Most Americans believe the United States was right to participate in World War II but many are either skeptical or don’t know, according to a poll released ahead of the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion that kicked off the liberation of Europe.

The U.S. entry into the war, which was prompted by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, was “completely justified” or “somewhat justified,” said 66% of those polled by a YouGov online survey whose results were released Tuesday. Twenty percent said they didn’t know and 14% said it was “not very” or “not at all” justified.

Still, the survey found that among those questioned, the Allied campaign in WWII received the most support, followed by the American Revolution, which 6 out of 10 said was justified.

Conducted on May 21-22, the poll asked 1,200 U.S. citizens 18 or older about their views on war in general and specific conflicts that America fought since the country’s split from the British Empire in 1776.

SEE POLL ON PAGE 8
Trump reads from FDR’s prayer for D-Day

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE
AND KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

PORTSMOUTH, England — President Donald Trump read from a prayer delivered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as he joined other world leaders and veterans Wednesday in marking the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

Roosevelt went on national radio on June 6, 1944, to address the U.S. for the first time about the Normandy invasion. Trump, with images of an American flag and Roosevelt projected behind him, read to the crowd: “Almighty God, our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our republic, our religion and our civilization and to set free a suffering humanity.”

Trump traveled to the southern coast of England on Wednesday to pay respects to American servicemen and women who helped rescue Europe from Nazi Germany. He sat in a VIP area between Queen Elizabeth II and the first lady during the program, which focused on a telling of events leading up to D-Day. Some 300 World War II veterans also attended the seaside ceremony.

A chilly breeze blew off the English Channel as Trump arrived for the event, the first of two he is attending to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day. He is spending two nights at the ambassador’s residence for Prince Charles, his wife, Camilla, and other dignitaries.

While at the Churchill War Rooms, the British government’s underground command center during World War II, Trump has used his speeches to emphasize the bonds of friendship forged here and sealed in blood on those hallowed beaches.

President Donald Trump speaks during a ceremony Wednesday in Portsmouth, England, to mark the 75th Anniversary of D-Day.

“Almighty God, our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our republic, our religion and our civilization and to set free a suffering humanity.”

Trump joined in giving a standing ovation to a group of World War II vets who appeared on stage as the commemoration began.

After the event, Trump visited with American World War II veterans who were among Allied troops on D-Day. He was to have lunch and meet briefly with German Chancellor Angela Merkel before departing for Ireland to meet with Prime Minister Leo Varadkar and stay at Trump’s golf course in the village of Doonbeg.

During a news conference Tuesday, Trump said he is grateful for the warm welcome he received from the British royal family and prime minister as “we remember the heroes who laid down their lives to rescue civilization itself.” He played down protests of his visit, describing the thousands of people who demonstrated in London as a “small protest.”

Trump has used his speeches to emphasize a longstanding bond between the U.S. and Britain. He noted that more than 1.5 million Americans were stationed in England in advance of the invasion.

“The bonds of friendship forged here and sealed in blood on those hallowed beaches will endure forever,” Trump said.

Also on Tuesday, Trump and first lady Melania Trump toured the Churchill War Rooms, the British government’s underground command center during World War II. Then it was time for a fancy dinner that the Trumps hosted at the U.S. ambassador’s residence for Prince Charles, his family and prime minister as “we remember the heroes who laid down their lives to rescue civilization itself.”

Trump said: “She was nasty to me. And that’s OK for her to be nasty, it’s not good for me to be nasty to her and I wasn’t.”

While at the Churchill War Rooms, he worked to clean up a diplomatic spat, telling “Good Morning Britain” host Piers Morgan that he meant no royal insult when he used the term “nasty” in discussing the American-born Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle. The phrase generated a lot of media coverage and Trump has worked diligently to explain that he was speaking specifically on her comments about him, not about her.

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In Dublin, he met with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar and stay at Trump’s golf course in Doonbeg, which sits above the Atlantic.

After Dubai balked at holding a meeting in the city, a deal was struck for Trump to meet Varadkar at the VIP lounge at Shannon Airport, hardly the grand setting usually afforded a meeting of world leaders.

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OMAHA BEACH, France — Maj. Ross Daly put on the World War II era uniform of his 75th Ranger Regiment forebears Tuesday to scale the cliff at Pointe du Hoc, where 75 years ago a small group of soldiers attempted one of the most daring missions of the war.

“For us in the 2nd Ranger Battalion, this was our baptism by fire,” Daly said. “This is where our battalion’s legacy was born. They gave everything that day and now it is on us.”

About 100 Rangers climbed the steep limestone cliffside at Pointe du Hoc to commemorate the historic operation and the 75th Ranger Regiment’s role in the D-Day landings, which took a heavy toll on the unit. Only 90 of the roughly 225 Rangers who took part were still standing after two days of fighting.

The climb up the 100-foot cliffs included using rope ladders that were too short while facing gunfire and dropped grenades on the ascent. The aim was to seize German artillery pieces that could have been used against U.S. troops at Omaha and Utah beaches.

On Tuesday, John Raaen, 97, watched as the Rangers climbed up again. Raaen was a company commander in the 75th’s 5th Ranger Battalion, which was also part of the D-Day invasion. Instead of climbing at Pointe du Hoc, Raaen landed at the “Dog White Sector” at Omaha Beach.

“There was little resistance there. The Germans, they more or less pulled out there,” Raaen said, sitting near the cliff’s edge at Point du Hoc. “But it was a bad situation here.”

Later that day, Raaen made it up to Pointe du Hoc to rally with other Rangers. They faced counterattacks for the next two days while defending the position. The scene was chaotic, Raaen said.

“At one point, five tanks burst over the hill and attacked us. Our own tanks. They killed about eight Rangers. Friendly fire,” Raaen said. “They thought they heard the sound of German gunfire.”

For today’s Rangers, the climb at Point du Hoc was a chance to offer thanks, with many crouching down to trade stories with Raaen.

“We stand on your shoulders,” regiment commander Col. Brandon R. Tegtmeier told Raaen after climbing the cliff.

“They fought their way up. It’s amazing what they did,” said Sgt. Maj. Michael Albaush, 7th Ranger Regiment’s sergeant major. “For us to be a part of it and do this climb is to commemorate the history of the Rangers.”

The Rangers on Tuesday made steady ascents up the cliff using well-secured climbing ropes. They wore a mix of modern Army uniforms and others styled like those during D-Day.

“It’s an extremely humbling experience. You’re on the same terrain here, but without the confusion, the fright, the noise, the angst of what was upon their shoulders,” Daly said. “Putting on what they wore that day, it just gives a slice of what it might have felt like.”

There are about 50 D-Day vets attending ceremonies this week at Normandy, where many thousands of people are gathered to mark the 75th anniversary of the allied landing in France. The number of veterans, all of whom are well into their 90s, is dwindling with each passing year. The veterans are being honored at dozens of ceremonies being held throughout the region.

On Thursday, world leaders, including President Donald Trump, will be on hand to mark the occasion at the American Cemetery at Normandy, where more than 9,000 war dead, many from the D-Day landing, are buried.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver
CARENTAN, France — Parachutists are jumping over Normandy again, just as soldiers did 75 years ago for D-Day — but this time without being shot at.

With the throb of their engines rumbling through cloudy skies, C-47 transport planes in World War II colors dropped jumpers with round canopies reminiscent of those used by airborne forces in 1944.

Their landing zone for Wednesday’s operation was fields of wildflowers outside Carentan, one of the objectives of the thousands dropped over Normandy as a prelude to the seaborne invasions on June 6, 1944.

Thousands watched as the jumpers softly floated through the bright skies. Many spectators were wearing WWII era uniforms, and music of the time played over loudspeakers, giving the display a 1940s air.

Among the jumpers Wednesday was D-Day veteran Tom Rice, 97, of San Diego. He jumped into Normandy with thousands of other parachutists in 1944, and recalls it as “the worst jump I ever had.”

“I got my left armpit caught in the lower left hand corner of the door so I swung out, came back and hit the side of the aircraft, swung out again and came back, and I just tried to straighten my arm out and I got free,” he told The Associated Press in an interview.

Rice was jumping in tandem with another parachutist. He has been preparing for the last six months for his jump, working with a physical trainer.

“’All the GIs suffer from the same blame and shame. It bothers us all the time for what we did. We did a lot of destruction, damage. And we chased the Germans out, and coming back here is a matter of closure. You can close the issue now,” he said.

Other jumps were planned later Wednesday involving British veterans at Sannerville as part of events marking the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

Tom Rice, 97
D-Day veteran

Above: Spectators watch parachutists jumping just as soldiers did 75 years ago for D-Day on Wednesday in Carentan, Normandy. Left: U.S. World War II D-Day veteran Tom Rice, front second left, is guided after parachuting in a tandem jump.

PHOTOS BY RAFAEL YAGHOBZADEH/AP

US, UK vets re-create D-Day parachute drops

‘’All the GIs suffer from the same blame and shame... coming back here is a matter of closure.’’

Tom Rice, 97
D-Day veteran

‘’All the GIs suffer from the same blame and shame... coming back here is a matter of closure.’’

Tom Rice, 97
D-Day veteran

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CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Marine Corps officials said a half-ounce piece of rubber that fell onto a busy Okinawa middle school tennis court Tuesday came off a Marine CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter.

Children were practicing on the court at Uranishi Middle School in Urasoe City when the 6-by-8-inch black rubber object landed there around 3:35 p.m., according to a spokesman for the Okinawa Defense Bureau, which is a branch of the Japan Ministry of Defense. No injuries or damage were reported.

Witnesses reported seeing a helicopter flying overhead at the time the piece fell, the spokesman said. The piece was delivered first to the bureau and then to the Marine Corps for closer inspection.

The school is about 2 ½ miles southwest of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Ginowan.

“After investigating, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing concluded that the small piece of black rubber is blade tape,” III Marine Expeditionary Force spokesman 1st Lt. Jose Uriarte wrote in an emailed statement to Stars and Stripes on Wednesday afternoon. Blade tape is used to protect the forward edge of helicopter blades, he said.

“Blade tape poses no threat to people or property; however, we remain committed to safe flight operations and to not causing anxiety within the community,” Uriarte wrote. “1st Marine Aircraft Wing is inspecting all aircraft that have blade tape and will remove or replace any blade tape that is found to be degraded.”

In addition to Super Stallions, blade tape is also used on the MV-22B Osprey, AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom, he said.

Uranishi Middle School officials declined to comment Wednesday.

A spokesman for Okinawa prefecture also declined comment, except to say, “We will protest to the U.S. officially if it’s confirmed to be theirs.”

It’s not the first time on Okinawa that an aircraft shed a part onto a facility for children.

In December 2017, a plastic piece thought to belong to a U.S. military helicopter was found on the roof of an Okinawa day care facility.

Later that month, a 3-foot-by-3-foot window fell from a Marine CH-53E Super Stallion and landed on an elementary school sports field adjacent to Futenma’s fence line.

More than 50 schoolchildren were playing at the time, and a boy was slightly injured from a pebble that flew up during the impact.

Army identifies Hawaii drowning victim as field artilleryman

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Army has identified the soldier who drowned in Hawaii on Friday as Pvt. Saije Anthony Daniel, 21, who was originally from Richmond, Va.

Daniel was a field artilleryman and had been assigned to the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks on Oahu since February; the Army said in a statement Tuesday. He joined the Army in August.

Daniel went missing late Friday afternoon while swimming with two women in waters about 40 yards from the shore on Kaihua Bay, near Marine Corps Base Hawaii on Oahu’s windward side.

Beachgoers saw that the trio were in distress and were able to rescue the two women, but Daniel disappeared beneath the water.

Searchers with the Honolulu Fire Department and Coast Guard scoured the waters during the next 24 hours but found no trace of him.

His body was discovered washed up on the beach early Sunday morning by a passerby, said Capt. Scot Seguirant, a spokesman for the fire department.

“We lost not only a teammate but a valued member of the 25th Infantry Division,” Lt. Col. Scott Sinclair, 3-7 Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, said in the statement.

