in Linköping, a small town two hours south of Stockholm. He started playing guitar at 7 — his father is a guitar teacher — and when he was 9 he fell in love with Metallica.

“Then when I was like, ‘OK, I want to spend 10 hours a day practicing guitar for the rest of my life,’” he said. “I wanted to be the best guitar player in the world. And then my dad got me a portable recorder, so I started writing my own music.”

He got a job assisting composer Theodore Shapiro — first working on the 2008 comedy “Tropic Thunder” — after graduating from USC.

“It was immediately clear that he had his own voice as a composer, and that’s really rare,” said Shapiro.

“You can find a lot of people who are very proficient at doing other styles, but it’s very rare that you find somebody who really arrives with a very unique sensibility, and that’s it’s always been clear that he had that. He just thinks a little bit differently than everyone else.”

Shapiro's busy schedule wouldn't allow him to compose music for a then-new TV series called “Community,” which debuted in 2009. So he recommended Goransson.

It was where he met Gambino, then mainly known as Donald Glover. Working on a song together for the show led to Goransson and Glover trading ideas about for Gambino’s 2010 mixtape, “Caldesca.”

They have worked tightly ever since.

Composer Ludwig Goransson in New York on Nov. 15.
Christopher Smith, Invision/AP

Satanic temple settles lawsuit over TV show

Warner Bros., which produces “The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina” on Netflix, said Wednesday that it has settled a lawsuit with the Satanic Temple, which waged a legal battle over the show’s use of a statue featuring a goat-headed deity.

The temple’s lawsuit, filed earlier this month, accused Warner Bros. and Netflix of copyright infringement. The temple said a statue of the deity Baphomet on the show looked similar to one the temple had created.

The case drew widespread interest in Hollywood because of the nature of the claims and because it raised broader legal questions about tensions between free speech and copyright protection.

Legal experts said the dispute had the potential to change how Hollywood depicts cultural symbols in films and TV shows.

Warner Bros. confirmed that the lawsuit was settled, but said the terms of the agreement were confidential.

The Satanic Temple has used its version of the Baphomet with Children statue as part of its mission to separate church and state. The temple said it was concerned that a statue similar to its version of the Baphomet with Children statue on “The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina” could cause people to make wrong assumptions about the temple and its practices.

Obama’s book sells 1.4 million copies in a week

Michelle Obama’s “Becoming” has become a massive hit.

Crown Publishing told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the former first lady’s memoir has sold more than 1.4 million copies in print and digital formats in the U.S. and Canada in the seven days since it was released Nov. 13.

Based on demand from retailers across all channels, the publisher has printed 3 million hardcover copies in North America. On its first day, the book sold more than 725,000 copies, making it one of the year’s biggest debuts.

Crown also said that “Becoming” is currently the No. 1 adult nonfiction title in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Holland, Spain, Denmark and Finland. In Germany, some 200,000 copies have been sold, prompting a second printing of 100,000 copies.

Other news

One person has life-threatening injuries after a stabbing at a Pusha T concert in Toronto.

Toronto Police Constable David Hopkinson said Nov. 21 that three others were treated at a hospital for minor injuries at the Danforth Music Hall late Nov. 20.

Hopkinson said the patient who was stabbed remains in critical condition.

Video on social media shows drinks being hurled onstage toward Pusha T and fights breaking out as people charge the stage.

Hopkinson said someone rushed the stage and several people were injured, but it’s unclear whether the stabbing victim was wounded inside or outside the venue.

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**Round-the-world news for America’s military.**

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.

Also available on mobile apps for iPhone and Android and in a Tablet Edition for iPad.
American needs to set aside its icons

By Stan McChrystal
Special to The Washington Post

From my earliest days, Robert E. Lee felt close at hand. I attended Washington and Lee High School and was droll when I was sent to a armpit of his life's aliment, the U.S. Military Academy.

This was not surprising. No matter where I was living, there seemed to be a statue of Lee's accomplishments. As early as his days at West Point, Lee stood out. His classmates nicknamed the studious, near-perfect cadet the “Marble Man.” But over time, even marble's flaws become more visible.

In the summer of 2017, my wife, Annie, urged me to take down the picture. Disgusted by the images of hate and white supremacy that had descended on Charlottesville in the form of angry, torch-bearing men, she felt that Lee's picture risked offending guests to our home by sending an unintended message of agreement with the protesters who had sought to preserve a statue of the Marble Man.

Initially, I argued that Lee was an example of apolitical loyalty and stoic adherence to due process. But on days when I visited the military academy, I reflected on the way that Lee's legacy looked to people who hadn't grown up with my perspective or my beliefs.

So, on an otherwise unremarkable Sunday morning, I took the painting off the wall and sent it on its way to a local landfill for its final burial. History's hero's end.

Why did it take me so long to reconsider my thinking on the Marble Man?

I've spent my life leading leaders and leadership, abandoning long-held beliefs, some based on comfortable myths, through the lens of military history and the students who stepped forward to serve while adhering to their strengths, almost always harbor profound imperfections.

I still admire much about Lee, his integrity included. But to see him as I had long understood, through a single lens, was to fundamentally misunderstand the kaleidoscopic nature of leadership's strengths and weaknesses. When Lee's life was taken too early, without the world having seen the full extent of his potential, the nation's leadership made a decision unintentionally. Many officers knew full well the signal that those names would send. Whether you revere or revile Confederate soldiers, it's impossible not to see that their legacy is still with us.

Many Americans face the same problem. We want to be proud of our past, so it's tempting to look at only the best aspects of it. It's more comforting to think of Lee as a tragic hero than to try understanding his complex relationship with blacks today — so we focus on the simpler narrative.

