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CONTINGENCY EDITION

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Free to Deployed Areas

Corporal punishment?

Corps to up time-in-service requirements for promotion to sergeant, staff sergeant

By IMMANUEL JOHNSON
Stars and Stripes

Most Marines will have to serve longer before they're eligible to reach the ranks of sergeant and staff sergeant, beginning Jan. 1.

Corporals will need at least four years of time in service to be promoted to sergeant, while sergeants must have served in the Marine Corps for at least five years to make staff sergeant, a service administrative memo released Wednesday said.

Corporals were formerly eligible for promotion after two years, while sergeants could move up after four years of time in service. Sergeants must also now have spent 36 months in their rank before getting promoted, up from 27 months.

The time-spent-in-rank requirement can be waived if a Marine is being promoted on merit, but "there will be no waiver of the [time-in-service] requirement," the memo said.

Marines who have shown exceptional professionalism and performance over a period of time are eligible for meritorious promotions. There were 328 such promotions to E-5 in fiscal year 2019, compared to 11,566 standard promotions that year, Marine Corps officials said Friday.

SEE MARINES ON PAGE 2

U.S. Marine Cpl. Jose Soto, foreground, performs during the 2019 Barracks Row Fall Festival in Washington on Sept. 28.

ROBERT KNAPP/U.S. Marine Corps



Carolina Guard troops move into eastern Syria with Bradley Fighting Vehicles

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — National Guard members from North and South Carolina began moving into eastern Syria with heavy armored vehicles on Thursday as part of the Pentagon's new mission to secure oil fields wrestled from Islamic State, a military spokesman said.

Soldiers with the North Carolina-based 4th Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment

and the South Carolina-based 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade were deployed to Deir al-Zour to protect American-held oil fields around that city, Army Col. Myles Caggins, the spokesmen for the U.S.-led anti-ISIS mission known as Operation Inherent Resolve, tweeted Thursday. Caggins' tweet included photos of soldiers loading M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles onto Air Force C-17 Globemaster cargo jets to be used on the mission.

The deployment consists primarily of infantrymen, said a Pentagon official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. That official and a Pentagon spokesman declined to say how many troops would be deployed into eastern Syria, where American special operators left in recent weeks by order of President Donald Trump. The officials said the number of troops had yet to be decided, though they insisted the force would remain below the 1,000 or so

troops that remained in Syria recently.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Monday said he expected the new crop of troops to be less than that amount. He declined to speculate how long troops would remain around oil-rich Deir al-Zour, the former ISIS stronghold about 80 miles southeast of Raqqa along the Euphrates River. He insisted, as Trump has, that eventually those troops would "be going home."

SEE SYRIA ON PAGE 4

MILITARY

Marines: Changes intended to 'standardize the rate of promotion'

FROM FRONT PAGE

There is no expectation that the number of meritorious promotions will rise after the policy takes effect, a Marine Corps spokeswoman said Friday.

Marines in pay grades E1-E3 will continue to be promoted based on time in service.

The changes are intended to "standardize the rate of promotion across the force" and keep Marines in the service longer, the memo said. As a result, other Marines would know that E-5s and E-6s have more experience in their fields, Marine Corps officials said Friday.

However, some Marines questioned whether the new policy would hurt retention and wondered what effects the changes would have on force structure.

Fewer Marines will want to reenlist, said Sgt. Jorge Ribera-Pedraza, a career planner with Marine Forces Reserve.

"Nobody is going to want to wait four years to pick up sergeant," he said.

The changes could mean there will be fewer sergeants, which would mean "less structure in the ranks," said Cpl. Sophia Roest, a maintenance chief with the III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Marine officials said the new policy brings promotions back in line with historical averages. In some job specialties, Marines are making sergeant in "quite less than" four years, said Col. Christopher Escamilla, branch head for the service's Manpower Plans, Programs and Budget section, in a Marine Corps Times interview.

About 38% of sergeants left active duty within 12 months of promotion in fiscal year 2019, service officials said Friday. Because active duty contracts often expire at the four-year mark, the new policy means that most Marines will have to reenlist to make sergeant.

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SABRINA CANDIAFLORES/U.S. Marine Corps

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Alexander Alfaro receives a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal after being promoted to the rank of corporal at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Sept. 26. The Corps is changing eligibility for promotion to sergeant and staff sergeant.

Yemeni rebels claim they have shot down US-made drone

Associated Press

CAIRO — Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels claimed they shot down a U.S.-made drone on Friday along the border with Saudi Arabia, according to a statement by the group's spokesman.

The Shiite rebels, who overrun Yemen's northern parts and the capital, Sanaa, in 2014, have been fighting a Saudi-led and U.S.-backed military coalition since 2015. In recent months, they have shot down at least two American drones.

The spokesman for the Houthis, Brig. Gen. Yehia Sarea, tweeted that a spy plane known as ScanEagle was conducting "espionage and hostile operations" near the southern Saudi province of Asir when the rebels "brought it down."

However, he did not provide any photographs or footage to corroborate the claim.

The ScanEagle is a reconnaissance drone launched by catapult that costs over \$3 million and can fly for more than 20 hours, according to the U.S. Air Force. The Saudi-led military coalition

wasn't immediately known to operate this type of U.S.-made drone.

The Pentagon and the U.S. military's Central Command, which oversees the wider Middle East, did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

The U.S. military has lost drones in Yemen before. In August, the Houthi shot down a U.S. MQ-9 Reaper drone. Similarly, in June the U.S. said an MQ-9 Reaper was shot down by the Houthis. It said Iran helped the Yemeni

rebels bring down the drone.

The shootdowns come as the U.S. has waged a long campaign of drone strikes in Yemen targeting suspected members of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, which Washington considers the most-dangerous offshoot of the extremist group. Since 2002, the U.S. has launched over 280 drone strikes, killing over 1,000 suspected militants and over 100 civilians, according to figures from the Washington-based think tank New America.

The Saudi military offensive in

Yemen began in 2015 on behalf of Yemen's internationally recognized government of President Mansour Abed Rabbo Hadi, who was forced out of Sanaa by the rebels and later fled to the Saudi capital, Riyadh.

The war has killed more than 100,000 lives, including civilians, according to a recent report by The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, or ACLED, a non-governmental organization funded by the U.S. State Department and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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MILITARY

Feds allege Walmart refused to hire reservist

DENVER — Federal prosecutors say Walmart violated legal protections for military service members for allegedly refusing to hire a Colorado Navy reservist because she needed to take time off for training.

In a lawsuit filed Wednesday, the U.S. Attorney's Office for Colorado says a personnel coordinator who contacted Navy Petty Officer Lindsey Hunger about her application for a summer job at a Grand Junction Walmart in 2016 told her the company couldn't support giving her two weeks off. The suit says she was supporting two children and wasn't able to find other employment that summer and fall.

Walmart spokesman Randy Hargrove says the allegations are extremely disturbing. He says Walmart has policies and training to comply with the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act and has several thousand associates on military leave at any given time.

Pilot ejects from F-16 before crash in NM

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. — The Air Force says a pilot successfully ejected from an F-16 before the fighter crashed in southern New Mexico during a training flight.

Holloman Air Force Base officials say the F-16 assigned to the 49th Wing at the base crashed Tuesday night about 80 miles southeast of the base.

Officials said in a statement that the pilot was taken to a hospital for treatment, but it did not provide information on any injuries to the pilot, whose identity was not released.

The statement said a board of officers will investigate the crash and that its cause wasn't determined immediately.

New sex assault trial set for ex-Hawaii sailor

HONOLULU — A new trial has been scheduled against a former Navy sailor whose sex assault conviction was overturned.

Hawaii News Now reports Honolulu prosecutors aren't dropping their case against Royne Dural.

Dural was charged with sex assault in 2002, accused of having sex with his ex-girlfriend's daughter. Dural was sentenced to 20 years in prison. While he was in prison, the girl's mother found out it was another man who was having sex with her daughter.

The conviction was overturned on appeal.

Prosecuting attorney spokesman Brooks Baehr says the office is determining whether they have the "necessary witnesses to proceed with a retrial under the original indictment."

Dural appeared in court Monday, expecting the case would be dismissed.

Instead, a December 2 trial date was set.

From The Associated Press

Satanic Temple finds home in Annapolis

Naval Academy opens space for study group for atheist organization

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy who have beliefs associated with the Satanic Temple now have a study group available to them, according to the military institution.

A space for a study group at the academy in Annapolis, Md., was requested by students with "beliefs aligned with those practiced by The Satanic Temple" so they could gather and share their views, according to a statement issued Thursday by Cmdr. Alana Garas, a Naval Academy spokeswoman. The group is an atheist religious organization that is po-

litically active.

An internal email sent out to the student body Oct. 8 stated "satanic services" would be starting at the academy, Garas said. However, the announcement was not reviewed or approved by the school's command chaplain nor did it represent the U.S. Naval Academy's Command Religious Program, according to Garas.

But the student's request was for a space to conduct a study group, not to hold satanic services, according to Garas.

"The USNA Command Religious Program provides for the exercise of diverse beliefs. Arrangements were being made to

provide the Midshipmen with a designated place to assemble as chaplains facilitate for the beliefs of all service members, a responsibility outlined by Navy instructions," Garas said in the statement.

The Satanic Temple is a separate organization from the Church of Satan, which was founded in 1966 by Anton Szandor LaVey in San Francisco. The Satanic Temple gained IRS tax-exempt status as a church in May and is headquartered in Salem, Mass.

"Midshipmen have the right to assemble to discuss their beliefs as they choose, but, to be clear, in accordance with Department

of Defense policy, military members will not engage in partisan political activities, and will avoid the inference that their activities may appear to imply DoD approval or endorsement of a political cause," Garas said.

The 20 religious groups at the Naval Academy that meet regularly and are facilitated by the USNA Religious Programs include the Protestant Midshipmen Club, Latter-Day Saints Student Association, Muslim Midshipmen Club, Buddhist, Jewish Midshipmen Club and the Knights of Columbus, according to Garas.

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MORGAN K. NALL/U.S. Navy

Getting a tune up

Navy Musician 2nd Class Carl Schulte, a member of the U.S. Fleet Forces Band attached to the hospital ship USNS Comfort, performs for students at Clon Carthy Primary School in Kingston, Jamaica, on Monday. Comfort is sailing to nations in Latin America and the Caribbean to provide care on the ship and at local medical sites.

DOD awaits possible Amazon complaint over cloud deal

By MATT O'BRIEN
Associated Press

Amazon must decide soon if it will protest the Pentagon's awarding of a \$10 billion cloud computing contract to rival Microsoft, with one possible grievance being the unusual attention given the project by President Donald Trump.

Amazon was long thought to be the front-runner in the competition for the huge military contract. Its Amazon Web Services division is far ahead of second-place Microsoft as the market leader for cloud computing and has experience handling highly classified government data. It

survived earlier legal challenges after the Defense Department eliminated rival bidders Oracle and IBM and whittled the competition down to the two Seattle area tech giants before choosing Microsoft last week.

And what else distinguishes the losing bidder? Amazon and its CEO Jeff Bezos, who also owns the Washington Post, have been frequent targets of Trump's criticism.

The Pentagon was preparing to make its final decision when Trump publicly waded into the fray in July, saying he had heard complaints about the process and that the administration would "take a very long look." He said

other companies told him that the contract "wasn't competitively bid." Oracle, in particular, had argued that Pentagon officials unfairly favored Amazon for the winner-take-all contract.

The comments from Trump were "inappropriate and impudent," though it would be a challenge for Amazon to prove the White House applied undue pressure in a way that made a difference, said Steven Schooner, a professor of government procurement law at George Washington University.

Then again, given Trump's known antipathy toward the company, Schooner said Amazon may not have much to lose in picking

a fight.

Amazon didn't return requests for comment about its next steps.

The clock is now ticking. Amazon has the right to ask the Pentagon to debrief the company on what led it to pick Microsoft instead.

The Pentagon declined to comment this week on the specifics of the debriefing process and whether it has already started.

If Amazon is not satisfied with the government's explanation, it can file a formal protest with the Government Accountability Office, which then has 100 days to review the case. Amazon could also separately take its dispute to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

MIDEAST

Trump claim to Syrian oil raises questions

By ROBERT BURNS
AND LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — By claiming a right to Syria's oil, President Donald Trump has added more complexity — as well as additional U.S. forces and time — to an American military mission he has twice declared he was ending so the troops could come home.

Extending the mission to secure eastern Syria's oilfields happens to fit neatly with the Pentagon's view — supported by some Trump allies in Congress — that a full withdrawal now could hasten a revival of the Islamic State, even after the extremists lost their leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, in a U.S. raid.

The military acknowledged on Thursday that an Army unit with armored vehicles, including Bradley infantry carriers, is now operating in the Deir el-Zour oil region. It did not say how many soldiers are being added there, but officials have said the eventual force there likely will be about 500, including roughly 200 who had been there even before Trump was persuaded to revise his plan for a near-total withdrawal, which he announced on Oct. 14.

Trump has offered varying descriptions of the military's role in eastern Syria. On Oct. 25 he said, "We've secured the oil, and, therefore, a small number of U.S. troops will remain in the area where they have the oil." Three days later, he went further, declaring the oil to be America's.

"We're keeping the oil — remember that," he said in Chicago. "I've always said that: 'Keep the oil.' We want to keep the oil. Forty-five million dollars a month. Keep the oil."

White House officials since then have declined to explain what Trump meant by "we're keeping the oil" or his estimate of its value. Pentagon officials have said privately they've been given no order to take ownership of any element of Syria's oil resources, including the wells and stored crude.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Thursday he interprets Trump's remarks about keeping Syria's oil as meaning that the extremists must be denied access to it.



A Turkish and Russian patrol is seen near the town of Darbasayah, Syria, on Friday.

Turkey-Russia patrols begin in Syria

By MEHMET GUZEL
Associated Press

SEVIMLLI, Turkey — Turkey and Russia launched joint patrols Friday in northeastern Syria, under a deal that halted a Turkish offensive against Syrian Kurdish fighters who were forced to withdraw from the border area following Ankara's incursion.

The patrols will cover two sections, in the west and east of Turkey's operation zone in Syria, with a depth of 6 miles.

Turkish troops and allied Syrian opposition fighters now control the border towns of Tal Abyad, Ras al-Ayn and nearby villages. The deal on the patrols excludes the city of Qamishli, according to the ministry's statement on Tuesday.

Turkey's defense ministry tweeted on Friday that the patrols started in al-Darbasiyah region, with Turkish and Russian troops, armored vehicles and drones.

The Russian Defense Ministry said the joint patrol consists

of nine military vehicles, including a Russian armored personnel carrier, and would cover a 68-mile route on Friday.

The joint patrols did not fly Russian and Turkish flags on their armored vehicles on Friday. An Associated Press journalist at the Turkey-Syria border could see the Syrian flag hoisted on a building on the Syrian side. Syrian government troops moved into Kurdish-held areas following an agreement in October.

Syria has been mired in civil war since 2011. Since that time, its oil production has shrunk from a peak of about 400,000 barrels a day to an estimated 80,000 barrels, said Jim Krane, an energy expert at Rice University.

Russia has expressed outrage at Trump's claim to the oil, calling it "state banditry." Foreign Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said grabbing the oil belies U.S. claims to be fighting terrorism and "lies far from the ideals that Washington has proclaimed." For years the U.S. has said its military interventions abroad are meant to enhance peace and security, not to take any nation's territory or resources.

Stephen Vladeck, a national

security law professor at the University of Texas at Austin, said there is no solid legal argument the Trump administration can make for claiming Syria's oil.

Beyond the legal question, analysts say the mission is fraught with danger.

"This is a sensitive gunpowder barrel of a mission," said Loren DeJonge Schulman, deputy director of studies at the Center for a New American Security who was a senior Pentagon and White House official under President Barack Obama.

"U.S. forces are being sent with only the shakiest possible legal authorization, knowing their commander-in-chief may change his mind as he has multiple times in the past," she said, adding that

an oil grab is what many in the Middle East have long suspected is the purpose of U.S. wars.

Trump also has said he wants a U.S. oil company to enter eastern Syria to invest in restoring oil production. Private experts, however, say that is problematic.

"The modest size of the resource, risk of conflict, and legal obstacles to investment from U.S. sanctions make it unlikely that a U.S. oil major would find it commercially attractive to invest in the Syrian oil sector," said Jason Bordoff, director of an energy policy center at Columbia University.

"Syria could be a bigger energy supplier than today, but years of mismanagement have left the fields in disarray, so it would re-

quire a lot of political stability and investment to bring them back to where they were," said Michael Webber, a professor of energy resources at the University of Texas at Austin.

Esper has said that securing the Deir el-Zour oilfields is a legitimate move to block a major source of income for ISIS and to provide funds for the Syrian Kurds who are still fighting ISIS. A few years ago, the extremists were exploiting the oil to finance its so-called caliphate, carved out of large swaths of Syria and Iraq with an army now all but extinguished.

U.S.-supported Syrian Kurdish forces have controlled the oil, supported by a small contingent of U.S. troops. A quiet arrangement has existed between the Kurds and the Syrian government, whereby Damascus buys the surplus through middlemen in a smuggling operation that has continued despite political differences. The Kurdish-led administration sells crude oil to private refiners, who use primitive homemade refineries to process fuel and diesel and sell it back to the administration.

The oil was expected to be a bargaining chip for the Kurds to negotiate a deal with the Syrian government, which unsuccessfully tried to reach the oil fields to retake them from ISIS.

Esper told reporters the mission in Deir el-Zour includes blocking potential Russian and Syrian army efforts to probe that region, east of the Euphrates River, and challenge the American presence. A few days earlier, U.S. officials had contacted Russian authorities to question a massing of Syrian and Russian forces on the opposite side of the Euphrates — a buildup that suggested a potential confrontation. In February 2018 a group of several hundred Russian mercenaries fired artillery near U.S. forces in the oil region, and the Americans responded by killing many of them.

Trump himself has acknowledged the potential for a fight over the oil.

"We're leaving soldiers to secure the oil," he said Sunday. "And we may have to fight for the oil. It's okay. Maybe somebody else wants the oil, in which case they have a hell of a fight."

Syria: Service members deployed to keep oil fields from ISIS extremists

FROM FRONT PAGE

For now, the new deployment will not include M1 Abrams tanks, the Pentagon official said Thursday.

The 4-18th Infantry Regiment is part of the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, which includes about 4,200 soldiers from Army National Guard units from North and South Carolina and West Virginia. The entire brigade deployed to Kuwait during the summer for a nine-month

rotation in support of Operation Spartan Shield, during which it conducted desert training operations. That brigade includes armor units with dozens of M1 tanks. The Pentagon official said Thursday that military planners had not ruled out moving some of those tanks into Syria.

Esper said Monday that the troops' new mission would be to ensure the oil fields, once used by ISIS as its major revenue source to finance terrorist campaigns around the world, did not fall

back into the terrorists' hands. While ISIS lost the last remnants of its so-called caliphate across parts of Syria and Iraq in March and its top leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed in Syria, the group has retained dangerous cells across both countries, military officials have warned.

Esper said the troops would also protect the oil fields from falling into the hands of the Syrian regime or its Russian or Iranian backers. He argued revenue from oil production could fund

operations for the Syrian Democratic Forces, the Kurdish-led militia that the U.S. heavily relied on to fight ISIS in Syria. SDF missions include detaining thousands of imprisoned ISIS fighters, he said.

The SDF has expressed concerns that the United States was abandoning it. American troops withdrew from SDF positions near Syria's border with NATO ally Turkey ahead of a Turkish military invasion into the country launched Oct. 9 and aimed

at the Kurdish forces. Turkey considers the Kurdish fighters, who have been backed since 2014 by the United States, a terrorist organization.

Esper said Monday that U.S. military would not abandon the SDF. Nonetheless, the SDF announced this week that it had struck a deal with Russia and the Syrian regime in an effort to protect its forces from Turkey.

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MILITARY

Family of SEAL seeks pardon from Trump

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Family members of Navy SEAL Eddie Gallagher, who beat murder charges this year but was convicted of posing for a photograph with an enemy corpse, are asking President Donald Trump for a pardon, they wrote Thursday on social media.

"Our family is seeking congressional support for a presidential pardon for Eddie," read the post on the Free Eddie Gallagher page on Facebook, which has sought support and donations since Gallagher was arrested in September 2018 on war crimes accusations stemming from a 2017 deployment to Iraq. "Please allow our congressional representative and ask them to sign onto our letter to the POTUS to #FREEDIEDIE

from this travesty of justice."

Gallagher was acquitted by a military jury at a court-martial in July of the most serious charges that he faced, including the murder of an Islamic State fighter in American custody and attempted murder of civilians. However, he was convicted of a single count of posing with the ISIS fighter's dead body.

This week, the Navy announced Adm. Michael Gilday, the chief of naval operations, upheld that conviction after reviewing the case. The admiral approved Gallagher's sentence, which included forfeiture of about \$10,000 in pay, four months' imprisonment and a reduction in rank from E-7 chief petty officer to E-6 petty officer first class. Gallagher did not spend time in prison after his conviction, having spent some six

months in a Navy brig before his trial.

