

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Freshman Maxey stars as No. 2 Kentucky tops No. 1 Michigan State

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Volume 78, No. 146 ©SS 2019 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

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STEVE HELBER/AP

Democratic supporters cheer at an election party in Richmond, Va., on Tuesday. Democrats took control of the state's legislature.

‘Officially blue’

Democrats take full control of Virginia Legislature; challenger declares win in tight Ky. governor's race

By BILL BARROW
Associated Press

Democrats took full control of the Virginia Legislature for the first time in more than two decades while the race for governor in deeply Republican Kentucky was too close to call despite a last-minute boost from President Donald Trump.

In Kentucky, Democratic challenger Andy Beshear held a narrow lead and declared victory in the governor's race over Republican incumbent Matt Bevin on Tuesday, though Bevin had not conceded. And in Virginia, Democrats flipped control of the

state Senate and House, gaining outright control of state government in a state that is often a battleground for the White House.

"I'm here to officially declare today, Nov. 5, 2019, that Virginia is officially blue," Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam told a crowd of supporters in Richmond.

A year before the presidential election, the results offered warning signs for both parties. Voters in suburban swaths of Kentucky and Virginia sided with Democrats, a trend that would complicate Trump's path to reelection if it holds. And the Democrats

SEE BLUE ON PAGE 9



BRYAN WOOLSTON/AP

Democratic gubernatorial candidate and Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear speaks at an election night watch event Tuesday in Louisville, Ky.

Trump OKs expanded oil mission in Syria

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has approved an expanded military mission to secure an expanse of oil fields across eastern Syria, raising a number of difficult legal questions about whether U.S. troops can launch strikes against Syrian, Russian or other forces if they threaten the oil, U.S. officials said.

The decision, coming after a meeting Friday between Trump and his defense leaders, locks hundreds of U.S. troops into a more complicated presence in Syria, despite the president's vow to get America out of the war. Under the new plan, troops would protect a large swath of land controlled by Syrian Kurdish fighters that stretches nearly 90 miles from Deir el-Zour to al-Hassakeh, but its exact size is still being determined.

Officials said many details still have to be worked out. But Trump's decision hands commanders a victory in their push to remain in the country to prevent any resurgence of Islamic State, counter Iran and partner with the Kurds, who battled ISIS alongside the U.S. for several years. But it also forces lawyers in the Pentagon to craft orders for the troops that could see them firing on Syrian government or Russian fighters trying to take back oil facilities that sit within the sovereign nation of Syria.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss internal deliberations.

Trump's order also slams the door on any suggestion that the bulk of the more than 1,200 U.S. troops that have been in Syria will be coming home anytime soon, as he has repeatedly promised.

SEE SYRIA ON PAGE 7

MILITARY

Troops' pay raise likely safe despite wrangling

By STEVE BEYNON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Troops are set to get a pay bump next year, and their higher paychecks seem safe despite partisan bickering on Capitol Hill and looming threats of a government shutdown.

"We'll see what happens," President Donald Trump said Sunday about a federal government shutdown just before Thanksgiving.

The 3.1% pay raise for service members goes into effect Jan. 1 regardless of lawmakers' partisan squabbling in Washington. The pay raise is mandated by federal statute unless Congress or the president intervenes — which is unlikely.

As a result, service members aren't expected to immediately feel much impact if the government shuts down later this month. But a prolonged shutdown could raise issues regarding some benefits.

Some Democratic lawmakers are worried about the possibility of a partial government shutdown in the middle of the impeachment investigation against Trump. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said he believes it's possible Trump could allow the fourth shutdown during his administration as a diversion tactic from the scandals plaguing his presidency.

"I'm increasingly worried that President Trump may want to shut down the government again because of impeachment," Schumer said last week during a news conference. "He always likes to create diversions. I hope and pray he won't want to cause another government shutdown, because it might be a diversion away from impeachment."

Some lawmakers are confident the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, which directs policy and spending plans for the Defense Department, will ul-

timately pass Congress, despite the clock ticking before funding runs out in a little more than two weeks. The federal government has been funded since Oct. 1, the start of the fiscal year, by a temporary spending measure known as a continuing resolution, which expires Nov. 21.

At the same time, some Democrats are concerned Trump might stand his ground on border security. In that event, there are other ways that Congress could guarantee troops receive pay raises, such as passing a separate stand-alone bill to ensure service members are paid during a shutdown — as was done during the 2013 shutdown when lawmakers passed the Pay Our Military Act.

There's also a fallback plan, the "skinny" NDAA, which was introduced by Jans Ingohr, R-Okla., the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. The plan essentially funds the military without some of the controversial elements stalling Congress, most notably siphoning military money for the southern border wall. One senior Republican aide who spoke on the condition of anonymity called it the "break glass in case of emergency" plan. But it might be dead on arrival in the Democrat-controlled House.

"Some have suggested that we will be forced to abandon our negotiations this year and instead pass a 'skinny bill,'" said Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. "Any bill that does not restrict wall funding would be challenging to bring to the House floor. It is equivalent to failure — not just for the men and women in uniform who are counting on us to pass the NDAA, but also to the national defense of our country."

The 3.1% pay raise is the largest annual increase in compensation for service members since 2010. The raise would provide



Senate Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., expressed concern Tuesday that the president would allow a federal government shutdown to distract the public's attention from impeachment proceedings.
SUSAN WALSH/AP

junior enlisted soldiers with a more than \$700 boost next year. It would amount to a raise of more than \$2,300 per year for an O-3 officer who has served for eight years.

Republicans argue Democrats are waging a partisan battle over Trump's long-promised boost to border security with military spending caught in the crossfire.

"When I was sworn into Congress, the government was partially shut down. Now we're just weeks away from a full shutdown," Rep. Dan Crenshaw, R-Texas, said in a statement. "We cannot govern from one shutdown to another. House Democrats are going to have to put their impeachment goals aside and find a way to work with the president to get this done."

Democrats and the White House are sparring over the same issue again — Trump's demand for border wall spending, which triggered the 35-day partial government shutdown earlier this year, the longest in U.S. history. The last government shutdown happened after defense spending was agreed upon and most service members were not affected. However, the Coast Guard missed a paycheck due to the service's funding mostly coming from the Department of Homeland Security, not the Defense Department.

"As President Trump learned earlier this year when he shut down the government, no one benefits from a government shut-

down," said Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. "Veterans, service members, seniors, federal workers and working families all get hurt when the government shuts down. We need to work together and do our jobs."

There's no immediate concern for benefits for troops and veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs is able to continue services uninterrupted in the case of a shutdown, according to a guide released in 2013. But if a shutdown extends to Christmas, benefits appeals and the claims process will slow down or be shut down.

"Veterans and military-connected students should not worry right now about a government shutdown impacting their benefits. However, if the shutdown goes longer than a month then all kinds of government benefits could be impacted, from GI Bill to disability compensation to Social Security checks," said Carrie Wofford, president of Veterans Education Success, a veterans advocacy group.

"In the end, this is a democracy and it's up to citizens to demand that our elected officials keep the government running. If veterans are worried, they should call their congressmen and senators to get the government funded ASAP."

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MILITARY

Next senior enlisted adviser known for his high standards

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — When Ramon “CZ” Colon-Lopez was a freshman at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut 30 years ago, he had the fire of a future hard-charging Air Force pararescueman but lacked discipline.

“I had too much energy,” he said. “I wasn’t a bad student, but I wasn’t a focused student.”

In search of purpose, Colon-Lopez did what millions of youngsters have done for generations: He turned to the military.

Now, 29 years after joining the Air Force, Chief Master Sgt. Colon-Lopez is poised to become the military’s top enlisted service member, capping a career that has included long stints as a special operator in Afghanistan.

When he formally assumes his new duties next month as senior enlisted adviser to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, Colon-Lopez will bring with him a penchant for blunt talk, a fixation on maintaining military standards and a focus on discipline that’s been honed over three decades.

As the military’s senior enlisted leader, a position established in 2005, Colon-Lopez will also be a voice to military brass on issues facing the enlisted ranks.

One focus will be connecting with the special operations community from which Colon-Lopez came, he said during an interview at his office in Stuttgart where he serves as U.S. Africa Command’s senior enlisted leader.

Numerous high-profile instances of misconduct within the ranks of the elite units over the past few years have revealed what senior special operations commanders have described as a damaged culture of discipline.

“Clearly, our special operations forces have been gunning and running pretty hard for the last two decades,” Colon-Lopez said. “There are some cracks in the armor that we have to pay close

attention to.

“By virtue of credibility and being a member of that community, I think it is going to facilitate a lot of the conversations,” Colon-Lopez said.

Discipline, standards

Service members curious about Colon-Lopez’s priorities can look to his writings on leadership and conduct.

Known in Air Force circles for his essays on “carnivore leadership” — an idea that involves a push to exceed standards — Colon-Lopez has written at length on the dangers of rewarding mediocrity.

“We have sunk down a slope of entitlement and selfishness that has eroded the honor of being a U.S. service member,” he wrote to his airman while serving in 2013 as command chief of the 18th Wing at Kadena Air Force Base in Japan. “This false sense of self-worth and value to the organization is a product of many years of leadership ignoring weak performers and failing to help them become productive Airmen.”

When it comes to underperformers, “Mediocrity must be killed and mediocracy overthrown,” he said at the time.

In a similar vein, Colon-Lopez is unlikely to advocate for relaxing military grooming standards or granting “waivers in order to be lazy and noncompliant.”

“Always make it a point to look your best upon waking up. Do not spout excuses when you fall short of a standard,” he wrote in one of his leadership essays.

Plaques and memorabilia cover the walls in Colon-Lopez’s Stuttgart office, including a bat from retired Yankee Derek Jeter that he will be taking with him to his new job in Washington.

A lifelong fan, he said he’s learned lessons from the Yankees over the years about how standards and winning go hand in hand. The Yankee pinstripes are the same as those worn by Babe Ruth a century ago. The players

closed nearby roads for about five hours “out of an abundance of caution,” he said.

No explosives were found in the barracks or surrounding area, Baucum said.

The all-clear was issued about 8 p.m.

As military working dogs swept the barracks about 6 p.m., sailors and family members waited just outside the closed-off area, which included Clement Boulevard from Nimitz Boulevard to the base bowling alley about two blocks away.

The threatened barracks — building 3333 — is near one of Yokosuka’s two driv-



PAUL GORMAN/U.S. Air National Guard

U.S. Africa Command Command Chief Master Sgt. Ramon Colon-Lopez speaks to service members at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, in 2017. Colon-Lopez will start working as the next senior enlisted adviser to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff next month.

must keep their hair short. No beards are allowed, unlike on other ball clubs.

Finding focus

Born in Puerto Rico, Colon-Lopez moved to Connecticut when he was a teenager.

It was in Bridgeport, Conn., that he wound up in the Air Force, almost by accident. At the local recruiting station, the Marines weren’t around and the Army guy was busy, Colon-Lopez recalled. That left the Air Force recruiter.

“I need to get the heck out of Bridgeport, Conn. How do I do that?” Colon-Lopez asked at the time. The answer was to sign on as an Air Force transportation specialist.

“I had a couple of rough years adjusting,” he said. “I was a good airman, but I started reverting to my ways at college. Too much energy, not enough focus.”

Eventually he realized a desk job wasn’t for him and, after meeting a pararescueman, decided to give the program a try. His first reaction when training started was, “What the hell did I

get myself into?”

After 12 weeks, the class of more than 100 airmen at the demanding special operations school had been whittled down to 12 — and Colon-Lopez was one of them. By the time the two-year course was done, only Colon-Lopez and a couple of others had made it through.

“That’s when my life was defined,” he said. “I knew I was going to be an airman for life. And the pararescueman code, that became the script for my life.”

Soon after Sept. 11, 2001, Colon-Lopez deployed to Afghanistan, where he took part in numerous combat search and rescue missions to capture or kill high-value targets. In 2004, he provided personal security for Hamid Karzai, then the newly elected president of Afghanistan.

During his time in Afghanistan, he was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor and was among the first to receive the Air Force Combat Action Medal.

Impacting Africa

During his three-year tenure

in Stuttgart, Colon-Lopez has changed how AFRICOM coordinates with NCO corps across the African continent. In 2018, regional training hubs were launched in four African countries and four more such “centers of excellence” will be set up in the year ahead.

AFRICOM’s Gen. Stephen J. Townsend said Colon-Lopez’s “leadership and innovation will positively impact generations of African military partners.”

“His Africa Enlisted Development Strategy will be an enduring legacy and key to building and increasing the capacity of our partners,” Townsend said in a statement.

Malawi now runs a sergeant majors academy where 12 other countries send personnel for schooling.

“We are seeing dividends,” Colon-Lopez said. “It’s creating sustainable options for our African partners.”

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1 in custody after bomb threat called in to Yokosuka barracks

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — One person was in custody Wednesday following a bomb threat that spurred evacuations and closed off some areas for several hours at the home of the Navy’s 7th Fleet south of Tokyo, officials said.

The threat came in at 3:58 p.m. targeting a barracks for single sailors near the Personnel Support Detachment building, according to Yokosuka spokesman Randall Baucum. Officials evacuated the area and

ing gates. The road closures backed up traffic and forced many rush-hour commuters to use a single exit.

Seaman Cameron Hardrick, 21, a culinary specialist assigned to the USS Blue Ridge, said he had just started doing laundry at a nearby barracks when his roommate told him about the evacuation order.

“Yeah, I’m going to have some wet clothes [when I return home],” he said. “I’ll probably be up all night.”

Standing in a group of sailors near the closed road, Hardrick said the incident

would make for a difficult morning. “I work at [4 a.m.],” he said. “I need at least seven to eight hours of sleep to be effective.”

Baucum would not say how the bomb threat was received, citing an active Naval Criminal Investigative Services investigation into the incident.

“Fleet Activities Yokosuka takes all threats of this nature very seriously and will take all precautions to protect the community,” he said.

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PACIFIC

25th Infantry Division in Hawaii gets new leader

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — Maj. Gen. James Jarrard's career of Army leadership has spanned from Operation Desert Storm in Kuwait in 1991 to the recent command of forces for Operation Inherent Resolve that decimated the Islamic State caliphate.

On Tuesday, he took command of the 25th Infantry Division and its roughly 12,000 soldiers during a ceremony at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

He replaces Maj. Gen. Ronald Clark, who has held command since January 2018. Clark is slated to serve as the next chief of staff for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

Jarrard most recently served as director of operations for U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

He served as a company commander with the 25th Infantry Division in the 1990s.

"I think the 25th Infantry Division has a long and distinct histo-

ry of developing and maintaining partnerships with all of our key allies and partners throughout the Pacific region," he told reporters after the ceremony. "It is my intention to continue to maintain



Jarrard

those that are deep and well-solidified and to improve on those that aren't."

Command Sgt. Maj. William Pouliot assumed the position of

the division's senior enlisted adviser during the ceremony.

Lt. Gen. Gary Volesky, commander of I Corps and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., told the audience that Clark took command of the 25th at a time of heightened tensions with North Korea — "one of the most challenging times, not only for this division, but for our Corps and our nation."

"We thought we were only months away from deploying our forces to the Korean Peninsula," Volesky said of the period when North Korea was stepping up test-firing of ballistic missiles.

"Even though he hadn't been in the position long, Maj. Gen. Clark quickly identified which systems had to be instituted immediately and developed a superb plan to prepare his division to deploy, fight and win," Volesky said.

As those tensions eased, Clark maintained a tempo that kept the division's units dispersed in the Pacific as a means of deterring regional threats and set to deploy "at a moment's notice," he said.

The commander of the 25th Infantry Division also serves as senior commander of U.S. Army Hawaii.

In that role, Clark came under fire earlier this year after a 7-month-old girl died at an unlicensed day care at the Army-managed Aliamanu Military Reservation in Honolulu.

Military police had shut down the unlicensed day care several



WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers perform a traditional Hawaiian warrior dance, hui ha'a koa, during a change-of-command ceremony at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, on Tuesday.

times in the months preceding the child's death, but it had quickly resumed operation each time.

The girl's mother and other residents of the military community have criticized U.S. Army Hawaii officials for not more speedily evicting the day care provider, who has since been charged with manslaughter and awaits trial.

U.S. Army Hawaii has completed an investigation into the death and the administration of home-based child care on Army installations, but it did not release the findings to the public and has no plans to do so.

The 25th Infantry Division was activated on Oct. 1, 1941 — just

two months before the Japanese surprise attack on Oahu — and it has always been based at Schofield Barracks.

"We're the only division in the United States Army that serves where it was born," Clark said during the ceremony as he stood facing a formation of 1,000 soldiers.

"You are our nation's finest warriors," he said. "You're the best trained, most fit, most cohesive team of teams I have ever served with. It is my personal and professional honor to have served in your ranks."

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PACIFIC

Marine transport commander fired

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — "A loss of trust and confidence" has led the Marine Corps to relieve the head of one of its highest performing motor transport units after less than five months on the job.

Lt. Col. Jeremy Davis was fired Monday from his post as commander of the 3rd Transportation Support Battalion by 3rd Marine Logistics Group head Brig. Gen. Keith Revettlow, a III Marine Expeditionary Force statement said Wednesday.

The battalion provides transportation and support for III MEF through the distribution of personnel, equipment and supplies by air, ground and sea, according to the unit's website. It falls under Combat Logistics Regiment 3 and



Davis

the 3rd Marine Logistics Group. Marine officials declined to comment Wednesday on why Davis was fired. They said he will be replaced on an interim basis by battalion executive officer Maj. Mitch Bruce.

"The investigation will be closed at the end of November and I can provide you more information at that time," 3rd Marine Logistics Group spokeswoman 1st Lt. Tori Sharpe said in an email to Stars and Stripes. "Lt. Col. Davis' replacement has not yet been identified."

Davis took command of 3rd Transportation Support Battalion from Lt. Col. Matthew Mulvey on June 14. Since that time prior, the unit was named Marine Corps Motor Transport Unit of the Year.

Davis' Marine Corps biography had been removed from the unit website by the time the statement was issued Wednesday. He hails from Tylertown, Miss., and was commissioned in August 2001, according to previous Marine Corps statements.

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US-S. Korea combined air exercise set for next month

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and South Korea will hold a combined air exercise next month to replace the former annual drills known as Vigilant Ace, officials said.

The allies canceled Vigilant Ace and several other joint drills last year to facilitate nuclear talks with North Korea, which considers them a rehearsal for an invasion.

"There are no plans to skip upcoming combined exercises," Army Lt. Col. Dave Eastburn, a Pentagon spokesman, said Tuesday in Washington, giving it a generic name. "We are proceeding with the Combined Flying Training Event as planned."

He didn't give more details. South Korean officials told the Yonhap News Agency the drills will be conducted at a smaller scale than in previous years.

The 7th Air Force also declined to provide more information, saying it doesn't comment on planned or executed training as a matter of policy.

"We view all training as routine and continuously executed by

professional militaries as a way to maintain trust, proficiency and readiness," 7th Air Force spokesman Lt. Col. Omar Villarreal said Tuesday in an email.

In 2017, as tensions with North Korea were high, the allies mobilized about 230 aircraft, including F-22 Raptors, F-35 Lightning IIs, F-16 Fighting Falcons, F-15 Eagles and F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets for the Americans and F-15K Slam Eagles and F-4 Phantom IIs for the South Koreans.

Seoul and Washington insist the exercises are aimed at ensuring they can operate together in joint missions, but they always infuriate the North, which frequently responded with missile tests or fiery propaganda.

Vigilant Ace was the fourth major exercise canceled last year after President Donald Trump announced he would be "stopping the war games," calling them "very expensive" and "provocative," after his first summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore.

Diplomatic efforts to persuade the North to give up its nuclear weapons have stalled as subsequent summits and working-level

talks have failed to bridge the gap between Pyongyang's demands for sanctions relief and other rewards for steps already taken and Washington's insistence on more extensive dismantlement measures.

North Korea has given the Trump administration an end-of-year deadline to come up with a more flexible approach, warning it may resume long-range missile and nuclear tests if the stalemate continues.

The North already has conducted several short-range weapons tests this year, but Trump has largely dismissed those as insignificant despite experts warning they demonstrate advances in capabilities.

U.S. military officials, meanwhile, have stressed that joint training continues so that it can maintain the highest levels of readiness and security, but most of them are not named.

Stars and Stripes reporter Corey Dickstein contributed to this report from the Pentagon.
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THE NEW SANNÔ

MILITARY



MICHAEL YAMRA/U.S. Army

Army soldiers assigned to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment establish a defensive position during the Dragoon Ready exercises in Hohenfels, Germany, on Saturday.

Soldiers move to forests to prep for mission in Poland

By MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

VILSECK, Germany — U.S. and French armored units are fighting mock battles in southern Germany this week to prepare for the Americans' deployment to the former eastern bloc, aimed at deterring Russian aggression against the Baltic states and Poland.

The exercise in Hohenfels is the last of a series ahead of the Army 2nd Cavalry Regiment's Enhanced Forward Presence, or EFP, rotation, which starts January in Bemowo Piskie in north-eastern Poland, about 50 miles south of the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad.

The exercise, Dragoon Ready, "replicates a potential real-world scenario in which [the regiment] would respond quickly and effectively to an act of aggression, just as we did in Desert Storm in 1991, and just as we could do anywhere in Europe today from the Baltics to Balkans and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Caspian Sea," said the regiment's operations officer, Maj. Andrew Webb.

In the first stage of Dragoon Ready, U.S. and French forces conducted a live-fire exercise in southern Germany, shelling targets with Howitzers and Strykers with the support of Apache gunships and sappers blowing up objectives on the ground.

This week, the troops moved to the muddy forests of the Hohenfels training area, where they are facing a simulated conventional enemy played by other U.S. soldiers armed with modern weapons and vehicles.



TIMOTHY HAMLIN/U.S. Army

A soldier conducts dawn and clearing procedures during Dragoon Ready in Grafenwoehr, Germany, last month.