Similarly, we perceive the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, as a time of unity in the wake of tragedy, ignoring the virulent anti-Muslim fervor that still affects parts of our country. In an effort to remember only the finest of our past, we often present our history as tidier than its reality. War is often subjected to this tendency to clean up, or at least oversimplify. It is hard to discuss the periodic incompetence, cowardice and criminality that are associated with every military campaign in history without seeming to detract from the very real courage and sacrifice of the vast majority of soldiers.

And nothing is more difficult than portraying war in its gritty, brutal reality, or the darker side of soldiers, without the risk of confusing Americans about our cause. Is this just our nation a force for good in the world?

As Pericles and others have taught us, we cannot see the kind of service that we seek to have repeated in the future. We must salute and remember the veterans who stepped forward to serve while admitting the complexity of the environment in which they had to operate.

Last week we celebrated our nation's romanticized notion of Thanksgiving — a version of history that does not reflect the reality of the first celebration of this holiday, in which the bonhomie was a small consolation to indigenous Americans enduring a colonial English conquest.

When we choose how we view history, we risk mythologizing events and people, reducing them to two-dimensional stories. It takes nothing away from Abraham Lincoln's heroic stewardship of our nation through the Civil War, for instance, to admit that he was still a creature of his era. For most of his career, he saw blacks as rival laborers for white wage-workers and thought they should go back to Africa. Frustratingly, our instinct to sanitize history ensures we are always looking backward for our better angels, struggling to meet a standard that remains forever out of reach.

There is, in the end, little point in studying the version of history that contains caroons and monuments rather than real people with nuanced actions and decisions — people whose complexities can teach us about our own. As we come to learn more about our world and ourselves, it is crucial to re-examine our role models and our enemies.

There is tremendous value in wrestling with the errors over which history commonly glosses. Coming to terms with the humanity of a leader makes it much more likely that you will remember his or her mistakes.

We are facing a crisis in leadership today — and organizations and individuals both have a role to play in correcting course. Organizational leaders must lead at the finest when they are used as instruments for social change, especially when that change is necessary for the greater good.

Presidential transition is not my longest line, but the Marine Corps transition is an example of how leaders can help speed up institutional change. We are a long way from solving racism in our country, but Truman's decision was an important step in changing the hearts and minds of our soldiers, their families and society at large.

The same logic can be extended to the inclusion of women in combat and the open service of LGBTQ troops. It's for these reasons that our leaders must take an equal view of history. The actions of our military leaders have a profound effect on the American psyche — but they cannot make this change alone.

As President John F. Kennedy put it, “The great enemy of truth is very often not the lie — deliberate, contrived and distasteful — but the natural human persistence, persuasive and unrealistic.”

We must combat our desire to mythologize our history and our leaders while retaining our belief in the qualities and ideals those myths often reflect.

Stan McChrystal, a retired Army general, is the founder of The McChrystal Group, a leadership advisory firm. He is a co-author, with Jeff Eggerson and Jason Mangone, of “Leaders: Myth and Reality.”

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for $1.99 per issue and $2.50 per subscription. Send address changes to Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and additional mailing offices.

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OPINION

days, officials conceded to the House veterans' subcommittee on economic opportunity Chairman Rep. Jodey Arrington, R-Texas, makes his opening statement at a Capitol Hill hearing this month on delays in GI Bill payments.

Above: Paul R. Lawrence, Department of Veterans Affairs undersecretary for benefits, testified that “the allegation of widespread veteran homelessness due to missed payments is false.”

Right: Retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert M. Worley II, director of education for the Veterans Benefits Administration, told lawmakers that “where we have underpaid our beneficiaries, we will make them whole at the time the IT fix goes into effect.”

VA vows post-9/11 GI Bill allowance delays near over

By Tom Philpott
Special to Stars and Stripes

B laming old computers and unanticipated software challenges, the Department of Veterans Affairs acknowledged it will take months to process claims inventory from Post-9/11 GI Bill participants peak in mid-September at 207,000, which was three times higher than normal for the start of a fall semester.

The sudden backlog caused payment delays of the housing allowance that student veterans rely on to pay monthly rent and other living expenses.

The backlog now is down two-thirds, to 73,000. But 11,000 of the remaining claims are more than 30 days old and 1,000 are more than 60 days old, violating the VA standard to process GI Bill claims within 28 days, officials conceded to the House veterans affairs' subcommittee on economic opportunity this month.

Lawmakers criticized VA leaders and legacy computer systems that seem to defy modernization despite Congress year after year allocating hundreds of millions of dollars for VA information technology upgrades.

VA officials in turn cited a web of aging and interconnected computer systems, but also a new law that added mind-boggling complexity to a GI Bill allowance, depending on where, when and how students use their benefits.

Paul R. Lawrence, VA’s undersecretary for benefits, vowed that GI Bill users won’t be inconvenienced by systemic payment delays again in the 2019 spring semester. But he also warned that housing allowance payments still might not be accurately calculated by then because the software challenges persist.

Testifying with Lawrence, officials responsible for administering GI Bill benefits, and others for reprogramming computers to ensure timely and accurate payments, said they underestimated the complexity changes directed by the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act signed into law in August 2017.

That law is called the “Forever GI Bill” because it eliminated the 15-year time limit on using Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for veterans given final discharges or releases from active duty on or after Jan. 1, 2013. It removed the same time limit for children of deceased servicemembers who became entitled to GI Bill benefits on or after that date, and for surviving spouses using the Fry Scholarship program.

However, to pay for those and other benefits enhancements, the new law also changed in two ways how the Post-9/11 housing allowance feature is calculated for new users to save billions of dollars. Indeed, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that GI Bill allowance savings will total $3.4 billion through 2027.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill allowance is set to match the military Basic Allowance for Housing rate for married enlisted members in pay grade E-5. That rate varies by housing locale and is adjusted annually to keep pace with local rental costs.