Army identifies Hawaii drowning victim as field artilleryman

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Okinawa Marines refine combat driving skills

By Carlos M. Vazquez II
Stars and Stripes

CAMP SCHWAB, Okinawa — Motor transportation Marines took to the jungle recently to refine their combat driving abilities and get acquainted with their surrounding during an Advanced Motor Vehicle Operations Course.

Marines of Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 3rd Marine Logistics Group navigated several obstacles, including muddy water, vertical terrain and tight turns on May 23.

“This helps us prepare for anything that the battalion might be required to do to sustain our supported units, to work with partner nations, including the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, and react to any crisis in the region,” said Lt. Col. Dana Demer, battalion commander.

“This is my third time on (the) island. I’m not from Okinawa, but Okinawa is my home, so we ensure our drivers who share the road with our families and our Okinawa friends operate in a safe manner,” he said.

The training took place after recent mishaps involving military vehicles stateside and overseas.

A Marine deployed to Australia — Lance Cpl. Hans Sandoval-Pereyra, 21 — died from injuries he received in a tactical vehicle accident on May 25.

On May 9, Marine 1st Lt. Conor McDowell was killed when a light armored vehicle rolled over during training at Camp Pendleton, Calif. The accident was the fourth fatal rollover training accident for the military this year and the second at Pendleton, according to the Orange County Register.

Staff Sgt. Joshua Braica, of the 1st Marine Raider Battalion, was killed April 13 when his tactical vehicle rolled over on the base.

During the Advanced Motor Vehicle Operations Course, operators are trained to transport and supply troops in a jungle or city environment.

“We don’t know where the next battle is and what environment it might be in,” said Staff Sgt. Andre Stephens, motor transport operations chief. “This right here gives us a good, austere environment.”

Marine motor transport operators stationed on Okinawa are initially trained at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and then take the advanced course on the island to enhance their ability to perform in daily operations or respond to an emergency, according to the commanding officer.

“I think it is important to understand that forces stationed on Okinawa support the entire region,” Demer said.

“At a moment’s notice, our battalion is ready to go to respond to any crisis.”

The battalion consists of about 300 Marines and sailors who employ Humvees and Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement, or MTVR, cargo trucks to support the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force.

“We are training for that future battle,” Stephens said. “Any climate, anywhere and at any time, that’s what we train for.”

Navy raises Union Jack flags to commemorate Battle of Midway

By Wyatt Olson
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The U.S. Navy officially switched to flying the Union Jack flag aboard its ships Tuesday, a move timed to coincide with the 77th anniversary of its role in the decisive Battle of Midway in World War II.

During a ceremony commemorating the battle aboard the destroyer USS Chung-Hoon at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, the 50-star Union Jack was hoisted for the first time since 2002, when it had been replaced by the First Navy Jack in response to the 9/11 attacks.

Adm. John Richardson, chief of naval operations, announced in February that the Navy would be returning to its long tradition of flying the Union Jack, a version of which was first flown in 1777.

Capt. Joseph Naman, chief of naval operations, said in February that the Navy would be returning to its long tradition of flying the Union Jack, a version of which was first flown in 1777.

Capt. Joseph Naman, chief of staff for Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, told the ship’s crew: “Your role in the United States Navy is vital. The job you are doing right now will contribute to the overall success or failure in the challenges facing our generation. That’s the reminder of the Union Jack and the lesson that the Battle of Midway teaches us.”

The Battle of Midway was relatively short, lasting June 3-7, 1942, but the American fleet inflicted devastating damage and losses to the Imperial Japanese Navy.

The Japanese had planned to seize Midway Atoll, which is roughly 1,500 miles northwest of Hawaii. The American fleet, however, caught the Japanese armada by surprise and lost almost 300 planes, a cruiser and four aircraft carriers, which had been among the six used in the attack on Pearl Harbor six months earlier. About 2,500 Japanese died.

The U.S. had far fewer losses, with 300 men dead and the carrier Yorktown and a destroyer sunk.

“With the decisive victory at Midway the United States would begin the long struggle to roll back a proud and determined foe,” Naman said in a Navy statement. “It would be the unconquerable spirit of this great nation and the United States Navy that would turn the tables on the Axis powers.”

The Navy had switched over to flying the First Navy Jack in 2002 in a symbolic response to the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, the statement said. The flag is adorned with a rattlesnake and the words, “Don’t Tread on Me.”

That flag also has a long history in the service, but by custom it had been reserved for the commissioned ship having the longest total period in active status, according to the Navy.

In a statement in February announcing the change, Richardson said, “Make no mistake: we have entered a new era of competition. We must recommit to the core attributes that made us successful at Midway: integrity, accountability, initiative, and toughness.

“For more than two hundred and forty years, the Union Jack, flying proudly from jackstaffs aboard U.S. Navy warships, has symbolized these strengths.

“As of Tuesday, the only Navy warship authorized to fly the rattlesnake” jack is the USS Blue Ridge, an amphibious command ship commissioned in 1970, the Navy said.

Home-ported at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, the Blue Ridge is the 7th Fleet command ship.

vazquez.carlos@stripes.com
Twitter: @CarlosVazquezStars

Olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattWolson
Fort Benning eyed to house migrant children

By ROSE L. THAYER Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Department of Health and Human Services officials will tour vacant facilities at Fort Benning in Georgia as a potential location to house unaccompanied migrant children, as the department braces for what could be a record year for unaccompanied migrant children.

The Department of Health and Human Services is looking at Fort Benning as a potential location to house migrant children

Marine charged in hazing death will plead guilty

By COREY DICKSTEIN Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Marine Raider charged in the 2017 hazing death of a Green Beret in Africa will plead guilty Thursday to negligent homicide and other charges for his role in a “stupid prank that went horribly wrong,” his defense attorney said.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Maxwell Jr. faces a felony-level general court-martial at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia for his role in the June 4, 2017, death of Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar in the Malian capital city of Bamako where they were deployed. Maxwell is one of several special operators charged in Melgar’s death and will become the second to plead guilty to his involvement.

Brian Zelenski, Maxwell’s civilian lawyer, said Tuesday that the Marine had reached a pre-trial agreement with prosecutors and was prepared to “accept responsibility for his role” in Melgar’s death.

In addition to pleading guilty to negligent homicide, which is the lowest level of criminal homicide that can be charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Maxwell will plead guilty to other charges including burglary and obstruction of justice, Bouf- fard said.

“This is a tragedy on multiple levels,” Bouf- fard said. “I don’t believe any of these four men . . . had the intent or desire to kill Logan Melgar. This death was an accident.”

Nonetheless, Bouffard said Maxwell and the others involved must be held accountable for their ac- tions during the incident and after Melgar’s death, when they attempted to mislead investigators.

“This incident has the possibility of multiple years in prison. Negligent homicide carries a maximum penalty that includes a dishonorable discharge, for- feiture of all pay and allowance and three years in prison, according to the UCMI.

All four special operators charged in Melgar’s death initially faced multiple charges for their roles including felony murder, involuntary manslaughter, conspiracy, obstruction of justice, hazing, and burglary.

Maxwell's court-martial comes just weeks after Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Adam Matthews pleaded guilty to reduced charges that he conspired to commit an assault and battery, unlawful entry and obstructed justice. In a lower-level special court-martial May 16, Matthews was sentenced to one year in prison, a two-grade reduction in rank to petty officer 2nd class and a bad conduct discharge.

Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Tony DeDolphi and Marine Raider Gunnery Sgt. Mario Madera-Rodriguez, have yet to face a judge in their cases.

Matthews told the military judge overseeing the case that the group never intended to kill Melgar, but they wanted to “remediate” him for perceived performance issues and a “slight” from the previ- ous night, accusing him of abandoning Maxwell and Madera-Rodriguez in an area of Bamako with which they were unfamiliar.

The SEAL, who had been a member of the Naval Special Warfare Development Group or SEAL Team 6 since 2005, said the group used a sledgehammer to break into Melgar’s quarters where he was asleep. He said they had planned to duct-tape his hands and feet and videotape him “to embarrass him.”

But Melgar became unresponsive and eventually died as DeDolph held him in a headlock, Matthews said.

“Words cannot express how deeply I regret those events and how remorseful I am,” Matthews said during his court-martial before he was sentenced. “The Navy expected me to be a leader. I am tor- mented by my complacency at a time when my teammates required my guidance and the situation required bold, corrective action.”

Maxwell, who is from Indiana, enlisted in the Marine Corps in November 2007 and served in Af- garistan, according to service records.

He served with the 3rd Marine Air Wing at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Caroli- na from 2009 to 2012. He graduated Marine Raider training in February 2013 and has since served with the elite 3rd Marine Special Operations Battalion.

Navy says Russian jet intercepted US aircraft 3 times over Mediterranean

By SCOTT WYLAND Stars and Stripes

A Russian fighter intercepted a Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft three times over the Mediterrane- an Sea on Tuesday, with two of the passes deemed unsafe, Navy officials said.

A Sukhoi Su-35 flew at high speed directly in front of the Posei- don on the second pass, which put the pilot and crew at risk, the Navy said in a statement. “When the Russian aircraft was operating in international airspace, this interaction was ir- responsible,” the 6th Fleet statement said. “We expect them to behave within international standards to set ensure safety and to prevent these interactions from increasing the risk of miscalculation and potential for midair collisions.”

The U.S. surveillance aircraft was operating consistent with international law and did not pro-

Ukraine’s new president commits to NATO and EU

BRUSSELS — Ukraine’s new president says his country still hopes to become a member of the NATO military alliance and the European Union but he is open to peace talks with neighboring Russia.

Standing beside NATO Sec- retary-General Jens Stolten- berg in Brussels on Tuesday, Volodymyr Zelensky said “the strategic course of Ukraine to achieve full-fledged membership in the EU and NATO ... remains unchanged.”

Zelensky said “armed ag- gression from Russia is a major challenge” but he stands ready to negotiate with Moscow and respect the Minsk agreement meant to end the conflict in east- ern Ukraine.

From The Associated Press

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AF general fired; unprofessional relationship cited

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

The two-star general at the helm of the Air Force Warfare Center at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada was relieved of command on Saturday because of an alleged unprofessional relationship.

Maj. Gen. Peter Gersten, who has led the center at the Air Force base since July 2017, is now part of an ongoing investigation, according to the statement released Wednesday from Air Combat Command at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia.

Gen. Mike Holmes, commander of the Air Combat Command, made the decision to relieve Gersten due to a loss of confidence in Gersten’s ability to continue in a leadership position because of the alleged relationship, according to the statement.

“The Air Force holds leaders to high standards and expects them to uphold the core values of the service at all times,” the statement reads.

Brig. Gen. David Snoddy, the center’s vice commander, will replace Gersten until Maj. Gen. Charles Corcoran, who was previously announced as the next Air Force Warfare Center commander, takes command in July.

Gersten is an F-16 Falcon pilot and a 1989 graduate of the Air Force Academy, according to his online biography. He has more than 400 combat hours in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Bosnia.

He previously held command of the 4th Fighter Squadron at Hill Air Force Base in Utah, the 8th Operations Group at Kunsan Air Base in South Korea and the 432nd Wing and 432nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada.

The warfare center as a training and testing program with units at Nellis and multiple other installations, according to the Air Force base website. The center has about 11,000 uniformed and civilian personnel.

SOURCE: YouGov.com

Poll: Generations divided on earlier wars

FROM FRONT PAGE

Few Americans feel there is never a reason for war — fewer than 1 out of 10 said so — but most said wars are rarely justified.

Slightly more than half said the Civil War and World War I were justified. Less than half of the participants believed major U.S. military interventions since 1945 — the Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War and Afghanistan — were worth fighting, while between roughly a quarter and a third in each case said they didn’t know.

It’s unclear whether this reflected conflicted feelings or a lack of awareness about the wars.

Respondents were not asked about the Iraq War from 2003 to 2011 or the campaign against the Islamic State that began in 2014.

America’s split on WWII was generational, with those born in the past 40 years least likely to support America’s role in the struggle.

Among millennials, defined as the generation born between 1982 and 1999, 19% said it was unjustified, along with 17% of those born later. About 4% of those born in the past 40 years dipped slightly, from 64% last year to 59% this year.

