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‘SPOOKSTOCK’

Intel world hobnobs at annual hush-hush charitable event

BY ASHRAF KHALIL
Associated Press

SOMEONE earlier this year, one of the most elite social events in Washington took place, but without any fanfare or news coverage.

It drew about 1,800 attendees and Grammy-winning rocker Lenny Kravitz performed. Yet there were no written invitations, and the date and location were carefully guarded secrets.

The annual charitable event is mischievously known as Spookstock. While many Washington insiders, let

alone the public, haven't heard of it, the gala has become a centerpiece for the capital region's tightknit intelligence and military special operations communities.

"I've done my share of formal events and black dress nights. This is a lot more fun," said retired Maj. Gen. Clay Hutmacher, the former director of operations for U.S. Special Operations Command. "It's very casual. If you want to show up in a Def Leppard T-shirt, that's fine."

Now in its seventh year, Spookstock has raised millions for the CIA Officers Memorial Foundation and the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, which

look after the families of CIA officers and special operations forces killed in the field. Last year, after expenses, each charity received about \$400,000, according to Spookstock board member Mark Kelton.

The event is essentially fueled by defense contractors and mainstays of the military-industrial complex that pay big money for a table or a balcony box. Kelton, a retired CIA officer, would only say those corporate boxes are "not cheap." Other government employees or members of military who secure an invitation pay a much lower, but still undisclosed, rate.

SEE EVENT ON PAGE 3

Afghans seem surprised by Trump's talk of cease-fire

BY KAREN DEYOUNG
AND SUSANNAH GEORGE
The Washington Post

President Donald Trump's confident assertion that the Taliban is ready and even eager for a cease-fire demanded by the United States in Afghanistan's 18-year-old war may be more wishful thinking than reality.

Declaring that the U.S.-Taliban talks he abruptly canceled in September are back in motion, Trump said during a Thanksgiving Day visit to troops in Afghanistan that the Taliban "wants to make a deal. And we're meeting with them, and we're saying it was to be a cease-fire."

"They didn't want to do a cease-fire, but now they do want to do a cease-fire," Trump said of the militants. "It will probably work out that way. ... We've made tremendous progress," he added.

But on Friday neither the Taliban nor the government of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani indicated that a cease-fire was near, or even being discussed in resumed U.S. negotiations.

At the time the U.S.-Taliban talks ended, the two sides were preparing to sign a draft agreement that called for a reduction in violence. But it specifically declared that any discussion of a cease-fire was to be left to follow-on negotiations between the militants and the government in Kabul.

In a statement, the Taliban said that remains their understanding. "We are ready to talk, but we have the same stance to resume the talks from where it was suspended," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told The Washington Post.

Ghani spokesman Sedig Sedig said that Trump's bid visit there was "important" but that "we will have to see" if there has been any change in the status of peace talks.

SEE AFGHANISTAN ON PAGE 2

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREA VILLARI / Stars and Stripes

WAR ON TERRORISM

Afghanistan: President canceled previous talks

FROM FRONT PAGE

"It is too early to comment on any changes or any perceived changes," Seddiqui said.

Even the administration voiced a lower expectation than Trump. "As the president said, we are restarting talks with the Taliban. The focus will be on reducing violence," said a senior administration official, who like others discussed the closed-door talks on the condition of anonymity. "If an agreement can be reached, the two sides could potentially expand the talks and pave the way for signing a peace agreement."

After nearly a year of U.S.-Taliban negotiations, held in the Qatari capital of Doha and led on the U.S. side by special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, they reached a four-part agreement that included a partial withdrawal of U.S. troops, a Taliban pledge to sever relations with al-Qaida and to ensure that none of the territory it controls — now more than 50% of the Afghanistan — would be used for terrorism activities directed at the United States or its allies.

The Taliban also committed to beginning direct talks with the Afghan government, with a cease-fire at the top of the agenda.

But after secretly planning a meeting with Taliban negotiators at Camp David to seal the deal, Trump suddenly canceled the agreement and negotiations altogether, saying that "as far as I'm concerned, they're dead."

Trump said at the time he had called off the talks after the Taliban took responsibility for an attack that killed 12 people, including a U.S. service member.

"What kind of people would kill so many in order to seemingly strengthen their bargaining position?" Trump said in a tweet.

The announcement threw into doubt Trump's hopes of drawing down the number of troops in Afghanistan, a pledge made during his 2016 campaign. Despite his claim that he was responding to a U.S. service member's death, the move also reflected divisions inside the administration between Khalilzad's boss, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and then-national security adviser John Bolton, who opposed the negotiations.

The Taliban said they would be willing to continue talking, even as Afghanistan headed toward heavily contested presidential elections that Ghani hoped would strengthen his hand in direct government talks with the militants.

Barred from formally restarting the discussion, Khalilzad has conducted low-profile consultations with Afghanistan and regional governments, and in recent days began informal conversations with the Taliban.

Although the election took place in late September, no winner has been declared amid charges of widespread irregularities at the ballot box. Earlier this month, Ghani agreed to release three Taliban prisoners in exchange for two hostages — an American and an Australian, both professors at the University of Kabul — held by the Taliban for the past three years.

At the same time, the United States has moved forward with planning the mass withdrawal —



ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Donald Trump shaking hands with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani as Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley, right, applauds during a Thanksgiving Day visit at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan.

a reduction to 8,600 troops from about 13,000 deployed there now — that was envisioned as part of the original deal.

"We're bringing it down very substantially," Trump said Thursday of the U.S. force. "And we're going to stay until such time as we have a deal or we have total victory."

After the talks ended, despite a slight reduction in violence with the Taliban, the militants have remained ascendant. But Trump said that over the last few months "we've hit them so hard, they've never been hit this hard. In the history of the war, they have never been hit this hard." That, he indicated, is why "they want to make a deal."

But analysts said the main Taliban goal remains the withdrawal of all foreign forces in

Afghanistan, and they have little impetus now to stop fighting.

"To date, they've very strongly resisted" a cease-fire, "and it's their best leverage," said one person familiar with the negotiations. "They have no reason to trade that chit in now, especially at a time where U.S. leverage is a wasting asset, and they believe they're winning on the battlefield. And Trump has committed to a drawdown of forces regardless, so why would the Taliban offer up a cease-fire now?"

In his remarks to the troops Thursday, Trump appeared to conflate the Islamic State and al-Qaida, both of which have a presence in Afghanistan, although they compete for followers and do not cooperate with each other.

A June Defense Department report put the number of Islamic

State fighters at about 2,000, located in both Kunar and Nangarhar provinces along the Pakistan border. A relatively small al-Qaida presence, it said, "poses a very limited threat to U.S. personnel and our partners in Afghanistan."

Afghan forces, with close American support, scored a major victory earlier this month when they retook a cluster of villages in Nangarhar province, leading to the surrender of hundreds of Islamic State fighters.

Trump said there had been "tremendous progress ... with respect to ISIS and al-Qaida. And we've hit them very, very hard. ... They had many thousands a short while ago, and now they're down to hundreds. Probably 200 left."

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MILITARY

Army base offers child care day and night

By THOMAS NOVELLY

The Post and Courier (Charleston, S.C.)

COLUMBIA, S.C. — There are eight tiny beds at Fort Jackson, far too small for any warrior.

They aren't meant for soldiers, recruits or staff. Above each headboard is a slate with a child's name on it. There is a baby blue cubbyhole that holds an Avengers backpack and at the foot of the bed is a small onesie neatly folded.

Tonight, some service members have to delegate the duty of tucking their child in.

Some moms and dads chose to put on a drill sergeant's hat and work until the early hours of the morning to train incoming recruits. They have to sacrifice reading a bedtime story to their daughter or checking for monsters under the mattress for their son.

Fort Jackson is the only Army post in the United States that provides 24/7 day care and child services for military families, according to post officials. It's no small undertaking, and a staff of about 150 employees is there to work around the clock to bring the comforts of home to those toddlers that were born into an unconventional one.

"It's their home away from home," said Twylane Rogers, a 23-year employee at the military post. "We try to give them that same nurturing their parents give them."

South Carolina's only Army post is unique. The entirety of the branch's drill sergeants are trained at Fort Jackson and it is



Dennie Taylor, a drill sergeant with the U.S. Army, signs in her son Ethan Taylor, 9, at the Imboden Child Development Center at Fort Jackson, S.C., on Nov. 19.

also one of the largest basic training stations for recruits in the nation. That distinction comes with special accommodations because turning young men and women into soldiers isn't a 9-to-5 job.

Funded by the Department of Defense, Fort Jackson's Child and Youth Services operation runs on an average \$6.4 million a year to help provide day care and overnight care for nearly 1,000 children.

Running that mission from sunrise to sunset each day is Sunny Bolton, the head of the post's

child care.

She said despite "rumors" of potential funding woes, the secretary of the Army recognizes the need for child care. She said it's important for soldiers to have their house in order before putting on the uniform. Child care is a huge part of that.

According to a study from the National Center for Children in Poverty, about one in four children in military families experience depression, one out of every five children had academic problems and 37% of children with a

deployed parent reported that they seriously worry about what could happen to their loved one.

"We know that being away from their families isn't good for them," Bolton said. "So we want to make their experience as familiar as possible for them."

There are four centers at the Army post that are responsible for day care and overnight care. Service members pay based on rank, a luxury not offered in the civilian world. If a soldier makes less than \$32,000, they'll pay \$260 a month. If an officer

makes \$138,000, they'll pay \$652 a month.

Most children start their morning out at the Imboden Child Development Center. Starting at 4 in the morning, parents in their battle dress uniforms will walk in to drop off their children.

Sgt. 1st Class Dennie Taylor, who walked in around 6 a.m. Tuesday to drop off her 9-year-old son Ethan, said that he's gotten used to military life. He's often chipper when he's ready to get up for child care, but saying their goodbyes each day "doesn't get any easier."

School-age children are bused to the public schools on post. For the infants and toddlers, they are taken to their assigned rooms and set down to sleep. Throughout the day, some children may be used to three times to different locations.

"Sometimes children will put on their pajamas and then slip right into their shoes before being bused to the overnight facility," Bolton said.

Children are served breakfast, lunch and dinner. Last year alone, 395,000 of those meals were served.

For those children whose parent will be working late into the night, getting ready for bedtime will follow. Workers do it all. They bathe and swaddle infants, play with toddlers and help older kids with homework.

Bolton said she tries to limit the number of overnight stays and only encourages enlisted soldiers to do so when it's absolutely necessary.

Event: Charity benefits families of fallen CIA officers and special operations troops

FROM FRONT PAGE

The invitation list and event details are closely guarded by Kelton and the four-member board. Given the clandestine nature of some of the participants' work life, news coverage and social media postings are avoided. The only real online traces are a smattering of articles, some briefs in intelligence-focused newsletters and a few unauthorized YouTube videos.

A visit to the Spookstock website reveals a parody of the original Woodstock logo, a password box and nothing else. Spookstocks have been held at a warehouse in Springfield, Va., and a farm in Loudoun County, Va. Previous attendees have included actors Robert DeNiro and Harvey Keitel. Kelton says he's constantly fending off invitation requests and adds somewhat proudly that he has never extended an invitation to an active politician.

The guests of honor are a few dozen young beneficiaries — college seniors or recent graduates who have had their entire uni-

versity education paid for by one of the foundations. Last year, 30 beneficiaries were flown in, Kelton said, with a major airline donating the tickets.

While the CIA foundation focuses exclusively on funding higher education, the special operations fund helps cover preschool, tutoring, SAT prep and college visits in addition to a full scholarship.

"We call it cradle to career," said Hutmacher, the head of the foundation, who estimates that the fund spends an average of \$250,000 per child. The standard military death benefit for a soldier killed on duty is a lump-sum payment of \$100,000.

Kelton said that losing a parent amid "murky circumstances" can produce a specific sort of trauma among the children.

"You're always wondering how it happened and you can never know," he said. "These are closed worlds."

Kelton said the only networking that's allowed is among the young beneficiaries. The weekend serves as an informal job fair

for the new graduates if they want to pursue a career in defense or intelligence.

The event has grown into a weekend of activities. In addition to tours of Washington and CIA headquarters for the young beneficiaries, corporate sponsors can pay extra for a day of pseudo-special-operations training.

But the centerpiece is the concert. Spookstock headliners have included Peter Dinklage, ZZ Top and the Steve Miller Band. Kravitz, 55, reflected an attempt to skew a bit younger, Kelton said.

Although Spookstock is relatively new, the charitable foundations that it benefits are much older. The early version of what would develop into the Special Operations Warrior Foundation was created in the wake of Operation Eagle Claw — the 1980 attempt to rescue the 52 hostages held in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The operation was aborted by President Jimmy Carter and resulted in the deaths of eight servicemen, leaving behind a total of 17 children.



MARK KELTON/AP

Lenny Kravitz, the headliner at this year's Spookstock concert poses with Army Gen. Tony Thomas, former commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, at the annual Spookstock event.

"Senior leaders at the time passed the hat" to help those children, said Hutmacher, a former commander of the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, known as the Night Stalkers. But the experience led to the creation of what would become the foundation.

"Now most of the wars being fought are with special operations and intelligence," Kelton said. "The pace of losses since 9/11 has increased sharply."

The event may just be growing too fast to remain hidden for

much longer.

Kelton had expected about 1,400 attendees this year, which would have been a record. Instead, there were 1,800.

The corporate clientele has changed a bit as well.

Kelton said the normal defense contractor crowd has been joined recently by an increasing number of tech companies. Now he said organizers are planning an expansion that would create a springtime Spookstock West event in the tech hub of Austin, Texas.

VETERANS

Tomy's turnaround



TOMMY MARTINO/The (Missoula, Mont.) Missoulian

Tomy Parker, a 29-year-old Marine Corps veteran and triple amputee, trains and gets exercise near downtown Ronan, Mont. The Montana Marine who lost his legs to an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan came home to a hero's welcome and a house was built for him, but he lost it to addiction.

After struggling, veteran who lost legs to IED competes in half-marathons

By PAUL HAMBY
Missoulian

RONAN, Mont. — In a town of just over 2,000 people, there's no such thing as rush hour. At 4 in the afternoon, the only real traffic in Ronan remains on U.S. Highway 93, rolling to and from Polson, Missoula and Kalispell.

The residential streets don't see much maintenance. In contrast to the cracks and holes pockmarking the grid of asphalt around Ronan's homes, roads to the surrounding farms stay smooth.

Tomy Parker rolled down one of them, his arms pumping like pistons, gripping the wheels of his chair and hurling himself forward.

Nearing his third mile along Round Butte Road on an August afternoon, he kept his eyes straight ahead. A sweatband caught the perspiration that dripped from his head, but streams still made their way past and rolled down his chin.

The 29-year-old Marine veteran needed to make the 5-mile standard he set for himself, and he couldn't do that on the scarred roads around the home that he shared with his girlfriend, Dara Rodda. With her cruising at his side on a bike, he made his way to a walking path on Round Butte Road that marked their turnaround.

A little more than a month before, Parker had finished the Missoula Half Marathon and planned on stepping up to a full marathon — all 26.2 miles — by December. To do that, he trained five days a week, progressively shaving the time it took to complete his loop through Ronan.

The distance racing is a metaphor of sorts for the grueling journey Parker has made since returning grievously wounded from Afghanistan in 2010.

Three years ago, he had a house and a truck, each specially made to function for a man with no legs and one hand. An addic-

tion to heroin and methamphetamine cost him all of it, even his wheelchair.

The IED

The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, with a legacy from Belleau Wood to Guadalcanal to Fallujah, suffered the most casualties of any Marine unit in Afghanistan.

Parker, a self-proclaimed "hellion" as a youth, enlisted in 2009 when he realized he'd never make it to the NFL, holding out for a slot in infantry assault.

"I wasn't like other people who enlisted to fight for our freedom," Parker said. "Here I was this 19-year-old Montana boy in California. It was pretty girls and shooting guns. I loved it!"

Members of the 3/5, Parker among them, went to Helmand province in October 2010. Not three months later, on Dec. 11, Parker came under fire while on patrol with 19 other Marines on a street in Sangin. A few steps later, a blast lifted him into the air and tore him apart.

After he landed, he shouted that his legs were gone. A buried 20 pound-bomb had ripped away his legs and shredded his left hand. At a field hospital, doctors took his left leg up to his hip. Then, they cut the right one off just above his knee.

Three days later, he woke up in the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. His mother and uncle were waiting for him when he opened his eyes.

"Mom, Uncle Rick, you can't be in Afghanistan. It's not safe," Lisa Jennison-Corbett remembers him saying.

Parker returned as one of more than 52,000 troops since 2001 wounded fighting in the War on Terrorism. There wouldn't be a year without a combat-related amputation until 2016.

When he arrived in Montana in February 2011 on a week's leave from the Naval Medical Center in San Diego, more than

'I was high for most of that time.'

Tomy Parker
Afghanistan veteran

200 people greeted him at Missoula International Airport.

Trucks from a half-dozen fire departments formed a caravan to Polson, where he stayed at the wheelchair-accessible KwaTaqNuk resort. "A True Hero's Welcome," the Lake County Leader headlined the story.

Missoulian reporter Vince Devlin and photographer Kurt Wilson were there, too, producing some of the more than two years' worth of stories that followed Parker from Bethesda to San Diego and back to Montana.

Parker's Facebook page shows post after post of friends, family and Marines reaching out to him.

"You will always be prayed for by me!"

"I absolutely love your whole family. You are quite literally one of my heroes. I love you Tomy."

"I ran up a hill and found you surrounded by war dogs. You were still smiling and we carried you to a truck and got you moving. Funniest thing that day was as I was closing the doors to that MRAP and you yelled at me ... 'Thumbs up all day bro!' You're the man Tommy."

But Parker had already begun his downward spiral.

"I was high for most of that time," told the Missoulian.

Pills and lies

Parker's mother did her best to fend it off. One of their first conversations in

Bethesda was about whether he could get addicted to the meds being pumped into him. When he began feeling phantom stabs of pain, he started on a painkiller that numbed his invisible limbs and shut down his metabolism.

When his mother accompanied him from Bethesda to San Diego, she kept his pills on the top floor of the condo they'd secured there.

"I had to keep track of them according to what, when, where and what time," she said of the painkillers Lyrica and Oxycodone that were among the medications prescribed for him.

Parker spent more than a year in San Diego, still in the Marines as a lance corporal, his only mission being to recover. That meant hours of physical therapy and learning to walk on prosthetics. He had two sets: "shorties" that he trained in, and a pair that brought him back up to 6 feet, 1 inch.

"Using prosthetics is probably the most demanding thing I've had to do since my injury," Parker said.

Jennison-Corbett woke early every day to cook breakfast and accompanied Parker to all of his appointments. In the evenings, she made dinner and watched TV while he played Call of Duty: Black Ops. A year into his recovery, he started swimming and had been completely weaned off prescription painkillers.

For 18 months, Jennison-Corbett had been "in his face, in his life." She wanted to give her 23-year-old son a chance to live his life alone as his own man. So she left her son in San Diego and returned home to Ronan to join her husband and three other children.

When her husband, Tim Corbett took her home to Ronan, she said she cried for the first 50 miles.

SEE TURNAROUND ON PAGE 5

VETERANS

Turnaround: Vet moved from jail time to starting line

FROM PAGE 4

To give her son independence, she let him take control of his medication. When she did that, she let herself be convinced that he could control himself.

"For years, I believed Tomy's lies," she said.

A new injury

While still in San Diego, Parker had a custom-made Dodge pickup to get himself to his appointments. He drove the truck through a system built into the steering wheel that allowed him to brake and accelerate with his hands. He also stayed active through swimming, hand cycling and occasionally surfing. During a game of seated volleyball, however, he took a dive.

"He wanted so badly to prove to everyone that he could do anything, and he ended up getting hurt," his mother said.

A month after his mom left, his leap for the ball during the volleyball game resulted in a deep tissue wound to his left side. With no other way of treating him, doctors put Parker back on pain meds.

He was on them when he returned to Montana for good, on them in 2015 when he moved out of an addition on his mother's house into a custom-made single-story home provided by the nonprofit Homes for Our Troops.

The day he moved into his new home in Polson, 15 miles north of Ronan, Parker raised and saluted the flag on a pole in his new front yard with his then-fiance.

The 2,650-square-foot home had hallways, cupboards and a stove all built for Parker's access to his wheelchair. The organization also assigned Parker a financial adviser. Despite having no mortgage to pay, the adviser would walk him through paying bills and insurance.

"We don't just hand them the keys and wish them well. We stick with them," Bill Ivey, executive director of Homes for Our Troops, told the Missoulian in 2015.

Within two years, the house would be reassessed, and Parker's name removed from the list of recipients on the Homes for Our Troops website.

An intervention

"I feel bad for the people who went through a lot of time and effort to get me the house, but I didn't feel like I deserved it. To be given such an incredible home for one wrong step. ... I didn't feel was adequate," he said of the house.

Parker's relationship with his mother became strained, his visits with her less frequent, as she started to confront him directly about abusing his prescriptions. Before he left the addition built for him in her home, Lisa caught signs that Parker might be in danger: hollowed-out pens and other paraphernalia, along with stories from friends of spotting Parker's red Dodge parked at houses with a reputation.

She banned him from her home. He fed his addiction for methamphetamine at his house in Polson. His habit kept him up for days at a time, exhausting his body into a heavy sleep that reminded him of his days in the Marines.

"I like feeling exhausted, and that's what I enjoyed about meth. You'd be up for days, and then sleep like a baby," he said.

His mother reached out to the members of his former platoon. They came, some from as far as Hawaii, clashing through the Montana winter on a new mission. They met Parker on Dec. 11, 2016, the

morning marking his sixth "Alive Day," the anniversary of his surviving the blast in Helmand Province. It was a "cold, cold day," his mother recalled. Outside, police waited to conduct a sweep of the house.

Inside, his friends tried to reach him. It didn't work. He'd keep using for another 14 months. But one message stuck.

"Tomy, you're a piece of shit. In my eyes you'll forever be a piece of shit. If your name gets brought up, I'll make sure everyone knows you're a piece of shit," a Marine told him.

In jail, but alive

Even though they rarely spoke, Lisa watched over her son the only way she could: listening to a police scanner app on her phone and checking arrests in Lake County posted online.

In March 2017, the sheriff's office called to let her know that Parker was in jail following a raid on his house in Polson. In jail, but alive. After a search of his home, police charged Parker with heroin and meth possession.

Because his wheelchair could be potentially used as a weapon, he spent his first few days at Lake County Jail in solitary confinement. He wanted out.

Lisa told him she'd get him out, but on the strictest terms: He had to go to rehab. Within hours of his release, Lisa took him from Ronan to Missoula International Airport.

They boarded a plane for Lafayette, La., where Parker entered rehab at Vermilion Behavioral Health Systems. He spent 45 days as an inpatient and 60 days an outpatient before coming back to Ronan. Although the program was designed to break an addiction, he continued to use.

After Vermilion, Parker would go through seven other treatment programs over the next 18 months. In between treatment, he surfed couches around Polson, Ronan and Missoula. In between couch surfing, he went to jail for violating his parole.