Navy prosecutors had argued Gallagher stabbed to death a teenage ISIS fighter while deployed to northern Iraq with SEAL Team 7 in 2017 as part of Operation Inherent Resolve. They also charged the 19-year veteran had shot indiscriminately at civilians during the deployment and threatened fellow SEALs not to report his actions.

But the case faced many problems. Prosecutors were accused of using spycare embedded with e-mails sent to defense attorneys and a journalist in an attempt to track some of their online activity. The lead prosecutor on the case, Navy Cmdr. Christopher Czapla, admitted to sending the bugged e-mail in an attempt to detect sources of media leaks related to the case and was dismissed

from the case by a judge.

Later, at Gallagher's court-martial, another SEAL, Petty Officer 1st Class Corey Scott, testified before the jury that he had actually killed the captive ISIS fighter, describing it as an act of mercy for someone who was critically wounded. Scott, who was a government-called witness in the case, had been granted immunity in exchange for testifying against Gallagher.

Gallagher, 40, and his supporters have long touted the innocence of the veteran of special operations assignments in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those supporters include Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., who previously pressed Trump for a pretrial pardon. Hunter, an Iraq veteran who served in the Marine Corps, said publicly that he, too, had posed with the bodies of dead enemy

fighters on the battlefield and argued it was common among American military veterans. "A lot of us have done the exact same thing," Hunter said in May during a town hall event in California.

Trump was reported to have considered pardoning Gallagher — and other special operators accused of various war crimes — before his trial during the summer. Ultimately, the only pardon that Trump issued for a war crimes case went to Army 1st Lt. Michael Behenna in May. He was convicted in 2009 of the "unpremeditated murder" of a prisoner in Iraq a year earlier.

The White House did not immediately return an email Friday seeking comment on the Gallagher family's request to the president.

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F-35 opponents in Wisconsin air noise concerns

By CHRIS HUBBUCH
The Wisconsin State Journal

MADISON, Wis. — Political leaders fighting plans to station a squadron of F-35s at Truax Field said a visit to one of the first communities to host the fighter jets has left them more opposed, while conflicting claims emerged about the noise caused by the jets during several unannounced flights in Madison this summer.

State Rep. Chris Taylor, D-Madison, said Wednesday the arrival of two F-35s in Burlington, Vt., last month have brought "uncertainty and chaos" to that community.

Taylor said residents are confused about whether their homes will be eligible for noise mitigation and how long it would take to complete, leaving some homeowners unsure whether to invest and others feeling trapped because they can't afford to move. Renters would have no say in whether their homes receive soundproofing.

"It's the same kind of instability I'm seeing here," Taylor said.

With a population of just over 42,000, Burlington is the largest city in Vermont and host to the first Air National Guard unit to get the new planes, despite opposition from the city and surrounding communities. The unit has received only two jets so far but expects to have 20 by this summer.

As with Madison, residents of the most affected neighborhoods tend to be low-income and people of color.

Alder Rebecca Kemble, 18th District, who also traveled to Burlington, said there are no good ways to eliminate the impact of noise and fears hundreds of homes might have to be abandoned.

"They are creating a sacrifice zone," Kemble said. "We're saying that's unacceptable."



MORGAN LIPINSKI/U.S. Air National Guard

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice, the director of the Air National Guard, speaks during an event to celebrate the arrival of the F-35 Lightning II to the 148th Fighter Wing, Vermont Air National Guard, during a drill weekend at the Burlington International Airport, South Burlington, Vt., on Oct. 19.

With an extended deadline to comment on the Air Force's environmental study approaching, supporters of the project have also been increasingly vocal.

On Tuesday, leaders of the state Assembly and Senate sent Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett a letter voicing support for the F-35 mission.

The GOP lawmakers included a resolution passed earlier this month saying the F-35 mission will result in dozens of new jobs and ensure the long-term viability of the 115th Fighter Wing and its \$100 million annual economic impact.

The nonbinding resolution passed on a voice vote in the Senate and cleared the Assembly by 87-9 with the support of Madison-area Reps. Jimmy Anderson, Diane Hesselbein, Sheila Stubbs and Lisa Subek, all Democrats.

The Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, the primary booster of the F-35 mission, insists the new planes will not be significantly louder than the current F-16s.

The business group points to a study by the Royal Netherlands Air Force in which residents per-

ceived the F-16 to be louder.

While the Air Force has declined a request by U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Black Earth, to bring an F-35 to Madison for a live sound test, the Dane County Regional Airport documented at least half a dozen take offs and landings during military exercises this summer.

Pocan reiterated that request in a letter to the Air Force on Wednesday.

"Considering that the Air Force has already brought F-35A planes to Dane County Airport, it should not be difficult to accommodate my request for a comparison test flight of the two planes," Pocan wrote in a letter to the Air Force Wednesday.

The airport received just one complaint in response to this summer's F-35 operations, which Chamber of Commerce spokesman Erik Greenfield said provides "strong evidence that the actual noise impact of an F-35 is not much different than the existing F-16s."

But several East Side residents on the online neighborhood forum Nextdoor said they noticed a difference.

Finn Ryan, who lives on the East Side, showed the Wisconsin State Journal a mostly unprintable text exchange he had with a neighbor at 8:28 p.m. Aug. 13, just as one of the F-35s was landing in Madison.

"What the **** was that?" he wrote.

"I dunno but it was super loud," his neighbor wrote back.

A couple of days later, Ryan filed a noise complaint with the airport. It wasn't clear if it was the same one the airport reported.

Another East Side resident, Melissa Sherman, said she remembers hearing at least one of the flights.

"It was insanely noisy but I just assumed it was planes passing through to an air show or doing some sort of special presentation and promptly forgot about it since it seemed like a fluke," she said. Katrina Gray said the noise was "shockingly loud."

"I instinctively ran outside and held my breath," she said.

While Kemble did not experience an F-35 takeoff while in Vermont, she said she was in her garden about two miles west of the airport during one of the

flights. She likened the sound to an explosion.

"When the F-16s fly you can't talk. You have to put the phone down," Kemble said. "This was — I can't explain. It was scary, and you could feel the sound."

Another East Side City Council member, Ald. Syed Abbas, whose 12th District is just southwest of the airport, said he had not received any complaints about the flights.

A final decision by the secretary of the Air Force is expected in February, 30 days after the final environmental impact study is released.

Saying Burlington was provided with more information than Madison, Taylor is calling on the Air Force to update its environmental impact statement with data on how loud the F-35s would be how frequently they would take off and how long the noise would last.

Taylor wants the Air Force to provide an additional comment period on the revised environmental study.

The Air Force did not respond to a question about whether it would offer an additional comment period.

The Pentagon has identified Madison and Montgomery, Ala., as the preferred sites for two squadrons of the new jets. If Madison is selected, Truax could begin receiving F-35s in 2023, though planning is already underway for \$34 million in new construction to prepare for them.

Construction would begin next fall, but city staff have suggested the National Guard can't "safely and legally" start construction without a complete site investigation to determine the extent and nature of contamination from chemicals known as PFAS that are associated with firefighting foam long used in training and have triggered the shutdown of a city well near the airport.

NATION

Poll: Many back probe, but it's not top priority

By HANNAH FINGERHUT
AND JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—More Americans approve of the impeachment investigation into President Donald Trump than disapprove of it, though only about a third say the inquiry should be a top priority for Congress, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

That solid, if measured, support serves as a warning sign for Trump's White House and reelection campaign, which have insisted that pursuing impeachment will end up being a vulnerability for Democrats heading into 2020.

But the findings present some red flags for Democrats, too. More people say House members are motivated mainly by politics rather than by duty as they investigate the Republican president's dealings with Ukraine and whether he abused his office or compromised national security when he tried to pressure the country to dig up dirt on a political rival.

And assessments of the president's performance generally have remained remarkably stable even as the investigation has unfolded at a rapid clip.

Overall, 47% said they support the impeachment inquiry, while 38% disapprove. Like most assessments of Trump and Washington, views of impeachment are



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi swings the gavel Thursday as the House votes to pass a resolution on impeachment procedures. A poll found that many approve of the probe into President Donald Trump's call with Ukraine's leader. Yet, only a third believe that it is a top priority.

starkly polarized.

A vast majority of Democrats approve of the inquiry, including 68% who strongly approve.

Among them is Sandra Shrewsbury, 70, who lives in Greencastle, Ind. She said that Trump's impeachment is long overdue.

"I am really concerned about our country if this does not stop," she said of Trump's time in office.

She voiced concerns that Trump doesn't have the temperament to be the nation's commander in

chief and is doing serious damage to the country's standing.

She was relieved, she said, that after months of hemming and hawing, impeachment proceedings were finally underway.

"I was getting very frustrated with Congress and those investigating because I felt like they were just dragging their heels," she said. "I wish they'd stop worrying about getting reelected themselves and get down to the business they're supposed to be doing. ... We pay them to do this

job."

It's another story among Republicans, who overwhelmingly disapprove of the inquiry, including 67% who do so strongly.

"I think it's garbage," said Sara Palmer, 42, a staunch Trump supporter who lives in Pocatello, Idaho, and accused Democrats of wasting time and money trying to take down Trump when there are far more important things they should be doing for the country.

"I mean come on!" she said. "There's nothing there. ... He

didn't do anything wrong."

That's a sentiment shared by a majority, 64%, of Republicans.

Yet even among members of Trump's party, a modest share thinks he did do something wrong. About a quarter, 28%, think he did something unethical, while 8% think he broke the law.

The public overall has mixed views of whether the president committed any wrongdoing. Most say his interactions with the president of Ukraine were at least unethical. That includes about 4 in 10 who think he did something illegal. About another 3 in 10 think what he did was unethical but not illegal.

Trump has insisted he did nothing wrong.

But nearly all Democrats think the president crossed a line, including roughly 7 in 10 who say that he broke the law.

Still, not all Democrats think the inquiry should be Congress' top priority. A quarter thinks it should be an important but lower priority, and 1 in 10 say it should not be an important priority at all.

Even as Americans express strong opinions about the inquiry, many have mixed assessments of their own understanding of the impeachment process. Just about 3 in 10 say they understand the process very or extremely well, while roughly as many describe their understanding as limited.

Former Trump aide didn't believe Ukraine discussion was illegal

By LISA MASCARO,
ZKE I. MILLER
AND DEB RICHMANN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—A former top White House official confirmed that military aid to Ukraine was held up by President Donald Trump's demand for the ally to investigate Democrats and Joe Biden but testified that there's nothing illegal, in his view, about the quid pro quo at the center of the Democrat-led impeachment inquiry.

Tim Morrison, who stepped down from the National Security Council the day before his Thursday testimony, was the first White House political appointee to appear and spent more than eight hours behind closed doors with House investigators.

"I want to be clear, I was not concerned that anything illegal was discussed," Morrison said about a pivotal phone call between Trump and the Ukraine president, according to prepared remarks obtained by The Associated Press.

Late Thursday, Trump tweeted about Morrison's comment that no law was broken: "Thank you to Tim Morrison for your honesty."

But Morrison also confirmed

what diplomat William Taylor told investigators in earlier testimony

— that Morrison had a "sinking feeling" when he learned that Trump was asking the Ukrainians to publicly announce an investigation of Biden and the Democrats, even as the Republican president denied it was a quid pro quo.

"I can confirm," Morrison wrote, that the substance of the diplomat's testimony "is accurate."

Morrison told investigators that he and Taylor did not realize the money was being withheld for the investigation of Burisma, the gas company connected to Biden, until a conversation with European Union Ambassador Gordon Sondland in September.

"Taylor and I had no reason to believe that the release of the security sector assistance might be conditioned on a public statement reopening the Burisma investigation until my Sept. 1, 2019, conversation with Ambassador Sondland," Morrison testified.

A defense hawk, Morrison was the National Security Council's top adviser for Russian and European affairs until he stepped down Wednesday. He was brought into the White House by John Bolton, the former national security

adviser who was critical of Trump's Ukraine policy and the back-channel diplomacy being run by the Republican president's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani.

Morrison testified that he was told by his predecessor, Fiona Hill, who also testified in the impeachment inquiry, that Giuliani and Sondland were trying to get Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy "to reopen investigations into Burisma."

Bolton resigned in September, and Morrison had similarly been expected to leave for some time. "I do not want anyone to think there is a connection between my testimony today and my pending departure," he wrote.

As a national security adviser, Morrison was among those listening to Trump's July 25 call with the Ukrainian leader that sparked a whistleblower's complaint and the impeachment inquiry.

He said he asked NSC lawyers to review the call because he had three concerns if word of the discussion leaked: how it would play out in polarized Washington, how it would affect bipartisan support in Congress for Ukraine and how it would affect U.S.-Ukraine relations.

It is against the law to seek or receive assistance of value from



Former top national security adviser to President Donald Trump, Tim Morrison, arrives to testify as part of the House impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump in Washington, on Thursday.

a foreign entity in a U.S. election. Trump says he did nothing wrong.

Morrison testified Thursday that he initially knew so little about Burisma when he took over for Hill in July that he had to do a Google search but quickly understood the Biden connection.

He did clarify one difference from Taylor's recollection of events: He said it was his understanding that "it could be sufficient" if the new Ukraine prosecutor general, rather than Zelenskyy himself, committed "to pursue the Burisma investigation."

As the security funds for Ukraine were being withheld, Morrison told the diplomat, "President doesn't want to pro-

vide any assistance at all."

Their concerns deepened when Morrison relayed on Sept. 7 the conversation he had with Sondland that gave him that "sinking feeling."

In it, Sondland explained that Trump said he was not asking for a quid pro quo but insisted that Zelenskyy "go to a microphone and say he is opening investigations of Biden and 2016 election interference," Taylor testified last week.

The testimony came as the House took its first formal vote on the impeachment inquiry Thursday, approving the process ahead for public hearings and possible drafting of articles of impeachment.

NATION



CHRIS SWEDA, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/AP

Chicago Teachers Union President Jesse Sharkey and vice-president Stacy Davis Gates share a hug after speaking to the media following a CTU House of Delegates meeting at the Chicago Teachers Union Center in Chicago, on Wednesday.

Chicago teachers reach deal with city, 11-day strike comes to an end

By MORIAH BALINGIT
The Washington Post

Teachers in Chicago, home to the nation's third-largest school system, reached a deal with the city Thursday that is set to return 300,000 students and 25,000 teachers to classrooms Friday, marking an end to one of the longest teacher strikes in recent history.

The strike began Oct. 17 after the Chicago Teachers Union reached an impasse with Mayor Lori Lightfoot, who faced the first major test of her nascent administration. And it comes amid a resurgence of teacher activism in other urban school systems following a wave of walkouts in conservative states in 2018.

The strike, which kept students out of classrooms for 11 days, brought tens of thousands of people to Chicago's streets and to picket lines as the teachers pressed the city to hire more teachers, social workers and school nurses in a city where three-quarters of schoolchildren come from low-in-

come households.

Lightfoot repeatedly said the city could not afford to meet the demands of teachers, and last week pressed the union to end the strike while negotiating continued. By Wednesday night, the union's governing body had approved a tentative contract—but teachers remained on strike until Lightfoot agreed to extend the school year by five days. It was a sticking point for educators who lost pay while on strike.

"In the interest of our students and our parents who have been suffering, it was important to me to make sure we got our kids in class," said Lightfoot at a city hall news conference Thursday. "Enough is enough."

Union leaders declined to hold a joint news conference with the mayor and criticized her for refusing to extend the school year a full 11 days.

"This has been a tense last two weeks," said Jesse Sharkey, president of the teachers union. "This is not a day for photo ops or vic-

tory laps."

The agreement outlines salary increases for teachers and promises \$25 million to reduce class sizes—one of the union's priorities in negotiations. It also calls for hiring more nurses and social workers so one will be assigned to each school by 2023. Teachers are also set to get a 16 percent pay raise over the life of the five-year contract.

Carmen Guzman, who teaches first grade at Louis Pasteur Elementary, said she was pleased with gains teachers made. Five years ago, when she taught kindergarten, she had 38 students, some with emotional problems. A student at her school who has diabetes had to transfer because there is no full-time nurse. "It has taken a toll," Guzman said.

But she is eager to get back to the classroom. She worries that young students, having just become accustomed to the rhythm of the school day, will have to relearn routines.

Trick-or-treater injured in Chicago shooting

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A 7-year-old girl out trick-or-treating in a bumblebee costume was critically injured after being struck by apparent stray gunfire on Chicago's West Side, police said.

The girl, who was shot in the upper chest area Thursday night, was taken to Stroger Hospital in critical condition, according to Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford. A 30-year-old man was shot in the left hand and taken to a nearby hospital in good condition.

The shooting occurred early

Halloween evening as the girl was walking with her family and other trick-or-treaters along a street in the Little Village neighborhood. In a tweet, Chicago police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said the girl was believed to be an unintended victim. He said members of the community were assisting investigators "but we need more."

"We heard the shots ... four shots and I went outside," said Laila Lara, who works in a nearby cellphone store, told the Chicago Tribune. "The girl's father was screaming, 'My little girl's been

shot."

Police said a group of males were chasing another male along the street when someone in the group fired at the intended victim. It was not immediately known if the wounded man was with the girl or was the one targeted by the shooters. Police say they have no description of the gunman, and no one was in custody.

"This is unacceptable," police Sgt. Rocco Alioto said. "A 7-year-old girl that was trick-or-treating with her family had to get shot because a group of guys want to shoot at another male."

Katie Hill blames resignation on 'double standard'

By LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — California freshman congresswoman Katie Hill bid a defiant farewell to the House on Thursday, suggesting a double standard forced her resignation amid a messy divorce, "gutter" politics and nude photos made public.

Leaving her apartment, she said, for the first time since the photos were published in a conservative publication, the scarlet-suited Hill cast her final House vote in favor of the impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump.

In her last floor speech, Hill apologized to supporters, especially young women, and girls and those who are different, for letting them down after toppling a Republican incumbent and rocketing toward the top of



Hill

Democratic politics. Then she turned her fury on a system that she said allows Trump and other men accused of misconduct to remain in some of the highest offices in the country.

"This is bigger than me. I am leaving now because of a double standard," Hill, who only days ago sat at the Democratic leadership table, said from the well of the mostly empty House. "I'm leaving, but we have men who have been credibly accused of intentional acts of sexual violence and remain in boardrooms, on the Supreme Court, in this very body and, worst of all, in the Oval Office."

There was no such complaint against the 32-year-old Hill. But she announced her resignation Sunday night amid an ethics committee investigation into whether she had engaged in an affair with a male congressional staffer, which she denied and which would have broken House rules. Hill, who identifies as bisexual, acknowledged having a consensual affair with a female aide on her campaign.

Meanwhile, a conservative outlet published nude photos of Hill with another woman, a development she blamed on what she called an abusive husband and ruthless political operatives.

Hill added, "I'm leaving because of a misogynistic culture that gleefully consumed my naked pictures (and) capitalized on my sexuality." She said the photos were taken and posted

without her consent.

Hill's fall laid bare generational and cultural fault lines that had defined the new Democratic majority since it took control of the House in January as the youngest, most female and most diverse caucus in history. The rift runs between the veterans who run the House and their would-be proteges, younger members like Hill with little memory of life before social media and digital footprints.

As Hill delivered her resignation speech, some of her fellow freshmen signaled their support by sitting in the front row. Among them, her roommate on Capitol Hill, Rep. Lauren Underwood of Illinois, and Reps. Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Joe Neguse of Colorado.

In contrast, there was a distinct lack of support from the House's upper echelons for Hill to fight the scandal and stay in office. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who picked Hill for a post at the leadership table, issued a statement soon after the resignation announcement praising the congresswoman but adding that the developments had made the prospect of Hill keeping her seat "untenable."

On Thursday, just before the impeachment vote, Pelosi called Hill an "outstanding young public servant" who is patriotic and respected. She said it's "shameful" that Hill was humiliated. And she emphasized that Hill stepped down on her own.

"Katie Hill's decision to resign is her decision to resign," Pelosi, 79, said, adding that she tells her grandchildren to be careful about social media. The matter, Pelosi said, is "bigger than one person. It's about how people have presented themselves over time and again exploitation by others who get the information and we don't know how and that's not right."

Hill said the photos were taken and posted without her consent and enabled what she said was more abuse from a husband she is divorcing. She said she'd been warned that political operatives had hundreds more nude pictures that they were planning to release "bit by bit until they broke me down to nothing while they used my faults and my past to distract from the things that matter most."

Hill said she resigned in part because she didn't want to be a distraction.

"There's only one investigation that deserves the attention of this country, and that's the one we voted on today," Hill said of the impeachment proceedings.

NATION

Firefighters able to take advantage of calm Calif. weather

By JOHN ANTICZAK
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Calmer weather allowed crews to increase containment of wildfires after a three-week siege of gusts fanned blazes across California and led utilities to cut power to prevent winds from blowing branches into electric lines and igniting an inferno.

Winds subsided in virtually all parts of the state, though red flag warnings for fire danger because of winds and ultradry conditions remained in place through Friday evening for some inland areas to the north and west of Los Angeles.

Lingering winds were blamed for churning up a wildfire that erupted Thursday evening and quickly spread from a hilltop near Santa Paula, northwest of Los Angeles.