The number who said they anticipate a world war in the next 40 years dipped slightly, from 64% last year to 59% this year.

Pair who sold scar cream to Marines face trial

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Separate trials are being sought by a couple accused of fraudulently defrauding the U.S. military out of $65 million in a scheme involving prescriptions for pain and scar cream.

The Tennessee reported a recently filed court motion said Jimmy and Ashley Collins each plan to claim the other was the leader of a conspiracy to sell expensive pain and scar cream to Marines in California.

The couple is accused of managing a network of recruiters to persuade Marines to sign up for prescriptions for the cream, which was priced at about $14,000 per prescription. A Marine veteran who was the lead recruiter pleaded guilty last year.

Doctors who never examined the Marines wrote the prescriptions that were then filled by a Utah pharmacy that billed military insurance.

DOD contractor escapes penalty despite report

Bloomberg

The Pentagon’s top weapons buyer declined to impose disciplinary action recommended by the inspector general against Leidos Holdings Inc. for allegedly retaliating against a woman who complained of a hostile work environment at a subcontractor.

Ellen Lord, the undersecretary of defense for acquisition, “disagreed with the substantiation of the complaint and declined to take further action,” Inspector General Glenn Fine’s office disclosed Tuesday in its latest semiannual report.

Fine found the worker’s complaint valid in a January 2018 report. Fine determined that Leidos dropped the woman from a follow-up contract for the Office of Economic Adjustment “in reprisal” after she complained to the Defense Department and Leidos that a supervisor at the subcontractor she worked for made “inappropriate sexual and racial comments to her.”

“We found that” Leidos “had motive to exclude” her, the inspector general said in the report.

Lt. Col. Mike Andrews, a spokes-

man for Lord, said in a statement that her decision against taking action “does not mean” she “takes issue with the fundamental facts of the complaint” and that Leidos “will stand firm in our commitment to uphold the core values of the service at all times.”
8 US citizens detained during ISIS battles are sent home

BY LIZ SLY
The Washington Post

BEIRUT — Eight American citizens taken into Kurdish custody in northeastern Syria during the fight against Islamic State have been repatriated to the United States, America’s Syrian Kurdish allies said Wednesday.

The eight include two women and six children, and they were sent back “without any pressure or coercion” after the U.S. authorities submitted a request for their return, according to a statement issued by the Kurdish-led civilian administration in northeastern Syria.

The statement did not identify the Americans or say how they came to be in Syria, but officials had earlier said the eight were among around 13,000 foreigners, including around 8,000 children and 4,000 women, who had volunteered with ISIS. They are all now being detained in prison-like camps following the territorial defeat of the militants in March, according to figures supplied by the Kurdish-led administration.

The transfers are the first publicly announced repatriations of U.S. citizens since the ISIS war resulted in the capture or detention of many of the tens of thousands of foreigners who had flocked to join the group as it seized territory across Syria and Iraq earlier this decade. A small number have been sent back to the United States to face terrorism charges.

However, only a few dozen U.S. citizens are believed to have traveled to the region, according to figures known to have been detained by the Kurds, including two Americans — Hoda Muthana, of Alabama and Kimberly Gwen Polman, a dual-U.S.-Canadian citizen — who were interviewed by The New York Times in Syria in February.

It was not immediately clear whether those are the four Americans who were freed, and the Kurdish authorities would not say whether any other Americans are still being held.

Most Western governments have been reluctant to repatriate their citizens, including, until now, the United States — for a variety of reasons, including the fears that they will pose a security threat, pressure from constituents who don’t want them living in their communities and the logistical challenges of reaching the remote area of northeast Syria where they are held.

The Kurdish authorities are, however, pressing foreign governments to take them back, saying they also pose a danger to northeastern Syria, where Kurdish forces lack the capacity to care for them indefinitely. In one camp alone, al-Hawl, 5,200 foreign women and 2,000 children are held alongside more than 60,000 Syrians and Iraqis, according to figures provided by the Kurdish authorities.

Abdulkarim Omar, who heads the foreign relations department of the civilian authority established in northeastern Syria, said hundreds more are detained in two smaller camps.

There are also around 1,000 foreign male fighters held in prisons run by the Kurdish authorities, who are seeking international funding to bring them to trial in the self-proclaimed autonomous Kurdish region, he said.

But the authorities want to send the women and children back to their countries. There is a risk that they could escape, he said, and the Kurds don’t have the resources either to guard, feed and hold them long-term or try to rehabilitate them so that they can be released.

Kurdish officials said the U.S. military, which maintains a small number of troops in northeast Syria, helped facilitate the transfer of the Americans. The U.S. military declined to comment.

Matchmaking venture seeks to boost veteran entrepreneurship

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Retired Marine Corps Maj. Charles “Lynn” Lowder believes there aren’t enough veteran business owners — a personal passion on a personal mission to correct.

What has traditionally been a strong entrepreneurial trend among veterans in recent years is suffering an epide- mical decline, with business ownership in that population decreasing by 20 percent in the past 20 years, according to a federal report released in November. Lowder’s solution is something like a dating website, but instead of logging on to find a love connection, wannabe business owners can look for a match among companies for sale.

To make the idea a reality, Lowder, 73, along with restaura- tor Dale Eisenburg, 64, co-founded the Veteran Business Project, a nonprofit in Illinois for veterans who want to own businesses and for business owners wanting to sell.

“We’re like the eHarmony for veteran businesses,” Lowder explained. “We help veterans find anything about the Green Zone and felt that people there lived in another time.”

“I feel that Baghdad is bigger than before,” said Azher Assern, 25, who drove his car inside the Green Zone for the first time in his life on Tuesday. He said his uncle is a captain in the Iraqi government’s Army. “Now there is no difference, and this is beautiful,” he said.

The area was home to Saddam Hussein’s palaces before the war. It then became known as “Little America” following the 2003 U.S. invasion that toppled him after it was seized by U.S. military forces.

Baghdad’s Green Zone reopens to the public

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Baghdad’s Green Zone area, the heavily fortified strip on the west bank of the Tigris River, reopened to the public Tuesday after 16 years.

The 4-square-mile area, with its palm trees and monuments, has been off-limits to the public since the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq to topple dictator Saddam Hussein.

“I feel that Baghdad is bigger than before,” said Azher Assern, 25, who drove his car inside the Green Zone for the first time in his life on Tuesday. He said his uncle is a captain in the Iraqi government’s Army. “Now there is no difference, and this is beautiful,” he said.

The area was home to Saddam Hussein’s palaces before the war. It then became known as “Little America” following the 2003 U.S. invasion that toppled him after it was seized by U.S. military forces.
GOP senators line up against Mexico tariffs

By Lisa Mascaro, Luis Alonso Lugo and Darlene Superville
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a rare confrontation, Republican senators are declaring deep opposition to President Donald Trump's threatened tariffs on all goods coming into the U.S. from Mexico, but it's unclear how many votes to stop him, and Trump said they'd be "foolish" to try.

At least five Republicans who have been leaning toward supporting Trump's new tariffs on Mexico spoke out against them on Tuesday, offering a sign they're lukewarm at best to the president's trade initiatives.

Republican senators are hopeful that those talks will prevent the tariffs. But if negotiations should fail, the lawmakers warn they may have no choice but to take action to stop Trump.

"Our hope is the tariffs will be avoided," McConnell said.

Lawmakers and business allies worry the tariffs will derail the long-promised U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal — a rewrite of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which Trump campaigned against and promised to replace.

Ron Johnson, of Wisconsin, who was among the senators who spoke up, said, "I think the administration has to be concerned about another vote of disapproval. ... I'm not the only one saying it."

Senator Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he hopes the proposed tariffs on goods imported from Mexico can be avoided.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he hopes the proposed tariffs on goods imported from Mexico can be avoided.

"I think the administration has to be concerned about another vote of disapproval. ... I'm not the only one saying it."

Ron Johnson
Republican senator from Wisconsin

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The outcome would be uncertain — Trump could try to veto a disapproval resolution as he did before.

But many Republicans who voted against Trump earlier this year supported his ultimate goal of building the border wall. They were just uneasy with his executive reach to do it. Now, the president doesn't have anywhere near the same backing for the tariffs.

The GOP opposition is grounded in fears over what Trump's tariffs would do to the livelihoods of ordinary Americans. Senators worry they would spike U.S. consumers' costs, harm the economy and imperil a major pending U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal.

With jitters running high, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said Tuesday he's prepared to respond to the economy, and stocks rallied on that signal that the Fed will likely cut interest rates later this year.

Mexico is concerned about the tariffs as well, but top officials seemed optimistic about a resolution.

"By what we have seen so far, we will be able to reach an agreement," Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard said during a news conference at the Mexican Embassy in Washington. "That is why I think the imposition of tariffs can be avoided."

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Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the Finance Committee, told reporters Tuesday the tariffs "are protectionist, and IMF and the World Bank and the African Development Bank will all chime in and say the U.S. has to be more equitable in the negotiations."
NY set to be 1st to ban cat declawing

By David Klepper
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York would be the first state in the U.S. to ban the declawing of cats under legislation approved by lawmakers at the request of cat owners, animal welfare advocates and many veterinarians who call the procedure cruel and needless.

The bill, which would subject veterinarians to $1,000 fines for performing the operation, now heads to the desk of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, whose representatives said he will review the bill before deciding if he will sign it.

“Cats of New York: Show me your claws,” said Charlotte, N.C. A shark attack that cost a teenager her leg ended when her father — a Marine veteran — “punched the shark in the face,” according to Janet Winter, her daughter’s mother, posted on Facebook.

“Began striking the shark on the nose,” according to the “Today” show, saying Charlie Winter “began striking the shark on the nose.”

“Charlie wouldn’t stop until it released his little girl,” Bersch told the show. “He lives for his children.”

“Frankly, if you’re worried about your furniture, then you shouldn’t be getting a cat.”

Family: Dad punched shark to save daughter

By Mark Perle
The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A shark attack that cost a teenager her leg ended when her father — a Marine veteran — “punched the shark in the face,” according to Janet Winter, the girl’s grandmother.

Paige Winter, 17, of Havelock, was attacked by a shark while swimming in waist-deep water off Fort Macon as her father stood nearby, according to a GoFundMe page that had raised nearly $35,000 as of early Tuesday morning.

The father, Charlie Winter, is a firefighter and paramedic and had served in the Marines, according to the campaign.

Paige Winter lost part of one leg above the knee and some fingers.

“Thank God our son was with her,” the woman wrote. “He said he punched the shark in the face five times before it let go.”

Family friend Brandon Bersch confirmed the punches in a Monday interview with the “Today” show, saying Charlie Winter “began striking the shark on the nose.”

“Charlie wouldn’t stop until it released his little girl,” Bersch told the show. “He lives for his children.”

Marcy Goodrum Winter, the girl’s mother, posted on Facebook that her daughter was “groggy but cracking jokes” after her first surgery on Sunday. “She wants everyone to know that sharks are still good people,” her mom was quoted saying on the GoFundMe page.

Charlie Winter’s fearless attack on the shark has won him praise across the country, particularly from news outlets that cover the U.S. Marines. “Who needs a bigger boat when you have a Marine’s fists?” wrote Taskand-Purpose.com.

“The horrific shark attack” occurred about 12:20 p.m. Sunday off Fort Macon State Park at Atlantic Beach, according to the GoFundMe page. Paige Winter was taken to Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, where she was listed in good condition after surgery, according to the GoFundMe page.

Calif. city votes to decriminalize magic mushrooms

By Samantha Malonado
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Oakland, California, on Tuesday became the second U.S. city to decriminalize magic mushrooms after a string of speakers testified that psychedelics helped them overcome depression, drug addiction and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The City Council voted unanimously to decriminalize the adult use and possession ofmagic mushrooms and other entheogenic, or psychoactive, plants and fungi.

Councilwoman Pam Davis-Peccia, who says she uses psilocybin mushrooms to help manage her anxiety, motioned to approve a similar measure for people 21 and older.

Speakers overwhelmingly supported the move, describing substances such as ayahuasca and peyote as traditional plant-based medicines.