His treatment, according to the conditions of his parole, allowed for his release. Following his sixth violation, his probation officer wrote in a document submitted to the Lake County Courthouse in Ronan that "simply incarcerating him may be more effective."

A chance encounter

Parker spent most of 2018 in and out of handcuffs, violating his parole a final time by getting caught with methamphetamine. For most of the year, his mother thought she'd bury the oldest of her four children before she saw him sober again. She prayed for God to either help him quit or take him.

Said Parker: "I've been to church, the battlefield, the trap house and jail. I didn't see God in any of those places."

In between arrests, treatment and couch surfing, Parker had seen a familiar face at a gas station in November 2018. He said hello.

Dara Rodda grew up with Parker. They met in first grade at K. W. Harlan Elementary and she managed the high school wrestling team in which Parker competed. His invitation for coffee began a correspondence between the two that continued over phone while he served part of his sentence into 2019.

The start of this year also marked the first time Parker appeared before Standing Master Brenda Desmond in Veterans Treatment Court in Missoula.



TOMMY MARTINO/The (Missoula, Mont.) Missoulian

Parker prepares his pre-workout drink before a wheelchair run in his home in Ronan.

His entry in the program allowed him to avoid any more jail time in exchange for agreeing to an agenda over the next year and a half established by himself, a mentor through the court, counselors at the VA, prosecutors and his defense attorney.

(After being a part of Veterans Treatment Court in Missoula into October, Parker said he received permission to leave the program. Although grateful for their efforts, he lives in Ronan, and that's where he wants to stay.)

The correspondence between Parker and Dara turned into support, and that support turned into friendship, and then more. In February 2019, after his last arrest for violating his parole, and with the trust between him and the rest of his family in cinders, Rodda opened her home to Parker.

He moved into her one-story house in Ronan in March, helping to cook and clean, and settling into a routine of checking in with his parole officers and the Veterans Treatment Court. He also rolled his first half-marathon.

The antidote?

The Veteran Suicide Awareness and Prevention Walk, run and half-marathon, is held in April in Missoula. Parker heard about it through court meetings. Convinced that it would probably take him more than four hours to finish, he still took his spot on the track at Fort Missoula Regional Park.

His unglowed hands bled, and he had to forget that he had arms to keep from crying, but Parker heaved himself over the partially paved track. He also managed to finish ahead of Judge Desmond, an avid runner.

"Pushing past that, I had my first moment of mental clarity in a very long time," Parker said. "Before that though, when I hit the gravel, inside I was shouting 'Who the f--- built this road?'"

When asked what motivates him to train, stay sober and pick up a little bit of practice on Dara's piano, the answer shot out with such conviction that it may as well be one of the laws of physics.

"I do."

Photos from the early years after his return from Afghanistan show an increasingly heavy Parker, weight gain due in part to a drug prescribed after his amputa-

tions, with a side effect of slowing the metabolism. He credits part of his subsequent weight loss to his meth habit. His workout regimen in jail probably helped. Balancing on his hands from the floor of his cell in a pushup position, he lifted his body up into the air before lowering himself down to the ground. Then he did it 499 more times.

"I wasn't afraid of going to jail. It was easy, and it made me better," Parker said. "To put it in a different context, as a boxer the first time you step into a ring against somebody, you have this overwhelming fear of 'Can I take his punches, can I handle whatever he's going to give me?' The first time you get hit by the judicial system, you realize either you can handle it or you can't."

On top of those modified burpees, he read, ate and worked. When he left jail for the last time, he earned the nicknames "King Kong" and "Olympian" from the other inmates.

Along with finding a safe and drug-free residence, the court required Parker to attend a final session of treatment at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center, this time focused on his diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder.

He left for Cincinnati on May 13 and returned June 28. That weekend, he was at the starting line for the Missoula Half Marathon.

On the day of the race, he started his morning with his usual cocktail of pre-workout mixtures, powders that amp his caffeine intake to what he estimates to be 1,000 mgs of caffeine a day. Although it gave him the surge of energy that pumped him through his workouts, it had a bit of a side effect that morning. Before making his way to the starting line, he needed to find a bathroom.

He found one at a nearby gas station, but when he entered, he had still another problem. Not one stall had the handicap steel to fit his wheelchair and lift himself onto the seat. Without hesitating, he "King Kong" crawled across the bathroom floor.

Bubble gums be damned, Parker rolled over the Clark Fork River to finish the half-marathon in an hour and 52 minutes.

A photo caught him mid-spin, wearing a Nike headband, black gloves — and the same bright-orange pants issued to him at Lake County Jail.

NATION

Trump to decide if lawyers will go to hearings

By ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee asked President Donald Trump on Friday to say whether he'll send his attorneys to participate in impeachment proceedings before the panel.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler also is asking Republicans on his committee which witnesses they plan to ask permission to subpoena.

The letters from the New York Democrat came as the House impeachment probe enters a new

phase with a hearing next week on whether Trump's actions might constitute impeachable offenses.

Two weeks of Intelligence Committee hearings produced a mountain of testimony but didn't seem to move the needle on Capitol Hill, where not a single House Republican supported establishing the chamber's impeachment process.

Nadler instructed Trump and top panel Republican Doug Collins of Georgia to respond by the end of next week. The Judiciary Committee meets Wednesday in

an informational hearing to examine the "constitutional grounds for presidential impeachment" and could move some time after that to hearings where witnesses testify about Trump's actions with Ukraine.

Trump has labeled the proceeding by House Democrats a sham, in part because he could not have his lawyers cross-examine intelligence committee witnesses during hearings and depositions.

The intelligence panel is slated to issue a report of its findings next week that are intended to form the basis of hearings at

the Judiciary Committee, which would be responsible for drafting any articles of impeachment for a vote by the full House.

The panel can also seek further testimony. Nadler can deny witnesses sought by Republicans, who are likely to want subpoenas compelling testimony from Hunter Biden and the anonymous intelligence community whistleblower whose complaint sparked the impeachment proceedings.

At issue in the impeachment probe is whether Trump abused his office by pressing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

to investigate the Bidens and baseless allegations that Ukraine interfered with the 2016 election.

Hunter Biden served on the board of a Ukrainian energy company when his father, then-Vice President Joe Biden, had some responsibility for the Obama administration's Ukraine policy.

Earlier scrutiny by Ukrainians uncovered no wrongdoing by the Bidens, but Trump, in July, asked Zelenskyy for an investigation as a "favor," while holding up military aid to that country for several months.

GOP uses impeachment hearings to push voters their way

By ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans aim to use the House drive toward impeaching President Donald Trump to whittle down Democrats' majority by dislodging vulnerable incumbents from swing districts loaded with moderate voters.

It could work, especially in Democratic-held districts Trump carried in 2016 with throngs of independent voters who polls shows are closely divided over his removal. Or it could flop, in an era when news zooms by so swiftly that today's concerns may be eclipsed in 11 months and many people are more focused on pocket-book issues such as health care costs.

"It will be part of the mosaic, but hardly the overriding issue," GOP pollster Whit Ayres predicted about impeachment's impact next November. "It will have faded by then and it will also have simply reinforced the preexisting attitudes and made them more intense."

What's clear is that for now, Republicans are wielding impeachment mostly as an offensive weapon and Democrats are generally playing defense or changing the subject as 2020 congressional races rev up. House Democrats will be defending their 233-197 majority, with four vacancies. Republicans will try preserving their 53-47 Senate control.

Since late September, Republicans and their allies have spent \$8 million on impeachment-related TV ads aimed at House members, according to Advertising Analytics, a nonpartisan firm that examines political spending. That's triple the sum spent by Democrats and their supporters.

The American Action Network, closely aligned with House GOP leaders, has produced TV and digital ads attacking 30 Democrats, mostly freshmen. Spots also "thank" seven Republicans for opposing impeachment, a tactic often used to pressure lawmakers to stand firm.

In one, the announcer accuses Rep. Joe Cunningham, D-S.C., of abandoning health care and other



GLEN STUBBS, STAR TRIBUNE/AP

Republicans hope to use the House drive toward impeaching President Donald Trump to defeat Democrats in swing districts. Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., above, who heads his party's House campaign committee says, "This process they're embarking on is going to cost them their majority next fall."

issues to back impeachment and says, "Tell Congressman Cunningham, 'Let the voters decide elections.'" The announcer speaks amid images of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., liberal Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., and Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., who's led the impeachment inquiry.

GOP groups regularly blast impeachment-themed fundraising emails. Relatively obscure Republicans such as Rep. Elise Stefanik of upstate New York have reaped campaign contribution bonanzas by taking high-profile roles defending Trump.

"This process they're embarking on is going to cost them their majority next fall," said Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., who heads his party's House campaign committee. He said Democrats have "an obsession" with impeachment, adding, "It's just getting worse for them."

While Democrats are favored to retain House control, the early

'[Democrats have] an obsession ... It's just getting worse for them.'

Rep. Tom Emmer
R-Minn.

blitz of GOP attacks has prompted them to protect their targeted members.

House Majority Forward, an outside group tied to top House Democrats, has spent nearly \$2 million defending 14 Democratic incumbents. All but three are freshmen from Trump-von districts.

"Forget the noise. Haley Stevens is focused on Michigan," said an ad citing the first-term Michigan Democrat.

Pro-impeachment groups have run ads attacking GOP lawmakers for supporting Trump. That included liberal groups MoveOn and Need to Impeach, which put billboard trucks in eight House Republicans' districts from Ne-

vada to New York that carried signs saying, "Defend democracy. Impeach Trump."

Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill., who leads House Democrats' campaign committee, said Emmer is "precisely wrong" about her party.

"When we are not out in Washington, we are home, in our districts and we are listening to people every day, and we are hyper-focused on local issues," she said.

After an initial uptick in support for ousting Trump over his efforts to pressure Ukraine to seek dirt on his Democratic political rivals, voters' views have jelled.

About 9 in 10 Democrats sup-

port removing Trump and similar shares of Republicans back him, while independents are roughly evenly divided. Trump seems certain to be impeached, or found worthy of removal, by the Democratic-led House but likely acquitted by the GOP-majority Senate and kept in office.

Last fall's elections left Democrats in control of 31 seats in districts Trump carried in 2016. GOP lawmakers hold just three seats in districts Democrat Hillary Clinton won. Democrats also outnumber Republicans 62-30 among freshmen, who are often more vulnerable targets.

Many competitive Democratic seats are in suburbs, where centrist voters have abandoned the GOP in recent elections over Trump's coarse behavior and conservative policies. Republicans will have to guard against impeachment accelerating those defections, while Democrats must watch for signs suburban voters think they're overreacting.

For moderate Democrats, "the smart response is to keep doing their job, be in the district, meet with constituents, listen to what they're saying," said centrist Rep. Suzan DelBene, D-Wash., a leader of Democrats' efforts to defend endangered incumbents.

Democratic pollster John Anzalone said his party's candidates should focus on issues that helped clinch their 2018 House takeover. "I will take any day being able to talk about health care and education and the environment and wages if they're talking about impeachment," Anzalone said.

The reverse dynamic is true in the Senate, where perhaps two Democrats and five Republicans face competitive reelections. Those in the trickiest spots on impeachment include Democratic Sen. Doug Jones of staunchly pro-Trump Alabama and GOP Sen. Cory Gardner in Democratic-leaning Colorado.

GOP pollster Glen Bolger said while it was unpredictable how powerful a factor impeachment would be in 2020, swing-state Republican senators have little choice but to take a purely political standpoint.

NATION

Biden launches bus tour in Iowa

BY ALEXANDRA JAFFE
AND BILL BARROW
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Joe Biden kicks off an eight-day bus tour across Iowa on Saturday with a message: Reports of his demise in the nation's first presidential caucus state have been greatly exaggerated.

Biden's aides acknowledge that he must sharpen his pitch ahead of the Feb. 3 caucuses that launch Democrats' 2020 voting. Yet the former vice president's advisers reject any characterization of the 18-county swing as a campaign reset, even with polls showing that Biden's standing in Iowa has slipped in recent months.

They instead frame the extended trip as an effort to demonstrate wide appeal and harden support across a Democratic electorate whose top priority — even beyond intense intraparty debates on health care, a wealth tax and other issues — is defeating President Donald Trump. And conversations with his top advisers and supporters reveal a quiet confidence that the 77-year-old candidate retains a broad base of support and is well-positioned to recover lost ground.

"As people get closer and closer to February, they become more and more practical about this," said former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, who recently gave Biden his most high-profile Iowa endorsement yet. "He can make the strongest case, among all the candidates, that he is in a position to get things done, and he is in a position to win."

Iowa polls suggest Biden — still a front-runner nationally — is in a jumble near the top, with South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg

appearing to hold a narrow lead over the former vice president and Sens. Elizabeth Warren, 70, and Bernie Sanders, 78. The senators have animated the party's left flank, while Buttigieg, 37, joins Biden in Democrats' moderate lane but calling for generational change.

Biden opened November with an underwhelming speech at the state party's "Liberty & Justice" gala. While Buttigieg and Warren roused thousands of supporters in the Des Moines arena, Biden ticked through his standard applause lines as whole sections of seats purchased by his campaign sat empty.

In southeast Iowa, the state party's Rural Caucus vice chairman says Biden's footprint isn't visible. "I know the names of the people who are supporting various other candidates," Glenn Hurst said. "But in terms of people out there knocking on doors, who attend other campaign events, district events, I can't name a member of the southeast Iowa Democrats who's supporting Joe Biden."

And, fairly or not, Biden's national staff has fueled skeptical assessments with pronouncements that he doesn't have to win Iowa to win the nomination. Iowa is overwhelmingly white; Biden's national advantage leans heavily on non-white voters who help determine outcomes in Nevada, South Carolina and many March 3 Super Tuesday states.

Yet all the handwringing misses key variables in Iowa, according to Vilsack and other Biden supporters. They contend that, public enthusiasm aside, Biden has the broadest range of support both demographically and geographically, especially in rural and small-town Iowa and among



JUSTIN HAYWORTH/AP

Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks to residents Nov. 23 in Des Moines, Iowa.

the growing minority population that, while small, could prove important with so many candidates dividing the overall caucus vote. And those Biden organizers that get so much criticism, the campaign says, spend their days not with local party officials, but with volunteers knocking on doors and making calls. Their focus: reliable caucus participants, plus disaffected Republicans and independents.

"The media seems to have picked up this narrative that the Biden campaign is not doing well or not as well as it should," said longtime party activist and Biden supporter Phyllis Hughes Ewing, daughter of a former Iowa governor and U.S. senator. "I'm on the phones with voters two nights a week for several hours at a pop. I'm a boot on the ground, and that's not what I'm seeing."

Collectively, it's a wide-net strategy the campaign predicts will yield a surprising delegate haul from Iowa's complex caucus process.

The bullishness starts with the viability threshold requiring

candidates to get 15% support in a given precinct to have votes counted toward delegates. Biden's team believes he'll be viable in every one of the 1,679 precincts on caucus night, a reach even other leading candidates may not match. Then, they believe Biden will be a top beneficiary of "realignment" votes — subsequent ballots that allow voters who supported a nonviable candidate to choose another who's still standing.

That process could be a double boost for Biden, their theory goes. First, top contenders like Warren or Buttigieg whose support might be anchored in more liberal cities and suburbs would get no practical benefit from first-ballot votes in more rural precincts where they fall short of 15%. Second, several of the lower tier candidates running as moderates — Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, for example — could fall short of viability across much of the state. Biden advisers confirmed they already are mapping out realignment ballot strategy.

Two other key Democratic

constituencies also are in play in Iowa, even if they aren't the dominant forces they are in other states: organized labor and minority voters.

Biden won the endorsement of the International Association of Fire Fighters at the outset of his campaign, and the organization already has tapped its locals across the state to canvass. "We understand what needs to be done to get people out to caucus," said Harold Schaitberger, the union's national president, adding that he already has representatives on the ground and will have organizers in precincts across the state on caucus night.

For minority outreach, the campaign recently hired state Rep. Ras Smith, a member of the legislature's Black Caucus. He plans to hold caucus training events and outreach for minority voters who may be first-time participants. The campaign also is making an aggressive push for Latino voters, with more than a dozen bilingual organizers, including deputy political director Claudia Chavez.

Belated bill to help solve indigenous cold cases gains steam



DAVE KOLPAC/AP

A makeshift memorial to Savanna Greywind is seen in 2017 in Fargo, N.D.

By DAVE KOLPAC
Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. — A bill originally meant to help law enforcement investigate cold cases of murdered and missing indigenous women that has foundered in Congress for two years may have the missing ingredients to become law — money and muscle.

The money comes from an appropriations subcommittee chaired by Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who told The Associated Press that for the first time funding is being directed specifically to murdered and missing indigenous people. The muscle comes from the White House and specifically the Department of Justice, which last week unveiled a plan that would investigate issues raised in the bill like data collection practices and federal databases.

It adds up to a strong outlook for Savanna's Act, which was originally introduced in 2017 by Murkowski, Democratic Nevada Sen. Catherine Cortez Mastro and former North Dakota Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp. Murkowski and Heitkamp, longtime allies on issues affecting indigenous people, also created the Commission on Native Chil-

dren, which recently held its first meeting.

"The great thing about Lisa's work has been her willingness to not just pass this law but make sure there's an appropriation for it," Heitkamp said Friday.

The bill is named for Savanna Greywind, a Native American North Dakota woman who was killed in 2017 when her baby was cut from her womb. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, chaired by North Dakota Republican John Hoeven, earlier this month advanced another version of bill to the full Senate for consideration.

Gloria Allred, an attorney for Greywind's family, said they are "encouraged by what appears to be the strong efforts of U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's commitment to gather support for this bill in order for it to be signed into law one day."

Savanna's Act passed the Senate in 2018 but was blocked in the House by former Virginia Rep. Bob Goodlatte because he said it would hurt some agencies that have no link to tribal communities. Heitkamp said a new companion piece to the bill, the Not Invisible Act, has helped broaden the scope of the initiative and address concerns raised by Goodlatte.

NATION

PG&E: Blackouts limited fires, with possible exception

By DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The nation's largest utility said Friday that its distribution lines haven't sparked any major wildfires since it began shutting off power to Northern California customers during periods of high fire risk.

However, Pacific Gas & Electric is not ruling out the possibility that failed transmission equipment may have started a fire north of San Francisco that damaged or destroyed more than 400 structures.

Surveys have not determined what sparked that blaze last month in Sonoma County, but the utility has said it had a problem at a transmission tower near the site where the fire started. PG&E said in a court filing Friday that it is not aware of similar vulnerable equipment elsewhere.

PG&E has said it shut off power to distribution lines to prevent wildfires, but left electricity flowing through what it believed were less vulnerable transmission lines.

Distribution lines carry power to homes, while transmission lines move it from a power plant. "In 2019, there have been no fatalities and no structures destroyed in any wildfire that may have been caused by PG&E distribution lines," the company said.

PG&E has acknowledged its equipment caused a fire last year that killed 85 people and burned nearly 19,000 structures, nearly destroying the Sierra Nevada foothills community of Paradise.

PG&E has said it could potentially be held liable for 21 wildfires in 2017 that killed 44 people and destroyed 8,900 buildings.

The PG&E statement Friday "sets the bar unbelievably low, if that's the standard now: 'We

didn't kill anybody,'" said Minda Spatt, spokeswoman for The Utility Reform Network, a consumer advocacy group.

The utility has faced scathing criticism for shutting off power to millions of people for days at a time to avoid more fire tragedies. It said Friday that "the sole focus" of the blackouts is to reduce wildfire risk; that it recognizes the hardships they cause; and the company is working to minimize the impact of future shutdowns.

The company declared bankruptcy in January as it faced up to \$30 billion in damages from wildfires in 2017 and 2018 that were started by its electrical equipment.

Lawyers for wildfire victims and PG&E now are considering whether new claims related to the most recent fire will be included in the bankruptcy case.

U.S. District Judge William Alston, who is overseeing the utility's felony probation for a deadly natural gas explosion in 2010, required officials to provide more details Friday about a jumper cable that broke moments before last month's fire was reported.

The company said the tower with the detached cable had been routinely visually inspected from the ground in July, with a drone in May, and by a contractor crew that climbed the tower in February as part of the utility's wildfire safety inspection program.

They spotted no problems with the jumper cables, the company reported.

The judge asked whether the public must fear that other cables that passed inspection could also fail.

PG&E said it's investigating but is not currently aware of any other jumper cables that are vulnerable.



SETH WENG/AP

Driver Antonio Rosario gets in his car in front of Super Class Radio Dispatch in the Bronx on Tuesday. In low-income New York neighborhoods with no yellow cabs and sometimes sparse public transportation, residents who lack smartphones or credit cards have relied on livery cab companies.

Livery cabs feel squeezed, forgotten with rise of ride-hailing companies

By CLAUDIA TORRES
Associated Press

NEW YORK — As a livery cab driver in the Bronx for more than a decade, Orlando Lantigua knows some of his customers well. If they don't have money to pay today, they can pay him later. He often gets dispatched by his base station to pick up children and take them to school, without their parents in the car.

"That's how much parents trust the base. We are part of the community," says Lantigua, a 58-year-old Dominican immigrant who lives in the Bronx.

In the outer boroughs and low-income New York neighborhoods — where yellow cabs rarely go and public transportation is sometimes sparse — residents who lack smartphones or credit cards have relied on livery cabs for generations.

But the businesses, many times owned by Latino immigrants, are dwindling rapidly: There were nearly 22,000 livery cabs in New York in 2015, and there are approximately 9,600 now, according to the city's Taxi and Limousine

Commission.

More than 100 livery cab bases have closed their doors since 2015, when ride-hailing apps like Uber and Lyft began to provide a large number of trips, cutting into their business. This year alone, 46 have shut down. By law, livery cabs, which are also often used for airport trips, cannot be hailed in the street but are authorized to pick up paying passengers when booked by phone.

"We are in a serious crisis," says Cira Angeles, spokeswoman for the Livery Base Owners Association.

Lantigua says he earns less each year and spends more on complying with fees and rules.

In 2018, the City Council agreed to cap the number of vehicle licenses for ride-hailing services to reduce traffic congestion and increase drivers' salary in the wake of the explosive growth of for-hire vehicles.

But that measure, aimed at giants like Uber, has inadvertently pummeled livery cab companies, which are now asking to be exempt from the cap and be given

their own specialized license, claiming that the city needs to look at them individually instead of coming up with a one-size-fits-all solution that is putting them on the path to extinction.

Because of the cap, they say, they can't replace drivers who retire or who can't renew their licenses due to pending tickets. Super Class Radio Dispatch, which Lantigua drives for, had more than 250 drivers about five years ago, according to Fidel Farrell, one of the base's owners. Now it has about 175.

"Our communities are suffering, we are losing our livelihoods because of blanket approach policies," said Angeles. Some residents in places like Washington Heights, a heavily Latino neighborhood in upper Manhattan, prefer to be transported by "the guy in the corner they have known for years," she said.

Allan Fromberg, the Taxi and Limousine Commission's deputy commissioner for public affairs, said discussion of a new livery license class "has only just begun."