Authorities in Ventura County ordered evacuations for about 7,500 people in an area that includes roughly 1,800 buildings as the blaze threatened the small, unincorporated rural community of Somis.

Hundreds of firefighters raced to attack the blaze, which initially was fanned by moderate winds. It grew in only a few hours early Friday to more than 12 square miles before winds eased.

Firefighters were protecting avocado and citrus orchards and infrastructure, including radio

communication facilities and high voltage electrical power lines. Dozens of local schools in the area were closed.

For most of October, fires sprang up across the state, forcing residents to flee homes at all hours as flames indiscriminate-

‘I think when we left, and especially Sunday, we didn’t think we’d be coming back.’

Brenda Catalani
resident of Windsor, Calif.

ly burned barns, sheds, mobile homes and multimillion-dollar mansions.

Nearly 200,000 Sonoma County residents were allowed to return home even as the 121-square-mile fire that forced them to evacuate continued to burn.

At least 167 homes were destroyed. The number of homes considered threatened was drastically reduced to about 1,600 as containment increased to 67% Friday.

Brenda Catalani choked up as she recalled driving back home to Windsor with her husband.

“I think when we left, and especially Sunday, we didn’t think we’d be coming back,” Catalani said.

Chunks of burned embers,



JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Firefighters battle the Maria fire Friday in Somis, Calif.

burned leaves and ash littered the outside of her house.

The fire had come within 500 yards of their house — closer than the wine country fires of 2017 that killed 44 people and destroyed 8,900 homes and other buildings in Sonoma and Napa counties.

“We feel extremely lucky,” Catalani said.

Evacuations were also lifted for two small fires, fed by gusts up to 60 mph that destroyed homes Thursday in the heavily populated inland region east of Los Angeles. One of those blazes, in Jurupa Valley, was caused by dry grasses ignited when a stolen car chased by police tried to escape through fields.

The wildfires came even as many people were in the dark from the intentional outages.

In places where the power stayed on, utility lines and other electrical equipment were sus-

pected or confirmed as the cause of several fires, including the one in Sonoma, another that started on a hillside above the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles and one that burned around the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley on Wednesday.

Pacific Gas & Electric finished restoring power to dozens of counties in the north and central regions after a third round of shutoffs this week designed to protect power lines from being damaged or toppled by high winds and sparking fires.

Only 1,100 Southern California Edison customers remained without power early Friday, down from about 80,000 on Thursday. San Diego Gas & Electric said it restored power to 25,000 customers affected by safety shutoffs.

The most devastating wildfires in California’s history have occurred in the past two years in

the fall, fueled by a combination of built-up brush, dry conditions and extreme winds. The anniversary of the deadliest of those — last year’s fire that torched the town of Paradise and killed 85 people — is next week.

The state experienced a wet winter with a large snowpack, and temperatures and wind speeds didn’t spike simultaneously over the summer, which has led to a less destructive fire season overall.

Acres burned this year is down nearly 90% from last year and 80% below the five-year average over the same period, according to figures compiled through Sunday by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The moisture, however, has fueled explosive growth of grasses that have now shriveled into golden and brown tinder.

Storms knock out power, down trees, damage homes on East Coast

By SHAWN MARSH
Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — A clash of storm fronts that began on Halloween created havoc that caused flooding, knocked over trees, downed power lines and damaged homes from the Deep South throughout the Northeast on Friday.

More than 420,000 customers from South Carolina to Maine and in Ohio were without electricity late Thursday. A falling tree struck and trapped a truck driver in New Rochelle, a suburb of New York City. Police told The Journal News a resident pulled the 9-year-old out, and she was taken to a hospital for treatment of fractures.

In Pennsylvania, Delaware County Emergency Management Director Tim Boyce told WPVI-TV on Friday that eight homes were destroyed and dozens were damaged. The National Weather Service was considering sending a survey team to the area to determine if a tornado had touched down.

More than 100,000 homes and businesses were without electricity in the Philadelphia suburbs early Friday. More outages occurred in western Pennsylvania, where storms caused flooding, mudslides and



JESSICA GRIFFIN, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/AP

Shane Wilson, left, and sister Noelle Wilson, center, walk their dog, Auggie, past a damaged house from Wednesday’s storm in Thornbury Township, Pa., on Friday.

road closures. Trees came down in New Jersey, which had more than 25,000 homes and businesses without power.

More than 200,000 customers were without power in New York state after a

night of heavy rain and wind gusts up to 70 mph.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo told Spectrum News on Friday that several hundred people were being evacuated in scattered areas around

the state because of high waters.

Police in the central New York village of Dolgeville used a boat to rescue people from a home. The Buffalo area was dealing with flash flooding after 4 to 5 inches of rain.

The weather also caused damage, outages and commuter delays across New York’s Long Island.

Electric utilities across Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine were busy restoring service to tens of thousands of customers who lost power due to high winds.

In Maine, more than 120,000 customers were without power Friday morning. In Vermont, more than 20,000 customers were without power, and in New Hampshire, it was about 16,000.

A flood warning remained in effect for much of northern Vermont through midday due to flooding that has closed some roads.

Many schools across Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine delayed or canceled classes on Friday.

Trees were toppled on Thursday in the western Carolinas and Tennessee, where news outlets reported at least five people were injured when trees hit vehicles. Tornado watches during the day stretched from South Carolina to northern Pennsylvania.

NATION

President's World Series ad a pricey pitch

Early 2020 election spot cost \$250K

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE
AND BRIAN SLODYSKO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's campaign delivered a brushback pitch during the final game of the World Series with an in-your-face national TV ad more than a year before the 2020 election.

The swaggering TV spot, complete with an image of Trump presiding over the weekend raid that killed Islamic State's leader underscores the Republican incumbent's financial advantage over the Democrats vying to replace him.

"He's no Mr. Nice Guy," the ad says of Trump, offering the president as a leader who hunts terrorists and get things done while the Democrats waste time on impeachment.

The 30-second ad, an updated version of an earlier commercial, includes a montage about Trump's record on the economy and immigration, then highlights the raid in Syria that killed Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Their caliphate destroyed. Their terrorist leader dead," a narrator intones. "But the Democrats would rather focus on impeachment and phony investigations, ignoring the real issues. But that's not stopping Donald Trump. He's no Mr. Nice Guy, but sometimes it takes a Donald Trump to change Washington."

It is highly unusual for a presidential incumbent to make a na-

'We are 12 months out from Election Day and we are on offense.'

Tim Murtagh
Trump campaign
communications director

tional ad buy so far out from the election and offers a stark contrast to Trump's possible Democratic foes. They've purchased TV and radio ads but have stuck to the early voting states so far. And they have spent comparatively modestly so far.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren ran a \$27,000 ad during an Iowa State-Oklahoma State football game last weekend. Sen. Bernie Sanders spent \$1.3 million on spots that ran across Iowa last month, while former Vice President Joe Biden and others have made similar buys in the past. Billionaire California businessman Tom Steyer is a lone outlier. A late entry to the race, he has spent at least \$20 million on TV as he's tried to boost his name ID and polling to cut through a crowded field.

But none has been as high-profile as the Trump ad, which cost \$250,000 to run nationally during a highly watched event, according to Advertising Analytics, which tracks such spending.

Whether it was an effective use of money is another question.



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

President Donald Trump, center, accompanied by Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga., right, and a member of the military, left, stands as members of the military are recognized during Game 5 of the World Series between the Houston Astros and the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park in Washington on Sunday.

Strategists say less expensive advertising in states where the election will be won or lost would have been a smarter investment.

Mike Murphy, an anti-Trump GOP strategist, said the ad was slickly produced but ultimately a public relations stunt — and an expensive one, at that.

"One ad never changes anything," said Murphy, who was a senior adviser to John McCain during his 2008 presidential run. "The president is bouncing off

the walls, impeachment is going poorly ... and so they desperately needed to feed the candidate something to make it look like they're doing something about it."

The Trump campaign was not subtle in its intent to flex its financial muscle. Brad Parscale, the campaign manager, tweeted the ad with the hashtag WeAreComing. The full ad buy, which the campaign said was seven figures, will keep it on the air beyond the

game in which the Washington Nationals captured their first World Series title on Wednesday.

"We are 12 months out from Election Day and we are on offense," said Tim Murtagh, the campaign's communications director. "President Trump continues to rack up victories on behalf of the American people, while Democrats do nothing but try to tear him down. It won't work and he will be reelected."

Warren: Health plan pledges no middle-class tax increase

BY WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Elizabeth Warren promised Friday to spend more than \$20 trillion over the next decade to provide government-funded health care to every American without raising middle-class taxes — finally answering questions about how to implement the massive "Medicare for All" program without taking a larger bite out of most Americans' salaries.

The Massachusetts senator famously "has a plan" for everything from providing universal child care to canceling college debt, but details of how she'd pay for her health plan come with far higher political stakes. Warren spent weeks, and two straight Democratic presidential primary debates, refusing to provide a straight answer if she'd have to increase middle-class taxes to make the numbers work.

The issue meant sustained tough headlines for Warren, who has ridden a steady summer rise in the polls to catch former Vice

President Joe Biden atop the crowded 2020 primary field.

Her plan is built on transferring to the government 98% of the \$8.8 trillion she estimates that employers will spend on private insurance for their employees.

"We can generate almost half of what we need to cover Medicare for All just by asking employers to pay slightly less than what they are projected to pay today, and through existing taxes," Warren wrote in a 20-page online post detailing her program.

Companies with fewer than 50 employees would be exempted and — in a nod to unions whose support will be key in the Democratic primary — Warren said employers already offering health benefits reached under collective bargaining agreements will be allowed to reduce how much they send to federal coffers — provided that they pass those savings on to employees.

If the program fails to raise \$8.8 trillion, Warren says she'd make up the difference by imposing a supplemental contribution



CHERYL SENTER/AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren says her health plan is built on transferring to the government monies employers currently spend on private insurers.

requirement for big companies "with extremely high executive compensation and stock buyback rates."

Medicare for All's chief proponent is Warren's friend and White House hopeful rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders, of Vermont, who was asked on CNBC this week if he'd provide full details on how he'd pay for his universal health insurance plan and replied, "I don't think I have to do that right now."

Democrats push candidates to commit to 2020 nominee

BY BILL BARROW
Associated Press

The Democratic National Committee is increasing pressure on its presidential candidates to commit to campaign actively for the party's nominee in 2020, going beyond a previous loyalty pledge for White House hopefuls.

The unity push from Chairman Tom Perez is part of a wide-ranging strategy designed to prevent the mistakes that cost Democrats the 2016 presidential election. It comes as the Republican National Committee continues to dwarf the Democratic Party in fundraising, while Democrats face the prospect of a bruising, expensive nominating fight that could last well into election year.

"We'll need every Democrat working together in order to defeat Donald Trump," Perez said, repeating his pledge for a full national campaign even as most Democrats remain focused on the primary campaign.

As an example, the DNC holds up former President Barack

Obama, who is already raising money and remains neutral in a nominating fight that includes his vice president, Joe Biden, and who is already raising money for the party. An Oct. 25 email from Obama to grassroots donors produced the party's best online fundraising day of the cycle, the DNC said, and the former president will headline a fundraising gala in California in November.

DNC officials say Obama has already talked with party leaders about campaigning on behalf of the nominee, whoever it is.

Perez is asking all candidates to commit, like Obama, to serve as surrogates, with a focus on battleground states in the weeks after the July 13-16 nominating convention in Milwaukee. Perez wants each campaign, as candidates drop out, to designate a senior adviser to serve as a liaison to help the national party use the vestiges of individual candidates' campaigns to build out Democrats' general election campaign.

DNC officials say the effort isn't targeted at any campaign.

NATION

Indiana woman found dead with python on neck

By MEAGAN FLYNN
The Washington Post

The snakes lived in a small blue house in Oxford, Ind. — 140 of them in all.

Indiana authorities described it as a “reptile home.” No one else lived there, but Benton County Sheriff Donald Munson lived next door, property records show. He owned the reptile home, too, and owned the collection of snakes inside, he told the Lafayette Journal & Courier.

The sheriff frequently checked on the reptiles, but on Wednesday, he made a startling discovery: an 8-foot-long python — wrapped around a woman’s neck.

The woman, identified as Laura Hurst, 36, died Wednesday night after the snake apparently strangled her, the Indiana State Police said Thursday. Medics who responded to the scene “attempted lifesaving measures” but could not revive her, state police said.

Hurst owned about 20 of the snakes inside Munson’s reptile home and had apparently come to check on them, Sgt. Kim Riley, a spokesperson with the Indiana State Police, told WTHR. When she arrived, she must have taken out the reticulated python, Riley said.

“What happened after that, we are still trying to figure out,” he said.

Munson could not immediately be reached for comment Thursday night but told the Journal & Courier that Hurst’s death was a “tragic accident with loss of human life.” He added that he

was cooperating with the state police but did not elaborate on the snake operation at the one-story ranch home.

Both Hurst and Munson were longtime snake lovers. An attorney for Hurst told the Journal & Courier the snakes were even part of her divorce negotiations.

“She had a real passion for snakes,” the attorney, Marcel Katz, told the newspaper. “That was a big issue for her.”

It’s unclear what permits may have been required for Munson to keep the dozens of reptiles there or what he was doing with them. Riley told The Associated Press the house had been renovated to house the snake collection and that the reptiles were stored and caged properly.

In 2001, when Munson was a deputy at the Benton County Sheriff’s Office, the Journal & Courier wrote about Munson’s snake collection when he brought one of them to the local elementary school his daughter attended.

That year, teachers at his daughter’s school had made a bet with students that if they met their reading goals, teachers would agree to hold a snake — a 13-foot python named “Simba.” Munson said at the time that it was one of 52 snakes living in his garage, saying he bred them for sale.

It’s unclear if that is still the purpose of Munson’s large collection.

The state police said an autopsy will be performed on Hurst on Friday to determine her official cause of death.

and a grisly selfie. But not only was Wolfe very much alive after hitting a large deer that jumped in front of her car, she was completely unharmed save for a minor bruise on her leg.

The copious amounts of blood that had initially alarmed the first responders and a good Samaritan who pulled over to help was makeup — Wolfe was dressed up as Carrie White, the title character of Stephen King’s 1974 horror novel “Carrie.”

“They kept asking over and over again if I wanted medical assistance, and I kept saying, ‘No, I’m OK!’” Wolfe told The Washington Post late Thursday. “Once I got my wits to me and kind of calmed down, I realized that I was in fact not injured, and I was just in a really ironic situation.”



U.S. FOREST SERVICE/AP

A Tucson reveal event is held in the Santa Rita Mountain’s foothills, more than 40 miles southeast of Tucson, Ariz. The explosion from the reveal ignited the 47,000-acre Sawmill Fire.

Some gender reveal parties seeking shock value take a dangerous turn

By GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

It was supposed to be a happy moment, a chance to declare the sex of a soon-to-be-born baby with a blast of color and burst of attention on social media.

But the gender reveal party explosion that killed an Iowa woman last weekend highlights the extreme lengths to which some families go to advertise on social media whether they’re expecting a boy or a girl.

Gender reveal parties have grown increasingly popular and elaborate, with smoke, confetti or colored treats to symbolize the soon-to-be-born child’s biological sex. But what began as a lighthearted, intimate gathering with family and close friends has morphed into a spectacle with guns, explosives and wild animals to maximize shock value — with sometimes dangerous consequences.

“There’s this huge pressure to

publicize these once-private moments,” said Carly Gieseler, an associate professor at the City University of New York’s York College, who has studied the rise of gender-reveal parties. “You get that outside validation that what you did was unique, that it was extra special. It drives celebrations to the extreme because you’re trying to do the thing that no one’s done before.”

Gieseler said the number of gender reveal parties has risen over the last decade but speculated that the recent string of accidents could cause it to decline.

The homemade explosive that killed Pamela Kreimeyer, 56, in Knoxville, Iowa, on Oct. 26 was just the latest example. The device was meant to spray colorful powder into the air but instead exploded like a pipe bomb. Kreimeyer, who was standing 45 feet away, died instantly when a piece of debris struck her head.

Two years ago, an off-duty

Border Patrol agent accidentally started a 47,000-acre wildfire in southern Arizona when he shot a target filled with an explosive powder and blue coloring to signal that he was expecting a son. Agent Dennis Dickey was charged with a misdemeanor and sentenced to probation for triggering the fire, which caused more than \$8 million in damage.

In Australia, a car that spewed blue smoke to announce the arrival of a boy burst into flames last year, forcing the driver and passengers to abandon it.

And in separate instances over the last two years, couples announced their child’s sex by putting items into the mouths of their pet alligators — a watermelon filled with blue Jell-O in Louisiana and a pink powder-filled balloon in Florida.

The use of homemade explosives is particularly concerning to fire officials, who worry about one-upmanship and copycats.

First responders found her drenched in blood; she was dressed up as Carrie

By ALLYSON CHIU
The Washington Post

Sidney Wolfe, 20, was covered in blood. It coated her long chestnut-colored hair. It stained her face and arms. It soaked through most of her white, floor-length gown, turning the fabric a dark crimson.

That’s how she looked when first responders found her behind the wheel of her high-topped Toyota Corolla along a stretch of highway in southern Ohio shortly before 1 a.m. last Saturday, prompting the medics to prepare for the worst.

“Everyone who was a first responder thought I was dead,” Wolfe, an accounting major at Marshall University in West Virginia, tweeted this week, sharing photos of her wrecked car

“Everyone who was a first responder thought I was dead. ... They kept asking me over and over if I wanted medical assistance.”

Sidney Wolf
accident victim

The saga, which Wolfe chronicled in a now-viral Twitter thread that has amassed hundreds of thousands of likes, began last week when she donned the blood-splattered costume to advertise a production of “Carrie: The Musical” put on by the Paramount Arts Center in Ashland, Ky.

Ahead of the show’s Halloween opening night, a group of actors visited haunted houses in the state to promote the musical. But the person cast as Carrie couldn’t

make it to a rural haunted house on Oct. 25, so Wolfe, who is playing the character of Sue Snell, stepped in.

When she left and headed home that night, Wolfe said, she didn’t worry much about her frightful look.

“We were in a haunted house campground in the middle of nowhere in Kentucky,” she told the Post. “I wasn’t in the position to be able to shower, and I thought nothing of it.”

Then, about 15 minutes into Wolfe’s drive back to Marshall’s Huntington, W.Va., campus, a deer bounded directly into the path of her car. At the time of impact, Wolfe said she was traveling at about 55 mph.

Photos of her car after the accident show a white sedan with its hood badly dented and almost folded in half, exposing parts of the engine. The deer’s body was found in the road several yards behind the car, Wolfe said.

“Immediately after, I was in shock,” Wolfe said. “I saw a deer midair hit my car, so I was like, ‘Oh, my gosh, this is shocking.’ But then it hit me, ‘Holy crap, I’m head to toe drenched in blood makeup. They’re going to freak out.’”

WORLD

Iraqis launch largest demonstration so far

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
AND JOSEPH KRAUSS
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Tens of thousands of Iraqis massed in Baghdad's Tahrir Square on Friday in the biggest demonstrations since anti-government protests erupted a month ago, defying security forces that have killed scores of people and harshly criticizing Iran's involvement in the country's affairs.

The square and the wide boulevards leading into it were packed with flag-waving protesters, as security forces reinforced barricades on two bridges leading to the heavily-fortified Green Zone, the seat of government. The protesters want sweeping change to the political system established after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, which they blame for widespread corruption, high unemployment and poor public services.

At least 255 people have been killed in two major waves of protests in the past month, including five who died Friday of wounds sustained earlier, according to security and medical officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to brief reporters. At least 350 people were wounded Friday as security forces fired tear gas grenades and rubber bullets to drive people back from the bridges.

Many protesters directed their rage at Iran, which emerged as a major power broker after the

overthrow of Saddam Hussein and has close ties to powerful political parties and state-backed militias that were mobilized to battle the Islamic State group but have now become an imposing political faction.

Videos circulated online of a group of protesters holding a poster showing Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the head of its elite Quds force, Gen. Qasim Soleimani, with their faces crossed out. The video, which showed protesters beating the poster with their shoes, appeared to have been filmed Thursday in Tahrir Square. On Friday, protesters marched over an Iranian flag painted on the pavement with a swastika added to it.

This month's protests in Iraq and similar demonstrations in Lebanon are fueled by local grievances and mainly directed at the political elite, but they also pose a challenge to Iran, which closely backs both governments. An increasingly violent crackdown in Iraq has raised fears of a backlash by Iran and its heavily armed local allies.

On Friday, a group of about 50 militia supporters showed up at the protest, prompting other demonstrators to chant: "Iran take your hands off, the people don't want you!"

Shiite cleric Ahmed al-Safi, delivering a Friday sermon on behalf of the religious establishment, said they condemn "at-



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Anti-government protesters gather in Tahrir Square during ongoing protests in Baghdad on Friday.

tacks on peaceful protesters and all forms of unjustified violence," and that those responsible should be held accountable.

He also said authorities should not allow "any person or group or biased entity, or any regional or international party" to impose its

view on the Iraqi people — an apparent reference to Iran.