The first change made by the Colmery Act required that the allowance be based on where students physically attend classes rather than the location of colleges or schools where students are enrolled. So, if a college is headquartered in a city but students take courses at smaller town campuses or online courses from suburbia or rural residences, the allowance falls. Current GI Bill users, however, are protected from the change; it applies only to students who initially enroll in classes on or after Aug. 1, 2018.

The second allowance change also applies prospectively, to veterans who first use their GI Bill on or after Jan. 1, 2018. That change takes account of how Congress has dampened the value of military housing allowances in recent years by adopting a five-year plan to curb inflation adjustments to rates by a full percentage point per year. Congress had exempted the GI Bill stipend from that initiative. The Colmery law repealed the rate protection for new student veterans. Those who began using their GI Bill before Jan. 1, 2018, continue to receive the higher nonadjusted allowance rate for E-5, which the military no longer uses.

As late as July this year, VA officials had reassured lawmakers that despite the complexity of these changes, and rising difficulties making software changes across separate under computer systems, the changes would be made in time to avoid significant payment delays for the fall semester: That forecast was wrong. The House subcommittee this month pressed officials to explain why.

Rep. Jodey Arrington, R-Texas, its chairman, reminded Lawrence that four months ago VA promised delays would be short and would not significantly affect students. Yet some student veterans are “in pretty bad situations” from allowance delays “and we’re hearing from them.”

What particularly irked Arrington and his colleagues, he said, is that, after missing its own mid-August deadline to have software upgrades completed, the VA refuses to set another deadline so lawmakers can hold the department to account.

“VA still does not know when they will be ready to deploy proper payments to GI Bill recipients,” said Arrington. “I find the delays simply unacceptable” particularly those “stretching over 60 days. Some of these guys are going to have some real hardship, maybe even personal family crises, as a result of this.”

Lawrence said the VA continues “to work on getting this right.” Previously allowances were set using the schools’ facility codes for main campuses. The new law recognizes that students can earn multiple credits at different locations including with internships, externships, seminars and workshops. Zip codes of locations where students earn credits is the new way for setting allowances, and software must capture the location where most semester credits are earned.

That requires new, more complex computations and it’s all “far more complicated than originally estimated,” Lawrence said.

“We’re planning for the possibility we may not have the new software ready for the spring semester. Should that happen we’ll be prepared to process claims as we have been doing to ensure students continue to receive their allowances, and schools will receive their tuition payments. We will continue to do that for as long as necessary.”

For student veterans getting higher allowances than the new law allows, the VA won’t seek reimbursement, Lawrence promised.


Because of delayed software changes, Worley said, “we are paying incorrect housing to our beneficiaries. Depending on when they started school, some of those beneficiaries are receiving about $69 more than they should be getting because we haven’t applied the new [Defense Department] rate to them. Others who are existing students already are not receiving a less than 1 percent increase that was implemented with the DOD rates and should have been applied to student allowances Aug. 1.

“We don’t have the breakout of exact numbers as to which is which,” said Worley.

“But we will not go back and try to recover the overpayments once the [information technology] fix is in. And where we have underpaid our beneficiaries, we will make them whole at the time the IT fix goes into effect.”

When that will occur is unclear. Lawrence, Worley and the IT team supporting the GI Bill said software solutions to complex rate calculations are still being written for installation across several legacy computer systems and then testing, a process that is months old and could take several more months to complete.

Meanwhile, the old, inaccurate allowance rates must suffice, Lawrence said.

“This fall 460,000 veterans went to school using the GI Bill. The allocation of widespread veteran homelessness due to missed payments is false,” he said.

“We have received very few what I would call confirmed cases of anyone actually being evicted” because they couldn’t pay their rent, Worley said.

Any veteran experiencing financial hardship because of unpaid GI Bill claims can request expedited claim processing and get a check or bank deposit within three to five days, Worley said. They should call 1-888-GIBill or 1-888-442-4551.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 23111, Centerville, VA 20120; email milupdate@o1.com; or Twitter: @Military_Update.
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**NFL American Conference**

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**ISPS Handa World Cup**

**College tennis**

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**ISPS Handa World Cup**

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**Deals**

**Pro soccer**
Most cross country runners say they don’t worry about their opponents as how they are doing on the course themselves. But given how his rivals played a virtual game of stopwatch leapfrog with each other throughout the season, Akimanzi Siibo said he couldn’t help but be concerned about them.

“I definitely did my research, looked at the times and what they were capable of and I was worried,” said Siibo, a Kinnick senior who, in the end, won every meaningful race and posted the Pacific’s top time of the season.

Siibo went undefeated in nine races, including the DODEA Japan finals on Oct. 20 at Yokota where he ran the region’s top time of 16 minute, 8.3 seconds, the Kantô Plain finals a week later, and the Far East meet on Nov. 5 when he clocked 16:44.5 at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

For those feats, Siibo has been named Stars and Stripes’ boys cross country Athlete of the Year.

“I’m grateful to have been a part in something so surreal,” Armijo said. “I didn’t expect all of it. No one could have predicted it.”

“I think we wore them down as the game went on,” coach Bruce Weber said. “I told our guys these guys are pretty good and I didn’t think we played very good defense in the first half.”

Kansas State led 37-35 at halftime. The Wildcats (6-0) controlled the second half after the Mountain Hawks hung around and trailed by two at halftime.

“We just focused on getting stops every time and we were able to get some easy baskets off them.”

Brown converted a three-point play to give K-State a 59-40 lead with 14 minutes remaining. That was part of a 12-5 run by the Wildcats that gave them a 57-45 lead.

Kansas State is off to its best start since 2004-05, when it won its first eight games. The Wildcats face Marquette next Saturday in their first road game of the season.