Agency cited a need for sprinklers months before fatal high-rise fire

By AMY FORLITI
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The agency that manages public housing in Minneapolis noted a need for sprinklers in older high-rise apartments months before a massive fire broke out in a 50-year-old building, leaving five people dead from smoke inhalation.

Although the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority didn't specifically budget for high-rise sprinklers in a plan approved in September, the document does list them as a future priority.

"Additionally, as building codes have evolved, we need to address

increased life/safety requirements such as retrofitting our high-rise buildings with sprinkler systems," the plan says. "MPHA has made infrastructure/building systems a priority and will target these types of improvements with its limited Capital Fund resources until major reinvestment opportunities materialize."

Minneapolis Public Housing Authority spokesman Jeff Horwich declined to elaborate Friday on the reference to sprinklers in the plan. He said the document reflects long-term aspirations, not necessarily current available funding.

The fire Wednesday came just

days before the building was to be inspected by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

It was not immediately clear if that routine inspection will go on Monday as planned.

Authorities on Friday still had not released the cause of the fire, which started around 4 a.m. on the 14th floor of the building in the heart of an immigrant neighborhood. Minneapolis Fire Chief John Fruetel told reporters Wednesday that investigators believe the fire was an accident, but he didn't explain why.

The victims have been identified as Tyler Baron, 32; Jerome

Stewart, 59; Nadifa Mohamud, 67; Maryam Mohamed Mohamud, 69; and Amatalah Adam, 78. Three others were injured.

According to the city, the main floor and lower mechanical rooms of the 25-floor building known as Cedar High Apartments had partial sprinkler coverage, but the rest of the building did not have a sprinkler system.

HUD said the building was built in January 1970, when sprinklers weren't required by law.

Jen Longacker, a spokeswoman for the state fire marshal, said building codes that addressed sprinkler systems existed at the local level in the 1960s.

All local building codes were replaced by the state building code in 1972. But there were no state requirements for sprinkler systems in high-rise buildings until the 1979 Uniform Building Code went into effect in late 1980.

Longacker said building code requirements apply to new construction and are not retroactive for existing buildings. Buildings like Cedar High Apartments would not need to improve their fire protection unless there is substantial remodeling or a change in the type of occupancy.

NATION

Slot car racing zooms back into popularity

By RACHAEL SMITH
The News & Advance
(Lynchburg, Va.)

SPOUT SPRING, Va. — Slot car racing fanatics are dusting off old equipment after the competitive hobby that was popular in the 1960s found its way back to life.

A slot car raceway known as Mach 1 Raceway in Spout Spring opened in mid-October.

Slot car racing is a hobby that uses electric-powered cars operated by a hand controller. The 1/24-scale cars race on slotted wooden tracks. Eight people typically race at a time.

The raceway — in a 3,000-square-foot former floor and cabinet shop — offers weekly races, car and controller rentals.

The raceway features three tracks: a 60-foot oval track, a dragstrip and soon to come, a 155-foot king track which is being restored.

Owner B.J. Carter said he hopes customers find fun and happiness in a family environment at the raceway.

"I hope to be here a long time and can provide joy to this generation, and when today's kids grow up, I hope they say, 'I remember racing when I was a kid with my dad or mom,'" he said.

Carter said slot racing can close the gap between generations and build new friendships.

"I met two of my closest friends at a slot car track 20-plus years ago and they both were here to support me on opening day," he said.

He said it has been amazing to see the number of people come through the doors who raced decades ago and haven't since.

"Most of us, we're not going to be NASCAR drivers, we can't afford even the late-model cars, and in comparison to that type of racing this is a fairly cheap way to get into racing and it gets those competitive juices going," he said.

Carter and his 17-year-old daughter, Catherine, run the raceway together. Carter said it warms his heart to see her enjoying the hobby like he does.

Catherine Carter has been racing for eight months and said what attracts her to slot cars is it feels like real racing in NASCAR.

"I love the intensity of being beside someone and racing beside them and against them," she said. "The people I've met throughout this hobby made me love it more and more."

Catherine Carter works as the assistant manager and said she enjoys working alongside her father because it feels like home.

"It's entertaining, fun and I enjoy it here spending time with him. I end up learning a lot from him and I'm a daddy's girl," she said.

B.J. Carter said though it looks like a pretty easy task to accomplish, slot car racing does require some skill.

"Your hand control controls your gas and brakes and you can't hold it wide open, you gotta de-



PHOTOS BY TAYLOR IREY, THE (LYNCHBURG, VA.) NEWS & ADVANCE/AP

Jason Henderson inspects a slot car on Nov. 20 before a race at Mach 1 Raceway in Spout Spring, Va.

velop the skill to know when to let up before getting into a turn," he said.

The makeup of the car makes a big difference as well, he said, and oftentimes one of the biggest draws to the hobby is being able to engineer and set up the car from scratch.

Mach 1 also offers a retail shop that sells parts and cars.

Jason Henderson, an Appomattox resident, and his son Timothy, 12, race slot cars just about every weekend together.

After Carter got him into the hobby last year, Henderson said the three of them would go to a private track where races were held monthly.

"It's awesome," Henderson said. "Before slot cars, I was into car shows and working on antique trucks. My son liked it but couldn't get into it. Now that we've got into this, he can enjoy it and after seeing the thrill on his face, I didn't care if I slot car raced because he picked up on it so good."

He said it's the adrenaline rush that keeps him coming back each week.

"You can do it without spending the money it takes to get in a real race car and drive," he said.

Before Mach 1 opened, Henderson would have to travel to North Carolina or Tennessee to attend a public slot car race.

"Now its five minutes from my house and we can go any day of the week," he said.



Above:
People race slot cars at Mach 1 Raceway in Spout Spring, Va.

Left: Blake Huddleston, 7, sets a slot car back on the track.

Right: Henderson inspects a slot car before a race.



NATION

Fiat Chrysler, union close to reaching deal

By TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

DETROIT—Bargainers for the United Auto Workers union and Fiat Chrysler are close to reaching a tentative deal on a new four-year contract, a person briefed on the matter said Saturday.

The deal, which could be announced Saturday, includes a \$9,000 signing bonus, a promise not to close any factories for the next four years and a commitment to keep making vehicles at a plant in Belvidere, Illinois, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks are confidential.

If the deal becomes final, top union leaders have to approve it, as do factory-level officials who are likely to gather next week to

vote on it. Then it must be ratified by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles' 47,000 union workers.

Fiat Chrysler is the last company to settle on a new contract with the union. GM settled Oct. 31 after a bitter 40-day strike that paralyzed the company's U.S. factories, but Ford reached a deal quickly and settled in mid-November.

Talks have focused on Fiat Chrysler for almost two weeks, and both sides negotiated into the early morning hours earlier this week before taking a break for the Thanksgiving holiday. Talks were to resume Saturday morning. Union Vice President Cindy Estrada, the lead negotiator with Fiat Chrysler, said last week that there was progress, but difficult issues remain.

The Illinois factory west of Chicago now makes the Jeep Cherokee small SUV and employs about 3,700 union workers on two shifts. It could get a new vehicle in the agreement, although details weren't available early Saturday.

The \$9,000 signing bonus isn't as much as the \$11,000 that GM workers got, but it's equal to the money paid to Ford workers. The rest of the pact is likely to mirror those approved at GM and Ford. Both companies gave workers a mix of pay raises and lump-sum payments, signing bonuses, an end to a two-tier pay scale for full-time workers and a clear path for temporary workers to go full-time.

The union also got commitments for new vehicles to be built at several GM and Ford factories.

Fiat Chrysler apparently is agreeing to the "pattern" agreement reached with GM and Ford even though the company's CEO said earlier this month that all of the companies are in different labor circumstances. Following the same deal would cost Fiat Chrysler more because the makeup of its workforce is different. FCA has more temporary workers than either GM or Ford, and it also has so-called "second-tier" workers hired after 2007 who now make less than longtime workers.

Ford has about 18,500 workers hired after 2007 who will get big pay raises with the new contract, compared with GM's 17,000. Fiat Chrysler has over 20,000 union employees hired after 2007.

In addition, about 11% of Fiat

Chrysler's UAW workforce is temporary, while Ford has a cap at 8% and GM is around 7%.

General Motors last week filed a federal racketeering lawsuit against FCA, alleging that the company bribed UAW officials to get more favorable contract terms than GM. Fiat Chrysler has called the lawsuit "meritless."

The Fiat Chrysler talks could be complicated by an ongoing federal bribery and embezzlement investigation into some of the UAW's leadership, which started at Fiat Chrysler. Many workers at the company have been suspicious of the union's leadership since the scandal became public in 2017.



JENNIFER MOSBRUCKER, THE (COLUMBUS, MISS.) COMMERCIAL DISPATCH/AP

Caitlyn Parker dumps the last of a bag of popcorn on the ground for chickens and turkeys to eat, on Monday, at her parent's home in Caledonia, Miss.

Turkeys Willie, Dolly raised as pets

By ISABELLE ALTMAN
The Dispatch (Columbus, Miss.)

CALEDONIA, Miss. — Six days before Thanksgiving, a turkey visited Caledonia Elementary School.

The white Royal Palm turkey, christened Willie Nelson, will never be the centerpiece of a Thanksgiving meal if his owner Holly Parker has anything to say about it.

"I told the kids at the school, 'Get a ham,'" Parker said, though she later admitted that her family was planning to "fry up a turkey" for Thursday — just not this turkey, or his mate Dolly Parton.

Willie and Dolly are the family pets, Parker said, having free range of the Parkers' massive yard at a home in Caledonia. The family began obtaining turkeys about two years ago after Parker's husband retired from the Marine Corps and the family moved to Caledonia to be closer to Parker's parents.

After years of living in neighborhoods, Parker decided she wanted chickens in her more country setting. Taking care of chickens turned out to be easy.

"We kept getting more and more," added Parker's daughter Caitlyn, a sophomore at Mississippi University for Women, who helps care for the family's nine chickens.

That was when Holly decided the family should get turkeys, too.

They started out with five but got rid of three when all but one turned out to be male.

Delivered at only a day old, the turkeys imprinted on them which means "they think you're their mom," Parker said. Getting them through the first six months of life was sometimes difficult, but once they were fully grown — Dolly is about 20 pounds and Willie is 27 or 28 — they were easy, Holly and Caitlyn said.

Now Willie and Dolly are waiting at the door every morning at 6

a.m. when Holly gets up.

"I think they think they're the dogs," she said, sitting cross-legged in the yard with Dolly strutting in her lap, Willie "strutting" around them and occasionally pecking at them for attention Monday afternoon.

With Holly's best friend being a teacher at CES, Holly decided to put Willie on his leash Nov. 22 and let him visit her friend's second-grade class so the kids could see and learn a little bit about turkeys. Of course, once Willie visited one class, word got around the school, and soon students and teachers were flocking to get a closer look at Willie.

Most people Holly talks to think turkeys are mean, but Holly says that's not true for Willie and Dolly. The two turkeys have befriended several neighbors, the UPS delivery man and a neighbor's pig named Stella, who occasionally visits the Parkers' yard to spend time with Willie and Dolly.

Burial or cremation? Third option possible

Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — Death typically brings two options — burial or cremation — but a third option could be on the horizon in Kansas.

The Kansas City Star reports that something called promession would allow the body to be cryogenically frozen and vibrated into tiny pieces. Proponents say the practice, the creation of a Swedish biologist, holds the potential to make burial more environmentally friendly.

Promession has been used on pigs but so far has not been tried on humans. Still, the company pursuing the idea sees Kansas as fertile ground for the new method. That company, Promessa, has one of its few U.S. representatives based in Overland Park.

Meanwhile, a state lawmaker may soon introduce a bill to clear the way for the new method.

In promession, the body is frozen using liquid nitrogen, then vibrated into small particles. Water is removed from the particles, which are then freeze-dried. Remains are buried in a degradable coffin.

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt found that promession doesn't meet the definition of cremation under Kansas law and regulation in a recent legal opinion.

That decision surprised Promessa representative Rachel Caldwell.

"We thought this would be no hang-ups whatsoever," Caldwell said.

Interest has been growing in green burials. A 2017 survey of more than 1,000 American adults 40 and older by the National Funeral Directors Association found 54 percent were interested in options that could include biodegradable caskets and formaldehyde-free embalming.

'Newer, greener methods of burial may help conserve resources and (cause) less pollution into the air or ground.'

Zack Pistora
Kansas Sierra Club

"Newer, greener methods of burial, like promession, may help conserve resources and (cause) less pollution into the air or ground," Zack Pistora, legislative director of the Kansas Sierra Club, said. "Why not rest in peace with peace of mind?"

Schmidt said a decision on whether promession is permissible under other state laws falls to the Kansas Board of Mortuary Arts.

Caldwell said Kansas is the first state where she has sought a formal legal opinion because of what she views as the state's relatively lax cremation laws. For example, Kansas doesn't require fire to be used in cremation. That's a helpful distinction because promession freezes bodies instead of burning them.

Caldwell asked her state representative, Overland Park Democrat Dave Benson, to seek the attorney general's opinion. He suggested he may draft a bill to authorize promession because of interest in alternatives to traditional burial or cremation. And because he's taken "a little bit of a libertarian" view.

"If that's what you want, hey, where's the government's interest in telling you no to?" Benson said.

Caldwell is optimistic it could be used on a human body in the United States within five years.

WORLD

London attacker had served time on terrorism charges

By GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON — UK counterterrorism police Saturday searched for clues into how a man imprisoned for terrorism offenses before his release last year managed to stab several people before being tackled by bystanders and shot dead by officers on London Bridge. Two people were killed and three wounded.

Neel Basu, London's police counterterrorism chief, said 28-year-old Usman Khan was attending a meeting of Learning Together, which works to educate prisoners, when he launched Friday's attack just yards from the site of a deadly 2017 van and knife rampage.

Basu said the suspect appeared to be wearing a bomb vest but it turned out to be "a hoax explosive device." Police said they were treating the stabbings as a terrorist attack and were not actively looking for other suspects.

Health officials said one of the wounded was in critical but stable condition, one was stable and the third had less serious injuries.

juries. Police have not named the two who died.

The attack raises difficult questions for Britain's government and security services. Police said Khan was convicted in 2012 of terrorism offenses and released



Khan

in December 2018 "on license," which means he had to meet certain conditions or face recall to prison. Several British media outlets reported that he was wearing an electronic ankle bracelet at the time of the attack.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who visited the scene Saturday, said he had "long argued" that it was a "mistake to allow serious and violent criminals to come out of prison early." He said extra police patrols on the streets would be added "for reassurance purposes."

Khan had been convicted as part of a group that denied plotting

to target major sites including Parliament, the U.S. Embassy and individuals including Johnson, then the mayor of London, the dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London and two rabbis.

Khan admitted to a lesser charge of engaging in conduct for the preparation of acts of terrorism. He had been secretly taped plotting attacks and talking about martyrdom as a possibility.

Khan and his accomplices had links to radical preacher Anjem Choudary. A mobile phone seized at the time contained material related to the banned group that Choudary founded. The preacher was released from prison in 2018 but is under heavy surveillance and a curfew.

Choudary for years has been one of the highest-profile faces of radical Islam in Britain, leading groups including al-Muhajiroun, Islam4UK and Muslims Against Crusades. Several people who attended his rallies have been convicted of attacks, including the two al-Qaida-inspired killers who ran over British soldier Lee Rigby and stabbed him to death in 2013.



ALBERTO PEZZALI/AP

Forensic workers attend the scene on London Bridge on Saturday.

Police on Saturday were searching an apartment block in Stafford, 150 miles northwest of London, for clues. Khan was believed to have lived in the area after his release from prison.

Britain's Parole Board said in a statement it had no role in releasing Khan, who "appears to have been released automatically on license (as required by law), without ever being referred to the board," it said.

The violence erupted less than two weeks before Britain holds a national election Dec. 12. The main political parties suspended campaigning in London as a mark of respect.

Metropolitan Police Chief

Cressida Dick said officers were called just before 2 p.m. Friday to a conference venue where Learning Together was holding a meeting.

Minutes after the stabbings, witnesses saw a man with a knife being wrestled to the ground by members of the public on the bridge before officers shot him dead.

One video posted on social media showed two men struggling on the bridge before police pulled a man in civilian clothes off a black-clad man on the ground. Gunshots followed. Another depicted a man in a suit holding a long knife that apparently had been taken from the attacker.

Iraqi leader resigns amid more violence

By SAMYA KULLAB
AND MURTADA FARAJ
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Three anti-government protesters were shot dead and at least 58 wounded in Baghdad and southern Iraq on Saturday, security and medical officials said, as Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi formally submitted his resignation to parliament.

Lawmakers were expected to either vote or accept outright Abdul-Mahdi's resignation letter in a parliamentary session Sunday, two members of parliament said.

The prime minister announced Thursday he would hand parliament his resignation Friday amid mounting pressure from mass anti-government protests, a day after more than 40 demonstrators were killed by security forces in Baghdad and southern Iraq. The announcement also came after Iraq's top Shiite cleric withdrew his support for the government in a weekly sermon.

The formal resignation came after an emergency Cabinet session earlier in which ministers approved the document and the resignation of key staffers, including Abdul-Mahdi's chief of staff.

In a pre-recorded speech, Abdul-Mahdi addressed Iraqis, saying that following parliament's recognition of his stepping down, the Cabinet would be demoted to caretaker status, unable to pass new laws and make key decisions.

He said the government had managed to push through important job-creating projects and improve electricity generation. "But unfortunately, these events took place,"



HADI MIZBAN/AP

Iraqi security forces try to disperse anti-government protesters in Baghdad on Saturday.

he said, referring to the mass protest movement that engulfed Iraq on Oct. 1. "We need to be fair to our people and listen to them."

At least 400 people have died since the leaderless uprising shook Iraq with thousands of Iraqis taking to the streets in Baghdad and the predominantly Shiite southern Iraq decrying corruption, poor services, lack of jobs and calling for an end to the post-2003 political system.

Security forces have used live fire, tear gas and sound bombs to disperse crowds leading to heavy casualties.

Three protesters were killed and 24 wounded in the holy city of Najaf in southern Iraq on Saturday as security forces used live rounds to disperse them from a key mosque, security and hospital officials said.

In Baghdad, at least 11 protesters were wounded near the strategic Ahrar Bridge when security forces fired live ammunition and tear gas to prevent demonstrators from removing barricades. The protesters are occupying part of three strategic bridges — Ahrar, Sinak and Jumhuriya — in a stand-off with security forces. All three lead to the heavily fortified Green Zone, the seat of Iraq's government.

In the southern city of Nasiriyah, security forces used live fire and tear gas to repel protesters on two main bridges, the Zaitoun and the Nasr, which lead to the city center. Heavy fighting has taken place in Nasiriyah in recent days, with at least 31 protesters killed.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Dutch police arrest man in stabbings

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Dutch police arrested a 35-year-old homeless man Saturday on suspicion of stabbing three teens on a street in The Hague that was crowded with Black Friday shoppers.

The man, whose identity wasn't released, was detained in The Hague early Saturday evening and taken to a police station for questioning, police spokeswoman Marijke Kuiper said.

The victims, two 15-year-old girls and a 13-year-old boy, were treated in a hospital and released late Friday. Police said in a statement that they didn't know one another.

The attack in the Netherlands came hours after a man wearing a fake explosive vest stabbed several people in London, killing two, before he was fatally shot by officers. Police are treating it as a terrorist attack.

Dutch police say the motive for the stabbing in The Hague remains unknown. "We are keeping all scenarios open," their statement said.

Police cordoned off the area until deep into the night as forensic experts combed the street for clues.

The street was opened again Saturday.

WORLD

Elders join Hong Kong youth for unity rally

By EILEEN NG
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hundreds of silver-haired activists joined young Hong Kong protesters for a unity rally Saturday, vowing that their monthlong movement will not fade away until there is greater democracy in the Chinese territory.

The rally at a park downtown was among several peaceful gatherings by protesters this week to keep up pressure on the government amid a lull in violence following a local election victory by the pro-democracy bloc and the gaining of U.S. support for their cause.

A local boys' band belted out songs to tell protesters that "the whole Hong Kong is supporting you." Speakers reminded the crowd that it wasn't time to celebrate and that the fight for real autonomy must persist.

The protesters are angry over creeping Chinese interference in Hong Kong that they say is eroding their rights promised when the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

"The government wants us to desert the front-liners and young protesters, but we will stick with them," rally organizer Tam Kwok-sun, 64, said to loud cheers from the crowd. "Sometimes their actions are violent and aggressive, but we are more unhappy with the government's behavior."

Since the unrest broke out in June, protesters have disrupted traffic, smashed public facilities and pro-China shops, and hurled gasoline bombs in pitched battles with riot police who have re-



NO HAN GUAN/AP

Protesters raise their hand to symbolize the five demands of the pro-democracy movement during a rally for young and elderly pro-democracy demonstrators in Hong Kong on Saturday.

sponded with volleys of tear gas and water cannons.

The occupation of several universities by protesters last month after fiery clashes with police capped one of the most violent chapters in the turmoil, which has contributed to the city's first recession in a decade.

Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, has appealed for the current calm to continue but has refused to bow to protesters' demands, which include free elections for

her post and the legislature as well as an independent probe into alleged police brutality.

"It's still a very early stage of the revolution," a masked activist, who gave her name as Mai, 26, said Saturday. "People are tired physically and mentally, so we are waiting for the right moment for a fightback."

Hong Kong police have arrested 5,890 people as a result of the protests.

"The government is still stub-

born. Every one of us, young and old, must contribute in our own way. The movement will not stop," a woman, 63, who identified herself as Mrs. Tam, said as she distributed Japanese honey candies to slogan-chanting young activists at the park.

Protesters this week have urged Britain and other countries to follow U.S. footsteps in legislating laws to support its cause.

A new U.S. law prescribes sanctions on officials found guilty

of human rights abuses and requires an annual review of a special trade status for Hong Kong. Another bans the export of certain nonlethal munitions to Hong Kong police.

China has warned of strong countermeasures and Hong Kong's government has slammed the U.S. move as unwarranted meddling in its affairs.

Chinese state media reported Saturday that Lee Henley, also identified as Hu Xiang and a citizen of an unidentified foreign country, was arrested on suspicion of "funding activities threatening China's national security, including allegedly conspiring with foreign forces to support Hong Kong riots."

The reports also said a Taiwanese man, Lee Meng Chu, was held for "allegedly spying and leaking China's national secrets" and backing the Hong Kong protests. Beijing had confirmed earlier that Lee was held after he went missing during a trip to mainland China in August, but didn't give details.

In August, a British Consulate employee in Hong Kong was arrested during a trip to the mainland and was freed 15 days later after confessing to soliciting prostitution.

But Simon Cheng says it was a forced confession and that he was tortured by Chinese police and pressed for information about Hong Kong's activists.

More rallies are being planned in Hong Kong for Sunday, including an anti-tear gas protest and a gratitude march to the U.S. Consulate.

Albania ends search for earthquake survivors

By LLAZAR SEMINI
Associated Press

TIRANA, Albania — The search and rescue operation for earthquake survivors in Albania has ended, the prime minister said Saturday, with the death toll at 51 and no more bodies believed to be in the ruins.