The mock battles are the final stages of the exercise, which concludes later this month, and will prepare the 2nd Cavalry for their upcoming deployment to Poland with EFP, Webb said.

Four battalion-size battlegroups are deploying on a rotational basis to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to boost NATO's forward presence in eastern Europe for EFP, the Alliance says on its website. The multinational battlegroups are led by the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany and the U.S.

Having NATO forces in the former eastern bloc and on the

doorstep of the Baltic states, which were Soviet republics from the end of World War II until the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, "maximizes the strengths of our allies to be more effective on the battlefield, should the need arise," Webb said.

The mission is in response to the Kremlin's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine's eastern provinces and increased military activity close to NATO's eastern border.

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Guard cyber teams aid states on 2020 election security

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Twenty-seven states activated National Guard cybersecurity cells in November 2018 to help ensure critical network infrastructure remained unobstructed during the midterm elections, the Guard's top general said Tuesday, predicting more states would deploy such teams in 2020.

As concerns about election security in the United States have risen in recent years amid threats from Russia and others, the National Guard has increased the size of its cyber force and turned to experts within its ranks who have honed critical cyber skills in their civilian jobs, Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, commander of the National Guard Bureau, told reporters at the Pentagon.

Though those National Guard units were not forced to contend with an active threat to elections in 2018, governors and others have recognized the need to have their own state-level forces prepared to ensure no one tampers with U.S. elections, just as Guard members provide them the ability to respond to a natural disaster, the general said.

"Our goal as men and women of the National Guard is to be able to offer these kinds of service to our governors to respond to a domestic event, whether it's a hurricane, a fire, a flood or a cyber event. It's just another military skill set that we have that can be used," Lengyel said.

"... Election network security is a very state-centric thing. We're an additive measure that can augment state response entities ... and we're trying to grow it."

Today, the National Guard boasts some 3,900 cyber troops in 59 cyber units with elements in all 50 states. It has also looked to cyber experts who have honed their skills in their civilian careers to contribute to the mission, Lengyel said.

More cyber teams are being added. The Army National Guard will build its newest cyber unit in Indiana — the 127th Cyber Battalion — and will include nearly 100 cyber soldiers, the Pentagon announced this week.

In Illinois, top officials earlier this year established cyber response teams where Guard members with cyber skills who serve in other military specialties can serve temporary, two-year assignments that take advantage of their talents. In Texas, Guard officials have identified some 1,000 troops within their ranks with civilian world-honed cyber skills who they could call upon if they need, officials said.

The top general for the state of Washington's National Guard,

which has a cyber force that includes experts from top technology companies based in the state including Microsoft and Amazon, said his cyber teams started to plan this week for their operations for the 2020 election. Their plans will look similar to ones that they used in 2018, said Army Maj. Gen. Bret Daugherty, the Washington's Guard commander.

The Washington Guard adjutant general said a 10-person cyber team would spend months studying the state's election network for any vulnerabilities and then plan how to fix or respond to any such issues that they find along side their counterparts from the Washington State Department's information technology team.

The final phase of that operation will be to protect the network on Election Day.

"That is monitoring the network, looking for any bad actors that may be trying to hack in, doing whatever we can to try to keep that from happening," Daugherty said Tuesday at the Pentagon. "So then we are on hand to respond if all our efforts have failed and the bad guys find a way in."

In several states, Guard members have recently found themselves gaining real-world experience responding to serious cyberthreats. In response to ransomware attacks launched at local government institutions in Texas, Louisiana and other states in recent months, governors have ordered Guard cyber teams to active-duty service to help other state agencies respond to the incursions.

Texas brought about 50 Guard members onto active duty for about two weeks in August to help when critical networks for 22 cities and counties were attacked by entities demanding a ransom, said Army Maj. Gen. Tracy Norris, the top officer in the Texas National Guard. The Guard cyber members were able to aid other state officials in fixing the network access issues without paying the ransom, she said.

Louisiana launched a similar response in July when a ransomware attack brought down networks for 11 districts including more than 50 schools just weeks before the beginning of the school year, said Kenneth Donnelly, who leads that state's cybersecurity programs.

Donnelly warned other attacks were ongoing as of Tuesday and threats to cyber infrastructure would only continue to grow and the National Guard would have to continue to boost its efforts in cybersecurity.

"This is ongoing," he said. "It's the new norm."

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MIDEAST

Syria: Uncertainty over US legal authority to use troops to protect oil fields

FROM FRONT PAGE

Sen. Tim Kaine, a Virginia Democrat, called the mission misguided.

"Risking the lives of our troops to guard oil rigs in eastern Syria is not only reckless, it's not legally authorized," Kaine told The Associated Press. "President Trump betrayed our Kurdish allies that have fought alongside American soldiers in the fight to secure a future without ISIS — and instead moved our troops to protect oil rigs."

The Pentagon will not say how many forces will remain in Syria for the new mission. Other officials, also speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing deliberations, suggest the total number could be at least 800 troops, including the roughly 200 who are at the al-Tanf garrison in southern Syria.

According to officials, lawyers are trying to hammer out details of the military order, which would make clear how far troops will be able to go to keep the oil in the Kurds' control.

The legal authority for U.S. troops going into Syria to fight ISIS militants was based on the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force that said U.S. troops can use all necessary force against those involved in the Sept. 11 attacks on America

Turkish president announces capture of dead ISIS leader's wife

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey has captured a wife of the slain leader of Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Wednesday.

Erdogan made the announcement during a speech in the capital, Ankara, but gave no other details. He did not say when or how the woman was captured or identify her by name.

Al-Baghdadi was known to have four wives, the maximum number he can have at one time

under Islamic law.

"We caught his wife, but we didn't make a fuss about it. I am announcing this today for the first time," Erdogan said, while criticizing the U.S. for leading a "communications campaign" about al-Baghdadi's slaying.

The ISIS leader blew himself up during an Oct. 26 raid by U.S. special forces on his heavily fortified safe house in the Syrian province of Idlib.

Erdogan's announcement comes just days after Turkish

forces captured al-Baghdadi's elder sister, identified as Rasmiya Awad, in the town of Azaz, in Aleppo province in northwestern Syria.

Turkey has seized on both incidents to highlight what it says is its fight against ISIS in the face of accusations that the Turkish military offensive last month to drive Syrian Kurdish fighters from northeast Syria would allow for a resurgence of the militant Islamic group.

From The Associated Press

grow to about 500.

Trump, Esper and other defense leaders have said it's important to protect the oil so ISIS militants can't regain control of the area and use the revenues to finance their operations.

Currently, the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish forces have controlled the oil, supported by a small contingent of U.S. troops.

A quiet arrangement has existed between the Kurds and the Syrian government whereby Damascus buys the surplus through middlemen in a smuggling operation that has continued despite political differences. The Kurdish-led administration sells crude oil to private refiners, who use primitive homemade refineries to process fuel and diesel and sell it back to the administration. It's unclear how long that agreement may continue. And if some dispute arises, U.S. troops must have clear guidance on how to respond.

U.S. forces can use military force to protect themselves. But the oil fields are expansive, and troops can't be everywhere. If, for example, Syrian government troops try to retake a portion of an oil facility and U.S. troops are not nearby, it's unclear now how much force they could use if they aren't acting in self-defense.

and to prevent any future acts of international terrorism. So, legal experts say the U.S. may have grounds to use the AUMF to prevent the oil from falling into ISIS' hands.

But protecting the oil from Syria government forces or other entities may be harder to defend.

"The U.S. is not at war with either Syria or Turkey, making the use of the AUMF a stretch," said Stephen Vladeck, a national security law professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

He added that while the U.S. Constitution bestows significant war powers on the president,

those are generally meant to be about self-defense and for the collective defense of the country. Arguing that securing the oil is necessary for national security "just strikes me as a bridge too far," he said.

Members of Congress, including Kaine, have also raised objections to the Trump administration using the AUMF as a basis for war against a sovereign government. That type of action, he and others have argued, required approval by Congress.

U.S. officials said the order approved by Trump does not include any mandate for the U.S. to

take Syria's oil.

Trump has said multiple times that the U.S. is "keeping the oil." But the White House and the Pentagon have so far been unable to explain what he means by that. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Friday he "interprets" Trump's remarks to mean the military should deny ISIS access to the oil fields.

There were already a couple of hundred U.S. troops around Deir el-Zour, and additional forces with armored vehicles, including Bradley infantry carriers, have begun moving in. Officials have said the total force there could



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MILITARY

Anesthetic shows promise treating PTSD

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Injecting a local anesthetic next to a bundle of nerves in the neck significantly reduced post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms in service members, the results of a two-year clinical trial published Wednesday show.

The Pentagon-funded trial conducted at two military medical centers in the U.S. and one in Germany found that PTSD symptoms improved after service members received an injection of stellate ganglion block. The findings, published in the medical journal *JAMA Psychiatry*, could revolutionize the way service members and veterans are treated for PTSD.

"This does represent a new treatment option," Kristine Rae Olmsted, one of the lead investi-

gators on the trial, told Stars and Stripes.

"In the hands of a qualified physician, it can really represent relief for people who are suffering from PTSD," said Olmsted, of the RTI International research institute, which received a \$2 million grant from the Defense Department to conduct the trial.

With 108 participants, the study was the largest random, controlled trial of the SGB injection for PTSD and the first to be carried out simultaneously at multiple sites.

Participants' PTSD symptoms were assessed by a mental health professional before they received the first of two placebo or SGB injections and again eight weeks later. The mental health interviewer did not know which participants were receiving a placebo and which were getting the active SGB injection.

At the eight-week assessment, symptom relief was found to be significantly better for patients who were given the SGB shot, the study said.

One participant described feeling "a radical change ... the first day. It has helped me not to be stressed and angry all the time. I can now let stuff go rather than blowing up about them," the study said.

"I do think, based on the findings of our research, that stellate ganglion block can be considered a new treatment option for PTSD," Olmsted said.

Further studies are planned to determine, among other things, how SGB works and how long its positive effects last.

Chicago anesthesiologist Dr. Eugene Lipov, who pioneered the use of SGB to treat PTSD more than 10 years ago, said he believes the block reduces a protein nec-

essary for nerve cell survival and new nerve growth, called Nerve Growth Factor, to pre-trauma levels.

NGF can surge in response to stress and fear, causing new nerve endings to sprout in the brain, Lipov said in a 2016 interview with Stars and Stripes. These excess nerves produce norepinephrine, which is similar to adrenaline, and can trigger chronic stress, heightening the "fight or flight" response, he said.

But with the injection, "the whole cascade reverses," Lipov said. "The sprouting falls off, norepinephrine falls to normal levels and people are calm and collected."

Some military doctors have been using SGB for years to treat patients with PTSD and want the procedure to be more widely used to treat the disorder.

Former Navy SEAL Dr. Sean Mulvaney has successfully treated more than 1,000 patients with PTSD using SGB, he says on his website. Dakota Meyer, the first living Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War, was one of his patients.

Having an SGB shot "made such an impact on me ... I caught myself singing in the shower," Meyer said in a video posted on Mulvaney's website.

"So many times, I've stood in the shower with my hands against the wall, the shower running over me thinking ... 'How am I going to get through this day?'" Meyer said in the video.

"I'll never forget that one moment, the day after I got the block, singing in the shower. Like holy smokes, I can't believe this."

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Ex-Axis sailor who joined US Army and served in Korea, Vietnam dies

By MATTHEW KEELER
Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — A former German submariner who fought under Adolf Hitler during World War II but went on to join the U.S. Army and serve in the Korean and Vietnam wars has died.

Kurt Dressler, 91, died of pneumonia on Oct. 26 at St. Mary's Hospital in Seoul, surrounded by family and friends, said Dennis Pugh, a friend and Masonic brother to Dressler.

Dressler was born in a part of the former Czechoslovakia that was ceded to Nazi Germany in 1938, one year before World War II broke out in Europe. Around 1944, at age 16, Dressler was drafted into the German navy, Pugh told Stars and Stripes during a memorial service on Friday.

Dressler was captured by the U.S. Navy and taken to a prisoner of war camp in the United States but escaped and was working on a farm when the law caught up with him.

"The local sheriff found out and arrested Kurt," Pugh said. "By the time he got to court the war had ended and the judge gave him two choices, go back to Germany or join the U.S. Army."

Dressler went on to serve in the Korean War under the Eighth Army and was a mess sergeant in Vietnam, Pugh said. According to official records, Dressler served in Vietnam from Nov. 18, 1967, to Jan. 9, 1968. More details were not immediately available.

He also received American citizenship under the since-discontinued Lodge-Philbin Act, which allowed foreigners to join the military and receive U.S. citizenship during the 1950s.

After 21 years of service,



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from the 142nd Military Police Company place a folded flag before a photo of Army veteran Kurt Dressler inside South Post Chapel at Yongsan Garrison, South Korea, on Friday. Dressler, a former German submariner during World War II, died at age 91.

Dressler retired from the Army to South Korea in 1973. He became a Mason in 1983, and at the time of his death was the oldest Mason on the Korean Peninsula associated with MacArthur Lodge No. 183 and the Valley of Seoul Scottish Rite, according to Pugh.

"Kurt was all about his community and his friendships and taking care of others," said fellow Mason and friend Michael Alexander, who also is director of the 2nd Infantry Division and Eighth Army museum on Camp Humphreys. "It was so important to him to see his friends, but it was important for us as his friends to see him, too."

On Veterans Day in 2010, Dressler attended a ceremony

where he got to meet then-President Barack Obama, who gave a speech to all veterans, both past and present, at Yongsan.

Dressler stayed active and could often be seen walking or swimming at Yongsan, Pugh said during the memorial service Friday at South Post Chapel.

"He could usually be spotted at The Point at the Dragon Hill Lodge to swim," he said. "He would sit out by the ice cream shop, in the same chair, and talk to many retirees."

Dressler is survived by his wife, Wol Yo Dressler, and will be buried at United Nations Cemetery in Busan. A date has not been set.

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Remembrance, sorrow at Fort Hood 10 years after shooting killed 13

By MARY HUBER

Lubbock (Texas) Avalanche-Journal

KILLEEN, Texas — Jerilyn Krueger said she woke Tuesday with a heaviness in her chest, reliving the feelings she experienced 10 years ago when she first learned her daughter, Amy, had been killed at Fort Hood.

She had sat by the phone for hours that day after hearing news of the shooting at the Army post in Texas. At 2:30 a.m., there was a knock at the door. Two uniformed officers delivered the news that her daughter was gone.

"It's unbelievable that it's been 10 years. It just doesn't seem that long," Krueger said Tuesday. "Tragedy is like that. It never seems like it's the time. It's like it stands still when you have something tragic happen."

On Tuesday, Krueger walked to a podium outside the Killen Civic and Conference Center, clutching her niece, Theresa Rief's, hand.

Krueger didn't speak. Rief read aloud a poem written in Amy Krueger's honor. One by one, family members of the 13 who died in the Nov. 5, 2009, massacre went to the podium to share memories of their loved ones.

The crowd of about 200 observed a moment of silence as the names of the dead and 31 wounded were read aloud, followed by the playing of taps and a resounding chorus of "God Bless America."

The Fort Hood shooting was carried out by an Army major who was a psychiatrist and became a professed Islamic extremist.

An estimated 31 family members of the fallen attended Tuesday's services. Teena Nemelka wept as she read a poem for her son, Pfc. Aaron Nemelka, who was 19 when he was killed.

"We have a lot of tragedy in the world these days, and a lot of them don't get honored like this," Krueger said.



JEROMIAH LIZAMA, THE KILLEEN (TEXAS) DAILY HERALD/AP

Teena Nemelka, whose son, Pfc. Aaron Nemelka, was killed in the 2009 shooting massacre at Fort Hood, Texas, delivers a reading on the 10-year anniversary at the Nov. 5, 2009 Fort Hood Memorial.

NATION

Blue: Suburban voters abandon GOP loyalties

FROM FRONT PAGE

who made gains on Tuesday did so by largely avoiding positions such as "Medicare for All" that have animated the party's left flank in the Democratic presidential primary.

Democratic pickups in Virginia occurred in Washington and Richmond suburbs that already had trended in the party's direction in recent years.

In Kentucky, Beshear gained considerable ground on Bevin in Kentucky's suburban counties that had helped propel the Republican to office four years ago. Other statewide GOP candidates in Kentucky won by comfortable margins. But the dip at the top of the ticket still offered another example in the Trump era of suburban voters' willingness to abandon established Republican loyalties — even with the president making a personal appeal on behalf of a GOP standard-bearer. Trump's 2020 campaign manager tried to find a positive frame for the results in a state Trump won by 30 percentage points in 2016.

"The president just about dragged Gov. Matt Bevin across the finish line, helping him run stronger than expected in what turned into a very close race at the end," Brad Parscale said.

Trump may depend on Mississippi, where he also campaigned in the final stretch before Election Day, for something to crow about. With Republican Gov. Phil Bryant term-limited, GOP nominee Tate Reeves defeated Democrat Jim Hood to extend the GOP's 20-year hold on the state's top office. But even that contest could finish with a single-digit margin in a state Trump won by 28 percentage points three years ago.

The tighter result for Reeves reflected the same suburban trends seen in other states. Heavily Republican counties outside Jackson, Miss., and Memphis, Tenn., still tilted to the GOP nominee but by noticeably narrower margins than what Bryant had four years ago to win a second term.

Legislative seats also were on the ballot in New Jersey, with Democrats positioned to maintain their overwhelming majorities and quell any opportunity for Trump to suggest that the Republicans were encroaching on Democratic territory ahead of 2020.

While Tuesday's results aren't necessarily predictive of what will

happen next November, voters in multiple states tied their decisions to the national atmosphere, particularly the president.

In Kentucky, Michael Jennings, 73, voted straight Democratic. A Vietnam veteran, retired state worker and former journalist, Jennings described the president as unfit for office and a threat to American democracy.

"If Kentucky can send a small flare up that we're making the necessary turn, that's a hopeful sign that would have reverberations far beyond our state," he said.

Yet Richard Simmons, 63, a butcher from Glen Allen, Va., was just as staunchly in the GOP camp, saying he voted for GayDonna Vandergriff in a state House race. Her Republican affiliation, Simmons said, "means everything to me, especially now."

A staunch Trump supporter, Simmons called the impeachment investigation unfounded.

"It's one diversion after another to keep Trump from doing anything," he said. "He's helped the economy, like, big-time. And I trust the guy."

To explain Kentucky, Republicans undoubtedly will echo the Trump campaign and focus on Bevin's weaknesses. He spent his term battling with state lawmakers — including Republicans — and teachers.

Beshear, meanwhile, is well known as state attorney general and the son of Steve Beshear, who won two terms as governor from 2007 to 2016 even as the state trended more solidly Republican in federal elections. Still, a Bevin upset would leave Trump explaining why his signature tactic of late campaign rallies wasn't enough in a state he won easily in 2016.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who easily defeated Bevin in a 2014 Senate primary,



ROCELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Republican Gov.-elect Tate Reeves of Mississippi addresses his supporters at a state GOP election night event Tuesday in Jackson, Miss. Reeves defeated Democratic Attorney General Jim Hood.

also has a vested interest in the outcome. McConnell is favored to win reelection next year in Kentucky, even as national Democrats harbor hopes of defeating him. The powerful senator likely will see a fundraising bonanza for a potential challenger if Beshear prevails.

In Mississippi, Republicans have dominated state politics for two decades. Reeves, the current lieutenant governor, sought to capitalize on those GOP leanings after Hood, the attorney general, acknowledged that he voted in Hillary Clinton over Trump in 2016. Hood needed a high turnout of the state's black voters and a better-than-usual share of the white vote to pull off the upset.

Reeves, Parscale said, will be "a tremendous conservative leader for Mississippians in fighting for freedom and keeping taxes low" and "a key ally" as 2020 approaches and Trump ramps up his push for reelection.

Elsewhere, voters in the West were deciding several ballot mea-

sures, with residents of Tucson, Ariz., appearing to overwhelmingly reject a proposal to designate it as Arizona's only sanctuary city.

The proposal called for new restrictions on when and where people could be asked about their immigration status and required

officers to first tell people that they have a right not to answer questions about whether they're in the country legally. Tucson's all-Democratic City Council opposed the measure, citing concerns about the potential for losing millions of dollars in state and federal funding.

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NATION

Trump's GOP has no answer for suburban slide

By STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The suburban revolt against President Donald Trump's Republican Party is growing.

And if nothing else, the GOP's struggle across the South on Tuesday revealed that Republicans don't have a plan to fix it.

In Kentucky, Trump and his allies went all in to rescue embattled Gov. Matt Bevin, who literally wrapped himself in the president's image in his pugnacious campaign.

In Virginia, embattled Republicans ran away from Trump, downplaying their support for his policies and encouraging him to stay away.

In the end, neither strategy was a sure winner.

Bevin's race was too close to call Tuesday night, locked in a virtual dead heat with Democrat Andy Beshear in a state Trump won by nearly 30 percentage points in 2016. The GOP in Virginia lost control of both houses of the legislature for the first time in a generation.

It's difficult to draw sweeping conclusions from state elections, each with their own unique quirks and personalities. But there's little doubt Tuesday's outcome is a warning to Republicans across the nation a year out from the 2020 election and a year after the 2018 midterms: The suburbs are still moving in the wrong direction.

"Republican support in the suburbs has basically collapsed under Trump," Republican strategist Alex Conant said. "Somehow, we need to find a way to regain our suburban support over the next year."

"They continue to lose needed support in suburban districts, especially among women and college-educated voters. That trend, if not reversed, is a death spiral."

Rick Tyler
Republican strategist

The stakes are undoubtedly high. While neither Virginia nor Kentucky is likely to be a critical battleground in the presidential race next year, Tuesday's results confirm a pattern repeated across critical swing states — outside of Philadelphia, Detroit and Charlotte, N.C. They're also sure to rattle Republican members of Congress searching for a path to victory through rapidly shifting territory.