“This is a chance to take a big step as a team, but Marquette is a very good team,” Weber said. “They beat Louisville and played Kansas well, so it’s going to be a tough test.”

No. 13 Virginia Tech 75, St. Francis (Pa) 37: Keve Aluko scored 18 points and grabbed 14 rebounds in Virginia Tech’s 75-37 rout of the Red Flash.

Myles Thompson led the Red Flash (4-14) with 14 points. St. Francis shot just 25.9 percent (15-for-58) and committed 22 turnovers.

No. 22 Buffalo 76, Marist 49: CJ Massinburg scored 21 points in the first half as neither team build a lead until the second half after the Mountain Hawks hung around and trailed by two at halftime.

Jeremy Harris had eight assists and Nick Perkins pulled down seven rebounds for the Bulls in their second blowout victory at home.
Golden State’s Klay Thompson, left, and Kevin Durant celebrate after a basket during the second half against the Sacramento Kings on Saturday in Oakland, Calif. The Warriors won 117-116.

## Roundup

### Warriors edge Kings

Durant’s 44, Thompson’s follow shot lift Golden State

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Klay Thompson put back his own miss with 5 seconds left, Kevin Durant had 31 points — the second straight game with 30 — and the Golden State Warriors barely held off the Sacramento Kings 117-116 on Saturday night in a wild finish between the Northern California neighbors.

Durant converted free throws with 1:27 left and also had 13 rebounds and seven assists, with 5 seconds left, Kevin Durant put back his own miss for the game winner.

Teenage rookie Luka Doncic to- (10-28), Embiid, PHI 21 188 180 586 27.9

Wizards 124, Pelicans 114


NUGGETS 105, THUNDER 98

HOUSTON — Eric Gordon scored 26 points and James Harden added 19 points and 15 assists as the Houston Rockets handed the Oklahoma City Thunder their third consecutive loss for the first time this season.

The Thunder (27-11) have lost four of five since winning at Dallas on Jan. 16, and have dropped three straight to the Thunder.


Cavaliers 117, Rockets 105

HOUSTON — Conner McGovern scored a season-high 44 points, had 13 rebounds and seven assists, and host Cleveland overcame 40 points by James Harden to win 121-112.

Cleveland (11-9) won 121-112 in Philadelphia on Friday and rode momentum that against the Rockets, who played without star guard Chris Paul.

NUGGETS 105, THUNDER 98

HOUSTON — Otto Porter Jr. scored a season-high 29 points and hosted Washington New Orleans.

Bradley Beal also finished with 18, one of six Wizards to score in double figures on a night the Pelicans were without injured All-Star forward Anthony Davis.

Timberwolves 111, Bulls 96

HOUSTON — movement in the fourth quarter to beat visiting Chicago.

Jeff Teague added 18 points for the Pelicans, which won for the fifth time in seven games since trading Jimmy Butler to Philadelphia.

Cavs 135, Spurs 129

San Antonio — Bradley Beal finished with 27 points and 8 assists.

The Wizards were without forward Anthony Davis.

Timberwolves 111, Bulls 96

HOUSTON — Tim Williams had 14 points and 11 rebounds, and host Cleveland beat the San Antonio Spurs 111-104.

Timberwolves forward Andrew Wiggins had 22 points on 8 of 13 shooting, and he had 11 rebounds.

The Spurs’ Malcolm Brogdon reacts after hitting a three-pointer against the San Antonio Spurs during Saturday’s game in Milwaukee. Brogdon finished with 23 points in the Bucks’ 135-129 victory.

Leaders

Bucks 135, Spurs 129: Gi- annis Antetokounmpo had 34 points and 18 rebounds, rallying Milwaukee from an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat visiting San Antonio.

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Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division
Buffalo 24 16 6 2 4 36 76 66
Toronto 24 14 7 6 2 33 74 69
Boston 23 18 7 1 4 37 80 68
Montreal 22 11 11 1 5 27 57 60
Washington 22 10 10 4 2 26 51 60
New Jersey 22 10 7 6 2 28 55 62
Florida 22 18 5 3 1 38 76 70
Columbus 22 14 8 3 3 30 68 60
Carolina 21 14 6 1 4 34 74 63
N.Y. Islanders 20 15 6 2 1 32 68 59

Metropolitans Division
New York 24 18 4 2 2 40 84 67
Montreal 23 15 7 1 4 36 76 68
New Jersey 22 13 9 3 2 30 60 59
Washington 22 10 10 4 2 26 51 60
Pittsburgh 22 15 7 0 0 32 68 61

Western Conference

Central Division
Chicago 22 15 6 1 0 36 80 65
St. Louis 20 15 5 1 3 32 65 65
Dallas 20 15 5 1 3 32 65 65
Nashville 18 15 8 1 3 30 63 67
Detroit 18 13 5 4 1 29 57 61

Pacific Division
San Jose 20 12 8 0 0 32 56 67
Los Angeles 19 11 7 4 1 30 48 69
Anaheim 18 9 9 1 1 28 46 65
Dallas 14 14 5 1 2 29 53 53
Vegas 14 14 5 1 2 29 53 53

Scoreboard

Capitals 5, Rangers 3
Washington 3 0 0 0 0 13 27 60
N.Y. Rangers 0 3 2 0 0 11 26 60
Overtime—15, Washington, Connolly 16 (Oshie, Connolly), 18:04.
Goalies—Washington, Holtby 5-3-1 (34 shots-4 saves), Rangers, King 1-1-0 (35 shots-4 saves).