The sermon was delivered in the Shiite holy city of Karbala, where masked men suspected of being linked to the security forces opened fire on protesters earlier this week, killing at least

18 people.

Amnesty International says security forces in Baghdad have fired military-grade tear gas grenades directly into the crowds, causing horrific wounds and occasionally lodging the projectiles in people's skulls.

Failed mission raises doubts of Mexico's security

BY CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — A sloppy operation that failed to nab Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán's son followed by days of changing explanations has revealed not so much that Mexico's government has a failing security strategy, but no real strategy at all, experts say.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and his security Cabinet have defined their strategy thus far by stating what it is not, according to experts, saying that Mexico is no longer waging a war on drugs or seeking to capture or kill cartel kingpins, like previous governments did.

But these words were apparently contradicted by the bungled Oct. 17 mission to capture Ovidio Guzmán in the western city of Culiacán, the Sinaloa Cartel's backyard, which aimed to nab a cartel figure and unleashed violence that made the city look like a war zone.

When asked to define what his strategy is to take Mexico's sky-high murder rate and deadly drug cartels, López Obrador responds with philosophies more than strategies, often mentioning an assortment of social programs.

On Thursday, López Obrador said his government will not be forced into a drug war, adding that his strategy is something else.

"Nothing has hurt Mexico more than the dishonesty of the governing," Mexico's president said, implying corruption was to blame for the country's insecurity, inequality and drug trafficking.



AP

Video from the Mexican government shows Ovidio Guzmán Lopez at the moment of his detention, in Culiacán, Mexico. Mexican security forces had López, a son of Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, outside a house on his knees against a wall before they were forced to back off and let him go as his gunmen shot up the western city of Culiacán.

He seemed to lay blame for the Culiacán operation with everyone except the drug traffickers, even lambasting the press for "yellow" journalism.

"This is pacifying the country by convincing, persuading without violence, offering well-being, alternative options, better living conditions, working conditions, strengthening values," he said.

Mexico is on track to record more than 32,000 murders this year and the public just watched 13 people die in the streets of Culiacán while a special army antidrug unit captured and then released a drug lord to avoid further bloodshed.

"He can't continue with this strategy of peace and love with the criminals and say that there isn't war," said Raul Benitez, a security expert and professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. "The criminals are declaring war on the government and the country, the citizens, the people."

Farage to Johnson: Drop Brexit and I'll help you win

BY JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON — British euroskeptical politician Nigel Farage tried to ramp up pressure on Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday, saying his Brexit Party would run against the Conservatives across the country unless Johnson abandons his divorce deal with the European Union.

Farage's party was founded earlier this year to push for a hard Brexit and currently has no seats in Parliament. It rejects Johnson's divorce deal with the EU, preferring to leave the bloc with no agreement on future relations in what it calls a "clean-break" Brexit.

Launching the Brexit Party's campaign for Britain's Dec. 12 election, Farage said Johnson's deal "is not Brexit" because it would mean continuing to follow some EU rules and holding years of negotiations on future relations.

"Boris tell us this is a great new deal. It is not. It is a bad old treaty and simply it is not Brexit," Farage said.

He spoke a day after U.S. President Donald Trump urged his friend Farage to make an electoral pact with Johnson's Con-

servatives. Trump barged into the British election campaign on Thursday, telling Farage on the British politician's phone-in to show that he and Johnson would be "an unstoppable force."

Farage, who played a key role in the 2016 campaign for Britain to leave the EU, said that if Johnson agreed to abandon his deal, the Brexit Party would form a "non-aggression pact" with the Conservatives, standing aside in many areas.

If the Brexit Party runs in only a small number of seats, that would help the Conservatives, who are vying with Farage for the support of Brexit-backing voters.

"I believe the only way to solve this is to build a 'leave' alliance across this country," Farage said. "If it was done, Boris Johnson would win a very big majority."

Farage said that if Johnson rejects the offer, "we will contest every single seat in England, Scotland and Wales."

Johnson has ruled out an electoral pact with Farage.

"We are not interested in doing any pacts with the Brexit Party or indeed with anybody else," Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick said Friday. "We are in this to win it."

WORLD

N. Korea says it test-fired a new rocket launcher

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea confirmed Friday it conducted its third test-firing of a new, "superlarge" multiple rocket launcher that it says expands its ability to destroy enemy targets in surprise attacks.

The latest launches extended a monthslong streak of weapons displays by the North, which continues to use a standstill in nuclear negotiations to advance its military capabilities while pressuring Washington for concessions.

Pyeongyang's official Korean Central News Agency described the tests a day after the South Korean and Japanese militaries said they detected two projectiles launched from an area near the North Korean capital traveling more than 200 miles cross country before landing in waters off the North's eastern coast.

Experts say the North could continue to ramp up weapons demonstrations ahead of an end-

of-year deadline set by leader Kim Jong Un for the U.S. to offer mutually acceptable terms to salvage a fragile diplomacy strained by disagreements over exchanging sanctions relief and disarmament steps.

Thursday's launches followed statements of displeasure by top North Korean officials over the slow pace of nuclear negotiations with the United States and demands that the administration of President Donald Trump ease crippling sanctions and pressure on their country.

KCNA said Kim expressed satisfaction over what North Korea described as a successful test of its new rocket artillery system, but it wasn't clear whether the leader observed the launches on site. The North previously tested the system in August and September. The latest test verified the "perfection" of the system's continuous firing ability that allows it to "totally destroy" enemy targets with "super power," the agency said.



KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, KOREA NEWS SERVICE/AP

A "superlarge" rocket launcher by the Academy of Defense Science in North Korea is test-fired Thursday. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government.

Kim Eun-han, the spokesman for Seoul's Unification Ministry, said South Korea has "strong concern" over the North's weapons activity but avoided a straightforward answer when asked about the possible impact on inter-Korean dialogue.

Chung Eui-yong, the presidential national security director, downplayed the threat posed by North Korea's new weapons during a parliamentary hearing while also mentioning South Korea's missile defense systems.

Earlier this month, the North test-fired an underwater-launched ballistic missile for the first time in three years. The North has also tested new short-range ballistic missile and rocket artillery systems in recent months in what ex-

perts saw as an effort to advance its military capabilities and increase its bargaining power.

Negotiations have faltered after the collapse of a February summit between Kim and Trump in Hanoi, Vietnam, where the U.S. rejected North Korean demands for broad sanctions relief in exchange for piecemeal progress toward partially surrendering its nuclear capabilities.

Washington and Pyongyang resumed working-level discussions in Sweden earlier this month, but the meetings broke down amid acrimony, with the North Koreans calling the talks "sickening" and accusing the Americans of maintaining an "old stance and attitude."

China vows Hong Kong legal action

Associated Press

BEIJING — China vowed Friday to prevent foreign powers from interfering in Hong Kong's affairs and carrying out acts of "separatism, subversion, infiltration and sabotage."

The latest broadside against alleged foreign backing of anti-government protesters came from a top-ranking member of China's ceremonial parliament, the National People's Congress.

Shen Chunyao was elaborating on a reference in a Communist Party document that says Beijing will "establish and strengthen a legal system and enforcement mechanism for safeguarding national security" in Hong Kong, which has been riled by five months of increasingly violent pro-democracy rallies.

"We absolutely will not permit any behavior that challenges the bottom line of 'one country, two systems,'" Shen said, referencing the governing framework under which Hong Kong was handed over from British to Chinese rule in 1997.

"We absolutely will not permit any behavior encouraging separatism or endangering national security and will resolutely guard against and contain the interference of foreign powers in the affairs of Hong Kong and Macao and their carrying out acts of separatism, subversion, infiltration and sabotage," he told reporters.

Hong Kong, which has a separate legal system under its own miniconstitution known as the Basic Law, has tried to enact anti-subversion legislation before, only to have the measure shelved amid formidable public opposition.

Shen may now be indicating that Beijing is preparing to take matters into its own hands by having the National People's Congress issue a legal interpretation forcing the enactment of such legislation.

Article 23 of the Basic Law requires that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region "enact laws on its own to prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central People's Government."

It would also forbid foreign political organizations or bodies from conducting political activities in Hong Kong and ban Hong Kong political bodies from forging ties with foreign political organizations.

That would bring conditions in Hong Kong closer in line to those in mainland China, where the government allows no political opposition to Communist party rule and harasses or jails all who challenge its authority. That includes independent legal, civil rights and labor activists and those defending the native religions, cultures and languages of minority peoples such as Buddhist Tibetans and Turkic Muslim Uighurs.

China's economy struggles; consumers tighten belt

By JOE McDONALD
Associated Press

BEIJING — With home sales crashing, real estate agent Zhang Yonggang is tightening his belt, part of a plunge in Chinese consumer demand that is a bigger threat to economic growth than Beijing's tariff war with Washington.

Zhang, who works in the central city of Taiyuan, said his office sold no apartments last month after Beijing tightened lending controls in July to rein in housing costs and debt. Zhang, 42, who is married with a teenage son, said his income has fallen by half from a year ago.

"I have no money to buy a home and no plans to change cars," Zhang said. "It is definitely the toughest time I've ever seen."

Consumer activists are counting on consumers to power China's economy, replacing trade and investment. But shoppers, spooked by the tariff war and possible job losses, are cutting spending on cars, real estate and other big-ticket purchases.

Economic growth sank to a three-decade low of 6% over a year earlier in the quarter ending in September. That is stronger than most major countries but a strain for Chinese companies that need to repay debt.

Factory activity shrank more than expected in October, accord-

ing to an official trade group, the China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing. Analysts suggested an uptick a month earlier didn't mark the start of a recovery.

The Chinese slowdown has sent shockwaves through the global economy. Companies from Apple to Tiffany's have reported weaker sales as Chinese consumers and tourists spend less. China's demand for iron ore, copper and other commodities has softened, depressing global prices.

Communist leaders have expressed confidence China can survive President Donald Trump's tariff hikes on its exports.

On Thursday, the ruling party's central committee affirmed support for private business within an economy dominated by state industry and gave no sign of plans to change economic strategy.

But leaders openly fret over slumping consumer spending and other domestic activity.

Premier Li Keqiang, the top economic official, told local leaders last week to fight "downward pressure" on the economy and "make sure targets for this year are achieved."

"Many real economic entities are struggling amid weak domestic demand," the premier said at a meeting with provincial governors, according to a Cabinet statement.

Beijing has tried to stick to



ANDY WONG/AP

An employee browses her smartphone at a clothing store having a promotional sale at a shopping mall in Shenzhen, in China's Guangdong province, on Friday.

plans to nurture self-sustaining, consumer-driven growth instead of resorting to stimulus, which usually means splurging on construction paid for with bank

loans. That might reignite a surge in debt that forecasters estimate has risen as high as the equivalent of 300% of China's annual economic output.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Dog helps police ID person hit by vehicle

NJ FAIR LAWN — Police said a dog helped officers find the home of a pedestrian who was struck by a vehicle.

Fair Lawn police said the man was crossing Berdan Avenue at Sunnyside Drive when he was hit Wednesday night. The man, who didn't have any ID, was taken to a hospital for treatment of head and leg injuries.

His American bulldog was not injured. "Mr. Wrinkles" led officers to the man's home about five blocks away so the 64-year-old's family could be notified.

The driver of the vehicle remained at the scene and was taken to a hospital for treatment of chest and arm injuries.

Halloween display with guillotine riles some

UT BRIGHAM CITY— Officials said they've received "more than a few" complaints over a family's Halloween display that includes a guillotine chopping off the heads of baby dolls.

However, the city attorney for Brigham City, Michael Christiansen, said the display isn't a public nuisance under the city code even though "it's distasteful to some."

KUTV-TV reported that in addition to the guillotine, the lawn display also includes a bloody nurse standing over a baby incubator containing angry looking babies and baby parts.

Julie Bowden said her family's annual Halloween displays are just intended "to be spooky and fun."

Official: Nearly 400 bags of heroin seized

MD DELMAR — A man is accused running from a traffic stop and throwing 300 bags of heroin into a backyard.

The Wicomico County Sheriff's Office said in a news release Wednesday that three people were in a car that was pulled over during a drug investigation Saturday in Delmar.

Cpl. Tyler Bennett said Lamerice Oney, 32, tossed the heroin and was later captured a couple blocks away.

A K-9 searched the vehicle and Bennett says another 80 bags of heroin were found, along with crack cocaine, a digital scale and money.

Oney, Terri Johnson, 46, and Katelyn Larrimore, 27, were arrested on drug charges.

School bus driver charged in crash

NC WILLIAMSTON — A school bus driver has been charged in a crash that injured 11 people, including nine children.

News outlets reported Christopher Bracy, 50, is accused of failing to yield when making a left turn Tuesday afternoon near Williamston.

North Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper Brian Allen said Bracy



ANDREW HARRIN/AP

'Bipawtisan' parade of pups

Amber Heinz, dressed as a witch, walks with her dog Lemon during a "Bipawtisan Dog Costume Parade" for Halloween on Capitol Hill in Washington on Thursday.

said 25 students from Rodgers Elementary School were on the bus. Nine students were taken to Martin General Hospital to be checked out. The extent of their injuries was unclear.

Two people in the other vehicle were also taken to a hospital.

New York City banning sale of foie gras

NY NEW YORK — New York City lawmakers have passed a bill that bans restaurants and grocery stores from selling foie gras, the fattened liver of a duck or goose.

The bill, which is expected to be signed by Mayor Bill de Blasio, would ban the sale of the delicacy starting in 2022. Animal welfare activists had campaigned for a ban on the grounds that the methods used to produce foie gras are cruel.

Usually, it involves force-feeding a bird through a tube briefly slipped down its throat.

Farmers who produce foie gras say the birds are treated humanely and don't suffer during the fattening process.

The final version of the bill called for violators of the ban to pay a fine of up to \$2,000 fine.

Teen fails, gets stuck between 2 buildings

PA BUTLER — Firefighters have rescued a teenager after she fell from a roof and got stuck between two buildings.

Officials say the 14-year-old was jumping from roof to roof in Butler on Tuesday when she fell and became wedged in a space

THE CENSUS

9.1M

ventory in the 52 years that records have been kept. It's also the only time since 1967 that Kentucky distillers filled more than 2 million barrels.

Kentucky's inventory, in barrels, of aging spirits — mostly bourbon. The Kentucky Distillers' Association says distilleries filled more than 2.1 million barrels of bourbon in 2018. The group says both figures are modern-era records. It's the highest inventory in the 52 years that records have been kept. It's also the only time since 1967 that Kentucky distillers filled more than 2 million barrels.

less than 2 feet wide.

Fire Capt. Jim Kaufman tells KDKA-TV there was a space in between the building about as wide as his shoulders. Kaufman says the girl was very lucky because another 3 feet, she would have fallen.

Firefighters reached the girl through a window.

She was flown to a hospital. Her condition is not known.

Letter carrier robbed at gunpoint by 2 men

FL DEERFIELD BEACH — Federal officials are offering a reward up to \$25,000 for information that leads to the arrest of two people who robbed a letter carrier at gunpoint in a South Florida neighborhood.

The robbery happened last Saturday morning in Deerfield Beach.

U.S. Postal Inspection Service spokesman Ivan Ramirez told news outlets the suspects approached the mail carrier and demanded a master key that gains access to community mailboxes in apartment and condominium complexes.

Ramirez said the letter carrier didn't have a master key, so the suspects took several trays of

mail along with some packages.

Replicas of Columbus' ships coming to state

AL ROGERSVILLE — Replicas of Christopher Columbus' ships are coming back to northern Alabama.

WAAY-TV reported the Nina and Pinta were to open to the public at Joe Wheeler State Park Marina on Thursday.

The two are historically accurate to the real ships. They were in northern Alabama this summer before heading to Tennessee for almost two months.

While in port, you can walk around the ships and take self-guided tours.

Sheriff: Fake doctors' notes sold to students

LA EVANS — Authorities said a woman who worked at a medical clinic has been arrested for selling fake doctor's notes to high school students so they can get out of class.

News outlets report Belinda Gail Fondren, 52, was charged with filing or maintaining false public records.

Vernon Parish Sheriff Sam

Craft said Fondren was selling medical excuses for \$20 each. He said two students at Evans High School received excuses on 14 occasions.

Deputies said a physician received a call from Vernon Parish School Board about the absence notes. He told deputies that he didn't treat the students nor did he authorize the excuses.

Craft said Fondren worked in a clerical position at the clinic. Fondren's daughter attends the school, the sheriff's office said.

Labrador sworn in at state's attorney's office

IL CHICAGO — It was a real dog of a ceremony this week during a swearing-in at the state's attorney's office.

The newly sworn-in worker is a Labrador retriever named Hatty. The 2-year-old will be on a 9-to-5 human schedule. But she's being asked to work like a dog, to just do what comes naturally to most dogs: show affection.

Her job is to ease the strain of criminal proceedings on young children and those with mental health issues who have been victims of assault. She'll handle up to 200 cases annually.

Hatty is the office's first emotional-support dog and was trained partly by inmates.

Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx presided over Tuesday's swearing-in. Hatty stood on her hind legs over a table and placed her paw across a law book as an oath was administered.

From wire reports

VIDEO GAMES

HIT AND MISS

Call of Duty Modern Warfare's terrorism scenes detract from great online package



Overall grade: **B+**

By BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

Call of Duty Modern Warfare has returned with a vengeance.

It's been eight years since the release of Modern Warfare 3. Since then, a new console generation has boosted game-play and graphics capabilities. And the real-world war against terrorism has morphed into something even more sinister. That allows developers at Infinity Ward to deliver a game that's bold, beautiful and very brutal.

The first-person shooter published by Activision delivers some great new takes on multiplayer competition and an enthralling cooperative mode. However, it's the single-player campaign that weighs on my mind. The storyline focuses on vengeance and asks whether the ends justify the means. Along the way, it lays out a vicious depiction of how war and terrorism can affect civilians caught in their path.

The new game comes without a numeral in its title, but it is firmly set in the world of its predecessors. This time around, Al-Qatala terrorists have struck London hard. Their trail leads to Urzikstan, a fictional country that strongly resembles Afghanistan, circa 1985, complete with a Russian occupying force and local freedom fighters. You play as several different characters — some returning from previous games — as the pursuit of the London attackers turns to a hunt for the person responsible for stealing poison gas from a Russian facility.

This premise and setting will seem pretty familiar to fans of previous Modern Warfare games. However, terrorism has changed somewhat since the release of Modern Warfare 3. The rise of Islamic State and

subsequent attacks in Paris, Boston, London, Berlin and elsewhere have brought an onslaught of images of civilians being gunned down and blown up while going about their daily activities. I didn't like similar sequences in previous Modern Warfare games, but international events have made them even less palatable now. On top of that, developers have upped the ante on violence against civilians and war crimes in a pair of flashback missions set in Urzikstan.

In the past, some of my friends have skipped Call of Duty's campaigns altogether and gone straight to the online modes. Because of the unsettling nature of this campaign, it might be a good idea for a few more players to follow this course.

Despite these depictions, those who play through the campaign will find missions that are well composed and very diverse in their objectives and challenges. As a result, replaying selected missions is much more enjoyable than playing through the entire campaign.

But the game truly shines in its online modes.

Competitive play ranges from the two vs. two close-quarters battles of Gunfight to the sprawling new format called Ground War. This involves dozens of players competing on a huge map with several control points to capture. Add drivable vehicles and flyable aircraft, and this engaging experience parallels that of Electronic Arts' Battlefield series. Of course there are the usual team death match and objective-based modes that have been Call of Duty's bread and butter for years. All of these offer well-designed maps, most providing a good mix of opportunities for close-quarters as well as wide-open fighting.

In addition, developers continue to refine the combat mechanics to keep the competition relatively balanced. More than



Activision photos

ever, skill and a keen eye are the keys to success.

Modern Warfare also offers Special Ops missions for fans of cooperative play. These are four-player missions that continue the terrorist-fighting action of the campaign. As with any multiplayer experience, the quality of the team makes all the difference in the fun factor. It also helps to try each mission a few times to get the lay of the land. With an experience and skill team, these missions are highly entertaining.

Those yearning for a co-op survival option akin to the zombie mode from last year's Call of Duty Black Ops 4 will love Special Ops Survival. In this, you and three friends can try to withstand wave after wave of enemies — akin to Black Ops' zombie adventure. Unfortunately, this mode is available only on the PlayStation 4 until next year. Fortunately, I played on a PS4 ... and it was terrific. The action was intense and exhilarating when playing with a solid team.

Aside from the ability to drive vehicles, the most significant new gameplay mechanic involves shooting from behind cover. You can now peer around a corner or over a crate without exposing

your entire body to enemy fire. You do this by "mounting" your weapon on the object and moving slightly to aim at your foe. Although I found that this provided only a slight benefit in firefights, I suspect better players will see better results.

The graphics are stellar. In most cases, the facial renderings and animations are very lifelike and the settings are incredibly detailed and realistic. I didn't notice very many visual glitches.

The controls are very smooth and intuitive — a factor you only appreciate after experiencing a game with a few hitches.

The game earns a mature rating for violence, gore and intense themes.

Overall, Modern Warfare is a great adventure that's held back by a few unsettling bumps in the road.