To be sure, Republicans demonstrated their firm grip on rural areas, and turn-out for both sides appeared to be healthy for off-year elections. Notably, Kentucky's voters elected Republicans to a handful of other statewide offices. In Mississippi, another Trump stronghold, Republicans kept their hold on the governor's office, as Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves defeated well-funded Democratic Attorney General Jim Hood.

But the GOP's challenge was laid bare in places like Virginia's Henrico County just outside Richmond.

Republican state Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant won there by almost 20 percentage points four years ago. The area has recently been transformed by an influx of younger, college-educated voters and minorities,

a combination that's become a recipe for Democrats' support.

With the final votes still trickling in Tuesday night, Dunnivant was barely ahead of Democrat Debra Rodman, a college professor who seized on Trump and her Republican opponent's opposition to gun control to appeal to moderate voters.

In northern Virginia, Democrat John Bell flipped a state Senate district from red to blue in a district that has traditionally favored Republicans. The race, set in the rapidly growing and diverse counties outside of Washington, D.C., attracted nearly \$2 million in political advertising.

Democrats' surging strength in the suburbs reflects the anxiety Trump provokes among moderates, particularly women who have rejected his scorched-earth politics and uncompromising conservative policies on health care, education and gun violence.

Republicans' response in Virginia was to try to stay focused on local issues. In the election's final days, Dunnivant encouraged Trump to stay out of the state. The president obliged, sending Vice President Mike Pence instead.

Struggling for a unifying message, some Republicans turned to impeachment, trying to tell the Democrats to their counterparts in Washington and the effort to impeach Trump.

No one played that card harder than Kentucky's Bevin, who campaigned aside an "impeachment" banner and stood next to Trump on the eve of the election.

But even in ruby-red Kentucky, Trump was not a cure-all and the trouble in the suburbs emerged.

Bevin struggled in Republican strongholds across the northern part of the state, where the Democrats' drift and increased enthusiasm was clear.

In 2015, Bevin won Campbell County south of Cincinnati handily. On Tuesday, Beshear not only carried the county with ease, he nearly doubled the number of Democratic votes there, compared to the Democratic nominee of four years ago. Beshear also found another 74,000 Democratic votes in urban Jefferson County, home of Louisville.

Beshear led Bevin by the narrowest of margins Tuesday night.

Republicans were quick to blame Bevin for his stumbles. The governor was distinctly unpopular and picked fights with powerful interests in the state. Still, it was difficult for Republicans not to note the warning signs for the party next year and beyond.

"They continue to lose needed support in suburban districts, especially among women and college-educated voters," said Republican strategist Rick Tyler. "That trend, if not reversed, is a death spiral."

Across the US, voters weigh in on a variety of issues

Associated Press

Voters in the West took a dim view of taxes, while New Yorkers backed a new way to elect some of their leaders and a New Jersey city cracked down on Airbnb.

Tucson voters seemed uninterested in becoming a sanctuary city, and those in Washington weighed whether to roll back limits on affirmative action.

Across the country, ballot measures gave voters a chance to weigh in on a wide range of issues. Among the highlights:

■ **Arizona:** Tucson voters overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to designate their town as Arizona's only sanctuary city. The decision in one of Arizona's most liberal cities is a relief for the Democrats who control city government. They worry the initiative would jeopardize millions of dollars in state and federal funding and put



SETH WENIG/AP

A sign urging people to vote on municipal question #1 is displayed in Jersey City, N.J., on Tuesday. Voters approved restrictions on Airbnb and other short-term rental companies.

public safety at risk. The initiative was a direct challenge to the state immigration law that drew global attention, protests, boycotts and lawsuits when it was adopted nine

years ago.

■ **New Jersey:** Voters in a New Jersey city that's just a few minutes by train from lower Manhattan approved restrictions on

Airbnb and other short-term rental companies. Jersey City, home to around 271,000 people, has become increasingly popular with tourists seeking an alternative to pricey New York City lodging. That has led to complaints about absentee owners turning apartment buildings into de facto hotels and having a negative effect on affordable housing. The regulations limit how often landlords can rent properties if they don't live on site. They also forbid short-term rentals in buildings with more than four units if the owner isn't present and prohibit renters from serving as hosts.

■ **New York:** Voters in New York City passed a measure to adopt a ranked-choice voting system in some future elections. The new system, which passed with overwhelming support, will let people rank up to five candidates

in order of preference, rather than picking just one to support. Other places, including Maine and San Francisco, already use ranked choice voting systems, but New York City will be the most populous place in the United States to embrace it. The system will be used in primaries and special elections starting in 2021.

■ **Washington:** A measure that reinstates the use of affirmative action in state employment, contracting and admission to public colleges and universities was narrowly losing. The measure asks people whether they want to change current laws that prohibit state government from giving preferential treatment to individuals or groups based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education, or public contracting.

Kansas City voters approve removing MLK's name from street

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Kansas City voters on Tuesday overwhelmingly approved removing Dr. Martin Luther King's name from one of the city's most historic boulevards, less than a year after the city council decided to rename The Paseo for the civil rights icon.

Unofficial results vote showed the proposal to remove King's

name received nearly 70% of the vote, with just over 30% voting to retain King's name.

The debate over the name of the 10-mile boulevard on the city's mostly black east side began shortly after the council's decision in January to rename The Paseo for King. Civil rights leaders who pushed for the change celebrated when the street signs went up, believing they had finally won a decades-long battle

to honor King, which appeared to end Kansas City's reputation as one of the largest U.S. cities in the country without a street named for him.

But a group of residents intent on keeping The Paseo name began collecting petitions to put the name change on the ballot and achieved that goal in April.

The campaign has been divisive, with supporters of King's name accusing opponents of

being racist, while supporters of The Paseo name say city leaders pushed the name change through without following proper procedures and also ignored The Paseo's historic value.

Emotions reached a peak Sunday, when members of the "Save The Paseo" group staged a silent protest at a get-out-the-vote rally at a black church for people wanting to keep the King name. They walked into the Paseo Baptist

Church and stood along its two aisles. The protesters stood silently and did not react to several speakers that accused them of being disrespectful in a church but they also refused requests from speakers to sit down.

The Save the Paseo group collected 2,857 signatures in April — far more than the 1,700 needed — to have the name change put to a public vote.

NATION

Envoy: 'I now do recall'

Ambassador amends impeachment probe testimony to say Ukraine aid withheld over requested public statement

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — "I now do recall."

With that stunning reversal, diplomat Gordon Sondland handed House impeachment investigators another key piece of corroborating testimony Tuesday. He acknowledged what Democrats contend was a clear quid pro quo, pushed by President Donald Trump and his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, with Ukraine.

Sondland, in an addendum to his sworn earlier testimony, said that military assistance to the East European ally was being withheld until Ukraine's new president agreed to release a statement about fighting corruption as Trump wanted. Sondland said he was the one who carried the message to a Ukrainian official on the sidelines of a conference in Warsaw with Vice President Mike Pence.

"I said that resumption of U.S. aid would likely not occur until Ukraine provided the public anti-corruption statement that we had been discussing for many weeks," Sondland recalled.

His three-page update, tucked beneath hundreds of pages of sworn testimony from Sondland and former Ukraine Special

Envoy Kurt Volker, was released by House investigators as Democrats prepared to push the closed-door sessions to public hearings as soon as next week.

Late Tuesday, Sondland flew to Portland, Ore., and was met by a small group of protesters at Portland International Airport.

"I didn't change my testimony, but I can't answer any questions," Sondland told reporters. He didn't elaborate.

Trump has denied any quid pro quo, but Democrats say there is a singular narrative developing since the president's July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy when he first asked for "a favor." That request, which sparked the impeachment inquiry, included a public investigation into Ukrainian activities by Democratic former Vice President Joe Biden and his son and Trump's allegations of Ukrainian interference in the 2016 U.S. election.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, said the House panels conducting the inquiry are releasing the word-by-word transcripts of the past weeks' closed-door hearings so the American public can decide for themselves.

"This is about more than just

one call," Schiff wrote Tuesday in an op-ed in USA Today. "We now know that the call was just one piece of a larger operation to redirect our foreign policy to benefit Donald Trump's personal and political interests, not the national interest."

Pushing back, White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham issued a statement saying the transcripts "show there is even less evidence for this illegitimate impeachment sham than previously thought."

In the transcripts and accompanying cache of text messages, U.S. diplomats are shown trying to navigate the demands of Trump and Giuliani, who they soon learn is running a back-channel U.S. foreign policy on Ukraine.

"It kept getting more insidious," Sondland told investigators, as the "timeline went on."

Sondland testified that he spoke with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo about Giuliani, "and Pompeo rolled his eyes and said, 'Yes, it's something we have to deal with.'"

In his revised testimony, Sondland, a wealthy businessman who donated \$1 million to Trump's inauguration, says his memory was refreshed by the opening



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

Democrats say testimony released from U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland shows a clear quid pro quo with Ukraine.

statements of two other inquiry witnesses the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, William Taylor, and Tim Morrison, a European expert at the National Security Council.

The ambassador initially testified on Oct. 17 that he did not "recall taking part in any effort to encourage an investigation into the Bidens." He told investigators he didn't know that the Ukraine firm Burisma, that Trump wanted Ukraine to investigate, was linked to Joe Biden's son Hunter.

But in the weeks since a May visit to Kyiv for Zelenskyy's inauguration, Sondland and the other diplomats had been heavily involved in Ukraine policy and in text messages about what Trump wanted as they came to realize the military assistance was being withheld.

Trump to kick off NYC Veterans Day Parade

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has accepted an invitation to kick off the New York City Veterans Day Parade next week.

United War Veterans Council Chairman Douglas McGowan and the White House said on Wednesday that Trump will offer a tribute to veterans at the opening ceremony of Monday's 100th annual parade. While presidents have always been invited to the parade, McGowan said that, as far as he knows, Trump is the first to accept.

After his remarks, the president will lay a wreath at the Eternal Light memorial in Madison Square Park, White House spokesman Judd Deere said.

Trump, who is deeply unpopular in his hometown of New York, has been a longtime promoter of the parade.

During the 1990s, he pledged a donation of \$200,000 and offered to raise money from friends in exchange for being named the parade's grand marshal, The New York Times reported at the time. He also donated toward the creation of the city's Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The announcement comes just days after news broke that the Republican president has officially changed his residency to Florida.

Sources say refusal to back envoy was political

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The State Department's third-ranking official was expected to tell House impeachment investigators Wednesday that political considerations were behind the agency's refusal to deliver a robust defense of the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine.

People familiar with the matter say the highest-ranking career diplomat in the foreign service, David Hale, plans to say that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other senior officials determined that defending Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch would hurt the effort to free up U.S. military assistance to Ukraine.

Hale, who arrived Wednesday morning to testify behind closed doors, will also say that the State Department worried about the reaction from President Donald Trump's personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, also one of the strongest advocates for removing the ambassador.

Meanwhile, State Department Counselor T. Ulrich Bruchuhl, who was subpoenaed to appear before the impeachment panel,



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, center, was expected to be part of the discussion Wednesday as a high-ranking State Department official was set to testify in a closed-door session with House impeachment investigators.

was on the plane with Pompeo, who departed early Wednesday morning for Germany. Two other witnesses who were scheduled for Wednesday — Russ Vought, the acting director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, and Rick Perry, the Energy secretary — were not expected to show up.

Yovanovitch, who was removed from her posting in May, has already appeared before investigators in the impeachment inquiry into Trump. She detailed efforts by Giuliani and other Trump allies to push her out of Ukraine. Hale was expected to shed more light on why the State Depart-

ment did not step up to defend its top envoy in Kyiv. According to the people familiar with the matter, he planned to say he tried to

distance himself and the department from the matter by removing himself from email chains about Yovanovitch.

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NATION

Judge rejects moral-objection rule for clinicians

By LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A federal judge on Wednesday struck down a new rule, not yet in effect, that allowed health care clinicians to refuse participation in abortions and other services on moral or religious grounds.

U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer in New York said he was tossing out the rule in its entirety.

The decision came after 19 states, the District of Columbia, three local governments, health organizations and others sued the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The rule let clinicians object to providing abortions and other services that conflict with their moral and religious beliefs.

Engelmayer said his ruling came in three consolidated lawsuits.

U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer wrote that existing laws already define the duties of employers with respect to religious objections.

Plaintiffs had argued that the rule was unconstitutional because it would be discriminatory and stall access to health care for populations nationwide.

The U.S. Justice Department did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Clare Coleman, president of the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, one of the plaintiffs, said the group was "heartened by today's ruling."

"This unlawful rule is an outright attack on the health and wellness of millions of people across the country, and the court

heard clear and compelling arguments about the harm communities face when our health care system is distorted to the point in which a patient's health care needs are not paramount," she said.

New York Attorney General Letitia James said the state sued in part because the rule "was an unlawful attempt to allow health care providers to openly discriminate and refuse to provide necessary health care to patients based on providers' religious beliefs or moral objections."

The rule emerged after President Donald Trump in May 2017

signed an executive order instructing the attorney general to issue guidance interpreting religious liberty protections in federal law.

In May, the Department of Health and Human Services published a rule applying more than 30 "Conscience Provisions" that must be complied with for an entity to receive federal funding.

Lawsuits challenging the rule argued that the department exceeded its authority in establishing the rule, violated the Constitution and acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner in creating it.

Engelmayer, who was appointed by Democratic President Barack Obama, wrote that existing laws already define the duties of employers with respect to religious objections.

The 2019 rule, which had been set to take effect late this month, would effectively supersede ex-

isting law in the health care field, he said.

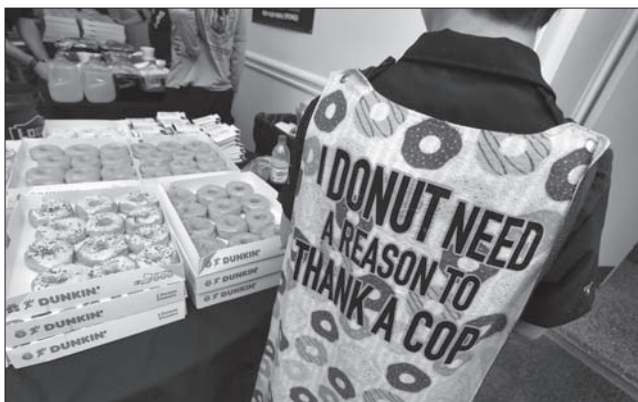
The judge rejected arguments that the rule was "mere housekeeping." Rather, he said, it relocated "the who, what, when, where and how — of conscience protection under federal law."

The Department of Health and Human Services lacked authority to create major portions of its rule, including to terminate an entity's federal health funding if it violates one of the provisions.

At the time the rule was issued, Engelmayer noted, the president said it conferred "new protections."

The rule, for the first time, put limits on an employer's ability to inquire about conscience objections, the judge said.

"These limits have clear potential to inhibit the employer's ability to organize workplace arrangements to avoid inefficiencies and dislocations," he said.



DEVON RAVINE, NORTHWEST FLORIDA DAILY NEWS/AP

Sweet mission

Tyler Carach, 12, the self-proclaimed "Donut Boy," wears a donut-embazoned cape with his motto, "I DONUT need a reason to THANK a cop" as he stands next to boxes of Dunkin' Donuts that he was handing out Monday to law enforcement officers participating in a K9 competition in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Tyler is on a mission to give a donut and personal thank-you to every police officer in the country and so far has handed out more than 90,000 donuts to officers in all 50 states.

Conditions fan flames of California fire season

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The sun was beginning to set on Halloween when a small fire began to glow on a hillside near Santa Paula.

Within seconds — fanned by the most potent Santa Ana winds of the season — the blaze roared to life with immense speed, chewing through thousands of acres of bone-dry brush and eventually consuming homes.

Devastating fire weather that ushered in a flurry of blazes across the state last month helped the Maria fire, which charred nearly 10,000 acres in four days, earn the title of this year's largest Southern California wildfire.

However, experts caution the blaze may be a preview of what could be a long season of devastating

fires amid gusty winds and dry conditions.

A report from the National Interagency Fire Center, released Friday, predicts a higher-than-normal chance for other large fires in Southern California through December, with a late start to the rainy season looking increasingly likely. In the northern part of the state, a weather pattern that "favors offshore winds occurring over fuel beds that are primed for burning" is also expected to lead to abnormally large fires through November, according to the report.

Predicting how severe the fire season could be in California comes down in large part to a race between the start of the rainy season and the Santa Ana winds, which one dominates and at what time of the year, said Bill Patzert, a retired climatologist for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Prosecution mulls hate crime charges in Wis. acid attack

By IVAN MORENO
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Milwaukee's district attorney said Wednesday he's considering hate crime charges against a 61-year-old white man suspected of splashing battery acid on a Hispanic man's face.

John Chisholm told Wisconsin Public Radio in an interview that his office anticipated filing charges later Wednesday against Clifford Blackwell, the suspect in Friday night's acid attack.

The victim, Mahud Villalaz, 42, said his attacker approached him near a restaurant and accused him of being in the country illegally before asking why he was "invading" the U.S.

Surveillance video from the restaurant recorded the attack.

Chisholm said his office is looking to determine whether the attack was motivated "in whole or in part" based on the victim's race.

Treating the case as a hate crime would enhance the possible sentence for the attack.

"He said prosecutors will look 'very closely first at the underlying offenses and then we'll make a determination whether the facts support the hate crime.'"

"But it's obviously a concern to many people not just in this

community but really around the country right now," he said.

The attack on Villalaz came at a time when the Anti-Defamation League says extreme anti-immigrant views have become part of the political mainstream in recent years through sharp rhetoric by anti-immigration groups and politicians, including President Donald Trump.

White House spokesman Judd Deere said Monday that the Trump administration has repeatedly condemned racism and violence.

Blackwell's family said he's a military veteran who came to Milwaukee to seek help for an undetermined medical issue.

His mother, Jacqueline P. Blackwell, of California, told the Journal Sentinel he had sought care with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Milwaukee for post-traumatic stress.

"I was comfortable that he was getting good care with the VA," she told the newspaper.

His brother, Arthur Eugene Blackwell, of Evergreen, Colo., told The Associated Press that Clifton served nearly four years in the U.S. Marines and was stationed at the Panama Canal around the time Manuel Noriega was captured and removed in 1990.

A Marine official told the AP that the branch doesn't have a record matching Blackwell's name and birthdate.



Blackwell

SCIENCE AND MEDICINE



PHOTOS BY ADRIAN KRAUS/AP

Andy Newhouse, left, and William Powell harvest genetically modified chestnut samples at the State University of New York's College of Environmental Science & Forestry's Lafayette Road Experiment Station in Syracuse, N.Y., on Sept. 30.

Genetically-altered chestnut trees considered in restoration effort

By MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Chestnuts harvested from high branches on a chilly fall morning look typical. They're marble sized, russet colored and nestled in prickly burs. But many are like no other nuts in nature.

In a feat of genetic engineering, about half the chestnuts collected at this college experiment station feature a gene that provides resistance to blight that virtually wiped out the American chestnut tree generations ago.

Researchers at New York state's College of Environmental Science and Forestry will soon seek federal clearance to distribute thousands of modified trees as part of a restoration effort — a closely-watched move that could expand the frontier for genetically engineered plants beyond farms and into forests. The precedent-setting case adds urgency to a question scientists have already been grappling with:

Should genetic engineering be used in the wild to help save or restore trees?

Opponents warn of starting "a massive and irreversible experiment" in a highly complex ecosystem. Proponents see a technology already ubiquitous in the supermarket that could help save forests besieged by invasive pests.

"We have this technology, it's a very powerful technology, and we can use that now to save a species," said William Powell, a molecular plant biologist who directs the American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project at the college.

The researchers will ask the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assess an American chestnut tree with a gene from wheat that helps it tolerate cryphonectria parasitica, a fungus unwittingly imported to the United States over 100 years ago.

"We have this technology, it's a very powerful technology, and we can use that now to save a species."

William Powell
molecular plant biologist



The blight decimated a towering tree species once dominant in forests from Maine to Georgia. Nuts from up to 4 billion trees fattened hogs, and its sturdy wood was used to build cabins. Yet by the time Nat King Cole crooned about "chestnuts roasting on an open fire" after World War II, trees were doomed by the blight. Surviving trees today are typically shrubs sprouting from old roots, yet to be infected.

Powell and his research partner, Charles Maynard, began working on a complementary track decades ago at the request of the New York chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. The added wheat gene enables trees to produce an enzyme that breaks down harmful acid released by the fungus. Right now, the trees are tightly regulated. Modified trees grow behind the fence of the college's experiment station near trees without the added gene. Researchers breed the two types of trees for genetic diversity. But flowering branch tips are covered with bags that keep pollen from blowing away. Chestnuts grow and are harvested in the same bags.

The USDA commonly authorizes genetically engineered crops. The vast majority of commercial corn and soybean acreage in the United States is used to grow crops engineered to be tolerant to herbicides or insects. There are even some genetically engineered plantation trees, such as papayas resistant to ringspot virus.

But engineered trees are not intentionally planted in the forests for conservation. That could change as genetic manipulation becomes more common and trees are increasingly threatened by climate change and invasive pests.

If the application clears the USDA, the tree still needs to be considered by the Food and Drug Administration and it may need to be reviewed by the Environmental Protection Agency. Powell believes the review could take two to four years.

A green light from the government would clear the way for distribution of the genetically engineered seedlings, pollen or scions for grafting to volunteers around the chestnut's traditional range.

In rural upstate New York, Allen Nichols is waiting.

Nichols, president of the New York chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, has about 100 chestnut trees on a rise by his house. Thanks to his diligent care, some lived long enough to produce chestnuts this year. Other trees are dying while others sprout anew.

The 69-year-old retiree looks forward to the day he can graft the genetically engineered tree onto his stock, letting the pollen drift in the wind and bringing back a healthy tree his parents talked fondly about.

"If we can do it, we should do it," Nichols said as he surveyed his trees. "We owe it to the forest to try to correct some of the damage that we've done."