Prime Minister Edi Rama said preliminary figures showed more than 1,465 buildings in the capital, Tirana, and about 900 in nearby Durres were seriously damaged in Tuesday's 6.4-magnitude pre-dawn quake.

About 2,000 people were injured. One woman remained in a coma, according to health officials.

Preliminary figures estimate at least 4,000 people are homeless.

About 2,500 people from damaged homes have been sheltered in hotels. Others have been taken to neighboring Kosovo or



PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/AP

A man carries blankets after an aftershock in Durres, western Albania, on Thursday.

have moved to eastern areas of Albania.

The prime minister has pledged all homeless will be in "stronger homes" in 2020.

The first seriously damaged building has been demolished, and a dozen others are expected to follow. Assessment experts from Greece, France, Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Latvia are involved.

A new draft law will sentence

all investors, architects and supervisors to seven to 15 years in prison for violating construction norms. That and corruption in Albania's burgeoning building industry have been blamed for much of the quake's effects.

The government has set up financial compensations for families of the dead, including \$9,000 per family, special pensions for elders and scholarships for children.

France summons Turkish envoy over jab at Macron

By SYLVIE CORBET
Associated Press

PARIS — The French government summoned the Turkish ambassador Friday to seek explanations after his president described French President Emmanuel Macron as "brain dead."

Ahead of a NATO summit next week that both men will attend, tensions have mounted around Turkey's military operation in Syria, and its role within the trans-Atlantic defense alliance, which is also a member of the fight against Islamic State.

Macron, complaining of a U.S. leadership vacuum, recently lamented the "brain death" of NATO and says the allies need "a wake-up call." And on Thursday, he reiterated criticism of Turkey's operation in northeast Syria against Kurdish fighters who were crucial in the international fight against ISIS extremists.

"I respect the security interests of my Turkish ally ... but one can't say that we are allies and demand solidarity, and on the other

hand, present allies with a fait accompli by a military intervention which jeopardizes the action of the coalition against IS," Macron said at a meeting with the NATO chief, Jens Stoltenberg.

The comments angered Turkey's leadership and prompted President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to shoot back Friday: "You should get checked whether you're brain dead."

"Kicking Turkey out of NATO or not, how is that up to you? Do you have the authority to make such a decision?" Erdogan asked, characterizing Macron as "inexpedient."

Turkey also criticized Macron for agreeing to talks with a Syrian Kurd politician whom Ankara considers an extremist.

The French Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Ambassador Ismail Hakki Musa was summoned Friday to explain "unacceptable statements ... that have no place in Turkish-French relations and cannot substitute for the necessary dialogue between the two countries."

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man ordered to take down Confederate flag

CT PLAINVILLE — A Connecticut man faces charges for allegedly using a Confederate flag to harass his African American neighbors.

Prosecutor Brian Preleski said the conflict between the Plainville family and Anthony Esposito, 49, came to a head when he draped himself in the Confederate flag and ran up and down his driveway while the neighbors' 12-year-old daughter waited for the school bus.

The Hartford Courant reported that a Confederate flag was still flying at Esposito's house after a judge ordered no such flag be flown within 250 yards of the neighbors' property.

'Rumors of War' statue moves to new home

VA RICHMOND — A monumental bronze statue that mimics one of Virginia's most prominent Confederate monuments has a new home in Richmond.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported artist Kehinde Wiley's "Rumors of War" will be permanently installed Dec. 10 at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

The statue depicts a young black male dressed in streetwear mounted atop a horse and has been on display in Times Square since its unveiling there in September.

The 29-foot-high work originated when Wiley saw Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's statue on Monument Avenue. Wiley is known for his paintings of black Americans and his commissioned portrait of President Barack Obama, displayed at the National Portrait Gallery.

Kidney transplant went to the wrong patient

NJ CAMDEN — A New Jersey hospital said a kidney meant for one patient was mistakenly transplanted into another patient with the same name who was farther down the priority list.

Virtua Health said the Nov. 18 operation on a 51-year-old at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital was successful, but officials then discovered that the patient was transplanted out of priority order because "unusually, the individual who should have received the organ has the same name and is of similar age."

Virtua Health said the error was reported to state health officials and the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, and the patient who should have received the kidney also underwent a successful transplant Nov. 24.

Art museum: Spalding House on sale for \$15M

HI HONOLULU — The Honolulu Museum of Art has put its Spalding House property on the market for \$15 million.

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser



PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/AP

Keep on rollin'

Luna Boloten, 13, of Pittsburgh figure skates on roller blades on a warm day at Davis Playground on Wednesday in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood. Boloten has been skating for nine years. "My dad said it's in my blood," said Boloten whose family is from Canada.

reported Elite Pacific Properties announced the opening of the sale.

Honolulu Academy of Arts founder Anna Rice Cooke built Spalding House in 1925 as a residential property, naming it Nuumealani, or Heavenly Terrace.

Cooke's daughter Alice Spalding acquired it in 1934 and in 1968 the property was purchased by the Honolulu Academy of Arts, the previous name of the art museum.

Man yells 'chemical warfare' in hospital ER

CT NEW HAVEN — Authorities said a Connecticut hospital's emergency room was evacuated when a man took a towel out of a backpack and started yelling "chemical warfare."

Police said the man was acting irrationally when he walked into the Yale New Haven Hospital emergency room.

Rick Fontana, director of the New Haven Office of Emergency Management, said 35 people were evacuated and three — two hospital employees and a police officer — who made contact with the towel were decontaminated as a precaution.

The man left the scene and remains at large.

THE CENSUS

70K

The approximate worth of Apple products stolen by three men at a Target store in Delaware. Dover police spokesman Mark Hoffman said in a statement that the three men are from Brooklyn, N.Y. The Target store is in Dover. Police said the men fled, but tried to do the same thing at a Target store in Christiansburg. Employees took down a description of their vehicle and released it to other Target stores in the area. Police said state troopers then saw the suspects in the parking lot of a Target in Brandywine. They found the stolen Apple products and arrested the men.

Roadside zoo ordered to remove all animals

IA MANCHESTER — A judge ordered that bears, mountain lions, a camel, and other exotic animals be removed from an eastern Iowa roadside zoo.

In a ruling, District Court Judge Monica Wittig found the Cricket Hollow Zoo near Manchester to be a nuisance and that the exotic animals at the site must be placed at accredited sanctuaries or zoos.

Four plaintiffs sued to have the animals removed and the zoo owned by Pam and Tom Sellner closed. Pam Sellner had operated the zoo since 2002 despite repeated complaints that animals were mistreated.

During the trial, the judge toured the zoo and her ruling described improperly cared for goats and rams, bears that were

"a very sad sight to see" and a baboon that was "the saddest and scariest" animal at the zoo.

Police to monitor tacky lights tour

VA RICHMOND — Police in suburban Richmond said they have plans to deal with some of the negative side effects from one of the area's most popular Christmas traditions: tacky lights tours.

The over-the-top holiday displays draw lines of cars, buses and limos. The vehicles can snarl traffic, and neighbors have also complained about drunken and disorderly conduct, including tour participants urinating on lawns after too much partying.

Henrico County police told the Richmond Times-Dispatch the department will be sending officers into congested neighbor-

hoods on bicycles and on foot to patrol. They will write tickets for drunken and disorderly behavior and will be looking for double parking.

Hikers find wedding ring on mountain

NH MANCHESTER — A man's plea to find his lost wedding ring on a 4,000-foot snow-covered mountain in New Hampshire was answered by a couple of hikers — and a metal detector.

WMUR-TV reported Bill Giguere of Massachusetts recently lost the gold band on Mount Hancock. Giguere, who had been wearing it for three years, put out a plea to a hiking group.

That piqued Tom Gately's interest, although he had doubts about finding the ring along the 10-mile loop trail Giguere hiked. Giguere said the most likely spot was at a lookout where he changed gloves.

Gately and fellow hiker Brendan Cheever set out with a metal detector.

Gately said: "It beeped and he's, like, 'I think I found it,' and everybody's, like, 'What?' and he just started scratching in the snow. There it was!"

From wire reports

MOVIES

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Ana de Armas is fumbling with a packet of sugar and talking about her breakneck schedule on a recent afternoon in Los Angeles when her already enormous almond eyes widen even further.

"Do I have avocado on my face?" she asks somewhat nervously. She doesn't, but the 31-year-old Cuba-born actress has been feeling a little frazzled lately. It's been hard to find time to eat, let alone do a spot check in a mirror.

De Armas left the New Orleans set of Adrian Lyne's Patricia Highsmith adaptation "Deep Water" the night before to attend the premiere of Rian Johnson's Agatha Christie-inspired whodunit "Knives Out." It was a brief respite; after a few days of interviews, de Armas flew back to continue filming.

And it's been that way for a few years now. She's filmed not only "Knives Out," but the next James Bond, "No Time to Die," the Marilyn Monroe movie "Blonde" (she plays none other than the former Norma Jeane) and a film about the late United Nations diplomat Sergio Vieira de Mello.

In fact, she was looking forward to a little bit of a break when "Knives Out" came her way at the tail end of the grueling three-month shoot for "Sergio" in Thailand. And the description she got wasn't exactly an enticing one.

"I get this email saying, 'Nurse in a house and she's Latina and she's pretty and this is the scene,'" she recalled. "And I was like, 'Are you kidding me? I don't know what this is about.' That little description doesn't say anything to me; it doesn't speak to me."

De Armas knew that Johnson had written and would direct the film and that a big star, Daniel Craig, was attached. She's also protective of her career and needed to know more before she would even agree to audition. Although she speaks naturally with an accent, she's worked hard to prove herself capable of playing characters outside of her ethnicity and pushes her team to send her out on auditions for everything.

This innate determination and unwillingness to settle has gotten her where she is, on the brink of full-fledged stardom. After attending theater school in Havana, she moved to Madrid with \$300 saved up to try a bigger pond. It was an amount that she assumed would help her survive for a few months (it would have in Cuba), but she quickly discovered otherwise. Still, de Armas found a way and started landing roles in television and film. After 8 years there, she was ready to move on and try Hollywood even though she knew very little English.

One thing she had going for her was that she had an agent and manager, thanks to her "Hands of Stone" co-star Edgar Ramirez, who had introduced her to his team. When she arrived in Los Angeles, where she and a friend rented a single room and shared a bed, de Armas enrolled in English classes but also told her agents that she didn't want to wait. She wanted to start auditioning.

"It was clear that the reason I was here was not to get a degree in English," she said. "I forced them to send me out to auditions and meetings, even though I couldn't understand half of it."

Her big break came in true Hollywood fashion. Standing at the valet outside the CAA agency, producer Colleen Camp spotted her and started taking pictures and screaming about how she had to meet Eli Roth immediately. They were casting for the thriller "Knock Knock" with Keanu Reeves, but de Armas was literally on her way to the airport. She managed to meet



INVISION/AP



LIONSGATE/AF

Ana de Armas stars with Daniel Craig, right, in "Knives Out" and has a mysterious role in the upcoming James Bond film "No Time to Die," also with Craig.

Roth, suitcases in hand, and make the flight. They closed the deal the next day.

"My agent was like, 'I need to take you out to lunch more often,'" de Armas said, laughing. Still a little shaky with English, she got through the shoot by pronouncing her lines phonetically.

"Knock Knock" opened the doors for other opportunities. She landed a role in Todd Phillips' "War Dogs" and then in "Blade Runner 2049" as Ryan Gosling's hologram girlfriend. It's also why Andrew Dominik thought of her to play Marilyn Monroe.

De Armas knows she's demanding with

her team. She had to fight for access to the closely guarded "Knives Out" script, but after she read it she realized she had to do it. She flew from Thailand to Boston to audition for Johnson, who had cast a wide net for the role of Marta (one of the only non-movie stars in the film that includes Craig, Chris Evans, Don Johnson, Jamie Lee Curtis and Christopher Plummer).

"The first thing I did was Google Ana, and of course all these crazy glamorous shots of her come up and it looked like the exact opposite of what I imagined for the character. But then I met her and knew that she was right," Johnson said. "She's

got those Audrey Hepburn eyes, and you're instantly on her side when you see them through the camera."

De Armas flew back to Los Angeles, picked up her dog and some winter clothes, and within five days was in New England filming "Knives Out" and feeling a little intimidated alongside all the megastars.

In her first scene as an immigrant nurse called in for questioning about the mysterious death of the wealthy patriarch she cared for, she realized she was shaking. Curtis, who has since become a friend and mentor to de Armas, came up to her in between takes and took her by the shoulders. "She came this close to my face and she said, 'You have the most expressive eyes I've ever seen. You're going to be OK,'" de Armas said. "She gave me that little push that I needed to chill."

De Armas didn't know it at the time, but she also would be forming a connection with Craig that would carry over into a major franchise: James Bond. But once again, de Armas wasn't just going to say yes because it was Bond. She needed to know about her character.

"Fleabag's" Phoebe Waller-Brige wrote her scenes, and de Armas was heartened to discover that Paloma wasn't the stereotypically "perfect" Bond girl but "messy and kind of crazy." "I thought, 'That Bond woman, I can be,'" she said.

De Armas doesn't have a specific plan for her future in movies, but she likes a challenge (she studied and worked with a dialect coach for a year to prepare for "Blonde") and loves working with interesting directors, like Johnson, Dominik and Bond-helmer Cary Fukunaga. As for whether or not some downtime is on the agenda, she just laughs.

"2020 is the year for my break," she said.

MUSIC



An introspective journey

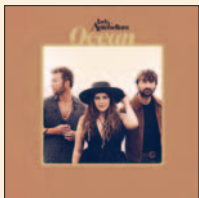
Lady Antebellum opens up and explores its vulnerable side

By KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

Country vocal group Lady Antebellum know how to move people to tears with their songs, and their newest record feels as vulnerable and honest as a therapy session.

The trio of Charles Kelley, Hillary Scott and Dave Haywood are known for their heart-felt harmonies and emotional resonance on songs like the Grammy-winning "Need You Now," but on their new album, "Ocean," they looked inward at their own relationships.

"It's been inspiring to watch that honesty come out," said Haywood. "It's been exciting for this season for us to be very



self-aware and be vulnerable, be courageous and not be afraid and not have any fear to say those things."

Kelley co-wrote "Be Patient with My Love" after feeling like he was letting his emotions get in the way of his relationships,

saying things he didn't mean to his wife, and not taking care of his spiritual health.

"That was kind of my first time I've really been really honest with myself on a song," Kelley said. "My wife, when I played it for her, she was really proud of that. It's nothing new to us. There's a lot of that, say something you didn't mean, wake up the next day, apologize, move on. Seven months later, back in the same spot."

On "What I'm Leaving For," the trio, who all have kids, address how it feels to leave children behind when they travel so much, something that Scott, whose parents are also well-known touring artists, knows intimately.

"I was that kid that we sing about and now I'm that mom," Scott said, who has three girls. "My husband is a full-time dad at home and I travel."

In the music video for the title track, Scott was moved to tears as she sang the lyrics about wanting to drown yourself in someone that's emotionally unavailable. Her vocal delivery feels so lonely and lost as she pleads for a human connection.

"There are so many people hurting, myself included," Scott said. "I just feel like this world we live in, we're one of the most stressed-out cultures. It's talked about in just about every headline you see... That's what this is about and that's what I am seeing resonate with people."

The record also includes a contribution from their longtime friend, songwriter and producer [Michael] Busbee, who died in September at the age of 43. He produced their last record, "Heart Break" in 2017 and co-wrote their single "You Look Good," from that album. The band and Busbee wrote an uplifting banjo-laden jam called "Alright," which is how the band wants to remember him.

"He was such a light. He was this big tall guy with so much love to give," Scott said. "It's just talking about how no matter what happens, that it's going to be alright and that this life is beautiful. It's so encouraging."

Online: ladyantebellum.com



Lady Antebellum, from left: Charles Kelley, Hillary Scott and Dave Haywood
Green Room PR

MUSIC

WHAT'S NEW



Various artists

Frozen 2 (Walt Disney Records)

No, there's no new "Let It Go." Let it go.

The "Frozen 2" soundtrack brings together everyone's favorite princesses — Elsa and Anna — the snowman Olaf, good guy Kristoff and his faithful reindeer, Sven, for an impossible task: improving or matching the first "Frozen" movie's songs.

Songwriters Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez have offered seven — six, if we're being honest — original songs and they're all lovely, rooted in Broadway traditional structures and each playing a key role in keeping the animated film moving. Now will spend 33 weeks on the Billboard Hot 100 charts like "Let It Go" but they deserve to be cherished on their own merits.

The template hasn't really changed. Like in the first, everyone gets a song — Josh Gad's Olaf sings his comedic "When I Am Older," Idina Menzel gets the rose-raising (closest thing to "Let It Go") "Into the Unknown," Jonathan Groff's Kristoff has the melancholy (and slightly remi-

niscient of a lost tune by the band Chicago) "Lost in the Woods" and Kristen Bell's Anna closes it out with the mournful "The Next Right Thing."

But this time Evan Rachel Wood — as Elsa and Anna's deceased mother — sings "All Is Found" and joins Menzel on "Show Yourself." Norwegian singer Aurora lends the soundtrack a whole bunch of spooky ahhs and oooohs as a supernatural presence. One nice touch is all four leads singing together in the sweet "Some Things Never Change," which, with its refrain of "I'm holding on tight to you" is the inverse of "Let It Go."

We get a direct link to the first film with the song fragment "Reindeer(s) Are Better Than People (Cont.)" and it is awesome to hear Menzel's voice in fifth gear again. But missing are the inventive lyrics from the first, the "frozen fractals all around" and "Bees'll buzz/kid'll buzz dandelion fuzz." The lyrics this time are straightforward, less playful. It's a more emotional album than the first, more mature and internal.

The album also includes re-makes of three of the songs that play over the end credits: Panic! At The Disco superbly redo "Into the Unknown" into a glam rock song. Kacey Musgraves does a rootsy, almost Simon and Garfunkel version of "All Is Found" and Weezer does a very Weezer take on "Lost in the Woods." The whole album is wonderful, but it has unattainably big snowshoes to fill.

— Mark Kennedy
AP Entertainment Writer



Joe Henry

The Gospel According to Water (earMUSIC)

Given a few months to live released a creative gush in Joe Henry and the result is "The Gospel According to Water," one of the best albums of his fruitful career.

Fortunately, Henry's cancer is in remission while he continues to get treatment and his 15th solo studio album is being released a year to the day of his diagnosis.

Henry's production work has won him three Grammys but, as the proverb says, sometimes it's the shoemaker who wears the worst shoes. Henry proves it wrong by making a wise choice regarding his own work and leaving the 13 songs, which he initially viewed as demos, as stark and direct as they were

recorded.

Accompanying himself on guitar, the sparse but supportive backing comes from the likes of son Levon on sax and clarinet, guitarist John Smith and Patrick Warren on keyboards.

Henry sings with his usual expressiveness but without exaggerating and doesn't consider the songs "dark in nature" despite their time of origin, but rather a reflection of "gratitude, compassion to self" and being in love with life.

This is evident on tunes like the title track, "In Time for Tomorrow," "Book of Common Prayer" and "Bloom" — songs that sound, at times, as if they could have been on Bob Dylan's "Blood on the Tracks" had it been his reconciliation album instead of divorce.

Though there are concentrated mentions of death and prayers, one of the words heard most often is "light."

Those who believe in miracles and trust in music's healing power may consider the outstanding "The Gospel According to Water" as a pilgrimage, but even the skeptics and agnostics will be stirred by the depth and beauty of Joe Henry's songs.

— Pablo Gorondi
Associated Press



FKA twigs

MAGDALENE (Young Turks)

FKA twigs' latest album, "MAGDALENE," is not about the ups and downs of love. No, the 9-track set finds twigs solidly in the down-and-out throes of heartache. And the pain is beautiful.



Joanna Connor

Rise (M.C. Records)

Joanna Connor takes her powerful guitar down new paths on "Rise," an album featuring some jazzier lures, her considerable acoustic skills and even a guest rapper while also doubling down on her reputation as a blues stalwart.

Connor, based in Chicago,



Various artists

Come On Up to the House: Women Sing Waits (Duo-tone)

Hard-times troubadour Tom Waits gets the Great American Songbook-style treatment in "Come On Up to the House," a classy collection of covers performed by two generations of female singer-songwriters.

The album, produced by musician/writer Warren Zanes to mark Waits' 70th birthday, makes clear that he deserves it.

The album was written and produced by twigs, with contributions from Skrillex, Benny Blanco, Jack Antonoff and more. Fans who've waited long for twigs' follow-up to her 2014 debut, "LP1," will be happy to find that artistically, the singer just might be at her best. She is certainly more vocally and emotionally vulnerable than ever before.

That's especially true on beautifully gut-wrenching tracks like "mirrored heart," with its clank of metal and delicate keys. "Did you want me all? No, not for life/ Did you truly see me? No/not this time," she sings.

She turns the hurt outward on the headnod-worthy "fallen alien," co-produced by electronic music artist Nicolas Jaar.

And twigs' voice rings out like a morning prayer on the enchanting "thousand eyes."

Named for the oft-misunderstood biblical figure Mary Magdalene, twigs weaves her album with mentions of the ancient woman. "I'm over the fire/True as Mary Magdalene/ Creature of desire/Come just a little bit closer to me/Step just a little bit closer to me/I can lift you higher," she sings on "mary magdalene."

Through her lyrics and sounds, twigs summons the spiritual and the sensual, and the result of her dabbling is sometimes cryptic, but always intriguing. Most importantly, it sounds amazing.

— Melanie J. Sims
Associated Press

added by Connor's discovery not long ago of her birth father's identity. "Cherish and Worship You" is probably the most rocking track on the album and "Earthshaker" is a glowing tribute to a Windy City bass player with some very special skills.

Intense closer "Dear America" combines an homage to Led Zeppelin's take on "When the Levee Breaks" with a topical dissertation by Dinero as Connor's dramatic vocals and fiery fret work, along with powerful work from drummer Tyrone Mitchell, provide an alarming soundtrack to a catalog of political ills and social challenges.

Connor describes herself as "that middle-aged lady with the scorching guitar" and "Rise" is a monumental testament to her skills.

— Pablo Gorondi
Associated Press

Waits is a superlative American songwriter, whose snapshots of life in the streets and on the road have survived — even thrived on — interpretation by artists as varied as Rod Stewart and The Ramones.

Contributors on "Come On Up to the House" include Roseanne Cash and Patty Griffin, and many of the 12 tracks feature stripped-down arrangements that reveal the strong melodies and pungent imagery of Waits' songs, with their veins of hurt and flashes of hope.

At its best, the result is spine-tinglingly melancholy. An understated vocal against a plain piano backdrop is all that's needed for the title track to shine in a rendition by Portland, Oregon, trio Joseph.

Stripped of Waits' raspy growl, the mood of many songs becomes plaintive rather than gritty. Phoebe Bridgers' delivery of the tragic ballad "Georgia Lee" is a shade too delicate; the same could be said of

indie-folk band The Wild Reeds' wispy take on "Tom Traubert's Blues."