Bottom line: B+ Call of Duty Modern Warfare delivers player vs. player and cooperative modes that are among the best in gaming. The campaign delves into intense issues and can be unsettling.

Platforms: PlayStation 4, Xbox One, PC.

Online: callofduty.com/mw3
Activision provided a copy of the game for review purposes.

TELEVISION

After 'Scandal'

Kerry Washington goes from powerful TV character to vulnerable mother on Broadway — and a filmed version on Netflix

Kerry Washington stars in "American Son" on Broadway. A film version also starring Washington is now available on Netflix.

MYUNG J. CHUN
Los Angeles Times



BY ASHLEY LEE
Los Angeles Times

After donning designer suits and Prada purses as crisis management expert Olivia Pope for seven years of "Scandal," Kerry Washington was used to playing the most powerful person in every room she entered.

So when Shonda Rhimes' groundbreaking ABC series ended last year, Washington found a role as far removed from Pope as she could get, leaving Los Angeles to star in Christopher Demos-Brown's Broadway play "American Son." For four months, eight times a week, she played Kendra, who — 90-minute piece trying to access some form of power.

"Washington honors all the shattered loved ones who have gone through Kendra's experience," wrote Los Angeles Times critic Charles McNulty of her performance as a woman desperately waiting in the wee hours of the morning at a Miami police station to find out the fate of her teenage son, Jamal. He's mysteriously MIA after he and some friends had been pulled over by police earlier in the evening.

Not all critics felt positively about the play, directed by Kenny Leon, specifically its attempts to confront the complex truths of police brutality, microaggressions and unconscious bias.

Audiences globally can decide for themselves when a filmed version of the play, directed by Leon and featuring the same four actors from the original production, hits Netflix on Nov. 1.

Washington sat down with The Times to look back on "Scandal's" "fairy tale of interracial love" and defend "American Son's" controversial walk into a social justice minefield.

Los Angeles Times: Why go to Broadway after "Scandal"?

Washington: That's the last thing I thought I'd do, because Broadway is hard! But all of the actors that I respect the most come from the theater and return to it. I love the Denzel Washington model of, every three or four years, he goes back and does something amazing that keeps his muscles in shape as an actor. I wanted to make sure I was asking that of myself.

I guess it was also a palate cleanser. This character is everything that Olivia Pope wasn't, and that also felt like a really good challenge for me to swing the pendulum.

In what way?

Well, in some ways, I spent seven seasons on "Scandal" in kind of a fairy tale of interracial love. This amazing, powerful man loved this woman — he literally invented a war to bring her home. An unbelievable, ends-of-the-earth love and understanding. ... But it can also be really hard, even when you are in a relationship with somebody whom you love so intensely but you're having a really difficult time crossing that cultural divide and really speaking each other's language.

Also, Olivia Pope wasn't a mother.

Yeah, she chose not to be. Looking back, Olivia Pope was like a superhero. She therefore could not have the weakness that's inherent in motherhood because with motherhood comes vulnerability; that's part of what defines the role. And so her choice to not be a mother also kept her from that vulnerability. Whereas Kendra is swimming in vulnerability and the powerlessness of motherhood.

And, you know, there's no Prada bags, no Armani suits; there's gray sneakers and jeans. Even just wearing my hair natural and in a bun, and with very little makeup, felt very un-Olivia Pope.

The Netflix release isn't a straightforward recorded performance of a play but a film in

itself. How was that done in so little time?

We shot it in five days, maybe a week or so after we finished the run at the end of January. The designer added some more walls to the Broadway set on soundstages, and everything was shot handheld. ...

It's great because, once the play opened, I was getting all these messages on social media from people in Brazil, South Africa, the Caribbean, all over Europe — people who were saying, "We also have issues with police violence and unconscious bias." Globally, this is not a unique experience to Americans. Yeah, we did it eight times a week in a theater that holds about 900 people, but now, millions of people all over the world are gonna have access to this story.

You're also currently filming the Hulu series "Little Fires Everywhere," which deals with unconscious bias in a different way, right?

Yes! Celeste (Ng, the book's author) is so genius. For me, when you grow up in New York City, race is not this binary thing, even though the country considers it just black and white. So I love that "Little Fires" is so much about class and race outside of black. Mia isn't even black (in the book) — Celeste says she imagined her being black, but she's not written black per se in that specificity. But we have to deal with Asian identity and Asian culture and how we treat immigrants. I'm honestly having the time of my life.

And I love working with Reese (Witherspoon), she is an extraordinary partner, and we're so grateful to be doing it together. I mean, we're basically making a show about our teenage selves and our mothers; these characters are in high school when she and I were in high school, and we're playing our mothers. So we are really unpacking a lot ... about who we are and where we come from and how we were raised and what we believe and how we got there. It's uncomfortable at times but also exciting and really, really special.

MOVIES

A BOLD RETURN

She's back! Linda Hamilton reprises her iconic role as Sarah Connor in 'Terminator: Dark Fate'

By JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.

Associated Press

For the new "Terminator" film, it was seemingly easy to bring back Arnold Schwarzenegger as the human-looking cyborg assassin because of his devotion to the franchise. But having Linda Hamilton return as Sarah Connor was a tougher decision considering she'd already turned down a chance to reprise her iconic role.

It took Hamilton six weeks to decide whether she wanted to portray Connor, the waitress-turned-warrior who along with Schwarzenegger made the first two "Terminator" movies among the best action films ever made.

Her hesitation stemmed from the fear that a return as Connor in "Terminator: Dark Fate" might not live up to the hype of the earlier films.

"I was terrified," she recalled. "I really didn't want to disappoint Sarah Connor. That's where I go when I'm terrified. You usually regret what you didn't do. So I thought, 'If I'm this terrified, then maybe that's the reason to do it.'"

Another convincing factor for Hamilton's return was James Cameron, who directed the first two films and would serve as a producer on "Dark Fate." She passed on the opportunity to appear in 2003's "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" believing she had "completed the character's story" and because of Cameron's absence, calling him the "magic ingredient."

Hamilton was concerned with "Dark Fate" messing with the legacy of the uber-popular "Terminator 2: Judgment Day." But she said Cameron's emails from three years ago detailing the pros and cons of her playing Connor and his enthusiasm about the project helped put her at ease.

The new film ignores three of the franchise's previous movies including 2015's "Terminator: Genisys," which fizzled with domestic audiences but had a strong turnout overseas. "Dark Fate"



PARAMOUNT PICTURES/AP

Linda Hamilton and Arnold Schwarzenegger are shown in a scene from "Terminator: Dark Fate," the latest chapter in the time-bending cyborg franchise.

picks up soon after the events of "T2."

This time, Connor and an augmented soldier named Grace, played by Mackenzie Davis, must protect a young Mexican

girl Dani (Natalia Reyes) who is being hunted by a newly modified liquid Terminator from the future.

Hamilton says Connor still has a vengeful heart against Terminators, yet grudgingly reunites with Schwarzenegger, a time-traveling killing-machine who's developed a conscience. Connor's character is also not a fan of humans because "humankind builds machines that create their own death," the actress said.

"Sarah has nothing else left but vengeance," Hamilton said. "She's a woman

without a country. She has no mission, no son; broken, dark, black heart."

Schwarzenegger said the 63-year-old Hamilton brought some "freshness" back into the franchise.

"I thought that she set the bar really high again, just like she did in 1991," Schwarzenegger said of Hamilton, who trained for a year to get in fighting shape. "Especially as a woman in her 60s now. There's no action lady out there that I know of who's in her 60s doing what she does. Only Cameron really has the (courage) to do something like that. But he always feels quite comfortable with those kinds of ideas, especially women action heroes."

Hamilton praised Schwarzenegger for his work as well as her female co-stars, Davis and Reyes. But sometimes she said it was a struggle to recite the voice of their female characters with an all-male screenwriter team.

Hamilton said initially the writers had a hard time writing "organic" dialogue between her and Davis' character. She coded the process a fail at first and sometimes declined to recite certain lines, until everyone got on the same page.

The results have been met with mixed reviews, with some criticizing the dialogue between female characters.

"They really had trouble getting the script together," she said. "There were so many writers. They were four months late delivering it to me, because they didn't want me to read the first pass. In the end, I think they really did a bang-up job. But it was really changing throughout, even as we were shooting. That was wacky to me, because I never really had to work that way and try to fill in the blanks when you don't quite know where you've been or where you're going or when you're going to learn that. Acting is a linear job. You want to know precisely where I just come from, where I'm going, and I fill in those moments with as much authenticity as I can. There were some issues with the script, but ultimately I think we got it worked out."

Hamilton believes her input helped serve the film, her character and others well.

"In the end, I know her best," she said. "That is the advantage of having played someone over a 35-year period. Otherwise, in all my other work, I would let the greater minds have their way. But not this time."

Arnold Schwarzenegger, left, said Linda Hamilton brought "freshness" back to the Terminator franchise.

WILLY SANJUAN, INVISION/AP



TRAVEL



BY NATALIE B. COMPTON
The Washington Post

I have a tendency to let airline miles go to waste. Maybe it's forgetting to sign up for a loyalty program and not accruing them in the first place. Other times, it's letting miles earned on airlines I rarely fly expire. The other day, I got an email from British Airways saying that my Avios (their term for frequent-flier miles) were going to expire in 12 months because of inactivity. My initial thought? Oh, well. What's the worth of 3,401 points on an airline I never go with, anyway? Or those 457 BIG Points I lost from Air Asia?

Apparently, I'm not the only one letting valuable loyalty points linger until they vanish. According to a report by Bankrate.com, almost half of American adults who participate in airline and hotel rewards programs have let points or miles expire. We're underestimating the value of that loss, too.

"We wanted to do this [study] to show people that you're probably sitting on some value that you might not even know about," says Bankrate.com credit card analyst Ted Rossman. "A lot of people do let [airline miles] expire, and a lot of people don't know how much they're worth."

Although everyone's guilty of letting miles go, millennials are doing so at a higher rate, even though they're the demographic more likely to sign up for airline loyalty programs in the first place.

"People in that age group might not be realizing how valuable they could be," Rossman says. "They think, 'Oh, it's only 10,000 miles, or something, how much could that be worth?' What people don't realize is that there can be a compounding effect — that you save these up and don't let them expire, and then it does turn into a real trip."

While you want to hold onto your miles and make sure you don't let them expire, you don't want to hoard them forever. They're more valuable being used than saved.

Don't lose out on your airline miles

From shopping to donation, simple ways to keep your points active — no flying necessary

ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREA VILLARI/Stars and Stripes

"You don't really want to be a points millionaire," Rossman says. "I know it kind of sounds fun, but really, the purpose of these is to use them, and they generally will not get more valuable over time."

Rossman's advice is to save your airline miles until you reach a certain goal, then spend them. It's dangerously easy to let them expire, but there are more strategies out there to keep them active than people realize.

One strategy to top up their expiration clock is to shop for things you would have normally needed to buy.

"If you don't have a trip coming up, you can still keep these points and miles active by making a purchase

through an airline's shopping portal," Rossman says. "American Airlines is a good example. You can click through their shopping portal and go to retailers that you would have made a purchase from anyway."

Airlines may be associated with major retailers like Macy's or Best Buy; buying a TV or a tank top will buy you time on your airline miles. Just log into the airline's shopping site with your frequent-flier number and look for everyday items.

Some airlines also offer the option to buy magazine subscriptions.

If your airline of choice allows it, you can go even cheaper by using iTunes.

"You could make a 99-cent purchase through iTunes,

bank that mile to your American Airlines account or any other program that offers this, and that'll reset the clock," Rossman says.

Another closely related mile-extending trick is using a dining rewards program.

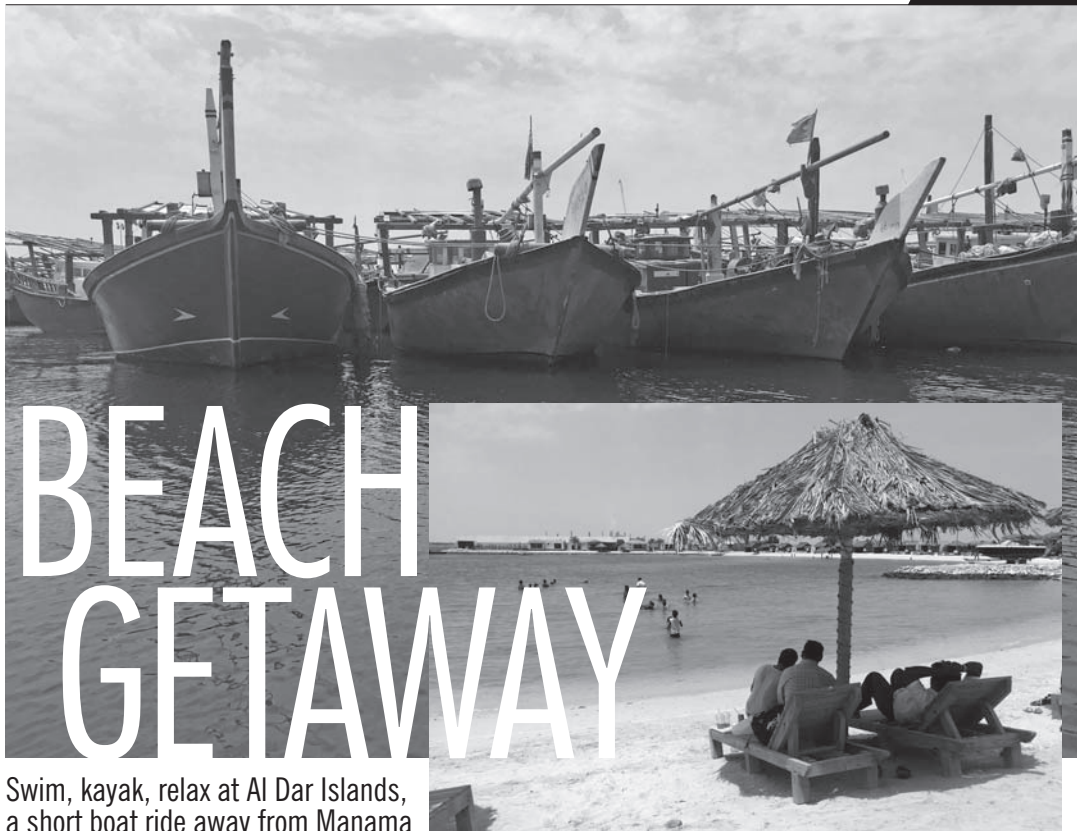
"Most airlines and a bunch of hotels have these dining rewards programs that you could participate in," he says. "As long as you enroll and you go to a participating restaurant — this could be a neighborhood place you were planning to go anyway — and bank those points or miles there, that's going to be qualifying activity that's going to reset your expiration clock."

For those feeling generous, you can also gift miles to friends, family or donate them to charity. For example, Etihad Airways partners with Doctors Without Borders as an option for frequent fliers who would like to donate miles. You can give away even a fraction of your miles to a person and organization to add more time to the rest of the miles you're saving.

Better yet, skip the hassle of worrying about your expiring miles by becoming loyal to an airline that doesn't let your miles expire in the first place, like Delta and JetBlue. The good news is that it may even become a trend in the industry. Just this August, United Airlines announced that its miles would no longer expire, as well.

QUICK TRIPS

Midwest



Swim, kayak, relax at Al Dar Islands, a short boat ride away from Manama

By JOSHUA KARSTEN
Stars and Stripes

Bahrain is an island of sand, but the beaches are not what folks write home about.

You can spend 30 dinars, around \$80, for a day pass to one of the swanky man-made beaches at a five-star hotel if you want. Or, you can find a free, public, rocky beach if you just need a quick splash.

But for beach lovers, families or partygoers, Al Dar offers the feel of an island getaway.

I say “getaway” because no roads lead to the two Al Dar Islands. The southern, larger island is covered in soft sand, huts and amenities that make for a relaxing day away from the hustle and bustle of Manama.

After a 15-minute drive from the U.S. Navy base and a five-minute boat ride, Al Dar awaits. I think the boat ride was supposed to be a little longer, but the driver was heavy on the throttle; parents beware. Life jackets are mandatory.

You will also need a valid identification card, even for your kids, so bring your passports.

Once on the island, patrons can swim at any of the beaches, play basketball or volleyball, rent a personal watercraft, kayak or just hang by the bar. A bucking bronco is also available for those who think they can last eight seconds.

Kids can swim in the shallow waters of the kid zone, but management warns that they must be supervised at all times.

There is one sandwich shop and a diverse adult drink menu, but many bring their own drinks and food for grilling. Huts are available for rent on a first come, first served basis and range in price from 10 to 30 dinars, depending on the size. Huts come fitted with a fan, light, electrical outlet and Arabic-style seating.

The staff reminds patrons to be sensible with their luggage and not to bring large tents, chairs or baggage that the boat captains “see as too much,” according to the posted rules.

If you feel like splurging, chalets are also available for the day or overnight. Check the website for pricing.



PHOTOS BY JOSHUA KARSTEN/Stars and Stripes

Those looking for a getaway from the hustle and bustle of Manama can catch a boat from Sitra Fishermen Port, Bahrain, to Al Dar Islands. Once there, visitors can swim, partake in various sports, or just relax with some food and drinks by the sea.

When you are ready to leave, just hop on the boat again. It comes every 30 minutes.

My visit to Al Dar was a morning adventure — peaceful and relaxing. The music over the loudspeakers played my favorite ’80s hits. Kids laughed and splashed around. However, the huts and boats quickly filled up into mid-afternoon. In the evening, the DJ takes over the music and partygoers take over the island.

karsten.joshua@stripes.com
Twitter: @joshua_karsten

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Depart from the Al Dar Islands Office, Block 613, Road 1321, Building 1005, Sitra Fishermen Port, Sitra

TIMES

Open weekdays 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; weekends 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

COSTS

Weekdays: adults, 5 BD; kids 16 and under, 2 BD. Weekends and holidays: adults, 8 BD; kids 16 and under, 4 BD. Children 5 and under are free with valid ID. Full list of prices can be found online at aldarislans.com.

FOOD

A shop sells sandwiches, or you can bring your own food for grilling.

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Email: info@aldarislans.com

— Joshua Karsten

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OPINION

Impeachment vote brings issue to its core

By JON HEALEY

Los Angeles Times

An anonymous whistleblower's complaint about President Donald Trump's July 25 phone call with new Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy led up two questions for lawmakers in September: What exactly did Trump do, and how bad was it?

It has taken weeks, but now the House may be able to focus its attention, and the public's, on just those two issues.

House Democrats had leaped on the whistleblower's complaint as soon as the administration (belatedly) turned it over, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi instructing a number of committees to begin an impeachment inquiry. Three of those panels — the committees on intelligence, foreign relations and government oversight — started summoning witnesses and requesting documents.

But from the start, the process was fraught with fights over how it was being conducted. The administration flatly refused to cooperate, saying the process was illegitimate because the full House hadn't voted to authorize it. Never mind that there's no such requirement in the Constitution, or that the investigations that led to the impeachment efforts against Presidents Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton started before the House voted to authorize a formal inquiry. Trump and his allies have devoted countless tweets and on-camera comments to Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff and the bias he has allegedly shown against Trump.

After witnesses started complying with subpoenas compelling them to give depositions, Trump and GOP lawmakers shifted tactics, complaining that the testimony was being taken in private and that Trump wasn't able to send his lawyers or confront his accusers. Although that misconstrued the process — the House impeachment process isn't a trial, it's more like an indictment — Republicans were correct that the leaks coming out of the private sessions seemed one-sided and damaging to the president.

There was so much noise about the process, the public hasn't been able to sink its teeth into the substance. That should change now, thanks to the resolution the House adopted Thursday on a largely party-line vote. The measure gives the GOP much of what it wanted, putting the House on record authorizing the inquiry, opening more of it to public view, giving Republicans the same subpoena powers the minority party had in previous impeachment inquiries, and giving the president the right to participate when the House Judiciary Committee considers potential articles of impeachment.

Granted, Republicans will continue to complain about the process. But the move to public hearings will allow lawmakers and voters to see how much evidence Democrats such as Schiff have amassed on how the Trump administration pressured Zelenskyy to conduct two investigations aimed at helping Trump's reelection prospects, including one into a Ukrainian energy company that employed the son of

former Vice President Joe Biden.

Judging just by the leaked opening statements from witnesses and comments by lawmakers who've attended the depositions, Democrats have assembled a persuasive case that people supposedly speaking for the president, including his lawyer Rudy Giuliani, insisted that Zelenskyy publicly commit to those investigations before White House visit and, possibly, nearly \$400 million in badly needed military aid. But that's a filtered view of the proceedings thus far; the open hearings will give a fuller picture.

Once the facts are established, then lawmakers have to decide what they mean. If Trump abused the power of his office to pressure a foreign government to conduct investigations aimed at helping him win reelection, how bad is that? Trump has said repeatedly that his actions were "perfect." His acting chief of staff tried to shrug off the idea of a quid pro quo, saying presidents do this sort of thing all the time (before walking back his comments later in the day). Top congressional Republicans have insisted that Trump was simply trying to root out corruption, and that's completely appropriate.

The many Democrats who've been eager to impeach Trump, meanwhile, have to consider this issue from a different angle. After they lay out the case against Trump's handling of Ukraine, will voters say, "Is that all you've got?"