In a first in US, doctors try gene editing for cancer

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
Associated Press

The first attempt in the United States to use a gene editing tool called CRISPR against cancer seems safe in the three patients who have had it so far, but it's too soon to know if it will improve survival, doctors reported Wednesday.

The doctors were able to take immune system cells from the patients' blood and alter them genetically to help them recognize and fight cancer, with minimal and manageable side effects.

The treatment deletes three genes that might have been hindering these cells' ability to attack the disease and adds a new, fourth feature to help them do the job.

"It's the most complicated genetic, cellular engineering that's been attempted so far," said the study leader, Dr. Edward Stadtmauer, of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. "This is proof that we can safely do gene editing of these cells."

After two to three months, one patient's cancer continued to worsen and another was stable. The third patient was treated too recently to know she'll fare. The plan is to treat 15 more patients and assess safety and how well it works.

"It's very early, but I'm incredibly encouraged by this," said one independent expert, Dr. Aaron Gersd, a Cleveland Clinic cancer specialist.

Other cell therapies for some blood cancers "have been a huge hit, taking diseases that are incurable and curing them," and the gene editing may give a way to improve on those, he said.

Gene editing is a way to permanently change DNA to attack the root causes of a disease. CRISPR is a tool to cut DNA at a specific spot. It's long been used in the lab and is being tried for other

diseases.

This study is not aimed at changing DNA within a person's body. Instead it seeks to remove, alter and give back to the patient cells that are super-powered to fight their cancer — a form of immunotherapy.

Chinese scientists reportedly have tried this for cancer patients, but this is the first such study outside that country. It's so novel that it took more than two years to get approval from U.S. government regulators to try it.

The early results were released by the American Society of Hematology; details will be given at its annual conference in December.

The study is sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania, the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy in San Francisco and a biotech company, Tmunity Therapeutics. Several study leaders and the university have a financial stake in the company and may benefit from patents and licenses on the technology.

Two of the patients have multiple myeloma, a blood cancer, and the third has a sarcoma, a cancer that forms in connective or soft tissue. All had failed multiple standard treatments and were out of good options.

Their blood was filtered to remove immune system soldiers called T cells, which were modified in the lab and then returned to the patients through an IV. It's intended as a one-time treatment. The cells should multiply into an army within the body and act as a living drug.

So far, the cells have survived and have been multiplying as intended, Stadtmauer said.

"This is a brand new therapy" so not it's not clear how soon any anti-cancer effects will be seen. Following these patients longer, and testing more of them, will tell, he said.



PENNA MEDICINE/AP

IV bags of CRISPR-edited T cells are prepared for administering to a patient at the Abramson Cancer Center in Philadelphia in January. For the first time in the U.S., doctors reported Wednesday they tested the gene-editing tool against cancer.

WORLD

Courage helps children survive Mexico killings

BY PETER ORSI
AND MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press

GALEANA, Mexico — The eight children, some mere infants, who survived the ambush in northern Mexico not only escaped the drug cartel gunmen who killed their mothers but managed to hide in the brush, with some walking miles to get help despite grisly bullet wounds.

In a testament to a mother's devotion, one woman reportedly stashed her baby on the floor of her Suburban and got out of the vehicle, waving her arms to get the gunmen she wasn't a threat. She may have moved away from the vehicle to distract their attention; her bullet-riddled body was found about 15 yards away from the SUV.

The mother was one of nine U.S. citizens — three women and six children all living in northern Mexico — slaughtered Monday when cartel gunmen ambushed three SUVs along a dirt road in an attack that left one vehicle a burned-out, bullet-riddled hulk. Mexican officials said the gun-

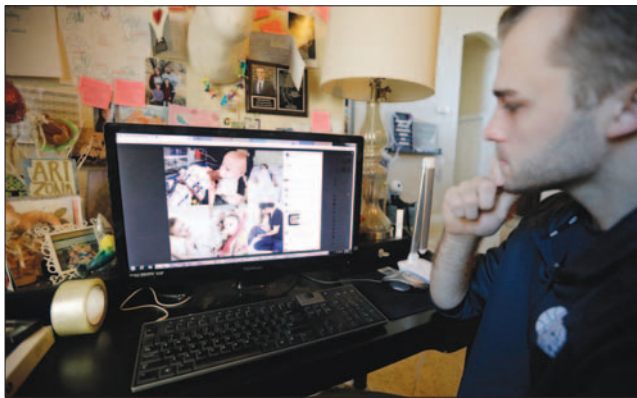
men may have mistaken the group's large SUVs for those of a rival gang amid a vicious turf war.

The five wounded children were seriously enough injured that Mexican authorities flew them to the border in a military helicopter to receive hospital care in the United States. Sonora state health officials said they were "stable" at the moment of transfer. Three other children who were not wounded are in the care of family members in the tiny hamlet of La Mora in northern Mexico.

But what the children went through in the remote, mountainous area of Sonora state is nearly indescribable.

Kendra Miller, a relative, said in an account of the shootings that Devin Blake Langford, 13, was one of the few uninjured young people and quickly took charge, eventually walking about 14 miles back to La Mora for help.

"After witnessing his mother and brothers being shot dead, Devin hid his six other siblings in the bushes and covered them with branches to keep them safe while he went for help," accord-



RICK BOWMER/AP

Austin Cloes, a Utah relative of the Americans killed in Mexico, looks at a photo Tuesday of the children who survived the attack in a hospital.

ing to the account. "When he took too long to return, his 9-year-old sister left the remaining five to try again."

That girl, McKenzie Rayne Langford, walked for hours in the dark before she was found several hours after the other children were rescued. She was listed as missing for a while.

Altogether, the kids were on their own from about 1 p.m., when the ambush began, until about 7:30 p.m., when they were rescued. Relatives from La Mora tried to reach them before that, but were turned back by gunfire. The area is the site of a cartel turf war.

What they saw when they found

the children was terrifying.

Cody Greyson Langford, 8, had been shot in the jaw and bled profusely. Another girl had been shot in the foot and the back.

The killers were apparently members of the Juarez drug cartel and its armed wing, La Linea — "The Line" — whose gunmen had entered Sinaloa cartel territory and set up an armed outpost on a hilltop and an ambush farther up the road. The Juarez cartel apparently wanted to send a message that it controlled the road into Chihuahua. It was this invasion force that the American mothers and their three vehicles drove into.

But it isn't the cruelty of the

cartel, but the bravery, innocence and sacrifice of the victims that relatives want remembered.

Austin Cloes, a relative of the victims, said from his home in Salt Lake City that they were good people who loved their children and enjoyed their quiet lives based around a successful pecan farming operation.

"This sort of thing shouldn't go unnoticed," said Cloes, who works with at-risk youth and coaches high school basketball.

"And these sorts of people shouldn't just be buried without their names being put out there. These are great people."

8 stabbed at popular Jordanian tourist site

BY OMAR AKOUR
Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — A lone attacker Wednesday stabbed eight people, including four foreign tourists and their tour guide, at a popular archaeological site in northern Jordan, security officials said.

The incident in Jerash, one of the country's most visited destinations, threatened to cast a shadow over the country's vital tourism industry.

The wounded included three Mexican tourists and a Swiss woman, according to a spokesman for Jordan's Public Security office. Along with the tour guide, three other Jordanians, including two security officers and a bus driver, were also hurt before the attacker was subdued and arrested.

The office said a Mexican woman and a Jordanian security officer were in serious condition and airlifted to the capital, Amman, by helicopter. Jerash is roughly 40 miles north of the capital.

Amateur video showed a bloody scene next to the Jerash archaeological site, an ancient city whose ruins include a Roman amphitheater and a columned leg road.

In one video, a woman can be heard screaming in Spanish. "It's a dagger, it's a dagger, there is a knife. Please, help him now!"

One woman is seen lying on the ground, with much blood around her, as someone presses a towel to her back. Another man sits nearby with an apparent leg wound.

There were no immediate details on the identity of the attacker or his motives.

Residents of the Jerash refugee camp, which is in-



MOHAMMAD ABU GHOSH/AP

A tourist walks around in the ancient Roman city of Jerash, Jordan, in 2009. Officials say an attacker stabbed eight people in Jerash on Wednesday.

habited by Palestinians whose families left the Gaza Strip during the 1967 Mideast war, denounced the attack.

"We condemn the terrorist attack that was carried out by a coward in Jerash," they said in a signed letter quoted on a government newspaper's website.

Jordan's economy relies heavily on tourism, and Islamic militant groups and other attackers have in the past targeted tourist sites to embarrass the government or harm the valuable industry. The Jordanian tourism sector has enjoyed a strong rebound over the past two years.

UK's Johnson compares rival to Stalin as election kicks off

Associated Press

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson compared his main rival to Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin on Wednesday as he prepared to officially launch the governing Conservative Party's campaign for the Dec. 12 election.

While unofficial campaigning has been gearing up for weeks, the five-week election campaign formally began when Parliament was dissolved Wednesday. Johnson went to Buckingham Palace to notify Queen Elizabeth II before kicking off the Conservative campaign with a speech later in central England.

Election season got off to an ill-tempered start, as Johnson accused the main opposition Labour Party of planning to "raise taxes so wantonly" that it would destroy Britain's prosperity.

Writing in the Daily Telegraph, Johnson accused the left-of-center party of attacking the rich "with a relish and vindictiveness we see since Stalin persecuted the kulaks," the weather peasants who were targeted by the Soviet regime in the 1930s.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn,

meanwhile, has labeled Johnson's economic plans "Thatcherism on steroids," in reference to the free-market, low-spending ideology of the late former Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The testy rhetoric followed a rocky start to the campaign for Johnson's party. Outgoing House of Commons leader Jacob Rees-Mogg was forced to apologize for his remarks Tuesday that suggested the victims of a London apartment block inferno that killed 72 people in 2017 lacked common sense for following fire department advice to wait in their apartments for help.

The Conservatives were also criticized for posting a doctored video of a senior Labour figure on Twitter that appeared to show him failing to answer a question, when in fact he did.

Conservative Party chair James Cleverly told the BBC on Wednesday that the ad was just a bit of fun.

Asked whether his party had "posted a lie" online, he replied, "I disagree with your assessment of it."

WORLD

Russian fighters shift balance of Libya's civil war

Mercenaries fighting for Hifter add modern tactics, deadlier firepower

By SUDARSAN RAGHAVAN
The Washington Post

AL AZIZIYAH, Libya — At first, the fighters inside the empty school building, about 20 burly, heavily armed Russian mercenaries in dark fatigues, seemed trapped, recalled some of the Libyan militiamen who were there.

But as the Libyans pushed forward, snipers opened fire from inside with high-powered rifles. Within minutes, three Libyan militiamen were killed, all shot in the head.

Hundreds of Russian mercenaries, many highly trained and well-armed, are fighting alongside renegade Libyan commander Khalifa Hifter as he seeks to oust the country's United Nations-backed government, according to Libyan military commanders and fighters, as well as U.S. military and other Western officials.

These fighters fighting for Hifter's self-described Libyan National Army are introducing new tactics and firepower on the battlefield, threatening to prolong the most violent conflict in this North African country since the Arab Spring revolution eight years ago.

"The entry of the Russian forces into the war has altered the battlefield," said Osama al-Juwali, a top commander of the Libyan government's forces. "Their presence complicates things for us."

They represent the latest escalation in Libya's proxy war, which has drawn in European and Arab countries — notably the United Arab Emirates and Egypt — despite an international arms embargo. And the arrival of these mercenaries comes at a time when Russia has been expanding its military and diplomatic reach across the Middle East, Africa and beyond, enjoying greater clout in places such as Syria where the United States is disengaging.

"We are aware of Russian private military companies operating in Libyan National Army-controlled territory in eastern Libya, and they have also operated in western Libya," said Rebecca Farmer, a spokesperson for the U.S. military's Africa Command.

Farmer said the Russian mercenaries work for the Wagner Group, a private army that experts have linked to Yevgeny Prigozhin, a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Wagner Group has previously appeared in combat in Syria, the Central Afri-



A military training manual believed to belong to Russian mercenaries was found on a battleground in Libya.

can Republic, Ukraine and other countries considered strategic for the Kremlin's geopolitical and economic interests.

Russia has arms and construction agreements worth in excess of \$4 billion, made with late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi, who was ousted and killed in the country's 2011 uprisings and NATO intervention.

"They have a strong economic rationale in their continued support to Hifter," said Farmer, referring to Moscow.

A senior Western official described the Russians as "guns for hire" and said, based on the analysis of intelligence and military experts, that these mercenaries were believed until recently to number around 300. But new, "very alarming" information indicates there are thousands, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, declined to answer questions sent by The Post about the mercenaries, replying that "The Kremlin does not have this information," while a spokesperson for Prigozhin said the businessman "has nothing to do with the so-called 'Wagner' private military company" and declined to comment further.



A militiaman walks outside an abandoned house a few hundreds yards away from a school in Al Aziziyah, Libya, on Oct. 30. Russian mercenaries fighting with Libyan commander Khalifa Hifter have brought new tactics to Libya's proxy war battlefield.

PHOTOS BY LORENZO TUGNOLO/For The Washington Post

Entering the conflict

The Russian mercenaries entered Libya in September, according to Libyan commanders and fighters, six months after Hifter launched a surprise offensive on the capital. The 75-year-old commander, a former general in Gadhafi's army who is a dual U.S.-Libyan citizen and lived for years in Northern Virginia, is aligned with a rival eastern government.

His forces, composed of eastern militias, are battling armed groups from Tripoli and other western cities aligned with the Government of National Accord. The conflict has killed more than 1,000, including at least 100 civilians, and driven more than 120,000 from their homes, according to the World Health Organization.

In addition to the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, Saudi Arabia is backing Hifter, as is France, Italy and other European nations, as well as Turkey and Qatar, are supporting the Tripoli-based government. U.S. policy has been uncertain since April when President Donald Trump endorsed Hifter's offensive in a telephone call.

In Hifter, Moscow sees an opening to gain back billions in lucrative oil and military contracts that it lost when Gadhafi was killed, analysts said. Russia has printed billions of Libyan dinars to prop up eastern Libya's economy and help finance Hifter's military campaign. Russia has also blocked a U.N. Security Council statement that sought to condemn Hifter's offensive.

Different fighting style

Along the front lines in southern Tripoli, Libyan fighters ran fast between houses pocked by

mortar shells and bullets to avoid being caught in the sights of Russian snipers.

On the second floor of a half-destroyed mansion, commander Khalifa Al Naluti peered out from an apartment complex 100 yards away. "The Russians are over there," he said. "It's dangerous to stand here."

Libyan fighters on both sides are undisciplined, often firing excessively and haphazardly at targets. The Russians, by contrast, move in small groups and attack from side positions, mostly at night or in the early morning hours, Libyan fighters say. The Russians preserve their ammunition, firing at optimal moments with precision.

"Their fighting style is different than what we are used to," said Jabber Abu Dabous, a militiaman. "They fight in a professional manner."

And the Russians may not only be fighting but also training Hifter's forces. Since the arrival of the Russians, Hifter's forces have begun using novel military tactics and new weaponry, say pro-government militia fighters.

Battlefield finds

When the Russians entered the multi-story Awlad Telese school in Al Aziziyah, a dozen pro-government fighters were on the floors above. A firefight broke out as the better-equipped Russians lobbed grenades and the militiamen fired with their AK-47 rifles at any mercenary who tried to come up the stairs, recalled two fighters who were there.

Some of the mercenaries, the militiamen said, were blond. They wore helmets, black bulletproof vests and olive green and black attire. They carried black backpacks with small antennas and

clutched black modern-looking guns, which fired rapidly.

Soon, the bulk of the mercenaries were shooting out of the school's windows at the pro-government fighters outside trying to push forward.

"We were lucky," said Mohammed Abdul Gader, 30, one of the Libyan militiamen on the floor above. "If they were all fighting us, we would not have survived."

Recovered at the site were a pension card for a Russian, born Nov. 25, 1969, from the Siberian city of Tomsk, as well as a Russian credit card, a card as Russian stores selling military uniforms, groceries and construction materials, and a card to Decathlon, a popular Europe-wide clothing store.

A cellphone belonging to a Russian fighter was found after another recent clash, containing photos of men in Soviet Union military uniforms and a black cap with Russian text that read Ministry of Defense of the USSR. Another image showed a black-and-yellow sign in Russian reading "Russian Naval Infantry." Russia's equivalent of the Marines — and "wherever we are there is victory." There was also a picture of a sleeve chevron of the air assault brigade of the 165th battalion of the Russian Naval Infantry.

Most notably, however, are the modern Russian-made weapons that have been discovered on the frontlines. They include automatic rocket-propelled grenade launchers, canister-shaped land mines, sound bombs and other explosives.

In a recovered notebook are handwritten drawings and notations in Russian listing weaponry and other military equipment, battlefield maps and geographical coordinates, combat tasks and military activity. There was also a Russian weapons manual that showed how to build mines and bombs and how to use small arms.

"We've never seen these weapons before on a Libyan battlefield," said Juwaili, the top commander.

Jabber Abu Dabous
militiaman

“Their fighting style is different than what we are used to. They fight in a professional manner.”

EUROPE

Creative Connections

DODEA students go avant-garde at selective arts workshop

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

OBERWESEL, Germany — At Creative Connections, the days are long, the learning curve is steep and emotions run high.

It's also the best week of the year, say many of the instructors and students from Defense Department schools across Europe participating in the military school system's annual visual and performing arts workshop.

"Oh, it's a dream. I love it so much," said Caden Burkman, a student from Stuttgart High School who's choreographing a number in the show choir during his second year at Creative Connections.

The 167 students and their teachers who gathered this week at an inn overlooking the Rhine River share a passion for art, whether they dance, draw, construct, sing, act, sew, film, paint or play music.

The event has been held for dozens of years and always sees more applicants than the venue can hold, said Ann Engels, a fine arts teacher for Department of Defense Education Activity-Europe.

This year, nearly 300 applicants submitted recordings or pieces of artwork as they vied for about 170 spots, for which candidates were selected blindly, Engels said.

The big draw is the chance to be around like-minded peers while getting to "dive deep into your work," she said.

This year's theme is avant-garde, a modernistic style that encourages the kids to go outside their comfort zones.

In drama, that translates to acting with little dialogue and with audience participation.

"We start out with one word and create an entire scene for it," said Kaiserslautern junior Ammi Lane-Volz. "Our word is 'hesitation.' We made it into a love story using only three words."

In mixed media, Alconbury art instructor Jessica Mitchell's students are using unorthodox materials such as Twizzler bites and pretzel rods to make something they can wear.

"When you cut this in sections, it's very interesting how you can cut it, paint it, manipulate it," she said, holding a slice of okra.

In costume-making, a design might begin with fabric, but that's where tradition ends.

"I'm using Capri sun wrappers for the outside," said Rota sophomore Sarah Chambers. "I wanted the nice metallic materials for it and it's unconventional."

The students are working feverishly toward Thursday, when they'll showcase their artwork or put on a performance for family members.

Nicole Colburn, an elementary art teacher at The Bahrain School, said she hopes students leave "with a better understanding of who they are artistically and maybe personally ... because these kids come with a lot of pressure and anxiety. They worry, 'I'm not good enough.'"

Engels wants the kids to be inspired. Feedback shows that they are.

Engels said that when the students submit forms about how they liked Creative Connections, "most kids are like, 'I wasn't sure if I wanted to continue in art,' but this has really invigorated my love for the arts," she said.

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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Clockwise from top: Stuttgart's Caden Burkman shows the Creative Connections choir his choreography for a number they are working on for Thursday's show in Oberwesel, Germany, on Monday. Maggie Joyce, of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, pretends to drill a hole in the head of Bahrain's Lujane Yacoub as Laurynas Bruza of Ankara watches in the avant-garde collective workshop. Maya Cabrera, from Naples, supports Vileck's Alexana Voudouris as they go through a dance move with instructor Ruth Wareham, from Alconbury, during the dance workshop. Kaiserslautern's Karen Acosta snips a costume she is making in the costume design workshop. Josie Christiansen, from Vicenza, and Stuttgart's Elena Bryson work on their art in the 2D design and drawing workshop.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

School locked down after deer crashes in

IN NOBLESVILLE — A deer that crashed through a window into a suburban Indianapolis school sent students into lockdown mode during its surprise invasion.

Hinkle Creek Elementary School Principal Jack Lawrence said the deer smashed through a window and entered the Noblesville school's main hallway.

The Indianapolis Star reported that the school immediately called for a lockdown to ensure that students and staff remained inside classrooms while the deer was roaming inside.

Lawrence told parents in an email that the deer eventually pushed its way out of the school's main entrance and ran through a parking lot into nearby woods.

Police: Woman was drunk at drive-thru

DE DOVER — A Delaware woman is accused of drunkenly visiting a McDonald's drive-thru and then trying to fight police officers who responded to the scene.

News outlets reported Dana Courtenay, 35, was arrested on charges including resisting arrest with force and driving under the influence.

Dover police spokesman Master Cpl. Mark Hoffman said Courtenay drove from the scene when officers arrived. Courtenay ultimately returned to the drive-thru.

Police said that's when she left her car and screamed and cursed at officers while attempting to spit on and fight them.

Moose inspire team's 'PaddleHeads' name

MT MISSOULA — Missoula is not known for moose, but there will be a lot more "PaddleHeads" in the city when the baseball season opens.

The Missoula Express are changing their name to PaddleHeads, The Missoulian reported.

The Rookie Advanced affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks plays in the Pioneer League from June to September.

Team officials were on a conference call in March discussing the six finalists, including PaddleHeads, said Matt Ellis, team executive vice president.

"I said, 'I've got one problem: I don't equate a moose to the heart of Missoula.' Just then our phones lit up with an alert," Ellis said. "There was a moose in downtown Missoula, a block from our office."

Educator saves caged puppy from drowning

IL CHAMPAIGN — An educator rescued a caged puppy from drowning in a chilly central Illinois lake.