Distinctive takes are provided by Iris Dement, who brings an old-timey country feel to "House Where Nobody Lives," and Kat Edmonson's swoony retro-pop stylings on "You Can Never Hold Back Spring."

At its best, this is an album on which fine singers and fine songs gel seamlessly, from Corinne Bailey Rae's languid swing on "Jersey Girl," to Almo's Mann's authoritative rendition of "Hold On."

Best of all, sisters Shelby Lynne and Allison Moorer bring a beautiful unhurried power to Waits' "Ol' 55" — another bittersweet tale of restless movement and "riding with lady luck." Even in the gutter, Waits' work reassures us, it's possible to look at the stars.

— Jill Lawless
Associated Press

BOOKS

Crichton's spirit lives on in 'Andromeda Evolution'

By KATHERINE A. POWERS

Newsday

Fifty summers ago, as men were landing on the moon, the story of another space project — one which had gone disastrously awry — had already touched down on the nation's best-seller list.

Michael Crichton's novel "The Andromeda Strain," published in May 1969, was about a government mission to send unmanned satellites into orbit to collect extraterrestrial microorganisms that might be lurking out there — this with the noble aim of finding one useful as a biological weapon. Alas, one satellite broke orbit and crashed in Piedmont, Ariz., dispersing a microscopic pathogen which killed all but two of the tiny burg's inhabitants: a dissipated old man and a squall-infant.

This catastrophe launched *Wildfire*, a government program-in-waiting designed to contain and control just such an organism, now dubbed the Andromeda Strain. After high doses of technojargon, recondit diagrams and the near triggering of a nuclear explosion, the pathogen simply took over and evolved into a nonlethal agent — a "plastiphage," which destroys plastic, leading to more, if less grievous, problems.



Anyone who worried that the Andromeda Strain would continue to evolve had to wait half a century for their fears to be realized. For yes, even though Crichton died in 2008, the pesky micro-entity has surfaced again in "The Andromeda Evolution," by Daniel H. Wilson, author of several previous books under his own name. Though Wilson has perfectly captured the suspense of the original, not to mention the aridity of its relentless technosense, we quickly notice that evolution has been at work in quarters other than the microscopic: Through some adaptive mutation, women have moved beyond the primitive roles of frightened wife and switchboard "girl" and have evolved into major players.

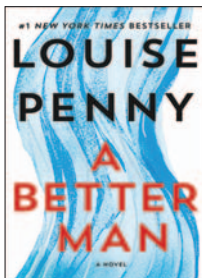
And so, we begin. Something big is going on in the Amazonian rainforest in the protected territory reserved for tribes that have had no contact with outside societies. A strange column, 100 feet high, "alone and colossal among the primordial trees," has been spotted, perched exactly on the equator and, as it happens, pretty much where a Chinese space station had crashed not long ago. Vegetation has been killed around it, animals are seen fleeing from it, and the ground is littered with dead human beings. Worse, the entity is growing and mass spectrometer readings (complete with graph) show the presence of the Andromeda Strain. It is time to send in the 21st century *Wildfire* team.

Bristling with high-tech gadgets and emanating a nimbus of analytics, the group is dropped by helicopter into

the Brazilian jungle. The mission is led by Indian-born Nidhi Vedalia, a professor in nanotechnology at MIT and the inventor of an "aerosolized nanocrystalline cellulose-based Andromeda inhibitor." Also involved is another woman, Peng Wu, a Chinese astronaut, soldier and M.D. who is equipped with a "Dyclone-Wa portable field science kit." Then there is Harold Odhiambo, a Kenyan expert in extraterrestrial geology and master of a flock of "canary drones." Added at last minute is James Stone, a roboticist and expert in artificial intelligence, who is the son of Dr. Jeremy Stone, the Nobel laureate hero who saved the world from the Andromeda strain 50 years ago.

The last member of the *Wildfire* team is Sophie Kline, an American scientist circling the globe in the space station "Wildfire Mark IV." Attached to the spacecraft is a sealed module ("the only biosafety level (BSL) 5 containment facility ever created") containing samples for study of the first and second Andromeda strains, AS-1 and AS-2.

That's the setup. Without spoiling your techno-thrills, the ominous Andromeda struts in the Amazon jungle seems to have its own nefarious designs. More sinister than that, not all the techno-whizzes at large in these pages have humanity's best interests at heart. Indeed, what we might call the human element here, its intrigues, blunders, and triumphs, keeps things moving — much more so, in fact, than Andromeda's elaborate, not to say preposterous, carryings-on.



A Better Man

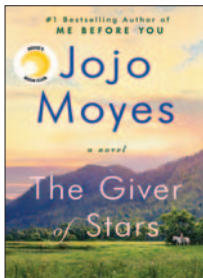
Louise Penny

Armande Gamache returns as a high-ranking member of the Canadian Surete, this time humbled by a demotion from chief inspector to head of homicide due to events in the most recent two books of this richly told Canadian crime series.

His pride keeps him intact as he tries to rally his officers around menacing floodwaters that could break river levees, protecting the great city of Montreal and its suburbs. Even the quirky residents of Three Pines, Gamache's beloved home village, are furiously sandbagging.

Tensions build from all corners. Gamache's daughter Annie and his loyal protégé Jean-Guy Beauvoir, Annie's husband, are moving to Paris with Gamache's grandchild to escape the violence and disillusionment of police work, a decision that has ripped Gamache apart. And an unexpected death rocks the village of Three Pines amid the chaos of the encroaching floods. The death touches Gamache close to home, playing on all his fears and insecurities as the social media scavengers trash his career with lies.

— Ginny Greene
Star Tribune



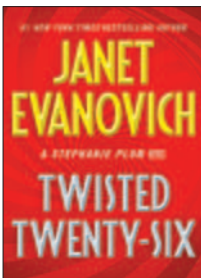
The Giver of Stars

Jojo Moyes

Marriage is not the escape that Alice Van Cleve was hoping for. She threw off a suffocating life in England to follow her handsome husband back to Kentucky — romance and independence is what she wants. But once settled, Alice quickly finds herself adrift, lonely and literally unloved. In eastern Kentucky in 1937, there aren't many options for women, even the daughter-in-law of the all-powerful mine owner. She is expected to keep house and make babies, neither of which she can do. She is, she feels, "so lost, as if she had made a mistake that there was simply no coming back from."

Relief comes in the unlikely form of the Great Depression and the WPA Packing Horse Librarians program. Alice enlists and joins a team of strong-minded women who deliver books and magazines to Appalachian people even more isolated than she is. Before long, there's more than books involved. The library sisterhood moves to empower area women and thwart the grasping powers-that-be. When they start getting that uppity, trouble inevitably ensues.

— Maureen McCarthy
Star Tribune



Twisted Twenty-Six

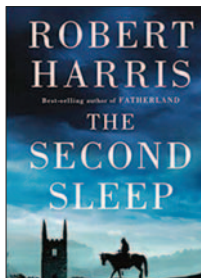
Janet Evanovich

In "Twisted Twenty-Six," Janet Evanovich's latest Stephanie Plum novel, Edna Mazur, Stephanie's eccentric grandmother, marries a gangster named Jimmy Rosolli but becomes a widow less than an hour later when he keels over from a heart attack.

His associates and exes immediately come out of the woodwork accusing Mazur of arranging his death so she could grab his money. It doesn't help that Jimmy had a set of keys that, if rumors are to be believed, grant access to his enormous fortune. Now everyone believes that Mazur has those keys and is waiting for the right moment to grab the money. When Stephanie and her family start getting threatened, and both her apartment and her mom and dad's house are ransacked, she knows that she will have to protect the people she cares about and will have to find the truth about the missing keys.

Grandma Mazur doesn't want the fuss, so it's up to Stephanie with the help of her cop boyfriend Joe Morelli and bounty hunter Ranger to keep her safe.

— Jeff Ayers
Associated Press



The Second Sleep

Robert Harris

Christopher Fairfax is a newly ordained priest assigned by his bishop in 1468 to ride out to the isolated English village of Addicott St. George to handle the funeral of its longtime vicar, Thomas Lacy, who died suddenly in an accident. Well-meaning but inexperienced, Fairfax becomes ensnared in a situation where he must deal with inscrutable locals, hidden forces and strange artifacts dug up from the earth.

Fairfax quickly finds out things are different than they seem at first blush. The reader does, too, when Harris introduces a significant twist early in the story.

The artifacts being collected in this post-technological time include plastic straws and an iPhone. What did 21st-century beings use these artifacts for? People in the book aren't quite sure. And the authorities — Fairfax's church foremost among them — absolutely do not want people digging up and studying the distant past.

Lacy had ignored that injunction. Inevitably, Fairfax gets drawn in, too.

— Michael Hill
Associated Press



The Hero

Lee Child

"The Hero," a nonfiction essay by author Lee Child, opens with Child looking at language and how words have different meanings over the space of time. Child also asks the question of who was the first person to initiate a particular word or phrase and have that definition mean the same for everyone.

As time passed, people began to tell each other stories. The stories probably were basic at first and then over time heroic traits were added to keep the audience engaged with the tale. The works of Homer saw a hero as a warrior who approached everything with a sense of honor. Today, a hero can be described as a popular athlete or someone who does the right thing under difficult circumstances. How did that change occur?

He delivers an interesting premise and backs up his hypothesis with data and personal insight.

What this book lacks in page count more than compensates in a thought-provoking discussion of the origins of language, storytelling and what makes all of us human.

— Jeff Ayers
Associated Press

CROSSWORD AND COMICS

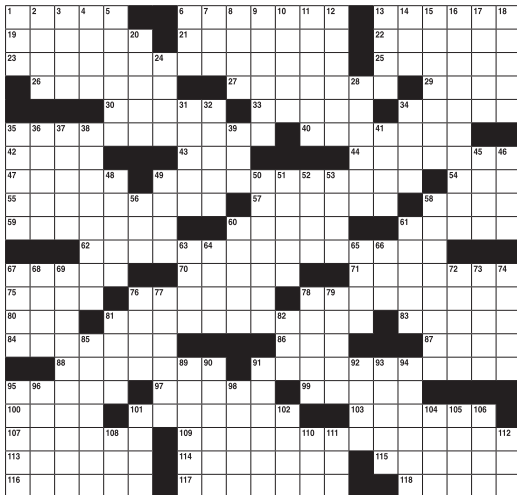
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

REPORT CARD

BY RANDOLPH ROSS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Randolph Ross, of New York City, is a retired principal for high schools in Queens, Great Neck and Plainville, N.Y. Crosswords helped him get one of his jobs. He says his final interview with the Great Neck Board of Education was devoted mainly to crossword constructing rather than how to run a school. Having had one of his puzzles published in The Times shortly before "was good timing and made for a happy interview." This is Randy's 50th Sunday crossword for the paper and his 133th Times puzzle overall. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lack of this results in baldness
6 Alcohol
13 Scenes from action movies
19 Old foundation
21 1994 Jean-Claude Van Damme sci-fi thriller
22 Get back
23 Parenting: A+
25 Night demons
26 Maintain
27 Number of people in an office?
29 "Step ____"
30 Bye word
33 Nervous stress
34 Chip-on-one's-shoulder outlooks, in slang
35 Taming wild horses: D-
40 Reflex messengers
42 Heavy metal
43 Some kitchen appliances
44 Wildlife conservationist's device
47 Union station?
- 49 Vale! skills: B+
54 You can dig it
55 Spain and England in the 16th century
57 Like a sure bet
58 Watch chains
59 Do an old printing-house job
60 Skills, in Sevilla
61 Heart
62 Hosting a morning news show: C+
67 Photo finish
70 First draft picks
71 It makes stealing pay off
75 "See you later!"
76 Cheerful
78 Norman Lear series star
80 Spots
81 Stuffing tip jars: D
83 Chip away at
84 Bottom-line figure
86 Alternative to a Maxwell
87 Indy winner
88 Hot stuff
91 Employee efficiency: D+
95 Sorcerer
97 Much, informally
99 Supply— (economic theorist)
100 Growing room
- 101 Do a P.R. makeover on
103 16501-16511
107 Put on hold
109 Baseball skill: C
113 Protect, as freshness
114 What to do once you've made your bed, per a saying
115 Skirts
116 Nueva York, e.g.
117 Afterword
118 Bibliographical abbr.
- DOWN**
- 1 Channel on which to see some b&w films
2 Fleece
3 Noted Deco designer
4 1975 Wimbledon champ
5 New Age author Chopra
6 Apt name for a cook?
7 Lulu
8 Used Gchat, e.g.
9 Went back through a passage
10 Hockey infraction
11 "Yer darn ____!"
12 Clear soda
13 Lit ____
14 Farm setter
15 Story
16 Stereo quality: B
17 Blake who wrote "Memories of You"
- 18 Roast rotators
20 Fantasy author
Canavan, author of the "Black Magician" trilogy
24 Whirl
28 Producers of the most Midcast oil
31 Actress Samantha
32 Rides since 2011
34 Burned rubber
35 Designer Bill
36 U.S. Grant adversary
37 Trouble terribly
38 Learns to live with
39 Set a price of
41 Malodorous
45 Metro areas, informally
46 Sticks together?
48 Luxury-car pioneer Henry
49 One may exert pressure
50 Significant advances
51 The other guys
52 Diver Louganis
53 Porgy and blass
56 F.D.R. program
58 Dangerous structure
60 Combat zone
61 Anglican headwear
63 Strong brew
64 "Movin' ____"
65 Call attention to, as a potential problem
66 Small power source
67 Classic shoe name
68 Starting job in Washington, say
69 Fashion sense: A
72 Lead-in to fare
73 Part of a TV transmission
74 ____ Garson, Oscar winner for "Mrs. Miniver"
76 Solomonic
- 77 One-eighth part
78 Funeral stands
79 Mushroom that might be served in ramen
81 Uncivil greetings
82 Sign of a smash hit
85 ____ de Vil, Disney villain
89 Patch (together)
90 Way to get to Harlem, per Duke Ellington
- 91 Desire a piece of the action
92 Conception
93 Chutzpah
94 Mourn
95 Snooker shot
96 Flu symptoms
98 Fall
101 Clinton's attorney
general for all eight years
102 Rat Pack nickname
104 Quod ____ faciemus
105 Stationer's stock
106 "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men" writer
108 Kid— (TV for tots)
110 Tiny criticism
111 Pioneer cellphone co.
112 Fancy-looking name
appendage



GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

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GADGETS

Alternatives to therapy?

Believe it or not, Silicon Valley has developed apps for that

By NEIL SENTURIA
The San Diego Union-Tribune

Apparently, there is no problem too complex that an application cannot be created to solve it. We have finally come to that place where the last bastion for neurotic, depressed, confused, hopelessly miserable human beings, seeking to find relief, nirvana, happiness, the meaning of life, money, marital bliss and emotional stability has been reduced to a phone application.

Along the way, a cadre of techno-psychiatric-analyst-coaching charlatans has created venture-funded startups that effectively take Sigmund Freud and his couch from the warm, safe confines of a small, windowless office and replaced it with a panoply of pop psychology in the Apple Store, suitable for download at the slightest overcast from the dark clouds of life which might temporarily block out the sun.

In other words, welcome to Shrink On The Phone, with a dollop of artificial intelligence sprinkled over it, sort of like psychiatric pasta in a light garlic and oil sauce. Silicon Valley has finally done it — on-demand therapy, complete with metrics and return-on-equity analysis. The age of matching therapists with clients, using the tools of online dating has arrived. Swipe left, you get a Freudian; swipe right, and you get a new age guru.

Kip is a startup that says, “We took world-class providers, supercharged them with smart software tools and designed a seamless experience for both clients and providers.” The Kip system breaks your therapy into data and quizzes in order to determine exactly how your happiness and anxiety levels are progressing. The app encourages clients “to record their moods in real time, with pop-up questions throughout the day designed by your therapist.” The founder, Ti Zhao claims that this technique decreases “recency bias.”

Another Valley startup, Reflect, calls its therapy offering “the gym for your soul.” Still another, Two Chairs, is a startup

that has raised \$21 million dollars. Alex Katz, the founder, claims, “We’re out to build a new mental health system.”

But wait — just like late-night television, there’s more. Stoic, a mental health tracker app that provides “charts and insights,” Y Combinator has funded Stoic, as well as another app company, Quirk, which uses behavioral therapy to treat people with anxiety (let me tell you, just writing about this insanity is giving me anxiety and depression).

I don’t want any adverse psychiatric indication to be left out in the cold, unloved, with no app to meet with me on a snowy night on a park bench.

Y Combinator also funded Mind-set Health — which was founded by two brothers, Alex and Chris Naoumidis — whose previous skills in the area of the human mind resided in their ability to create a peer-to-peer dress-sharing app. “When that app failed, we were overcome with anxiety.” Sure, that seems rational, you lost a ton of other people’s money and now you are nervous that you will never work again, so you build an app to relieve your anxiety. The Valley is like The Twilight Zone.

But wait, there’s still more. If a phone is too impersonal, there are life coaches. Allie Stark is a coach in the region and her mantra is, “There’s a beauty in existentialism. It’s also very paralyzing.” I wonder if Ms. Stark would say that to a double amputee above the knee.

There actually is an Existential Humanistic Institute in San Francisco, and its leader, Dr. Kirk Schneider has been quoted as saying, “The goal is to move from a sense of object terror and paralysis to a gradual sense of intrigue and eventual wonder.” Better maybe to just delete the stock market app.



DREAMSTIME/TNS

COMMENTARY

GADGET WATCH

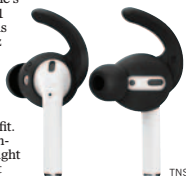
Wireless earbud accessories everyone needs

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

True wireless earbuds are the rage for many, but I often hear others who are skeptical simply from the fear of having them fall out.

AirPods are the leader of the pack when it comes to truly wireless earbuds. An inexpensive, yet perfect solution to keep Apple’s pricey earbuds (AirPods 1 and AirPods 2) in place is the KeyBudz EarBuddyz Ultra ear hooks.

The ear hooks also work with Apple wired EarPods and include multiple sizes for a perfect and secure fit. Just slide the dual durometer silicone ear hooks right over the earbuds and put them in your ear. Each pack includes three pairs; small, medium and large.



The KeyBudz EarBuddyz Ultra ear hooks

Once installed, with a better seal on the earbuds, they help improve noise isolation and overall sound performance by keeping additional unwanted noise out of your ears.

The accessory also ensures the earbuds won’t twist and slide around to keep the sound consistent.

For the record, I’ve tried dozens of true wireless earbud samples and have never had one fall out. There, I was jinxed, so the EarBuddyz Ultra will solve that problem ahead of time.

The EarBuddyz Ultra, \$13.95 in choices of white and black.

The KeyBudz has another handy AirPods accessory, the PodSkinz case with carabiner.

The skin case covers and protects your AirPods case and clips to a belt, backpack, or whatever, to ensure you know where they are.

The protective case has a slim design with a 1.3 mm thickness with a hinge-less lid to protect both AirPods 1 and AirPods 2 with full light sensor functionality.

The PodSkinz, \$8.95 are available in nine colors.

And if that’s not enough, there are times when you are sound free and the AirPods need to be put down for a few minutes and that’s where the AirDock comes in.



The PodSkinz case with carabiner case



AirDock

The dock has a residue-free restickable adhesive strip on the bottom for securing the magnetic base to any flat surface. Just place the AirPods in or out of the AirDock (\$8.95) when needed.

Online: earbuddyz.com

Some of us have the original USB connection and many have the newer USB-C. And many of us have both.

Whatever you have, they are used for charging and that’s where Moshi’s new QuickDuo Car Charger is a simple, yet highly useful gadget.

It plugs into a 12V socket, known to many as a cigarette lighter and has both a USB-C and USB-A ports on a front-facing aluminum faceplate.

Each port supports secure quick charging on Android and iPhones and Moshi’s over-charge protection with Smart power management circuitry provides protection. The QuickDuo produces 36 W of total power so the ports can be used simultaneously, which is a plus and worked perfectly in my testing.

In addition to smartphone charging, the charger has other uses. It can power a dashboard camera and can charge a pocket digital camera, as well.

Online: moshi.com; \$29.95



Moshi’s new QuickDuo Car Charger

TNS

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OPINION

Warren is progressivism's Donald Trump

By GEORGE F. WILL
Washington Post Writers Group

Elizabeth Warren was supposed to be the thinking person's Bernie Sanders. She inspected, progressive but with realistic arithmetic connecting aspirations to resources. Then came her explanation of how she would finance "Medicare for All."

Before Republicans wearied of pretending to care about fiscal rectitude, they pretended that they could eliminate budget deficits by eliminating "waste, fraud and abuse," a pledge that demonstrated their familiarity with fraud. Warren prices her Medicare for All at \$20.5 trillion in a decade, which is \$10 trillion to \$14 trillion less than estimates from serious sources (the Rand Corp., the Urban Institute, the Mercatus Center). She makes audacious assumptions that would make Republicans blush, if they still could.

For example, 11% of her plan's cost will be covered by cutting payments to providers such as hospitals (35% below current private insurance rates). That's 25%. Does her clairvoyance extend to how many of the former will then close and how many of the latter will retire? She assumes that states and cities, which cannot be compelled to do so, will send to Washington the \$6.1 trillion they spend on health care. She assumes that the federal government can collect an additional \$2.3 trillion by shrinking the "tax gap," i.e., reducing tax evasion, a decades-old aspiration in Washington that would have been accomplished already if it were possible. And so on, and on.

Warren cheerily says, "No one gets left behind.... Some of the people currently working in health insurance will work

in other parts of insurance, in life insurance, in auto insurance," which supposedly will suddenly need the 370,000 people who today work in private health insurance. She sees society as a Tinkertoy for clever people like her to disassemble and reassemble, shuffling around hundreds of thousands of people.

Never has there been such a brittle prospective presidency. Warren is vain about the specificity of her plans for expanding the government's scope far beyond what the New Deal or Great Society envisioned. Yet the entire edifice of her "transformation of society by government spending and fiat rests upon the rickety assumption that her proposed wealth tax is constitutional.

But because the Constitution forbids "direct" federal taxes, the 16th Amendment was necessary to make the income tax possible. Warren's evident theory is that the federal government can, without an amendment, impose a general tax on accumulated wealth — implies that the term "direct" effectively prohibits nothing, so the 16th Amendment was unnecessary.

Were her wealth tax to survive judicial review, whose law to have in content effect of steadily shrinking the supply of billionaires, who would fund progressivism's agenda? The spending commitments would remain in place, so where would government then go for revenues? To where most of America's money is: the middle class.

Warren, whose law to have in content effect of steadily shrinking the supply of "billionaires"), should try an experiment — not at her rallies of the resentful, but with an audience of representative Americans. Ask how many in the audience own an Apple product? The overwhelming majority will say they do. Then ask: How many resent the fact that Steve Jobs,

Apple's innovator, died a billionaire? Few hands will be raised.

Few Americans know, but most intuit, what economist William D. Nordhaus, a Nobel laureate, argues in a 2004 paper: Innovators capture only about 2.2% of the surplus from innovation. The surplus is, basically, the innovation's value to society, minus the cost of producing it. Warren's dependence on a wealth tax announces progressivism's failure of nerve, its unwillingness to require anyone other than a tiny crumb of society's upper crust to pay significantly for the cornucopia of benefits that she clearly thinks everyone wants — but only if someone else pays for them.