Jets 8, Blues 4
St. Louis 1 0 1 0 0 11 26 60
St. Louis 1 0 1 0 0 11 26 60
First Period—1, St. Louis, O'Reilly 1 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 13:05. 2, St. Louis, O'Reilly 2 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 13:11. 3, St. Louis, O'Reilly 3 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 17:38. 4, St. Louis, O'Reilly 4 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 17:55. 5, St. Louis, O'Reilly 5 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 18:32. 6, St. Louis, O'Reilly 6 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 18:42. 7, St. Louis, O'Reilly 7 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 19:09. 8, St. Louis, O'Reilly 8 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 19:26.
Second Period—9, St. Louis, O'Reilly 9 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 1:39. 10, St. Louis, O'Reilly 10 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 4:42. 11, St. Louis, O'Reilly 11 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 6:52. 12, St. Louis, O'Reilly 12 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 8:22. Third Period—13, St. Louis, O'Reilly 13 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 11:03. 14, St. Louis, O'Reilly 14 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 12:13. 15, St. Louis, O'Reilly 15 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 13:28. 16, St. Louis, O'Reilly 16 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 14:32. 17, St. Louis, O'Reilly 17 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 16:28. 18, St. Louis, O'Reilly 18 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 18:24. 19, St. Louis, O'Reilly 19 (Gallacher, Bruggen), 19:30.
Goalies—St. Louis, Berezhnyi 2-7-0 (32 shots-4 saves), Jets, Connor 10-7-2 (31 shots-5 saves).

Runaround

Jets’ Laine scores goals in 5 games in defeats of Blues
Associated Press
ST. LOUIS — Patrik Laine scored five goals for the Winnipeg Jets’ 8-4 victory at St. Louis, two short of 97-year-old NHL record.

It was the 51st five-goal game in league history. Darryl Sittler of the Toronto Maple Leafs was the last player to pull off the feat, doing so in a game, on April 22, 1976, against Boston.

Brandon Tanen, Blake Wheeler, and Jack Roslovic also scored for the Jets, who snapped their first two-game losing streak of the season.

Laine’s five goal outburst gives him a league-leading 16 goals in 10 November games.

Joe Malone, who played in the early days of the NHL with the Montreal Canadiens, scored 18 goals in 18 games with the Quebec Bulldogs in January 1920. He also had a six-goal game and three five-goal games.

Goalie Connor Hellebuyck’s 35 saves gave the Jets their season-high fifth straight game.

Alex Ovechkin, Nick Dowd, Evgeny Kuznetsov and Tom Wilson also scored for defending Stanley Cup champion Washington, and John Carlson had three assists. Pheonix Copley, starting in place of Braden Holtby, stopped 27 shots. Blake Coleman, Claude Giroux and Patric Hornqvist each had an assist.

Golden Knights 6, Panthers 4
Jeffrey Roberson/AP
Winnipeg’s Patrik Laine (29) is congratulated by Brendan Leuxme after scoring the second of his five goals in an 8-4 defeat of St. Louis on Saturday.

Capitals 5, Rangers 3
Winnipeg’s Patrik Laine (29) is congratulated by Brendan Leuxme after scoring the second of his five goals in an 8-4 defeat of St. Louis on Saturday.

Blackhawks 5, Panthers 4
Jeff Roberson/AP
St. Louis 2 1 1—4
N.Y. Islanders 0 of 1
Third Period—1, St. Louis, Perron 6, (Kreider, Steen), 1:54. 2, St. Louis, Perron 7, (Kreider, Steen), 3:10. 3, St. Louis, Perron 8 (Kreider, Steen), 4:20. 4, St. Louis, Perron 9 (Kreider, Steen), 5:00. 5, St. Louis, Perron 10, (Kreider, Steen), 6:35.
Goalies—Blackhawks, Crawford 3-1-0 (27 shots-2 saves), Panthers, Luongo 4-2-0 (27 shots-2 saves).

3 stars
1. Laine, 8 goals, 3 assists, 11 points, St. Louis in 4 games
2. Connor, 4 goals, 4 assists, 8 points, Winnipeg in 4 games
3. Giroux, 3 goals, 6 assists, 9 points, Philadelphia in 4 games

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The San Francisco 49ers released linebacker Reuben Foster on Sunday, hours after he was arrested at the team hotel in Tampa, Fla., on charges of domestic violence.

An arrest report from the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s office said there was a “verbal domestic disturbance” at 11:11 p.m. Saturday and was being held without bail. Foster was arrested by Tampa police at 10 p.m. at the Omni hotel, where the team is staying before playing the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Monday.

The team sent out a one-sentence news release Sunday morning saying it had cut Foster.

The 28-year-old Foster was charged with one count of first-degree misdemeanor domestic violence. Tampa Police Spokesperson Janelle McGregor said a woman told police that Foster slapped her phone out of her hand, pushed her in the chest area and ran away, leaving her with an open hand on the right side of her face. McGregor said officers observed a 1-inch scratch on the accuser’s left collarbone.

Ditka recovering

CHICAGO — Hall of Fame tight end Mike Ditka, the Bears coach Mike Ditka is recovering from a mild heart attack.

Steve Mandell, Ditka’s agent, tells ESPN that doctors inserted a pacemaker. He says Ditka is “doing much better,” and the iconic coach “appreciates the pouring of support and expects to be home soon.”

Ditka, 79, played 12 seasons in the NFL and made the Pro Bowl five times.

Ditka coached the Bears and the Chicago Bulls, reaching the NBA Finals with a 121-95 record in 14 years, and he led Chicago to the Super Bowl title after the 1985 season.

UNC fires Fedora

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina football coach Larry Fedora is out after seven seasons.

The school announced the decision Monday, saying it had lost five of their final six games in the second half of the season. Fedora’s exit completes a swift fall for the Tar Heels, who dropped to 2-9 in the ACC, 9-3 overall after their 12-2 win over USC Saturday night.