Bryant Fritz was preparing to fish Saturday in Champaign when he found a black and white puppy submerged in rising water and trapped inside a dog crate in Kankakee Lake. Fritz said he waded into waist-high, freezing



ALAN WARREN, THE (OWENSBORO, KY.) MESSENGER-INQUIRER/AP

Lighting up for the holidays

John Nantz, with the Public Works Department of Owensboro, Ky., puts up an American flag decoration Tuesday as work began on installing decorations at Legion Park in Owensboro. The lighting of the decorations for the holiday season kicks off on Nov. 27.

water to reach the cage.

The middle school science teacher told The News-Gazette that he dragged the crate to the shore. The puppy was treated for hypothermia.

Woman accused of stabbing spouse

TN NASHVILLE — A Tennessee woman was accused of stabbing her husband when he refused to sign divorce papers.

News outlets reported Dwanne Evans, 38, was charged with felony aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in the attack.

An arrest affidavit said Evans' husband told police in August that he had been smoking marijuana in his car outside the couple's apartment when Evans approached and they argued.

The man told officers Evans wanted him to sign divorce papers, but he refused. He said Evans then walked away, returned with a knife and stabbed him in the arm.

Metal bar falls off big rig, impales woman

CA SACRAMENTO — Authorities in Northern California said a woman was impaled in the leg when a large

THE CENSUS

17

The number of babies born this year to law enforcement officers with a Missouri sheriff's department. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that 14 of the 17 law enforcement dads, their wives and their babies gathered for a photo. The babies dressed in matching white onesies with deputy badges printed on them. The two new-

est babies were just 10 days old. A joke was going around the department that the little ones are "Prop P babies." Passed last year, the proposition included raises for the sheriff's department.

metal bar fell off a moving big rig on a highway near Sacramento.

KCRA-TV reported the California Highway Patrol said an unidentified big rig was traveling north on Highway 99 when the bar fell into the roadway.

The CHP said the bar bounced and went into a Chevrolet Impala behind the truck.

Officials said the bar went through the car's engine compartment and into the front passenger area, where it struck the woman in the right leg.

Police: Man bought escapees sausage

LA MONROE — A Louisiana man who rented a motel room for seven men and bought them sausage biscuits was arrested because authorities said the seven were jail escapees.

News outlets reported Trevor Toney, 38, of Monroe was charged

with assisting escape and accessory after the fact.

Court records said the men had escaped from Richland Parish Detention Center on Oct. 28.

The documents said cellphone data led investigators to a motel where Toney had rented a room. He was seen on surveillance video signaling the escapees into the room and was later seen bringing eight sausage biscuits from McDonald's.

Judge rejects plea deal in cannon accident death

IA MANCHESTER — A judge rejected a plea deal for a man charged in the death of a woman hit by fragments from a homemade cannon.

Delaware County District Court records said Max Fenton pleaded guilty to aggravated misdemeanor involuntary manslaughter, which replaced the felony charge.

A pair of fireworks-related charges were to be dropped as well.

The improvised cannon was made from the sawed-off barrel of a .50-caliber black powder rifle and was supposed to serve as a noisemaker. Authorities said the rear of the barrel "blew out" in Greeley the night of July 2, 2016, and fragments struck Lori Heims, 55.

The judge rejected the deal, saying the plea was to a new charge that was not a lesser-included crime alleged among the original charges.

Annual elk hunt begins in Grand Teton park

WY MOOSE — An annual elk hunt is underway in Grand Teton National Park.

Wildlife managers have authorized 375 permits for this year's hunt, which began Saturday.

They allow hunting in an area mainly east of U.S. Highway 89 in the southeast part of Grand Teton in western Wyoming. Hunting in two different portions of the hunt area will end on Nov. 25 and Dec. 8.

The 1950 law authorizing Grand Teton allows elk hunting in the park. Park officials call the hunt an "elk reduction program" intended to cull animals in the Jackson elk herd.

From wire reports

FACES

Shakira plans Latin tribute at Super Bowl

By RENATA BRITO
Associated Press

Colombian music star Shakira says she will pay homage to Latin culture alongside Jennifer Lopez at the 2020 Pepsi Super Bowl Halftime Show in Miami.

Speaking Monday in Barcelona, Spain, where she lives with Spanish soccer star Gerard Piqué and their two children, Shakira told The Associated Press she was fulfilling a dream that also has "a very important purpose."

"To celebrate that culture, to showcase it in a country where Latinos have also struggled to land," she said. "I feel really humbled, and with a great responsibility in my hands to represent the Latino community."

The Grammy winner, who turns 43 on Feb. 2, the day of the Super Bowl, is currently promoting a documentary and live concert album from her 2018 "El Dorado World Tour," to be released worldwide Nov. 13.

In late 2017, Shakira was forced to postpone the European part of the tour due to a vocal cord hemorrhage.

"That was probably one of the most difficult times of my life. It was really a nightmare," she recalled. "I didn't know if I was ever going to sing again."

At the time, doctors recommended surgery that carried risks. Shakira chose not to have it, and her voice slowly recovered. But it meant she couldn't speak for long periods of time — a real challenge for a mother of two.

"I healed miraculously, really, because the doctors were convinced I needed a medical procedure," she said, adding that without support from her fans she wouldn't have been able to return to the stage.

"I felt so much gratitude, so much joy to be able to sing again," she said. "I think at some point in my life I had taken it for granted."

But the singer has not slowed down since releasing a remix last month of the song "Tutu" with singers Camilo from Colombia and Pedro Capo of Puerto Rico.

Shakira is also scheduled to perform at the closing ceremony of the Davis Cup tennis tournament in Madrid on Nov. 24.



AP

Shakira, shown in August 2018, hasn't slowed down since recovering from a vocal cord injury.



Netflix photos

Rob Lowe and Kristin Davis, above and below, get close to an elephant — or, more likely, an animatronic or robotic re-creation — in "Holiday in the Wild." No trained animals were used.

Kristin Davis goes wild

Actress turns love of elephants into plot of Netflix film

By RICK BENTLEY
Tribune News Service

Kristin Davis went on a vacation 10 years ago and came home with the plot for her new film, "Holiday in the Wild," that's just launched on Netflix. She plays a woman who travels to Africa after her marriage falls apart only to find a passion for helping elephants and a potential new man (Rob Lowe) in her life.

"I worked to develop this project for four years, and I have been involved with elephant conservation for about 10," says Davis, who is also an executive producer on the film. "Ever since I was little, I have loved elephants for no specific reason. In 2009, I was visiting Kenya and it was a dry year. We happened to hear about a lone, orphaned elephant, and everyone knew it would not survive on its own."

"We spent three days searching for her and finally found her. Once I met an elephant, I became obsessed. They called to me. I dreamt of them. It has been a mission to share that with everybody."

The love Davis has for elephants isn't just talk. She has been a patron of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, which runs an elephant rescue and rehabilitation program in Nairobi, Kenya, for more than a decade. Davis was featured in a 2014 documentary about the trust's work, "Gardeners of Eden," which she both produced and financed.

The rescue effort to get that young elephant back into the wild became the basis of the plot for "Holiday in the Wild," which was filmed at the Lilayi Elephant Nursery in Lusaka, Zambia, and at Camp Jabulani in Hoedspruit, South Africa. When it came to filming, every effort was made to ensure the cast and crew didn't disrupt the lives of the elephants. The majority of the filming involved animatronic elephants, robotic elephants or performances carried out by one of the film's five puppeteers as the live elephants were available for only four days of the filming.

When real elephants were involved, filming was done around their schedules, such as a scene with Davis and Lowe having a picnic near a watering hole. The crew had to be ready to film and the actors ready to perform as soon as the giant creatures arrived, and they had to be finished whenever the elephants decided to leave. There were no trained animals used in the filming, and

no efforts were made to herd the group.

Bringing attention to the plight of the African elephants is the primary purpose, and the romance element was added and the story set during Christmas at the request of Netflix to add more entertainment elements.

Lowe didn't bring the same passion for elephants to the project as Davis did, but he has always been a lover of animals.

"I have had all kinds of pets and currently have five dogs," Lowe says. "I do dog rescues. My wife and I would talk to all the rescue places in our area and take 30 or 40 dogs at a time. ... We would have prescreened potential homes for them."



"Of course, we would want to keep them all."

That connection between man (or woman) and beast is a key plot element of "Holiday in the Wild." The nursery's intention is to help young elephants

return to the wild, but just like a parent with a child, letting go can be difficult.

Lowe's son, John Owen Lowe, plays Davis' son in the film. Father and son had worked together before, on Lowe's short-lived series "The Grinder."

"It is just great to be able to mentor a young actor, even if it wasn't my son. I got started acting at a younger age than my son started, and I didn't have anyone. I just had to figure it all out on my own," Lowe says.

He found success anyway in such productions as "The Outsiders," "St. Elmo's Fire," "The West Wing," "Code Black," "Parks and Recreation" and "About Last Night."

Davis is best known for playing Charlotte York Goldenblatt on HBO's "Sex and the City." She's also appeared in "Melrose Place," "General Hospital" and "Bad Teacher." "Holiday in the Wild" reunites Lowe and Davis, who played a husband and wife in the 1999 television miniseries "Atomic Train."

Crow, Springsteen help raise money for vets

Sheryl Crow and Bruce Springsteen hit the stage together to help raise more than \$5.7 million at this year's Stand Up for Heroes fundraiser, which benefits injured veterans and their families.

The two musicians were joined at the Monday night event at Madison Square Garden in New York by Ronny Chieng, Hasan Minhaj, John Oliver and Jon Stewart. Crow and Springsteen turned "Redemption Day" into a duet.

Stand Up for Heroes was first held in 2007 and is produced by the New York Comedy Festival and the Bob Woodruff Foundation. Woodruff was nearly killed during a 2006 attack in Iraq while embedded with U.S. troops for ABC News.

Ellish, Lizzo, Dua Lipa, Cabello set for AMAs

The two biggest breakthrough acts in music this year, Billie Eilish and Lizzo, will perform at the 2019 American Music Awards this month.

Dick clark productions announced Wednesday that other performers at the Nov. 24 event include Camila Cabello, nominated for collaboration of the year for "Senorita" with Shawn Mendes, and Dua Lipa, whose debut album is the most streamed album by a female artist in Spotify history.

Ellish is competing for six AMAs, including favorite female pop/rock artist and favorite pop/rock album.

Lizzo is nominated for three AMAs. She released her major label debut album, "Cuz I Love You," this year.

Nigerian Oscar entry disqualified for dialogue

Nigeria's first-ever Oscar entry has been disqualified from competing in the international film category for featuring too much dialogue in English, which is the country's official language.

"Lionheart," the directorial debut of starring actress Genevieve Njagi, follows a woman as she navigates a male-dominated industry to save her ailing father's business. The film's characters speak in Igbo, a language spoken in southern Nigeria, for a small portion of the 95-minute run time, but not long enough to meet the category's requirement that each entry feature a "predominantly non-English dialogue track."

Acclaimed novelist Ernest J. Gaines dies

Novelist Ernest J. Gaines, whose poor childhood on a small Louisiana plantation germinated stories of black struggle that grew into universal tales of grace and beauty, died Tuesday in his sleep of cardiac arrest at his home in Oscar, La. He was 86.

Gaines' eight books included the classic "A Lesson Before Dying," published in 1993.

Boys "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" (1971) and "A Gathering of Old Men" (1984) became honored television movies.

From wire reports

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for 35 cents on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Inc. 450202, PO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Inc. 45002, APO AP 96301-5002.

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OPINION

Warren has a penchant for micro-pandering

By GEORGE F. WILL
Washington Post Writers Group

THE torrent of astonishing talk from Democratic presidential aspirants has included two especially startling ideas. One is that we are going to die — the climate change crisis is “existential” — unless America does a slew of things that the aspirants *know* are not going to be done. And the leading progressive aspirant has endorsed an idea that would confirm hostile caricatures of progressives if any caricaturist could have imagined the idea before Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren voiced it.

What Democrats’ plans for nullifying the “existential” crisis: America is really not going to achieve Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders’ “complete decarbonization” by 2050. America will not eliminate net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, as Joe Biden promises. Fossil fuels accounted for 81.8% of energy consumption in 2018, and the Energy Information Administration projects that in 2050 the figure will be 78.9%. Perhaps higher, if Democrats succeed in abolishing carbon-free nuclear power, which in 2018 was 8.4% of energy consumption. The Democrats’ threat to nuclear power’s existence tells you how seriously they take their own rhetoric about the “existential” climate threat. As does their vague, tepid and perfunctory endorsement of the most efficient way to reduce carbon — a carbon tax, which might pose an existential threat to their aspirations.

Also, America is not going to retrofit every building. Or wear people off air travel and get them onto high-speed electric trains like the forever-hypothetical one between Los Angeles and San Francisco that

California is failing to build at a projected cost — so far — of up to \$100 billion.

The late Sen. Eugene McCarthy, whose mordant wit is much missed, quipped that anything said three times in Washington becomes a fact. With the Democrats having migrated to the Trumpian universe of “alternative facts” about an achievable future, the second and third times are unnecessary. There is the “believing is seeing” mentality of people who, seeing the world through ideology-tinted spectacles, think the world should be, and therefore will be, infinitely malleable under the hammer of government power wielded by them.

The almost 330 million Americans who would live between the hammer and the anvil should pay particular attention to Warren. Her gargantuan plans for comprehensively rearranging society should be considered in light of her penchant for micro-pandering, such as promising taxpayer funding of sex-reassignment surgery for transgender felons in federal prisons. Poor Bernie Sanders probably thought he had achieved peak progressivism by endorsing voting rights for the surviving Boston Marathon terrorist bomber and all other incarcerated felons. Warren’s proposal is *perfect* political zanyism. It will attract no one who is not already attracted but will repel the kind of voters — those who sometimes go for days on end without pondering gender fluidity — she will need in order to win a general election.

An interestingly different Massachusetts politician, John Quincy Adams, the last president nominated to the Founding generation, had a flinty patriarchy’s belief that leaders should not be “paralyzed by the will of our constituents.” Warren, caught up in the Democrats’ woken-thou competi-

tion, will say anything to demonstrate that there is nothing she will not promise in order to placate any sliver of the progressive constituency.

One reason U.S. carbon emissions have fallen faster than Europe’s is that fracking has made natural gas sufficiently cheap and abundant to supplant coal and oil for many purposes. Evidently Warren considers the “existential” climate threat less important than catering to progressives’ hostility toward fracking, which they must consider more of a threat than the “existential” one. The Economist says that in terms of energy supplies, banning fracking “would be a bit like shutting down Saudi Arabia.” It would, of course, be a boom to that nation, and Russia and Iran.

The regulatory fidgets and worse that Warren promises would not be as trivial as her sex-reassignment-surgery-for-transgender-felons gesture. As the Economist notes, such is her faith in government as “benign and effective,” she ignores how government inefficiency and regulatory capture made airlines expensive and inconvenient until deregulation democratized air travel. She would abolish, break up or submit to government’s 10-thumbed control “roughly half the stock market and private-equity owned firms.” She is an abolitionist regarding the \$530 billion private health insurance industry, which has 370,000 employees, almost twice as many as the steel and coal mining industries combined.

Many Democratic aspirants are patently incoherent about what they call an existential threat, and many are disconcertingly sincere about weird minutia. It is dismayingly meaningful when they do, and when they do not, mean what they say.

Pompeo tarnished by accommodating Trump

By DAVID IGNATIUS
Washington Post Writers Group

SINCE the investigation began into President Donald Trump’s machinations in Ukraine, one of the most disturbing questions has been: Where’s Mike Pompeo, the secretary of state, who’s supposed to shield his diplomats from political interference?

And now we have the answer: Pompeo in recent months has essentially been in hiding, protecting his people and his subordinates took the hit — evidently hoping to preserve his influence with Trump. Sometimes his defections and denials have been outright misleading.

Pompeo has badly tarnished his reputation in accommodating Trump. He joins the long list of those doing “by their service” to this president. If you’re someone like me who thought Pompeo was one of the smarter and more effective people in the administration, it’s a sad moment.

This harsh judgment is nearly inescapable after reading the transcripts released Monday of testimony from two key State Department officials: one of the most 33-year foreign service veteran Trump fired in May as ambassador to Ukraine, and Michael McKinley, a 37-year veteran who resigned in October as Pompeo’s senior adviser because “the disparagement of a career diplomat (Yovanovitch) doing her job was of these days.”

At the core of Pompeo’s story is the conundrum of what public service means under an erratic president like Trump. Pompeo’s defenders argue that he might serve his personal interest by resigning and protecting what’s left of his political career. But would that honorable choice, they ask, if it would mean abandon-

ing the State Department to even greater chaos?

A similar dilemma vexed former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis for two years. He stayed silent in public over Trump’s tantrums and abuses, hoping that in private he could prevent even worse catastrophes. But in the end, this strategy of accommodation wasn’t tenable; the rucksack became too heavy, and Mattis resigned in December.

Pompeo’s defenders argue that his story is more complicated than it appears. They say that through 2018 and early 2019, as Trump’s lawyer Rudy Giuliani was spinning a tale of falsehoods to undermine Yovanovitch, Pompeo had a senior deputy press Giuliani for evidence to support his charges. Giuliani never produced any, and Yovanovitch stayed — until Trump personally demanded she be fired, and Pompeo agreed.

In the lead-up to her firing and following the publicity over her dismissal, Yovanovitch kept asking for support from her boss. That was especially so after Donald Trump Jr. tweeted in March that she was a “joker” who should be sacked. But Pompeo was mum.

In the lead-up to what there was concern that the rug would be pulled out from underneath the State Department if they put out something publicly,” Yovanovitch testified.

In late April, she was ordered home. Acting Assistant Secretary Philip Reeker told her that “the secretary had tried to protect me but was no longer able to do that,” and Deputy Secretary John Sullivan informed her she was fired. “I said, ‘What have I done wrong?’ And he said, ‘You’ve done nothing wrong.’”

Pompeo didn’t explain or apologize. His counselor Thomas Ulrich Brechtbul refused Yovanovitch’s request for a meeting.

Trump’s groundless attacks on Yovanovitch continued, as did Pompeo’s silence. We learned months later that Pompeo had listened in on the infamous July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in which Trump asked for a political “favor” in exchange for sending Javelin missiles to Ukraine — and described Yovanovitch as “bad news,” warning that she was “going to go through some things.” Pompeo did nothing.

When a transcript of the menacing July call was released Sept. 25, Yovanovitch felt personally threatened, and she again asked for help. Pompeo said nothing public in her defense.

McKinley, the senior adviser, pressed Pompeo to issue a brief statement of support for Yovanovitch. “He listened,” that was his sort of “thank you.” That was the limit of the conversation,” McKinley testified. He went to see Pompeo twice more in the next few days, the last time to resign, telling Pompeo, “This situation isn’t acceptable.”

Pompeo told ABC News last month that “not once” did McKinley “say a single thing about his concerns” about Yovanovitch’s treatment. By McKinley’s sworn testimony, that statement was false.

What character? It’s hard to define, but as NPR’s Scott Simon recently noted, a good, short summary is the West Point motto: “A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do.”

We should be careful not to judge others’ character, especially in the hotbox of today’s Washington. But it’s deeply troubling to see a powerful person like Pompeo who is silent in the face of lies, and who takes no action to protect his subordinates from wrongdoing.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Canadian grocer debuts carts with self-checkout

By PETER HOLLEY
The Washington Post

Enduring a lengthy checkout line is a potential annoyance each time you set foot inside a busy grocery store.

That's particularly true during the evening rush, when shoppers descend on grocery stores for last-minute dinner items.

Instead of opening more aisles and hiring more cashiers, a Canadian grocery chain says its introducing an innovative pilot program for helping customers bypass lines altogether. On Wednesday, Sobeys — a Nova Scotia-based grocery chain — unveiled Smart Carts, a fleet of 10 intelligent grocery carts that scan and weigh products as customers place them in the cart.

The carts feature touch screens that resemble the kind you might find in a self-checkout line. The screens display a running tally of purchases while customers shop and allow them to pay on the spot once they're finished shopping, according to the company.

In a video released by Sobeys, a customer scans and places food items in grocery bags inside the cart instead of going to a checkout line and having purchases bagged by an employee — a process that Sobeys labels the "greatest point of customer friction."

"While products and customer eating habits have evolved, the in-store grocery shopping experience has remained relatively static for the last 100 years," Mathieu Lacoursiere, Sobeys vice president for retail support, said in a company statement. "This is a unique way for us to test innovative new technologies aimed at enhancing the customer shopping experience and learn how best to make it faster and easier."

"The carts will also give our in-

'We're actually able to free up some employees ... to be on the floor answering customers' questions, talking about the food, helping them choose a recipe or a product. It's not about cutting.'

Mathieu Lacoursiere
Sobeys vice president for retail support

store teammates more time to interact with customers and answer questions about food and new products," the statement added.

In recent years, grocery stores have become an unlikely hotbed of tech innovation. Though the industry's business model had changed little over the past century, as Lacoursiere noted, a customer-driven demand for convenience is forcing the industry to adapt to remain competitive.

Now, as the industry finds itself in the midst of a technological upheaval, experts say, local grocery chains are suddenly providing the public with a glimpse of a future far beyond self-service kiosks and online shopping.

Over the past year, Kroger, the nation's largest grocer, has introduced a fleet of autonomous delivery vehicles, and Giant Food Stores has rolled out a series of robotic assistants named "Marty" that scan shelves and identify hazardous spills. Last year, Kroger introduced a system called "Scan, Bag, Go" that allows customers to scan and pay for grocery items as they shop with their smartphone.

"We see customers pushing the envelope in the grocery industry and in our business in particular," said Yael Cosset, Kroger's chief digital officer, noting that the goal these days is to create as many convenient options as possible for customers to get food on their terms.

"Sometimes that means deliv-

ery, and sometimes it's pickup, and sometimes someone wants to walk into the store."