Jon Healey is the Los Angeles Times' deputy editorial page editor.

Twitter's move at least beats Facebook's shrug

By MARGARET SULLIVAN

The Washington Post

It's always hazardous to ascribe motivations of altruism to a tech titan.

They are driven by many things — mostly money, power and avoiding regulation — and if what's right for society enters into their thinking, it's probably an afterthought. (Anand Giridharadas, for good reason, coined the felicitous phrase "side hustle of virtue.")

Still, it was heartening to see what Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey decided to do Wednesday: to cut out a part of his business that he realizes he can't control — namely, political advertising.

"While internet advertising is incredibly powerful and very effective for commercial advertisers, that power brings significant risks to politics, where it can be used to influence voters to affect the lives of millions," Dorsey wrote on his favorite platform.

The move, which will take effect soon, is relatively painless for Dorsey. Those ads bring in only an estimated \$3 million a year.

But Dorsey's decision seems to come, at least in part, from the recognition of what social media platforms — especially the much larger and more influential Facebook — did to American politics in the 2016 election.

The virulent disinformation that circulated on these platforms tainted the election, and Facebook's every reason to think it will happen again in the coming year. In fact, it's happening already.

Since it's nearly impossible to police every political ad — among, potentially, millions of them — for truthfulness, Dorsey decided to get out of the game altogether.

And in doing so, he pointed an accusing finger at Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, showing that he's mastered the fine

art of subtweeting (that is, clearly referring to, without naming, someone). To wit, Dorsey wrote:

"It's not credible for us to say: 'We're working hard to stop people from gaming our systems to spread misleading info, but if someone pays us to target and force people to see their political ad ... well ... they can say whatever they want!'"

I tried to pin down Zuckerberg about this very point last week at a Manhattan gathering where he announced that Facebook would start paying some news organizations for their content, since it's so valuable to the common good.

My point was: If you care so much about journalism and truth, how can you allow so much malicious bile to be published?

But he shut down the question, saying it wasn't what we were there to talk about.

I disagree. The connection is germane. There's an important tie between truthful advertising and the First Amendment issues that directly affect journalism.

The 1964 Supreme Court decision in *Times v. Sullivan* hinged on factual errors in a printed newspaper ad. The court's decision has formed the basis of many a successful legal defense for journalists.

There's little doubt that Facebook and other social media companies (including the Google-owned cesspool, YouTube) have the legal right to publish what they do. They have the same free-speech protections that journalists rely on, thanks in part to that landmark decision.

And Zuckerberg's use of the free-speech case at every opportunity.

I find it to be off-target. Free speech is protected, yes, but that shouldn't make straight-up lies and slander about political opponents acceptable fare on media outlets — which these platforms certainly have become.

It's become an even hotter topic after President Donald Trump's campaign re-

cently bought ads across social media that accused Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden of corruption in Ukraine — falsely stating that the former vice president offered \$1 billion to Ukrainian officials to get rid of a prosecutor investigating Biden's son, Hunter.

That ad was viewed more than 5 million times on Facebook. Then, another Democratic presidential candidate, Elizabeth Warren, upped the ante by taking out an ad on Facebook falsely stating that Zuckerberg was backing Trump's reelection (and then saying it wasn't true).

"See how you like it," was Warren's none-too-subtle message — but Facebook hasn't bled.

Twitter's move is an imperfect one — and far from universally heralded. Ryan Grim of the Intercept pointed out Wednesday that Twitter ads have allowed lesser-known political candidates, without big-money funding, to build their followings.

Trump's campaign manager, Brad Parscale, called it "another attempt by the left to silence Trump and conservatives." (As if.)

But let's face it. With these platforms' immense power and reach comes huge responsibility. Maybe there's a better way to deal with the onslaught of political lies than shuttling down these social-media advertising avenues altogether.

Other solutions might be better, but they are elusive because of the overwhelming size of the problem: How do you fact-check a tsunami?

Twitter's CEO seemed to be acknowledging that with his decision.

However pure or impure his motivations may be, Dorsey deserves credit for doing something other than keeping his palm outstretched.

It's become an even hotter topic after Margaret Sullivan is The Washington Post's media columnist.

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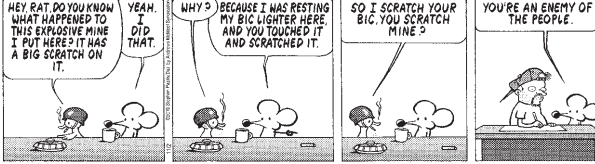
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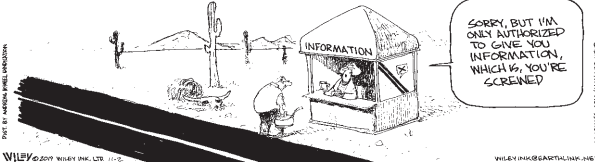
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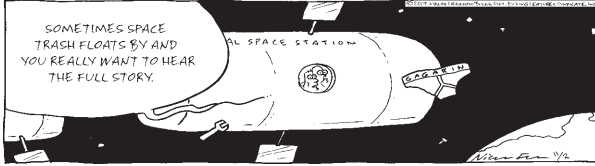
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



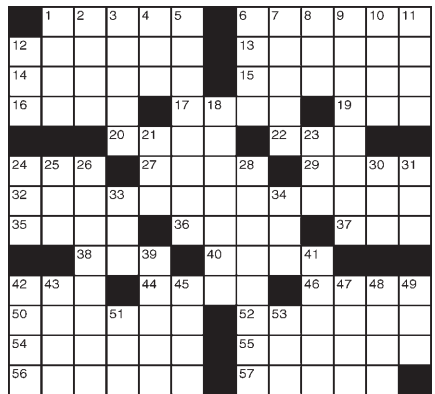
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Surgical tool
- 6 Takes a whiff of
- 12 Band hand
- 13 Under wraps
- 14 In the thick of
- 15 Last page phrase
- 16 Challenge
- 17 Cold War initials
- 19 Mag. staff
- 20 Hindu royal
- 22 Boom times
- 24 Corral
- 27 Salsa option
- 29 Staffer
- 32 Record-setting aviator in 1930s news
- 35 Just adorable
- 36 Tizzy
- 37 Pink Floyd's Barrett
- 38 Humorist
- 40 Ship's staff
- 42 I love (Lat.)
- 44 Actress Judith
- 46 Verdi heroine
- 50 Composer Prokofiev
- 52 Synagogue singer
- 54 Chapeau sticker
- 55 Gas rating number

DOWN

- 1 Prolonged sleep
- 2 Hideaway
- 3 Venomous viper
- 4 Wrong (Pref.)
- 5 Funnel-shaped flowers
- 6 Bygone jets
- 7 India's first P.M.
- 8 Water cooler?
- 9 Fragrant flowers
- 10 Ward (off)
- 11 Norms (Abbr.)
- 12 "Awesome!"
- 18 Librarian's directive
- 21 Parisian pal
- 23 Oom- —
- 24 Lobbying org.
- 25 Ostrich's kin
- 26 Assets minus liabilities
- 28 Milk dispenser?
- 30 Parched
- 31 Timetable abbr.
- 33 Luau souvenir
- 34 Hwy.
- 39 Connection
- 41 Has a yen for
- 42 Tennis legend
- 43 Potatoes
- 45 Tarzan's partner
- 47 "Let's leave — that"
- 48 Puts on
- 49 Exist
- 51 Transcript No.
- 53 Top card

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-2

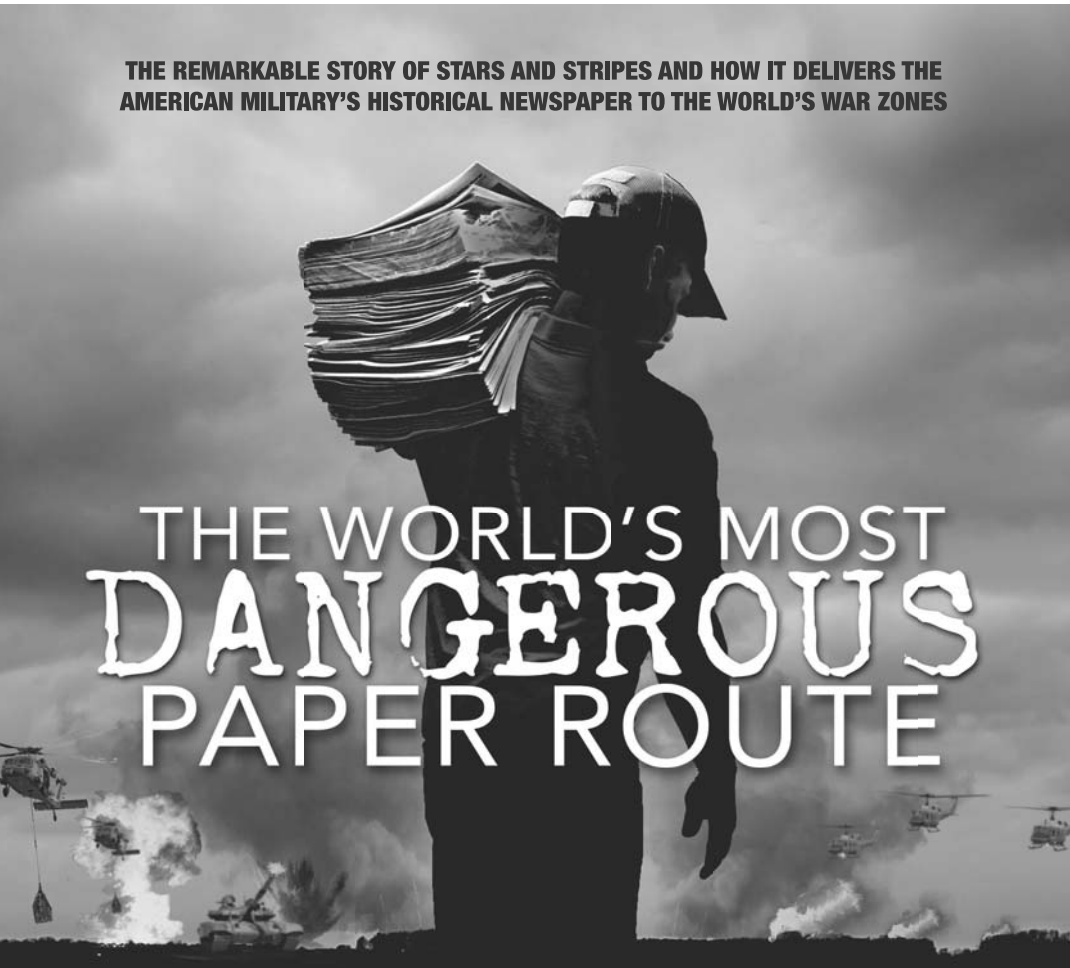
CRYPTOQUIP

AVF XYONS RKKFXL SNL
HREVMYSL ORXL VH KYUOLM
RUT IRUTDLRTLM MFTA
KNVFD T NREL ILLU
ERD DLL-IRDD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HE ADORES A SACRED HINDU MANTRA SO MUCH THAT HE HUNG UP A WALL TAPESTRY SAYING "OM, SWEET OM."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals M

THE REMARKABLE STORY OF STARS AND STRIPES AND HOW IT DELIVERS THE AMERICAN MILITARY'S HISTORICAL NEWSPAPER TO THE WORLD'S WAR ZONES



THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS PAPER ROUTE

AAFES Show Dates Timeline

Kuwait – Arifjan Zone 1: November 18th @ 2000

Kuwait – Buehring: November 18th @ 2000

Kuwait – Ali Al Salem: November 19th @ 2000

Qatar – Al Udiad: October 24th @ 2000

Qatar – As Sayliyah: October 23rd @ 2000

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STARS AND STRIPES

NHL/NBA

NHL roundup

Calgary outlasts Nashville

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Matthew Tkachuk didn't think a comeback win was possible after Calgary's terrible start.

Then, he scored a pair of improbable goals for a come-from-behind win.

Tkachuk scored the tying goal with 40 seconds left in regulation and the winning goal with 1:4 seconds left in overtime on a between-the-legs shot as the Flames beat the Nashville Predators 6-5 on Thursday night.

Calgary rallied from a three-goal deficit after Nashville took the game's first 14 shots.

"I didn't think it was going to be possible after the first 20 minutes or first 10 minutes," Tkachuk said. "We were all over them in that third period and that's the way we need to be to at our best."

On the winner, Tkachuk skated in front of the net against two Nashville defenders, let the puck slip between his legs and flipped a shot that beat Predators goalie Pekka Rinne high to the stick side.

Derek Ryan, Rasmus Andersson, Elias Lindholm and Alan Quicke also scored for the Flames.

Austin Watson scored twice, Calle Jannakos scored two short-handed goals and Nick Bonino had a goal as the Predators saw their four-game winning streak halted.

"I think this comeback kind of gives us confidence that we can be down in the third, even though we don't want to be, and we can come back," Tkachuk said. "So I guess that's the positive we can take."

Tkachuk's rebound goal with 40 seconds left tied the game at 5 and forced overtime.

Calgary's David Rittich made 31 saves. Rinne made 21 saves.

Canadiens 5, Golden Knights 4: Max Domi scored 27 seconds into overtime and visiting Montreal beat Vegas.

Montreal's Brendan Gallagher scored the seventh of the season during a 6-on-5 sequence with 1:58 left in regulation, taking a perfect feed from the corner and beating Vegas goalie Marc-Andre Fleury between the pads to tie the game at 4-4.

Domi then scored his fourth goal of the season when the puck trickled through the pads of Fleury for the winning goal.

Phillip Danault, Jonathan Drouin and Tomas Tatar also scored for Montreal.

Goaltender Keith Kincead made 31 saves for Montreal.

William Karlsson, Alex Tuch, Cody Glass and Mark Stone scored for Vegas. Fleury made 25 saves.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Sv%	PIM	PP
Boston	12	9	3	2	20	44	33	25	25
Buffalo	13	9	2	2	20	44	33	25	25
Montreal	13	9	2	2	20	44	33	25	25
Florida	13	6	3	4	16	47	51	24	49
Tampa Bay	12	6	4	2	14	42	42	24	42
Detroit	13	4	8	1	9	30	46	23	46
Ottawa	11	7	1	3	19	37	37	27	37

Metropolitan Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Sv%	PIM	PP
Washington	12	8	3	1	21	54	46	21	54
Carolina	12	8	3	1	17	39	30	21	39
N.Y. Islanders	13	8	5	0	18	53	40	14	57
Pittsburgh	13	8	5	0	16	46	31	14	57
Columbus	12	5	5	2	12	41	33	13	41
Philadelphia	11	5	4	1	11	34	49	13	49
N.Y. Rangers	10	4	5	1	9	33	35	25	35
New Jersey	13	4	5	3	11	38	43	23	43

Western Conference

Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Sv%	PIM	PP
Colorado	12	8	2	2	18	47	64	34	64
Buffalo	13	7	3	3	17	39	40	14	57
St. Louis	13	7	3	3	17	39	40	14	57
Winnipeg	13	7	3	3	16	40	41	14	57
Dallas	14	5	8	1	11	31	39	24	39
Chicago	13	5	7	1	11	31	39	24	39
Minnesota	13	3	9	0	8	20	45	23	45

Pacific Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Sv%	PIM	PP
Edmonton	12	8	3	1	19	42	37	21	42
Vancouver	12	8	3	1	17	47	30	21	47
Vegas	13	8	5	0	18	53	40	14	57
Anaheim	14	8	6	0	16	39	31	14	57
Calgary	12	7	4	2	16	35	28	14	57
Arizona	12	7	4	2	16	35	28	14	57
San Jose	14	4	8	1	9	32	48	23	48
Los Angeles	13	4	8	1	9	32	48	23	48

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.

Wednesday's games

Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 6, OT
Edmonton 4, Columbus 1
St. Louis 2, Minnesota 1
Florida 4, Colorado 3, OT
Montreal 4, Arizona 1

Thursday's games

Calgary 6, Nashville 5, OT
Nashville 5, Vegas 4, OT
Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 6, OT
Philadelphia at New York

Friday's games

Philadelphia at New York
Detroit at Carolina
Columbus at St. Louis
Dallas at Colorado
Vancouver at Anaheim

Saturday's games

Winnipeg at Pittsburgh
N.Y. Rangers at Nashville
St. Louis at Buffalo
Ottawa at Boston
Detroit at Florida

Sunday's games

Philadelphia at Carolina
Toronto at Philadelphia
Phoenix at Minnesota
Chicago at Los Angeles
Calgary at Washington

Monday's games

Calgary at Anaheim
Nashville 5, Vegas 4, OT
Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 6, OT
Philadelphia at New York

Tuesday's games

Calgary 6, Predators 5 (OT)
Calgary 1, Predators 0
Nashville 5, Vegas 4, OT
Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 6, OT
Philadelphia at New York

Wednesday's games

Calgary 6, Predators 5 (OT)
Calgary 1, Predators 0
Nashville 5, Vegas 4, OT
Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 6, OT
Philadelphia at New York

Thursday's games

Calgary 6, Predators 5 (OT)
Calgary 1, Predators 0
Nashville 5, Vegas 4, OT
Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 6, OT
Philadelphia at New York

Friday's games

Calgary 6, Predators 5 (OT)
Calgary 1, Predators 0
Nashville 5, Vegas 4, OT
Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 6, OT
Philadelphia at New York

Saturday's games

Calgary 6, Predators 5 (OT)
Calgary 1, Predators 0
Nashville 5, Vegas 4, OT
Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 6, OT
Philadelphia at New York

Sunday's games

Calgary 6, Predators 5 (OT)
Calgary 1, Predators 0
Nashville 5, Vegas 4, OT
Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 6, OT
Philadelphia at New York

Monday's games

Calgary 6, Predators 5 (OT)
Calgary 1, Predators 0
Nashville 5, Vegas 4, OT
Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 6, OT
Philadelphia at New York

Tuesday's games

Calgary 6, Predators 5 (OT)
Calgary 1, Predators 0
Nashville 5, Vegas 4, OT
Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 6, OT
Philadelphia at New York

Wednesday's games

Calgary 6, Predators 5 (OT)
Calgary 1, Predators 0
Nashville 5, Vegas 4, OT
Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 6, OT
Philadelphia at New York

NBA roundup

Heat beat Hawks again

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Kendrick Nunn scored a career-high 28 points to add to his record-setting start and Miami beat Atlanta 106-97 on Thursday night, giving the Heat two wins over the Hawks in three days.

Nunn's 112 points are the highest total through the first five games for any undrafted player in NBA history. Connie Hawkins of the Phoenix Suns scored 105 points in his first five games of the 1969-70 season.

Nunn, a 6-foot-2 guard from Oakland University in Michigan, scored 14 points in the third quarter.

He began his career with 24 points against Memphis on Oct. 23, and he has kept shooting. He has scored at least 24 points three times in Miami's first five games.

Another record-setting rookie, Tyler Herro, had 17 points. Herro scored 29 points off the bench in the Heat's 112-97 win over Atlanta on Tuesday night to set a franchise record for a rookie reserve.

Jabari Parker led Atlanta with 23 points. DeAndre Bembry had 18 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists.

Pelicans 122, Nuggets 107: Jahli Okafor scored 26 points, Brandon Ingram added 25 and host New Orleans beat Denver for its first victory in five games this season.

Ingram has scored at least 22 points in each of his first five games for New Orleans after coming over from the Los Angeles Lakers.

Michael Porter Jr. led the Nuggets with 15 points in his NBA debut.

Clippers 103, Spurs 97: Kawhi Leonard scored 38 points, Montrezl Harrell added 24 and host Los Angeles defeated San Antonio its first loss of the season.

Leonard also grabbed 12 rebounds for his first triple-rebound, double-double this season. It is also Leonard's first double-double in three meetings against the Spurs, where he played seven seasons (2011-18).



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Miami Heat guard Kendrick Nunn, right, drives against Atlanta Hawks guard Kevin Huerter during the first half of Thursday's game in Atlanta.

The game was close for the first 28 minutes, before the Clippers took control with a 9-1 run to take a 64-55 lead with 6:55 remaining in the third quarter.