Fedoras’s exit comes two years after he was named the ACC Coach of the Year in 2016, the same year that North Carolina won its first conference championship in island.

Irish overcome early deficit against USC

BY GREG BEACRAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Notre Dame’s offensive skill players gathered on the sideline and looked up at an unfamiliar sight on the scoreboard. The Fighting Irish hadn’t faced a double-digit deficit at any point in their first three games.

The high-flying Southern California jumped to a 10-0 lead Saturday night.

With their national championship dreams suddenly in a wee bit of trouble, running back Dexter Williams spoke up.

“Somebody has got to make a play!” Williams shouted.

Ian Book and Chris Finke did just that on Notre Dame’s next drive, and Williams did it himself right after halftime.

By the time the Irish were done making plays at the Coliseum, they were well on the way to the College Football Playoff with the Jeweled Shovel in hand.

Book passed for 352 yards, Williams went 52 yards on a go-ahead touchdown run and No. 3 Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly turned in an uncharacteristic, unbeaten regular season and likely secured a playoff spot with a 24-17 victory over the Trojans Saturday night.

“It brings tears to your eyes,” Notre Dame cornerback Julian Love said. “So much is put into this, and it was very tough at times. It just feels so good to get here. Nothing has been handed to us. USC was struggling this year, but they weren’t just going to hand it to us. We had to go out there and seize it.”

Finke made an exceptional TD catch for the first score by the Fighting Irish (12-0, No. 1 CFP), who showed playoff-level tenacity in rallying from their largest deficit of the season. Tony Jones Jr. then took a short pass 51 yards for a touchdown with 3:09 to play to finish off Notre Dame’s 10th victory since 1945, the first since 2012.

“IT’s something I dreamed about, so to have it really be like that, it’s a surreal moment,” said Book, the Californian who improved to 9-0 as Notre Dame’s starter, including 8-0 this year.

“T’ll have to come back in the fourth quarter and say it was just us,” Williams said. “That was a good lesson for us.”

Notre Dame quarterback Ian Book, left, avoids a tackle by USC cornerback Isaiah Langley on Saturday in Los Angeles.
Midshipmen sunk by Green Wave

**By BRETT MARTEL**
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Tulane coach Willie Fritz looked at the man who'd hired him to turn the Green Wave football program around and laid his hand upon his fingers.

Athletic Director Troy Dannen said third-year coach signed his contract only after they arrived at high-stakes, two-point conversion—a several snaps before Tulane's decisive drive had even reached the 20-yard line, "I knew he had the play."

Justin McMillan connected with Jaetavian Toles for a 26-yard touchdown pass with 1:27 left, passed back across the field to Charles Jones for the two-point conversion, and Tulane avoided a devastating collapse with a 29-28 victory over Navy to become bowl-eligible for the first time since 2013.

"We were doing really well offensively. Our defense was kind of tired," Fritz said. "I went over to the sideline and told the AD I was going for two—just wanted make sure I showed him the option."

"He said I did, so we went ahead with it."

The game-winning score capped a remarkable fourth-quarter rally. Next year's Midshipmen enter the FCS playoffs for the third season in a row.

Avery Williams’ interception and 36-yard return to the Tulane 7 set up a short field goal to ignite Navy’s second-half rally. Next came Malcom Perry’s halfback pass across the field to Abey.

After Tulane stalled again, Abey found Perry uncovered in the end zone on a 26-yard scoring play, and hit Taylor Jackson in the back of the end zone for a two-point conversion to tie.

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Wake Forest’s Cade Carney pushes past Duke’s Jordan Hayes during the second half on Saturday. Carney rushed for a career-high 223 yards.

Saturday’s stars

Tua Tagovailoa, Alabama, matched a school record with five touchdown passes and ran for a score to lead the No. 1 Crimson Tide to a 52-21 victory over rival Auburn.

Dwayne Haskins, Ohio State, threw five touchdown passes and ran for a score to lead the No. 4 Buckeyes romp into the Southeastern Conference championship game with a 45-21 rout of Georgia Tech.

Cade Carney, Wake Forest, rushed for a career-high 223 yards and the Demon Deacons closed out their regular season with a 59-7 win over Duke.

K.J. Costello, Stanford, threw for 344 yards and a career-high five TDs during the first half on Saturday. Costello threw for 344 yards and a career-high five TDs.

Stanford quarterback K.J. Costello throws against UCLA during the first half on Saturday. Costello threw for 344 yards and a career-high five TDs.

How the AP Top 25 fared

1. Alabama (12-0) beat Auburn 52-21. Tua Tagovailoa threw five touchdown passes and ran for a score to lead Alabama past rival Auburn. The Crimson Tide took over with an explosive third quarter, when the Heisman Trophy contender threw three long touchdown passes. He’s the first Alabama player to have a hand in six TDs in a game.

2. Oklahoma (11-1) beat No. 12 West Virginia 59-56, Friday. Kyler Murray threw three touchdown passes, and the Sooners scored two defensive TDs to earn a spot in the Big 12 championship game. Murray finished 20-for-27 for 364 yards in a matchup of Heisman Trophy hopefuls.

3. Notre Dame (12-0) beat Southern Cal 35-33. Trevor Lawrence threw for a career-high 393 yards, Adam Choice rushed for three touchdowns and Clemson capped a perfect regular season, beating South Carolina for its fifth consecutive win.

4. Michigan (10-2) lost to No. 10 Ohio State 62-39. In the 115th meeting between two of college football’s most storied rivals, Ohio State scored more points than it ever had against Michigan — more points than any team has ever scored in regulation against Michigan.

5. Georgia (11-1) beat Georgia Tech 45-21. Jake Fromm threw four touchdown passes, Duane Swift ran for 105 yards and Georgia romped into the SEC championship game. The Bulldogs held a 343-66 edge in total yards, piling up 18 first downs to only four by Georgia Tech.