“Use of the plants sought of me, and the plants as providing spiritual healing. The vote makes the investigation and arrest of adults who grow, possess, use or distribute entheogenic plants one of the lowest priorities for police. No city funds could be used to enforce laws criminalizing the substances, and the Alameda County District Attorney would not prosecute people who have been apprehended for use or possession.

Councilmemmemember Noel Gallo, who voted against the resolution, said he didn’t want to see people possessing such plants, including entheogenic ones, for a variety of ailments.

“Growing up in the Mexican community, this was our cure,” he said.

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Press seeking comment before the meeting. Alameda County District Attorney Teresa Drenick declined to comment.

Magic mushrooms would remain illegal under both federal and state laws. Entheogenic substances are considered Schedule 1 drugs under the federal Controlled Substances Act, which categorizes drugs that have potential for abuse and no medical value.

Skeptics had raised concerns about unsafe use, especially in schools. To address such concerns, Gallo said earlier, lawmakers would have to establish rules and regulations about the use of such substances, including what exactly can be used, how to use them and what associated risks are.

Entheogenic plants have long been used in religious and cultural contexts. Gallo remembers his grandmother treating his family with plants, including entheogenic ones, for a variety of ailments.

“Growing up in the Mexican community, this was our cure,” he said.

In this handout photo provided by Associated Press, a GoFundMe campaign was started for Paige Winter, 17, of Havelock, N.C. The campaign was started for Paige Winter, who was attacked by a shark while swimming in waist-deep water off Fort Macon as her father stood nearby, according to the GoFundMe page that had raised nearly $35,000 as of early Tuesday morning. (Associated Press_photo)
Court mulls whether climate change violates kids’ rights

BY ANDREW SELSKY  
Associated Press  

PORTLAND, Ore. — In a courtroom packed with environmental activists, federal judges wrestled Tuesday with whether climate change violates the constitutional rights of young people who have sued the U.S. government over the use of fossil fuels.

A Justice Department attorney warned three judges from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that allowing the case to go to trial would be unprecedented and open the doors to more lawsuits.

“This case would have earth-shattering consequences,” Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey Clark said.

He called the lawsuit “a direct attack on the separation of powers” and said the 21 young people who filed it want the courts to direct U.S. energy policy instead of government officials.

The young people are pressing the government to stop promoting the use of fossil fuels, saying sources such as coal and oil cause climate change and violate their Fifth Amendment rights to life, liberty and property.

The judges seemed to feel the enormity of the case, which the plaintiffs’ lawyer compared in scope to the U.S. Supreme Court’s Brown v. Board of Education ruling that mandated desegregation of schools in the 1950s.

If the case moves forward, the judiciary would be “dealing with different branches of government and telling them what to do,” said Judge Andrew Hurwitz, instead of issuing court orders telling officials to stop doing something deemed unconstitutional.

The dire threat to people, particularly the young, demands such action, said Julia Olson, chief legal counsel for Our Children’s Trust, which is representing the plaintiffs.

“When our great-grandchildren look back on the 21st century, they will see that government-sanctioned climate destruction was the constitutional issue of this century,” Olson told the judges.

The lawsuit asks the courts to declare federal energy policy that contributes to climate change unconstitutional, order the government to quickly phase out carbon dioxide emissions to a certain level by 2100 and mandate a national climate recovery plan.

The Obama and Trump administrations have tried to get the case dismissed since it was filed in Oregon in 2015.

“It’s just really disappointing to see the lengths that they go to — to not only not let us get the remedy that we’re seeking, but not even let us have the chance to prove our facts or present our case at trial,” said Nathan Baring, 19, from Fairbanks, Alaska, who joined the lawsuit when he was 15.

The young people argue that government officials have known for more than 50 years that carbon pollution from fossil fuels causes climate change and that policies promoting oil and gas deprive them of their constitutional rights.

Lawyers for President Donald Trump’s administration say the young people didn’t find any “historical basis for a fundamental right to a stable climate system or any other constitutional right related to the environment.”

The lawsuit says the young are more vulnerable to serious effects from climate change in the future.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, 14 other health organizations and nearly 80 scientists and doctors agreed in a brief filed with the appeals court.

House OKs Democrats’ immigration bill despite threat of veto

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats shunned a White House veto threat and muscled legislation through the House on Tuesday that would bestow a chance for citizenship on an estimated 2 million-plus migrants who entered the country illegally as children.

The measure is just one skirmish in Democrats’ multi-front battle against most congressional Republicans over immigration, an issue that has deadlocked the two parties for decades but intensified under the harsh policies and rhetoric of President Donald Trump. It is likely fated to join a host of other House-passed measures advancing Democrats’ agenda that are running aground in the GOP-run Senate, including legislation on health care, gun control, climate change and election security.

The bill passed on a near party-line vote and was expected to be awaiting Trump’s signature, but a White House veto threat and the president’s refusal to make a decision could delay its fate.

Trump has unilaterally diverted a portion of the billions of dollars in federal dollars allocated for building the president’s border wall.

The House-passed bill would provide for deportation and provoke a pathway toward citizenship for young migrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children. Many would be “Dreamers” currently covered under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which only the federal courts have thwarted Trump from dismantling.

It would also shield others here temporarily because their home countries — chiefly in Central America, Africa and the Middle East — have been ravaged by wars or natural disasters.

The nonprofit Congressional Budget Office estimated that more than 2 million people already in the U.S. would get legal status under the House bill. The analysts also said the measure would cost more than $30 billion over the next decade, largely because many migrants attaining legal status would qualify for federal benefits such as Medicaid.

Among the bill’s supporters are the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO labor organization, immigration and liberal groups.

Officials: Flood won’t sink city’s hopes

Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — An economically struggling Arkansas city in the midst of a revitalization plan continued flooding Tuesday as the Arkansas River crested its banks, but local officials said even now it’s around 5%. The median household income between 2015 and 2017 was about $32,000, about $11,000 below the state average.

But even with the threat of catastrophic flooding and the institutional economic disadvantages, city officials said Pine Bluff can still recover and rebuild.

Officials are relying heavily on the prospect of state and federal funding, which will come if President Donald Trump declares a major disaster, as he’s done in some counties in Oklahoma.

Washington said the strength of the city has demonstrated Pine Bluff’s ability to rebuild.

“We’re going to keep Pine Bluff moving forward,” Washington said. “We’ve filed it, we want the courts to dismiss it.”

The lawsuit asks the courts to declare federal energy policy that contributes to climate change unconstitutional, order the government to quickly phase out carbon dioxide emissions to a certain level by 2100 and mandate a national climate recovery plan.

The Obama and Trump administrations have tried to get the case dismissed since it was filed in Oregon in 2015.

“It’s just really disappointing to see the lengths that they go to — to not only not let us get the remedy that we’re seeking, but not even let us have the chance to prove our facts or present our case at trial,” said Nathan Baring, 19, from Fairbanks, Alaska, who joined the lawsuit when he was 15.

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The American Academy of Pediatrics, 14 other health organizations and nearly 80 scientists and doctors agreed in a brief filed with the appeals court.

House OKs Democrats’ immigration bill despite threat of veto

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats shunned a White House veto threat and muscled legislation through the House on Tuesday that would bestow a chance for citizenship on an estimated 2 million-plus migrants, a bill that stands virtually no chance of enactment but lets them showcase their efforts on one of their highest-profile priorities.

The bill passed on a near party-line 237-187 vote as supporters in the House visitors’ galleries roared “Yes We Can” and other chants, a rare display of raucous emotion in a chamber whose rules require decorum by its guests. Seven Republicans from mostly moderate districts were the only lawmakers to cross party lines.

As if to underscore the relentlessness and sweep of the immigration fight, the Democratic-led House Appropriations Committee took its own swipe at Trump by unveiling a separate bill that provides no additional money next year for building the president’s long-sought barriers along the southwest border.

That measure also claws back a portion of the billions of dollars Trump has unilaterally diverted toward constructing portions of his wall.

The House-passed bill would provide for deportation and provoke a pathway toward citizenship for young migrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children. Many would be “Dreamers” currently protected by the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which only the federal courts have thwarted Trump from dismantling.

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Homelessness rises
12% in LA County, according to study

By Christopher Weber
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The number of homeless people counted across Los Angeles County has jumped over the past year from nearly 59,000, with more young and old residents and families on the streets, officials said Tuesday.

The majority of the homeless were found within the city of Los Angeles, where a 16% increase to 36,300, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority said in presenting January’s annual count to the county Board of Supervisors.

The increase was registered a year after the previous tally found a slight decrease in the county’s homeless population.

The problem is evident just outside the board meeting, where a man and a woman were camped out on a small patch of lawn. Tents regularly pop up on the pavement outside nearby City Hill, and hundreds of people live in makeshift shanties that line entire blocks in the notorious neighborhood known as Skid Row.

But while some people who had been homeless managed to get permanent places to live, others who had homes were forced onto the streets of metro Los Angeles’ vast urban sprawl.

“They are being housed out of homelessness and falling into homelessness on a ‘vast urban sprawl’ basis,” said Peter Lynn, the authority’s executive director.

About a quarter of those counted become homeless for the first time in 2018, and about half of those cited economic hardship as the primary cause, the authority said. To reduce homelessness, communities must overcome resistance to the placement of housing and shelters, officials said.

Three years ago, Los Angeles voters approved a tax increase and $1.2 billion housing bond to make a decade’s worth of massive investments to help solve the homelessness crisis. That bond money has been built to cover more than half of the 10,000 new housing units planned countywide by the next decade, Lynn said.

The Skid Row area is “ground zero” for the crisis, where the concentration of human waste permeates the air and violence is common, said Estela Lopez, of the Downtown Industrial Business Improvement District.

The district’s business members, mainly fish and produce vendors, pay additional property tax for on-demand power-washing of sidewalks and a private security force that mediates disputes and clearing people congregating at companies’ front doors and loading docks.

The proposal passed the Democratic-led House 73-72. Senate Bill 202 would have amended the state’s assisted suicide law to effectively legalize it. The proposal passed the Democratic-led state Senate 19-16 on Tuesday after lawmakers recounted the last days of their own loved ones. The Democratic-led House had approved it Monday by the narrowest of margins — 73-72.

Maine has the oldest average state population. But as in other states, the proposal has exposed divisions regardless of party line.

“Ask yourself what to do for several hours — waiting a prison rape scene from a movie and heading to a store for cigarettes with his oldest child while leaving the other one with the body — before deciding to kill them all,” the father told the jury.

The father and his ex-wife, Elizabeth, were convicted in the deaths of their five children in 2014. Prosecutors said Jones then considered what to do for several hours — watching a prison rape scene from a movie and heading to a store for cigarettes with his oldest child while leaving the other one with the body — before deciding to kill them all.

Jones would eventually strangle Mera, 8, and Elias, 7, with his hands and, in his confession, said he used a belt to choke Gabriel, 2, and Abigail, 1, because his hands were too big, prosecutor Rick Hubbard said in his closing argument Monday.

Jones then wrapped the bodies of all five children in plastic and drove around the Southeast U.S. for nine days, running a few errands, buying synthetic marihuana, but mainly making erratic trips, Hubbard said, citing bank and cellphone records.

Timothy Jones Jr. stands with his attorney, Boyd Young, at court in Lexington, S.C., on Tuesday after being found guilty in the deaths of his five children in 2014.

Bill to legalize assisted suicide in Maine advances to governor

By Marina Villeviche
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Maine — The Maine Legislature voted Tuesday to legalize assisted suicide, with supporters declaring it in line with the state’s tradition of individualism and opponents insisting the practice tempts fate.

The bill now goes to Democratic Gov. Janet Mills, who has 10 days to act on the bill and has not indicated whether she will let it become law. Her office said she has not yet taken a position.

The proposal had failed once in a statewide vote and at least seven previous times in the Legislature. If Mills signs it, Maine would join seven other states, including New Jersey this year, and Washington, D.C., with similar laws, according to the Death With Dignity National Center and the Death With Dignity Political Fund.

Maine’s bill would allow doctors to prescribe terminally ill people a fatal dose of medication. The bill declares that obtaining or administering life-ending medication is not suicide under state law. Still, it effectively legalizes it.