DeRozan led San Antonio with 29 points and Derrick White added 20.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	Pct	GB	PTS	FG	3PT	FT	REB
Philadelphia	4	1	0.000	0	100	40	10	10	10
Toronto	4	1	.800	1/2	150	40	10	10	10
Boston	4	1	.750	1	150	40	10	10	10
Brooklyn	4	1	.750	1	150	40	10	10	10
New York	4	1	.250	3 1/2	100	40	10	10	10

Southeast Division									
GP	W	L	Pct	GB	PTS	FG	3PT	FT	REB
Miami	4	2	.800	0	150	40	10	10	10
Orlando	4	2	.500	1	100	40	10	10	10
Atlanta	4	2	.500	1	100	40	10	10	10
Charlotte	4	2	.500	1	100	40	10	10	10
Washington	4	2	.250	2 1/2	100	40	10	10	10

Central Division									
GP	W	L	Pct	GB	PTS	FG	3PT	FT	REB
Milwaukee	4	2	.500	0	150	40	10	10	10
Cleveland	4	2	.500	0	150	40	10	10	10
Indiana	4	2	.500	0	150	40	10	10	10
Pacers	4	2	.500	0	150	40	10	10	10

West Division									
GP	W	L	Pct	GB	PTS	FG	3PT	FT	REB
Houston	4	3	.750	0	150	40	10	10	10
Dallas	4	3	.750	0	150	40	10	10	10
San Antonio	4	3	.750	0	150	40	10	10	10
New Orleans	4	3	.750	0	150	40	10	10	10

Northwest Division									
GP	W	L	Pct	GB	PTS	FG	3PT	FT	REB
Utah	4	1	.800	0	150	40	10	10	10
Minnesota	4	1	.750	1	100	40	10	10	10
Denver	4	1	.500	2	100	40	10	10	10
Portland	4	1	.500	2	100	40	10	10	10
Oklahoma City	4	1	.250	3 1/2	100	40	10	10	10

Pacific Division									
GP	W	L	Pct	GB	PTS	FG	3PT	FT	REB
L.A. Lakers	4	2	.667	0	150	40	10	10	10
L.A. Clippers	4	2	.500	1	100	40	10	10	10
Golden State	4	2	.500	1	100	40	10	10	10
Sacramento	4	2	.250	3 1/2	100	40	10	10	10

Wednesday's games

Cleveland 117, Chicago 111
Orlando 95, New York 83
Philadelphia 117, Minnesota 95
Phoenix 121, Golden State 110
Indiana 118, Brooklyn 108

Thursday's games

Phoenix 121, Golden State 110
Charlotte 118, Sacramento 109
Houston 159, Washington 158
New Orleans 122, Denver 107
L.A. Clippers 103, San Antonio 97

Friday's games

Cleveland at Indiana
Houston at Brooklyn
Milwaukee at Orlando
New York at Boston
Detroit at Chicago
San Antonio at Dallas
Utah at Sacramento

Saturday's games

New Orleans at Oklahoma City
Brooklyn at Detroit
Denver at Orlando
Minnesota at Washington
Phoenix at Memphis

Sunday's games

Philadelphia at Charlotte
Charlotte at Golden State
Portland at Milwaukee
Chicago at New York
Houston at Miami

Monday's games

Chicago at New York
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio
Dallas at Cleveland
Utah at L.A. Clippers

Tuesday's games

Portland at Milwaukee
Charlotte at Golden State
Portland at Milwaukee
Charlotte at Golden State
Portland at Milwaukee

Wednesday's games

Portland at Milwaukee
Charlotte at Golden State
Portland at Milwaukee
Charlotte at Golden State
Portland at Milwaukee

Thursday's games

Portland at Milwaukee
Charlotte at Golden State
Portland at Milwaukee
Charlotte at Golden State
Portland at Milwaukee

Friday's games

Portland at Milwaukee
Charlotte at Golden State
Portland at Milwaukee
Charlotte at Golden State
Portland at Milwaukee

Saturday's games

Portland at Milwaukee
Charlotte at Golden State
Portland at Milwaukee
Charlotte at Golden State
Portland at Milwaukee

Heat 106, Hawks 97

MIAMI — Butler 2-0 1-2 5, Adebayo 4-3 7-12, Leonard 5-10 1-2 16, Nunn 10-15 4-4 28, Robinson 5-10 0-2 12, Silva 3-5 0-0 6, Olynyk 2-8 1-2 6, Dragic 1-5 2-4 4, Herro 7-16 0-0 17, Totals 40-84 12-19 106.

ATLANTA — Hunter 1-3 2-2 4, Collins 4-11 2-12, Len 2-5 0-9, Reddish 2-11 4-19, Huerter 3-9 0-0 7, Parker 8-13 5-22, Fernando 0-0 1-2 1, Jones 1-3 2-

MLB



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Nationals manager Dave Martinez waves to the fans after Game 7 of the World Series against the Astros on Wednesday in Houston. Washington won 6-2 to win the series.

'I told you so': World Series win validates Nationals, GM Rizzo

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In some ways, this World Series championship serves as an "I told you so" for the Washington Nationals and their general manager, Mike Rizzo.

For the choices to hire, then stay with, manager Dave Martinez, especially in the face of a 19-31 record, the worst 50-game start to a season in baseball history for an eventual title winner.

For making midseason pickups of veterans discarded by other teams, such as Gerardo "Baby Shark" Parra, and assembling, in this "Let the Kids Play" era, a group of "Viejos" such as playoff star Howie Kendrick, to form the oldest roster in the majors.

For caring about chemistry as much as what's quantifiable.

For the much-debated decision to shut down Stephen Strasburg all those years ago, a move meant to protect the surgically repaired right elbow that just made Strasburg a World Series MVP and the first pitcher to end a postseason with a 5-0 record.

For the philosophy of valuing old-fashioned starting pitching above all else: Each of Washington's four wins in the Fall Classic came after sending to the mound Strasburg or Max Scherzer, whose "back from the dead"

in teammate Adam Eaton's phrasing — return from a nerve problem near his neck got things going in a 6-2 victory in Game 7 at Houston on Wednesday night.

"Mike's a baseball guy. He always has been," first baseman Ryan Zimmerman said. "He leans on his scums, on his guys that go watch games. He's evolved, just like everyone else has, with the analytics and all the data that's available. That information is useful. I don't think you have to be one way or the other. I think you can kind of blend it together. And I think he does a really good job of that."

Now as the offseason begins,

Rizzo must get back to work.

Strasburg could opt out of his contract. Anthony Rendon, who homered in the last two games of the Series, can become a free agent. The bullpen, so bad for so long in the regular season but just fine as a condensed unit in the postseason, must be rebuilt.

Zimmerman, the 35-year-old "face of the franchise," has been around for all 15 of the Nationals' seasons, but might not get a 16th.

He was there for the pair of 100-loss seasons that led to a pair of No. 1 overall picks, one of which turned into Strasburg. (The other? A certain now-gone outfielder by the name of Bryce Harper.) And now he's seen the Nationals deliver Washington's first World Series trophy since the Senators won 95 years ago.

A parade along Constitution Avenue is planned for Saturday.

"The organization deserves credit for the way they put this team together. It's a bunch of old guys in here that they trusted. There's not a lot of teams that were willing to put together a roster like ours," reliever Sean Doolittle said. "There's a bunch of guys over 30 years old and, according to the smartest people in the room, you can't win games like that anymore. ... We're really proud that we're the oldest team in baseball and we just won the World Series."

Whether it was that terrible beginning to the season or deficit after deficit in must-win games — from the AL wild-card victory over the Milwaukee Brewers to the 4-for-4 success on the road against 107-win Houston — Washington heeded their skipper's orders to "stay in the fight."

No team ever had won more than three elimination games after trailing in each during a single postseason. The 2019 Nationals, built by Rizzo and powered by an everyone-chips-in ethos, did it five times.

That included erasing Houston's leads of 2-1 in Game 6 of the World Series, then 2-0 in Game 7.

Big stars hitting free agency

Cole, Rendon among top players available

BY RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Washington third baseman Anthony Rendon became a free agent Thursday, a day after homering to spark The Nationals' seventh-inning rally in Game 7 of the World Series.

Houston pitcher Gerrit Cole also went free after warming up in the bullpen but never getting into the season finale.

And Nationals pitcher Stephen Strasburg, the World Series MVP, could be joining them in the next few days. He has the right to opt out of his contract, which has \$100 million over four years remaining.

Cole, Rendon and Strasburg all are represented by Scott Boras, known for his slow, methodical negotiations. Last winter, he reached

outfielder Bryce Harper's \$330 million, 13-year contract with Philadelphia on Feb. 28.

Cole, a 29-year-old right-hander who went 20-5 this year, is expected to get a record contract for a pitcher, topping David Price's \$217 million, seven-year deal with Boston before the 2016 season and Justin Verlander's \$31.33 million average salary under a three-year deal with the Astros that started in 2019.

Strasburg, a 31-year-old right-hander, just finished the third season of a \$175 million deal and at 18-6 also is coming off his best season. Rendon led the major leagues with 126 RBIs while hitting .319 with 34 homers.

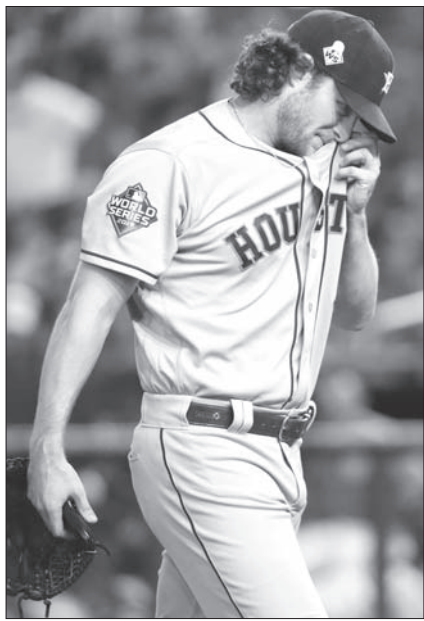
A total of 131 players became free agents Thursday, and 53 more potentially are eligible pending decisions on team, player and mutual options during the next few days.

Among the pitchers available are major league ERA leader Hyun-Jin Ryu, Zack Wheeler, Madison Bumgarner, Rick Porcello, Cole Hamels, Jake Odorizzi and Dallas Keuchel, who went free last season.

Others eligible include shortstop Didi Gregorius, third baseman Josh Donaldson and outfielders Yasiel Puig, Marcell Ozuna and Jose Abreu — the AL RBI leader.

Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman and Boston slugger J.D. Martinez also have the right to opt out, and catcher Yasmani Grandal has a mutual option with Milwaukee.

Teams must decide by Monday whether to make \$17.8 million qualifying offers to their former players who became free agents.



PATRICK SEMENSKY/AP

Houston Astros pitcher Gerrit Cole is one of the top free agents in an offseason that will see multiple All-Star players hit the market.

Potential free agents

- AMERICAN LEAGUE**
- The 184 potential free agents (c-club option; p-player option; m-mutual option; v-vesting option):
- BALTIMORE (1)** — Mark Trumbo, dh, 1b.
 - BOSTON (3)** — Andrew Cashner, rhp; p-Rusney Castillo, of; Jhoulys Chacin rhp; Brock Holt, inf; p-JD Martinez, of; d-Mitch Moreland, 1b; Steve Pearce, 1b; of-Rick Porcello, rhp.
 - CHICAGO (5)** — José Abreu, 1b; Ross Detwiler, rhp; Jon Jay, of; Ivan Nova, rhp; Hector Sánchez, 1b.
 - CLEVELAND (3)** — Tyler Clippard, rhp; Ryan Flaherty, inf; Jason Kipnis, 2b; Dan Otero, rhp; Yasiel Puig, of.
 - DETROIT (1)** — Edwin Jackson, rhp; Gordon Beckham, 2b; Jordy Mercer, ss; Matt Moore, rhp; Tyson Ross, rhp.
 - HOUSTON (3)** — Robinson Chirinos, c; Gerrit Cole, rhp; Will Harris, rhp; Martin Maldonado, c; Colin McHugh, rhp; Wade Miley, rhp; Hector Rondon, rhp; Joe Smith, rhp.
 - KANSAS CITY (2)** — A-J Alex Gordon, of; **LOS ANGELES (2)** — Trevor Cahill, rhp; Cole Calhoun, of.
 - MINNESOTA (7)** — Jason Castro, c; Kyle Gibson, rhp; Jake Odorizzi, c; p-Martin Pérez, rhp; Michael Pineda, rhp; Sergio Romo, rhp; Jonathan Schoop, 2b.
 - NEW YORK (9)** — Dellin Betances, rhp; p-Aroldis Chapman, rhp; Edwin Encarnación, dh-1b; Brett Gardner, of; Cory Gearrin, rhp; Didi Gregorius, 1b; Sean Maybin, of; Austin Romine, c; CC Sabathia, 1b.
 - OAKLAND (4)** — Brett Anderson, rhp; Hoscar Bailey, rhp; Jake Diekmann, rhp; Tanner Roark, rhp.
 - SEATTLE (4)** — Félix Hernandez, rhp; Wade LeBlanc, 1b; Tommy Milone, 1b; Travis Vainola, rhp.
 - TAMPA BAY (3)** — Avilal Garcia, of; Andy Arana, of; Eric Sogard, 2b.
 - TEXAS (7)** — p-Bivis Andrus, ss; c-Welington Castillo, c; Logan Forsythe, inf; c-Matt Jones, rhp; c-Shawn Kelley, rhp; Hunter Pence, dh-of; Edinson Vólquez, rhp.
 - TORONTO (2)** — Clay Buchholz, rhp; Justin Smoak, 1b.
- NATIONAL LEAGUE**
- ARIZONA (5)** — Alex Avila, c; Jarrod Dyson, of; Wilmer Flores, of; Yoshinaka Hiroki, dh; Adam Jones, of.
 - ATLANTA (15)** — p-Jerry Blewitt, inf; p-Francisco Cervelli, c; Josh Donaldson, 3b; c-Tyler Flowers, c; m-Billy Hamilton, of; Adeiny Hechavarria, inf; Matt Joyce, of; Dallas Keuchel, inf; c-Nick Markakis, of; Chris Martin, rhp; Brian McCann, c; Darren O'Day, rhp; Anthony Swarzak, c; Julio Teheran, rhp; Josh Tomlin, rhp.
 - CHICAGO (17)** — c-Tony Barette, rhp; Nick Castellanos, of; Xavier Cedeño, rhp; Steve Cistek, rhp; p-Yu Darvish, rhp; c-Kendall Graveman, rhp; Cole Hamels, rhp; Jason Heyward, of; c-Derek Holland, 1b; Brandon Kintzler, rhp; Jonathan Lucroy, c; c-Brandon Morrow, rhp; c-David Phelps, rhp; c-José Quintana, rhp; c-Anthony Rizzo, 1b; Pedro Strop, rhp; Ben Zobrist, inf.
 - CINCINNATI (3)** — c-Freddy Galvis, ss; 2b-Joe Mauer, ss; Alex Wood, 1b.
 - COLORADO (2)** — Yonder Alonso, 1b; of-Drew Butera, c.
 - LOS ANGELES (6)** — David Freese, 3b; c-Jedd Gorfio, inf; Rich Hill, rhp; p-Kenley Jansen, rhp; Russell Martin, c; Hyun-Jin Ryu, 1b.
 - MIAMI (4)** — c-Starlin Castro, inf; Curtis Granderson, of; Martin Prado, 1b-3b; Neil Walker, 1b-3b.
 - MILWAUKEE (8)** — Matt Albers, rhp; Go González, of; m-Yasmani Grandal, 1b; c-Luis Llagunes, of; René Rivera, c; Zack Wheeler, rhp.
 - NEW YORK (7)** — Luis Avila, 1b; Brad Brach, rhp; Rajai Davis, of; Todd Frazier, c; Jay Jackson, rhp; Jordan Lyles, rhp; p-Cory Luebke, rhp; c-Jason Vargas, rhp.
 - PITTSBURGH (6)** — c-Chris Archer, rhp; Melky Cabrera, of; Lonnie Chisenhall, of; Francisco Lirio, 1b; c-Starling Marte, of.
 - ST. LOUIS (5)** — Tony Cingrani, 1b; Marcell Ozuna, of; Michael Wacha, rhp; Adam Wainwright, rhp; Matt Wieters, c.
 - SAN DIEGO (3)** — Aaron Loup, rhp; Craig Stammen, rhp; Adam Warren, rhp.
 - SAN FRANCISCO (6)** — c-Fernando Renedo, rhp; Madison Bumgarner, rhp; Pablo Sandoval, 1b; Will Smith, rhp; Stephen Vogt, c; p-Tony Watson, 1b.
 - WASHINGTON (15)** — m-Matt Adams, 1b; Michael Cabel, 1b; c-Sean Doolittle, 1b; c-Ryan Dozier, 2b; c-Adam Eaton, of; c-Brian Gomes, c; Jeremy Hellickson, rhp; Daniel Hudson, rhp; Howie Kendrick, 2b; Gerardo Parra, of; 1b; Anthony Rendon, rhp; Stephen Strasburg, rhp; p-Jonny Venters, rhp; c-Ryan Zimmerman, 1b.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Struggling Army hungry for win against Air Force

By JOHN KERKS
Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Coach Jeff Monken was barely audible after Army lost for the fourth straight time when reiterating what he preaches every week — the margin for error is razor thin for his Black Knights.

Army hasn't lost this many in a row since the end of the 2015 season, when the Black Knights finished 2-10 in Monken's second year at West Point.

"When you have a stretch like this, nobody feels good," Monken said. "We're coming up short far too often. You're not going to have a smile on your face. There's going to be some anguish. We want to win."

Monken's voice was back Tuesday as Army (3-5) began preparing to face Air Force (6-2) on the road Saturday. Army has won the Commander in Chief's Trophy the past two years in the fierce round-robin competition for supremacy among the three service academies. Air Force already has lost to Navy and dropped two straight to the Black Knights.

Saturday's 34-29 loss to San Jose State offered a microcosm of what's gone wrong during Army's losing streak — simply too many mistakes and too many injuries. There were nine penalties for 74 yards, including one for unsportsmanlike conduct after a long kickoff return that set up a field goal with 2 seconds left in the opening half; a bad snap that prevented an extra-point attempt; a lost fumble on a first-down play, the lone turnover of the game, which the Spartans converted into a touchdown; and failure on a fourth-and-6 play in San Jose State territory that set up a field goal.

All of that helped negate what was a solid day on offense for Army's triple option despite being forced to use three quarterbacks because of injuries. Army rushed for 326 yards on 70 carries, a 4.7-yard average, netted 103 yards passing for one touchdown and zero interceptions, and held the ball for more than 30 minutes.

That performance normally would spell victory for the Black Knights.

Not this season. Not at Michie Stadium, where they had reeled off 15 consecutive wins



AUSTIN ANTHONY, DAILY NEWS/AP

Western Kentucky linebacker Clay Davis tackles Army punt returner Elijah Riley, left, on Oct. 12 in Bowling Green, Ky. The Black Knights travel to face Air Force on Saturday having lost four straight games for the first time since 2015.

before this losing streak began with a loss at home to Tulane in early October. Not even against a team that Army routed 52-3 last year on the road.

"By the way the game came out, we took a step backwards," Monken said. "I wish I had the answers, but I don't right now. We've got to do better. I've got to do better. This is an awfully big game (Saturday). It's a season within a season."

Army was operating with third-stringers on Saturday at middle linebacker and right tackle and at quarterback after senior starter Kelvin Hopkins Jr. and sophomore Jabari Laws were hurt. Standout safety Jaylon McClinton watched the loss in street clothes.

Monken said he was hopeful that some players would be able to return this weekend. Because of the injuries, Army has had to resort to using players who didn't practice during the week and then suited up for game day.

"It's balancing the work that we need on the field in practice with the health of our team and trying to get enough preparation," Monken said. "We've got to have a great week of practice."

"It's hard to see those players who have invested so much and put all the work in and not be able to celebrate success, be able to win," he said. "We're trying to help these guys have a great experience, help them win. I want to see them celebrate."



Academy football on AFN
Army (3-5)
at Air Force (6-2)
AFN-Sports2
8:30 p.m. Saturday CET
4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

Buckeyes' Dobbins among best running backs in nation

By MITCH STACY
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State's J.K. Dobbins is backing up his preseason declaration that he's the best college running back in the nation.

Dobbins' 163 yards against then-No. 13 Wisconsin and its top-ranked defense last week put him over 1,000 yards. He's the first Ohio State back to hit the 1,000-yard mark in each of his freshman, sophomore and junior seasons.

That's the territory of Archie Griffin, college football's only two-time Heisman Trophy winner. The Ohio State star ran for over 1,000 yards in his sophomore, junior and senior seasons.

Dobbins leads a balanced offense that many believe is the most complete Ohio State team in years. The No. 3 Buckeyes swept away Wisconsin 38-7 on what is looking like an inevitable march to the College Football Playoff.

Dobbins' numbers could be gaudier. He sat in the latter parts of blowouts — and all eight Ohio State wins ended up blowouts.



JAY LA PRET/AP

Ohio State running back J.K. Dobbins outruns the Wisconsin defense for a touchdown during Saturday's game in Columbus, Ohio. Dobbins ran for 163 yards against the then-No. 13 Badgers and their top-ranked defense, putting him over 1,000 yards for the year.

Second-stringer Master Teague has not gotten so much late playing time that he's already piled up 588 yards on 86 carries.

In practices before last week's game, Dobbins' teammates ribbed him about the Heisman hype that was following Wisconsin back

"I didn't understand why J.K. didn't have as much hype as (Wisconsin RB Jonathan Taylor) did. We were all just saying this is your time to prove it."

Wyatt Davis
Ohio State guard

Jonathan Taylor to Columbus. The Badgers star was widely considered the nation's best back.

Dobbins responded with 163 yards and two touchdowns and caught three passes for 58 yards — a total of 221 all-purpose yards — earning him Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week honors.

"I know that was fueling him a lot," Ohio State guard Wyatt Davis said. "I didn't understand why J.K. didn't have as much hype as he did. We were all just saying this is your time to prove it."