Next: vs. No. 1 Alabama, SEC championship, Saturday.


7. Oklahoma State (10-2) lost to No. 16 Washington 38-3. Trace McSorley completed 12 of 22 passes for 230 yards and had a hand in three touchdowns to help Penn State rout Maryland. McSorley added 64 rushing yards on 11 carries for the Nittany Lions.

8. Florida (9-3) beat Florida State 41-14. Feleipe Franks had three touchdown passes and the Gators used a punishing ground attack to end a five-game losing streak to Florida State. Lamical Perine ran for 129 yards, averaging 9.9 yards per carry and had a 74-yard touchdown run.

9. Washington (9-3) beat No. 7 Washington State 28-15. Myles Gaskin broke free for an 80-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter, and Washington won its second Pac-12 North Division title in three years. It was Washington’s sixth straight win over the Cougars and the third straight year the Huskies denied Washington State the North crown.

10. Northwestern (8-4) beat Illinois 24-16. Clayton Thorson accounted for three touchdowns, including the winner with 4:34 to go, and Illinois State rallied from 17 down in the fourth quarter to snap a 10-game slide against Kansas State. Montgomery had 149 yards rushing for the Cyclones.

11. Texas (8-3) beat Kansas 24-17, Friday. Sam Ehlinger threw for two touchdowns and ran for a score and Texas held off Kansas to reach the Big 12 title game. Tre Watson finished with 79 yards on 14 carries as Texas continued its strong second season under coach Tom Herman.

12. Florida (9-3) beat Florida State 41-14. Feleipe Franks had three touchdown passes and the Gators used a punishing ground attack to end a five-game losing streak to Florida State. Lamical Perine ran for 129 yards, averaging 9.9 yards per carry and had a 74-yard touchdown run.

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14. Utah State (10-2) lost to No. 21 Boise State 33-24. Utah State had its 10-game winning streak snapped and had its hopes of earning a berth to one of the New Year’s six bowls dashed.

15. Penn State (9-3) beat Maryland 38-3. Trace McSorley completed 12 of 22 passes for 230 yards and had a hand in three touchdowns to help Penn State rout Maryland. McSorley added 64 rushing yards on 11 carries for the Nittany Lions.

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17. Cincinnati (12-0) beat South Florida 35-3, Thursday. Nick Fitzgerald ran for two touchdowns and threw for 340 yards and four touchdowns, Benny Snell Jr. rushed for two scores and Kentucky blew out Louisville in the Governor’s Cup. The Wildcats scored TDs on all five first-half drives and never trailed in posting their first nine-win regular season since 1977.

18. Utah (9-3) beat BYU 35-27. Jason Shelley threw for 141 yards and a touchdown and added 61 yards and another score on the ground to rally Utah.

19. Syracuse (9-3) beat Boston College 42-21. Eric Dungey ran for three touchdowns and threw for 362 yards and three more scores to lead the Orange, who gave up the first score of the game, then scored touchdowns on three straight possessions.

20. Western Michigan (11-1) beat Ohio 24-3. Brett Melton ran for three touchdowns, including the winner with 4:34 to go, and Illinois State rallied from 17 down in the fourth quarter to snap a 10-game slide against Kansas State. Montgomery had 149 yards rushing for the Cyclones.

21. Boise State (10-2) beat No. 14 Utah State 33-24. Brett Ryden threw for 310 yards and a touchdown and Alexander Matison rushed for 200 yards and three scores to lead Boise State. Boise State, which has won seven straight since losing to San Diego State on Oct. 6, will host Fresno State for the Mountain West championship.

22. Mississippi State (8-4) beat Mississippi 35-3, Thursday. Nick Fitzgerald ran for two touchdowns and threw for a score to lead Mississippi State in an Egg Bowl marred by a fight in the second half that led to four ejections. Four players were ejected, and the referee said every player on both teams received an unsportsmanlike penalty.

23. Army (9-2) did not play. The Black Knights have their first ranking since 1996, a stunning accomplishment considering how long they had been practically nonexistent against FBS competition. Army will have had three weeks off when it meets Navy.

24. Pittsburgh (7-5) lost to Miami 24-3. Travis Homer rushed for 168 yards and a long touchdown. Denial Dallas ran back a punt for one of his two scores and Miami knocked off Pittsburgh.

25. Texas (11-1) beat No. 2 Clemson, ACC championship, Saturday.
Texas A&M shocks No. 8 LSU in 7 OTs

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — With Texas A&M's game with No. 8 LSU tied at 72-72 in the seventh overtime on Saturday night and the Aggies set to attempt a 2-point conversion, receiver Kendrick Rogers was frantically being tended to on the sideline for severe cramps in his calves.

Rogers was able to get himself together just in time to get back in the game and grab Kellen Mond's 2-point conversion pass that gave A&M at 74-72 victory in a game that tied the NCAA record for most overtimes in an FBS game.

"These are moments you live for, so no matter what's going on with your body, you want to be out there," Rogers said. "So, you just have to talk yourself out of it, just mentally fight through it."

Mond connected with Quartney Davis on a 17-yard throw to tie it at 72. Greedy Williams was called for pass interference on the first 2-point conversion try, giving the Aggies (8-4, 5-3, No. 22 CFP), another shot. After a false start by Texas A&M, Mond found Rogers for the conversion to end it.

Throng of fans rushed the field to celebrate after the grab by Rogers.

"We showed as a team that we're never going to quit, and we did that for four quarters and way more," Mond said.

Joe Burrow had a 10-yard TD run to put LSU (9-3, 5-3, No. 7 CFP) up 72-66 in the seventh OT, but his 2-point conversion throw failed.