The proposal passed the Democratic-led state Senate 19-16 on Tuesday after lawmakers recounted the last days of their own loved ones. The Democratic-led House had approved it Monday by the narrowest of margins — 73-72.

Maine has the oldest average state population. But as in other states, the proposal has exposed divisions regardless of party line.

“I hope you will come down on the side of the terminally ill, people who don’t seem to be asking for too much: the right to choose their own end of life care,” said Republican Sen. Marianne Moore, a supporter who pointed to the bill’s pages of protections for terminally ill patients. That captures the spirit of the “libertarian Maine tradition” of individual rights, she said.

Critics argue that doctors can make mistakes and the bill could have unintended consequences. Republican Sen. Scott Cyrway said he had relatives live for years longer than expected after being told they had a few months to live.

Deputy charged for inaction in school shooting

By Curt Anderson and Terry Spencer
Associated Press

MIAMI — The Florida deputy who knew a gunman was loose at the Parkland high school but never entered the building during the massacre that killed 17 people had homes were forced onto the streets of metro Los Angeles’ vast urban sprawl.

“People are being housed out of homelessness and falling into homelessness on a ‘vast urban sprawl’ basis,” said Peter Lynn, the authority’s executive director.

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Three years ago, Los Angeles voters approved a tax increase and $1.2 billion housing bond to make a decade’s worth of massive investments to help solve the homelessness crisis. That bond money has been built to cover more than half of the 10,000 new housing units planned countywide by the next decade, Lynn said.

The Skid Row area is “ground zero” for the crisis, where the concentration of human waste permeates the air and violence is common, said Estela Lopez, of the Downtown Industrial Business Improvement District.

The district’s business members, mainly fish and produce vendors, pay additional property tax for on-demand power-washing of sidewalks and a private security force that mediates disputes and clearing people congregating at companies’ front doors and loading docks.

The proposal passed the Democratic-led House 73-72. Senate Bill 202 would have amended the state’s assisted suicide law to effectively legalize it. The proposal passed the Democratic-led state Senate 19-16 on Tuesday after lawmakers recounted the last days of their own loved ones. The Democratic-led House had approved it Monday by the narrowest of margins — 73-72.

Maine has the oldest average state population. But as in other states, the proposal has exposed divisions regardless of party line.

“I hope you will come down on the side of the terminally ill, people who don’t seem to be asking for too much: the right to choose their own end of life care,” said Republican Sen. Marianne Moore, a supporter who pointed to the bill’s pages of protections for terminally ill patients. That captures the spirit of the “libertarian Maine tradition” of individual rights, she said.

Critics argue that doctors can make mistakes and the bill could have unintended consequences. Republican Sen. Scott Cyrway said he had relatives live for years longer than expected after being told they had a few months to live.
Sudanese men and a child headed to a mosque navigate a roadblock set up by protesters on a main street in the capital, Khartoum, to stop military vehicles from driving through the area Wednesday.

Sudanese generals seek new talks as death toll reaches 60

By Bassam Hatoum and Samy Magdy
Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Sudan’s military council said Wednesday the ruling generals are ready to resume negotiations with the opposition after three days of a violent crackdown on pro-democracy protesters that left 60 dead across the country.

The head of the council, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, said there would be “no restrictions” in talks with the leaders behind the monthslong street protests.

“We open our hands to negotiations with all parties… for the interest of the nation,” Burhan said, adding that those responsible for the violent break up of the demonstrators’ sit-in in the capital, Khartoum, would be held accountable.

There was no immediate reaction from the protest movement.

The motives for Burhan’s about-face — if sincere — were not immediately clear. Burhan had earlier cut the negotiations and canceled all agreed-on points between the military and the Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change, an alliance which represents the protesters.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the military’s violent crackdown on protesters reached 60 on Wednesday, organizers said.

The mounting casualties are the latest challenge to the protest movement, which now aims to show it can keep up pressure in the streets after its rallying point — the weeklong sit-in outside the military headquarters in Khartoum — was wiped out Monday.

In April, the movement succeeded in forcing the military to remove Sudan’s longtime strongman, Omar al-Bashir. It then kept its sit-in going, demanding that the generals who took power hand over authority to civilians.

The last previously reported death toll stood at 40, but the Sudan Doctors Committee said security forces killed at least 10 people Wednesday in Khartoum and its twin city of Omdurman. That came after another 10 people were killed Tuesday, including five in the White Nile state, three in Omdurman and two in Khartoum’s Bahari neighborhood.

Australian cardinal appeals sex convictions

By Rod McGuirk
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Lawyers for the most senior Roman Catholic found guilty of child sex abuse argued in his appeal on Wednesday that he could not have molested two choirboys in an Australian cathedral undetected after Sunday Masses while he was dressed in an archbishop’s robes.

Cardinal George Pell, 77, wore a black suit and black shirt with a cleric’s collar when he appeared for the Victoria state Court of Appeal hearing before three judges. He came and went from the court as the sole occupant of a prison van.

Pell’s lawyer, Brett Walker, argued for more than five hours that the five verdicts against Pell were “unsafe and unsatisfactory” and should be overturned.

Pell’s lawyers cited former High Court Justice Michael McHugh who said “juries are likely to be affected by the prejudices and even the hysterias that from time to time are found in the community.”

Demonstrator Joe Mitchell, 83, drove more than 600 miles from his home in Newcastle in New South Wales state to Melbourne to protest outside the court against the church response to child abuse.

“I’m a victim. I hope they put a rope around his … neck,” a tearful Mitchell said. “They say how could you remember back 70 years? I remember everything.”

German former nurse offers apology at trial for 100 deaths

By David Rising
Associated Press

BERLIN — A former nurse on trial for allegations he killed 100 patients at two hospitals in northern Germany apologized to his victims’ relatives in a final statement to the court Wednesday, saying he realized how much pain and suffering he had caused with his “terrible deeds.”

“I have and every one of you I sincerely apologize for all that I have done,” Niels Hoegel, 42, told the Oldenburg regional court after his defense attorneys had made their closing arguments, according to the dpa news agency.

His defense attorneys argued for acquittal in 31 of the 100 counts of murder against him.

In total, the deaths — which took place at a hospital in Oldenburg between 1999 and 2002 and another hospital in nearby Delmenhorst from 2003 to 2005 — are thought to be the largest string of serial killings in postwar Germany. Hoegel’s alleged victims ranged in age from 34 to 96.

“Neither we nor Mr. Hoegel deny that he is the perpetrator in many cases,” one of his defenders, Ulrike Baumann, told the court. “But he can only be convicted for crimes he committed and not for crimes he could have committed.”

Hoegel was convicted in 2015 of two murders and two attempted murders. He said of his first trial that he intentionally brought about cardiac crises in some 90 patients in Delmenhorst because he enjoyed the feeling of being able to resuscitate them. He later told investigators that he had also killed patients in Oldenburg.

Authorities subsequently investigated hundreds of deaths.

Please are not entered in the German legal system but during the seven-month trial, Hoegel admitted to 43 of the killings.

Leader says Iran will resist US pressure

By Rod McGuirk
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Tuesday that Iran will continue resisting U.S. economic and political pressure.

Khamenei addressed thousands of people at the 30th anniversary of the death of Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the Islamic Republic, at Khomeini’s mausoleum in the capital Tehran.

Without referring to the U.S. by name, Khamenei said “standing and resisting the enemy’s excessive demands and bullying is the only way to stop them.”

Tensions between Washington and Tehran soared recently over America deployment of an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf over a threat it perceives from Tehran.

Last year, the U.S. withdrew from a nuclear deal between Iran and world powers and reimposed sanctions on Iran targeting the country’s oil sector.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said the U.S. is willing to talk with Iran “with no preconditions.” Iran says the U.S. must return to the deal first.

Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, said Iran’s military is threatening Iran with hostility because “they want us to be losers and put our hands up as a sign of surrender, and because we don’t do that, they threaten us.”

Khamenei added: “Resistance has a cost, but the cost of surrendering to the enemy is higher.”

The ayatollah urged Iranian officials not to pay attention to offers for negotiations made by the U.S.

The Supreme Leader added that Iran is under pressure to negotiate over its missile program because it has been developed to the point where it is a deterrent.

Khamenei also criticized Iran’s regional rival, Saudi Arabia, for taking a stance against Iran in accordance with the U.S. position.

Saudi Arabia recently held a series of summits with Muslim countries and accused Iran’s behavior of threatening regional stability and security.

Iran rejected the accusation.
Officals capture bear spotted on campus

CA — Officials at the University of California, Davis said a bear spotted on campus has been captured and removed from the university.

UC Davis said in a tweet and a message to students that Fish and Game officials “safely detained and removed” the animal.

UC Davis spokesman Andy Fell told the Sacramento Bee the bear was first reported about 5:45 a.m. Tuesday near a parking lot by a park.

He said the bear climbed up a tree in a grassy area near the Hyatt Place hotel on campus.

Gator crashes couple’s picnic date by lake

FL — A hungry alligator crashed a picnic date by a Florida lake and gobbled down an entire bowl of guacamole.

Taylor Forte had planned a picnic for her fiance, Trevor Walters, at Lake Alice before Walters was to leave for the Marines.

Walters told WGFL they were shocked and ran when the animal sprinted onto the beach. First, it ate a block of cheese, then some salami, half a watermelon and a pound of grapes.

Walters said the “worst part” was watching the gator consume a big bowl of guacamole. He said the reptile devoured the bowl as well.

2 sets of twins graduate at the top of their class

MI — Four high school students in southeastern Michigan have more in common than graduating with the highest grade point averages in their class.

They each also have a twin.

The Michigan Citizen Patriot reported that two sets of twins graduated from Grass Lake High School on Sunday.

Identical twins Kayla and Maria Bolton shared the honor of being valedictorians after earning the highest GPAs.

The Jackson Citizen Patriot reported that two sets of twins graduated from Grass Lake High School on Sunday.

Identical twins Kayla and Maria Bolton shared the honor of being valedictorians after earning the highest GPAs.

Maria Bolton shared the honor of being valedictorians after earning the highest GPAs.

Twins Connor and Barrett Bagby being valedictorians after earning the highest GPAs.

The number of stitches a 7-year-old girl needed after a dog bit her face. The Riverside County Department of Animal Services said the 2-year-old male Akita lunged and bit the girl at a private animal rescue in Romoland, Calif. The girl was at the kennel with her family, hoping to adopt a dog. KABC-TV reported the child is recovering after undergoing three hours of surgery. Due to the severity of the attack, Animal Services was working to have the dog put down.

Iconic sculpture

Weiming Chen, center, and a group of volunteers line up a tank and “Tank Man” sculpture at Chen’s Liberty Sculpture Park in Yermo, Calif., on Sunday. The sculpture, unveiled Monday, commemorates protesters killed during the Tiananmen Square crackdown in Beijing in 1989.

Museum welcomes 6-ton rock from China

TX — A museum in South Texas has welcomed a big boulder.

A crane was used to maneuver the more than 6-ton rock donated to the San Antonio Museum of Art from a sister city in China.

The donation joins the San Antonio Museum of Art’s collection of scholars’ rocks and will be installed on campus in November.

THE CENSUS

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**Power duo talk lack of women in late night TV**

By Lindsey Bahr  
Associated Press

“Late Night,” a new comedy from Mindy Kaling, establishes itself as a fantasy from the outset. It’s about a veteran late night talk show host who is a woman, after all.

Emma Thompson says host, Katherine Newbury, who decides to allow the hire of a very green but very eager newcomer, Molly (Kaling) to her all white team of writers and male writing staff. It scored a record acquisition at the Sundance Film Festival this year and opens in select U.S. theaters Friday and nationwide June 14.

The Associated Press spoke to Kaling and Thompson about the film, which explores serious issues like gender bias, “diversity hires” and the grueling demands of late night with enjoyable comedy drawn from real-life stories of difficult TV bosses. Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Why did you choose the setting of late night talk shows?