Taylor managed just 52 yards on 20 carries against a new-look 4-4-3 Ohio State scheme.

"They've got a lot of pride, our guys, and J.K. ran with a chip on his shoulder," Ohio State coach Ryan Day said. "Jonathan Taylor is a wonderful running back, but

(Dobbins) felt like he wanted to be the best running back in the game."

Dobbins is second in the nation behind Oklahoma State's Chuba Hubbard, who hasn't gotten a lot of attention despite amassing 1,381 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Dobbins worked his way into the Heisman Trophy conversation, along with his quarterback Justin Fields and defensive end Chase Young, who had four sacks against Wisconsin.

With all the accolades, Dobbins believes he's got more to prove as Ohio State enters the stretch run.

"Yeah, I find things I need to get work on because my performances have been OK," he said. "They have not been outstanding. I'm trying to find a way to have that outstanding performance."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Thursday's games
No. 12 Baylor 17, West Virginia 14
Georgia Southern 24, No. 20 Appalachian State 21

Saturday's games
No. 4 Clemson vs. Wofford
No. 6 Florida vs. No. 8 Georgia at Jacksonville, Fla.
No. 7 Oregon at Southern Cal
No. 9 Utah at Washington
No. 11 Auburn vs. Mississippi
No. 14 Michigan at Maryland
No. 15 SMU at No. 24 Memphis
No. 16 Notre Dame vs. Virginia Tech
No. 17 Cincinnati at East Carolina
No. 22 Boise State at San Jose State
No. 22 Kansas State at Kansas
No. 23 Wake Forest vs. N.C. State

SERVICE ACADEMIES

Air Force (6-2)

vs. Army (3-5), Saturday
Last week: Beat Utah State 31-7

Army (3-5)

at Air Force (6-2), Saturday
Last week: Lost to San Jose St. 34-29

Navy (6-1)

at UConn (2-6), Friday
Last week: Beat Tulane 41-38

POWER FIVE STANDINGS

ACC				Atlantic Division				Overall			
				W	L	T	W L				
Clemson	.....	6	0	8	0						
Wake Forest	.....	2	1	6	1						
Louisville	.....	2	2	5	3						
Florida State	.....	3	3	4	4						
Boston College	.....	3	4	4	4						
NC State	.....	1	2	4	3						
Syracuse	.....	4	3	5	3						
Coastal Division				W	L	T	W L				
Virginia	.....	3	2	5	3						
North Carolina	.....	2	3	5	3						
Virginia Tech	.....	2	2	5	2						
Pittsburgh	.....	2	3	5	3						
Duke	.....	2	3	4	4						
Miami	.....	2	3	2	4						
Georgia Tech.	.....	3	2	4	5						
Big 12				W	L	T	W L				
Baylor	.....	5	0	8	0						
Oklahoma	.....	4	1	7	1						
Iowa State	.....	3	2	5	3						
Texas	.....	3	2	5	3						
Kansas State	.....	3	2	5	3						
TCU	.....	2	2	4	3						
Oklahoma State	.....	2	2	4	3						
West Virginia	.....	1	4	3	5						
Kansas	.....	1	4	3	5						
Texas Tech	.....	4	3	5	3						
Big Ten				W	L	T	W L				
Ohio State	.....	5	0	8	0						
Penn State	.....	5	0	8	0						
UCLA	.....	3	2	5	3						
Michigan	.....	3	2	5	3						
Michigan State	.....	2	3	4	4						
California	.....	4	3	5	3						
Rutgers	.....	0	5	2	6						
West				W	L	T	W L				
Minnesota	.....	5	0	8	0						
Iowa	.....	3	2	6	2						
Illinois	.....	2	3	4	4						
Nebraska	.....	2	3	4	4						
Purdue	.....	1	4	2	6						
Northwestern	.....	0	5	1	6						
Pac-12				W	L	T	W L				
Oregon	.....	5	0	7	1						
Stanford	.....	4	1	6	2						
Oregon State	.....	2	2	3	3						
Washington	.....	2	2	3	3						
California	.....	4	1	4	4						
Washington State	.....	1	4	4	4						
South				W	L	T	W L				
Utah	.....	4	1	7	1						
Southern Cal	.....	4	2	5	3						
Arizona	.....	3	2	5	3						
Arizona State	.....	2	3	5	3						
Colorado	.....	1	4	3	5						
SEC				W	L	T	W L				
Florida	.....	5	0	7	1						
Georgia	.....	3	1	6	1						
Tennessee	.....	2	3	5	3						
Kentucky	.....	2	3	5	3						
South Carolina	.....	2	4	3	5						
Vanderbilt	.....	3	2	5	3						
West				W	L	T	W L				
Alabama	.....	5	0	8	0						
LSU	.....	4	1	7	1						
Auburn	.....	3	2	6	2						
Texas A&M	.....	3	2	5	3						
Mississippi	.....	3	2	5	3						
Mississippi State	.....	1	4	3	5						
Arkansas	.....	0	5	2	6						



ROCK BOWMER/AP

Utah quarterback Tyler Huntley looks down field in the first half against California on Saturday in Salt Lake City. This season, Huntley is completing 73% of his passes and has a 181.04 passer rating.

KEY POWER FIVE MATCHUPS

No. 6 Florida (7-1) vs. No. 8 Georgia (6-1) 8:30 p.m. Saturday CET AFN-Sports

Series record — Debatable. Georgia counts a victory in 1904 and says it leads 52-43-2. Florida insists it didn't compete at the varsity level until 1906 and calls it 51-43-2.

What's at stake? — It's essentially an elimination game for the College Football Playoff, with the winner moving a step closer to securing a spot in the conference title game in Atlanta. The "World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party" has helped determine who goes to the league's showcase event nine times in the last 13 years. Missouri still controls its destiny in the Eastern Division, but Florida and Georgia like their chances with a win Saturday.

Key matchup — The team with the most rushing yards has won the last 13 meetings. So can the Gators bottle up Georgia's D'Andre Swift, who leads the league with 107.7 yards a game on the ground? Or can the Bulldogs keep Florida's Lamical Perine in check?

Players to watch — Georgia: QB Jake Fromm wasn't good in a loss to South Carolina in mid-October, throwing three interceptions and getting sacked three times. But his performance against Florida last year was memorable because he threw three TD passes — all on third down.

Florida: WR Kadarius Toney returns after missing six consecutive games with a shoulder injury. The Gators found ways to move the ball and score without him, but they have no one on the field as elusive as the speedy junior.

Facts & figures — Top-10 matchup for the second straight year. ... Both teams are coming off a bye week for only the eighth time in series history. ... Four former players inducted into the Georgia-Florida Hall of Fame: Jarvis Jones and Rennie Curran for the Bulldogs; Brad Culpepper and Brandon Spikes for the Gators. ... Florida expects to get its top two pass rushers, Jon Greenard and Jabari Zuniga, back after missing games with high-ankle sprains.

Wofford (5-2) at No. 4 Clemson (7-0) 9 p.m. Saturday CET AFN-Atlantic

Series record — Clemson leads 12-3.

What's at stake? — Possibly the biggest upset of the college football season. The fourth-ranked Tigers, who have won their first eight games by an average of 31 points a game, are expected to easily roll through Wofford of the FCS's Southern Conference. Wofford's last win in the series came in 1933 and Clemson is 33-0 against FCS teams since the NCAA created the subdivision in 1978.

Key matchup — Clemson RB Travis Etienne vs. Wofford's defense. Etienne has looked like the reigning ACC player of the year the past month and had 109 yards and three TDs in a 59-7 win over Boston College last week in about a half of work. The Terriers lead the SoCon in rushing defense at 104 yards a game.

Players to watch — Wofford: QB Joe Newman ran for 66 yards and three touchdowns and threw for 134 yards in the Terriers' 35-34 overtime win against Chattanooga last week. He earned his second straight SoCon offensive player of the week award.

Clemson: WR Diondre Overtun caught his first three touchdown passes of the year against Boston College. He finished with a career best 119 yards receiving against Boston College as the graduate student resisted the urge to transfer and remained part of Clemson's stacked receiving corps.

Facts & figures — Wofford coach Josh Conklin was on Pitt's staff in 2016 when the Panthers had one of the biggest surprises of the season with a 43-42 win over then-No. 2 Clemson at Death Valley. ... Clemson is looking to start 9-0 for the fourth time in five seasons and the sixth time in its history. ... Wofford is a small-school success story, reaching the NCAA playoffs the past three seasons and winning last two SoCon titles. ... Etienne is one behind the school's record holder James Davis' 47 rushing touchdowns. ... The Tigers are looking to match the school mark for most consecutive wins at home. They have won their last 20, one shy of the record set between 2013-16.

No. 9 Utah (7-1) at Washington (5-3)

Series record — Washington leads 12-1.

What's at stake? — Utah and its stifling defense can't afford a slip-up if it intends on staying in the thick of the Pac-12 South race. The Utes have moved into the fringes of the College Football Playoff conversation, but staying there means running the table in the final month of the regular season. The trip to Seattle appears to be Utah's final major test with home games against UCLA and Colorado sandwiched around a visit to Arizona.

Key matchup — Utah's defensive front vs. Washington's offensive line. The Utes have the best run defense in the country giving up 56.4 yards per game. They're allowing 231 yards total per game. Take away the puzzling loss at USC and the Utes have held their other seven opponents under 350 total yards, highlighted by California's 83 total yards last week. When Washington's offense is at its best it is getting the ground game going.

Players to watch — Utah: QB Tyler Huntley. He has been impressive with his passing in his senior year. But it was two years ago when the Utes last visited Seattle where Huntley first flashed his potential as a passer. That night, Huntley threw for 293 yards and two TDs in a 33-30 loss. This season, Huntley is completing 73% of his passes and has a 181.04 passer rating, good for sixth in the country.

Washington: WR Aaron Fuller. The Huskies' leading receiver played only a limited number of snaps against Oregon while dealing with a leg injury. Fuller is Washington's biggest deep threat and while the Utes haven't given up much downfield most of the season, they did show vulnerability in the loss to USC. Getting Fuller targets will be important for balance in Washington's offense.

Facts & figures — Utah's only win in the series came in 2015, a 34-23 victory in Seattle. ... Washington is 3-4 in its last seven vs. top-10 teams. ... Utah is outscoring opponents 103-32 in the second half. Conversely, Washington has outscored its opponents 97-13 in the first quarter.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

All-America watch

Cowboys' Hubbard is a hard name to catch

By CLIFF BRUNT
Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla. — Oklahoma State running back Chuba Hubbard's wildly successful season has made a lifelong issue a much smaller problem.

For as far back as Hubbard can remember, folks have struggled to pronounce his first name. Most say CHUB-uh. He even heard someone throw his first and last name together and come up with ChooHubbard.

For the record, it's pronounced CHOO-buh. And since he leads the nation in rushing and all-purpose yards, people are finally starting to get it right.

"They are trying," he said. "As long as they are trying, I get it. As long as they are saying my name some type of way, I guess it's a good thing."

He is giving people plenty of reasons to practice. He has rushed for 1,381 yards this season in eight games, an average of 172.6 yards per contest, and ranks second nationally with 16 rushing touchdowns heading into Saturday's home game against TCU. It's been enough to draw attention from former Oklahoma State and NFL star running back Barry Sanders, a Heisman Trophy winner.

"He congratulated me on how the season's going," Hubbard said. "I would have never thought in a million years that Barry Sanders would be congratulating me. It's cool."

Hubbard has approached some of Sanders' numbers. He rushed for a career-high 296 yards in a win over Kansas State, one of three games this season in which he has rushed for at least 200 yards.

"He is a great football player," Kansas State coach Chris Klieman said. "He can run through arm tackles, he gets his



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW PUTNEY/AP

Oklahoma State running back Chuba Hubbard, right, is the leading rusher among FBS running backs with 1,381 yards this season.

shoulders squared and then he'll outrun you. He is a dynamite player."

Against Tulsa, Hubbard broke loose for a 75-yard touchdown run on the first play from scrimmage. He blew past defenders who appeared to have an angle on him and crossed the goal line 10 seconds into the game. He finished the day with 256 yards and three touchdowns. He pounded out 171 yards on 32 carries against undefeated Baylor.

"Hubbard is amazing," Bay-

lor coach Matt Rhule said. "You never know how good someone is until you play them. He was hard to tackle."

It's quite a jump for a young man who grew up playing Canadian football. Hubbard hails from Sherwood Park, near Edmonton, Alberta. While many of his friends played hockey, he drifted toward track and football and competes in both at Oklahoma State. The benefits of track were also touted by Wisconsin star running back Jonathan Taylor,

who was a member of the AP preseason All-America team.

Hubbard never saw being from Canada as a limitation.

"For me, there's a lot of talented Canadian football players out there," he said. "I think that's often overlooked and that's one of the big reasons I'm proud that I came here, and proud that I'm showing Canadians can ball. It's different football, but at the end of the day, it's still football."

Though he watched the Canadian Football League's Edmonton Eskimos as a kid, he also grew up admiring NFL running back Adrian Peterson because of his durability and explosiveness.

"When I used to watch him, I used to think, 'That's a workhorse,'" Hubbard said. "When he's out there, he's like a bull — who can run a 4.3 (40-yard dash). Watching that guy, that was my hero. I always wanted to be like him."

He is like Peterson in some ways. He has breakaway speed, which has allowed him to average 6.4 yards per carry. As for durability, he averages 27 carries per game. His powerful 6-foot-1, 207-pound frame handles punishment well — and he dishes it out, too.

"A lot of people when they first saw me here — really my whole life playing football — they just see me as that fast guy," he said. "I got involved with football because of the contact. I could have just stayed with track and ran but I like hitting and I like running through people. That's just stuff I love."

Who's hot

Antoine Winfield Jr., DB, Minnesota

Winfield missed most of the last two seasons due to serious injuries and was granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA. He has been one of the leaders of the 13th-ranked and unbeaten Gophers all season and is coming off two of his better games. Winfield has three interceptions, including one returned for a touchdown, in the last two games.

Who's not

Larry Rountree, RB, Missouri

The Tigers have lost two straight and their running game disappearing has been a big part of the problem. Rountree, who had three 100-yard games in his first six, has 87 yards on 27 carries in losses to Vanderbilt and Kentucky.

All-America matchup

Bradlee Anae and Leki Fotu, DL, Utah vs. Trey Adams and Nick Harris, OL, Washington

Anae leads the Pac-12 in sacks with seven and is one of the top edge rushers in the country. Fotu is a 335-pound disruptor in the middle of the 'D's' defense who has seven tackles for loss.

Adams is one of the top tackles in the country and Harris was a second-team preseason All-American at center. To beat the Utes, Adams and Harris need big games controlling Anae and Fotu.



Hubbard, center, breaks away from Iowa State's defense on a 65-yard touchdown during the first half of the Cowboys' 34-27 win Saturday in Ames, Iowa.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



PHOTOS BY JERRY LARSON/AP

Baylor quarterback Charlie Brewer, center, eludes West Virginia linebacker Dylan Tonkery, right, and defensive lineman Reese Donahue during the first half of Thursday's game in Waco, Texas.

No. 12 Baylor holds off WVU, remains unbeaten

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

WACO, Texas — No. 12 Baylor got quite defensive to remain undefeated.

While Charlie Brewer threw for 277 yards with two touchdowns, the defense blocked a late field-goal try while allowing only one big play, and the Bears won a game when scoring less than 20 points for the first time since 2006.

"A tremendous, tremendous defensive game," coach Matt Rhule said after the 17-14 victory over West Virginia on Thursday night. "We are still learning that it's OK just to play defense and not worry."

John Mayers kicked a go-ahead, 36-yard field goal with 10:19 left to break a 14-all tie, and Baylor won its 10th game in a row despite an often frustrating night on offense and special teams.



West Virginia running back Kennedy McKoy, left, runs past Baylor linebacker Blake Lynch.

Two seasons after winning only one game, the Bears (8-0, 5-0 Big 12) are the league's only undefeated team — and one of eight remaining among FBS teams.

"Don't apologize for going 8-0, for winning this game," Rhule said. "Just have to continue to improve as we try to move forward."

West Virginia (3-5, 1-4) had eight quarterback sacks. With second-and-goal from the 1 late in the second quarter, Baylor was stuffed for no gain on three consecutive plays and had to settle for a 7-0 halftime lead.

Still, the Bears avoided what happened last Saturday, when while they had an open date the Big 12's other three ranked teams that did play lost. That included Oklahoma's loss at Kansas State that left Baylor alone atop the conference standings.

"We talked about how this wasn't good enough," linebacker Jordan Williams said. "We need to grow from it because we don't want to have that same feeling those teams had."

After R.J. Sneed muffed a punt that was recovered at the Baylor 34, West Virginia couldn't get a first down.

"We're pretty good on defense," linebacker Blake Lynch said.

Casey Legg kicked the ball through the uprights on a 43-yard field-goal attempt, but the Mountaineers were penalized for delay of game and had to try again. Nose tackle Bravvion Roy then blocked Legg's 48-yard attempt with 3½ minutes left.

The Mountaineers had two big plays for their touchdowns. George Campbell had an 83-yard catch-and-run from Austin Kendall on the first play after a punt, and Winston Wright went 95 yards for the Mountaineers' first kickoff return for a touchdown in five years.

West Virginia finished with 219 total yards, 136 outside of that one big play.

Wright's return was on the ensuing kick after Brewer's 21-yard TD pass to Denzel Mims, who had opened the second half by fumbling at the end of a 30-yard reception on his first catch since taking a hard hit early in the game.

West Virginia beat Baylor 58-14 last year, but the Mountaineers were coming off a 52-14 loss at Oklahoma in their last game and came into this game as a nearly three-touchdown underdog.

Georgia Southern stuns 20th-ranked Appalachian State

BY STEVE REED
Associated Press

BOONE, N.C. — When Georgia Southern quarterback Shai Werts kept the ball on an option play instead of pitching out, he looked up to see one thing.

"Field, just field," Werts said of his 55-yard touchdown run.

There was plenty of open field for Eagles ball carriers Thursday night at Kidd Brewer Stadium.

Wesley Kennedy ran for 145 yards and two touchdowns, Werts ran for 87 yards and Georgia Southern racked up 335 yards on the ground behind its triple-option offense to upset No. 20 Appalachian State for the second straight season, 24-21.

The Eagles defense held the country's ninth-highest scoring offense in check most of the night on a rainy, windy Halloween night where temperatures dipped into the 20s.

Georgia Southern (5-3, 3-1 Sun Belt) ended Appalachian State's 13-game winning streak, handing the Mountaineers their first loss since knocking them out of the Top 25 more than a year ago with a 34-14 victory.

Appalachian State again strug-

gled defending Georgia Southern's triple option.

Kennedy struck the biggest blow when he took an option pitch from Werts and raced 68 yards for a touchdown on the first possession of the second half. Werts blew through a huge hole in the line and raced 55 yards for a score on the ensuing possession to give the Eagles a 24-7 lead, sending the vast majority of the crowd heading to the exits.

"This is a good milestone for us beating a Top 25 team, but we have to keep going," Werts said. "But we are going to enjoy this one for the next few days."

Kennedy, who didn't play in Georgia's Southern's losses to No. 1 LSU and No. 13 Minnesota, averaged 11.2 yards per carry. He did most of his damage getting around the corner behind solid blocking.

"The O-line just opened up the holes and I was just hitting them," Kennedy said.

Appalachian State (7-1, 4-1) came in averaging 41 points, but struggled to get any momentum going for the first three quarters other than a 92-yard touchdown drive in the final 2 minutes of the first half.



BRIAN BLANCO/AP

Georgia Southern's Tyler Bass, right, celebrates his 49-yard field goal with Anthony Beck II during the first half of Thursday's game against No. 20 Appalachian State in Boone, N.C.

SPORTS



Unbeaten Bears

No. 12 Baylor holds off WVU, remains undefeated » **Page 31**

NFL



Managing to win

49ers' Garoppolo answers critics with 317-yard, 4-touchdown effort

By DAVID BRANDT
Associated Press

San Francisco's game-manager turned into quite the game-changer in an impressive performance.

Jimmy Garoppolo threw for 317 yards and four touchdowns on a night his team's vaunted defense wasn't at its best, and the San Francisco 49ers reached the halfway point of their season undefeated, beating the Arizona Cardinals 28-25 on Thursday.

For a quarterback who often gets the backhanded compliment of being a good game-manager, Garoppolo's stellar performance provided some proof that the 27-year-old might be a little better than people think.

His teammates already knew.

"Yeah, he's pretty good," San Francisco 49ers tight end George Kittle said. "I don't know why people

By the numbers

8-0

San Francisco's off to an 8-0 start for the second time in franchise history. The Niners won 10 straight games to start the 1990 season. This year's streak has included five road wins.

SOURCE: Associated Press



Above: San Francisco TE George Kittle is tackled short of the goal line by Arizona DE Deion Jones. Right: 49ers QB Jimmy Garoppolo had one of the best outings of his career in Thursday's 28-25 win.



Inside:

■ Redskins All-Pro Williams reveals cancer diagnosis was source of holdout, distrust of Washington medical staff, organization, Page 27

Astros' Cole, Nats' Rendon among big-name free agents » **Page 26**