"You had two teams out there refusing to lose and we just made one more play," Texas A&M coach Jimbo Fisher said.

The 74 points LSU allowed are the most ever given up by a ranked team, eclipsing the 73 No. 8 Nebraska gave up to North Carolina in 1990, and the first seven overtime game involving a ranked team.

The 146 combined points are the most in an FBS game in NCAA history.

"I lost track of overtimes ... it was the craziest game ever," Fisher said looking a bit dazed.

Mond threw for 287 yards and six touchdowns, three 2-point conversions and ran for three more as Texas A&M snapped a 10-win regular season since 1995. LSU coach Ed Orgeron's Tigers came out of halftime firing touchdown strikes down the field, and the result was another runaway Alabama victory.

"We executed on all cylinders on offense coming into that opening drive in the second half, so it's really good," he said.

Tagovailoa and the Crimson Tide (12-0, 8-0 Southeastern Conference, No. 1 CFP) took over with an explosive third quarter, when the Heisman Trophy contender threw three long touchdown passes. He's the first Alabama player to have a hand in six TDs in a game and made the school record with the five scoring passes.

Now, Bama heads to the SEC championship game against No. 5 Georgia with a guaranteed playoff spot on the line. With Alabama leading Auburn (7-5, 3-5) just 17-14 at halftime, Tagovailoa launched the Tide into another SEC blowout. He was 11-of-12 passing for 208 yards and four touchdowns in the second half, despite only finishing with one score in the fourth quarter.

Tagovailoa finished 25 of 32 for 324 yards and six touchdowns, three 2-point conversions and ran for a 4-yard touchdown run and Burrow ran for a 4-yard TD and threw for the 2-point conversion to push it to a seventh OT.

Clyde Edwards-Helaire took a pitch from Burrow and launched an 11-yard TD pass to Tony Carter to put the Tigers on top in the fifth overtime, but the 2-point conversion failed. Mond answered with a 6-yard throw to Rogers, but A&M's 2-point try failed, too, to send it to the sixth OT.

Mond found Davis on a 19-yard touchdown pass on the last play of regulation to send it to OT. Orgeron felt like the clock ran out before Mond applied the ball to stop the clock with 1 second.

Both teams kicked field goals in the fourth overtime to send it to the fifth. Burrow threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Dee Anderson in triple overtime and Justin Jefferson grabbed the 2-point conversion. Rodgers made it 49-49 and forced quadruple overtime when he grabbed a 25-yard TD pass and the 2-point conversion.

Both teams settled for field goals in the first overtime.

Source: Associated Press

Tagovailoa, No. 1 Tide trounce Tigers

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Tua Tagovailoa came out of halftime firing touchdown strikes down the field, and the result was another runaway Alabama victory.

Tagovailoa threw five touchdown passes, ran for a score and could scarcely miss in the second half to lead the top-ranked Crimson Tide to a 52-21 victory over rival Auburn on Saturday.

"We executed on all cylinders on offense coming into that opening drive in the second half, so it's really good," he said.

Tagovailoa and the Crimson Tide (12-0, 8-0 Southeastern Conference, No. 1 CFP) took over with an explosive third quarter, when the Heisman Trophy contender threw three long touchdown passes. He’s the first Alabama player to have a hand in six TDs in a game and made the school record with the five scoring passes.

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Tagovailoa finished 25 of 32 for 324 yards and ran for 26 yards, including a 7-yard touchdown and a 21-yard third-down conversion on runs.

“I thought Tua was into it,” Alabama coach Nick Saban said.
Let the debate begin

Ohio State, Oklahoma make cases for inclusion in College Football Playoff

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

The twist the playoff race has been waiting for came Saturday. The debate, for now, is between Ohio State and Oklahoma.

History suggests it was inevitable. The top four had never stayed the same for three straight weeks until this past one and to expect it to hold steady for two more was unrealistic.

Still, how thoroughly No. 10 Ohio State dismantled No. 4 Michigan was startling, and it could cause the College Football Playoff selection committee to rethink a lot of what has happened so far with the Buckeyes.

We could be heading toward a Big Ten vs. Big 12 in the board room where the committee meets. The essential questions: Which team has the worse defense, No. 6 Oklahoma or Ohio State? Does hanging 62 on No. 4 Michigan make up for allowing 49 to Purdue? The Buckeyes have done both.

How far the Buckeyes (No. 10 CFP) move up Tuesday could be telling and important. They should go past Washington State, which was sitting at eighth but lost the Apple Cup on Friday to Washington. But can they bounce all the way to sixth, edging ahead of the Sooners, who beat West Virginia to reach the Big 12 title game? Kyler Murray and Oklahoma have won four straight games in which they have allowed at least 40 points. The Sooners' defense is terrible. Ohio State's has been a little better.

Ohio State gets No. 20 Northwestern (8-4) this week in Indianapolis to make one more statement. The Sooners (11-1) get a rematch with Texas (9-3), with a chance to avenge a three-point loss in October.

Aside from the ugly loss at Purdue, the Buckeyes have had close calls against Nebraska (4-8) and Maryland (5-7). The Sooners dodged upsets against Texas Tech (5-7) and Oklahoma State (6-6).

Neither Ohio State nor Oklahoma looks championship caliber, but the playoff needs four teams and those two might be the choices.

Left: Ohio State receiver Johnnie Dixon, top, celebrates his touchdown against Michigan with a lift from teammate Thayer Munford during the first half of Saturday's game in Columbus, Ohio. Above: Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley yells after the Sooners' 59-56 win over No. 12 West Virginia on Friday in Morgantown, W.Va.

PHOTOS BY JAYLAPRETE LEFT, AND IAN MAULE, ABOVE/AP

Notre Dame rallies past USC to stay perfect