Pensa, an Austin, Texas-based start-up, has been testing an autonomous robotic drone that scans grocery shelves using an onboard camera. The camera allows the machine to collect valuable data about the store's ever-changing inventory before uploading its findings to the cloud and setting a supply-chain in motion.

For much of this year, Walmart customers have been able to order groceries using a Google assistant, joining Amazon-owned Whole Foods, which partnered with Amazon's Echo last year so that customers can shop using voice commands.

By next year, Walmart — which also sells \$200 billion worth of groceries each year and remains the world's largest private employer, with 1.5 million Americans on its payroll — plans to have autonomous floor-scrubbing robots at nearly half of its 4,700 U.S. stores, part of a major effort to upgrade its business by harnessing the convenience of intelligent machines.

Sobeys owns or franchises more than 1,500 grocery stores across Canada, including stores in the Safeway, IGA, FreshCo, Foodland and Thrifty Foods chains, according to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Sobeys says their Smart Carts — which were developed by

Caper, a retail technology start-up based in New York City — will only grow more intelligent with use. The grocery chain says the carts are equipped with AI and machine learning technology.

As the carts improve, the company says, the carts' screens will be able to help customers navigate grocery stores, complete shopping lists and make product suggestions for recipes.

The Smart Cart is already equipped with multiple high-resolution cameras. Sobeys says those cameras — in conjunction with the cart's sensitive scale — will eventually make it possible for customers to toss items into their cart without having to enter information or scan bar codes at all.

Lacoursiere told the CBC that the new technology is not being introduced to replace human workers, a promise many grocery chains have made in recent months as new innovations

arrive.

"We're actually able to free up some employees ... to be on the floor answering customers' questions, talking about the food, helping them choose a recipe or a product," he said. "It's not about cutting."

Early customer reviews have been positive, according to the CBC.

"It's better than the self-checkout," Stuart Eddy told the outlet after adding a bag of bulk almonds to his smart cart full of groceries. "It's fantastic."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 7)	\$1.1374
Dollar buys (Nov. 7)	69.8792
British pound (Nov. 7)	\$1.32
Japanese yen (Nov. 7)	106.30
South Korean won (Nov. 7)	1,126.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.2874
Canada (Dollar)	1.3173
China (Yuan)	6.9994
Denmark (Krone)	6.7421
Egypt (Pound)	16.1375
Euro	\$1.0827/9024
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.5255
Hungary (Forint)	299.49
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4862
Japan (Yen)	109.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3034
Norway (Krone)	9.1448
Philippines (Peso)	50.61
Poland (Zloty)	3.85
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7496
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3589
South Korea (Won)	1,158.47
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9925
Taiwan (Dollar)	30.28
Turkey (New Lira)	5.7652

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

MARKET WATCH

Nov. 5, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	30.52
	27,492.63
Nasdaq composite	1.48
	8,434.68
Standard & Poor's 500	-3.65
	3,074.62
Russell 2000	2.21
	1,599.61

INTEREST RATES

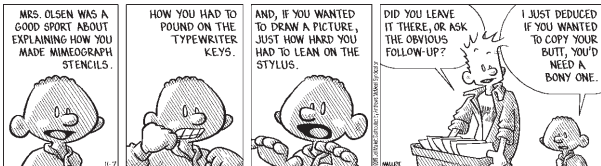
Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	3.58
3-month bill	1.52
30-year bond	2.35

WEATHER OUTLOOK

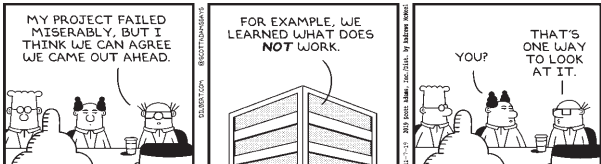


The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

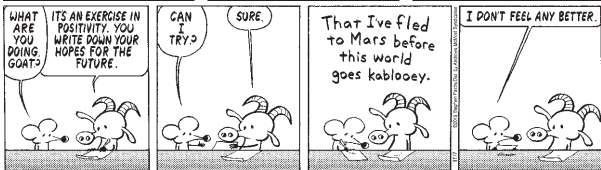
Frazz



Dilbert



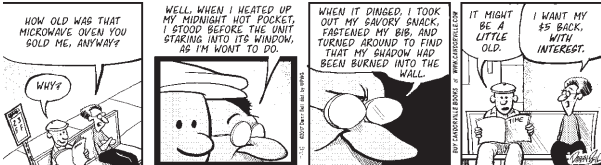
Pearls Before Swine



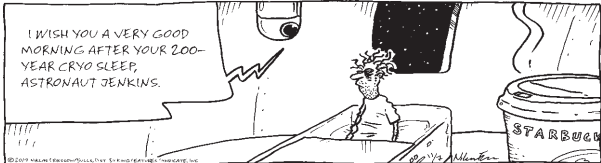
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



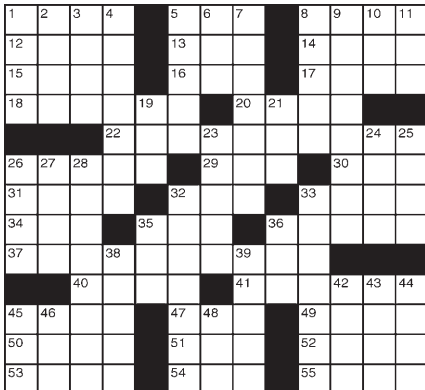
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



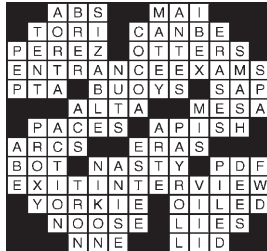
ACROSS

- 1 Basil or thyme
- 5 Honey holder
- 8 Summit
- 13 French article
- 14 Reddish horse
- 15 Actress Hatcher
- 16 Gerund ending
- 17 Apple tablet
- 18 Picturesque
- 20 Online auction site
- 22 Pimento-stuffed salad ingredient
- 26 "Little Man Tate" director Foster
- 29 Sony rival
- 30 "— who?"
- 31 Atop
- 32 Parched
- 33 Commotion
- 34 Singer Lana — Rey
- 35 Bill's partner
- 36 Inventor Nikola
- 37 Drab military uniform color
- 40 Body powder
- 41 Port city of Poland
- 45 Words to Brutus
- 47 Embrace
- 49 Dorothy's dog
- 50 Lounge
- 51 Sugary suffix

DOWN

- 1 Millinery
- 2 Power co. supply
- 3 Scarce
- 4 Earn
- 5 Breakfast drink
- 6 New England cape
- 7 Interim government
- 8 Popular typeface
- 9 Scribes
- 10 Goat's cry
- 11 Finale
- 19 Rage
- 21 Feathery neckpiece
- 23 Goof
- 24 Bridal cover
- 25 Old Testament book
- 26 Martial art
- 27 Autobahn auto
- 28 Fictional "Doctor"
- 32 Pooch's bowlful
- 33 Legislative groups
- 35 Cartoon frame
- 36 Danson of "Cheers"
- 38 Bank structure
- 39 Urged (on)
- 42 — bene
- 43 Rating unit
- 44 Caffeine-rich nut
- 45 Stately tree
- 46 Sock part
- 48 Can. neighbor

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-7

CRYPTOQUIP

OGT TQQTROVXQ UDR
ETQXETE GT NJCBE
JRBK QJRFUCU QJXRF
DRE MDMTV UJRTK. GT
NTRO JR D QDFG EXT0.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NO, I WOULD NOT LIKE TO PURCHASE ANY OF YOUR GEARED COGWHEELS. KEEP YOUR PINIONS TO YOURSELF!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals C

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Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Autos for Sale 141

2009 HONDA CR-V 65,651 miles (139,452km) Inspection is good until June 2020. German Spec. Manual Drive. Front wheel drive. \$10,500. Email: lanevo1@hotmail.com

Automotive 140

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Autos for Sale 141

2007 Honda CR-V 65,600.00 - Turbo Diesel 7 Gear Manual Transmission European Spec 119K Miles 4 Wheel Drive Cruise Control Aluminum rims (2 sets) Automatic Air Conditioning Trailer hitch Installed Backup Proximity Alarm New Ford Shockers Email: Nicolaspersign@yahoo.com

Autos for Sale 141

2009 Peugeot 807 Van (7 seat) - \$5,000.00 - 72,409 miles (116,331km) German Spec. Newly Inspected. It is good until 05 Sept. 2020. Manual Drive with green 4 stroke Electric sliding doors Email: lanedot@hotmail.com

2015 VW Golf R - \$20,000.00 - US spec car purchased in Arizona 4 Door Black Pearl 6 speed manual Upgraded Clutch Upgraded ECU 200+ HP Upgraded Brembo 6 caliper brake system Upgraded Forge term take intake front drive twin 200+ hp. Price included Call: 01604053810

BMW X5 for sale \$13,000.00. BMW X5. 4 door. Am Spec. 125,000.00 Miles. Including ventilated seats with massage, window curtains and more. Accident free. one owner, dealer maintained, garage car. Mint condition in/out. Must sell. Call: 06761508710 Email: goriwin@hotmail.com

Autos for Sale 141

Volkswagen Vanagon Westalis - \$9,700.00 - 1995 Volkswagen Vanagon Westalis edition 163,000 miles. US spec Engine replaced in 2013 with a custom built "GolfWesty" currently has about 15,000 miles. Just passed inspection. Many parts replaced over the last 6 years call for a huz2014@gmail.com

Autos for Sale Germany 142

Auto - Quality Pre-owned US SPEC Vehicles www.usandcanadastripes.com Free Europe wide delivery

Autos for Sale - UK 154

2018 Audi Q3 (American spec) - \$30,500.00 - 200 HP turbo charged unleaded engine. Auto-matic 7 year/100,000 mile warranty. 5.6in Premium Plus edition Premium Bose sound system with subwoofer. Power moon roof. Recently serviced by Audi. All records UK. SAELES TAX PAID 59,000 miles Email: gloryq3s2017@gmail.com

Electronic Shopping 440

I want to buy Korean-Anglian AXOL HW700 GPS 7" on call 12101817839 email: coach77@hotmail.com

N750 DB Wi-Fi Dual-Band N-Gigabit Router - \$10.00 - N750 DB Wi-Fi Dual-Band N-Gigabit Router, black new price \$79.99, asking price \$10.00. Contact 01762413482 Email: tergersonrims@gmail.com

Furniture 510

Antique English Bureau (Desk) \$500.00 - Circa mid-19th Century English drop front hand wood writing desk. Ivy green condition. 55.5" H x 36" W x 19" D. One long drawer, raised top shelf, shelves below, mounted on 2 broad trellis feet. Reasonable offers OK. Buyer picks up. Call: +49-6571-9522421

Furniture 510

English Wicker Picnic Hampers \$175.00 - One Brand New English Wicker Picnic Hampers (Basket). One Vinyl hearse for 2 with cutting board, lasses etc. One in service for 4 (dishes) (dishes) upa, etc.) Great Gift for Newlyweds! Call and leave text if interested. Cost is per hamper. Call: +49-6571-9522421

Mahogany Sheraton Revival Chair from USA Brand New Sheraton revival painted mahogany solid chair. Shield shaped back, perfect mahogany post back oval seat, square tapered legs. Circa 1900. Condition excellent. Buyer picks up. PCS Sale. Call: +49-6571-9522421

Mink Trimmed Cream Colored Cape - \$40.00 - Ladies hand-made cream colored velvet cape (with lining) trimmed in mink. Great for winters in Germany! Leave your # and we will mail the title. Call: +49-6571-9522421

Furniture 510

New Fireplace Screen and Fireplace Tools - \$170.00 - Brand new Antique Copper Finish Fireplace screen and set of matching antique copper finish fireplace tools. Price is for both items. Leave text # and will contact you. Buyer picks up. PCS Sale. Call: +49-6571-9522421

Tools & Machinery 990

Snapon tool box - \$1,000.00 - Snapon Tool Box (Male offer Handy Number 01525021591 Email: A6445eb@aol.com Call: 1784580606

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA PACIFIC

Far East volleyball tournament

Questions for contenders

Injury hinders Zama, defending champ Kubasaki lacks experience

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

Things were looking mighty good for the Zama girls volleyball team's drive to repeat as DODEA Japan tournament champ last weekend at Yokota.

Then came a leg injury to senior middle blocker Jessica Atkinson that sidelined her for the rest of the tournament, in which Zama fell in the final to Kinnick after leading by two sets.

That injury will also limit Atkinson's activity in this week's Far East Division II tournament, according to coach Veronica Jones.

"She can play at limited capacity," Jones said Tuesday, a day before the Trojans traveled to South Korea for the three-day tournament, which begins Thursday at Camp Humphreys.

This year's D-II tournament features nine teams, while the D-I tournament has six teams, with Guam returning after a six-year absence. Christian Academy Japan and Kubasaki are defending champions.

Atkinson averaged 10.7 kills and 4.1 block points during the regular season, in which the Trojans won the DODEA Japan title for the second straight year. "I'm more confident with Jessica in the lineup, of course," Jones said. "That's the rotation we've worked and were comfortable with."

Zama still possesses a balanced attack, featuring returning D-II Most Valuable Player Grace Bryant (9.5 kills); setters Jazlyn Rioux (14.1 assists) and Iris Hirata (9.5), serving specialist Aika Davis (7.5 aces) and blocker Gabrielle Griffiths (4.6 block points).

Jones thinks the Trojans still have a chance of winning, "but the team and I would be less stressed if [Atkinson] was there. She brings leadership, hard work and determination to the team. It changes the



PHOTOS BY DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Zama American's Gabrielle Griffiths, right, averaged 4.6 block points during the season.

dynamic" if she's out, Jones said.

While the Trojans lost Atkinson at an inconvenient time, the reigning D-I champion Dragons, who've won the tournament four of the past five years, knew what they were facing when they began the season without the core five of their winning teams.

"The biggest hurdle entering the season was knowing how young we were, lack of experience, age and us not having played together" prior to the current season, junior right-side hitter Kiara Oshana said.

The Dragons were hitting "bumps in the road," Oshana said, until the ASI YUJO tournament three weeks ago. After Kubasaki lost to the host Mustangs, "we had a group talk, put out all our feelings, talking out our issues and listened to an inspirational speech," Oshana said.

After that, the Dragons came away with fourth place in the 16-team YUJO event. "We got it together, it just clicked and we started playing together with better chemistry."

Still, it's the young Dragons team that will vie for another Far East title, led by senior middle hitter Abby Robinson (9.5 kills) and sophomore setter Alyssa Alvarado (24.3 assists).

"Maybe there's enough growth to play competitively at Far East," coach Mike Hogen said. "We'll always try to outwork the other teams and see what happens with our group. I like our chances."

ornauer.dave@stripes.com
Twitter: @daveornauer



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Humphreys senior Melissa Pritchett advanced to Far East semifinals, where she'll meet defending champion Sarah Omachi of Seisen.

Far East tennis tournament

Calleros leads surge of DODEA players

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

KADENNA AIR BASE, Okinawa — A DODEA Pacific boys player is assured of reaching Saturday's singles final of the Far East tennis tournament. And it's possible two girls could advance to the final.

Edgren junior Ryken Calleros, the No. 8 boys seed, won three matches Wednesday, and stunned No. 1 seed Yuki Toyokawa of St. Mary's 8-5 in the quarterfinals.

He'll face No. 4 seed Daniel Posthumus, a senior from Kinnick, in Friday's semifinals.

"Crazy!" Edgren coach Jennifer Green said after Calleros' upset.

Calleros said he was "super nervous" entering the match, but said he kept telling himself to "fight for every point, no matter what."

It's the first time an Edgren player has reached the Far East boys semifinals.

Players and coaches from other teams stopped to watch the potential upset.

"He took the lead and never relinquished it, just kept fighting," Kinnick coach Nico Hindie said. "It was an amazing match."

"Even if I was trailing love-40, I told myself to keep my head up, just play for every point, never get angry," Calleros said. "It was a great match. I really enjoyed playing him."

Posthumus, the DODEA Japan tournament runner-up, reached the semifinal by beating David Lee of Yongsan 8-1.

From the time he was a freshman, Posthumus said, "I never thought I'd be in this position. I'm going to take this one match at a time and see how it works."

Posthumus is trying to become the first Kinnick player to win a boys singles title since Garren Dial in 2008.

Since 2010, when Far East was reopened to international school players, the singles brackets have been dominated by non-DODEA players.

The last DODEA boy to reach the final was Kadenna's Arlo Taylor, who lost in three sets to Kent Shikama of St. Mary's in 2010. Grace Cho of Seoul American was the last DODEA player of either gender to reach a singles final, in 2014.

Unseeded Kadenna sophomore Ally Johnson, the two-time Okinawa district champion, earned a semifinal berth by downing Kinnick's Aleigh Lamis 8-2. Humphreys senior and No. 4 seed Melissa Pritchett won her quarterfinal match 9-7 over Kadenna's Lisa Dombrowski, the No. 5 seed.

Johnson faces Seisen's Debanghi Mohanta and Pritchett takes on defending champion Sarah Omachi of Seisen in Friday's semis.



Kubasaki sophomore setter Alyssa Alvarado averaged 24.3 assists during the season.

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NHL

Roundup

Islanders record 10th straight win

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Islanders don't spend much time discussing their winning streak. Their focus is always on the next game.

NHL goal keeper Cole Bardreau scored his first NHL goal on a penalty shot in the second period, and the Islanders beat the Ottawa Senators 4-1 Tuesday night for their 10th straight win.

"Ten's a big milestone," New York's Casey Cizikas said, "but every single night we have a game plan and our coaches are showing us every single day things we can get better at, things that we can work on, and areas where we can improve in."

Cizikas and Cal Clutterbuck each had a goal and an assist, and Josh Bailey also scored to help the Islanders win their first game in Brooklyn this season and extend their winning streak to the second-longest in franchise history, trailing only a 15-game run Jan. 21 to Feb. 20, 1982. Thomas Greiss stopped 27 shots in his fifth straight win.

"We're playing confident," Cizikas said. "We got four lines that are contributing, we got six D that are getting the puck up, moving quick and being solid in our own end, and we got two goalies that are playing outstanding, they're making big saves when we need them in."

Changing up their home venue for the first time didn't slow the Islanders down. They kept right on rolling in their first game back at Barclays Center since losing Games 1 and 2 of the Eastern Conference semifinals against Carolina last spring. In the second season of splitting home games between Brooklyn and the Nassau Coliseum, this was the first of 13 games at Barclays.

Flyers 4, Hurricanes 1: Sean Couturier had a goal and an assist, Travis Konecny scored the

tiebreaker early in the third period and host Philadelphia topped Carolina.

Golden Knights 5, Bruins 4: Canadiens defenseman Victor Mete scored twice to help host Montreal beat Boston.

Maple Leafs 3, Kings 1: Auston Matthews and William Nylander scored 30 seconds apart in the third period to send host Toronto past Los Angeles.

Golden Knights 2, Blue Jackets 1: Reilly Smith scored twice, Marc-Andre Fleury made 29 saves and visiting Vegas halted a two-game skid with a win over Columbus.

Devils 2, Jets 1 (SO): Nikita Gusev and Jesper Boqvist scored in the shootout to lift visiting New Jersey over Winnipeg.

Nico Hischier scored in the first period for the Devils, who are 4-1-2 in their past seven games. Mackenzie Blackwood stopped 32 shots.

Stars 4, Avalanche 1: Radek Faksa scored two goals off rebounds and host Dallas won for the seventh time in eight games, beating Colorado.

Sharks 4, Blackhawks 2: Patrick Marleau celebrated his 800th consecutive game by scoring a goal, and host San Jose beat Chicago to halt a five-game losing streak.

Wild 4, Ducks 2: Mats Zuccarello scored the tying goal on a breakaway and assisted on Eric Staal's go-ahead goal early in the third period as visiting Minnesota snapped its five-game road losing streak with a victory over Anaheim.

Flames 4, Coyotes 3 (OT): Matthew Tkachuk scored with 34 seconds on the clock in overtime to give host Calgary a comeback victory over Arizona.