Kaling: I’ve always been intrigued by late night TV. I write for scripted half-hour shows which you’d think would be so similar that I would know this world, but it really is its own beast. It’s very tied to New York City, it’s a very magnetic environment and the level of hyper competition in these shows both within the different hosts but between writers on staff is so different than what I’m used to. I loved shining a light on how and why that is.

AP: What does it feel like to be in a female driven TV show?

Kaling: It’s very strange to approach by someone who lives half the world away and is thinking about you to the degree that they created a story for you to star in.

Thompson: It’s not strange to write with someone in mind. I write with people in mind.

AP: You’re the last time someone has said you’re the new person in the theater. Did you draw on that idea?

Kaling: I think there’s historically been a feeling that late night is based on hard jokes. Set up, punchline, of daily news. And you have noticed on almost all late night talk shows, the band is almost exclusively male.

Kaling: Because Fox2000 gave me this project, they didn’t want to make it. And now they’re not a company. I’m not saying that’s a bad thing, but that’s the truth. It was supposed to be a big, glossy New York City movie, and then the company who was going to make it wasn’t interested in it any more, so they gave it back to me. They lost faith in it. And so it was an indie movie. To make a movie like this in 25 days with $11 million is extremely hard.

**Spice Lee to present Denzel Washington with AFI award**

Spike Lee will present Denzel Washington with American Film Institute’s Life Achievement Award.

AFI said Tuesday that Lee will present the actor and director with the honor at a gala Thursday at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood.

Lee has directed four films, including “Malcolm X” and “Inside Hollywood,” his career by presenting his friend and collaborator, was killed.

**Other news**

- The Paris prosecutor’s office said that an investigation into a woman’s rape and sexual assault accusations against actor Gerard Depardieu has been dropped because of a lack of evidence. A preliminary investigation was opened Aug. 27 after a young woman filed a complaint near the southern city of Aix-en-Provence for rape and sexual aggression. At the time, Depardieu’s lawyer, Herve Tomme, said the actor “absolutely denies any rape, any sexual assault, any crime” and dismissed the complaint as “groundless.”
- An explosion on the set of the new James Bond movie Tuesday injured one crew member and damaged a stage at Pinewood Studios outside of London. The film’s official Twitter account said the accident came from a “controlled explosion.” No one was injured on set, but a crew member outside the stage suffered a minor injury. This is the second production incident on the untitled film. Shooting was set back in May after Daniel Craig hurt his foot while performing a stunt in Jamaica.
- Tracy Morgan was involved in a minor traffic accident Wednesday while driving his 2019 Bugatti in midtown Manhattan on Tuesday. Police said the mishap involved Morgan, 50, and his Bugatti, reportedly worth around $2 million, and a 61-year-old man driving a Honda CR-V. A representative said Morgan bought the vehicle an hour before the accident. In 2014, the former “30 Rock” and “Saturday Night Live” star suffered severe head trauma when a truck slammed into the limo van he was riding in. Comedian James McIner, his friend and collaborator, was killed.
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Help is there when vets battling addiction take 1st step

Dr. Paul Little
Special to Stars and Stripes

Nineteen years ago, my life looked perfect from the outside. I was a physician in the U.S. Air Force. I had just won an award as an outstanding officer. Good job, great family, happy life.

People were shocked to discover that I was addicted to pain pills. What started as a routine hernia repair surgery ended with a full-blown addiction to Percocet. I was working as a student nurse at the time, and the medication gave me the relief, calmness and energy I craved.

For veterans, there’s a myth that addictions weakness, failure or a lack of morals, and for years it’s been “treated” with punitive measures. I was severely punished for my addiction — after all, that was the military way at the time — and I was discharged from the Air Force.

Thankfully, I found a new calling. I’ve since worked with hundreds of veterans dealing with substance use disorder and addiction through both a Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in West Virginia — one of the states hit hardest by the opioid epidemic — and in private practice. The common thread uniting us all is that we had the courage to come forward, put our pride aside and seek help. Today, I am 19 years sober.

The data on the state of veteran mental health and substance abuse in America is daunting. Studies suggest only half of returning service members who need treatment for their mental health actually seek care, and substance use continues to be a growing concern among both enlisted and retired members of the armed forces.

But there is hope. Today, we know addiction is a disease of the brain, one that can be diagnosed and treated with the right combination therapies. These include medication-assisted treatment as well as holistic mental, spiritual and physical health programs proven to help patients break from the chains of addiction and live a substance-free life.

Veterans have much better access to care for both addiction and mental health issues like post-traumatic stress disorder, which is often at the root of a substance use disorder. Many VA clinics offer their own substance use treatment programs, and others refer patients to civilian treatment programs to make sure our veterans get the care, compassion and recovery services they need to be productive members of civilian society.

Dr. Paul Little is medical director at Laguna Treatment Hospital, an American Addiction Centers treatment facility in Aliso Viejo, Calif. An Air Force veteran, he has spent more than half of his 20 years of experience in medicine focused on treating addiction.
Sephora closes stores for diversity training

‘Inclusion workshops’ come after incident with R&B star

BY ALEXANDRA OLSON  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sephora closed its U.S. stores for an hour Wednesday morning to host “inclusion workshops” for its 16,000 employees, just over a month after R&B star SZA said she had security called on her while shopping at a store in California.

The beauty retailer said the training had been in development months before SZA’s experience, which undermined the company’s efforts to cast itself as a champion of diversity. Sephora, which apologized to SZA last month, said the incident “does reinforce why bringing in now more important than ever.”

In addition to the store closures, the company said it would also close its distribution centers and corporate office for the workshops to discuss what it means to belong in the context of “gender identity, race and ethnicity, age abilities and more.” The stores will open to customers following the training.

Sephora provided few details about its workshops, which were closed to the public. The company said they would be followed by “future training moments” for employees but did not answer questions about what would be taught and how or why they were designed.

The initiative echoed Starbucks’ decision to close its stores last year for anti-bias training sessions following an uproar over the arrest of two black men for sitting at a Philadelphia Starbucks without ordering anything. That incident triggered protests and threats of boycotts and eventually prompted the Philadelphia Police Department to announce a new policy on how to confront people accused of trespassing on private property.

While Starbucks also kept its training private, it released training materials showing that employees were asked to break into small groups to talk about their experience with race. The program was developed with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Reaction was more muted when SZA tweeted on April 30 that a Sephora employee had called security to make sure she wasn’t stealing. SZA, who once appeared in an ad for the Fenty makeup line that Sephora carries, identified the employee only as “Sandy Sephora.”

Renault delays decision on Fiat Chrysler merger

BY ANGELA CHARLTON  
Associated Press

PARIS — Renault has delayed a decision on whether to merge with Fiat Chrysler, a deal that could reshape the global auto industry as carmakers race to make electric and autonomous vehicles for the masses.

The deal still looks likely, but it faced new criticism Tuesday from Renault’s leading union and questions from its Japanese alliance partner Nissan. The French carmaker’s board is also putting conditions on the deal, including job guarantees and an operational headquarters based in France.

The French carmaker’s board Tuesday to “continue to study with interest” last week’s merger proposal from Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Renault said in a statement.

A Renault board meeting Tuesday to study the deal was inconclusive. The company didn’t call an in, but a French government official said board members don’t want to rush into a deal and are seeking agreement on all parts of the potential merger.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the conditions outlined by France’s finance minister still “need to be met.”

France and Italy are painting themselves as winners in the deal, which could save both companies $5.6 billion a year. But workers worry a merger could lead to job losses, and analysts warn it could bog down in the challenges of managing such a hulking compa-

The big loser may end up being Japan’s Nissan, whose once-mighty alliance with Renault and Mitsubishi is on the rocks since CEO Carlos Ghosn’s arrest in November.

Nissan CEO Hiroto Saikawa cast doubt Tuesday on whether his company will be involved in a Renault-Fiat Chrysler merger — and suggested adding Fiat Chrysler to the looser Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance instead.

Saikawa said the Renault-Fiat Chrysler deal would “significantly alter” the structure of Nissan’s longstanding partnership with Renault, and Nissan would analyze its contractual relationships to protect the company’s interests.

If Renault’s board says “yes” to Fiat Chrysler, that would open the way for a nonbinding memorandum of understanding to start exclusive merger negotiations. The ensuing process — including consultations with unions, the French government, antitrust authorities and other regulators — would take about a year.

A merger would create the world’s third-biggest automaker, worth almost $40 billion and producing some 8.7 million vehicles a year. That’s more than General Motors makes, and trails only Volkswagen and Toyota.

But Nissan wasn’t consulted on the deal and, before Ghosn’s arrest, resisted his idea for a full merger with Renault. Ghosn denies accusations of financial wrongdoing.

Renault’s board announced Tuesday an internal investigation of the alliance subsidiary KNBV found “deficiencies in terms of financial transparency and procedures for monitoring expenditure” and recommended a joint legal action with Nissan as a result.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

THURSDAY IN EUROPE

FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC

EXCHANGE RATES

Interest rates

Dow Jones industrials 512.60
Nasdaq composite 194.10
Standard & Poor’s 500 58.82
Russell 2000 38.54

Prime rate ..........................5.50
Discount rate ..........................3.60
Fed funds rate ..................1.75
3-month bill ..........................2.30
30-year bond ......................2.60

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College baseball

College Baseball poll

TUCSON, Ariz. — The College Baseball poll, with records through June 3, total points and last week’s ranking, voting is done by coaches, sports writers and sports information directors.

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<td>25. Texas A&amp;M</td>
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NCAA Tournament

Best of three: x if necessary

1. Louisville vs. East Carolina
2. Friday-Louisville (4-7) vs. East Carolina (47-16)
3. Saturday—Louisville vs. East Carolina
4. Sunday—Louisville vs. East Carolina

1. Vanderbilt vs. Duke
2. Friday—Vanderbilt vs. Duke (34-25)
3. Saturday—Vanderbilt vs. Duke
4. Sunday—Vanderbilt vs. Duke

1. Houston vs. Texas Tech
2. Friday—Houston vs. Texas Tech (42-17) vs. Oklahoma State
3. Saturday—Texas Tech vs. Oklahoma State
4. Sunday—Texas Tech vs. Oklahoma State

1. Los Angeles vs. Michigan
2. Friday—UCLA (30-8) vs. Michigan (44-19)
3. Saturday—UCLA vs. Michigan
4. Sunday—Los Angeles vs. Michigan

1. Arkansas vs. Mississippi State
2. Friday—Arkansas vs. Mississippi State (49-14)
3. Saturday—Mississippi State vs. Stanford
4. Sunday—Arkansas vs. Mississippi State

1. Miami vs. Florida
2. Friday—Miami vs. Florida (4-7)
3. Saturday—Florida vs. Miami
4. Sunday—Miami vs. Florida

1. LSU vs. Florida State
2. Friday—LSU vs. Florida State (39-21)
3. Saturday—LSU vs. Florida State
4. Sunday—LSU vs. Florida State

College basketball

Pro basketball

UCLA tops Oregon for 13th national title

By Cliff Brunt

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — UCLA is back on top.

When Washington State's RBI single in the bottom of the seventh inning lifted the Bruins past Oklahoma 5-4 Tuesday night, UCLA won the championship series 2-0.

"It's the Bruins' 13th national title, 12th NCAA title and first championship since 2010," said UCLA coach Kelly Inouye-Perez, who has been with the program in some capacity for three years. "So proud to be a part of it, player, assistant, head coach. This is about the here and now. This is about UCLA softball in 2019. This team got on a roll, and we're on it." Rachel Garcia was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Women's Series. She threw 179 pitches
...
The Toronto Raptors’ Kawhi Leonard will be a free agent on June 30. Will he return to Toronto or take his talents elsewhere?

**Raptors’ Leonard avoids distraction**
**By Tim Reynolds**
**Associated Press**

OAKLAND, Calif. — Toronto star Kawhi Leonard has more than a few things on his mind these days.

He’ll be a free agent in a few weeks and will decide where he wants to play next season. He’s apparently headed to federal court to solve a disagreement with Nike. He’s clearly dealing with something that isn’t right in his lower body, though he and the team continue to insist that he’s fine.

And, oh, there’s the NBA Finals.