The war Warren has cooked the books regarding her health care financing testifies to Donald Trump's success in normalizing preposterousness. Candidate Trump breezily promised to erase the national debt in eight years, which would have required retiring \$2.4 trillion a year, a sum equal to 55% of the fiscal 2019 budget. Warren's politically, socially and economically surreal bookkeeping is more egregious than his because she is intelligent enough to know better, and because she used ingenuity, which she does not possess, to disguise her disingenuousness.

Her cachet has been intellectual gravitas, supposedly demonstrated by blueprints for refurbishing everything. Suddenly "the thinking person's Bernie Sanders" seems more like progressivism's Trump, exacerbating social hostilities and playing fast and loose with facts. Markets, for which Warren has minimal respect, are information-generating mechanisms, and America's political market is working. Her Medicare for All plan provides indispensable information, not governance but about her.

Hoffa helped create the American middle class

By CHRIS WRIGHT
Special to The Washington Post

Jimmy Hoffa used to say he'd forgotten 10 years after his death. This was an uncharacteristically unintelligent judgment. Forty-four years after his murder on July 30, 1975, Hoffa is still famous enough that one of the most celebrated movies of the year, "The Irishman," about the man who claims to have killed him, Frank Sheeran. For a labor leader, such a level of fame is not only extraordinary; it is unique.

Of course, to deny, Hoffa is notorious: a dictatorial and corrupt union boss who was close friends with gangsters and allied his union, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, with the Mafia. There is certainly some truth to these charges. But it is worth remembering that Hoffa was much more than just a corrupt "dictator." He was one of the most brilliant, effective and ambitious union leaders in American history, and he played a substantial role in creating the postwar middle class.

"When the government came after him," a member of the Teamsters said years afterward, "a society by historian Thaddeus Russell," "a lot of us wanted to take our trucks and run 'em over certain people.... Everyone I knew thought Hoffa was a great man."

Why was he so beloved? Hoffa was perceived as defiantly standing up for workers against a society by historian Thaddeus Russell, "a lot of us wanted to take our trucks and run 'em over certain people.... Everyone I knew thought Hoffa was a great man."

On the charges of corruption and Mafia ties, he was unrepentant: "Twenty years ago [i.e., in 1939] the employers had all the hoodlums working for them as strikebreak-

ers. Now we've got a few, and everybody's screaming." Hoffa's defiant, teamsters saw him as a courageous truth-teller.

But the main reason for Hoffa's popularity was that he delivered for his members. More than anyone else, he was responsible for transforming the trucking industry from a decentralized, low-paying, terribly unsafe industry in the 1930s to a centralized, high-paying and relatively humane one in the 1960s. According to biographer Arthur Sloane, the contracts he negotiated were so generous that there were stories of professors at elite universities quitting their jobs to become truck drivers because they could do it better than Hoffa.

Hoffa's success was due in part to the fact that, like the elites he battled, he didn't play by the rules. If businessmen could bribe politicians and the Mafia could bribe police departments, why couldn't a union leader use the same tactics?

By whatever means necessary, Hoffa would, and did, force employers to unionize their workforces, establish unusually generous health and pension funds, and in general treat their employees with some respect. In 1964 Hoffa even achieved the dream he had worked toward for 25 years: He negotiated the National Master Freight Agreement with employers across the country, a contract that secured virtually uniform wages for 450,000 drivers from coast to coast and north to south. At a time when most of the South had very low wages and was hardly unionized at all this was an incredible and unique achievement.

Hoffa did indeed break the law on many occasions. But the question remains, given the corruption and law-breaking by countless businessmen and powerful officials — including Hoffa nemesis Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, who used illegal wiretaps and electronic bugs to bring down his

enemy — why was Hoffa singled out?

The answer is that Hoffa organized labor itself was a target, and Hoffa was significant as the head of the largest, most powerful and most politically independent union. Since the IBT often supported Republicans, even Democrats were willing to go after it.

In the 1950s, big business was conducting a colossal political, legal and public-relations campaign to beat back the left-liberalism spawned by the New Deal era. Historian Elizabeth Fones-Wolf argues in "Selling Free Enterprise: The Business Assault on Labor and Liberalism, 1945-60" that there was a "unity of purpose within much of the business community on ... the necessity of halting the advance of the welfare state and of undermining the legitimacy and power of organized labor."

What better way to accomplish this goal than to focus public attention on union corruption and ties to Mafia figures, the McClellan Committee of 1957-59 did? It was immaterial that many politicians and "legitimate" businesses were no less connected to the Mafia.

But the central lesson of Hoffa's life remains relevant today: to build union power, leaders must be willing to confront employers, aggressively stand up for the material needs of members and stay close to the rank and file, as Hoffa did. It's necessary to antagonize the economic elite, because ultimately the power of organized labor is grounded in the working class, not in friendly relations with authorities. In the era of teacher revolts, the Fight for \$15, and "democratic socialist" politics, all unions should heed these lessons.

Chris Wright is the author of "Worker Creatives and Revolution: History and Possibilities in the United States."

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Stocks close out short day with broad losses

BY ALEX VEIGA
Associated Press

Stocks fell broadly on Wall Street Friday following a shortened trading session a day after the Thanksgiving holiday that left the market slightly below its record highs.

Technology, health care and industrial stocks accounted for a big slice of the selling. Several big retailers also dragged the market lower as traders watched for signs that Black Friday got off to a strong start. Energy stocks took the heaviest losses as crude oil prices fell sharply. Bond yields rose.

Even with the pullback, the S&P 500 notched its seventh weekly gain in eight weeks. The benchmark index also closed out November with its strongest monthly gain since June.

"You had three solid days, plus the S&P was at an all-time high as of the close on Wednesday," said Tom Martin, senior portfolio manager with Global Investments. "Really, from early October until now, it's been almost like a ruler, straight up."

The S&P 500 index dropped 12.65 points, or 0.4%, to 3,140.98. The index hit all-time highs the first three days of the week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 112.59 points, or 0.4%, to 28,051.41. The Nasdaq slid 39.70 points, or 0.5%, to 8,665.47. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 9.60 points, or 0.6%, to 1,624.50. Trading volume was lighter than usual with the markets open for only a half-day.

Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.77% from 1.76% late Wednesday.

The three major stock indexes have notched multiple record highs in recent weeks. That helped drive their gains in November. The S&P 500 ended the month with a 3.4% gain, while the Dow rose 3.7%. The Nasdaq, which is weighted heavily with technology stocks, gained 4.5%.

The stock market has been grinding mostly higher after shaking off recession fears that helped knock stocks into a skid this summer.

Better-than-expected corporate earnings, solid economic data and interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve helped fuel the market's fall rally. Investors have also grown more optimistic about the prospects for a trade deal between the U.S. and China.

New U.S. tariffs are set to kick in on many Chinese-made products as of Dec. 15, but negotiators

have said they might soon have a preliminary deal that could avert that.

Chipmakers were among the biggest decliners in the technology sector Friday. Lam Research and Qualcomm each fell 1.5%.

Drugmakers helped pull the health stocks lower. Bristol-Myers Squibb dropped 1.1%.

Energy stocks were the biggest losers as the price of U.S. crude oil slid 5.1%. Devon Energy dropped 2.8% and Helmerich & Payne fell 2.3%.

Shares in several big retailers declined as Black Friday, traditionally the kickoff for the holiday shopping season, got underway. Macy's fell 1%. Gap dropped 1.8%, Kohl's slid 2.7% and Nordstrom slipped 0.4%.

Some bucked the downward trend. J.C. Penney rose 1.8%, Walmart added 0.3% and TJX,

parent of T.J. Maxx, Marshalls and other stores, gained 0.3%.

This year retailers have less time to woo consumers because Thanksgiving fell on the fourth Thursday in November, making the holiday shopping season six days shorter.

The National Retail Federation baked the shorter season into its forecast, which calls for holiday sales to rise between 3.8% and 4.2%, an increase from the disappointing 2.1% growth seen in November and December 2018.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 2)	\$1.1287
Dollar buys (Dec. 2)	40.886
British pound (Dec. 2)	\$1.32
Japanese yen (Dec. 2)	106.80
South Korean won (Dec. 2)	1,150.00
Commercial rates	
British (pound)	0.3770
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$1.2903
Canada (dollar)	1.3297
China (Yuan)	7.0298
Denmark (Krone)	6.7915
Egypt (Pound)	16.1206
Euro	\$1.1001/0.9090
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.8281
Hungary (Forint)	133.40
Israel (Shekel)	3.4721
Japan (Yen)	109.55
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3037
Norway (Krone)	9.1936
Philippines (Peso)	50.86
Poland (Zloty)	3.92
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7500
Singapore (dollar)	1.3674
South Korea (Won)	1,180.99
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0011
Thailand (Baht)	30.24
Turkey (Lira)	5.7452

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, for nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federate reserve market rate	1.35
3-month bill	1.55
30-year bond	2.20

US: Cryptocurrency expert violated N. Korea sanctions

BY JIM MUSTIAN
AND JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Federal prosecutors have charged a cryptocurrency expert with violating economic sanctions against North Korea by presenting at a conference there this year after the U.S. government denied his request to travel to Pyongyang.

Virgil Griffith, 36, was expected to appear in federal court Friday in Los Angeles, a day after he was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport.

Griffith is an American citizen but lives in Singapore.

Federal prosecutors said Griffith secured a visa through "a

(North Korean) diplomatic mission facility" in Manhattan for 100 euros and then traveled to the country through China in April.

At the conference, Griffith talked about how North Korea could use cryptocurrency to "achieve independence from the global banking system," according to a criminal complaint.

The conference was attended by 100 people, prosecutors said, including several who appeared to work for the North Korean government.

The criminal complaint says Griffith showed the FBI photographs of himself in North Korea and provided agencies with propaganda from the country.

"Griffith announced his intention to renounce his U.S. citizenship and began researching how to purchase citizenship from other countries," the U.S. attorney's Office in Manhattan said in a news release.

Prosecutors say another person involved in the alleged conspiracy was to be brought to New York and arrested. That person is not named in the criminal complaint against Griffith.

The U.S. attorney in Manhattan, Geoffrey Berman, said Griffith "provided highly technical information to North Korea, knowing that this information could be used to help North Korea launder money and evade sanctions."

The U.S. and the U.N. Security Council have imposed increasingly tight sanctions on North Korea in recent years to try to rein in its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

MARKET WATCH

Nov. 29, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	-112.59
	28,051.41
Nasdaq composite	-39.71
	8,665.47
Standard & Poor's 500	-12.65
	3,140.98
Russell 2000	-9.60
	1,624.50

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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

SPORTS BRIEFS/MLB

Briefly

Mizzou fires Odom after four seasons

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Missouri fired football coach Barry Odom on Saturday, ending the four-year stay of a respected former player who took over a program in disarray but could never get the Tigers over the hump in the brutal SEC.

The Tigers finished 6-6 and 3-5 in the conference after beating Arkansas on Friday. That left Odom with a 25-25 record, a perfectly middling mark after Gary Pinkel's successful run.

Athletic director Jim Sterk called the dismissal a "difficult" but "necessary" move.

"He and his staff have worked diligently during the past four years," Sterk said in a statement. "Coach Odom has represented our program with integrity and dedicated himself to developing our student-athletes on and off the football field for which we are grateful."

Sterk was expected to speak later in the day at Mizzou Arena.

The Tigers were projected to contend for the top of the SEC East this season with the return of several key players and the influx of high-profile Clemson transfer Kelly Bryant at quarterback. But the season began with a bumbling loss to Wyoming and never really got on track, and the Tigers were forced to beat Arkansas just to become bowl-eligible.

Not that winning six games mattered.

This past week, the school lost its appeal of NCAA penalties stemming from an incident involving a rogue tutor. That decision led in place postseason bans, recruiting and scholarship restrictions levied against the football, baseball and softball programs.

NFL wide receiver Pryor stabbed in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH — A prosecutor's office says NFL wide receiver Terrelle Pryor was stabbed in Pittsburgh, but there was no immediate word on his condition.

Allegheny District Attorney spokesman Mike Manko confirmed Saturday that Pryor was the victim of a stabbing. Manko said he had no other information, including where and when the stabbing occurred.

A Pittsburgh Public Safety spokesman said earlier that city officers were called to UPMC Mercy after a stabbing victim walked into the hospital just after 4:30 a.m. Saturday, but she didn't confirm that the victim was Pryor. She said it wasn't known where the stabbing occurred.

Pryor, a former Ohio State quarterback, has played for the Oakland Raiders, Buffalo Bills, New York Jets, Washington Redskins and Cleveland Browns. He most recently signed with Jacksonville but was waived in September after a hamstring injury.

Duke G Stanley to miss at least 1 month

DURHAM, N.C. — Duke freshman Cassius Stanley is expected to miss at least a month after suffering what coach Mike Krzyzewski called a muscular injury in his left leg during a victory over Winthrop on Friday night.

Krzyzewski said Stanley will have an MRI on Saturday but "he's going to be out for a while," adding he hopes the guard can return in late December. He says team doctors have told him that "right now, it's not the knee."

Stanley was hurt a little over a minute into the second half while going up for an open layup in transition, crumpling to the floor as the ball went off the rim.

He remained down for a moment before attempting to play through the injury, only to pull up near midcourt while clutching his leg. He was helped off the court and into the locker room.

Stanley, whose average of 14.1 points ranks third on the team, reached double figures in six of his first seven games for the top-ranked Blue Devils.

Source: Japan's Tigers set to acquire Bour

TOKYO — The Hanshin Tigers of Japan's Central League are set to acquire major league free agent Justin Bour.

Kyodo news agency says Tigers general manager Osamu Tanimoto said this week the team has reached a basic agreement with the 31-year-old Bour, who played first base for the Los Angeles Angels last season.

Hanshin officials were not available for comment on Saturday.

Bour has a career .233 batting average with 92 home runs, 303 RBIs and 433 hits over six seasons in Major League Baseball. He started his career with the Miami Marlins in 2014 and had a brief stint with the Philadelphia Phillies in 2018 before joining the Angels for the 2019 season.

Hamilton wins pole at Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — World champion Lewis Hamilton took pole position for the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Saturday.

It was the six-time Formula One champion's record-extending 88th pole of his career.

Hamilton finished 194 seconds ahead of his Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas and 360 clear of Red Bull's Max Verstappen.

Ferrari struggled for pace on the Yas Marina circuit, with Charles Leclerc fourth ahead of Sebastian Vettel. They were both around a half second slower than Hamilton, who sealed his sixth title two races ago at the United States Grand Prix.



STAR TRIBUNE/TNS

Twins pitcher Michael Pineda was suspended for 60 games in September for taking a diuretic.

ADHD drug exemptions in MLB lowest since '08

By RONALD BLUM

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The number of major leaguers allowed to use otherwise-banned drugs to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder dropped to the lowest level since the sport started issuing annual reports in 2008.

The results come in a report issued Monday by Thomas Martin, the Independent Program Administrator for the drug program of Major League Baseball and the players' association.

There were 91 therapeutic use exemptions for ADHD drugs in the year ending with the 2019 World Series. That was down from the previous lows, 101 last year, and 103 in 2017. Exemptions for hyperactivity disorder had ranged from 105-119 annually from 2008-16, prompting some to criticize their issuance as too lenient.

Drugs prescribed to treat ADHD often contain amphetamine and methylphenidate, stimulants on baseball's banned list.

The overwhelming therapeutic exemptions in MLB are for ADHD. There were just three in the past year for other conditions, one each for hypersomnia, hypogonadism and kidney disease.

MLB Deputy Commissioner Dan Halet has said the sport's experts maintain the condition is more frequent in young adult males than among the general population.

Halet and the union did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the report.

Total drug tests rose to 11,619, including 9,332 urine samples to detect performance-enhancing substances, stimulants and the drug DHEA (Dehydroepiandrosterone), and 2,287 blood samples used to detect Human Growth Hormone. That was up slightly from 11,526 tests in the year ending with the 2018 World Series.

MLB and the players' union are negotiating to add testing for opioids, talks that began after Los Angeles Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs died July 1 at age 27 in his hotel room in the Dallas area. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office said Skaggs' death was caused when he choked on his vomit with a toxic mix of alcohol and the painkillers fentanyl and oxycodone in his body.

In next year's report, the IPA is to disclose how many out-of-season tests took place during the previous five years.



RICHARD W. RODRIGUEZ, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/TNS

Seattle Mariners third baseman Tim Beckham received an 80-game ban last season after testing positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

Eight players were suspended under the big league drug program in the past year, including seven who received 80-game bans following positive tests for performance-enhancing drugs: Boston pitcher Steven Wright; Kansas City pitcher Eric Skoglund; Houston pitcher Francis Martes; San Francisco pitcher Logan Webb; free agent catcher Mike Marjama; Oakland pitcher Frankie Montas; and Seattle infielder Tim Beckham.

Minnesota pitcher Michael Pineda was suspended for 60 games in September for taking a banned diuretic.

Forty-three players have been suspended this year under the minor league drug program, which includes bans for drugs of abuse such as marijuana or cocaine following a second positive test. Opioids also are in that category under the minor league program.

NHL

Roundup

Orlov's O goal carries Capitals past eighth

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dmitry Orlov scored 3:03 into overtime, and the Washington Capitals rallied to beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 4-3 on Friday.

Orlov, Jakub Vranas and Evgeny Kuznetsov each had a goal and an assist for Washington, which trailed 3-1 after two periods. Alex Ovechkin tied the game with his team-leading 17th goal 11:36 into the third.

The Capitals went 2-for-2 on the power play and closed out a three-game homestand with five points.

Brayden Point scored his 100th career goal and had an assist for Tampa Bay. Nikita Kucherov recorded three assists for the second time this season, but also picked up a penalty that helped set up Ovechkin's goal.

Blues, 3, Stars 1: Ryan O'Reilly broke a tie 18 seconds after Dallas pulled even, and visiting St. Louis extended its lead in the Central Division.

O'Reilly took a pass from Ivan Barbashev and beat Ben Bishop from the slot with 2:53 left in the third period. Barbashev added an empty-netter with 3 seconds remaining.

Jake Allen made 31 saves, stopping everything except Roope Hintz's short 9 seconds after he came out of the penalty box with 3:11 to play.

Blue Jackets 5, Penguins 2: Gustav Nyquist scored three times to lead host Columbus to the victory.

Nick Foligno had two goals for the Blue Jackets, who won for the fifth time in seven games. Joonas Korpiola had 29 saves, making several good stops with Pittsburgh pressing in the third period. It was Nyquist's second career hat trick. It was the first hat trick for the Predators, who broke a six-game losing streak against host Carolina.

Golden Knights 2, Coyotes 1 (SO): Vegas' Alex Tuch scored in regulation and added the shootout winner over visiting Arizona.

Golden Knights goaltender Malcolm Subban stopped 35 shots in his third straight start, including two monster saves in the final

12 seconds of regulation, and two more in overtime.

Avalanche 5, Blackhawks 2: Nathan MacKinnon had a goal and three assists, sending Colorado to the road win.

J.T. Compher added a goal and two assists for the Avalanche, who earned their second straight victory. Cale Makar, Ryan Graves and Valeri Nichushkin also scored in the first of a home-and-home set.

Bruins 3, Rangers 2 (OT): David Kreji scored 1:40 into overtime, David Pastrnak scored his league-leading 24th goal and host Boston earned its sixth straight win.

Kreji's goal, his fifth of the season, came on a left-circle wrist shot against an out-of-position Henrik Lundqvist after Pastrnak created space with a deke in the right circle.

Jets 3, Ducks 0: Connor Hellebuyck made 24 saves for his second shutout, leading Winnipeg to a win at Anaheim.

Neal Pionk had a power-play goal for the Jets, who improved to 10-2-1 this month with one game to play. Nikolaj Ehlers and Kyle Connor also scored, and Blake Wheeler had two assists.

Sharks 4, Kings 1: Martin Jones made 33 saves for host San Jose, and Noah Gregor scored his first career NHL goal.

Logan Couture, Patrick Marleau and Marc-Edouard Vlasic also scored to help the Sharks rebound from a lackluster effort Wednesday night against Winnipeg.

Wild 7, Senators 2: Defenseman Jaden Spurgeon had a goal and two assists, and host Minnesota scored three goals in a 4:13 span of the second period.

The Wild had their highest-scoring game of the season, beating Ottawa for the eighth straight time since November 2016.

Sabres 6, Maple Leafs 4: Jack Eichel had two goals and an assist, powering host Buffalo to the victory.

Jimmy Vesey, Jeff Skinner, Casey Mittelstadt and Victor Olofinboba also scored for the Sabres.

Flames 6, Red Wings 1: Sean Couturier and Steve Laughton each had a goal and an assist, and host Philadelphia earned its third straight victory.

Kevin Hayes, Oskar Lindblom, Shayne Gostisbehere and James van Riemsdyk also scored. The Flyers haven't lost in regulation during the regular season to Detroit since Jan. 25, 1997.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Sv	Shots	PP
Boston	25	18	3	5	41	86	64	1,121	12
Florida	25	12	8	5	29	91	93	1,043	11
Carolina	25	11	10	2	27	77	70	1,011	10
Toronto	27	12	11	4	28	91	91	1,121	10
Tampa Bay	23	12	8	5	28	81	76	966	10
Montreal	25	11	10	3	27	85	89	1,011	9
Ottawa	26	11	14	1	23	68	81	1,011	9
Detroit	28	7	18	3	15	72	112	1,121	8

Metropolitan Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Sv	Shots	PP
Washington	27	18	4	5	41	99	81	1,121	12
N.Y. Islanders	23	16	5	3	39	89	75	966	11
Philadelphia	26	14	7	5	31	89	75	1,011	10
Pittsburgh	26	16	7	2	32	91	73	1,011	10
Columbus	26	15	10	1	31	85	74	1,011	10
N.Y. Rangers	24	9	14	0	18	72	79	966	9
Columbus	25	11	10	4	26	66	78	966	9
New Jersey	24	9	11	4	22	65	86	966	8

Western Conference

Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Sv	Shots	PP
St. Louis	27	16	5	6	38	81	73	1,121	12
Winnipeg	26	16	9	1	33	76	74	1,011	11
Vegas	27	16	5	6	38	81	73	1,121	12
Dallas	27	15	10	2	32	73	65	1,011	11
Nashville	26	12	9	5	28	87	82	1,011	10
Minnesota	26	11	11	4	26	78	84	1,011	9
Chicago	25	10	10	5	25	71	74	1,011	9

Pacific Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Sv	Shots	PP
Edmonton	27	16	8	3	35	86	77	1,121	12
Arizona	27	16	5	6	38	81	73	1,121	12
Vegas	28	13	11	4	30	83	81	1,121	11
San Jose	28	12	12	1	29	78	78	1,011	10
Calgary	25	8	14	0	16	78	95	1,011	9
Seattle	28	12	14	2	28	70	85	1,011	10
Los Angeles	26	11	12	3	25	72	79	1,011	9
San Jose	26	10	14	2	22	68	88	1,011	9

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss, top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Thursday's game

New Jersey 6, Montreal 4
Boston 3, N.Y. Rangers 2 (OT)
Vegas 3, Anaheim 2
Philadelphia 6, Detroit 1
Washington 7, Ottawa 2
Buffalo 6, Toronto 4
San Jose 4, Los Angeles 1
Colorado 5, Chicago 2
Washington 4, Tampa Bay 3 (OT)
Vegas 2, St. Louis 1
Columbus 5, Pittsburgh 2
Nashville 3, Carolina 0
St. Louis 3, Carolina 0

Saturday's games

N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia
Philadelphia at Montreal
N.Y. Rangers at Detroit
Ottawa at Calgary
Carolina at Tampa Bay
Chicago at N.Y. Islanders
Buffalo at Toronto
San Jose at Arizona
Pittsburgh at St. Louis
St. Louis at Colorado
Vancouver at Edmonton
Winnipeg at Los Angeles
Dallas at Minnesota
Montreal at Vancouver
Edmonton at Vancouver

Sunday's games

Edmonton at Vancouver
Edmonton at Vancouver

Friday

Predators 3, Hurricanes 0

GP 25 **W** 18 **L** 3 **OT** 5 **Pts** 41 **GF** 86 **GA** 64
Shots 1,121 **PP** 12
First Period—1, Nashville, Grimaldi 2 (Bonnin), 8:15; 2, Nashville, Jankiro 9 (Forbesberg), 17:55.
Second Period—3, Nashville, Watson 4 (Duchene, Ekholm), 3:28.
Third Period—1, Nashville 13-7-8-28.
Goalie—Nashville 13-7-8-28.
Power-play opportunities—Nashville 0 of 4 (Colangelo), Nashville 13-7-8-28.
Goals—Nashville, Rinne 9-4-2 (31 shots-33 saves), Colangelo, Mrazek 11-6-1 (28-25).
A-19,680 (18,680). T-2:25.