Blues 2, Canucks 1 (OT): Jaden Schwartz scored on a 3-on-0 break at 3:28 of overtime to lift visiting St. Louis over Vancouver.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	Record
Boston	15	11	2	2	24	65	38	+27	11-2-2
Buffalo	15	9	4	2	20	45	40	+5	9-4-2
Toronto	16	13	2	1	27	56	33	+23	13-1-2
Florida	14	7	5	2	14	38	51	-13	7-5-2
Montreal	15	5	7	3	13	47	48	-1	5-7-3
Tampa Bay	13	6	5	2	14	44	47	-3	6-5-2
Ottawa	14	4	9	1	9	38	48	-10	4-9-1
Detroit	16	4	11	1	9	34	63	-29	4-11-1

Metropolitan Division

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	Record
Washington	14	11	3	0	22	44	34	+10	11-3-0
N.Y. Islanders	14	11	3	0	22	44	34	+10	11-3-0
Carolina	15	9	5	1	19	47	45	+2	9-5-1
Pittsburgh	15	8	6	1	17	51	39	+12	8-6-1
Philadelphia	14	5	7	3	13	35	52	-17	5-7-3
Columbus	15	5	7	3	13	35	52	-17	5-7-3
New Jersey	13	4	5	4	12	38	51	-13	4-5-4
N.Y. Rangers	12	4	5	1	11	37	42	-5	4-5-1

Western Conference

Central Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	Record
St. Louis	16	10	3	3	23	49	41	+8	10-3-3
Nashville	15	9	5	1	19	50	43	+7	9-5-1
Colorado	15	8	5	2	18	49	43	+6	8-5-2
Arizona	14	7	5	2	14	44	45	-1	7-5-2
Dallas	17	8	8	1	17	41	42	-1	8-8-1
Chicago	14	4	7	3	11	33	44	-11	4-7-3
Minnesota	15	5	9	1	11	37	51	-14	5-9-1

Pacific Division

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	Record
Edmonton	16	10	2	2	22	46	41	+5	10-2-2
Vancouver	15	9	5	3	21	54	36	+18	9-5-1
San Jose	15	9	5	1	19	47	41	+6	9-5-1
Vegas	16	9	5	2	20	51	46	+5	9-5-2
Los Angeles	15	8	6	1	17	44	45	-1	8-6-1
Anaheim	17	9	7	1	19	45	43	+2	9-7-1
San Jose	16	5	10	1	10	48	58	-10	5-10-1
Los Angeles	15	5	10	0	10	40	58	-18	5-10-0

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

Tuesday's games

Team	Time	TV
N.Y. Islanders @ Ottawa	7:00	MSG
Arizona @ Vegas	7:00	SN
Toronto @ Los Angeles	7:00	ESPN
New Jersey @ Winnipeg	7:00	ESPN
Dallas @ Colorado	7:00	ESPN
Edmonton @ St. Louis	7:00	ESPN
San Jose @ Chicago	7:00	ESPN
Los Angeles @ Nashville	7:00	ESPN
Philadelphia @ Washington	7:00	ESPN
Florida @ Tampa Bay	7:00	ESPN
Carolina @ Dallas	7:00	ESPN
St. Louis @ Minnesota	7:00	ESPN
San Jose @ Tampa Bay	7:00	ESPN
Los Angeles @ San Jose	7:00	ESPN
Minnesota @ Tampa Bay	7:00	ESPN
Tampa Bay @ Buffalo	7:00	ESPN
Edmonton @ Winnipeg	7:00	ESPN
New Jersey @ Edmonton	7:00	ESPN

Wednesday's games

Team	Time	TV
N.Y. Rangers @ Carolina	7:00	ESPN
Pittsburgh @ N.Y. Islanders	7:00	ESPN
Philadelphia @ Washington	7:00	ESPN
Florida @ Tampa Bay	7:00	ESPN
Carolina @ Dallas	7:00	ESPN
St. Louis @ Minnesota	7:00	ESPN
San Jose @ Tampa Bay	7:00	ESPN
Los Angeles @ San Jose	7:00	ESPN
Minnesota @ Tampa Bay	7:00	ESPN
Tampa Bay @ Buffalo	7:00	ESPN
Edmonton @ Winnipeg	7:00	ESPN
New Jersey @ Edmonton	7:00	ESPN

Thursday's games

Team	Time	TV
Ottawa @ N.Y. Islanders	7:00	MSG
First Period—1, Ottawa, Papeau 6 (Nemestkovi, 7:44 (sh)), 2, N.Y. Islanders, Clutterbuck 1 (Cizikas, 7:02), 3, 2-1.		
Second Period—3, N.Y. Islanders, Bardreau 1 (Staal, 10:00 (sh)), 10-4.		
Third Period—4, N.Y. Islanders, Cizikas 1 (Marleau, 10:40 (sh)), 13-4.		
Shootout—N.Y. Islanders 2-0 (Karlsson, Holden, 7:36 (sh)).		
Power-play opportunities—Vegas 0 of 3; Columbus 9 of 7—25.		
Goals—Vegas, Fleury 9-31 (30 shots-29 saves); Columbus, Kopparde 5-6 (1-25-23).		
A—15,435 (18,500). T—2:29.		

Golden Knights 2, Blue Jackets 1

Team	Time	TV
Vegas @ Columbus	7:00	ESPN
First Period—1, Vegas, Smith 8 (Karlsson, Holden, 7:36 (sh)), 1-0.		
Second Period—2, Columbus, Jenner 4 (Karlsson, Holden, 7:36 (sh)), 2-1.		
Third Period—1, Vegas, Smith 8 (Karlsson, Holden, 7:36 (sh)), 3-2.		
Shootout—Vegas 2-1 (Karlsson, Holden, 7:36 (sh)).		
Power-play opportunities—Vegas 0 of 3; Columbus 9 of 7—25.		
Goals—Vegas, Fleury 9-31 (30 shots-29 saves); Columbus, Kopparde 5-6 (1-25-23).		
A—15,435 (18,500). T—2:29.		

Maple Leafs 3, Kings 1

Team	Time	TV
Los Angeles @ Toronto	7:00	ESPN
First Period—1, Los Angeles, Iafallo 3 (Brown, Kopitar, 5:40 (pp)), 2, Toronto, Kerfoot 5, 13-29.		
Second Period—3, Toronto, Matthews 12 (Johnson, Nylander, 12:36), 4, Toronto, Nylander 4 (Matthews, Holt, 13:06).		
Third Period—3, Toronto, Matthews 12 (Johnson, Nylander, 12:36), 4, Toronto, Nylander 4 (Matthews, Holt, 13:06).		
Shootout—Toronto 3-1 (Matthews, Holt, 13:06).		
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 1 of 3; Toronto 0 of 4.		
Goals—Los Angeles, Quick 2-7-0 (23 shots-24 saves); Toronto, Aishson 8-2-2 (25-24).		
A—13,195 (18,819). T—2:25.		



DARRYL DYCK, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The St. Louis Blues' Vince Dunn, left, and the Canucks' Adam Gaudette, right, and referee Ian Walsh collide during the second period of Tuesday's game in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Flyers 4, Hurricanes 1

Team	Time	TV
Carolina @ Flyers	7:00	ESPN
First Period—1, Philadelphia, Couturier 4 (Niskanen, Gostisbehere, 3:30 (pp)), 2, Carolina, Walimark 2 (Ryan, Belsky, 5:17).		
Second Period—3, Philadelphia, Konecny 7 (Niskanen, Couturier, 1:12), 4, Philadelphia, Farabee 2 (Giroux, J.A. Myers), 12-5.		
Third Period—5, Philadelphia, Giroux 4 (Myers, Piliuk, 17:38).		
Shoots on Goal—Carolina 14-9-11-34.		
Philadelphia 10-5-13-28.		
Power-play opportunities—Carolina 0 of 3; Philadelphia 1 of 3.		
Goals—Carolina, Mrazek 7-2-1 (28 shots-24 saves); Philadelphia, Hart 4-1-1 (34-33).		
A—16,172 (19,543). T—2:25.		

Canadians 5, Bruins 4

Team	Time	TV
Boston @ Canadiens	7:00	ESPN
First Period—1, Montreal, Meté 2 (Armia, Petry, 1:13), 2, Boston, Pastrnak 15 (Krug, Bergeron, 1:55 (pp)), 3, Montreal, Tatar 3 (Couturier, Gallagher), 16-45.		
Second Period—5, Boston, Clifton 1 (Wagner, 3:03), 9, Montreal, Chiariot 2 (Tatar, Weber), 30-8.		
Third Period—8, Boston, Kuraly 1 (Wagner, 3:03), 9, Montreal, Chiariot 2 (Tatar, Weber), 30-8.		
Shoots on Goal—Boston 6-9-10-25.		
Montreal 12-16-6-34.		
Power-play opportunities—Boston 1 of 2; Montreal 2 of 2.		
Goals—Boston, Ask 7-1-1 (31 shots-26 saves); Montreal, Perry 4-1-2 (21-25).		
A—21,302 (21,288). T—2:33.		

Devils 2, Jets 1 (SO)

Team	Time	TV
New Jersey @ Winnipeg	7:00	ESPN
First Period—1, New Jersey, Schier 2 (Hall, Vatonen), 4-4.		
Second Period—2, Winnipeg, Copp 2 (Bourque, Morrissey), 8-38.		
Shootout—New Jersey 2 (Gusev, G. Boqvist, 4, Winnipeg 0 (Connor Mc, Laine, NG).		
Shoots on Goal—New Jersey 12-9-10-31.		
Winnipeg 10-12-9-34.		
Power-play opportunities—New Jersey 0 of 3; Winnipeg 0 of 1.		
Goals—New Jersey, Blackwood 4-2-3 (33 shots-34 saves); Winnipeg, Hellebuck 6-5-1 (32-31).		
A—15,395 (15,321). T—2:41.		

Stars 4, Avalanche 1

Team	Time	TV
Colorado @ Dallas	7:00	ESPN
First Period—1, Dallas, Dickinson 1 (Bishop, 1:17), 1-1.		
Second Period—4, Dallas, Faska 4 (Klingberg, Lindell), 10-54 (pp).		
Third Period—5, Dallas, Perry 2 (Hanley, Fedun), 6-60.		
Shoots on Goal—Dallas 5-11-21-37.		
Dallas 13-12-38.		
Power-play opportunities—Colorado 0 of 3; Dallas 1 of 7.		
Goals—Colorado, Grubauer 6-3-2 (38 shots-34 saves); Dallas, Bishop 5-1-7 (37-36).		
A—18,108 (18,532). T—2:34.		

Flames 4, Coyotes 3 (OT)

Team	Time	TV
Arizona @ Calgary	7:00	ESPN
First Period—1, Arizona, Keller 2 (Gandell, Schmalz), 8-29.		
Second Period—2, Arizona, Dvorak 6 (Kessel, Goligoski), 4-29, 3, Calgary, Gaudreau 4 (Monahan, Tkachuk), 17-16 (pp).		
Third Period—4, Arizona, Hinozosa 1 (Grabner, Stepan, 10:21), 5, Calgary, Tkachuk 8 (Lindholm, Gaudreau), 16-30 (pp).		
Shoots on Goal—Arizona 10-13-9-37.		
Calgary 9-14-17-43.		
Power-play opportunities—Arizona 0 of 5; Calgary 2 of 6.		
Goals—Arizona, Raanta 2-1-2 (43 shots-39 saves); Calgary, Ritchie 8-4-2 (37-34).		
A—17,824 (19,289). T—2:39.		

Blues 2, Canucks 1 (OT)

Team	Time	TV
St. Louis @ Vancouver	7:00	ESPN
First Period—1, St. Louis, Marleau 2 (Steen, Blais), 3-27.		
Second Period—2, Vancouver, Hughes 2 (Leivo, Miller), 6-35.		
Third Period—3, St. Louis, Schwartz 2 (Gehring, Pietrangeli), 3-28.		
Shoots on Goal—St. Louis 6-10-8-37.		
Vancouver 12-13-8-31.		
Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 0 of 2; Vancouver 1 of 4.		
Goals—St. Louis, Binnington 8-2-3 (34 shots-33 saves); Vancouver, Markstrom 5-2-1 (27-35).		
A—16,789 (18,919). T—2:23.		

Sharks 4, Blackhawks 2

Team	Time	TV
Chicago @ San Jose	7:00	ESPN
First Period—1, San Jose, Marleau 2 (Thornton, Miller), 1-39, 2, San Jose, Ekman 3 (Dillon, Ferraro), 1-205 (pp).		
Second Period—3, San Jose, Hertl 5 (Goodrow, 4:39), 4, Chicago, Saad 4 (Shaw, Toews), 16-58, 5, Chicago, Keith 1 (DeBrincat, P.Kane), 18-66, 6, San Jose, Meier 1 (Hertl, Goodrow), 18-64.		
Shoots on Goal—Chicago 3-5-13-21.		
San Jose 14-16-26-56.		
Power-play opportunities—Chicago 0 of 3; San Jose 0 of 2.		
Goals—Chicago, Lehner 3-3-2 (31 shots-28 saves); San Jose, Jones 3-7-1 (30-28).		
A—16,087 (17,562). T—2:21.		

Wild 4, Ducks 2

Team	Time	TV
Minnesota @ Anaheim	7:00	ESPN
First Period—1, Anaheim, Huet 4 (Stell, Silfverberg), 1-27, 2, Anaheim, Ekman 3 (Dillon, Ferraro), 1-205 (pp).		
Second Period—3, San Jose, Hertl 5 (Goodrow, 4:39), 4, Chicago, Saad 4 (Shaw, Toews), 16-58, 5, Chicago, Keith 1 (DeBrincat, P.Kane), 18-66, 6, San Jose, Meier 1 (Hertl, Goodrow), 18-64.		
Shoots on Goal—Chicago 3-5-13-21.		
San Jose 14-16-26-56.		
Power-play opportunities—Chicago 0 of 3; San Jose 0 of 2.		
Goals—Minnesota, Staal 3-3-0 (31 shots-34 saves); Anaheim, Gibson 6-7-0 (25-22).		
A—15,526 (17,174). T—2:24.		



MARY ALTYFERR/AP

Islanders center Cole Bardreau, left, falls to the ice after being hooked by Ottawa Senators defenseman Mark Borowick during the second period of Tuesday's game in New York. Bardreau scored his first NHL goal on the subsequent penalty shot.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ohio State tops first playoff rankings

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Two from the Big Ten. Two from the Southeastern Conference. And the undefeated defending national champions on the outside looking in — for now.

Ohio State, LSU, Alabama and Penn State were the top four teams Tuesday night in the College Football Playoff selection committee's first rankings of the season.

Next up was Clemson, winner of two of the last three playoffs, followed by Georgia and Oregon. The 13-member committee will produce four more weekly top 25s before the only ones that really count come out on selection Sunday, Dec. 8.

The semifinals will be held this season at the Fiesta Bowl in Glendale, Ariz., and the Peach Bowl in Atlanta on Dec. 28. The national championship game is Jan. 13 in New Orleans.

The top four in the selection committee's initial rankings have never all reached the semifinals in the playoff's five-year history. Eleven of the 20 teams that started in the top four of the CFP rankings have reached the playoff, but, oddly, never the team ranked third.

Utah was eighth and Oklahoma, the highest-ranked team from the Big 12, was ninth. Florida gave the SEC four of the top 10 teams.

Another SEC team, Auburn, was 11th, followed by Baylor, one of the country's surprising unbeaten teams.

The highest-ranked team among Group of Five conference schools was Cincinnati out of the American Athletic Conference at No. 20. The top team from outside the Power Five conferences gets a New Year's Six bowl bid.

It was hard to call anything a surprise — or all that important — in the first rankings, but Clem-

CFP rankings Nov. 5

	Record
1. Ohio State.....	8-0
2. LSU.....	8-0
3. Alabama.....	8-0
4. Penn State.....	8-0
5. Clemson.....	9-0
6. Georgia.....	7-1
7. Oregon.....	8-1
8. Utah.....	8-1
9. Oklahoma.....	7-2
10. Florida.....	7-2
11. Auburn.....	7-2
12. Baylor.....	9-0
13. Wisconsin.....	6-2
14. Michigan.....	7-2
15. Notre Dame.....	6-2
16. Kansas State.....	6-2
17. Minnesota.....	9-0
18. Iowa.....	6-2
19. Wake Forest.....	7-1
20. Cincinnati.....	7-1
21. Memphis.....	8-1
22. Boise State.....	7-1
23. Oklahoma State.....	6-3
24. Navy.....	7-1
25. SMU.....	8-1

The playoff semifinals match the No. 1 seed vs. the No. 4 seed, and No. 2 will face No. 3. The semifinals will be hosted at the Peach Bowl and Fiesta Bowl on Dec. 28. The championship game will be played on Jan. 13, 2020 at New Orleans.

son being out of the top four was notable.

"When you look at Penn State's résumé, with wins over (No. 15) Michigan and (No. 18) Iowa, those are marquee wins," said committee chairman Rob Mullens, who is also Oregon's athletic director. "Now, Clemson's coming on and playing its best football, but after Week 10, the committee thought (the Nittany Lions) were a notch above (Clemson)."

The good news for the Tigers is the teams in front of them have to play one another. LSU is at Alabama on Saturday. The teams are No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, in the AP Top 25 but are second and third in the CFP rankings.

Ohio State and Penn State face off on Nov. 23. The Nittany Lions also face a challenge this week when they visit unbeaten Minnesota, which was ranked 17th by the committee.



NATI HARRNIK/AP

Ryan Day has the Ohio State Buckeyes (8-0) atop the playoff rankings in his first season as head coach.

As long as Clemson keeps winning, the Tigers should be OK.

What could really turn the race inside out are upsets. With four weeks left before championship weekend when the playoff and bowl game berths are set, unranked teams have opportunities to provide potential twists and turns:

Week 11

Iowa State at No. 9 Oklahoma: The Cyclones came into the season ranked and were considered maybe the third-best team in the Big 12. They have lost three times, but by a combined 10 points. If the Sooners were to take a second loss, suddenly Baylor becomes not just the best playoff hope for the Big 12, but maybe the only one.

Week 12

UCLA at No. 8 Utah: The Bruins have won three straight games after a terrible start and are still in control of their Pac-12 South championship hopes. The Utes have been dominant, but coach Chip Kelly could turn this into his first signature win at UCLA and ruin the Pac-12's hope of a Utah-Oregon title game matching 11-1 teams.

Penn State at Indiana: The Hoosiers are on their way to their best season in 15 years and they will face the Nittany Lions after Minnesota and before Ohio State.

Week 13

Texas A&M at Georgia: The Aggies have already faced Alabama and Clemson. The Bulldogs

might be more at their level. Another loss would all but eliminate the Bulldogs and could complicate the SEC's hopes of landing two teams in the final four.

Week 14

Texas A&M at LSU: If LSU is No. 1, this would be the third top-ranked team the Aggies have faced this season. Another chance to derail the SEC's master plan.

Clemson at South Carolina: Clemson has won five straight in the rivalry and most have not been close. It's hard to find even a hint of upset potential on the Tigers' schedule, but a rivalry game on the road? Maybe. And one loss could be one too many for Clemson, considering what the committee seems to think of the state of the rest of the ACC.



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Coach P.J. Fleck signed a contract extension Monday that will keep him at Minnesota through the 2025 season, with an annual raise of more than 25% from his current salary.

Minnesota extends Fleck

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota made a major commitment toward keeping coach P.J. Fleck in place for the long term.

He sure hasn't hidden how happy he is here.

Undefeated and 13th-ranked Minnesota agreed with Fleck on a contract extension through the 2026 season, including an annual raise of more than 25% from his current salary and an eight-figure buyout for the first year to cover the university if he were to leave.

Fleck signed his new deal on Tuesday afternoon, delaying his regular weekly news conference by a half-hour. The contract, which is pending final approval by the Board of Regents, will pay Fleck \$4.6 million in 2020 with a \$50,000 raise scheduled for each



**Penn State (8-0)
at Minnesota (8-0)**

AFN-Sports
6 p.m. Saturday CET
2 a.m. Sunday JKT

season thereafter.

"This is a very fun team. It's a very fun culture, very different, but I love these young men. I love them as my own sons," Fleck said. "A lot of times it's easy for coaches to pick up and leave, go different places. These are very, very special people. I believe in what we can do here."

The Gophers (8-0, 5-0 Big Ten) host sixth-ranked Penn State on Saturday, the first time they've been a part of a game with two top-15 teams in The Associated Press poll since 2004, when Michigan visited Minnesota.

The success Minnesota has had this season made a natural addition to the speculative lists of potential candidates for higher-profile programs filling vacancies at the end of the year. Fleck, after all, made the jump from Western Michigan just three seasons ago.

"I didn't want to be a transitional program," Minnesota athletic director Mark Coyle said.

Fleck and his wife, Heather, who have four children, have done their best to put any concern to rest about him simply using the Gophers as a stepping stone to a place like, for example, Florida State where coach Willie Taggart was fired this week.

NFL



John Herr/AP

Oakland Raiders tight end Darren Waller, front, has 48 catches this season for 548 yards and three touchdowns, a year after toiling on the Baltimore Ravens' practice squad.

At the halfway point

Emerging stars pleasant surprise to teams

By Josh Dubow
Associated Press

Darren Waller was toiling away on the practice squad in Baltimore last November when the Oakland Raiders were intrigued enough by the athleticism they saw during pregame warmups to sign him away from the Ravens.

Now a player who was bagging groceries two years ago while serving a second suspension for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy is becoming a legitimate star for the Raiders.

"They told me that I was going to get the opportunity," Waller said. "As soon as you hear that, after all of the things that I've been through, I was like, I get one opportunity, that's all I need."

Waller has 48 catches for 548 yards and three touchdowns through eight games this season, ranking third among all tight ends in yards and catches after coming into the season with 18 receptions in 22 career games.

"Can't be more excited for a guy. He's really the reason why you coach," Raiders offensive coordinator Greg Olson said. "I think every coach on our staff would say the same. It's just been a pleasure in the meetings, his work ethic, his preparation, certainly his athletic ability and how he's grown as a tight end coming out of college as a wide receiver, that's not an easy transition. Every facet and every aspect of his game is a great example of what a pro is and what a pro should be."

Waller is just one of several players who have emerged as stars during the first half of the 2019 season.

Tampa Bay WR Chris Godwin: The third-round pick in 2017 played in the shadow of star Mike Evans in his first two seasons with the Buccaneers when he totalled 93 catches for 1,367 yards. But Godwin has emerged as a star of his own this year. He has 54 catches for 766 yards and six touchdowns, nearly surpassing his season total in 2018.

Jacksonville WR DJ Chark: Receiver was one of the biggest question marks for the Jaguars heading into the season, but Chark has developed into a dangerous threat on the outside. After catching only 14 passes in 11 games as a rookie in 2018, Chark didn't

take long to establish himself as a potential star early this season with TD catches in his first three games. He hasn't slowed down much from there, with a 164-yard, two-TD performance in Week 5 against Carolina. He has 43 catches for 692 yards and six TDs through nine games this season.

San Francisco DL Arik Armstead: The 2015 first-round pick by the 49ers failed to make a big impact in his first four seasons as a player who was solid against the run but offered little as a pass rusher. San Francisco still picked up his fifth-year option and that move is playing off in a big way as Armstead is a key part of perhaps the league's most dominant defensive line. Paying outside in base defense and as an inside pass rusher in the nickel package, Armstead has stepped up his game under new position coach Kris Kocurek, who has preached a more aggressive style. Armstead has 5½ sacks, nearly doubling his career high of three set last season.

New England LB Kyle Van Noy and LB Jamie Collins: Van Noy was a second-round pick by Detroit in 2014 and was basically handed to New England in a trade during the 2016 season in an exchange of sixth- and seventh-round picks. Van Noy found a home with the Patriots with his versatility but has become an impact player this year with 4½ sacks, three forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries.