Game 3 of a tied series, Leonard and the Toronto Raptors taking on the two-time defending champion Golden State Warriors, the biggest game yet this season, happened Wednesday night.

All that would overload some people. Leonard, however, isn’t like most people. He’s unfazed.

“I think it just comes naturally,” Leonard said. “All NBA players, there’s so much distractions from you playing in high school to college to now becoming a pro, it’s probably just part of the second nature at this point.”

Leonard is famously, almost mythically, quiet. He tends to give short answers during news conferences. He’s not a social media guy. So it was an odd look mythically, quiet. He tends to give short answers during news conferences.

In other words, he’s played through that particular portion of off-court drama throughout these playoffs.

Obviously, he’s handled it just fine.

The Raptors are here largely because of Leonard. Even though six bad minutes that became an 18-0 Golden State run to start the second half of Game 2 — “the quarter from hell,” Rapters coach Nick Nurse called it — ultimately cost Toronto its chance at a 2-0 series lead and retaining home-court advantage, there’s still no obvious sense of uneasiness from the Eastern Conference champions.

“It’s going to be even harder on the road,” Raptors guard Fred VanVleet said. “But we’re capable and we know what we bring to the table.”

The Raptors have already railed from 2-1 series deficits twice in these playoffs — against Philadelphia in the second round and against Milwaukee in the East Conference Finals.

No team in the current 16-team postseason format, which the NBA went to in 1984, has overcome three of those in the same season.

Learning to deal with noise from the outside world is a skill that the Raptors have proudly gotten fairly adept at this season — amid the constant din surrounding the trade that brought Leonard to Toronto and whether the team could possibly find a way to entice him to sign and stick around past this season.

With Chara hurt, Bruins need a hand on defense

**By Jimmy Golen**
**Associated Press**

BEDFORD, Mass. — The Boston Bruins reached the Stanley Cup Final despite a run of regular-season injuries that prevented anyone from rostering from playing all 82 games.

Now comes the real test.

The Bruins are preparing for Game 5 against the St. Louis Blues without captain and No. 1 defenseman Zdeno Chara, who did not return after he was hit in the face by a deflected puck on Monday night. The St. Louis Blues won 4-2 to even the series at two games apiece.

Bruins coach Bruce Cassidy offered no update on Chara’s condition after arriving in Boston on Tuesday except to say the 2009 Norris Trophy winner was on his way to see a doctor. The fact that Chara returned for the third period wearing a full face shield — and never got back on the ice — suggests it is more than the lost tooth or busted lip that usually only keeps a hockey player out long enough to get it stitched up.

“Right now, I’ve got nothing,” Cassidy said. “But we don’t play for two more days.”

Although the 42-year-old Chara is the team’s elder statesman and emotional leader, Cassidy said he is less worried about Chara’s leadership than his 6-foot-9 presence on the ice.

“Taking great players out of the lineup, that’s the part that hurts the most,” Cassidy said. “I’m not worried about our mentality.”

The Bruins have made it through the playoffs without defensemen Kevan Miller and also lost Matt Grzelcyk when he took an elbow to the head in Game 2 and needed to be helped off the ice. John Moore filled in for him in the third game, which the Bruins won.

But they were down to five men on the blue line again Monday when Chara took a deflect-ed shot from Brayden Schenn off the right side of the face. He crumpled to the ice, face-first, and then skated off, with blood dripping from his mouth. He returned at the start of the third period, wearing the shield but never went back in the game.

“Very uncomfortable, was advised not to return to play,” Cassidy said after the game. “Had some stitches, probably some dental work in the near future. He wanted to come out on the bench and be with his teammates.”

His teammates knew how difficult it was for him to just sit there.

“He’s our leader, and the biggest part of our leadership,” forward David Pastrnak said. “Anything that comes out of his mouth ... everybody is listening to him.”

Blue coach Craig Berube said he had a broken jaw when he was a player and was out six weeks. But if Chara has the same injury and misses the rest of the series, it won’t change the Blues’ approach.

“Nothing from our standpoint,” he said.

A six-time All-Star and the perennial team leader in minutes played, Chara played a career-low (not counting lockout year) 62 games this season because of an unspecified injury that kept him out six weeks in November and December.

Although it’s too early to rule him out for Game 5 — or perhaps longer — Cassidy said the most likely replacements would be Steven Kampfer or rookies Urho Vaakanainen, Jeremy Lauzon, and Jakub Zboril. Only Kampfer, with two games of playoff experience, has appeared in a postseason game.

“If both guys (Chara and Grzel-cy) are out, it’s not an easy decision,” Cassidy said. “It’s not one I want to make, but you have to do what you have to do.”

But don’t rule them out just yet.

“Both of those players, they’re warriors,” defensemen Charlie McAvoy said. “They’ll do whatever it takes to play.”

**NBA scoreboard**

**Finals (Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Away</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>TV</th>
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<td>Toronto</td>
<td>Golden State</td>
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<td>AFN-Sports</td>
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**NHL scoreboard**

**Stanley Cup Final (Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)**

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Boston</td>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>AFN-Sports2</td>
<td>June 13, 3:30 a.m. CET; 10 a.m. Tuesday JKT</td>
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</table>
I feel quite positive about it," Motto said of the Derby winners.

Tacitus and War of Will got the outside No. 10 and 9 post positions, respectively, on Tuesday in the draw at Citi Field, but those should not be a problem in the 1 1/4-mile race on Saturday at Belmont Park.

"I had read in the last couple of days that he wasn't going to be," Casse said of not being the favorite. "There's a few things against him. Tacitus has the home-field advantage. He's the only guy to run in the first two legs of the Triple Crown, thoroughbred's biggest event for 3-year-olds ended in chaos after Maximum Security was disqualified after finishing first in the Derby. Country House was placed first.

Within days, the owners of Maximum Security and Country House said they would be skipping the Preakness, meaning there would be no Triple Crown.

War of Will was impressive in winning the Preakness but the race was overshadowed when a rival colt threw its rider at the start and ran around the track during the race.

Now comes the Belmont and hopefully it goes smoothly. Joevia drew the No. 1 post position. Jose Lezcano is the jockey on the 30-1 choice.

The rest of the field in post-position order with horse, jockey and odds is:

Everfast, Luis Saez, 12; Master Fencer, Julien Leparoux, 8; Tax, Martin Tudor, 15; Bourbon War, Mike Smith, 12; Spinoff, Javier Castellano, 10; Girolama, Joel Rosario, 12; Intrepid Heart, John Velazquez, 10; War of Will and Tacitus.

"I don't think there was a bad post position," said Casse, who had War of Will get the No. 1 post in the first two legs of the Triple Crown. I like our post position. It's the first time we've got a decent post. It allows us to do a little bit of deciding. If nobody wants the lead, he'll be on the lead. If a couple of horses inside take off, he'll tuck in. I love the post position.

**Phillies OF McCutchen has torn ACL**

SAN DIEGO — Andrew McCutchen tore his ACL in a rundown and will miss the rest of the season, causing the NL East-leading Philadelphia Phillies to again reshuffle their outfield.

McCutchen hurt his left knee during Monday night's game against San Diego and an MRI revealed the injury.

"It's not the news I wanted to hear," McCutchen said Tuesday. "He's a weapon for us because he can play center field and left field, is a very aggressive baserunner and through the entire season he has unquestionably been one of our better players. So it is a loss," manager Gabe Kapler said.

The 32-year-old McCutchen was hitting .256 with 10 home runs, 29 RBIs and an NL-high 43 doubles. The 2013 NL MVP was placed first in the first season of a $50 million, three-year contract.

The injury came a week after Phillies outfielder Odubel Herrera was put on administrative leave by Major League Baseball, a day after his arrest in a domestic violence case.

**All matches rained out at French Open**

PARIS — Rain washed out the entire schedule at the French Open on Wednesday, the second time since 2000 that a full day of play at the tournament was lost to showers.

Two men's quarterfinals and two women's quarterfinals were postponed until Thursday, when the forecast calls for clouds but no drizzle.

Roland Garros is the only Grand Slam site without a covered court; a retractable roof is expected to be added to the main stadium before next year's tournament.

On Wednesday, defending champion Simona Halep of Romania was scheduled to face 17-year-old Amanda Anisimova of the U.S. on Court Philippe Chatrier, and No. 8 Ash Barty of Australia was supposed to meet No. 14 Madison Keys of the U.S. on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

Those matches were to be followed by the two remaining men's quarterfinals: No. 1 Novak Djokovic of Serbia, who is attempting to win a fourth consecutive Grand Slam title, against No. 5 Alexander Zverev of Germany, and No. 4 Dominic Thiem of Austria vs. No. 10 Karen Khachanov of Russia.

**Song taken 137th, Navy's highest ever**

Navy senior pitcher Noah Song made a lot of history this season in Annapolis, Md. The 6-foot-4 right-hander from Claremont, Calif., set six program records, including for most career wins (32) and strikeouts (426), led the nation with 161 strikeouts this season and became the Naval Academy's first player to be named first-team All-American by Collegiate Baseball.

On Tuesday, Song added another highlight to his already sterling resume: The Boston Red Sox drafted him No. 137 overall, the final selection of the fourth round, making Song the highest-first-year MLB Draft selection in the Naval Academy's history — by a long shot.

The previous highest pick out of Navy was Stephen Moore, whom the Atlanta Braves selected with the 300th overall pick in 2015.

"What [Song] has done here is unique," Navy coach Paul Kosta-copolous said Monday. "He's done some really incredible things. He's changing the trajectory for what a Navy baseball player can be.

"Navy has had nine first-year player draft selections in program history, the last of which was Luke Gillingham, selected in the 37th round in 2016.

Song finished the year with an 11-1 record, a 1.44 ERA and is a finalist for the Golden Spikes award, given annually to the best amateur player in the country.

Song, who was at home in California when the call informing him he'd been selected came in, graduated last week and is something uncertain about when his career in professional baseball could begin.

There is a long-time policy in place that allows service academy graduates to petition for early release from active duty and serve as reservists, which provides an easier path for pursuing a professional sports career, but those policies can change. Last month, President Donald Trump said he favored allowing service academy athletes to postpone their military obligations until after their sports careers are over.

Right now, all Song knows is that he is planning to report to Pensacola, Fla., on Nov. 1 to start training as a Naval flight officer. After two years, Song may petition to enter the reserves.
## MLB Scoreboard

### National League

#### East Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
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### Divisional Series

#### Wild Card Series

- **Chicago** vs. **Milwaukee**
- **New York** vs. **St. Louis**
- **Boston** vs. **Tampa Bay**
- **Toronto** vs. **Baltimore**
- **Minnesota** vs. **Texas**

#### League Championship Series

- **Los Angeles** vs. **Chicago**
- **New York** vs. **Milwaukee**

#### World Series

- **New York** vs. **Milwaukee**

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### Weekly Highlights

#### Rockies vs. Cardinals

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#### Orioles vs. Rangers

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### Notes and Highlights

- **Tigers** vs. **Red Sox**: D. P. (Jeurys Familia) vs. J. A. (Mookie Betts)
- **Blue Jays** vs. **Yankees**: A. S. (Giancarlo Stanton) vs. J. R. (Aaron Judge)
- **Braves** vs. **Pirates**: D. H. (Freddie Freeman) vs. A. F. (Brendan compliance)

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### Further Reading

- [MLB Official Website](https://www.mlb.com)
- [Sports Illustrated](https://www.si.com)
- [ESPN Sports](https://espn.go.com/sports)

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**Braves** vs. **Pirates**

- D. H. (Freddie Freeman) vs. A. F. (Brendan compliance)
The Indians’ Francisco Lindor salutes after hitting a two-run homer run off Minnesota Twins starting pitcher Devin Smeltzer during the fifth inning of Tuesday’s game in Cleveland.

## MLB roundup

**Nationals’ Strasburg earns 100th career victory**

By Steve Herrick  
Associated Press  

WASHINGTON — Stephen Strasburg didn’t turn in a vintage performance. He still did enough — with plenty of help from the Washington Nationals’ offense — to reach a career milestone.

Strasburg earned his 100th victory, Anthony Rendon homered and drove in five runs and Washington rallied past the Chicago White Sox 9-5 for its eighth victory in 10 games.