Sharks 4, Kings 1

GP 25 **W** 18 **L** 3 **OT** 5 **Pts** 41 **GF** 86 **GA** 64
Shots 1,121 **PP** 12
First Period—1, San Jose, Marleau 6 (Sorenson, Thornton), 7:26; 2, San Jose, Vasek 4 (Eriksson, Grimaldi), 12:14.
Second Period—3, San Jose, Gregor 1 (Goodrow, E.Karlsson), 14:42.
Third Period—5, Los Angeles, Clifford 3 (Luff), 18:11.
Shots on goal—Los Angeles 13-13-34.
Goalie—San Jose 13-13-34.
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 1 of 4 (San Jose), San Jose 13-13-34.
Goals—Los Angeles, Quick 7-10-1 (23 shots-18 saves), San Jose, Jones 11-8-1 (33).
A-16,893 (17,562). T-2:17.

Jets 3, Ducks 0

GP 25 **W** 18 **L** 3 **OT** 5 **Pts** 41 **GF** 86 **GA** 64
Shots 1,121 **PP** 12
First Period—1, Winnipeg, Pionk 1 (Laine, Wheeler), 1:08 (pp), 2, Winnipeg, Ehlers 12 (Morrissey, Veier), 9:13.
Second Period—1, Winnipeg 10-10-30.
Goalie—Winnipeg 4-7-9-20.
Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg 1 of 4; Anaheim 0 of 2.
Goals—Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 13-7-1 (20 shots-18 saves), Anaheim, Gibson 8-11-20 (20-17).
A-16,501 (17,174). T-2:24.

Blues 3, Stars 1

GP 25 **W** 18 **L** 3 **OT** 5 **Pts** 41 **GF** 86 **GA** 64
Shots 1,121 **PP** 12
First Period—1, St. Louis, Parayko 2 (O'Reilly, Perron), 11:40.
Second Period—2, Dallas, Hintz 11 (Compton, Pilon, 16:40; 2, Dallas, O'Reilly 6 (Barbashev, Bouwmeester), 17:07; 4, St. Louis, Barbashev 3 (Perron, Schenn), 19:27.
Shots on goal—St. Louis 11-11-18-40.
Goalie—Dallas 11-11-18-40.
Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 0 of 4 (Dallas), Dallas 11-11-18-40.
Goals—St. Louis, Allen 4-1-2 (32 shots-31 saves), Dallas, Bishop 9-1-1 (39-37).
A-18,532 (18,532). T-2:28.

Avalanche 5, Blackhawks 2

GP 25 **W** 18 **L** 3 **OT** 5 **Pts** 41 **GF** 86 **GA** 64
Shots 1,121 **PP** 12
First Period—1, Colorado, MacKinnon 16 (Compher), 0:59; 2, Colorado, Graves 3 (MacKinnon, Nieto), 3:17; 3, Colorado, Smith 1 (Carpenter), 9:14; 4, Colorado, Makar 8 (MacKinnon, Compher), 12:20 (pp).
Second Period—5, Colorado, Nichushkin 3 (Kreji, 5:45; 6, Colorado, Compher's (MacKinnon), 11:26; 7, Chicago, Kane 13 (Tovres, Saa), 19:56.
Shots on goal—Colorado 7-7-9-23.
Goalie—Colorado 7-7-9-23.
Power-play opportunities—Colorado 1 of 4 (Chicago), Chicago 1-1-1-3.
Goals—Colorado, Francouz 5-2-0 (36 shots-34 saves), Chicago, Crawford 5-6-2 (23-38).
A-21,822 (19,777). T-2:26.

Knights 2, Coyotes 1 (SO)

GP 25 **W** 18 **L** 3 **OT** 5 **Pts** 41 **GF** 86 **GA** 64
Shots 1,121 **PP** 12
First Period—1, Vegas, Tuch 2 (Hogan, 5:49; 2, Vegas, 12:51.
Second Period—1, Vegas, 12:51.
Third Period—1, Vegas, 12:51.
Goalie—Vegas 12-12-10-36.
Power-play opportunities—Vegas 1 of 4 (Arizona), Arizona 1-1-1-3.
Goals—Arizona, Kuemper 10-6-2 (38 shots-34 saves), Vegas, Subban 2-4-2 (36-35).
A-18,326 (17,367). T-2:43.

Blue Jackets 5, Penguins 2

GP 25 **W** 18 **L** 3 **OT** 5 **Pts** 41 **GF** 86 **GA** 64
Shots 1,121 **PP** 12
First Period—1, Columbus, Nyquist 5 (Gorkarski, 5:21; 2, Pittsburgh, Guenther 4 (Gorkarski, 5:21; 3, Columbus, Nyquist 6 (Werenski), 2:52 (pp), 5, Columbus, Foligno 4 (Werenski), 15:09 (pp).
Second Period—6, Pittsburgh, Letang 6 (Werenski), 5:20; 7, Columbus, Nyquist 7 (Savard, Anderson), 19:01.
Shots on goal—Pittsburgh 3-16-12-31.
Goalie—Pittsburgh 3-16-12-31.
Power-play opportunities—Pittsburgh 1 of 4; Columbus 2 of 2.
Goals—Pittsburgh, Jarro 5-4-10 (29 shots-29 saves), Columbus, Korpisalo 11-8-1 (33-29).
A-17,402 (18,500). T-2:30.



The Boston Bruins' Jake DeBrusk, right, is pursued by the New York Rangers' Tony DeAngelo during Boston's 3-2 overtime win.

Michael Dwyer/AP

Bruins 3, Rangers 2 (OT)

GP 25 **W** 18 **L** 3 **OT** 5 **Pts** 41 **GF** 86 **GA** 64
Shots 1,121 **PP** 12
First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Buchnevich 5 (DeAngelo, Trouba), 14:14.
Second Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Chytil 8 (Strome, Panarin), 6:21; 3, Boston, Kuruv 2 (DeBrusk, Carlo), 18:28.
Third Period—4, Boston, Pastrnak 24 (Kreji, DeBrusk), 4:27.
Overtime—5, Boston, Kreji 5 (Halak, Pastrnak), 1:40.
Shots on goal—N.Y. Rangers 11-11-6-28.
Goalie—N.Y. Rangers 11-11-6-28.
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Rangers 0 of 6; Boston 1 of 1.
Goals—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 7-5-2 (27 shots-24 saves), Boston, Halak 6-1-3 (28-26).
A-17,850 (17,565). T-2:28.

Blues 3, Stars 1

GP 25 **W** 18 **L** 3 **OT** 5 **Pts** 41 **GF** 86 **GA** 64
Shots 1,121 **PP** 12
First Period—1, St. Louis, Parayko 2 (O'Reilly, Perron), 11:40.
Second Period—2, Dallas, Hintz 11 (Compton, Pilon, 16:40; 2, Dallas, O'Reilly 6 (Barbashev, Bouwmeester), 17:07; 4, St. Louis, Barbashev 3 (Perron, Schenn), 19:27.
Shots on goal—St. Louis 11-11-18-40.
Goalie—Dallas 11-11-18-40.
Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 0 of 4 (Dallas), Dallas 11-11-18-40.
Goals—St. Louis, Allen 4-1-2 (32 shots-31 saves), Dallas, Bishop 9-1-1 (39-37).
A-18,532 (18,532). T-2:28.

Avalanche 5, Blackhawks 2

GP 25 **W** 18 **L** 3 **OT** 5 **Pts** 41 **GF** 86 **GA** 64
Shots 1,121 **PP** 12
First Period—1, Colorado, MacKinnon 16 (Compher), 0:59; 2, Colorado, Graves 3 (MacKinnon, Nieto), 3:17; 3, Colorado, Smith 1 (Carpenter), 9:14; 4, Colorado, Makar 8 (MacKinnon, Compher), 12:20 (pp).
Second Period—5, Colorado, Nichushkin 3 (Kreji, 5:45; 6, Colorado, Compher's (MacKinnon), 11:26; 7, Chicago, Kane 13 (Tovres, Saa), 19:56.
Shots on goal—Colorado 7-7-9-23.
Goalie—Colorado 7-7-9-23.
Power-play opportunities—Colorado 1 of 4 (Chicago), Chicago 1-1-1-3.
Goals—Colorado, Francouz 5-2-0 (36 shots-34 saves), Chicago, Crawford 5-6-2 (23-38).
A-21,822 (19,777). T-2:26.

Knights 2, Coyotes 1 (SO)

GP 25 **W** 18 **L** 3 **OT** 5 **Pts** 41 **GF** 86 **GA** 64
Shots 1,121 **PP** 12
First Period—1, Vegas, Tuch 2 (Hogan, 5:49; 2, Vegas, 12:51.
Second Period—1, Vegas, 12:51.
Third Period—1, Vegas, 12:51.
Goalie—Vegas 12-12-10-36.
Power-play opportunities—Vegas 1 of 4 (Arizona), Arizona 1-1-1-3.
Goals—Arizona, Kuemper 10-6-2 (38 shots-34 saves), Vegas, Subban 2-4-2 (36-35).
A-18,326 (17,367). T-2:43.

Blue Jackets 5, Penguins 2

GP 25 **W** 18 **L** 3 **OT** 5 **Pts** 41 **GF** 86 **GA** 64
Shots 1,121 **PP** 12
First Period—1, Columbus, Nyquist 5 (Gorkarski, 5:21; 2, Pittsburgh, Guenther 4 (Gorkarski, 5:21; 3, Columbus, Nyquist 6 (Werenski), 2:52 (pp), 5, Columbus, Foligno 4 (Werenski), 15:09 (pp).
Second Period—6, Pittsburgh, Letang 6 (Werenski), 5:20; 7, Columbus, Nyquist 7 (Savard, Anderson), 19:01.
Shots on goal—Pittsburgh 3-16-12-31.
Goalie—Pittsburgh 3-16-12-31.
Power-play opportunities—Pittsburgh 1 of 4; Columbus 2 of 2.
Goals—Pittsburgh, Jarro 5-4-10 (29 shots-29 saves), Columbus, Korpisalo 11-8-1 (33-29).
A-17,402 (18,500). T-2:30.

Sabres 6, Maple Leafs 4

GP 25 **W** 18 **L** 3 **OT** 5 **Pts** 41 **GF** 86 **GA** 64
Shots 1,121 **PP** 12
First Period—1, Toronto, Tavares 8 (Kapanen), 12:51; 3, Buffalo, Skinner 10 (Larsson, Montour), 5:45; 4, Buffalo, Eichel 5 (Bogosian), 9:43; 5, Buffalo, Melndez 4 (Vesey, Scandella), 12:06; 6, Buffalo, Olofinboba 10 (Eichel, Scandella), 18:57.
Second Period—7, Toronto, Timoshov 8 (Spezza, Riielly, 5:50; 8, Buffalo, Vesey 4, 8:34; 9, Toronto, Kapanen 8 (Holt, Petan), 12:10; 10, Buffalo, Eichel 16 (Ristolainen), 19:33.
Third Period—5, Washington, Olofinboba 13:30-10-29.
Goalie—Toronto, Hutchinson 0-5-1 (35 shots-30 saves), Buffalo, Ullmark 6-5-2 (29-25).
A-15,070 (19,070). T-2:28.

Capitals 4, Lightning 3 (OT)

GP 25 **W** 18 **L** 3 **OT** 5 **Pts** 41 **GF** 86 **GA** 64
Shots 1,121 **PP** 12
First Period—1, Tampa Bay, Point 9

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Michigan routs No. 8 Gonzaga, wins Atlantis title

BY AARON BEARD
Associated Press

PARADISE ISLAND, Bahamas — Juwan Howard was standing at the center of his Michigan team posing for oncourt pictures when he finally grabbed the hefty Battle 4 Atlantis championship trophy from the table in front of him.

The first-year coach tipped it backward to peek at the front and the large seashell on its base, then used both hands to hoist it above his head with a celebratory scream.

"It's gratifying to be able to hold up that trophy and say, 'You know what? All that sacrifice we put through, all the hard work we put in, it was well worth it,'" Howard said.

There was no arguing with the results, either. His Wolverines again overwhelmed a highly ranked opponent with their flowing offense to beat No. 8 Gonzaga 82-64 in Friday's title game. And that closed a three-game run that saw Michigan go from arriving in the Bahamas as an afterthought in a eight-team tournament to claiming four AP Top 25 teams to commanding everyone's attention.

"Well, I'm sure we're on the map now," Howard said with a big grin.

Jon Teske added 19 points, 15 rebounds and four blocks as the tournament's most valuable player for the Wolverines (7-0).

Yet the story was more about the way Michigan won the title than any stats. The Wolverines handled Iowa State in Wednesday's opener, then led No. 6 North Carolina by 24 at one point during Thursday's win before beating the Zags (8-1). And that secured a pair of early marquee wins for Howard, the longtime NBA player and member of Michigan's "Fab Five" a quarter-century ago.

This one had a similar feeling to the UNC win, too, with Michigan's offense kicking into the second half to take control and build a huge lead.

"We're having fun together," Teske said. "We're sharing the ball. We know where we're going to be on the court at all times."

Michigan led just 38-36 when the shots started falling from just about everywhere: a three-pointer from Xavier Simpson, two drives from freshman Franz Wagner, a three from Livers and two more from David DeJulius.

It was a burst of 10 straight scoring possessions — with Michigan moving the ball to get good looks on just about every one — that put the Wolverines up 62-43 midway through the second half.

Gonzaga never got the lead



Tony Ding/AP

Michigan head coach Juwan Howard and his unranked Wolverines improved to 7-0 with an 82-64 defeat of No. 8 Gonzaga Friday in the Battle 4 Atlantis championship at Paradise Island, Bahamas.

below double figures again.

Killian Tillie scored 20 points for the battered Bulldogs, who dealt with numerous injury concerns over the three-day tournament. Gonzaga just couldn't keep up with the Wolverines and finished the game shooting 40%.

"Every time we made a mental breakdown, they scored," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "They literally made us pay on every one of our assignments that we screwed up — a switch or we screwed up a coverage. And they made us pay, so they deserve a lot of credit for that."

Michigan shot 54%, including 12-for-23 from three-point range. And by the end, there was even the sight of Howard breaking out dance moves for his players as they held a sign proclaiming Michigan as the Atlantis champs. "We work hard as a group," Howard said. "Why not have some fun?"

Big picture

Gonzaga: The Bulldogs fought through a semifinal win against No. 11 Oregon as their highlight of the Thanksgiving-week tournament. But Few would probably love to use the coming days to get healthy, with Tillie missing the opener as he continues playing his way back from an October knee surgery. Gonzaga again didn't have Anton Watson because of an ankle injury.

"It's going to be crucial the next couple of days to rest our bodies and just focus on that and get ready for the next game," Tillie said. "But yeah, it was a tough three days for the team."



GERRY BROOME/AP

Duke freshman forward Matthew Hurt, center, and Winthrop guard Micheal Anumba, right, reach for the ball during the Blue Devils' 83-70 win Friday in Durham, N.C. Hurt led Duke with 20 points.

Top 25 roundup

No. 6 Duke nips No. 11 Ducks

Associated Press

PARADISE ISLAND, Bahamas — Cole Anthony hit a driving layup and four key free throws in the final 64 seconds to help No. 6 North Carolina hold off No. 11 Oregon in the third-place game at the Battle 4 Atlantis.

The freshman point guard had a baseline drive past Will Richardson with the Tar Heels protecting a one-point lead. He then hit four straight free throws to protect the lead in a game that went down to the final seconds.

Senior Brandon Robinson followed with the final free throws with 0.8 seconds left to seal it, giving the Tar Heels (6-1) a needed bounce-back effort after Thursday's loss to Michigan.

Anthony finished with 19 points despite sitting for a chunk of the second half after picking up his fourth foul, to help guide the Tar Heels to the finish, though it was fellow freshman Armando Bacot with a strong overall performance that led the way.

Bacot had 23 points, 12 rebounds and six blocks for UNC. Payton Pritchard had 19 points to lead Oregon (6-2).

No. 1 Duke 83, Winthrop 70: Freshman Matthew Hurt scored a season-high 20 points, Joey Baker added a career-high 16 and the host Blue Devils beat the Eagles to bounce back after their stunning loss to Stephen F. Austin.

Playing three nights after the unheralded Lumberjacks became the first Cameron Indoor Stadium visitor from outside the ACC to win in nearly 20 years, Duke (7-1) spent the better part of this one looking ripe for another upset before Baker — a sophomore who appeared in just four games last season — saved the Blue Devils.

He hit two dagger three-pointers 30 seconds apart in the final 3 minutes to put Duke up by double figures to stay.

No. 2 Louisville 71, Western Kentucky 54: Jordan Nwora scored 25 points as the host Cardinals defeated the Hilltoppers to remain unbeaten and make their case for the No. 1 ranking.

There will be a new No. 1 team when The Associated Press Top 25 comes out on Monday because top-ranked Duke fell at home to Stephen F. Austin 85-83 in overtime on Tuesday.

The Cardinals last topped the AP poll on Jan. 14, 2013, and they went on to win the national championship that year.

No. 5 Maryland 80, Harvard 73: Anthony Cowan

Jr. scored 17 of his 20 points in the second half to help the Terrapins overcome another slow start to remain unbeaten, topping the Crimson in the semifinals of the Orlando Invitational at Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Cowan followed up on a 30-point performance in the previous day's come-from-behind win over Temple with 10 points and an assist during a 12-4 burst that sparked a game-closing surge by Maryland (7-0).

No. 9 Kentucky 69, UAB 58: Nick Richards and EJ Montgomery each scored 16 points and combined for 17 rebounds, helping the host Wildcats beat the Blazers.

No. 10 Ohio State 90, Morgan State 57: Andre Wesson scored 19 points to help the host Buckeyes rout the Bears.

Creighton 83, No. 12 Texas Tech 76 (OT): At Las Vegas, Marcus Zegarowski scored a career-high 32 points on 12-for-18 shooting, and the Blue Jays beat the Red Raiders in overtime.

No. 13 Seton Hall 84, Iowa State 76: Myles Powell scored 19 of his 24 points after halftime to help the Pirates beat the Cyclones in the fifth-place game at the Battle 4 Atlantis in the Bahamas.

No. 14 Arizona 92, Penn 82: Nico Mannion scored 24 points, Chase Jeter added 19 and the Wildcats advanced to the championship game of the Wooden Legacy in Anaheim, Calif., with a win over the Quakers.

Arizona (8-0) shot 58.6% from the floor but Penn (4-3) rallied in the second half by making 10 of its 13 three-pointers over the final 20 minutes.

Saint Mary's 81, No. 15 Utah State 73: Jordan Ford scored 22 of his 27 points in the second half and sparked a run of 11 straight points late in the game to lead the host Gaels over the Aggies.

Florida State 60, No. 17 Tennessee 57: Devin Vassell scored 13 points and made a key steal and pair of free throws in the final minute as the Seminoles upended the Volunteers in the Emerald Coast Classic in Niceville, Fla.

Purdue 59, No. 20 VCU 56: Eric Hunter Jr. and Jahad Proctor each scored 12 points, including crucial free throws in the final two minutes, as the Boilermakers upset the Rams in the Emerald Coast Classic.

No. 24 Florida 73, Marshall 67: Ques Glover scored 14 points, Keyontae Johnson added 13 and the host Gators rallied from an eight-point halftime deficit to beat the Thundering Herd.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Memphis wide receiver Damonte Coxie, left, catches a 46-yard touchdown pass while being defended by Cincinnati cornerback Cam Jefferies during the second half of an Friday's game in Memphis, Tenn. Memphis won 34-24.

Top 25 roundup

Round 1 goes to Memphis

Tigers down Bearcats, prepare for rematch next week

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Brady White threw for 233 yards and two touchdowns and No. 17 Memphis beat 18th-ranked Cincinnati 34-24 on Friday for the Tigers' third straight American Athletic Conference West title and the right to host the league championship — and the Bearcats again — next week.

This will be the first time that the Tigers (11-1, 7-1, No. 18 CFP) will host a conference title game in program history.

And the league championship will be a rematch between these teams after Memphis snapped a nine-game winning streak by the East Division champs, Cincinnati (10-2, 7-1, No. 19 CFP) hadn't lost since being routed by Ohio State on Sept. 7.

Joseph Dorcous and Bryce Huff had two sacks apiece, and Memphis finished with five. The Tigers came up with three turnovers, including an interception by Sanchez Blake Jr. with 1:35 left.

Memphis also forced the Bearcats into a three-and-out after Ahmad Gardner intercepted White with 7:49 left with the Tigers up only 27-24. Memphis led only 20-17 when it put together its longest drive, going 83 yards over nine plays capped by a flea flicker. Patrick Taylor took the handoff, handed to Kedarian Jones who flipped the ball to White, and he hit Damonte Coxie for a 46-yard TD with 13:22 left.

Antonio Gibson scored on a 29-yard TD run with 3:16 left for the final margin for Memphis.

No. 19 Iowa 27, Nebraska 24: Keith Duncan kicked a 48-yard field goal with a second left to lift the visiting Hawkeyes and keep the Cornhuskers out of the post-season for a third consecutive season.