Collins, a second-round pick by New England in 2013, is making the most of his second chance with the Patriots. Sent to Cleveland during the 2016 season, Collins got a big contract from the Browns the next offseason that he failed to live up to. He was then cut by Cleveland in March and took until May to get a new contract with the Patriots. He is a major part of one of the league's stingiest defenses with career highs in sacks (six) and interceptions (three), along with two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery.

Packers RB Aaron Jones: A fifth-round pick in 2017, Jones had success in a limited role during his first two seasons but is enjoying a breakout campaign in 2019. He ranks eighth in the NFL in yards from scrimmage with 850 and trails only Christian McCaffrey with 11 TDs. Jones has had success as a runner, a receiver out of the backfield and when lining up out wide, adding another dimension to Green Bay's offense that was needed when star receiver Davante Adams was sidelined with a turf toe injury.

Statistics

AFC individual leaders

Week 9					
Quarterbacks					
	Att	Com	Yds	Td	Int
Rivers, LAC	333	223	269	12	7
Brady, NE	305	212	243	18	5
D. Watson, HOU	302	172	243	18	5
Minshew, JAC	307	188	225	13	4
Dalton, CIN	238	160	225	13	4
Mahomes, KC	241	157	218	15	1
D. Carr, OAK	250	178	258	15	1
Mayfield, CLE	271	159	196	7	12
Flacco, DEN	271	167	182	6	12
L. Jackson, BAL	238	153	181	5	12
Rushers					
	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	1st
Fournette, JAC	174	831	4.8	81	1
N. Chubb, CLE	154	803	5.2	89	1
J. Jacobs, IND	152	740	4.9	51	1
C. Hyde, HOU	149	704	4.7	58	1
M. Mack, IND	159	679	4.2	63	1
D. Henry, TEN	164	644	3.9	34	1
L. Jackson, BAL	99	637	6.4	36	1
Ma. Ingram, BAL	114	585	5.1	53	7
Lindsay, DEN	118	584	4.9	40	1
Micheli, NE	144	482	3.2	26	6
Receivers					
	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	1st
C. Sutton, DEN	44	692	15.7	70	4
Chark, JAC	43	692	16.1	69	4
Kelece, KC	49	666	13.6	42	4
D. Hopkins, HOU	68	665	9.8	38	4
Edelman, NE	63	663	10.5	47	4
R. Allen, LAC	30	611	12.4	34	4
J. Brown, BUF	42	603	14.4	38	4
Beckham, CLE	39	595	17.8	49	1
J. Landry, CLE	36	555	15.4	65	1
Waller, OAK	48	548	11.4	48	1

	Punters			
	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
T. Long, LAC	26	1253	60	48.2
A. Cole, OAK	32	1532	60	47.9
Berry, PIT	30	1413	62	47.1
Haack, MIA	37	1707	70	46.4
Koch, BAL	20	938	57	46.9
L. Edwards, NYJ	50	2338	63	46.8
Gillan, CLE	35	1627	71	46.5
Haack, MIA	37	1707	62	46.4
Colquitt, KC	30	1371	68	45.7
Cooper, JAC	42	1905	61	45.4
Punt returners				
	No	Yds	Avg	Long
P. Williams, MIA	10	115	11.5	21
C. Jones, BAL	12	113	9.4	25
Olsewsky, NE	20	179	9.0	22
D. Carter, HOU	14	124	8.9	33
Spencer, DEN	21	172	8.2	42
A. Roberts, BUF	16	76	5.4	12
Westbrook, CLE	14	73	5.2	24
D. Thomas, KC	13	55	4.2	10

	Week 9			
	Quarterbacks	Att	Com	Yds
Ekelor, LAC	8	6	2	48
D. Henry, TEN	8	6	2	48
N. Ingram, BAL	6	0	0	44
Chark, JAC	6	0	0	36
N. Chubb, CLE	6	0	0	36
Golladay, PIT	6	0	0	36
Fells, HOU	6	0	0	36
J. Jacobs, IND	6	0	0	36
Micheli, NE	6	0	0	36
D. Watson, HOU	6	0	0	32

	Week 9			
	Quarterbacks	Att	Com	Yds
Butker, KC	15	55	2.0	54
Lumbo, JAC	12	23	1.2	48
Tucker, BAL	14	22	1.7	51
Houston, PIT	11	16	0.9	36
Fairbairn, HOU	23	18	1.7	52
Chark, JAC	14	12	0.9	44
Seibert, CLE	14	14	1.4	48
Vinatieri, IND	14	13	1.7	55
Chark, JAC	11	13	1.5	44
D. Carlson, OAK	23	19	1.7	55

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Chark, JAC	11	13	1.5	44
D. Carlson, OAK	23	19	1.7	55

NFC individual leaders

Week 9				
Quarterbacks				
	Att	Com	Yds	TD
R. Wilson, SEA	293	200	250	22
Stattford, DET	280	200	250	19
G. Garcon, DAL	318	208	248	17
Winston, TAM	307	182	240	16
Travis, DAL	277	225	280	7
Goff, LA	314	192	236	11
D. Brown, ARI	278	192	229	7
Cousins, MIN	253	174	217	16
Ryan, ATL	285	202	217	15
Wentz, PHI	303	190	260	15
Rushers				
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG
D. Cook, MIN	177	894	5.1	75
McCaffrey, CAR	165	881	5.3	84
C. Carson, DAL	173	754	4.4	59
E. Elliott, DAL	158	741	4.7	27
J. Howard, PHI	119	725	4.2	64
Breida, SNF	99	524	5.3	81
A. Jones, GBY	122	496	4.1	18
A. Peterson, WAS	115	491	4.3	29
Montgomery, CHI	112	406	3.6	55
Barkley, NYG	80	401	4.6	92
Receivers				
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG
M. Thomas, NOR	73	875	12.0	66
M. Evans, TAM	70	829	11.8	66
K. Smith, TAM	58	792	13.7	42
Lockett, SEA	59	767	13.0	44
D. Williams, TAM	50	716	14.3	44
Ju Jones, ATL	50	712	14.2	54
S. Diggs, MIN	51	708	13.9	66
A. Cooper, DAL	42	701	16.7	53
Gholafay, DET	35	646	18.3	66
W. Hill, TAM	32	601	18.8	66

	Week 9			
	Quarterbacks	Att	Com	Yds
M. Thomas, NOR	73	875	12.0	42
M. Evans, TAM	50	842	16.8	67
Kupp, LA	58	792	13.7	65
Lockett, SEA	59	767	13.0	44
Godwin, TAM	54	766	14.2	30
J. Jones, ATL	48	718	14.2	54
S. Diggs, MIN	38	710	18.7	66
C. Cooper, DAL	42	693	13.3	53
Golladay, DET	35	640	18.3	66
Hooper, ATL	32	591	11.4	35

	Week 9			
	Quarterbacks	Att	Com	Yds
Way, WAS	33	1591	6.4	48
A. Lee, ARI	34	1620	6.0	47
Johnson, PHL	9	128	14.2	54
J. Scott, GBY	43	206	6.6	49
W. Hill, NYJ	39	189	5.8	46
Hekker, LA	26	1202	7.1	46
O'Donnell, CHI	43	1980	7.5	46
Colquitt, MIN	32	1451	6.4	45
Mostard, NOR	32	1451	6.4	45

	Week 9			
	Quarterbacks	Att	Com	Yds
Cohen, CHI	20	226	11.3	71
R. Jacobs, SNF	9	108	5.2	32
Natson, LA	12	118	9.8	35
T. Harris, NOR	12	213	9.3	53
R. McClellan, CAR	10	82	8.2	39
Barner, ATL	14	93	6.5	18
W. Hill, NYJ	12	118	9.8	35
Robo Wilson, TAM	42	228	11.4	31
Agnew, DET	10	27	2.4	24

	Week 9			
	Quarterbacks	Att	Com	Yds
Patterson, CHI	15	551	10.1	102
Agnew, DET	11	310	28.2	100
W. Hill, NYJ	18	399	22.2	45
Logan, TAM	18	399	22.2	45

	Week 9			
	Quarterbacks	Att	Com	Yds
McCaffrey, CAR	13	10	3	80
A. Jones, GBY	11	8	0	66
M. Evans, TAM	7	0	0	44
Golladay, DET	7	0	0	44
Gurley, LA	7	0	0	42
Chark, JAC	7	0	0	42
Thielen, MIN	7	0	0	42
Gordon, TAM	6	0	0	38

AFC team statistics

Week 9				
AVERAGE PER GAME				
OFFENSE	YARDS	RUSH	PASS	TD
Baltimore	396.7	149.4	227.1	22.1
Houston	396.1	142.8	253.3	22.1
Kansas City	390.8	90.1	300.7	22.1
Oakland	381.6	136.4	245.2	22.1
Jacksonville	377.1	129.6	247.6	22.1
New England	366.8	92.9	273.9	22.1
Chargers	360.8	75.4	285.4	22.1
Cleveland	346.0	121.0	225.0	22.1
Cincinnati	343.0	121.0	225.0	22.1
Buffalo	336.0	129.4	206.6	22.1
Cincinnati	317.2	95.5	257.8	22.1
Tennessee	313.7	100.8	212.9	22.1
Denver	311.4	111.9	199.6	22.1
Cleveland	302.4	111.9	190.5	22.1
Pittsburgh	293.8	88.2	205.6	22.1
San Francisco	293.8	88.2	205.6	22.1
N.J. Jets	220.5	66.2	172.7	22.1
DEFENSE				
YARDS	RUSH	PASS	TD	
New England	249.3	99.1	150.2	22.1
San Francisco	249.3	99.1	150.2	22.1
Denver	209.7	107.6	102.1	22.1
Pittsburgh	209.7	107.6	102.1	22.1
Pittsburgh	335.5	107.5	228.0	22.1
Tennessee	335.5	107.5	228.0	22.1
Baltimore	339.9	108.6	231.2	22.1
Kansas City	348.8	83.0	265.8	22.1
San Francisco	348.8	83.0	265.8	22.1
San Francisco	348.8	83.0	265.8	22.1
N.J. Jets	352.1	84.1	268.0	22.1
San Francisco	352.1	84.1	268.0	22.1
Houston	361.4	84.1	277.3	22.1
Kansas City	369.3	136.9	232.4	22.1
Cincinnati	369.3	136.9	232.4	22.1
San Francisco	404.2	150.8	253.4	22.1
San Francisco	404.2	150.8	253.4	22.1

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Top 25 roundup

Louisville,
Nwora live up
to the hype

Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Jordan Nwora went 4-for-6 from beyond the arc, and from above the basket he didn't miss.

Nwora threw in a dunk — literally — to go with his outside shooting, and totaled 23 points and 12 rebounds Tuesday to help the fifth-ranked Cardinals win their season opener at Miami, 87-74. The Cardinals are touted as a potential Final Four team, and they lived up to the hype with a rout on the road against an Atlantic Coast Conference opponent. Louisville led 72-40 before Miami rallied during garbage time.

Nwora, the preseason ACC player of the year, brought the Louisville bench to its feet when he leaped to make a one-handed catch and dunk in one motion on Ryan McMahon's alley-oop pass.

"I actually did not think he was going to be able to catch it," McMahon said. "I thought it was too bad of a pass. Somehow he snatched it out of the air and just threw it in the rim. He's a freak athlete. It was a real cool play."

The 6-foot-7 Nwora shot 8-for-16 and scored most of his points from the perimeter.

"Every time we left him open, even for a split second, he buried a three," Miami coach Jim Larranaga said.

McMahon, a Florida native, sank three consecutive three-pointers as Louisville scored 17 consecutive points during a four-minute span in the first half and never looked back.

McMahon scored 16 points and shot 4-for-7 from beyond the arc.

No. 6 Florida 74, North Florida 59: Kerry Blackshear Jr. had 20 points and 10 rebounds in his debut, and the host Gators beat the Ospreys.

Blackshear, who came to Gainesville after four years at Virginia Tech, added three assists and two steals.

No. 7 Maryland 95, Holy Cross 71: Jalen Smith had 16 points and 11 rebounds, Darryl Morsell scored 15 and the host Terps launched a season of high hopes by defeating the Crusaders. Taking full advantage of its height and depth, Maryland placed four players in double figures, finished with a 47-33 rebounding advantage and scored 64 points in the paint.

No. 8 Gonzaga 95, Alabama State 64: Corey Kispert scored a career-high 28 points as the host Bulldogs used a second-half surge to beat the Hornets.

The Bulldogs have won 16 consecutive season openers dating to 2003.

Filip Petrusse added 15 for depleted Gonzaga, which is down to nine scholarship players.

No. 10 Villanova 97, Army 54: Jeremiah Robinson-Earl scored 24 points and grabbed 13 rebounds and Saddiq Bey had 22 points to help the host Wildcats cruise past the Black Knights.

Robinson-Earl, the preseason Big East Freshman of the year, was sensational in his debut and scored 15 points by the break.

Tommy Funk and Tucker Blackwell led Army with 15 points.

No. 12 Seton Hall 105, Wagner 71: Myles Powell scored 27 points to lead the host Pirates to the win without coach Kevin Willard.

Seton Hall announced a week ago that the NCAA is investigating the program and Willard would be sitting out two games.

No. 13 Texas Tech 85, Eastern Illinois 60: Newcomer Jahmi-us Ramsey led the host Red Raiders with 19 points as they opened the season by beating the Panthers, seven months after playing in the national championship game.

Davide Moretti, the only returning starter from last season's team that lost in overtime to Virginia in the title game, had 11 points.

No. 14 Memphis 97, South Carolina State 64:



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Louisville forward Jordan Nwora shoots over Miami guard Kameron McGusty during the first half on Tuesday in Coral Gables, Fla.

James Wiseman, the nation's top-rated recruit, had 28 points and 11 rebounds for the host Tigers.

Fellow freshman Precious Achiuwa added 14 points and eight rebounds.

No. 15 Oregon 71, Fresno State 57: Payton Pritchard scored 24 points, Chris Duarte added 16 in his first game and the host Ducks beat the Bulldogs.

Duarte looked sharp in his first game as a junior college transfer, and Francis Okoro added 12 points and 10 rebounds for his first career double-double.

No. 16 Baylor 105, Central Arkansas 61: Jared Butler scored 30 points with a career-high eight three-pointers to lead four Bears in double figures, as they opened coach Scott Drew's 17th season with a win.

Host Baylor scored the first 19 points in the game that began at 11 a.m. and was played before a crowd of mostly with elementary school students.

No. 17 Utah State 81, Montana State 73: Sam Merrill scored 28 points and the host Aggies got past the Bobcats.

Utah State overcame 37.7% shooting from the field to hold off Montana State by getting to the line.

No. 19 Xavier 76, Jacksonville 57: Tyrique Jones had 17 points and 11 rebounds, Naji Marshall also scored 17 and the host Musketeers beat the Dolphins.

Paul Scruggs scored all 12 of his points in the first half, including a pair of three-pointers, to help Xavier build a 21-point lead at the break.

No. 20 Saint Mary's 65, Wisconsin 63 (OT): At Sioux Falls, S.D., Jordan Ford scored 26 points, Malik Fitts added 16 and the Gaels hung on to beat the Badgers in overtime.

Auburn, coming off its first Final Four trip last season, could never quite pull away. But Doughty made five of six free throws in the final 1:09 to avoid a late scare.

No. 25 VCU 72, St. Francis 58: Marcus Santos-Silva had 21 points and 18 rebounds and the host Rams used a big early run to take command against the Red Flash.

De'Riante Jenkins added 16 points and Marcus Evans scored 12 for VCU.

Jones' poise helps
Duke edge Kansas

By DOUG FEINBERG

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski was pleased with his young team's poise in the season opener, especially that of sophomore Tre Jones.

Jones scored 15 points and Cassius Stanley added 11 of his 13 points in the second half to help No. 4 Duke beat third-ranked Kansas 68-66 in the opener of the Champions Classic on Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden.

"The difference maker was Tre. Lot of young guys, lot of new guys," Krzyzewski said. "We really tried to play good defense in our first 30 practices. We played really good defense (tonight). It starts with that kid. Really happy with my team. Terrific win for us."

While Duke doesn't have the star-studded freshman class of last season's Zion Williamson, Cam Reddish and RJ Barrett, Krzyzewski may have a more balanced team, capable of making plays down the stretch when needed.

"One of the main things I have to learn how to do is sub," the Hall of Fame coach joked. "Last couple years might bring in one guy. All of a sudden there are three guys. Not sure I did a good job, but it worked."

Trailing 61-59 with 2:29 left, Stanley drove to the basket and made the layup and was fouled. The freshman guard converted the free throw to give the Blue Devils a one-point lead.

Devon Dotson missed a layup on the other end and Jones then hit a jumper that bounced off the rim twice before dropping in with 1:33 left.

Marcus Garrett got the Jayhawks back within one. After a miss by the Blue Devils, Kansas turned the ball over with 37 sec-

onds left. It was the Jayhawks' 28th turnover of the game. Jones then converted two free throws with 26.2 seconds left.

Kansas had chances, but couldn't convert until Dotson banked in a meaningless three-pointer at the buzzer. He finished with 17 points.

"We're disappointed in the outcome. That was a game that either team could have won multiple times. We had ourselves in good position in the second half and the game got away from us," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "It's a learning experience. Not sure a game win or loss on Nov. 5 will count much in March. There's a lot of things we can learn."

Self wasn't happy with the turnovers, but knows that it was the first game of the season.

"Duke's defense is better than the exhibition game. I think we played uncharacteristic," Self said. "I think we made easy plays difficult many times. A lot of that was the nerves, the emotion. Guys wanted to do well so bad."

Tuesday's game marked the return of Kansas senior Udoka Azubuike, who played only nine games last year after tearing ligaments in his right hand. He had eight points. It also was the first game for Silvio De Sousa since the 2017-18 season. He was suspended for two seasons because of NCAA violations and sat out last year as Kansas was implicated in the FBI probe of college basketball. Kansas won an appeal that allowed De Sousa to play this year. He got a nice ovation from the fans when he checked in nearly 3:30 into the game. He finished with three points.

Duke led 33-30 at the half as neither team really got into much of an offensive rhythm in the opening 20 minutes. There was a lot of sloppy play, with Kansas committing 18 turnovers.

Presence: Champions Classic had top four
teams but none of them were in top form

FROM BACK PAGE

under their belts before stepping onto the big stage.

"There were four good teams today," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "None of them were ready for February or March. It is a very difficult thing to play that kind of competition this early."

The passionate fan bases sold out the Garden. Kentucky supporters and Michigan State traded "Go Big Blue!" and "Go Green! Go White!" chants when things got close. It was a marquee event but a choppy game. Neither team shot 40% from the field. They combined to take 50 free throws.

The Spartans couldn't find the range from three, going 5-for-26 and certainly looked like they could have used the scoring of senior guard Joshua Langford, who

is expected to be out until January with a right foot injury.

Michigan State had whittled a 10-point halftime deficit down to four when Kentucky went on a 9-0 run behind threes from Kahlil Whitney and Nate Sestina, pushing the lead to 54-41 with 9:57 left in the second half.

Kentucky's veteran backcourt of Ashton Hagans (11 points) and Immanuel Quickley (10 points), both sophomores, were outshined by Maxey.

"He's on a show," Izzo said. "He's got great intangibles. He's happy-go-lucky but plays hard."

The 6-foot-3 guard attacked the basket and made big threes.

"It was an amazing birthday celebration," Maxey said. "I'm very happy, happy for me and my guys. It was a lot of fun out there."

SPORTS



CFP cuts out Clemson
Ohio State, LSU, 'Bama, Penn State
are top 4 in 1st rankings » **Page 29**

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Birthday presence

Maxey celebrates his 19th
by leading No. 2 Wildcats
past top-ranked Spartans



ADAM HUNGER/AP

Kentucky guard Tyrese Maxey scored 26 points as the second-ranked Wildcats made a case to take over the top spot in the rankings with a 69-62 victory over preseason No. 1 Michigan State on Tuesday night in New York. "I wanted him to come in firing," Kentucky coach John Calipari said of his latest freshman star.

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kentucky's latest freshman star is a guard from Texas who likes to smile wide and take big shots.

Tyrese Maxey scored 26 points, including a clutch three that beat the shot clock with a minute left, and the second-ranked Wildcats opened the season with a 69-62 victory over No. 1 Michigan State on Tuesday night in the Champions Classic.

A day after his 19th birthday, Maxey came off the bench at Madison Square Garden and had one of the best debuts for a freshman in coach John Calipari's 11 years at Kentucky, which has been filled with one-and-done guards like John Wall



Inside:

- Big matchup: No. 4 Duke tops No. 3 Kansas, **Page 31**
- Fifth-ranked Louisville cruises past Miami, **Page 31**

and Devin Booker.

"I wanted him to come in firing," Calipari said.

The Nos. 1 and 2 teams opened their seasons against each other for the first time since 1975, and the Wildcats made their case to be top-ranked next week.

Michigan State entered the season as the No. 1 team in the country for the first time, but aside from All-American Cassius Winston, the Spartans struggled to score. Winston had 21 points.

This Kentucky team is built around returning contributors instead of freshmen, but Maxey asserted himself in his first game. After Winston cut the lead to three on a three-point play with 1:27 left, Maxey hit a three-pointer from way behind the

line to make it 65-60 with 59 seconds left.

"Honestly, I just trust my training," Maxey said. "I shot that shot a thousand times."

The Champions Classic brought the top-four teams in the nation to the same building for the first time in college basketball. No. 4 Duke beat No. 3 Kansas 68-66 in the opener of the doubleheader. The nightcap marked the fourth No. 1 vs. No. 2 matchup in college basketball in the past 10 years, and the third involving Michigan State in the Champions Classic.

Neither game was particularly well-played, and each coach said they would have liked to have had a couple of games

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