Strasburg (6-3) gave up four runs and struck out seven in seven-plus innings.

His victory gave him 100 wins for his career.

Washington ended Colorado’s season-long home losing streak when Kyle Hendricks was solid behind in the count. That’s why I left them in. He worked through it. He’s been around. It’s just great that this was such a big team win and they were able to pick me up for that 100th.”

Dodgers 9, Diamondbacks 0: Hyun-Jin Ryu (9-1) allowed three hits in seven scoreless innings, Cody Bellinger hit a two-run triple after a rare day off and visiting Los Angeles stretched its winning streak to seven games with a rout of Arizona.

Ryu needed 25 pitches to get through the first inning thanks to shaky defense behind him, but dominated after that to win his seventh straight start.

Bellinger had a two-run triple in his first at-bat against Taylor Clarke (1-2) following his first day off since May 3. He went 1-for-4, dropping his big league-best average to .374.

The Astros have won 9 of 11 and are 5-0 on their road trip.

The streak is the fourth longest in baseball since the advent of the designated hitter in 1973.

The Indians have struggled offensively, but at least for one night out-hit the Twins 6-5, Minnesota holds a 10-½-game lead over Cleveland in AL Central and keeps the AL in runs, homers and batting average.

“I know we’re far from first place right now,” Lindor said. “It’s inevitable to see how many games out we are, but it doesn’t matter. We’ve still got a long way to go.”

Shane Bieber (5-2) gave up solo homers to Marwin Gonzalez in the second and Eddie Rosario in the sixth. He allowed two runs and struck out seven in seven-plus innings.

Bieber was pulled after Byron Buxton reached on Lindor’s fielding error to start the eighth. Oliver Perez struck out Max Kepler, Jorge Polanco and Nelson Cruz. Brad Hand hit Mitch Garver with one out in the ninth, but got Gonzalez to bounce into a game-ending double play.

Hand picked up his 17th save in 17 opportunities.

Right-hander Devin Smeltzer (0-1) gave up all four homers in his second major league start.

Smeltzer allowed five runs in 6⅔ innings.

“The hits, I’m not worried about,” he said. “I know they left the yard, but I got behind in the count. That’s why I left them on the plate and why they got men on. It’s just not being able to command right now as well as we would like him to,” Renteria said.

“Wins and losses, as much as you like having them next to your name, that’s a team thing. It’s just great that this was such a big team win and they were able to pick me up for that 100th.”

## Blue Jays, Yankees 3:  
Fredy Galvis hit a two-run home run, Randal Grichuk added a solo shot and host Toronto held off New York to end a season-worst six-game slide.

Tigers 9, Rays 6: Miguel Cabrera had a grand slam among his three hits as Detroit snapped a 10-game home losing streak with a victory over Tampa Bay.

Brewers 12, Pirates 5: Austin Riley and Josh Donaldson hit three-run homers in consecutive innings, and visiting Atlanta rallied past Pittsburgh.

Marlins 16, Brewers 0: Garrett Cooper had two hits and scored twice during visiting Miami’s franchise-record, 11-run fifth inning in a rout of Milwaukee.

Lindor, who missed the first three weeks of the season with a strained left wrist, and was 0-for-4 with two strikeouts.

Lindor’s 2 homers lift Indians  

Washington Nationals starting pitcher Stephen Strasburg, left, speaks on the mound with catcher Yan Gomes, center, and pitching coach Paul Menhart during the first inning of Thursday’s game against the Chicago White Sox in Washington. Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Carlos Rodon, left, pitches in the first inning.
Five players to watch

BY ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

The Women's World Cup kicks off Friday in Paris. Twenty-four teams will traverse France for the next month in pursuit of soccer's most prestigious trophy. Here are five players to watch during the tournament:

Alex Morgan, United States:
Morgan was named the U.S. national team's Player of the Year after she closed out 2018 with 18 goals in 19 games. She has seven goals during the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying tournament alone.

Morgan is a proven scorer. She also earned Player of the Year honors in 2012 when she had 28 goals and 21 assists, and helped the national team win an Olympic gold medal. Mia Hamm is the only other player to have 20-plus goals and assists during a single season.

The 29-year-old forward, who will have a birthday during the tournament in France, is playing in her third World Cup. She was the youngest player ever on the World Cup team, scoring a goal in the final match against Japan.

She scored her 100th goal with the national team in April — not bad for a late-bloomer who didn't play club soccer until age 14.

Morgan, who also played with the National Women's Soccer League's Orlando Pride, was named this year to Time Magazine's 100 most influential people list.

Christine Sinclair, Canada:
Sinclair is the most prolific scorer ever in Canadian soccer, and with 181 career goals she's edging closer to former U.S. star Abby Wambach, who holds the international record — among men or women — with 184.

Sinclair has been the face of the Canadian women's team for 19 years. Now 35, this tournament will be the soft-spoken captain's fifth, and likely final, World Cup.

Canada has won bronze medals at the past two Olympics. But the closest the Canadians have come to a podium finish at the World Cup was in 2003, when they finished fourth.

From Burnaby, British Columbia, Sinclair won two NCAA championships at the University of Portland. She's stayed in the Pacific Northwest, and plays with the NWSL's Portland Thorns.

Marta, Brazil:
Known by just her first name, Marta Vieira da Silva is a six-time FIFA World Player of the Year.

Marta is playing in her fifth World Cup, She has also played in four Olympics for Brazil, but so far, a championship has eluded her in both tournaments. The 33-year-old has the most World Cup goals with 15, one better than Germany's Birgit Prinz.

Growing up in a small town, Marta played soccer with the boys. But her talent was recognized quickly and she left home to play soccer when she was just 14.

At the 2016 Olympics in her native country, she played with so much passion that fans crossed out Neymar's name on their No. 10 jerseys and wrote in Marta's.

She had a setback last week when she injured her left thigh in practice for the World Cup, but she has since returned to training.

Samantha Kerr, Australia:
There are few players, if any, that are as dynamic as Kerr with the ball. She's also known for her signature backflip following goals.

This will be the 25-year-old's third World Cup, and the Australians hope to improve on their surprising run to the quarterfinals in the 2015 tournament.

Since making her debut with the Australian national team at 15, Kerr has collected 31 goals in 77 games. As captain of the team, known as the Matildas, Kerr has been called “fearless” by coach Ante Milicic.

United States forward Alex Morgan, 29, will be playing in her third World Cup. She scored 18 goals in 19 international games in 2018.

Brazil's Marta is a six-time FIFA World Player of the Year.
**Women's World Cup**

### Scoreboard

![Scoreboard](image)

**Top player protests by sitting out**

By Steve Douglas

Associated Press

With a no-nonsense look etched on her face, Ada Hegerberg stares straight into the camera and says: “Now it’s time for action.”

It’s fitting the Norwegian superstar was chosen as the face of a recently launched campaign aimed at improving the profile and standards in women’s soccer.

Not just because, as the first ever female winner of the Ballon d’Or, she is the outstanding player in the women’s game. But because she is an equal rights advocate, fighting for equality and greater respect in the sport, a battle that will deprive soccer fans of the chance to see her at the Women’s World Cup, which kicks off in France on June 7.

Hegerberg hasn’t played for Norway in two years, ever since she decided to rule herself out of national team duty, was held up as the first of its kind in international soccer.

The federation also now has a female sporting director — Lise Klaveness — who splits her time equally between the country’s men’s and women’s teams, and runs a project aimed at developing top women’s coaches. She is sure Norway invests more money in the women’s game than “most other federations.”

Still, Hegerberg won’t return for the World Cup.

“A lot of things need to be done,” she said in an interview with The Associated Press last year, “to make the conditions better for women who play football.”

Norway coach Martin Sjogren said meetingings were held in an effort to change Hegerberg’s mind about the tournament. But they were in vain.

“As a coach, you need to focus on the players who want to be a part of the team,” Sjogren said, “and Ada doesn’t.”

Hegerberg hasn’t gone into any specific detail about why she has rejected this latest chance to return to her national squad, although Klaveness spoke of the 23-year-old striker believing “she cannot be at her best in this system.”

Klaveness doesn’t want the dispute with Hegerberg to leave a cloud over the Norwegian team but was eager to stress she has “not given up” on the country’s star player.

“We need to try to have a confidential relationship and just talk directly to each other so we can have common ground and maybe have her back after the World Cup,” Klaveness said in a phone interview with the AP. “That’s where we are now.”

And so, the best player in women’s soccer won’t be at the Women’s World Cup — ruling herself out of contention for her home country two years ago in protest for equality in women’s soccer.

### All: US trying to focus on competition, not pending lawsuit

FROM BACK PAGE

Twenty-eight members of the current player pool filed the lawsuit on March 8 in U.S. District Court in New York, citing “institutionalized gender discrimination” that includes inequitable compensation when compared with their counterparts on the men’s national team.

Because the lawsuit is still in the early stages, there is no sign of any significant movement will be made until the team returns home.

Megan Rapinoe was asked whether the pay issue puts more pressure on the team — which will already be facing a strong field looking to topple the three-time World Cup winners.

“I think that the huge media splash of the lawsuit is behind us and we’re obviously focused on the tournament,” Rapinoe said.

“But also it’s like this is our life, and there are a lot of things that we have to grapple and deal with. Family, friends, partner, media, pressures, games, World Cup, travel. So it’s just kind of just one more thing. This team always has a lot of media attention, and we always had a lot of things on our plate so it’s not like it’s anything new, or all of a sudden we’re getting all the more attention. It’s sort of the same for us.”

The 24-team tournament will be played at nine stadiums across France over the course of the next month, with the final set for July 7 in Lyon.

### The last time

The United States won the last World Cup in 2015. Carli Lloyd scored three goals in the first 16 minutes to help give the Americans a 5-2 victory over Japan for their third overall World Cup title, most for any nation since the tournament was introduced in 1991. England was a surprising third-place finisher in Canada.

### VAR

In March, FIFA approved the use of video review for the World Cup in France. The Video Assistant Referee system, or VAR, was used at the men’s World Cup in Russia last year.

### Prize money

The prize money for the World Cup will be $30 million, of which $4 million will go to the federation of the champion. While the total is double the prize money for the 2015 Women’s World Cup, it is a fraction of the $408 million in prize money for last year’s men’s World Cup, of which $38 million went to champion France. FIFA, soccer’s international governing body, says prize money for the 2022 men’s World Cup will be $440 million.

### Too many lawsuits

FIFA has also been criticized for scheduling the World Cup final on the same day as the Copa America final in June and the CONCACAF Gold Cup final in Chicago. U.S. coach Jill Ellis pointedly said: “In my own personal opinion, playing three big matches in one day isn’t supporting the women’s game. So, there you go.”

**USA women’s national soccer team members, from left, Carli Lloyd, Alex Morgan and Megan Rapinoe speak to reporters on May 24.**

**Seth Wenig/AP**
All for one

Equality will be at forefront as Women’s World Cup begins Friday in France

By Anne M. Peterson
Associated Press

The world’s best player won’t be at the Women’s World Cup but the world’s best team will be, with both sides taking a stand for equality.

The U.S. national team, ranked No. 1 globally, will try to defend its title in soccer’s premier tournament, which kicks off Friday in Paris. While the Americans make their way around France for the monthlong event, back at home they’re all part of a lawsuit that accuses U.S. Soccer of gender discrimination.

Meanwhile, Ada Hegerberg, the first female Ballon d’Or winner for the world’s top player, won’t be accompanying Norway’s national team. She stepped away in 2017 because of what she perceives to be a general disregard for women’s soccer by the country’s federation. The crux of her frustration is the uneven pace of progress and strategy in the women’s game.

Hegerberg, 23, is at the top of her game. She had a hat trick for Lyon in its 4-1 win over Barcelona in the recent Women’s Champions League final.

“We are happy for this debate to raise attention and respect for women’s soccer in the world, and I do view it as a big change-maker,” said Lise Klaveness, sporting director for the Norwegian Football Federation. “But I just wish she was in our team.”

The U.S. team hopes to collectively be a difference-maker, too.

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