Iowa (9-3, 6-3 Big Ten) overcame a sluggish second half offensively to beat Nebraska (5-7, 3-6) for a fifth straight year and second year in a row on a late field goal. Last year, they won on a 41-yarder as time expired.

Iowa, which had its 14-point lead wiped out in the third quarter, started its final possession at the 26 with 32 seconds left. Stanley had a long pass to Nico Ragainsi overturned to incomplete on video review, but then completed a pair of 22-yard passes to Ihmir Smith-Marsette and Sam LaPorta to bring on the reliable Duncan.

The Huskers called two timeouts before Duncan drilled the winner down the middle.

No. 20 Boise State 31, Colorado State 24: Jaylon Henderson accounted for three scores, defensive tackle David Moa came up with a big late sack and the visiting Broncos beat the Rams to finish undefeated in Mountain West Conference play for the first time.

Boise State (11-1, 8-0, No. 20 CFP) will host Hawaii next week in the Mountain

West title game.

Henderson ran for a short score early in the fourth to give the Broncos breathing room. He also threw two TD passes, giving him eight over the past three games as he fills in for banged-up starter Hank Bachmeier and backup Chase Cord.

Patrick O'Brien threw for 289 yards and two TDs for the Rams (4-8, 3-5). They are 0-9 against Boise State.

No. 22 Appalachian State 48, Troy 13: Zac Thomas passed for 326 yards and four touchdowns and rushed for a fifth score to lead the visiting Mountaineers past the Trojans in the regular-season finale.

The win assured Appalachian State (11-1, 7-1 Sun Belt Conference) of hosting the league title game against Louisiana next Saturday.

Thomas, Darrynton Evans, Thomas Hennigan and others all delivered big plays for the Mountaineers, who reached the end zone on each of their first five possessions against Troy (5-7, 3-5).

Thomas was 28-for-34 passing with his final attempt a 25-yard scoring strike to Evans to start the fourth quarter. He had a 12-yard touchdown run.

Evans also scored on runs of 52 and 9 yards and gained 82 yards. Hennigan gained 140 yards on 11 catches and Malik Williams caught two short touchdown passes.

Ending: Cavs QB makes up for 2018 gaffe

FROM BACK PAGE

"I was the last play that ultimately ended up losing us the game. I had to sit with that all year and it hurt, so this game I really wanted to go out there and be aggressive and just give everything I could for the team and not to let them down again," Perkins said.

Perkins ran for two long touchdowns and passed for another as the Cavaliers became the seventh different team in as many years to win the Coastal Division. Delaney also kicked a 25-yard field goal for Virginia, and his last kick made up for a missed extra point early.

"How fitting after a missed extra point early that I thought was going to haunt us," Virginia coach Bronco Mendenhall said.

Hendon Hooker ran for one touchdown and threw for another for the Hokies (8-4, 5-3), who came in having won six of seven games to surge into championship contention.

A rallying defense and Hooker's steady play drove the surge, but both came up short against Virginia.

The Cavaliers' winning drive began with Noah Taylor's interception of Hooker at the Virginia 35. Virginia moved steadily downhill, not facing a third-down play until it was third-and-15 from the Hokies' 40. Perkins hit Tavares Kelly for 9 yards before Delaney's kick.

The history of the series made the crowd cautiously optimistic

—like Perkins — until the Hokies' ensuing possession. The Cavaliers sacked Hooker on three straight plays. Mandy Alonso had the last, forcing a fumble that Eli Hanback recovered in the end zone, finally giving the Virginia faithful enough cushion to celebrate the end of the Hokies' decade-and-a-half of domination.

"We got in a situation where at the end of the game where everybody knows we're throwing the ball. That's not our strength," Hokies coach Justin Fuente said.

Virginia led 13-6 after a defensive first half, but then the offenses took over.

"For a while there, it looked like nobody was going to score. Then it looked like everybody was going to score," Fuente said.

Perkins ripped off touchdowns runs of 39 and 67 yards in the first half to make it 13-3. He had 137 rushing yards in the opening quarter.

Words of advice

Delaney said backup kick AJ Mejia gave him some words of encouragement before the critical field goal.

"(He) came over and said, 'It's not ending like this. You're writing your own story,'" Delaney said.

Up next

Virginia Tech will await its 27th consecutive bowl invitation, the longest such streak in the nation.

Virginia will represent the Coastal Division against No. 3 Clemson in the ACC championship next Saturday.

‘For a while there, it looked like nobody was going to score. Then it looked like everybody was going to score.’

Justin Fuente

Virginia Tech
head coach

NFL

Vikings 'D' seeks fast progress

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

EAGAN, Minn. — The priority during the bye week for Minnesota Vikings coach Mike Zimmer and his staff was not difficult to discern.

Pass defense that has uncharacteristically been a problem in several recent games needed some work.

"We spent a lot of time with it," said Zimmer, who directed some "re-teaching" of techniques and responsibilities in practice and meetings this week with the defensive players after they returned from their break.

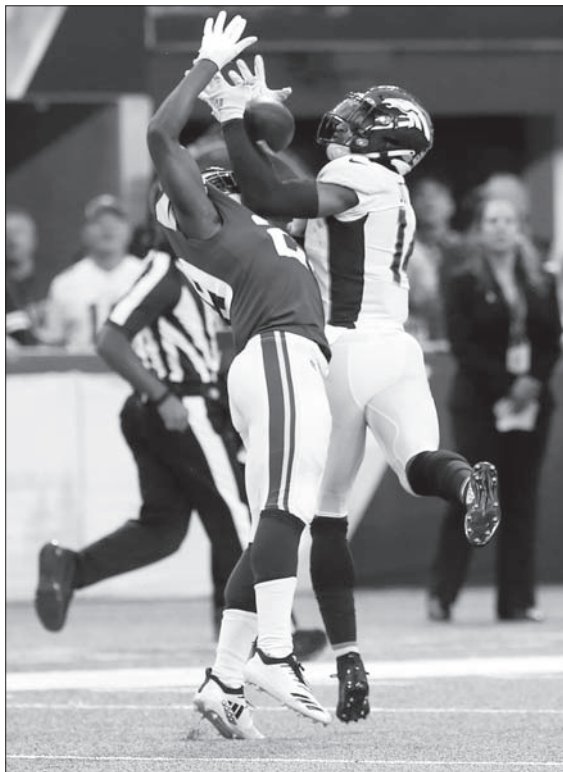
Improvement will be of immediate importance with the impending road trip to face Russell Wilson and the Seattle Seahawks on Monday night. The eighth-year quarterback, who has already won a Super Bowl and been picked for Pro Bowls, has put together a next-level season. He's tied for the NFL lead with 24 touchdown passes, with only three interceptions, and with three additional rushing scores has maintained his status as one of the league's most dangerous dual threats.

"He moves really well. We can't just rush and stop and peak. We have to rush," Zimmer said. "We have to be disciplined in our rush lanes and be where we're supposed to be, because he'll go up, he'll go back, he'll go out, he'll go left, he'll go right. He goes all the different places."

The Vikings (8-3) are all too well aware of this. They've never beaten Wilson in five matchups in either the regular season or the playoffs.

"There's a good chance he's going to give the receivers like 13 seconds. He's going to run around. He might run 30 yards downfield backward, if he can find someone open. You never know," Vikings cornerback Xavier Rhodes said. "He's going to eventually do something to get his team in the best situation."

Rhodes, the two-time Pro Bowl pick who is



Jim Mone/AP

Denver Broncos wide receiver Courtland Sutton, right, catches a pass over Vikings cornerback Xavier Rhodes on Nov. 17 in Minneapolis.

tied for the third-most defensive penalties in the NFL with seven, has been as vulnerable as anyone in the secondary in coverage lately for the Vikings, who have fallen to 20th in the league in passing yards allowed.

"Our biggest thing is just finishing the coverage. We're there. You watch film. You watch

our games. We're in coverage. We're just not finishing. We're not breaking up the ball, not picking the ball off," Rhodes said. "We could be there with the ball in the air. We miss the ball in the air, and the receiver is catching it, or we tip the ball, and the receiver still ends up catching it. It's stuff like that."

Niners gear up to face Jackson

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — With heavy pressure off the edge and lockdown coverage in the secondary, the San Francisco 49ers' dominant defense forced Aaron Rodgers into the least efficient game of his career.

Having similar success against the NFL's most exciting quarterback will be a far different challenge this week. The 49ers (10-1) travel to Baltimore on Sunday to face Lamar Jackson and the Ravens (9-2).

Jackson is being talked up as an MVP candidate after accounting for 30 touchdowns on the ground and through the air and helping Baltimore average more than 40 points a game over the last five contests.

"The kid deserves it. He's playing good football," 49ers cornerback Richard Sherman. "This kid is dynamic. He's taking over the league."

San Francisco has one of the top defenses in the game this season as evidenced by last week's 37-8 win over Green Bay when the Niners held Rodgers to a career-low 3.2 yards per attempt.

The 49ers have allowed the fewest yards (248 per game), recorded the most sacks (44) and rank second best in points allowed (14.8) per game. They have been especially strong in the passing game, where the 136.9 yards allowed per game are the lowest in the NFL for 37 years.

But if San Francisco has struggled at all this season, it has come against the more mobile quarterbacks, especially during a three-game stretch that featured two games against Arizona rookie Kyler Murray around a matchup against Seattle's Russell Wilson.

Those are the only games all season when San Francisco allowed more than 20 points. The Niners allowed 26 points per game against those three, compared to 10.6 the rest of the season.

"You always go back and look to what worked, what didn't, how you can get better," defensive coordinator Robert Saleh said. "So, you're always trying to evolve. And then, of course, this scheme is much different than those two. They're completely different schemes. The whole idea of when he's a passer, to me, stays the same, with respect to your rush lines, but with regards to the run game and how they use him is much different than the way they do Kyler and Russell."

Jackson is averaging 79.6 yards rushing per game, more than any quarterback has had in any season since the merger. The previous high was 69.1 for Chicago's Bobby Douglas in 1972.

NFL suspends Shaw for betting on games

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Arizona Cardinals cornerback Josh Shaw has been suspended indefinitely for betting on NFL games on multiple occasions this season, the first time in more than 35 years a player has been banned for gambling.

The league announced the suspension on Friday. Shaw was banned for at least the rest of the season.

According to the NFL, a league investigation found no information that Shaw used inside information or compromised any games. Shaw has not played this season.

The league also says it found no evidence that teammates, coach-

es or other players were aware of Shaw betting on games.

Shaw may petition for reinstatement on or after Feb. 21.

Suspensions of NFL players for betting are rare. The highest-profile case was in 1963 when Paul Hornung of the Green Bay Packers and Alex Karras of the Detroit Lions were banned for the entire season. Both were reinstated the following season and Hornung went on to make the Hall of Fame.

In the most recent case, Baltimore Colts quarterback Art Schlichter was suspended in 1983 for betting on NFL games and other sporting events. He, too, was reinstated the following year.



Matt York/AP

Arizona Cardinals cornerback Josh Shaw was suspended indefinitely Friday for betting on NFL games on multiple occasions this season.

NFL

WEEK 13 TELEVIEWED GAMES

MARQUEE MATCHUP

San Francisco 49ers (10-1)
at Baltimore Ravens (9-2)

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. Sunday Central European Time

Tennessee Titans (6-5)
at Indianapolis Colts (6-5)

AFN-Atlantic

7 p.m. Sunday CET

Series: Colts lead 34-16.

Last meeting: Baltimore beat Titans 19-17, Sept. 15, 2019.

Notes: Tennessee has won two straight and four of five behind QB Ryan Tannehill to earn share of second place in AFC South. ... Titans have lost 14 of 16 in series, including three straight. ... Derrick Henry needs 9 yards to become Tennessee's first rusher with consecutive 1,000-yard seasons since Chris Johnson in 2013. ... Henry has topped 100-yard mark in last two games but now faces defense that hasn't allowed 100-yard rusher in 29 consecutive games. ... Colts have lost three of four overall, falling out of division lead and into a tie for second. ... Indy has allowed 21 sacks this season, tied for seventh-fewest in league. ... Colts defense has allowed 45 total points in last three games. ... Indianapolis kicker Adam Vinatieri needs two field goals to become first player in league history with 600.

Oakland Raiders (6-5)
at Kansas City Chiefs (7-4)

AFN-Sports2

10:25 p.m. Sunday CET

Series: Chiefs lead 66-53-2.

Last meeting: Chiefs beat Raiders 28-10, Sept. 15, 2019.

Notes: Oakland's minus-56 point differential is worst for team with winning record through 11 games since 2005. Vikings were minus-59. ... Raiders have lost six straight in Kansas City. ... Oakland QB Derek Carr has 61.9 rating in five starts in Kansas City, his worst mark in any stadium he's played in for multiple games. ... Raiders tied for fifth in NFL with 33 points on opening drive. ... Chiefs are 24-3 against AFC West since 2015. ... Kansas City had four interceptions of Chargers QB Philip Rivers in game before bye. ... Chiefs coach Andy Reid is 17-3 in games after bye. He is 10-1 in home games and 2-0 vs. Raiders. ... Kansas City RB LeSean McCoy needs one catch to reach 500 for career. He needs 230 yards rushing to pass O.J. Simpson (11,236) for 21st on NFL career list.

SERIES RECORD: Ravens lead 4-2.

LAST MEETING: 49ers beat Ravens 25-20, Oct. 18, 2015

49ers OFFENSE: OVERALL (6), RUSH (2), PASS (14).

49ers DEFENSE: OVERALL (1), RUSH (19), PASS (1).

RAVENS OFFENSE: OVERALL (2), RUSH (1), PASS (19).

RAVENS DEFENSE: OVERALL (11), RUSH (3), PASS (167).

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: San Francisco can clinch first playoff berth since 2013 with a win and a loss by Rams. ... 49ers scored TD on first offensive play twice this season. No other team has done it once. ... San Francisco opponents are converting 27.5% of third downs, second worst in the league. ... San Francisco QB Jimmy Garoppolo had career-best 145.8 passer rating last week, going 14-for-20 for 253 yards, two TDs, no INTs. ... Niners are allowing 136.9 net

yards passing per game, fewest in NFL since Miami gave up 114.1 in 1982. ... Ravens are averaging NFL-best 35.1 points per game. San Francisco is second at 30.2. ... Baltimore's Lamar Jackson is tied for NFL lead with 24 TD passes, leads QBs with six TD runs, leads NFL with 7.1 yards per carry average and ranks ninth with 876 yards rushing. ... Ravens have won seven straight, last five by at least 14 points. ... Baltimore has yielded only nine TDs during win streak and defense has scored five TDs during that span. ... Ravens are 11-0 when Jackson rushes for at least 70 yards, dating back to last year. ... Baltimore has scored touchdowns in 16 of last 19 trips into red zone. ... Ravens lead NFL with 17 runs of at least 20 yards, nine by Jackson. ... Baltimore's 47 touchdowns tied for franchise single-season high. ... Ravens plus-184 point differential best in NFL. ... Ravens are 69-24 at home under coach John Harbaugh, who took over in 2008. ... Ravens K Justin Tucker's 90.5% success rate on FGs is the best in NFL history.

— Associated Press

49ers running back
Jeff Wilson Jr.

TONY AVALAR/AP

Game capsules compiled from Associated Press

New England Patriots (10-1)
at Houston Texans (7-4)

AFN-Sports

2:20 a.m. Monday CET

Series: Patriots lead 10-1.

Last meeting: New England beat Texans 29-20, Sept. 9, 2018.

Notes: Patriots can clinch playoff berth with win, plus loss or tie by Pittsburgh or Oakland. Can also clinch berth with tie and combination of losses by Oakland and Pittsburgh, Oakland and Indianapolis or Pittsburgh and Indianapolis. ... Victory would extend New England's NFL record to 10 straight seasons with at least 11 wins. ... With 58 yards passing Sunday, Tom Brady will reach 1,000 yards in single season for 17th time in career, second most in NFL history to Brett Favre. ... Houston's only win over Patriots came in 34-27 victory on Jan. 3, 2010. ... QB Deshaun Watson has 1,033 yards passing with 10 TDs and one INT in past three at home. He has 18 TDs and three INTs in seven career prime-time games. ... RB Carlos Hyde has had 65 yards rushing or more in four straight games.

Minnesota Vikings (8-3)
at Seattle Seahawks (9-2)

AFN-Sports

2:15 p.m. Tuesday CET

Series: Seahawks lead 11-5.

Last meeting: Seattle beat Vikings 21-7, Dec. 10, 2018.

Notes: Minnesota has lost five straight to Seahawks, last winning in 2009 at Metrodome. ... Vikings QB Kirk Cousins has longest active streak in league with 177 consecutive pass attempts without interception. Team record is 193, set by Warren Moon in 1995. In last seven games, Cousins has 18 TD passes, 2,020 yards, 73.3 completion percentage and just two turnovers. ... Win would give Seattle 10 wins in 12 games for fourth time in franchise history. ... Seahawks QB Russell Wilson is the first QB in league history to have winning record in each of first eight seasons. Wilson has never won fewer than nine games in season. ... Wilson has 82.0 passer rating in past two after posting 118.2 rating through first nine games.

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	East										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	Diff	Div	
New England	10	1	0	.909	300	117	5-0-0	5-1-0	6-1-0	4-0-0	4-0-0
Buffalo	9	3	0	.750	257	188	4-2-0	5-1-0	6-2-0	3-1-0	3-1-0
N.Y. Jets	4	7	0	.364	198	293	3-3-0	1-4-0	1-6-0	3-1-0	0-4-0
Miami	2	9	0	.182	162	346	1-5-0	1-4-0	2-7-0	0-2-0	1-3-0
South											
Houston	7	4	0	.636	265	249	4-1-0	3-3-0	6-2-0	1-2-0	3-1-0
Indianapolis	6	5	0	.545	244	226	4-2-0	2-3-0	5-5-0	1-0-0	3-1-0
Tennessee	6	5	0	.545	245	217	4-2-0	2-3-0	4-4-0	2-1-0	1-2-0
Jacksonville	4	7	0	.364	209	264	2-3-0	2-4-0	4-5-0	0-2-0	1-4-0
North											
Baltimore	9	2	0	.818	386	202	4-1-0	5-1-0	6-2-0	3-0-0	3-1-0
Pittsburgh	6	5	0	.545	216	212	4-2-0	2-3-0	5-3-0	1-2-0	2-2-0
Cleveland	5	6	0	.455	233	252	3-3-0	2-3-0	5-3-0	0-3-0	2-0-0
Cincinnati	0	11	0	.000	157	292	0-5-0	0-6-0	0-7-0	0-4-0	0-4-0
West											
Kansas City	7	4	0	.636	308	256	2-3-0	5-1-0	5-3-0	2-1-0	3-0-0
Oakland	6	5	0	.545	248	284	5-1-0	1-4-0	4-3-0	2-2-0	2-1-0
L.A. Chargers	4	7	0	.364	224	218	2-4-0	2-3-0	2-6-0	2-1-0	0-3-0
Denver	3	8	0	.273	175	217	2-3-0	1-5-0	3-5-0	0-3-0	0-3-0

y-clinched division

National Conference

	East										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	Diff	Div	
Dallas	6	6	0	.500	310	236	3-3-0	3-3-0	5-3-0	1-3-0	4-0-0
Philadelphia	5	6	0	.455	243	247	3-3-0	2-3-0	3-5-0	2-1-0	1-1-0
N.Y. Giants	2	9	0	.182	217	308	1-4-0	1-5-0	2-6-0	0-3-0	1-2-0
Washington	2	9	0	.182	144	269	1-5-0	1-4-0	1-6-0	1-3-0	0-3-0
South											
y-New Orleans	10	2	0	.833	298	248	5-1-0	5-1-0	8-2-0	2-0-0	4-1-0
Carolina	5	6	0	.455	259	291	2-3-0	3-3-0	2-6-0	3-0-0	1-3-0
Tampa Bay	4	7	0	.364	312	348	1-4-0	3-3-0	4-6-0	0-1-0	2-3-0
Atlanta	3	9	0	.250	260	323	1-5-0	2-4-0	3-6-0	0-3-0	2-2-0
North											
Green Bay	8	3	0	.727	258	242	5-1-0	3-2-0	5-2-0	3-1-0	3-0-0
Minnesota	8	3	0	.727	289	205	5-0-0	3-3-0	6-2-0	2-1-0	1-2-0
Chicago	6	6	0	.500	212	208	3-3-0	3-3-0	5-4-0	1-2-0	3-1-0
Detroit	3	8	1	.292	280	315	2-4-0	1-4-1	2-6-1	1-2-0	0-4-0
West											
San Francisco	10	1	0	.909	332	163	5-1-0	5-0-0	7-1-0	3-0-0	3-1-0
Seattle	9	2	0	.818	292	263	3-2-0	6-0-0	6-1-0	3-1-0	3-0-0
L.A. Rams	6	5	0	.545	249	243	3-3-0	2-2-0	4-4-0	2-2-0	0-2-0
Arizona	3	7	1	.318	248	317	1-3-1	2-4-0	2-6-1	1-1-0	0-3-0

ALSO ON AFN

Cleveland Browns (5-6) at Pittsburgh Steelers (6-5), AFN-Sports2, 7 p.m. Sunday CET

Los Angeles Rams (5-5) at Arizona Cardinals (3-7-1), AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. Sunday CET

Los Angeles Chargers (4-7) at Denver Broncos (3-8), AFN-Atlantic, 10:25 p.m. Sunday CET

■ Check myafn.net for the most up-to-date TV listings.

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

Tampa Bay (4-7) at Jacksonville (4-7) Green Bay (8-3) at N.Y. Giants (2-9) N.Y. Jets (4-7) at Cincinnati (0-11) Washington (2-9) at Carolina (5-6) Philadelphia (5-6) at Miami (2-9)

SPORTS

Overtime winner
Orlov's goal lifts Capitals
over Lightning » **NHL, Page 26**



COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Virginia Tech quarterback Hendon Hooker, right, is wrapped up by Virginia defensive tackle Eli Hanback during the first half of Friday's game in Charlottesville, Va.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HELBER / AP

Hokie ending

Cavs halt rival's 15-year streak

By HANK KURZ JR.
Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Even with a nine-point lead and less than a minute on the clock, Bryce Perkins was not ready to celebrate Virginia finally breaking its Commonwealth Cup drought.

It was only a year ago, in his first experience with Virginia's annual rivalry game against Virginia Tech, Perkins botched a handoff in overtime that allowed the Hokies to extend their dominance in the series after a wild finish.

"I needed to see zeroes because I remembered last year," Perkins said Friday after Virginia ended a 15-game losing streak to 23rd-ranked Virginia Tech and earned the Cavaliers their first trip to the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game with a 39-30 victory.

Perkins was a huge part of why Virginia (9-3, 6-2) won, putting up 475 yards of offense. Brian Delaney kicked a go-ahead 48-yard field goal with 1:23 left in the fourth quarter and the Cavaliers sealed it with a defensive score, causing fans to spill onto the field in a wild celebration.

SEE ENDING ON PAGE 29



Virginia Tech quarterback Bryce Perkins heads for the end zone on a touchdown run during the first half. Perkins scored on runs of 39 and 67 yards.